

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
*Gaylord*

May 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.*



**Pastor's Column—May 2022**

**"Reduce, Reuse, Recycle"**

Gas prices. Everyone is talking about gas prices. It's true, they are remarkably high and not likely to go down anytime soon. It's tough for people to pay these higher prices. It's also true that oil, gas, and other fossil fuels are the commodities most vulnerable to price fluctuations. We simply cannot control the price of fuel. However, we can have some control over how much we use. We can combine trips, carpool, walk or bike (if we are able), and adjust our heating and cooling temperatures. Not only can we save some money, but we can save our planet at the same time. And it needs saving.

The earth itself is in peril. Humanity is responsible for the problems around us.

Whether you agree with me or not, I'm sure you'd like to save some money. That's a good reason to save fuel.

At the same time, I'm sure that most all of us agree that the trees of Northern Michigan make where we live one of the most beautiful places in the world. Trees are renewable but we are using up our forests much faster than they grow. Trees clean our air and our water. Trees are important for our topsoil. Trees planted safely around our homes can assist in our heating and cooling costs. In short, we would do well to save our trees. How can we do that?

More on next page...

---

We can use less paper products, or we can choose a recycled paper alternative. We can use dishes and wash them, which takes far less water than paper production, or even paper recycling. We can save trees and save water at the same time.

I could go on with many examples of how we can take better care of our earth. In Genesis 1, God gives us “dominion” over the earth. In the original text, the word is better translated “responsibility” than dominion. It’s up to us, in large part, to take care of this planet that God has gifted to us. How we do it is as different as each one of us, butt that we do it is critical to our own survival, let alone the survival of animal and plant life.

Whatever your choices, I invite you to take the earth into consideration. Are there changes you and I can make, or that we can make as a church, which will better care for our “corner” of this beautiful world of ours? We could use fewer bulletins on a Sunday as we have the screens with information we need. We could share a bulletin with someone, rather than each of us getting one. We could use our beautiful dishes and silverware, rather than throw away items? Could some meetings be scheduled for when we’re already here, saving people a trip? Even our zoom meetings, which I know are not always the best idea, can save energy as we save a trip.

These are just ideas of ways we might make a difference for the good of us all.

What is ours to do to better care for our planet? Earth Day is not just a day in April, it really is every day.

*In faith,*

*Pastor Greg*

---

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

Through 4/17/22, sixteen weeks into the current giving year, our income from tithes and offerings of \$29,694 is slightly over our budget of \$29,231 for this period. We appreciate the generosity of our church family.

Trustees sadly bid farewell to Doreen Dobosy as she relocates to be closer to her family. Following Doreen's departure, Jean Sasso (formerly Assistant Financial Secretary) has agreed to step up as our new Financial Secretary, and David Schopp will serve as the Trustee's liaison to Council. Margaret Hafner has agreed to join Trustees and become the new Assistant Financial Secretary.

We're closer to being able to share a summary income/expense report from Quick-Books, but still have a few transition questions to work out. Church finances are in good shape overall. Look for additional details in next month's newsletter.

Thank you for the many ways in which you contribute time, talent, and treasures for the continued well-being of our vibrant church community.

---

### ***Breathing Under Water*** ***By Richard Rohr*** ***Book Study Schedule/Topics***

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89372092567>

#### **Remainng Book Study Dates:**

May 5 Chapters 8 and 9

May 26 Chapters 10 and 11

June 2 Chapter 12 and Postscript

---

## ***Announcements***

**Blanket Sunday** – is on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. \$10 provides one blanket and \$50 provides blankets for an entire family. More information will be provided in that Sunday's bulletin.

**Salad Luncheon**— May 24th at 11:30am - more information to come.

**Earth Day Service and Spring Clean-Up** – Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> (back-up day 05/22). More information to come!

**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.)

**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>

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

June 19 (Sunday) June Jans Concert

June 16 -27 Greg Out of the of office

### **May Mowing Schedule**

Week 1: Don

Week 2: Pete

Week 3: George

Week 4: Rod

Week 5: TBD





# 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)***

---

## 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>

---

## ~ 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 May, the UNA is holding the Cheboygan First Congregational Church in prayer***

***Maxine Dely***—as she deals with ongoing balance issues.

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

***John Hellenberg***

***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 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*

## *May Birthdays*

4 Pat Sepura  
8 Brenda Brummel  
10 George Dunn  
15 Norm Dressel  
17 Lani English  
17 Don Storing  
22 Pat Dressel  
25 Mackenzie Fobar  
26 Roy Wolf  
31 Alaina Anderson


## *May Anniversaries*

20 Rollie & Louanne Spearman  
25 Pete Amar & Mary Fox





# May 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Worship, 10am Coffee Hour Communion  <i>First Sunday with Brenda, 10am</i>	<b>2</b> Reaching In, 12pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Virtual Bible Study, 11am  Women's Fellow- ship, 1pm  Book Study, 7pm	<b>6</b> Community Meal 4pm	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Worship, 10am Coffee Hour  <i>Mother's Day</i>  <i>Blanket Sunday</i>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Virtual Bible Study, 11am	<b>13</b> Community Meal, 4pm	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Earth Day Worship, 10am Coffee Hour  <i>Spring Cleanup</i>  <i>Council 12pm</i>	<b>16</b> Reaching Out, 7pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Trustees, 11am	<b>19</b> Virtual Bible Study, 11am	<b>20</b> Community Meal, 4pm	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Worship, 10am Coffee Hour  <i>Greg out of office</i>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Church Book Club, 1pm	<b>26</b> Virtual Bible Study, 11am  Book Study, 7pm	<b>27</b> Community Meal, 4pm	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Worship, 10am Coffee Hour	<b>30</b> <i>Memorial Day</i> 	<b>31</b>				