

First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
*Gaylord*

# NOVEMBER 2021 AND ANNUAL REPORTS

*Embracing people at every age and every stage of life, helping them  
to become the most loving version of themselves possible.*

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

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## ***Pastor's Column – October 2021***

### ***"Everyone Is Welcome Here"***

Years ago, I knew a young mom with a young son. They decided to go to church one day. The mom packed up some snacks, a blanket, a drink, some books and a couple of toys into her backpack and off they went. They arrived at the church and were greeted and then told, "We have a nursery down the hall to the left." She thanked the greeter and proceeded into the sanctuary and found her seat for her and her son in the pew.

A few minutes later, someone else came up, said hello and told her where the nursery was. She thanked that person and proceeded to get her things out of the backpack for her son. They looked at books together and he ate a little snack, and they waited for church to begin.

Not long after that, someone else came up, said hello, and told her where the nursery was. A little perturbed, she thanked the person and went back to spending time with her son. You see, this was a working mom, which most moms are today. In fact, both the mom and the dad (yes, she had a husband, but he was away that Sunday) worked full time jobs and their son spent many hours in day care. She was overjoyed to have to have some time with him and to take him to church. Church was almost ready to begin, so they read another book, had a little snack and settled in.

**Continued on next page ...**

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Right before the music began another person came and told the mom she'd be happy to show her where the nursery was for her young son. The mom said, "Thank you, I know where it is." She packed up her things into her backpack, got up out of the pew, and walked right out of the church never to be seen again. When she told me the story, she couldn't believe that people didn't think she was smart enough to determine if her son needed the nursery, let alone finding it. It took all she had to attend any other church again, let alone that one.

The point of this story is that sometimes when we entertain guests in the church we are more about our agenda than theirs. Although I'm sure the intention of all four people who approached the mom were good, the IMPACT of what they did was disastrous. The truth is that intention is a great thing, but as mother used to say, "The road to hell is paved with good intentions." We have to consider the needs of the person attending, rather than worrying about our own needs to fill the nursery or the Sunday school, or keep the sanctuary quiet, or whatever our agenda is. And we must consider the impact of our decisions, despite the intentions.

This doesn't just apply to those who bring their children. We have no idea what someone is bringing with them when they attend church for the first, or the first few times. Whether it's the need for family time, or just the need to keep to themselves, or to get involved right away, or whatever it is, we can't possibly know by our assumptions, regardless of our intentions. If we truly want to be a church where "everyone is welcome here" or "no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here" then we must accept people on whatever point of the journey they are on.

Some can't wait to find the nursery or Sunday school, or something else for their kids so they can have a moment of peace. Others get so little family time that they need their children with them in church. And some might change their mind during the service. Knowing that all of that is true, what might the four people at the church have done for this guest to their church?

It's simple: what would you do for her in your home? You would welcome her and say, is there anything I can get for you? Then you might point out where the bathroom is, because people need that and it's not obvious, especially in our church setting. Taking care of the needs of a guest are first priority in our homes. Why is it that so often that is not true in the church? Could our first priority be the needs of the guest, or should we take care of our own needs first?

I think you know the answer. When you see someone new think about how you would welcome them into your home. What might you do then? More often than not, this is the right answer for the person visiting the church. Perhaps you don't know it, but for a vast majority of Americans stepping across the threshold of the church door is one of the scariest and most difficult things for people. They have been hurt by the church, or just plain ignored. To truly welcome them, it needs to be about them.

Lastly, put yourself in their shoes. What would you need to know when visiting a new place, let alone a church? That might be a key as well. Truth is most people know what they need. Your task, should you choose to accept it, is to help them get those needs met wherever possible.

*Blessings,*

*Pastor Greg*



*More from Pastor Greg on next page —>*

## **LIVESTREAM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

As you know, we have begun livestreaming our worship services. Each week, we gain more confidence in the system, and we're very able to train others to use the system. What we need is a couple more people to help us run the system. Even if you take the training, you can back out if it's more than you bargained for.

Livestream is an important connection with our out-of-town participants and friends, and it also is a wonderful way to share our church with the community. Many people check out a church online before they ever come in person. Please help if you are able.

Contact Pastor Greg or Jessica if you will help.

## **THANK YOU!**

Many people came to help clean up the church yard and enjoy some apple cider and donuts on October 3. Thank you for helping as many hands made lighter work. The yard looks good! Besides, it was fun! Hope you'll come again (or for the first time) come Spring as we get ready for next summer.

## **PASTOR OUT OF THE OFFICE OCTOBER 24-30**

While I will be in town, I'll be in the final session of the Living School for Action and Contemplation most of the day on each of those days. I will be available by phone but will not be in the office. Should you need to reach me, please call or text 920-472-9172.

The Living School has been a three-year program, the last year supported in part by the church that teaches students the methods of contemplation that leads to spiritual action. We've learned about the mystical tradition, the desert fathers, and other ancient and contemporary practices over the past three years. Students come from all over the world to be a part of this program. I have been honored to have learned so much over these past years.

## **INSTALLATION SERVICE**

A special service of worship will be held during the worship time on Sunday, November 7 as we install our pastor. Pastor Greg has been here about a year now, but with all the Covid cancellations and changes, the installation has not occurred. With the installation, regular service activities, dedication of pledges, and communion, service may last a little bit longer.

The good news is that the Council will host an "enhanced" coffee hour following the service. Please come, if you can.

## **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The annual meeting of the congregation will be held on Sunday, November 14 shortly after the worship service (around 11 or 11:15). Please plan to attend so we can approve a budget for 2022 and any other business that must come before the congregation. A full agenda and the annual reports of our ministry groups will come out in a special eblast closer to the meeting date.

If you haven't turned in your annual report, please get those to Jessica right away.

## **OFFICE HOURS CHANGE**

The church office will be closed on Thanksgiving Day.

On Monday, November 29, Pastor will be in Wisconsin with Cindy as she is having surgery. It is likely that Greg won't be in the office until Thursday of that week. As always, he is available by cell phone at 920-472-9172 if you need anything, or by text or email.

## ***September 8, 2021 Council Minutes***

Present: Mischelle Stone, Laura Hotelling, Greg Watling, Helen Mate, Doreen Dobosy

1. Greg led a prayer to begin the meeting.
2. Mischelle asked about the church ordering rainbow “All Are Welcome” signs for the church yard. Helen moved to approve, Laura seconded, and the vote passed unanimously.
3. August Minutes
  - A. Related to 5E, Greg noted that the trustees asked Don to look into what is needed for the roof, not Don voicing concern. This change has been made to the minutes.
  - B. The spelling of Dobosy has been corrected as well.
4. In-Person Services/Building Use/Coffee Hour
  - A. Mischelle noted that for coffee hour, we should ask people not to sit directly across from another person
  - B. Doreen suggested letting everyone know that if numbers get bad again, we could have to quarantine coffee hour.
  - C. Helen suggested reminding everyone to put back on their masks when they’re not taking a bite or a sip.
  - D. Greg wondered what should be done about funerals. Mischelle suggested that the church be available but not fellowship hall.
  - E. Greg suggested that future church-sponsored events be publicized through the office with Jessica sending out the info rather than anyone else.
5. Church Participants/Volunteers
  - A. Mischelle noted that we need a record of money being spent and who’s doing what. There are some people spending their own money but then not wanting to contribute elsewhere due to unsolicited expenses.
  - B. There was discussion about building an inventory of church participants’ contributions, and Mischelle suggested compiling the raw data but not publicizing who does what.
  - C. Greg will continue to communicate with Brad about when the lawn needs to be done.
6. Carillon Update
  - A. There’s general consensus that everyone is more comfortable with building a special fund for this rather than having the money come out of the general fund.
  - B. Laura suggested that we remind everyone that a special fund can be built over time.
7. The podcast is on hold for now.
8. There was discussion about the rummage sale. Mischelle will ask Mona about what can and can’t be donated.
9. Jessica is going to set up a church Zoom account to use for committee meetings and other church events.
10. Greg led a prayer to conclude the meeting.

**REACHING IN**  
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC GAYLORD**  
**September 13, 2021**

ATTENDEES: Pastor Greg, Rokko, Helen M, Helen C, Sallie, Maggie, Bill, Brenda

OPENING PRAYER: Bill

DISCUSSIONS:

- Research new study resources (Book: "See No Stranger," by Valerie Kaur; Topic: dealing with "church self-esteem")
- Discuss how best to appeal to young people and their conflicting schedules
- Discuss "adult patterns" as they relate to church attendance; in-person attendance combined with virtual
- Begin to schedule out-reach projects (ie: Cass)

WORSHIP SCHEDULES:

- Greg will be gone 9/26 (Don Storing) and 10/24 (Rokko)
- Begin researching Advent materials

CHURCH FAMILY CONCERNS:

- RSVP is doing a "Meal Train" for Storings;
- Susan Webeler has had a set back and is Assisted Living as she rehabs
- Prayers for Joe Wambold as he bikes to Kansas City, MO
- Continuing prayers for Bob and Charlene Clark on the death of their son, Jeff Potter
- Prayers for the family of Pat Lange on her death 9/7/21

CLOSING PRAYER: Rokko

Submitted by Helen S Crandall







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## ***Announcements***

**Greg's Installation** – Council has scheduled Greg's installation for Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>. Please join us and stay for an enhanced coffee hour.

**UPDATE!!! Annual Meeting** – will be Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> immediately following service.

**Angel Tree** – our Angel Tree will be displayed Oct. 31 – Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>. Gifts will be picked up on 11/15 – do not wrap and please include tag with your items.

**Pledge Box** – is now on credenza. You may submit your pledge there or in narthex of church.

**All Saints Sunday** – will be celebrated on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>. Please send photos, names, dates to Brenda Brummel no later than 10/31/2021. *A friendly reminder that we are only observing those who have passed in the last year.*  
[brendabrummel@me.com](mailto:brendabrummel@me.com)

**Church T-Shirts** – Vicky Rigney will be taking orders for church t-shirts until 11/11/2021. Cost will be \$14 (2X and up \$16). Please contact Vicky at 989-370-2308 to place your order. Please consider paying when ordering, turn-around is about a week.

**First Sundays** - On the first Sunday of each month (11/07), 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](mailto:brendabrummel@me.com)) or 810-623-1691 (call or text.)

**MASKS** – are now required for any indoor event.

**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>

**McLaren Book - Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> with Ch. 10. NEW LINK:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82057784784?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82057784784?pwd=eWdVbDlzZkRndEFaUFF5bHUvNU5MUT09)  
[pwd=eWdVbDlzZkRndEFaUFF5bHUvNU5MUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82057784784?pwd=eWdVbDlzZkRndEFaUFF5bHUvNU5MUT09) Meeting ID:  
820 5778 4784 Passcode: 173265

### ***Flower Schedule:***

**June:** Jeannine Wambold

**July:** Joanie Sietsema

**Aug.:** Evelyn Pratt

**Sept.:** Sallie Anderson

**Oct.:** Vicky Rigney

**Nov.:** Louanne Spearman

**Dec.:** Christian Ed.



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# **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: \$166**

### **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: \$314**

### **Strengthen the Church**

Supports church growth, pastoral and lay leadership development, young and young adult ministers within conferences.

*Collected around Pentecost*

### **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*

### **Christmas Fund**

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

*Collected in December*



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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>

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>

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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 November, the UNA is holding the Manistee church in prayer.***

***The Crandall Family*** – as they grieve Don's recent passing.

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

***Jim Boughner's brother, Charles Bernard*** – as he has been diagnosed with brain cancer and is having a very difficult time.

***John Hellenberg*** – as he will undergo a vein clearing procedure on each leg.

***The Friends and Family of Scott Huffman***—as they grieve his passing.

***The Family and Friends of Bob and Charlene Clark*** – as they grieve the recent loss of their son, Jeffrey Potter.

***The Family and Friends of Pat Lange*** – as they grieve her recent death.

***Mardee Storing*** – as she has entered hospice care.

***Samantha and Marcus Fray*** –continued prayers needed as Marcus's ALS has advanced. They are in their early thirties with two young children. Samantha is George and Judy Dunn's granddaughter.

***Monica Gentile*** – Mardee Storing's dear friend who is suffering from dementia.

***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.

***Bo & Carol Leser***—as Bo is struggling with health issues.

***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.*



*Prayer Requests*

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# BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

## *November Birthdays*

10 Ariaah House  
16 Maureen Derenzy  
18 Zephania Boughner  
18 Andrew Kalember  
20 Cleveann Wolf  
20 Keelin English  
30 Mona Viviano



## *November Anniversaries*

10 Paul & Marilyn Kaczanowski  
28 Jeff and Stephanie Kalember  
29 Maureen and Brad Derenzy



# November 2021

**Sun**

**Mon**


**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

	<b>1</b> Reaching In 12pm	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Community Meal 4pm	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Worship, 10am All Saints Greg Installation	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Virtual Council 7pm	<b>11</b> Virtual Bible Study, 11am  Book Study 7pm	<b>12</b> Community Meal 4pm	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Worship, 10am  Annual Meeting	<b>15</b> Reaching Out, 7pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Trustees, 11am	<b>18</b> Virtual Bible Study, 11am  Book Study, 7pm	<b>19</b> Community Meal, 4pm	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> Worship, 10am	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Church Book Club, 1pm	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b> Community Meal, 4pm	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> Worship, 10am	<b>29</b>  Greg out of office	<b>30</b>				



# ANNUAL REPORTS





***Pastor's Annual Report to the Congregation***

***November 2021***

***Rev. Greg Watling***

I cannot believe that I have been here one year already! What a year it has been! We have faithfully worked through ever-changing pandemic-related issues, and I could not be more thankful for the congregation's understanding of the difficult role this has been for the Church Council. In all things, we try to achieve balance with safety, mental health issues, government requirements/suggestions, and using the latest data from our health care professionals. I have been impressed by the deliberations of the Council, especially in this area, and have looked forward to Council meetings! Not sure I've said that before!

Meanwhile, our attendance and giving have been quite good, especially in a pandemic year. People have faithfully served in so many ways that I would fail if I tried to list them all. In fact, we soon will be asking your help to figure out what tasks people do around the church. We will have a confidential survey coming out soon asking you what things you do in and around the church. This survey will only be seen by our moderator, myself, and Jessica. Our purpose is to learn what things get done here and be sure we have them covered in case someone gets ill, is away, or otherwise can't complete their project. More information will come out about this soon. The Council is so thankful for all you do – as am I.

I've met many of you and love getting to know you better. I hope our relationship will continue to grow and deepen over the coming year. Your support and understanding during my father's passing has been nothing short of amazing. Cards, letters, and stopping me after church. People helping me sort and move his things, and others helping me move his car to Gaylord. A flexible schedule so I can do all the estate required tasks. I even had an offer of someone to preach for me the weekend he passed. There are not words that can express how much this means to me and I am so thankful. You have also welcomed Cindy and my kids when they have been able to be here. We feel welcomed, loved, and blessed. I hope you feel that back from us as well.

Jessica and Rokko have also been a pleasure to work with as a staff, and Brenda especially in the days when the church was closed. Between these three and our strong committees, we have gotten a lot done this year. Most impressive to me is how we have strategized creative ways to be the church during the pandemic. It's not always easy, but everyone I've worked with has been open and honest about their needs, their hopes, their dreams, and their cautions. I so appreciate the direct way people have collaborated with me and with one another. While there is no "rubber stamp" around here as most everything leads to discussion, there is a mutual honoring of leadership and participants in our church activities. This is rare these days, especially since the start of the pandemic. I pray this will be how we relate for many, many years. It is good and healthy for the church to relate.

All said, I'm thankful for you and so thankful to be in Gaylord. It's been an absolutely wonderful first year. I hope that in the coming year we may have some strategic discussions about our future, some beginning discussions about the issues of race and faith, and that together we'll continue to walk hand-in-hand in the journey that God lays before us.

Blessings, Greg

## ***Women's Fellowship Annual Report***

***Oct 2020 to Oct 2021***

Fellowship held 2 Zoom meetings during the Pandemic , Dec 20-2020, Feb 5-2021, and one in house meeting on Aug 20-2021

When we met on Dec20 the women agreed to keep up paying only bills necessary such as Christmas Fund, Poinsettias to friends and shut ins, monetary gifts to staff. Also bought a new vacuum for the church

Our next meeting Feb 5: we are keeping up with the bills till our money runs out or the Pandemic is over and we can do our usual money raising projects. March 8 to 15 was Women's Week and the month of March was National Women's Month. Vicky ask her sister Dorothy if she would do the sermon on March 21 an open Sunday of the month. Dorothy gave a wonderful sermon.

Next meeting: we met at the church, we received money from Carol L. from her sale during the Alpenfest, and the council approved the salad luncheons starting in July. The women did the first one and council has the say as to where the money is going. A date for the rummage was set for September 17-18 , which neither luncheon or sale was attended well with little profit.

Our prayers are for the virus to be gone and we can get back to some kind of normalcy. We must have faith that God has a plan for us in the future

*God Bless*

*Submitted by Mona*

## ***Trustee Report – 2021 Annual Meeting***

Thanks to the generosity of our church family combined with careful stewardship of resources, we find our church in healthy financial shape overall.

Net income year-to-date through September is slightly better than budgeted for the nine month period

Giving of \$68,467 through September is within 1% of or budget over this period. This is particularly remarkable when we recall that the pandemic prevented us from worshipping in person for much of the first portion of the current year.

Earlier this year, we purchased TV monitors and related technology for use in our sanctuary. At the same time, we purchased and installed technology that has greatly enhanced our ability to livestream church services online.

Along with these technology advances came a need for expanded internet access (improved upload and download speeds), which led us to change our telephone and internet services provider from Spectrum to Winn Telecom effective in mid-October. This change allowed us to significantly upgrade speeds and capacity at virtually the same cost.

Our dedicated buildings and grounds volunteers deserve a giant shout out of thanks for continuing to maintain our church infrastructure and surroundings on an ongoing basis.

Our proposed budget for 2022 of \$105,500 reflects an increase of 2.4% over the current year. A planned increase of just under 3% in giving, combined with expense savings in a number of areas will allow us to provide a modest wage increase of 5% for our dedicated part-time staff. *Note, the full budget as proposed for 2022 is included elsewhere in preparation for our Annual Meeting.*

In the coming year, one goal that Pastor Greg has helped us identify is that of educating our church leaders and participants in ways that can help us imagine what the church of the future may look like as we embark on future planning. We've allocated a few hundred dollars in our budget to allow us to acquire on-line education modules that can be available to everyone.

We are grateful for your continued contributions to the work of our church. As you consider your giving for the coming year, please know that gifts of all sizes really do make a difference, are greatly appreciated, and contribute to the well-being of our church and its amazing ministries.



## **Report of the Council**

**November, 2020 - November, 2021**

**Authored by Mischelle Stone, Moderator**

I want to start this summary by saying a HUGE thank you to all of our Council members who have worked so diligently over the past year, and who have been such a supportive group of colleagues as I wandered through the thickets of being the moderator: Doreen Dobosy, Laura Hotelling, Helen Mate, Maggie Walling, and Greg Watling. They all made my responsibilities seem easier, and I am grateful for their guidance. Any success we have had over the past year is due to their efforts to address Church concerns with the highest level of interest and integrity. Please thank them when you see them next.

Your Council members have been busy over the past year with a dual focus: (1) to orient and support our new Pastor, Greg Watling, and (2) continuing to develop and implement plans for adapting to COVID-19 and its new variants. We were all very grateful to be able to hire someone who is a good “fit” for the church, and who has the experience Greg brings to the position. This would not have been possible without all of the work of the Council members under Rokko’s leadership in 2019-2020. Our efforts to orient Greg to his position have mainly been accomplished through our monthly Council meetings, though he has received valuable input and feedback from the pastoral advisement council, as well. I would be remiss if I did not mention that Council members have also been valuable in orienting Greg to the ministerial community and the larger Gaylord community. This includes, of course, the famous house-hunting expedition he and I went on in the wilds of Lake Arrowhead! I have made it a point to meet one-on-one with Greg to answer questions he might have about policies and procedures and church culture, and to strategize the future of the church. I am sure you recognize, as I do, his strong powers of observation, and he has required very little in the way of focused guidance from me. This is due, in part, to his experience in his previous church, his general goodwill toward people, his willingness to ask questions, and the availability of his pastoral advisement committee. Where he has been unsure, he has sought feedback from the Council as a whole, and this has strengthened our relationships and his leadership within the Congregation. We are lucky to have him.

The Council has worked diligently to open the church and associated activities while maintaining high standards for personal and collective safety. It has been a challenge to constantly monitor and adapt to changing standards set by the Health Department and the State of Michigan. It is a tribute to our care and concern for one another that we have not had an outbreak of any virus in the church, and that our most vulnerable parishioners can attend in person with reasonable assurances that we are doing all that we can to keep everyone safe and healthy. We are looking forward to a drop in transmissibility rates for our area that are more consistent with the overall State average of 11%. When this occurs we can consider dropping our mask mandate for in-person activities.

I will be leaving the position of Moderator at the end of the year when a new Moderator will be chosen. Until then, we will continue working with Greg, the trustees, and the Reaching In and Reaching Out committees to set new agendas for next year (2022). Of particular importance for the Council will be developing a path for the future of the Church that will examine our spiritual essence, infrastructure needs, stewardship, membership, fiscal responsibility, and growth into the future. Each of our discussions of these and other issues is focused on our mission "... to help people become the best version of themselves possible." As we move forward in the remaining months of the 2021, we will be working to identify all of the gifts you bring to the church, and assessing how restoring the Bell Tower Carillon fits with our mission. As always, we encourage everyone in the Congregation to participate in the historical, strategic, and personal discernment necessary to strengthen our ability to fulfill our mission.

With gratitude for the many gifts you all bring to the church,

*Mischelle Stone*

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### ***Reaching Out Annual Report 2021***

We have been meeting on Zoom and things have been going well.

In May, we went to the Brook to take cookies and cards to the residents; they were very happy to receive these gifts.

Blanket Sunday was a huge success, thanks to everyone who participated.

In July and August, we started collecting school supplies – Gaylord Public Schools were extremely appreciative of all we collected and even sent a thank you note.

If you would like to join our team, we would love to have you aboard! We aim to please by helping people fortunate than us.

These are just a few of the causes we have done so far this year.

*God Bless*

*Submitted by: Louanne Spearman*