

First Congregational United Church of Christ

218 W. Second Street, Gaylord, Michigan 49735

www.firstuccgaylord.org

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September 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: "The Quiet Builders" a Meditation by Rev. Cameron Trimble August 11, 2025, from Piloting Faith: An (Almost) Daily Meditation

"Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up." — Galatians 6:9

There have always been quiet builders.

They are the ones who repair the breaches, plant the seeds, and strengthen the foundations—not for recognition, but because the work matters. In the ruins of Jerusalem, Nehemiah's workers rebuilt the walls one stone at a time, knowing the city's safety depended on

their persistence. In the aftermath of war, the architects of the Marshall Plan labored behind the scenes, setting the table for peace in Europe. During the Civil Rights Movement, there were the organizers who typed flyers late into the night, fed volunteers, and opened their homes to weary travelers. Their names are not in the history books, but their fingerprints are everywhere.

Today, in this season of political instability and deep division, quiet builders are still at work. They are the ones who teach history when others are erasing it, who tend to the wounds of neighbors others would rather forget, who document unwarranted ICE arrests when others would look away, who keep showing up at the city council meeting even when no one thanks them. They resist cynicism by refusing to let the noise of the moment drown out the deeper call of conscience.

Quiet builders understand something essential: **the future is always under construction.** They know that democracy, like a home, must be maintained or it will fall into disrepair. They know that kindness, like a garden, needs daily tending or it will wither. They know that the work of justice is never complete in a single lifetime, and so they pick up their tools—insight, compassion, truth—and keep going.

Howard Thurman once wrote, *“Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.”* Quiet builders embody this. Their work is not fueled by prestige or fear, but by a deep aliveness that knows the joy of repairing what has been broken and the sacredness of building what does not yet exist.

We are the inheritors of their work. And today, we are the stewards of the work yet to be done. The same Spirit that stirred in the hearts of those who built before us now stirs in ours, inviting us to labor for a world that is more just, more generous, and more whole. We may not finish the work in our lifetime, but if we keep showing up—stone by stone, act by act—those who come after us will find the path made straighter, the foundations stronger, and the vision clearer.

Keep the faith, brave ones.

We are in this together,

Cameron



Minutes are Available and Attached

Announcements

- Food Pantry Volunteers are needed – call Don Storing
- For prayer concerns, joys, announcements, or news to share, contact Liz at office@firstuccgaylord.org or Pastor Greg at pastorg@firstuccgaylord.org
- Check Fellowship Hall to sign up for mowing, lunch group, or to serve on Sunday
- Directories have been updated!

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

2	Robbie Watling
3	Amallia Kassuba
7	Kevin Brown Margaret Hafner
11	Louanne Spearman
12	Mary Peterman
13	Stephanie Kalember
14	Gage Boughner
17	Chuck Falk
18	Melissa Mannion
19	Carol Leser Helen Mate
21	Ken Wade
22	George Lienarth
24	Laura Bantens
25	Judy Dunn
30	Staci Brown

Anniversaries:

6	Ken & Sharon Wade
15	Kay & Jim Boughner
20	Joe & Lani English

Mission Trip 2025

Mission Trip – There are only two weeks remaining to purchase stock in the Re-Member mission trip! Bri Boughner will be selling stock after church. Stockholders will be both supporting the mission and will receive a postcard from the mission as well as a special dinner on October 1 where Bri and Brenda will share their experiences at Re-Member.

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC TO OFFER CONFIRMATION CLASS!

We will have a confirmation class this year! So far, we have two students. If you know of anyone with a student (roughly 7-9 grade, no older than 12th grade) who would like to participate, they are more than welcome! We hope to do at least some of our class in cooperation with Peace Lutheran Church.

The curriculum is called "Confirm not Conform" and was developed by a congregation in California. The curriculum fits with our values of Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion and covers a wide range of topics over 15 sessions. At the end of the year (roughly April/May), the potential confirmand will decide whether he/she wishes to be confirmed. This may then lead to a special service in Spring 2026.

The other beauty of the curriculum is that we can use it as long as it meets our needs for a one-time fee.

If you have questions, want to learn more, or know someone who may be interested, please contact Pastor Greg.



STOP HUNGER SAFARI!
GAYLORD AREA C.R.O.P. WALK

FOR MORE INFORMATION CHECK OUT THE GAYLORD AREA CROP
WALK ON FACEBOOK OR CALL 989.732.1991.

Sunday, September 28, 2025

Location - Downtown Pavilion

Register at 1 PM * Blessing and Prayer Service to precede Walk at 1:30 PM

25% of all funds raised support the Otsego County Food Pantry

IF YOU CAN HELP MAKE COOKIES FOR THE EVENT CONTACT HELEN
CRANDALL (989.370.1212) OR SALLIE ANDERSON (989.350-0025).



Office Hours

Pastor Greg and Rokko Jans will be off September 14.
Helen Crandall is preaching, and Sarah Peterson will
direct music for that day.

Liz Larson will be working on Wednesday, September
24 instead of Thursday, September 25.

~ In Our Prayers ~

During September, the UNA is holding Harrison First Congregational UCC Church in prayer.

Glendolla Wells, Maureen Derenzy's sister, passed away August 24.

Phylis Moll, daughter of Roger and Brenda Brummel died August 26 in Florida.

Carol Lesser undergoes knee surgery on Thursday, September 4.

David Kline, Maggie Wallin's friend - has been hospitalized for issues with his heart.

Maggie Wallin's chosen granddaughter's mother passed away recently. Please hold her in your prayers.

Mike and Rosemary Gibson and family - in the past year, they have lost Mike's brother and his brother's son-in-law and Joey—their nephew and the son of Mike's deceased brother—is under hospice care. Joey has two young sons.

Pat Dressel - Pat has been dealing with skin cancer.

Louanne Spearman - is recovering from back surgery in a rehab facility in Metro Detroit.

Maggie Shanahan Menkes (Kathy's daughter-in-law) - Maggie has been diagnosed with inflammatory breast cancer. Maggie gave birth to a healthy boy on June 11th. Prayers are also needed for Maggie's mother, Joan, who is recuperating from bladder/colon surgery, so she can be with her daughter and hold her month-old grandson, Quinn Michael.

Jay Jans, Rokko Jans' brother - Jay has entered hospice in Illinois.

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

The English Family - as they manage medical and family challenges.

Chris Crubaugh - who is dealing with medical issues. Continued prayers Chris and Laura Bantens as they adapt.

Madison Crawford - as she suffers from neurological and vision issues.



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.

Six Little Stories

(Author Unknown)

- (1) Once an entire village decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, the people gathered but only one boy came with an umbrella. *That is faith.*
- (2) When you throw a baby in the air, she laughs because she knows you will catch her. *That is trust.*
- (3) Each night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. *That is hope.*
- (4) We plan things for tomorrow despite having zero knowledge of the future. *That is confidence.*
- (5) We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. *That is love.*
- (6) An old man's shirt said, "I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience." *That is attitude.*

Have a joy-filled day and live your life with faith, trust, hope, confidence, love, and attitude.

**"MATTHEW, MARK, AND LUKE, SEE ME
AFTER CLASS.**



**YOUR BOOK REPORTS ARE SURPRISINGLY
SIMILAR."**

CONVERGENCE GATHERING

Survey Results



11:15 AM SUNDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER 2025

Nancy's Butternut Squash and Apple Soup

It is time for the nights to cool down, and food to cozy up. Here is a simple recipe that tastes delicious. It can be frozen for up to three months and serves five. 238 Cal; 6 g fat; 49g carbohydrates; 5 g protein

- 1 large butternut squash, halved lengthwise and seeded
- 2 tablespoons butter, or more to taste
- 3 large shallots, chopped
- 6 cups chicken stock, or more as desired, divided
- 3 Granny Smith apples, cored and chopped

Preheat oven to 350F. Pour $\frac{3}{4}$ " of water into a baking dish and place squash halves into the water with the cut side facing up. Roast until a fork easily pierces through the flesh, 45 to 50 minutes; Remove from oven and flip squash; let cool enough to handle.

Melt butter in a large pot over medium heat. Sauté shallots in the butter until softened, 5 to 7 minutes. Stir 3 to 5 cups chicken stock into the pot. Add apples to the stock; boil, reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer until the apples are tender, 20 to 30 minutes. Scrape the flesh from the butternut squash; add to the simmering stock. Add remaining chicken stock to the pot, bring mixture to a simmer, and continue to cook until everything is heated through, 5 to 10 minutes. Puree with an immersion blender until smooth and serve.

September 2025

September 1—the first Monday of the month—is Labor Day. Are doing the Mackinac Bridge Walk?

September 7—the first Sunday of the month—is Grandparents Day as well as Pastor's Wife Appreciation Day. It is also the September full moon, called the Corn Moon. Its peak illumination will be at 2:09 PM EDT.

September 11 is Patriot Day, when we honor and remember those who died in the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

September 17 is Constitution Day. Ours was adopted on this day in 1787.

September 21 is the annual International Day of Peace.

September 22 marks the start of fall! This year's Autumnal Equinox occurs at 2:19 PM EDT.

September and December always begin on the same day of the week.

September 18 is when your newsletter submissions are due.

Otsego County Commission on Aging



OCCOA Healthy Aging Program:

AARP Smart Driver Course
Balance Classes
Big North Boomers
Blood Pressure Clinics
Chair Yoga & Gentle Yoga
Foot Care Clinics
Mind, Body, and Spirit Connection
Social Activities
Support Groups
Walk Michigan
Young-at-Heart Exercise Classes

Contact Charlie May:

989.732.1122

charlie@occoaonline.org

www.otsegocountycoa.org

September



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>24ptguy & Libbok Blog</i> 1	2	3 6 a Gaylord Gratitude	4 11 a Bible Study 12:15 p Fellowship 4 p Choir	5 6 a Gaylord Gratitude 4 p Community Meal	6
7 10 a Worship/Communion 11:15 a Convergence Gathering on Church Survey Results	8 6 a Gaylord Gratitude Noon Reaching In	9 6 a Gaylord Gratitude 12 – 4 p Northern Michigan Senior Expo @ Elison Place	10 6 a Gaylord Gratitude 11 a Bible Study 4 p Choir	11 6 a Gaylord Gratitude 4 p Community Meal	12	13
<i>Faith Formation Sunday</i> 14 10 a Worship – Helen Crandall preaching	15 6 a Gaylord Gratitude 7 p Reaching Out	16 Noon Lunch Group @ Pine Squirrel	17 6 a Gaylord Gratitude 7 p Trustees	<i>NE WISLATTER DEADLINE</i> 18 11 a Bible Study 4 p Choir	19 6 a Gaylord Gratitude 4 p Community Meal	20
21 10 a Worship	<i>Rob & Heidi's 22</i> <i>Stuck Blog of Fall</i> 6 a Gaylord Gratitude	<i>Rob & Heidi's 23</i> 11:30 a Salad Luncheon	<i>Rob & Heidi's 24</i> 6 a Gaylord Gratitude 1 p Church Book Club	25 11 a Bible Study 4 p Choir	26 6 a Gaylord Gratitude 4 p Community Meal	27
28 10 a Worship 1 p C.R.O.P. Walk @ Pavilion	29 6 a Gaylord Gratitude	30				