

First Congregational UCC, Gaylord
Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, 27 August 2026

Present: Margaret H., Vicky R., Maggie W., Helen C., Jeanine W., Sue F., Judy G-K., Pete A., Greg W. (ex-officio)

Call to Order & Opening Prayer - The meeting was called to order by moderator Pete A. at 3:05 p.m. Opening prayer was given by Maggie W.

Our Four Ministry Plan Initiatives: Sharing & Updates

1. Making our building more available for community use - past 3 months
 - Building rental is not found on search engine
 - Had first wedding this year
 - Disaster recovery group - highlighted need to develop means to ensure groups staying know our church activities to de-conflict building use
 - offered fellowship hall with commercial kitchen to other groups
 - Short time resident used basement for art studio
2. Doing Better job of telling our church's story
 - a. Project Connect
 - Banner - positive comments, group individuals thankful see churches working together and paid for banner, Margaret H. sent thank you,
 - b. "We Are The Church" banner
 - Donor paid through the UCC store
 - Also have digital copy to use
3. Being more intentional loving people into deeper relationship with church
 - Helen C. reported a person at the lunch reported feeling the love at our church
 - person(s) that attend community meal made donations to school supply box
 - People are using the changing tables in the bathroom, supplies had to be refilled
4. Advocating (with other community groups) create community information hub
 - Downtown Development Authority & Chamber of Commerce & Economic Alliance along with an organization Press Forward (that has a local group in Traverse City) are in early stages how to promote Gaylord. Ken W. has input to this group

Reaching In

1. Substitute Worship Leader schedule - Laura H. on 30 August, Judy G-K on 27 September, Helen C. on 18 October
2. "There Are Hearts Will Be" October giving theme. Worship service helps are available.
3. Hanging of the Greens on 22 November.
4. Sanctified Arts for Advent
5. Book Study - "How Western Christianity Got It Wrong. Replacing the God of Fear with the God of Love". Unsure when or to use Zoom.
6. The September Salad Lunch generated \$500

Reaching Out

1. Project Connect - prepared and distributed 210 meals, ran short on water bottles partially due to vendors asking for water
2. Crop Walk - 27 September coordinators Helen C and Sally
3. T-shirts - plan is to use banner logo which is UCC logo with 1st Congregational UCC above the logo and Gaylord MI below the logo
4. Socks - new sock basket, keep those socks stocked
5. School Supplies - will be dedicated 13 September and given to the after school program 14 September
6. Neighbors in Need - 4th UCC offering will be collected in October

Trustees

1. Roof - completed except for the steeple which is to be done in coordination with painters. Cost \$27,200.
2. Basement door - bids are in
3. Keyboard - maintenance was completed
4. Mice in kitchen - exterminator explained difficulty keeping mice out, will come in-between monthly visits, Maggie W. is going to order sonic deterrent

Minister's Updates

1. Sabbatical Update - likely not until 2027
2. Parking lot - The county snow plows both the north and east parking lots. There is no current MOU regarding snow removal. The county plans to enforce no overnight parking regulations in the north parking lot.

Other Business

1. Annual Meeting - scheduled for 22 November. Committee reports will be due late October.
2. Yard Signs - approved new yard signs

Closing Prayer & Adjourn - Prayer given by Greg W. Adjourned 3:57 p.m.

The next council meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 17 September 2026 at 3:00 p.m.