

**First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Gaylord**

July 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**
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Gaylord, MI 49735
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Pastor's Column – July, 2023

“Leadership Otsego County”

On June 15, I graduated from Leadership Otsego County (LOC). You may have heard of the program before, but just in case, here is what LOC is all about:

Leadership Otsego County is designed to identify emerging leaders in Otsego County who might well participate in future civic leadership roles. It will provide them with the essential leadership skills to plan for and respond to future Otsego County challenges, while helping them to gain an understanding of the various sectors of the community and the needs within each sector (from Gaylord Area Chamber of Commerce Website).

As part of the program, we participate in several “modules” about the region: History, environment, Non-profits and Community Services, Government, Education... Also, we are assigned to a small group who design, seek funding, and hopefully complete a project that benefits the area. One group is working on a new stands at the Fairgrounds for the horse arena. The other group (mine) is working on a holiday lighting display for Claude Shannon Park. It's been a great learning experience, and I feel more connected to Gaylord than I otherwise would have been.

~Continued~

In addition to the group project, we also completed a Personal Leadership Plan. I'd be happy to share mine with new level as a guide, and/or pursuing voice training and maybe some performances. We'll see where the path will lead.

I want to thank the congregation for supporting the cost of my attendance. The cost was \$500 and came out of my continuing education budget for 2022 and 2023. Without your support I could not have attended. You may have seen our whole group here as on history day we toured our sanctuary. In the past, the groups have just walked by. This year, they came inside and were so impressed by our sanctuary and our history. Also, my small group met here several times and some of you have met them. I don't know where this connection will lead, but I do believe I have benefited from the program, and the church will as well.

Thank you all for supporting me in this leadership endeavor.

Blessings,

Pastor Greg





July

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

25 26 27 28 29 30 1

Pastor Greg in Italy through 7/2

2 Worship 10 AM

3 Reaching In 12 PM
Compassionate Friends 7-9 PM

4

5

6 Bible Study 11 AM
Choir 4 - 5 PM

7 Community Meal 4 PM

8

9 Outdoor
Worship, (Weather permitting) 10 AM
June Jans Memorial Concert 7 PM

10

11

12

13 Bible Study 11 AM
Choir 4 - 5 PM

14 Community Meal 4 PM

15

Alpenfest 2023

16 Worship 10 AM (Communion)
Council 11:30 AM

17 Reaching Out 7 PM

18

19 Trustees 11 AM

20 Bible Study 11 AM
Choir 4 - 5 PM

21 Community Meal 4 PM

22

23 Worship 10 AM

24

25 Salad Luncheon 11:30 - 12:30

26 Church Book Club 1 PM

27 Bible Study 11 AM
Choir 4 - 5 PM

28 Community Meal 4 PM

29

Stephanie In Ireland 7/25 - 8/1

30 Worship 10 AM

31



Outdoor Worship Schedule:

July 9, 2023

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.



June Jans Memorial Concert

Cabaret Concert



"virtuoso cabaret-rock duo"

***16th Annual June Jans
Memorial Concert***

When: July 9 - 5:00 pm
***Where: First Congregational UCC**
218 West Second, Gaylord
corner of Otsego and West Second*
Admission: Donation
Light refreshments to be served



***Rokko
and
The Hat***

***Benefit: The Refuge
(Gaylord Homeless Program)***

"Rokko & the Hat Band" will be performing in Gaylord on Sunday, July 9 (5 PM) for the 16th Annual June Jans Memorial Concert, to be held in the Fellowship Hall of Gaylord's First Congregational Church (UCC) at 218 W. Second Street (corner of Old 27/Otsego Ave). Everyone is invited; good will offerings will benefit "The Refuge."

This year's concert will once again bring together longtime friends, Rokko Jans and Annie Hat, whose music graced Chicago nightclubs in the 1970's.

~Continued~

In his recent book “The Chicago Music Scene 1960’s and 1970’s,” (part of the “Images of America” series) author Dean Milano writes “Alaric Rokko Jans and Annie Hat made the Bulls [nightclub] their home base and held the Sunday night slot during the 1970’s. With roots in the Chicago theater scene they were a favorite with actors and all who loved the inimitable vocal stylings of Annie and the band’s eclectic brand of cabaret rock, featuring original songs by Jans and Elliott Delman.”

Wired magazine author Hugh Hart reminisces on his discovery of Rokko & the Hat:

“At the Bulls, I became entranced with Rokko and the Hat, an elegant trio featuring Annie Hat, Django Reinhardt-channeling guitarist Elliott Delman, and the act’s wry pianist/ringmaster Alaric “Rokko” Jans [who] later composed the score for David Mamet’s *House of Games* movie and shared a 2008 Tony Award as a member of Chicago Shakespeare Theater.”

In honor of the recently departed Elliott Delman, this year’s concert will feature many of his songwriting gems.

The long-running concert series honors June Jans, a woman who made a difference wherever she lived. With her husband Paul, she created the first “Meals on Wheels” program in America in 1954, an effort that has grown into thousands of senior nutrition programs across the country. Memories of her years in Gaylord are cherished by many, and this series raises money for local causes that she supported in the realms of social justice, environment, and the arts.

This year’s beneficiary, “The Refuge,” is committed to the cause of homelessness in Otsego County by providing emergency overnight shelter to those in need. The demands placed on their services were increased by the dozens of families displaced by the Otsego County tornado. If you are unable to donate at the concert, consider writing a check to “The Refuge” and sending it to P.O. Box 44, Gaylord, MI 49734.

From June's Conference Newsletter



One year ago, the moving truck delivered my belongings to Grand Rapids, where we accidentally bought a historic home. Thus began the unpacking and preparation for my new role as Michigan Conference Minister. That first summer, everything in my new garden was a surprise, as I reaped the benefits of gardeners who came before me, both at home and in my ministry. I survived my first Michigan winter, which felt longer than it probably was, since snow followed me to every church I visited. Eventually, I was rewarded with my first Michigan Spring, which was a spectacular way to spend a weekend.



What a difference a year makes. The horrors of moving feel like a distant memory, unless you look at my basement, where I have hidden a few boxes I have yet to unpack. Still, I consider myself to be properly moved in, because these same boxes remained unpacked at my old house. It feels good to be settled.

Today, on the first day of my second summer in my Michigan garden, I have the thrill of seeing shoots of green growth from seeds that I may have planted. Although my neighbor informs me that some of these may be weeds, at least they are now my weeds, in the gloriously green landscape I now call my home. Next week, when the national church gathers for General Synod in Indianapolis, I will be proud to invite others, as you all invited me, to consider a call to serve in the



Coming SOON!

In August 2022, council began a discussion about how it would be nice to have a mural or some other type of art above the wall where we exit church. We tossed around various ideas and artists and agreed to continue the discussion the following month. When school started, the art teacher at Gaylord High School, Meadow Hunt, sent an email to all teachers about how she and her art classes were trying to do more community outreach projects, and I immediately replied about what our church was looking for. A few weeks later, Shannon Burke, one of my drama club students who was also an art student, approached me that she was going to be the artist for our project. After various discussions with her and council about how much of the wall to use and what the design should be, I told her that we were looking for something about peace in the world. About a week later, she showed me her idea, and work on the canvas began.

We're so excited about the final product, and we're incredibly grateful to Meadow for initially reaching out and to Shannon for her beautiful work. In addition to this piece of art, Shannon has worked with my drama club set crew for the past couple of years and is going to be working with our crews in this summer's community production. She graduated this year, and she will continue to draw and paint in the future. We're planning to have a dedication of this art sometime in August, and council hopes the beautiful image of the dove and globe will leave our church participants with an uplifted spirit each time they leave church.

Laura Hotelling

Reaching Out Zoom Meeting, June 19, 2023

- Cindy Goller, Cathy Otto, Louanne Spearman, Mona Viviano, Rokko Jans and Pastor Greg Watling
- Meeting opened with a prayer.
- Refuge will be beneficiary of the concert.
- Sue Smith at Refuge is helping with getting word out to other churches.
- Brenda working on a poster.
- Louanne - take \$, will ask Vicki at Alpine Tavern to donate some food.
- Rokko is getting the piano tuned.
- Cathy will be the point person for room set up.
- Rokko would like room to have a cabaret feel - ask people to bring card tables in, put their name on them.
- Group to touch base during coffee hour on 7/2/23.

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

July

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays:

- 3 Joel Sietsema
- 4 Tony Fobar
- 4 Laura Hotelling
- 10 Bo Leser
- 16 Lori Ferguson
- Harrison Kalember
- 18 Whitney Rigney
- Mary Evans
- 21 Gloria House
- 23 Nola-Jean ("Nola") Brown
- 26 Jackie Fry
- 31 Brianna Boughner

Anniversaries:

- 3 Roger & Brenda Brummel



We extended a HUGE THANK YOU to Margaret Hellenberg who replaced all of our kitchen silver ware with NEW, in John's memory! We have put aside additional settings in case we need more than 80 settings. What a wonderful present to us all. Thanks again to the Hellenberg family for their generous gift.



~ In Our Prayers ~

**During the month of July, the UNA is holding the
our church in prayer.**

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.

Brad Derenzy—as he has been blessed with a bit of a reprieve from his illness.

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

Bill Dely – as he settles into his new home. His new address is in the virtual version of the directory found in the weekly eblast.

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

June Jans Memorial Concert – “Rokko & the Hat Band” will be performing in Gaylord on Sunday, July 9 (5 PM) for the 16th Annual June Jans Memorial Concert, to be held in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is invited; good will offerings will benefit “The Refuge.”

Sunday School – Sunday School meets the first Sunday of each month. Summer dates are:

July 9 (due to the July 4 Holiday)

August 6

Directory – The directory has been updated; 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. It would be great if you could take a moment to check your information and let me know if you find errors. Thank you all for your input!

Food Pantry – needs a few more volunteers. Please contact Don Storing if interested.

Bible Study – Will not meet again until June 22nd. The Zoom link is provided: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84612895017>

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 11:00 AM:

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

Bible Study meets Thursdays at 11am

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



UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH
PRESENTS

Women's Retreat

AT GAYLORD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
215 S CENTER AVE. - GAYLORD, MI

AUG 12TH 2023 • 8:30AM - 2:00PM





**REGISTRATION
BEGINS
JUNE 15TH!**

*Cost is \$10 and
includes breakfast,
lunch, and prizes!*

Sign up is available
in the Narthex or online:
fumcgaylordmi.org/womensretre

"The Power of Prayer & The Holy Spirit"

MEET OUR SPEAKERS:



Jessie Thompson
MSW, LCSW

Jessie's career began in residential treatment for children who had been victims of abuse/neglect. Desiring a closer connection with children and families in the midst of pain, Jessie transitioned to a mental health therapist for the Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center. For the last seven years, Jessie has helped build a trauma informed clinical team and treatment program in the northern Michigan region for adults, children and families who are grappling with traumatic life experiences. Jesse is a wife, mother of three active children, follower of Jesus Christ.



Marge Ahrenberg

Marge and her late husband Bill, the love of her life, raised three sons and celebrated over 60 years of marriage. Marge served as a secretary and retired from the Wayne-Westland Schools before moving to Gaylord. Bill and Marge were involved with the VFW, Relay for Life, Road to Recovery cancer van, and the First United Methodist Church. Marge has served as president of the United Methodist Women and is currently the president of the UWF Faith Circle. Join Marge as she shares her life changing encounter on her Walk to Emmaus.



Amy Touroo

Amy is a wife and the mother of Benjamin, Asher, and Kayleigh. Amy loves being a mommy; loves to cook; and loves to entertain. Amy enjoys camping with husband Jeremy and the kids, and the family is always ready for a new adventure. Jeremy and Amy responded to a calling from the Lord and adopted all three of their children from birth. Take a walk with Amy through her adoption journey as she shares about prayer and the surprising goodness of God.



Judy Sweet
Emcee

Judy has served alongside her husband and retired pastor, Barry, for 40 years, leading Christian Education and all other duties of a pastor's wife. The Sweets retired to Gaylord and continue to do God's work. Judy is a true blessing to GFUMC; teaching Sunday School, playing an intricate role on the Women's Retreat Committee, leading a women's Bible study group and she is a mentor extraordinaire.