

# First Congregational United Church of Christ

218 W. Second Street, Gaylord, Michigan 49735

[www.firstuccgaylord.org](http://www.firstuccgaylord.org)

May 2025 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

## "Resilience and Hope"

Soon, we will enter the month of May. We'll start thinking about planting gardens, raking and mowing the lawn, hummingbirds will return, and all things spring will be on our mind. Or will they? This

winter has been a tough one since Thanksgiving. People say it is like winters in Gaylord used to be. When that actually happened is unclear, but at some point in history, this was normal.

Nevertheless, we received record snow, followed by a once-in-a-lifetime ice storm that power folks said caused power disruption like a category five hurricane. People were out of power for days, sometimes weeks. It was hard for all of us in one way or another.

At the same time, we found new and creative ways to weather both the winter and the storm. We found we could do more than we thought we could. And, most importantly, we found that there were multiple ways that we could both give and receive help. Once again, our community came together in grand fashion.

For me, I met a bunch of new people and found new ways to serve in our community. Our church was instrumental in making things happen for people in ways that will not be recognized in the same way as the “bigger” churches or groups. We won’t make the news. That’s okay. I think it’s even more amazing that our small church helped in so many ways in order that our community could recover. We are a resilient bunch. We live in a resilient community. We literally weathered the storm well.

My hope is that we continue to find ways to work together for the good of the community. My hope is that we find new ways to communicate about and care for people around us. One thing about a storm is that it levels the playing field. Everyone was affected by the storm. No exceptions. That meant all were in need in some way and all were able to help in some way. This is what community really is. I pray...I hope...that community will grow deeper to the benefit of all.

Give yourselves credit for all you did to help our community through the storms. Now may we do our part to make our community the best we can. With God’s help, we can carry the spirit forward and truly change all lives for the better!

In Christ,

Pastor Greg

## ***Blanket Sunday – May 11***

Each year on Mother's Day, we celebrate Blanket Sunday. When you buy a paper heart, you provide money toward the purchase of a blanket while recognizing someone important in your life. Each paper heart purchased is pinned to the blanket at the front of the church and the money raised goes toward disaster relief.

Blankets are \$10 each, but all donations are gratefully accepted. Offering dates run from April 27-May 11. See Pastor Greg or Margaret Hellenberg with any questions.

Please use your heart, take a heart, and know in your heart you have helped someone in the name of LOVE.

### ***~ In Our Prayers ~***

***During May, the UNA is holding Charlevoix First Congregational UCC Church in prayer.***

***Jason Peterman*** – who is dealing with a variety of health issues.

***Madison Crawford*** – as she suffers from neurological and vision issues.

***Chris Crumbaugh*** – continued prayers Chris and Laura Bantens as they adapt to Chris' medical issues.

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

***Vicky Rigney*** – Vicky is recovering after a fall and subsequent surgery.



*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.*

# May Birthdays and Anniversaries

## Birthdays:

4 PAT SEPURA  
8 BRENDA BRUMMEL  
10 GEORGE DUNN  
15 NORM DRESSEL  
16 DON STORING  
17 LANI ENGLISH  
18 JASON PETERMAN  
22 PAT DRESSEL  
24 JULIA CHWATUM  
25 MACKENZIE FOBAR  
26 ROY WOLF  
31 ALAINA ANDERSON

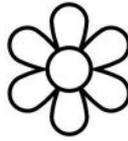
## Anniversaries:

16 MARY & JASON PETERMAN  
20 ROLLIE & LOUANNE  
    SPEARMAN  
25 PETE AMAR & MARY FOX

## Announcements

- Food Pantry Volunteers are needed – call Don Storing
- Buy your paper heart for Blanket Sunday by May 11
- We are fundraising for Community Meal through bracelet sales in Fellowship Hall
- For prayer concerns, joys, announcements, or news to share, contact Liz at [office@firstuccgaylord.org](mailto:office@firstuccgaylord.org) or Pastor Greg at [pastorg@firstuccgaylord.org](mailto:pastorg@firstuccgaylord.org)
- Pastor Greg celebrates 30 years (!) of ordination May 18 during Fellowship
- Check Fellowship Hall to sign up for mowing.
- Spring Clean Up time is quickly approaching.

MAY 2025



Click on the link above for the May Calendar.



**Zoom Link for Trustees:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84006659065>

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**Reaching Out Zoom Link:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86904855449>

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## 2025 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.*