

REACHING IN COMMITTEE
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC, GAYLORD, MI
August 17, 2026

Members Present: Greg (pastor), Maggie (chair), Rokko (secretary-via zoom), Sharon, Mona, Helen M.

OPENING PRAYER: Maggie

SALAD LUNCHEON

“Reaching In” is hosting this month’s luncheon.

SUMMER EVALUATION

- Mother Nature permitted two outdoor worship services (out of three scheduled)—not bad! We successfully addressed sound and camera issues, and the nature-based sermon series was well-received.
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- The church picnic at Pete & Mary’s was a delightful afternoon, and we appreciate the work they put in to make it a hit. As usual, there was plenty of delicious food. We have several possible venues to consider for next summer’s event.

PULPIT SUPPLY

- Laura H. will lead worship 8/30
- we are considering possibilities for 9/27
- Greg will likely also be absent 10/11

WORSHIP THEMES

- From 9/13/26 through 11/1 we will use the sermon series “There Our Hearts Will Be” (developed by the Center for Faith and Giving) culminating in Stewardship Sunday 11/1.

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- 11/8, 11/15 and 11/22 we will use the lectionary, which features parables from Matthew 25. Our Annual Meeting will occur on one of these three Sundays.
- Our Advent series (11/29/26-1/2/27) will be “Until the Dawn” (developed by Sanctified Art). Sharon is developing a collaborative art project for Advent.
- Guest worship leaders may use material from a series, or employ their own ideas.

BOOK STUDY

A thought-provoking book by Randy Woodley, How Western Christianity Got It Wrong/Replacing the God of Fear with a Spirituality of Healing will be the subject of a book study led by Pastor Greg. We are planning to meet following Sunday services, beginning some time after Christmas.

OTHER

- “Reaching In” skipped a July meeting this year, but next year we will likely have at least a short meeting (possibly by zoom) in July. We will skip next month’s meeting (September) and perhaps choose to skip a winter meeting next year.
- Greg & Maggie will work on upcoming pulpit supply dates outside of our regular meetings.
- “Hanging of the Greens” will take place after service 11/22. The candleholders are ready!

PASTORAL CARE:

Check the weekly Bulletin and monthly Newsletter for those needing our care.

CLOSING PRAYER: Greg

NEXT MEETING: Monday 10/5/26 noon