

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
*Gaylord*

June 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.*



#### TORNADO RESPONSE

First, let us be grateful that as far as we know all our participants are safe and had little or no damage from the tornado. The church also sustained no damage, except the power outage spoiled some food that was in the refrigerator, but a minor amount (about \$150, covered by donors).

Second, let us also be grateful that there were not more injuries and deaths than there were that day. While losing any life is tragic, it could have been far worse.

Third, I was pleased to hear from our Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ as they offered to help in any way they can. Also, churches in Newaygo, Hudsonville and Atlanta have contacted either us or the conference to lend their aid. The national United Church of Christ has been in touch as well. Sometimes we forget that we are part of a larger family which is the United Church of Christ. They seem so far away, and yet, in times of need, here they are.

Having said that...we all know that the needs are great and our community is stepping forward in dramatic ways. The Community Foundation and United Way are taking the lead on the response. See below the volunteer and donor opportunities through those two organizations. You may give and/or volunteer directly through them.

We will also be doing our part as a congregation to help. Community Meals will continue (with the exception of Friday, May 27 and the July 4 holiday weekend) through the summer. **We are short of volunteer groups to help with this.** Maybe you or someone you know could help out on a Friday night? On **Saturday, May 28** we are going to gather at 12 noon here at church to construct sandwiches that will be delivered by volunteers who will be working hard to help our community recover. If you will help construct sandwiches and help serve them, we would love your help. Just show up at noon and we'll go from there. If you want to help cover the cost, feel free to write a check to Community Meal.

In addition to the things we do, we also need to process what has occurred. Even if we had no damage, or a little, this affected us all. More than that, we will be needed especially when the media leaves, and the acute crisis has passed, to help people recover and be restored. To do that, we will need to take good care of ourselves so we can offer our best to those in need. If you need to talk, please give Pastor Greg a call at 920-472-9172.



*(From email received 05/21/22)*

Many of you have reached out asking how you can help with tornado response. We are working closely with our community partners to ensure immediate needs are being met and for those of you on Facebook, we will continue to update the Otsego Community Foundation page as we learn of opportunities to help.

The best way to be prepared for volunteer opportunities is through the Volunteer Center at the Otsego County United Way. To register go to <https://www.otsegounitedway.org/volunteers>.

We have set up a Tornado Response Fund. Proceeds will be directed to our community partners to help with immediate relief, short-term recovery and long-term rebuilding. Please consider making a gift and sharing the info below with your contacts:

To give on line go to:

<https://give.otsegofoundation.org/campaign/tornado-response/c409192>

To give by check mail to:

Otsego Community Foundation  
Memo: Tornado Response Fund  
PO Box 344  
Gaylord, MI 49734

Gaylord is known for its sense of community, especially when faced with hardships. Let's work together to pick up the pieces from the tornado. In the days and weeks to come our neighbors and businesses will need our help in many ways. The Tornado Response Fund will help ensure the basics are met, gaps are filled, and resources available to pick up the pieces and rebuild our community brick by brick.



*(email received 05/24/22)*

Hello Loving Community:

Erin Mann here, I wanted to take a moment to give you an update on where we are with our response and coordinated efforts. Please know the Otsego County United Way board members, staff, and volunteers are extending so much empathy and well wishes to tornado victims and the community at large.

Most importantly, if you know of anyone that needs supportive services or direction on how to navigate this tumultuous disaster, please have them call [211](tel:211).

- THANK YOU! In the past three days we have provided 179 services to individuals impacted by the tornado. This includes direct victims, those who lost power, and fuel support for ALICE (asset limited, income constrained, employed) individuals so they can operate their equipment for debris removal.
- THANK YOU! Hundreds and hundreds of people have donated goods and gift cards. Anyone impacted by the tornado can come to collect items, 9 am to 5 pm, Tuesday through Friday this week at the United Way building. Victims can shop multiply times as needs change.

We have thousands of tangible donations. Our “big room” is overflowing. As well as the tractor trailer parked on site donated by Road Warrior Truck Driving school. You are all so amazing. Considering the overwhelming goods, we are asking for gift card donations to local businesses. Gift cards offer victims autonomy in choices and control in a time where so many things in their life are uncertain. [Socials](#) are updated often on materials needed as this moving target shifts.

THANK YOU! Two hundred and fifty-one people have interacted with us as a NEW volunteers. This does not include our 350 prior volunteers, those that quietly have showed up and just started pitching in, and all of those with boots on the ground doing clean up. We are asking individuals to fill out a [volunteer application](#) to gain access to opportunities.

THANK YOU! You have raised over [\\$50 thousand dollars](#) in donations. The online campaign does not include onsite donations.

THANK YOU! Plus, \$20,000 dollars from the DTE Foundation and \$25,000 from the Consumers Energy Foundation. OMI 49735

989.

Otsego County United Way  
116 E. 5th St  
Gaylord, MI  
989-732-8929

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## Pastor's Column—June 2022

*"Well Done!"*

Thank you for all of your hard work on church clean-up day! We had about a dozen or so people stay after church to make our little corner of the earth a little more beautiful. We cleaned the yard, fixed broken sprinkler pieces, removed storm windows, trimmed bushes, and even got the oven cleaned inside the church (thank you Vicky Rigney)!

I also want to thank all who participated (Sallie Anderson and Helen Mate, and perhaps others?) in making a special coffee hour that was more like lunch for our crew. Also, a special thanks to Jean Sasso, who took all of the clippings, leaves, and other yard waste to the disposal site.

I'm sure I left someone(s) out in this thank you, and if I did, I'm sorry, but please know that we appreciate all you do, even if you are not specifically named. September will depend on the weather, so we'll decide that when it gets closer.

Besides outdoor services, we also plan to have **Salad Luncheons** again this year, but absent required Covid protocols (at this time). Please bring your friends May 31 and June 28 to these special fundraisers. We may have other luncheons, but the attendance at these first two will determine if we have more this year. The first one is sponsored by Women's Fellowship and the second by Church Council.

Also, we have again started having our **Community Meal** inside starting the first week of May. The first week was well attended, the second not as much. But those who came are glad to be back together inside and our team has done a lot of work. Just so you know, there aren't many groups volunteering to make a meal until fall, so if you and your friends want to put together a meal, please contact Vicky if you will help. Truth is, I've helped at a couple meals and it's a lot of fun while also helping people in need. In case you didn't know, Community Meal also received a grant of \$3000 from 100 Women Who Care here in Gaylord.

There is always more to be done, but many hands make light work. We have a lot of fun working together, and we get much needed items completed.

**THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO!**

*In faith,*

*Pastor Greg*

### **UPCOMING OUT-OF-TOWN DATES FOR PASTOR GREG**

June 10 attending the ribbon cutting ceremony for Samaritan Counseling Center of the Fox Valley in Menasha, Wisconsin. Pastor served as President of the Board of Directors when the capital campaign began and will be part of the ribbon cutting that morning. He will return later that day.

June 16-27 in Wisconsin and Minnesota for several special events. Office hours will be held June 28 instead of the 27<sup>th</sup>.

You may contact him in event of emergency at 920-472-9172

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

- We're grateful for everyone who turned out to make our church's Spring Cleanup Day on May 15<sup>th</sup> a big success! Our little piece of the Gaylord's earth at the corner of Second and US-27 South is looking well cared for as a result of our collective efforts. Thank you!
- Through the month of April, our income from tithes and offerings totaled \$31,152 compared to a budget of \$31,667, approximately \$500 (2%) below budget for the first four months of the year. We appreciate the generosity of our church family.
- After several months of persistent effort, we have the ability to generate routine reports from QuickBooks to monitor church financials in detail. Many thanks to Jessica who worked diligently with our accountant to overcome transition issues.
- A summary of April's Income / Expense report is included, below. Expenses exceeded income in April primarily due to timing of a ministry expense. This occurs when designated special collections (such as Our Church's Wider Mission or OCWM) are received over several months, then paid to the designated recipient in a single month.
- Thank you for the many ways in which you contribute time, talent, and treasures for the continued well-being of our vibrant church community.

<b>First Congregational UCC Gaylord</b>			
<b>Actual Compared to Budgeted Financials</b>			
<b>April 2022</b>			
	<b>Budget Annual</b>	<b>Budget Monthly</b>	<b>Actual April</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>Operating Income</b>	<b>\$ 105,500</b>	<b>\$ 8,792</b>	<b>\$ 7,809</b>
<b>Ministries Income</b>			<b>\$ 25</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 105,500</b>	<b>\$ 8,792</b>	<b>\$ 7,834</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>Personnel</b>	<b>\$ 75,730</b>	<b>\$ 6,311</b>	<b>\$ 6,211</b>
<b>Facility</b>	<b>\$ 21,170</b>	<b>\$ 1,764</b>	<b>\$ 1,383</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>\$ 6,250</b>	<b>\$ 521</b>	<b>\$ 200</b>
<b>Ministries</b>	<b>\$ 2,350</b>	<b>\$ 196</b>	<b>\$ 1,544</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 105,500</b>	<b>\$ 8,792</b>	<b>\$ 9,338</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ (1,504)</b>



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## ***Announcements***

**Salad Luncheon**— will now be May 31st at 11:30am

**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 10:00am*** 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.)

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

**Bible Study**— is now meeting in person again every Thursday at 11:00am! All are invited. Please join us in fellowship hall or virtually by using either the following link or phone number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84612895017>

### **June Upcoming Dates to Remember**

June 19 (Sunday) June Jans Concert

June 16 -27 Greg Out of the office

### **June Mowing Schedule:**

Week of 5th: Don

Week of 13th: Pete

Week of 20th: George

Week of 27th: Rod

### **Looking Ahead:**

Rummage Sale Dates:

Sept. 16 & 17, 2022



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**Congratulations to  
The Community Meal  
Program for receiving a  
\$3000 grant from  
The Otsego Community  
Foundation!**



*The 2nd place, \$3,000  
grant goes to....*

**1st Congregational  
Church:  
Community Meal  
Program**

**Thank you Vicky Rigney for  
your heartfelt presentation.**

***"100 Women Who Care"***



# 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 \$587 for Blanket Sunday (2021)***

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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>

**Richard Rohr Book Study** meets Thursdays at 7pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89372092567>

**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 June, the UNA is holding the Clare Congregational Church in prayer***

***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 is experiencing trauma with one eye.

***John Hellenberg***—as he moves into 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*

*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.*

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# *Birthdays and Anniversaries*

## *June Birthdays*

4 Jenna English  
6 Jim Boughner  
7 Vicky Rigney  
9 Katie Amar-Fox  
11 Kynzie House  
17 Erin Rigney  
21 Meredith Anderson  
23 Mary Fox

## *June Anniversaries*

3 Rod & Sallie Anderson  
9 Pastor Greg Watling & Cindy Goller  
10 Aaron & Laura Hotelling  
21 Steve & Lori Ferguson  
23 Terry & Diane House  
30 George & Judy Dunn





# June 2022

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Bible Study, 11am  Book Study, 7pm	<b>3</b>  Community Meal 4pm	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Worship, 10am Coffee Hour  <i>Tornado Response Special Offering</i>	<b>6</b>  Reaching In, 12pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  Bible Study, 11am	<b>10</b>  Community Meal, 4pm	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>  <i><b>OUTDOOR</b></i> Worship, 10am Coffee Hour	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  Trustees, 11am	<b>16</b>  Bible Study, 11am	<b>17</b>  Community Meal, 4pm	<b>18</b>
				Greg out of office		
<b>19</b> Worship, 10am Coffee Hour Father's Day June Jans Concert	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  Church Book Club, 1pm	<b>23</b>  Bible Study, 11am	<b>24</b>  Community Meal, 4pm	<b>25</b>
Greg out of office						
<b>26</b>  Worship, 10am Coffee Hour	<b>27</b>  Reaching Out, 7pm	<b>28</b>  Salad Luncheon, 11:30am  <i>*Greg will be in office</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  Bible Study, 11am		
Greg out of office						