

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
*Gaylord*

# August 2022

*Embracing people at every age and every stage of life, helping them  
to become the most loving version of themselves possible.*

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
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Gaylord, MI 49735  
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**Church Service: Sunday, 10 am**  
*In-person worship has resumed—  
please see inside for details.*



## Pastor's Column – August 2022

Friends, the Michigan Conference is participating in a project to relieve medical debt for many people across Michigan. This seems like a great program! I know some of you are facing medical debt, and I don't know about how you can be in the program, but maybe this information would help you as well.

I invite you, as you are able, to participate in this project. Together, we can make a difference.

*Thanks! Greg*

## MICHIGAN CONFERENCE – UNITED IN LOVE

What would it feel like if you had MEDICAL DEBT of over 5% or more of your income? What would it feel like if that medical debt were suddenly FORGIVEN?

Right now, there are hundreds of Michigan families who are burdened with medical debt. They could be someone you know: an aunt, a brother, or a friend.

Bethel United Church of Christ, in conjunction with the Michigan Conference UCC Prophetic Integrity Mission Area Team, has partnered with the organization RIP Medical Debt (RIP MD) to begin a campaign, "Michigan UCC – United in Love" that will FORGIVE ALL the medical debt for hundreds of families in Michigan.

*Continued on next page...*

When you MAKE A CONTRIBUTION through **RIP Medical Debt** your donation helps eliminate medical debt for these struggling families. RIP Medical Debt then works with these families to help them reestablish their credit.

### **WHAT?**

YES! RIP MD acquires medical debt from secondary collection sources like collection agencies and, through the generosity of donors, **TOTALLY ELIMINATES** that debt at a 100:1 ratio. That means for every dollar we raise, \$100 in medical debt is eliminated.

Right now, the total debt RIP MD has acquired for Michigan families is \$4 million dollars. But, because RIP MD can eliminate that debt for pennies on the dollar, it will take \$40,000 to **REDUCE** the **WHOLE** debt.

### **That is our goal!**

We are asking you, as a colleague in Christ in our Michigan Conference, to help us **ERASE** this debt for our neighbors in Michigan. So together, **UNITED IN LOVE**, we will relieve the crushing burden placed on already sick Michiganders who cannot afford the medical cost of their illness.

### **HOW?**

By asking “**FREELY**,” asking “**THREELY**” and giving **GENEROUSLY**.

By asking freely, we follow Jesus’ directive to, “*Ask (and keep on asking) and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.*” (John 16:34)

Asking....”Threely.” That is, after you donate, **ASK THREE** family members + friends + colleagues to donate too. It’s that simple.

As we **UNITE IN LOVE**, the debt for these Michigan families will be **GONE IN NO TIME!** Won’t you help us meet this goal?

### **WHERE?**

To donate, [CLICK HERE](#) (\* RIP Medical Debt is a 501(c)3 charitable organization)

And please share **FREELY** on Facebook and Twitter - the links are on our campaign page.

To learn more about RIP Medical Debt, [CLICK HERE](#)

Biz Stone, co-founder of Twitter said, “[When you hand good people possibility, they do great things.](#)” We invite you to join in this great possibility!

**THANK YOU** in advance. We **APPRECIATE** your generous support!

*In Christ’s love,*

Bethel United Church of Christ, Waterford  
and the Michigan Conference UCC Prophetic Integrity Mission Area Team

# CHURCH PICNIC and SHARING CUPBOARD DEDICATION

*Mark your calendars!*

**Sunday, August 14 following worship, we will have a church picnic and dedicate the sharing cupboard!**

The picnic will be a potluck (sign up will be in fellowship hall soon) and will be held in the church yard, or in fellowship hall, depending on the weather. We'll gather for food, fellowship and fun. During the picnic, we'll also dedicate the Sharing Cupboard, which is in memory of Mardee Storing, and was built by Chuck Falk and Roger Brummel.

*That Sunday is also outdoor worship, so let's hope for good weather!*



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## **Report from Trustees – August 2022 Newsletter**

For the month of June, our tithes and offerings of \$9,049 exceeded our budget by \$1,132 or 14%. For the first six months (January-June) of the year, routine giving is on par with budget. We appreciate the generosity of our church family.

A plan is underway to replace audio cabling in the sanctuary which has failed after many years. New cabling will improve audio reliability for both in-house and streaming needs. This enhancement also presents an opportunity to relocate the church sound mixer currently in the narthex to be closer to the live stream operator. We have submitted a grant request to the Michigan Conference for funding that will cover associated costs.

Trustees are beginning to draft a 2023 operating budget to be presented in advance of the church's Annual Meeting. We have also appointed a work group to begin planning for our annual Stewardship Campaign beginning in early fall.

Thank you for the many ways in which you contribute time, talent, and treasures for the continued well-being of our vibrant church community.

First Congregational UCC Gaylord  
Actual Compared to Budgeted Financials  
June 2022

	Budget Annual	Budget Monthly	Actual June
INCOME			
Operating Income	\$ 105,500	\$ 7,917	\$ 9,049
Ministries Income			\$ 786
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 105,500	\$ 7,917	\$ 9,975
EXPENSES			
Personnel	\$ 75,730	\$ 6,379	\$ 6,211
Facility	\$ 21,170	\$ 2,424	\$ 2,778
Administration	\$ 6,250	\$ 443	\$ 1,133
Ministries	\$ 2,350	\$ 197	\$ 0
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 105,500	\$ 9,443	\$ 10,379
NET INCOME	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 404

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## ***ANNOUNCEMENTS***

**Reaching Out** – will be collecting school supplies again during the months of August and September. Please see box in narthex or Louanne Spearman for additional info.

**Rummage Sale** - is next month! Now is the time to start looking around your homes and garages for items to donate! Drop-off dates are Sept. 12 & 13 ONLY, sale dates are Sept. 16 & 17. Please see Sallie Anderson or Helen Crandall for more info.

**Church Picnic and Sharing Cupboard Dedication** – Sunday, August 14. Picnic will be potluck style, please be on the lookout for signup sheet soon.

**Food Pantry** – is in need of a few more volunteers. Please contact Don Storing if interested.

**Bible Study** – please monitor your email for information from Rokko on how bible will meet. In the meantime, the Zoom link is provided: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84612895017>

**Name Tags** – if you are in need of a name tag, please let Jessi-office know.

### **August Upcoming Dates to Remember**

Aug 14th Outdoor Worship, Dedication Picnic

Aug 23rd Salad Luncheon

### **August Mowing Schedule:**

Week of 31st: Don

Week of 7th: Pete

Week of 14th: George

Week of 21st: Rod

Week of 28th: TBD

### **Looking Ahead:**

#### **Rummage Sale Dates:**

Sept. 16 & 17, 2022 (drop-off only 12 & 13)

Please see Sallie Anderson or Helen Crandall



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## Alpenfest Memories





A huge thank you to those who helped with the Hot Dog Sale. Helen Mate was our chef, along with the help of Bri Boughner and Jeff Kalember, who also performed many other jobs. Cathy Otto was in charge of making pop corn. Stephannie Kalember was our cashier along with other jobs. Greg Watling and Margaret Helenberg were servers. Joe Wambold was our hawker extraordinaire! And, of course, the Women's Fellowship support group was cheering us on! It was good to see this annual event return. The Kidz on a Mission was able to add \$196 to its mission fund.

Brenda





## ***Sharing Cupboard***

This is a cupboard built in memory of Mardee Storing, as this was her passion to help the underprivileged. The Reaching Out Team has followed through on her wishes to make this happen. The cupboard is located outside on the north side of Fellowship Hall near the west end of the building. The church will be collecting small articles such as socks and small baby items, there is a box in fellowship hall for collection. For winter , we will be accepting hats, winter socks, and gloves. All items are free to those who need them.



## ***School Supplies Needed***

The Reaching Out Committee will be collecting school supplies once again from August—September.

There will be a box in the narthex of church where you can drop any items to be donated.

*Items they are asking for:*

crayons, markers , paints, paper, construction paper, colored pencils, and pens, coloring books, scissors , glue, etc.







***Friday, September 16***

**9 am to 3 pm**

***Saturday, September  
17***

**9 am to Noon**

First Congregational Church

218 W. Second St

Gaylord, MI 49735

***Drop-off is 12th and 13th in fellowship hall***

***(Monday and Tuesday)***

***ONLY***

**Saturday is Bag Day!**



**NO TV's, Electronics, or Large Furniture!**

***All items must be clean and in working order!***



### ***Parish and Pastor Relations***

Our church's Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) is a standing committee whose purpose is to support a healthy relationship between our pastor and church participants, thus enhancing the effectiveness of our church's ministry. Our team meets on a quarterly basis and is comprised of five members: Pastor Greg, Cathy Otto, Joe Wambold, Maggie Wallin and Mary Fox. *A Sure Foundation*, a resource publication of the UCC, describes the PRC as serving in two primary ways:

- 1) As an advisory group to the pastor: sharing ideas, dreams, expectations, and concerns of the congregation with the pastor; and
- 2) As a support group for the pastor's leadership: interpreting roles, functions, boundaries, opportunities, and needs of the pastor to our congregation.
- 3)

The next quarterly meeting of our PRC will take place in mid-August. Church participants are always encouraged to speak to Pastor Greg directly regarding issues or concerns, and doing so is a key strength of our congregation. If, however, you would prefer to speak to a member of the Pastoral Relations Committee, we invite you to do so. It is the goal of our PRC to promote faithful and effective ministry shared between our pastor and our congregation.





# 2022 Flower Schedule

*January: Margaret Hafner and Dave Henson*

*February: Margaret Hellenberg*

*March: Jeannine Wambold*

*April: Cathy Otto*

*May: Bill and Maxine Dely*

*June: Joanie Sietsema*

*July: Helen Mate*

*August: Evelyn Pratt*

*September: Sallie Anderson*

*October: Vicky Rigney*

*November: Louanne Spearman*

*December: Christian Ed.*





# 5 for 5

from your Reaching Out Team

## **OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission)**

Basic support for the Michigan Conference and National Settings.

*Collected on an ongoing basis*

**Received to date: \$62**

## **One Great Hour of Sharing**

Supports partners in countries with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic response.

*Collected in March*

**Received to date: \$935**

## **Strengthen the Church**

Supports church growth, pastoral and lay leadership development, young and young adult ministers within conferences.

*Collected around Pentecost*

**Received to date: \$94 (2021)**

## **Neighbors in Need**

One third supports Council for American Indian Ministry and two-thirds is administered to Justice and Witness Ministers to support a variety projects. Due to Covid-19 the elected UCC officers have deemed this to be a priority.

*Collected in October*

**Received to date: \$149 (2021)**

## **Christmas Fund**

Provides direct financial assistance to retired UCC ministers and lay employees and spouses.

*Collected in December*

**Received to date: \$774 (2021)**

***In Addition, we gave \$521 for Blanket Sunday this year!***

***2022 Tornado Relief - \$335***





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## Current Meeting Times

*All are welcome to “attend” these meetings*

**Reaching In** will meet the first Monday of each month at noon:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84945686588>

**Reaching Out** will meet the third Monday of each month at 7 PM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83220896539>

**Council** will meet the second Wednesday of each month at 7PM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85297662581>

**Trustees** will meet the third Wednesday of each month at 11:00 AM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85470391561>

**Bible Study** meets Thursdays at 11am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84612895017>

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## *~ In Our Prayers ~*

*As a reminder, in an effort to respect each individual's privacy and private wishes, prayer requests will only be printed once permission has been given.*

***During the month of August, the UNA is holding the Harrison church in prayer***

***Helen Crandall***— as she addresses ongoing health concerns.

***Brenda Brummel*** – as she undergoes tests and treatments.

***The English Family*** – as they grieve the loss of Joe's mother and process Joe's recent diagnosis with progressive aphasia.

***Laura Bantens and her partner, Chris***— as Chris is experiencing health issues and they are both encountering major life changes.

***Maxine Dely***—as she deals with ongoing balance issues.

***Sandra Soderberg*** – as she has broken a bone in her left shoulder.

***John Hellenberg***—who is now living in AspenRidge

***Gloria House's granddaughter, Madison Crawford*** – as she suffers from cataplexy in narcolepsy along with other neurological struggles. She is now at home and adjusting to new medication which seems to be helping but is still in need of prayers.

***Brad Derenzy***—as he has continuing health struggles.

***Ariah House*** – as she is finally home but still in need of prayers. She will be traveling to Grand Rapids for monthly infusions.

***Mardee Storing's daughter, Lori Lane***

***All of those working on the frontline to fight COVID-19***, those that are considered essential workers, those without jobs, those ill, and those affected by this pandemic in anyway.

*Prayer requests are received by the church office. Names will appear on the list for two months; please let the office know if this time needs to be extended, or if it is time to remove a name.*

# ***Birthdays and Anniversaries***

## ***August Birthdays***

- 4 Margaret Soller
- 8 Helen Crandall
- 12 Joe English
- 20 Jen Kassuba
- 20 Paul Balliet
- 23 Meadow Kassuba
- 24 Tyler English

## ***August Anniversaries***

- 1 Eric & Meredith Anderson
- 7 Dale & Margaret Rehkopf
- 29 Mary & David Evans





# August 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Reaching In, 12pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Bible Study, 11am Women's Fellowship, 12:15pm	<b>5</b> Community Meal 4pm	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Worship, 10am Coffee Hour	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Office Hours 8am-12pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Bible Study, 11am	<b>12</b> Community Meal, 4pm	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>OUTDOOR</b> Worship, 10am Church Picnic Cupboard Dedication	<b>15</b> Reaching Out, 7pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Trustees, 11am	<b>18</b> Bible Study, 11am	<b>19</b> Community Meal, 4pm	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Worship, 10am Coffee Hour Council will meet after coffee hour	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Salad Luncheon, 11:30am	<b>24</b> Church Book Club, 1pm	<b>25</b> Bible Study, 11am	<b>26</b> Community Meal, 4pm	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Worship, 10am Coffee Hour	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			