

First Congregational United Church of Christ

218 W. Second Street, Gaylord, Michigan 49735

www.firstuccgaylord.org

(989) 732-5726

August 2026 Newsletter



Our mission is to embrace people of every age and stage of life and help them become the most loving version of themselves possible.

Pastor's Column

“Blessed”

Recently, I ran across a reworking of the Beatitudes by Nadia Bolz-Weber. I don't think they need much comment from me. I found them powerful. May they be meaningful to you and a reminder of your blessedness. I found it in the Daily Meditations: Center for Action and Contemplation, Friday, July 17, 2026. Used by permission.

Blessed are the poor in spirit. You are of heaven and Jesus blesses you.

Blessed are they for whom death is not an abstraction.

Blessed are they who have buried their loved ones, for whom tears
could fill an ocean.

Blessed are they who have loved enough to know what loss feels
like.

Blessed are the mothers of the miscarried.

Blessed are they who don't have the luxury of taking things for
granted anymore.

Blessed are they who can't fall apart because they have to keep it
together for everyone else.

Blessed are the motherless, the alone, the ones from whom so
much has been taken....

Blessed are those who no one else notices. The kids who sit alone at
middle-school lunch tables. The laundry guys at the hospital. The
sex workers and the night-shift street sweepers.

Blessed are the losers and the babies and the parts of ourselves that
are so small, the parts of ourselves that don't want to make eye
contact with a world that loves only the winners.

Blessed are the forgotten.

Blessed are the closeted.

Blessed are the unemployed, the unimpressive, the
underrepresented....

Blessings,

Pastor Greg

PROJECT CONNECT

On Thursday, August 20, United Way of Otsego County will host Project Connect. Project Connect is a day of services, resourcing, community and connection for all, but especially for those in need. Our congregation will partner with Peace Lutheran, St. Andrew Episcopal, and First Presbyterian to host lunch for those who attend.

Our church is responsible for making sandwiches. If you would like to help, or to donate to the supplies, please be in touch with Margaret Hellenberg or Pastor Greg. Our total cost should be about \$150.

August Church Volunteers (as of 7/27/26)

Date	Liturgist	Greeter/ Usher	Coffee Hour	Digital Ministry	Mowing
2 nd	K Menkes	C Gatewood- Keim	Picnic at Pete & Mary's	P Amar	D Storing
9 th Outdoor Worship	S Anderson	G Lienerth	Schopp/ Fuelling/ Spearman		
16 th	D Storing	M Viviano	The Trendas	J Gatewood- Keim	
23 rd	J Gatewood- Keim	Joe Wambold	Wade/ Wambold		
30 th	H Crandall	M Hellenberg	Crandall/ Viviano		

Guest Musician: Sarah Peterson, August 16

Guest Preacher: Laura Hotelling, August 30

Thank you!

Office Hours

- **Pastor Greg** will be out of the office August 30. Laura Hotelling preaches that day.
- **Rokko Jans** is off August 16. Sarah Peterson will be our guest musician.





Special Offerings 2Q Update



FOR

ONE GREATER
HOUR OF
SHARING

\$ 734

STRENGTHEN
THE CHURCH

\$ 321



OCWM
(MICHIGAN
CONFERENCE)

\$ 524

NEIGHBORS IN
NEED

NOT
STARTED

CHRISTMAS
FUND

NOT
STARTED

BLANKET
SUNDAY

\$ 765

FOOD
PANTRY

\$ 537.50

THE REFUGE \$ 177.50



Announcements

- We are looking for **virtual greeters** to interact with those participating on social media. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall.
- 'Tis the season for mowing—we **need mowers!** Thank you in advance!
- **Stronger Together – Otsego Families Against Narcotics** meets monthly via Zoom on the First and Third Thursdays at 6 pm. Stronger Together is a family support program for those with a loved one struggling with substance abuse disorder. The Meeting ID is 987 6636 9176 and the Passcode is Family.
- We will **celebrate the life of Bob Clark** on *August 1*. Visitation is from 9-11 am at church with the service at 11 am, followed by a luncheon in Fellowship Hall.
- The **annual church potluck/picnic** is *August 2* after worship at the home of Pete Amar and Mary Fox. Sign up for dishes to take in Fellowship Hall. The address is on page 7.
- **Bay View** is finishing up its summer program. **Rabbi Dan Gordon** will speak M-Th at 10a in Voorhies Hall the week of *August 3-6*. He is a rabbi and master storyteller from Texas. **Rev. Canon Dr. Jennifer Smith** is a Methodist Minister and Superintendent of Wesley's Chapel and Leysian Mission. She is in residence *August 10-13*. Jennifer is a regular contributor to BBC religious broadcasting and a widely invited speaker and preacher.
- **Meeting Dates for August: Reaching In August 3, Women's Fellowship August 6, Reaching Out August 17, Trustees August 19, Council August 27.**
- **Food Pantry** dates are *August 3, 27, and 28*.
- On *August 5*, NCMC sponsors an **Adult Learner Success Event** from 4-6 pm at 620 E Fifth St. This event will cover career information and next steps. Dinner is provided.
- **Bible Study and Choir are cancelled August 6.**
- The **Lunch Group** will dine at noon on *August 18* at Big Buck. All are welcome!
- Volunteers are needed *August 20* for **Project Connect**. See the article for more information.
- On *August 22*, **Pet Partners** will hold its Handlers' Workshop and Team Evaluation in Fellowship Hall.

- Gaylord Methodist Women are hosting a **Women's Retreat** "Tandem Faith: Riding God's Path Together." at 8:30 am on *August 22* at Gaylord Methodist Church. Registration is \$15 and the cutoff date is *August 15*. Registration forms are on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.
- **September newsletter submissions** are due *August 24*.
- **Salad luncheon** is *August 25*.
- *August 30*, our **guest preacher** is Laura Hotelling.
- **Crop Walk** will meet at the Pavilion on *September 27* with the walk beginning around 1:30 pm. Contact Sallie Anderson or Helen Crandall if you want to walk or donate to feed the hungry! Twenty-five percent of the proceeds stay in Otsego County.
- Please **update your meetings** with Liz for next month **by the Newsletter Deadline** so our church calendar is accurate.

There are no meeting minutes from July, so no minutes are linked to this month's newsletter.



Thank YOU!

A huge thank you for the help with the Annual Hot Dog Sale. It takes a lot of hands to work including Cathy Otto for both donating and cooking the popcorn, Judy Gatewood-Keim for making the hot dogs with help from Mona Viviano, Vicky Rigney for cashiering, Joe Wambold for being our "hawker", Sallie Anderson and Helen Crandall for your kitchen help, those who donated cookies, and especially Bri Boughner and Ian Hotelling for their young legs and doing many different jobs. We could not do it without you!

~Brenda Brummel

~In Our Prayers~

The UNA is praying for Gaylord First Congregational UCC in August.

Bob Clark and his family as they celebrate his life August 1.

Chris Crubaugh.

The English Family –Please pray for Joe to heal and adjust and for the English family.

Mary Sue Evans requests prayers for her husband as he goes through health issues.

Joanie Seitsema is home and recovering after a recent hospital stay.

Margaret Soller's knee!

Brady and Mikayla Wright who began their married life together July 25.



Prayer Requests

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.





FOOD PANTRY DATES

Noon to 2P Otsego County
United Way

JUN 11, 12, JUL 9, 10, AUG 3, 27, 28,

SEP 3 & 4

CONTACT MARGARET

HELLENBERG FOR MORE INFO

116 E. 5TH ST., GAYLORD

(989) 732-8929

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

4	Margaret Soller
8	Helen Crandall
12	Joe English
15	Marcella Fahselt
20	Paul Balliet
	Jen Finnegan
22	Becky Trendera
23	Meadow Ibrahim
24	Tyler English

Anniversaries:

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



We need donations of new adult socks. The donation box is in the Fellowship Hall Entry.



Healthy Meals.
Happy Summer!

SUMMER MEAL

Pickups!



7 DAYS
OF BREAKFAST
& LUNCH

FREE
TO ALL CHILDREN
18 AND UNDER

NO ENROLLMENT
NEEDED!
FREE TO ALL!



**THURSDAY
PICKUP**

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

BEGINS JUNE 25TH
ENDS AUGUST 13TH



CHILDREN DO NOT NEED TO BE PRESENT TO PICK UP.
JUST SHOW UP AND LET US KNOW
HOW MANY KIDS YOU'RE PICKING UP FOR.



MEAL PICKUP LOCATION:
GAYLORD HIGH SCHOOL

90 Livingston Blvd, Gaylord, Michigan 49735

SEE WHAT'S INCLUDED!

HERE'S A SAMPLE OF WHAT EACH CHILD RECEIVES.

Menus change throughout the summer,
but each package includes 7 days of
nutritious breakfasts and lunches.

MILK
INCLUDED

FRESH
FRUITS &
VEGGIES



SAMPLE
MEAL PACKAGE
ITEMS VARY
WEEKLY

BREAKFAST
& LUNCH
ITEMS

KID
FRIENDLY
ITEMS

⇒ EXAMPLE MEAL PACKAGE SHOWN. FOOD ITEMS MAY VARY BASED ON AVAILABILITY. ⇒

Gaylord Methodist Women's Retreat

GMW will host a women's retreat Saturday, August 22 at 8:30 am titled "Tandem Faith: Riding God's Path Together." Registration is required by August 9 and is \$15, including snacks and lunch. For more information, contact Judy Koronka at 989-350-7211.

FREE Family Law Clinic

Community Mediation Services presents a Free Family Law Clinic sponsored by the 46th Circuit Court Family Division, Legal Services of Northern Michigan, Local County Bar Association, and Community Mediation Services. This event will include topics such as how to file or modify custody, parenting time, and divorce orders, free court forms, free legal advice open to all, without income requirements. If you are considering divorce, custody, parenting time, or have already filed by have questions, this FREE clinic can help.

All clinics begin at 5:30 pm. Future clinic dates include in Roscommon at the County Library 106 Lake Street on August 19 and on September 16 in Gaylord at Otsego County Library.

For more information, call 989-732-1576 or check out their website at www.mimmediation.com.





"Let's end hunger together one step at a time!"

Gaylord Area C.R.O.P. Walk

Sunday, September 27

Location – Downtown Pavillion

Registration opens at 1 p.m.

**The C.R.O.P Walk will start with a blessing and
prayer service at 1:30 p.m.**

The steps we take and the funds we raise together will help provide life-saving support including emergency food, water and resources, along with the seeds, tools and programs that will help families feed themselves in the future.

**25% of all funds raised will stay local and be
donated to the Otsego County Food Pantry.**

For more information check us out on Facebook at
Gaylord Area Crop Walk, or call (989) 732-1991.



Mission: YOU MATTER

September 10, 2026

Location: The Landing Zone 4-7pm
1200 Gornick Ave Gaylord, MI

Please join us for an afternoon dedicated to
honoring and serving our Veterans.

Learn about available community resources,
hobbies and clubs!

We will have a time of remembrance for
Veterans we have lost to suicide.



 Follow Mission You Matter Gaylord

August...2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
UNA Prayers for Gaylord First Congregational- UCC 10a Worship/ Communion/ NOON Church Picnic @ Amar/ Fox Home, 9580 M32 E, Joburg	9a Deadline for Eibs 10a 10a Outdoor Worship	Flowers provided- by Sue- Fueling 10 a-M. Th. Religious Topics/ Speakers @ Bay View	10a Rabbi Gordon @ BV 10a Rabbi Gordon @ BV 4p CMC Adult Success @ 630 E 5th St 5p Ukalele Group	Hiroshima Remembrance- Day 6a	Make a Will Month	9a B Clark Visitation 11a B Clark Funeral NOON Luncheon 5p All About Bats @ PRDC
2a	3a	4a	5a	6a	7a	8a
10a Worship/ Communion/ NOON Church Picnic @ Amar/ Fox Home, 9580 M32 E, Joburg	6a Gaylord Gratitude 10a Rabbi Gordon @ BV NOON Food Party NOON Reaching In 6p Compassionate Friendship	10a Rabbi Gordon @ BV 10a Rabbi Gordon @ BV 4p CMC Adult Success @ 630 E 5th St 5p Ukalele Group	10a Rabbi Gordon @ BV Bible Study/ Choir - cancelled 11a Kids' Summer Meal Pickup 11-12p Fellowship 6p Stronger Together Zoom	Day 6a	6a Gaylord Gratitude 4p Community Meal	9a B Clark Visitation 11a B Clark Funeral NOON Luncheon 5p All About Bats @ PRDC
9a	10a	11a	12a	13a	14a	15a
10a Outdoor Worship	6a Gaylord Gratitude 10a Rev. Canon Dr. Jennifer Smith @ BV	10a Rev. Canon Dr. Smith @ BV 6a Gaylord Gratitude 10a Rev. Canon Dr. Smith @ BV 5p Ukalele Group	10a Rev. Canon Dr. Smith @ BV 11a Bible Study 11a Kids' Summer Meal Pickup 4p Choir	13a	6a Gaylord Gratitude 4p Community Meal	1p Explore- Naturalists app @ Pigeon River DC
16a	17a	18a	19a	20a	21a	22a
10a Worship	6a Gaylord Gratitude 7p Reaching Out	11p Lunch Group @ Big Buck 6a Gaylord Gratitude 5p Ukalele Group 7p Trustees	11a Bible Study 4p Choir 4p Project Connect @ Eagles 6p Stronger Together Zoom	20a	6a Gaylord Gratitude 4p Community Meal	8:30a Pet Partners Team Eval 8:30a GWW & Retreat @ GMC
23a	24a	25a	26a	27a	28a	29a
SSSS 10a Worship 1p Furbers @ PRDC 3p Seasons of the Bear @ PRDC	6a Gaylord Gratitude 11:30 a Salad- Luncheon	6a Gaylord Gratitude 1p Book Club	11a Bible Study NOON Food Party 3p Church Council 4p Choir	27a	6a Gaylord Gratitude NOON Food Party 4p Community Meal	8:30a GWW & Retreat @ GMC
30a	31a	1a	2a	3a	4a	5a
10a Worship/ Laura Horelling preaching	6a Gaylord Gratitude	11:30 a Salad- Luncheon	6a Gaylord Gratitude 1p Book Club	11a Bible Study NOON Food Party 3p Church Council 4p Choir	27a	8:30a GWW & Retreat @ GMC