

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
*Gaylord*

# February 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  
218 W. Second Street  
Gaylord, MI 49735  
989-732-5726  
[www.firstuccgaylord.org](http://www.firstuccgaylord.org)

**Pastor:** Rev. Greg Watling  
[pastorg@firstuccgaylord.org](mailto:pastorg@firstuccgaylord.org)

**Moderator:** Maggie Wallin  
[margaretwallin@msn.com](mailto:margaretwallin@msn.com)

**Communications**  
**Coordinator:** Jessica Benoit  
[office@firstuccgaylord.org](mailto:office@firstuccgaylord.org)

**Church Service: Sunday, 10 am**  
*In-person worship has resumed—  
please see inside for details.*



## INVITE A FRIEND!

Do you love your church? Why keep it a secret? It's easy to invite your friends to our virtual service (or in person). Simply copy the link below and share it with them via email or social media.

<https://www.facebook.com/firstuccgaylord/live/>

*Thank you!*

Your Reaching Out team

## Coffee Hour News

We will continue to have in person coffee hour for the foreseeable future. IN ADDITION, we'd like to offer a VIRTUAL (ZOOM) Coffee hour for those who cannot come to in person, or who would prefer not to be in person. **The virtual option will be held on the LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH ONLY and will begin at 11:30.** Those who are still at in person coffee hour should be able to join in as well! We'll start January 30 and meet again February 27, March 27 and so on.

The link will always be the same.

Topic: Virtual Coffee Hour

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81182790126>

---

## ***Pastor's Column:***

### **A Solid Foundation**

*Theologian and author Kate Bowler counters our cultural desire to proclaim we are “self-made” with a reminder of our foundational communal reality.*

I am self-made. Didn't anyone tell you? I brought myself into the world when I decided to be born on a bright Monday morning. Then I figured out how cells replicate to grow my own arms and legs and head to a reasonable height and size. Then I filled my own mind from kindergarten to graduation with information I gleaned from the great works of literature. . . .

I'm joking, but sometimes it feels like the pressure we are under. An entire self-help and wellness industry made sure that we got the memo: we are supposed to articulate our lives as a solitary story of realization and progress. Work. Learn. Fix. Change. Every exciting action sounds like it is designed for an individual who needs to learn how to conquer a world of their own making.

It's hard to remember a deeper, comforting truth: we are built on a foundation not our own. We were born because two other people created a combination of biological matter. We went to schools where dozens and dozens of people crafted ideas and activities to construct categories in our minds. We learned skills honed by generations of craftspeople. We pray and worship with spiritual ideas refined by centuries of tradition. Almost nothing about us is original. *Thank God.*

It reminds me of the account of creation in Genesis. . . . God breathes oxygen into lungs in an instance of divine CPR. I love picturing that God, the only One who can create out of nothing—ex nihilo. God, who set the cornerstone of our lives and our faith, laid the first

brick. The Master Builder whose carefully poured foundation is what we build on top of now. It certainly feels like a template for the rest of our experience.

*Kate was a young mother when she was first diagnosed with Stage Four cancer:*

When I was really sick and worried about dying too young, I kept trying to picture how much my son would remember. . . .

I thought about him all the time. When do children develop long-term memory? How much am I in *there* . . . his mischievous mind, his evil laugh. Then one day, my psychologist said something wonderful. He said: “Kate, you're in there. The foundation is the part that doesn't show.”

Whether it is our parents, our teachers, mentors, friends, churches, or neighbors, people have been pouring into us. We are standing on a foundation. It should come as an incredible relief. Our only job is to build on what we've been given, and, even then, even our gifts we can trace back to the creativity, generosity, and foresight of others. *Thank God we are a group project.*

Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie, *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* (New York: Convergent Books, 2022), 51–53. To be published in February 2022 by Convergent Books, an imprint of Random House, a division of Penguin Random House. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

*Daily Meditation Copyright 2022 Center for Action and Contemplation. Used by permission.*

Our **Reaching Out Team** invites you to help support the Women's Resource Center of Northern MI during the month of February. Please see the flier below to learn how you can help—note that the list reflects changes due to COVID.



SERVING NORTHERN MICHIGAN SINCE 1977

**WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER  
OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN, INC.**

## Safe Home Needs

Community members often ask how they can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those utilizing Safe Home services.

The Safe Home's greatest need is supermarket/grocery/gas gift cards and financial contributions of all amounts so that we have the flexibility to act immediately to each of our client's unique situations as they arise.

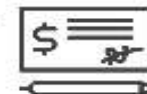
## Gift Cards

Gift cards are most helpful in responding to current shelter needs and give staff the opportunity to purchase perishable items such as milk, eggs and bread. Consider a gift card to Meijer, Walmart, Oleson's Food Stores, D&W Fresh Market, Dollar General, major gas stations, cell phone gift cards or VISA gift cards.



## Financial Contributions

Financial contributions are another great option, made by check or online at [wrcnm.org](http://wrcnm.org), then click on the "GIVE" button.



## In-Kind Donations

These are the most needed items that help the Safe Home feel like 'home':

- Coffee/Creamer
- Boxed/Canned Meals
- Cake/Brownie/Cookie Mixes
- Baking Needs - Cooking Oil, Sugar, etc.
- Paper Towel/Kleenex
- Laundry Detergent
- Hand/Dish Soap
- Women's Socks/Undergarments (new/in package)



For more information, please reach out to:

**Leah Callan, Safe Home Coordinator**  
(231) 347-1572 or [lcallan@wrcnm.org](mailto:lcallan@wrcnm.org)

***Thank you for your kindness and compassion!***

423 Porter Street, Petoskey, MI 49770 • (231) 347-0067

24-Hour Help and Information Line (231) 347-0082 and (800) 275-1995 • Fax (231) 347-5805 • [info@wrcnm.org](mailto:info@wrcnm.org) • [wrcnm.org](http://wrcnm.org)





---

## ***Announcements***

**Coffee Hour News** – in addition to normal in-person coffee hour, we will begin a virtual option on 01/30 which will take place on the **LAST SUNDAY of each month ONLY**. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88942693744?pwd=Q0JTL3ZlSHZpZUk2MmtPSUswUWM1Zz09>

**Roy Wolf Address** – 1641 Drayton Dr. Murfreesboro, TN 37130

**Pastor Susan** – has moved to OH to be near her son. She wishes us all well. Her new address is: Trinity Community at Beavercreek

3218 Indian Ripple Rd

Beavercreek OH 45440

**First Sundays** - On the first Sunday of each month, all students from K-12 will be meeting together for a special project. This may involve a field trip on a related subject. A permission slip will be required for the field trips. ***The class will meet at 9:30*** and end at 11:00 unless otherwise notified. Students are encouraged to bring friends. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Brummel (brendabrummel@me.com) or 810-623-1691 (call or text.)  
***\*Feb's meet also subject to change as Brenda will be traveling back from Africa with Sarah.***

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

**Bible Study NEW LINK**– every Thursday at 11:00am! All are invited. Please join us virtually by using either the following link or phone number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84612895017>

**NEXT McLaren Book –Feb. 3, 2022. Ch. 23.**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82057784784?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82057784784?pwd=eWdVbDIzZkRndEFaUFF5bHUvNU5MUT09)

[pwd=eWdVbDIzZkRndEFaUFF5bHUvNU5MUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82057784784?pwd=eWdVbDIzZkRndEFaUFF5bHUvNU5MUT09) Meeting ID: 820 5778 4784 Passcode: 173265





# 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

## Final 2021 Numbers:

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

Basic support for the Michigan Conference and National Settings.

*Collected on an ongoing basis*

**Received to date: \$473**

### **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 April*

**Received to date: \$344**

### **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**

### **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**

### **Christmas Fund**

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

*Collected in December*

**Received to date: \$774**

---

## 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>

McLaren *Evening* Book Study meets Thursdays at 7pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82057784784>

Meeting ID: 820 5778 4784

Passcode: 173265

Bible Study meets Thursdays at 11am

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

***Virtual Coffee Hour Link (in addition to in-person)***

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88942693744?pwd=Q0JTL3ZISHZpZUk2MmtPSUswUWM1Zz09>

---

## *~ 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 February, the UNA is holding the Old Mission Congregational Church in prayer***

***The Roundy Family***—as they grieve Larry's recent passing.

***Jen Crandall Finnegan***—as she is ill with non-COVID pneumonia.

***Roy Wolf and Family***— as they grieve Cleveann's passing

***Maxine Dely***—following a recent fall.

***Sandra Soderberg*** – as she is experiencing trauma with one eye.

***The Boughner Family*** – on the recent passing of Jim's brother, Bernie.

***Don Storing and Family*** – on Mardee's recent passing.

***Marilyn Kaczanowski*** – as she is recovering from foot surgery to remove a nerve – recovery time is quite lengthy.

***John Hellenberg***

***Gloria House's granddaughter, Madison Crawford*** – as she suffers from cataplexy in narcolepsy along with other neurological struggles. She is currently at U of M receiving treatment and therapy.

***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*** – as she is doing better, but still in need of prayers.

***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*

## *February Birthdays*

- 6 Joanie Sietsema
- 7 Callie English
- 7 Evelyn Pratt
- 10 Margaret Hellenberg
- 18 Aysia House
- 27 Jay Anderson

## *February Anniversaries*

- 28 Jim & Vicky Rigney





# February 2022

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Virtual Bible Study, 11am  Book Study, 7pm	<b>4</b> Community Meal 4pm	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> Worship, 10am Coffee Hour	<b>7</b> Reaching In, 12pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Virtual Council 7pm	<b>10</b> Virtual Bible Study, 11am  Book Study, 7pm	<b>11</b> Community Meal, 4pm	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Worship, 10am Coffee Hour	<b>14</b> 	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Trustees, 11am	<b>17</b> Virtual Bible Study, 11am  Book Study, 7pm	<b>18</b> Community Meal, 4pm	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Worship, 10am Coffee Hour	<b>21</b> Reaching Out, 7pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Church Book Club, 1pm	<b>24</b> Virtual Bible Study, 11am  Book Study, 7pm	<b>25</b> Community Meal, 4pm	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Worship, 10am Virtual Coffee Hour (last Sunday)	<b>28</b>					