

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Gaylord

February 2020

We aim to embrace people at every age and every stage of life, and help them become the most loving version of themselves possible.

[From Your Moderator.....1](#)
[Women's Fellowship.....2](#)
[Kidz on a Mission.....3](#)
[Ministry Opportunities.....6](#)
[Announcements.....7](#)
[Prayer Requests.....8](#)
[Schedule, Birthday, Anniversaries.....9](#)
[February Calendar.....10](#)



First Congregational United
Church of Christ
218 W. Second Street
Gaylord, MI 49735
989-732-5726
www.firstuccgaylord.org
[Facebook](#)

Moderator: Rokko Jans
rokko@alaricjans.com

Communications Coordinator
Jessica Benoit
office@firstuccgaylord.org

From Your Moderator -

The discernment process which is at the heart of the search and call for a new pastor involves the Search Committee getting to know the candidates, and their getting to know our church and the Gaylord community. As we go through the steps of interviewing those interested in the pastoral vacancy, we learn why they are attracted to our church as a possible place to partner. Here are some of the main reasons they have given:

1. We are Open & Affirming (ONA). All the pastors who have inquired about the position share our foundational belief that we are all God's children, regardless of sexual orientation or identity.
2. We are self-sufficient. The practice we have had leading worship from within, starting with Pastor Susan's sabbatical, and continuing through this transition period, indicates to those looking on that we have a strong sense of identity and caring leadership.
3. We reach out. Our commitment to social justice is more than a catch-phrase. Our long-time support of the Community Meal, and the other ways we plug in to local efforts to help our neighbors shows we put our faith into action.
4. We have a strong youth program. The experiences of the Kidz on a Mission group changes the lives of the participants, and the lives of those with whom they interact.
5. We value music in our worship. We love the old hymns, and also like to incorporate other music that underlines the themes we address. All generations get to participate in our musical life.

The search and call process is continuing; we are still getting new candidates and conducting interviews as we look for our next leader. We can be pleased that our strengths as a church are noticed by others, and we trust and pray that God will oversee our search efforts.

Rokko Jans
Moderator

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship is looking ahead to September. We are making a few changes so we will be able to display things in a pleasing manner and there is a problem of getting rid of leftovers. Items we will not be accepting: electronics, knick knacks, or baskets. Items must be clean, not torn, and in working order. This notice will give you an idea of what to save for the Sept sale. More info will be coming as time gets closer to September.

There will be a bake sale this year!

You may contact Mona if you have a question.

OFFICE NEWS

As most of us know, we now have a new copy machine. The code to log on is posted in office.

A few important reminders...

Please try to only use black and white - color costs the church \$.20 *PER PAGE*. If you must use a color setting, please leave it on default. *Never* use full color as that costs us even more and uses an unnecessary amount of ink.

Any copies made for non-church reasons are \$.10 per page (black and white), \$.20 per page (color). Please leave in office for deposit.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Kidz on a Mission

Kids on a Mission sent their annual cookie tubs to college students and service people. This year, there were 10 happy recipients!



Save the Date:

February 23: The Fourth Sunday program for Sunday School will start back up. Both classes will meet together for a special lesson.



~ Ministry Opportunities ~

WANTED:

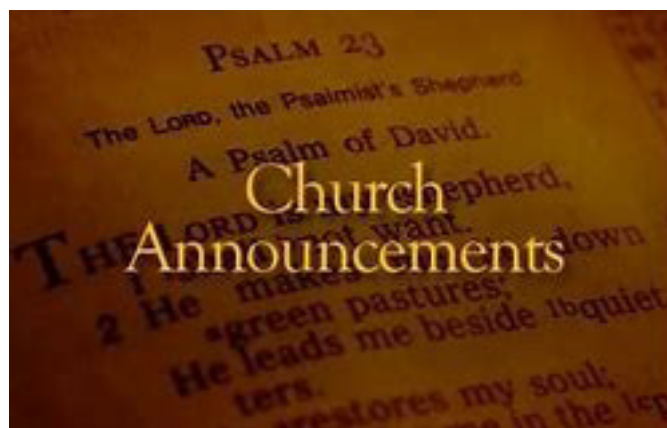
We are looking for an individual willing to help track and acknowledge memorial gifts. If you have any interest, please contact the office or let Mary Sanders know!

Have you ever wanted to preach, write a prayer or offer something else special for worship? The Reaching In Team is organizing the worship schedule until we have a new pastor and would love your help! Our Lenten theme will be “Lent In Plain Sight” though we can work most offerings into the theme even if the offering is not directly related. Please contact Miriam Hollar at miriam.hollar@gmail.com if you wish to contribute your time and talents to worship.



Announcements

- **Snow Removal** – if you are able to help with snow removal around the church this winter, please email the office.
- **2020 Lent** – please be sure to check your inbox for daily emails beginning Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26th.
- **Large Print Bulletins** are available from the ushers.
- **Ushers and Greeters** - we do need an usher and greeter for many months in 2020. Please see signup sheet in the parish hall.
- **Directories** – are printed in parish hall and you can view on our website under the “members only” section.
- **Name Tags** – please let Jessica know if you need a name tag!
- **Next Food Pantry dates** - March 25th and 26th (Wednesday and Thursday), April 27th and 28th (Monday and Tuesday), May 18th and 19th (Monday and Tuesday). Time is always 12pm-2pm.
- **Committee Members** - please submit meeting minutes to Jessica via email. Preferred formats are either PDF or Word so she can easily upload to website.
- **Copier/Printer** – we now have a new copy machine. If you are someone who needs access to it, please see Jessica in the office for a code and instruction.
- **Coffee Hour** – if you would like to help organize hosts/hostesses, please let Jessica in office know.



Prayer Requests

This month, the UNA is holding our church in prayer.



Prayer Requests

Don Storing's long-time friend, Eric Larsen - as he navigates a recent stage IV lung and brain cancer diagnosis.

Louanne Spearman - as she has been experiencing trouble with her back.

Lani English and Family - as they grieve the passing of Lani's cousin, Adam.

Rev. Susan Webeler - as she recovers at home from a serious auto accident.

Margaret Soller - as she grieves the loss of her twin sister, Liz.

Marcus and Samantha Fray - as they navigate Marcus's recent ALS diagnosis

Marcus is married to George and Judy Dunn's granddaughter. He is in his thirties with two small children.

The Boughner Family - as they grieve Scott's passing.

Rev. Ginny Titus and Family

*When in
doubt-
Pray it out.*

See the prayer request / joys sheet in the Narthex to add to this list. If someone has been inadvertently omitted or if it is time to remove a name, please let the church office know.

If you know of any one who is in need of prayer or a pastoral visit at home or in the hospital, please contact the Church Office at or office@firstuccgaylord.org. The request will be passed on to the Reaching In Team which is taking on those responsibilities until we have a new pastor.

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

DATE	LITURGIST	USHER/GREETER	COFFEE HOUR
Feb 2	Stephanie Kalember	Dave Henson Margaret Hafner	
Feb 9	Stephanie Kalember	Dave Henson Margaret Hafner	The English Family
Feb 16	Stephanie Kalember	Dave Hafner Margaret Hafner	Pete Amar Mary Fox
Feb 23	Stephanie Kalember	Dave Hafner Margaret Hafner	Cathy Otto




Birthdays

- 6 *Joanie Sietsema*
- 7 *Callie English*
- 7 *Evelyn Pratt*
- 10 *Margaret Hellenberg*
- 18 *Aysia House*
- 27 *Jay Anderson*

Anniversaries

- 13 *Roy & Cleveann Wolf*
- 28 *Jim & Vicky Rigney*

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 <i>Worship 10am</i>	3	4	5	6 <i>Bible Study, 11am Women's Fellowship, 12:15pm Rokko & Friends, 6pm</i>	7 <i>Community Meal, 5pm</i>	8 <i>UNA Meeting, 10am</i>
9 <i>Worship 10am</i>	10	11	12	13 <i>Bible Study, 11am Women's Fellowship, 12:15pm Rokko & Friends, 6pm</i>	14 <i>Community Meal, 5pm</i>  <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15
16 <i>Worship 10am</i>	17 <i>Presidents' Day</i>	18 <i>Trustees, 9:30am</i>	19	20 <i>Bible Study, 11am Rokko & Friends, 6pm</i>	21 <i>Community Meal, 5pm</i>	22
23 <i>Worship 10am</i>	24	25	26 <i>Church Book Club, 1:30pm</i>  <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	27 <i>Bible Study, 11am Rokko & Friends, 6pm</i>	28 <i>Community Meal, 5pm</i>	29