

First Congregational United Church of Christ

218 W. Second Street, Gaylord, Michigan 49735

www.firstuccgaylord.org

(989) 732-5726

September 2026 Newsletter



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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

"Where Your Heart Is..."

Fall is the time of year when we begin to think about numbers, budgets, giving, and other things that are not everyone's favorite topic. Yes, to some extent, we need to have those conversations. More importantly, we want to reflect on what our church means to us and how we might invest our time and talent as well as treasure to support our mutual ministry.

There is a lot of heart in this church. People volunteer here all the time doing everything from feeding people to Bible and book studies, choir, Women's Fellowship, our committees, lawn mowing, snow blowing... What I love to be a part of most is when our work is done, we often stay around to chat with one another. We are genuinely interested in each other's well-being, family, activities, and so on. I'm constantly

amazed at how much we truly enjoy being together. I'm so grateful for the community we have here.

Over the next couple of months, we are going to talk more about where our hearts will be, with the help of resources around the theme "There Our Hearts Will Be." I hope you'll join me in church as we contemplate what is most important to us in this church, and why it is that we have engaged with this community of faith. What is God calling us to do together? What will we need to make that happen?

Yes, of course, some conversation will be about money, but most of it will be about heart and about love and about community. I hope you'll come and continue to share all of who you are so that together we can be the best version of ourselves possible – individually and as a church community.

See you in church!

Blessings,

Pastor Greg

September Church Volunteers (as of 8/27/26)

Date	Liturgist	Greeter/ Usher	Coffee Hour	Digital Ministry	Mowing
6 th	H Mate	Jen Akans	Rigney/Mate	P Amar	
13 th	K Menkes	M Derenzy		P Amar	
20 th			Anderson/ Schopp	M Fox	
27 rd	C Gatewood- Keim	M Hellenberg	K Menkes/ M Hellenberg		

Guest Musician: Sarah Peterson, September 27
Guest Preacher: Judy Gatewood-Keim September 27
Thank you!

Office Hours

- **Pastor Greg** will be out of the office September 27 but will participate in the CROP Walk on that afternoon. Judy Gatewood-Keim will preach.
- **Rokko Jans** is off from worship September 27. He will also be gone September 3 and 17, so Bible Study and Choir will be cancelled those days.



In August we had our roof redone!



~In Our Prayers~

***The UNA is praying for Harrison First
Congregational UCC in September.***

Chris Crubaugh.

Callie English as she starts at MSU.

***The English Family –Please pray for Joe to heal and adjust and for the
English family.***

***Mary Sue Evans and Mona Viviano on the loss of Mary's husband, Dave,
who was also Mona's brother.***

***Students, teachers, and school personnel as they kick off another school
year.***



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.



FOOD PANTRY DATES

Noon to 2P Otsego County
United Way

JUN 11, 12, JUL 9, 10, AUG 3, 27, 28,
SEP 3 & 4

CONTACT MARGARET
HELLENBERG FOR MORE INFO

116 E. 5TH ST., GAYLORD
(989) 732-8929

Announcements

- We are looking for **virtual greeters** to interact with those participating on social media. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall.
- 'Tis the season for mowing—we **need mowers!** Thank you in advance!
- We have a **new address for Callie English**, who just began her studies at Michigan State University:
S. Wonders Hall, Room 151
891 Birch Rd.
E. Lansing, MI 48825
- **Meeting Dates for September: Women's Fellowship** *September 3*, **Pastor Parish** *September 14*, **Reaching In** *will not meet until October*, **Reaching Out** *September 21*, **Trustees** *September 16*, **Council** *September 17*.
- **Bible Study and Choir are cancelled on September 3 and 17.**
- **Food Pantry** dates are *September 3 & 4*.
- **Community Meal is cancelled** *September 4* due to the Labor Day Weekend holiday.
- **Mission You Matter** is a veteran-focused event on *September 10* from 4-7 at the Landing Zone. If you know a veteran who needs access to resources or information about them, this is the place to come!
- Do you know a mama who needs to get out and wants to find others to learn and grow with? **Mama Mingle** is a new event at Peace Lutheran. It is *the second Monday of the month* from 4:30 – 6. Trusted caregivers will watch your kids and dinner is on them! Call Peace for more information.
- The **Lunch Group** will dine at noon on *September 15* at Pine Squirrel. All are welcome!
- The **Northern Michigan Senior Expo** will again take place *September 16* from 1-4 pm at The Ellison Place. Find out more about the things seniors in our area need to know at this event.

- Also on *September 16*, there is a **Free Family Law event** at Otsego County Library from 5:30p – 7p. Bring your legal questions!
- **Salad luncheon** is *September 22*.
- Join us for **Book Club** on *September 23*.
- **October newsletter submissions** are due *September 24*.
- HeadWaters Land Conservancy is co-hosting a **Post Storms Community Workshop** *September 26* from 9 am – 3 pm at Treetops Resort. They will have foresters, utilities, water quality, environmental, and emergency management experts there to answer questions.
- *September 27*, our **guest preacher** is Judy Gatewood-Keim. Sarah Peterson will be our guest accompanist that day as well.
- **Crop Walk** gathers at the Pavilion on *September 27* with the walk beginning around 1:30 pm. Contact Sallie Anderson or Helen Crandall if you want to walk or donate to feed the hungry! Twenty-five percent of the proceeds stay in Otsego County.
- **The Michigan Conference UCC Annual Meeting** is *October 2-3* in Grand Blanc at First Congregational UCC. Registration is due *September 15*. You may attend one or both days.
- Gaylord's unit of AAUW holds their **annual book sale** at the Otsego United Way on *October 2* from 9 am – 6 pm and *October 3* from 9 am - noon. This fundraiser helps support educational awards and programming for local girls and women. **Donate books**, starting *September 9*, at Family Fare, Oliver Chiropractic, United Way, Gordon Food Service, and Meyer Ace Hardware.
- Looking ahead, **Hanging of the Greens and the church's Annual Meeting** are *November 22*. **Annual Reports for the various committees are due November 8**.
- Please **update your meetings** with Liz for next month **by the Newsletter Deadline** so our church calendar is accurate.



Thank you, Volunteers – Project Connect

To the crew who helped make, deliver and serve grab and go lunches for Project Connect: Mona Viviano, Helen Crandall, Helen Mate, Sue Fuelling, Judy and Cathi Gatewood-Keim, Kathy Menkes, and Margaret Hellenberg. Thank you to the Amar/Fox family for the use of your coolers. Special thanks to Margaret Hellenberg who did most of the planning for this event.

The lunches were provided by First Presbyterian Church, St. Andrew Episcopal Church, Peace Lutheran Church, and First Congregational UCC. A new banner was purchased by the four churches that will be used at events we sponsor and work on together!

Link the June & August meeting minutes in the body of the email blast.

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 Lienerth
24	Laura Bantens
25	Judy Dunn
30	Staci Brown

Anniversaries:

6	Ken & Sharon Wade
15	Kay & Jim Boughner
20	



FREE Family Law Clinic

Community Mediation Services presents a Free Family Law Clinic sponsored by the 46th Circuit Court Family Division, Legal Services of Northern Michigan, Local County Bar Association, and Community Mediation Services. This event will include topics such as how to file or modify custody, parenting time, and divorce orders, free court forms, free legal advice open to all, without income requirements. If you are considering divorce, custody, parenting time, or have already filed by have questions, this FREE clinic can help.

All clinics begin at 5:30 pm. Future clinic dates include September 16 in Gaylord at Otsego County Library.

For more information, call 989-732-1576 or check out their website at www.mimmediation.com.

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur

Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, is observed the first day of the month of *Tishrei* on the Hebrew calendar this year from sunset September 11 to sundown on September 13. The holy day is a time of intense moral introspection. As serious as that is, Jews celebrate another year of honoring God' s love and judgment, trusting in a merciful God who both desires repentance, and is eager to grant forgiveness. Jewish sages teach that fates are "written" while God judges the world on Rosh Hashanah and "sealed" ten days later on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement--the holiest day on the Hebrew calendar.

The period in between them is the Ten Days of Repentance, or the Days of Awe, during which reflection and penitence intensify. During this time, there may be blowing of a shofar or animal's horn, breadcrumbs may be dropped into flowing water, apples dipped in honey eaten for a sweet new year, and white is the predominant color.



"Let's end hunger together one step at a time!"

Gaylord Area C.R.O.P. Walk

Sunday, September 27

Location – Downtown Pavillion

Registration opens at 1 p.m.

**The C.R.O.P Walk will start with a blessing and
prayer service at 1:30 p.m.**

**The steps we take and the funds we raise together will help
provide life-saving support including emergency food, water
and resources, along with the seeds, tools and programs
that will help families feed themselves in the future.**

**25% of all funds raised will stay local and be
donated to the Otsego County Food Pantry.**

**For more information check us out on Facebook at
Gaylord Area Crop Walk, or call (989) 732-1991.**



Mission: YOU MATTER

September 10, 2026

Location: The Landing Zone 4-7pm
1200 Gornick Ave Gaylord, MI

Please join us for an afternoon dedicated to
honoring and serving our Veterans.
Learn about available community resources,
hobbies and clubs!

We will have a time of remembrance for
Veterans we have lost to suicide.



 Follow Mission You Matter Gaylord
