

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Gaylord**

August 2023

*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
218 W. Second Street
Gaylord, MI 49735
989-732-5726
www.firstuccgaylord.org

Pastor: Rev. Greg Watling
pastorg@firstuccgaylord.org

Moderator: Maggie Wallin
margaretwallin@msn.com

Finance: Jessica Benoit
finance@firstuccgaylord.org

**Communications
Coordinator:**
Stephanie Kalember
office@firstuccgaylord.org



Pastor's Submission – August, 2023

Richard Rohr's Daily Meditation
From the Center for Action and Contemplation
Week Twenty-Eight: Everything Belongs

We Create Exclusion or Belonging

Richard Rohr describes how exclusion works. Everything does not belong when people and systems project their evil elsewhere:

If our egos are still in charge, we will find a “disposable” person or group on which to project our problems. People who haven’t come to at least a minimal awareness of their own shadow side will always find someone else to hate, fear, and exclude. Hatred holds a group together much more quickly and easily than love and inclusivity, I am sorry to say. [1]

Sadly, the history of violence and the history of religion are almost the same history. When religion remains at an immature level, it tends to create very violent people who ensconce themselves on the side of the good, the worthy, the pure, the saved. They project all their evil somewhere else and attack it over there. [2]

~Continued~

Something has to be sacrificed. Blood has to be shed. Someone has to be blamed, attacked, tortured, imprisoned, or killed. Sacrificial systems create religions and governments of exclusion and violence. Yet Jesus taught and modeled inclusivity and forgiveness!

As long as we try to deal with evil by some other means than forgiveness, we will never experience the real meaning of evil and sin. We will keep projecting, fearing, and attacking it over there, instead of “gazing” on it within ourselves and weeping over it.



The longer we gaze, the more we will see our own complicity *in* and profitability *from* the sin of others, even if it's the satisfaction of feeling we are on higher moral ground. Forgiveness demands three new simultaneous “seeings”: I must see God in the other, I must access God in myself, and I must experience God in a new way that is larger than an “Enforcer.” [3]

Author Cole Arthur Riley, creator of Black Liturgies, considers the toll that exclusion takes:

Exclusion operates by the same rule of mutuality as welcome, for it harms both the excluded and the excluder. If you are the hands of exclusion for long enough, you learn acceptance only at the hands of someone else's exile. You learn belonging as competition, not restoration. It is also a kind of restlessness, for the energy you expend forbidding others to walk through the door of community is only matched by the energy you expend competing to stay inside yourself. This is maybe more dangerous; no one ever perceives the doorkeeper as needing an invitation themselves.

I wonder if God feels as alienated from us as we do from [God]. Sometimes, it cracks me up to think of the stories that describe Christ just boldly inviting himself over to people's houses for dinner. Roaming around telling people to stop everything and follow him. Multiplying food, but making everyone sit down in groups to eat it. He knew how to make his own belonging. Do we? [4]

Adapted from Richard Rohr, CONSPIRE 2016 (Albuquerque, NM: Center for Action and Contemplation, 2016), conference talk. A path from one week to the next—Izzy Spitz, Field Study 2, oil pastel on canvas. Izzy Spitz, Everything at Once, digital oil pastel. Izzy Spitz, Wings, digital oil pastel. Used with permission.

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



1

2

3

Bible Study 11 AM
Women's Fellowship
12:15 PM
Choir 4 - 5 PM

4

Community
Meal 4 PM

5

6

Worship 10 AM
(Communion)

7

Reaching In 12 PM
Compassionate
Friends 7-9 PM

8

9

10

Bible Study 11 AM
Choir 4 - 5 PM

11

Community
Meal 4 PM

12

13

Outdoor
Worship, (Weather
permitting)
10 AM

14

15

16

Trustees 7 PM

17

Bible Study 11 AM
Choir 4 - 5 PM

18

Community
Meal 4 PM

19

20

Worship 10 AM
Council 11:30 AM

21

Reaching Out
7 PM

22

Salad Luncheon
11:30 - 12:30

23

Church Book
Club 1 PM

24

Bible Study 11 AM
Choir 4 - 5 PM

25

Community
Meal 4 PM

26

27

Worship 10 AM

28

29

31

Bible Study 11 AM
Choir 4 - 5 PM

Sept. 1

Community
Meal 4 PM

2

3

Worship 10 AM

4

Labor Day
Office Closed

AUGUST

School Supply Drive!

During the month of August, Reaching Out will, once again, be collecting supplies for the after-school programs. A list of supply ideas is below

If you would like to donate, bring them to church and place them in the box located in the narthex.

crayons

markers

colored pencils

construction paper

lined paper

blank paper

glue sticks

glue

craft items, such as beads , paints, ect.



The annual rummage sale is scheduled for *September 15th and 16th* in Fellowship Hall. Save your treasures and donate them to a good cause!



Outdoor Worship Schedule:

August 13, 2023

September 10, 2023

Things to keep in mind:

- All outdoor services are tentative and dependent on the weather.
- You should bring lawn chairs, but if you are unable, we will get a chair from Fellowship Hall for you.
- If you are able to help with set-up (speakers, mics, etc.), we would be very appreciative. Just let someone in the office know you would be willing to help.



Thursday March 17, 1988 HERALD TIMES

Two made history on Otsego L. in 1942

Editor's note: This article from the annals of Otsego County history highlights how major events were shaped here. The story on the splitting of the atom only slowly became complete as the top secret nature of the World War II work gradually became declassified.

By DENNIS POWELL Staff Writer

GAYLORD — In July 1942 two men, their heads together in deep discussion, walked the sandy eastern shore of Otsego Lake. The footprints they left in the sand have long since disappeared, but the decision they made their left an imprint on the world that may take centuries to erode the men were Arthur Compton and Robert Oppenheimer, both principals in the Manhattan Project, the US government's top secret World War II effort to develop the atomic bomb. According to Compton's book 'Atomic Quest ', the men were discussing-the-advisability of actually testing the atomic bomb they were involved in Oppenheimer's research team had discovered in their calculations the possibility that uncontrolled atomic fission might produce a temperature high enough to set off a chain reaction in the earth's atmosphere, causing a catastrophic explosion that would destroy the earth. THE CONCLUSION they reached that summer morning was to continue further theoretical study in an attempt to determine the likelihood of such an explosion. If there was the slightest chance, the project would be scrapped. Their decision ultimately led to dropping the A-bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending World War II and ushering in the era of atomic weaponry. Compton and Oppenheimer were discussing such historic matters on an Otsego lake beach because Compton's family, from Wooster, OH, had long owned property on the west side of the lake. Compton was relaxing at the cottage, taking a week off from the Manhattan Project, when he got a call from Oppenheimer requesting a meeting. Compton met Oppenheimer at the train station and drove him to Otsego Lake State Park for their discussion.

MARY GUGGISBERG, longtime Gaylord resident, knew the Compton family. Guggisberg said the Comptons attended the Congregational church for many years, of which she is a member.

Continued. . .

She said she knew the family began spending summers at Otsego Lake in the 1890's, and in the beginning stayed in tents near the west shore of the lake and lived off the land. Eventually, she said, they built three or four cottages on the property.

Arthur Compton was one of four children, she said, who were very devoted to their mother. They named a large tree on the property the "' Mother Compton Tree", and held daily devotions sitting on logs that encircled the tree. The tree is still there Guggisberg said.

Compton, born Sept. 10. 1892, grew up to become a physicist. He won the Nobel prize for physics in 1927 for his research into X-rays.

He later became the director of the metallurgical laboratory at the University of Chicago, and on Dec. 6, 1941. The lab was instructed by President Roosevelt to develop an atomic bomb.

Guggisberg said Compton's wife. Betty, was his full partner and was aware of the nature of her husband's top secret research. Because of the secrecy involved, he and his wife sometimes traveled to scientific meetings under a pseudonym. At one such meeting Guggisberg said, Compton's grown son traveled with them. His son, a Navy man, would feel uncomfortable using a pseudonym.

Betty Compton told him he didn't have to, and introduced him throughout the gathering as "my son by my first marriage". "She wasn't lying." said Guggisberg, "she only had one marriage."

Compton was a devout Christian, she said, and saw no conflicts in participating in the development of the atomic bomb. She said he didn't think religion and science were in basic conflict.

IN HIS BOOK, Compton said he thought the Japanese would not give up without fighting to the last man. so the bomb would cut short the fighting, end the war. and ultimately save lives on both sides.

Guggisberg said Compton was a very warm and friendly person. "He was a most brilliant man, but never flaunted it." she said

Continued. . .

Don Tarbutton, physics teacher at Gaylord High School, met Compton in the late 1950's and for several years took a group of eight or 10 of the best science students to visit Compton at his cottage. "He was a super individual," Tarbutton said, "He was very good talking to the young people and making it easy for them to understand. . In May of 1959* Bill Granlund. avid history buff and member of the Otsego County Historical Society, wrote to the decision to drop the atomic bomb.

COMPTON REPLIED in a letter that the meeting had occurred on the east side of Otsego Lake at the site of Otsego Lake State Park and reiterated that the discussion did not center on dropping the bomb, but on the advisability of testing it. Compton stated further in the letter that President Truman had asked him in July 1945 his personal opinion on whether or not to drop the bomb and that, "I expressed my judgment that it should be used."

At 8:15 a.m. local time on Aug. 6, 1945 three years and eight months after Compton received his directive to develop the bomb, the Hiroshima radio station went off the air.

The sudden silence sent a signal to the rest of the world that the atomic age had begun. The city of 300,000 was obliterated and one third of its inhabitants killed by the blast. Compton relates in his book that years later, while on a business trip to Japan, a news reporter asked him, 'Why did you drop the atomic bomb on Japan?' Compton answered with a question of his own. "Would you have preferred." he asked, "that we should have let the war run its normal course without using the bomb?" The interviewer apologized for asking the question, and added. "Had it not been for the bomb, the fighting would have continued. We would have kept fighting to the bitter end. I would not; in that case, be here to ask you the question." COMPTON DIED in 1962.

Thank you, Cathy Otto, for this submission!

From July's Conference Newsletter

UCC WOMEN OF MICHIGAN



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*AN INVITATION TO
A FALL GATHERING*

OCTOBER 22-23, 2023

Sunday 6:30pm thru Monday 3:30pm

Bavarian Inn Lodge in Frankenmuth,

The Registration information will be available soon!

Karen Georgia Thompson becomes first woman to lead UCC in historic vote

by [Tiffany Vail](#) | published on Jul 3, 2023

The [General Synod](#) of the United Church of Christ made history Monday, July 3, when it elected the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson as the first woman, and the first Black woman, to lead the denomination as General Minister and President.

Rev. Thompson [is the third woman nominated for the post](#), after the Revs. Yvonne Delk (in 1989) and Barbara Brown Zikmund (in 1999), but the first to be elected. A Jamaican immigrant, Thompson is the third person of African descent to serve as leader of the denomination.

~CONTINUED~

“Today, United Church of Christ, we created a first together,” she said after the vote. “It won’t be the last first.”

She thanked Delk and Brown Zikmund, stating that they “kicked in the doors,” paving the way for her election.

“As I stand here before you as your newly and duly elected General Minister and President, I stand here as a Jamaican immigrant woman, a mother and a grandmother, a sister and a friend to many,” Thompson said. “... The enormity of this moment will be with me for many years to come.”

Her election took place at the UCC’s 34th General Synod in Indianapolis, with 626 delegates voting for her election, 43 against and seven abstaining. She will start her new role Aug. 1, taking over from the Rev. John Dorhauer, [who has served for the past eight years](#).


In a prayer after the vote, surrounded by her family, she recalled Synod’s theme, quoting Revelation 21:5 — “Behold, I am making everything new.”

Click [here](#) for the full article.



First UCC Gaylord Family On Stage!

GAYLORD COMMUNITY PRODUCTIONS
PROUDLY PRESENTS




AUGUST 10TH, 11TH, & 12TH @ 7:00PM
AUGUST 13TH @ 2:00PM
ALAN L. GORNICK AUDITORIUM
90 LIVINGSTON BLVD, GAYLORD, MI
TICKETS ON SALE NOW

IN PERSON
ADULTS-\$17.00 STUDENTS/SENIORS-\$12.00
AVAILABLE AT: GAYLORD AREA COUNCIL FOR THE ARTS
125 E MAIN ST, GAYLORD, MI OPEN: W-F 1:00-5:00

ONLINE
ADULTS-\$15.00 STUDENTS/SENIORS-\$10.00
AVAILABLE AT OUR SHOW/GCPFOOTLOOSE

Stage Adaptation by
DEAN PITCHFORD
and WALTER BOBBIE



Based on the
Original Screenplay by
DEAN PITCHFORD

Music by
TOM SNOW

Lyrics by
DEAN PITCHFORD

ADDITIONAL MUSIC BY ERIC CARMEN, SAMMY HAGAR,
KENNY LOGGINS AND JIM STEINMAN

FOOTLOOSE IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH CONCORD THEATRICALS
WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.COM

As always our Hotelling friends are at the heart of another great opportunity for entertainment! See Laura and Ian on stage; while Aaron is the vocal and pit director. A direct link to purchase tickets is [here](#).

Salad Luncheon Season!



Salad luncheons are back! Below are the dates and sponsorship for each. Watch for a sign-up list each month, if you would like to help!

MONTH	COMMITTEE	CHAIR
✓ May 23, 2023	Women's Fellowship	Mona Viviano
✓ June 27, 2023	Scholarship	Sallie Anderson Brenda Brummel
✓ July 25, 2023	Council	Maggie Wallin
August 22, 2023	Reaching In	Sallie Anderson
September 26, 2023	Reaching Out	Louanne Spearman
October 24, 2023	Women's Fellowship	Mona Viviano



August

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays:

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

Anniversaries:

- 1 Eric & Meredith Anderson**
- 7 Dale & Margaret Rehkopf**
- 12 Kevin and Staci Brown**
- 29 Mary & David Evans**

~ In Our Prayers ~

**During the month of August, the UNA is holding the
Harrison First Congregational UCC in prayer.**

Helen Crandall and family – as Helen’s nephew, David Popken, has passed away from an aneurysm. Please also keep his wife, Barb Crandall, in your prayers.

Janet Holmes – as she is in need of continued prayers.

Jason Peterman – as he’s dealing with some personal issues.

Vicky Rigney and family: as Vicky’s niece gave birth to premature twins last week. Both baby girls are improving each day.

Brad Derenzy—as he has resumed chemotherapy.

Charlene Clark – Charlene’s surgery went “really well” and she is recovering at home. She has sent thanks for the many prayers.

Rokko’s friend Norman – as he nears the end of his life but Rokko tells us he’s doing fairly well.

Tony and Mike Dockery-Fobar – as Mike awaits testing and a possibly serious diagnosis.

The English Family – as they manage medical and family challenges.

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

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

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.



Prayer Requests

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Rummage Sale** – The 2023 Rummage sale will be held September 15 and 16th Please keep that in mind when you're sorting and cleaning in the coming weeks. Thank you!
- **Sunday School** – Sunday School meets the first Sunday of each month. The next summer date is August 6.
- **Directory** – The directory is updated nearly every week; however, if at any time you have changes, please forward them. You can access the directory via our weekly eblast, or stop in the office for a copy. I appreciate your continued input.
- **Food Pantry** – needs a few more volunteers. Please contact Don Storing if interested.
- **Reaching Out** – Reaching Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83640729481> Meeting ID: 836 4072 9481





2023 Flower Schedule

January: Margaret Hafner and Dave Henson

February: Margaret Hellenberg

March: Jeannine Wambold

April: Cathy Otto

May: Mary Evans

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: \$266

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: \$220

Strengthen the Church

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

Collected around Pentecost

Received to date: \$50 (2023)

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: \$255 (2022)

Christmas Fund

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

Collected in December

Received to date: \$565 (2022)

As of April, our donations to Blanket Sunday totaled \$509





Current Meeting Times

All are welcome to “attend” these meetings except where noted otherwise.

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/83640729481>

Council will meet the after worship. Check monthly calendar for Specific dates.:

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

Trustees will meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83432888287>

Bible Study meets Thursdays at 11am

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