

# The Tower

## January 2021

### Special points of interest:

- Board of Christian Education
- From the Office
- Christian Service
- Deacons
- January Birthdays
- January Calendar

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### A word for the new year

Every January some people pray and ask God to provide a word for their year ahead. Friends have shared theirs with me, but I was hesitant to embrace the practice myself. I'd love to receive a word like *flourish*; then again, I might be like the friend who heard *health* and then faced many physical challenges that year.

But I tried it for 2020 and heard *prepare*. My first reaction was that the word wasn't very exciting, which possibly confirmed I hadn't orchestrated it. Indeed, 2020 ended up full of significant, unexpected change for our family, with careers, school, church and friends. *Prepare* reminded me that amid chaos, God had prepared me for each moment and continues to prepare me for what's next.

Give it a try! Regardless of the word you receive or what lies ahead, you can trust that God loves you and is intimately in control for 2021 and beyond.

-Janna Firestone

"You wish to see; listen. Hearing is a step toward vision."  
St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)



### Board of Christian Education

The Board of Christian Education discussed the recent news of the spiking of the COVID virus in recent days and the prediction from health authorities that it would continue to get worse during the upcoming holidays. We had made the decision to open our church school Sunday morning program when our Wayne Westland school district made the

decision to open their schools. They recently reversed that decision and decided to continue virtual learning and not return to on site education until January, due to the virus. We feel we must follow the lead of the school district and heed the warnings of the health department. The safety of our children, teachers and church members is our primary concern.

We will continue to monitor the situation and notify our families when we feel it is safe to open our classrooms after the holidays when the new year begins. Please stay safe and healthy.

-Board of Christian Service

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### From the office...

**Annual Meeting**

**January 24, 2021**

Just a reminder: Your annual reports are due January 5th. I know most Boards, Committees and groups have not been able to do their normal activities this year; however, it is important for the sake of posterity and history to document what you did do and what you could

not do because of the virus.  
~Linda Beasley

#### Annual Meeting

The Congregational Annual Meeting is on January 24, immediately following the service. We know some of you will not be ready to come back to church yet, but you will be included much the same way as we did the

Budget Meeting. The Annual Report will be sent out via email a week before the meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but would like to vote, you can contact the office, just like before. The meeting will stay open until the following week, to accommodate voting. If you have any questions, you may call the office.

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### Christian Service Committee-January Care and Share



Care and Share for January goes to Starfish Family Services. This service is a non-profit organization that provides programs and services to vulnerable families. The agency's headquarters is located in Inkster. There are 818 service sites. The services provide programs for families

with young children such as Early Head Start, Great Parents, Great Start, Head Start and Michigan School Readiness Programs. There are also programs for teens, and young adults as well as programs for parents and families. Their mission is strengthening families to cre-

ate brighter futures for children.

Care and Share for February will go to our Boy Scout Troop, #1736.

**News shorts...**

**Christian Service**

The Christian Service Committee is still collecting gently used coats and outer wear. These items will go to the Lighthouse Mission on Palmer Rd. in Westland. There is a box in the narthex under the bulletin board. So please start going through your closets to see what you no longer can use. Socks are also very appreciated.

Also, the Committee is sponsoring our Warming Tree. Donations of hats, gloves and scarfs may be placed on the tree, which will be in the narthex during the holidays. These items will also go the Lighthouse Mission.

Thank you for your support.



**Words for thought...**

“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

~Mahatma Gandhi

“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language and next year’s words await another voice.”

~T.S. Eliot

**Deacon News**

The services with the pulpit fill ministers, Linda Anderson and Dave Welcome, are going very well. Both ministers have agreed to fill the pulpit for January.

We have limited Deacons available for Sunday duties because of the virus, so we are calling on oth-

ers to help with these duties when a Deacon is not available. This would be a great help and would keep the services running smoothly. Please consider helping out in this way.

**Friendship West**

**Looking ahead:**

We are going to gather for our Valentine’s Day project on February 3 at 1:00 pm. We will make handmade Valentine’s for our shut-ins. Our members love to get these cards so please consider helping with this project.

~Friendship West Group



**January Birthdays**

- |                     |                   |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 3 Arthur Barber     | 21 Mike Lamentola | 30 Jim Henley     |
| 4 Dennis Putman     | 21 Keri Throne    | 31 Jaeda Birchard |
| 4 Darlene Shenk     | 21 Nicole Barber  |                   |
| 8 Val Latzman       | 22 Heather Long   |                   |
| 8 James Cantrell    | 22 Marcia Slater  |                   |
| 11 Billy Cole       | 23 Kaden Kuban    |                   |
| 12 Mila Raub        | 24 Jim Hawley     |                   |
| 16 Pat Raymo        | 24 Bill Hawley    |                   |
| 16 Michèle Weibel   | 27 Jay Armstrong  |                   |
| 18 Amy Bray         | 28 Greg Barber    |                   |
| 19 Tracie Skibinski | 29 Walt Poremba   |                   |
| 20 Melanie Matusek  |                   |                   |

**Happy Birthday!**



## Women's Fellowship-Basket Update



We packed and delivered 97 Christmas Food Baskets for our area needy. Thank you to all of the volunteers who came to sort, pack and deliver the baskets to the schools. There are so many in need this year with the

current situation with the virus, with those who have lost their jobs, and those who have exhausted their resources. It goes without saying that we could not have done this project without the amazing generosity

of our members. We collected enough to fund the food baskets with a good amount in reserves to start the Thanksgiving/Christmas basket for 2021. We can't thank you enough for your support of this project.  
~Women's Fellowship

## Waiting on him...

### ***Steadfast to those who wait on Him today...***

So it is today. Changes come all the time, including those that we do not welcome, but the promises of God remain. Look to the opportunities to serve God by serving others "as unto the Lord", the

worship of Sunday morning, and all the prayers then and in between Sundays as an opportunity to "wait on the Lord." We often don't feel strong enough for the challenges of this life, and we aren't, but the Lord is, and He is faithful to His promises, including to provide strength to

those who wait on Him. Make that "waiting" a constant in your life whatever changes may come.

Excerpt from an article written by Rev. Dan Vellinga for the January 2014 Tower.

~Very relevant for today.

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## Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees met on December 8, 2020.

- Reviewed Financial Statements.
- Agreed on compensation for Rev. Linda Anderson for 11:00 Christmas Eve service.
- Discussed challenges pertaining to the Budget Meeting.

Board of Trustees

- The Annual Meeting will take place on January 24, 2021 immediately following the service.

## Budget Committee Update

The Budget Meeting was held on December 13, and as expected, we did not have the needed 50 members in attendance for approval of the budget.

Because of this situation, we decided to extend the voting period until December 20.

We are happy to report that because members had the extra time to get a copy of the budget and send in their responses, we were able to achieve the needed 50 votes to pass the budget for 2021.

Thank you to everyone for

your participation in what is a uniquely Congregational tradition. All of our members have a say in how we conduct our church business. All of you are very important.

Thank you,  
Budget Committee



**Thanks  
for Your  
Support!**

## Member information

### In our prayers:

Marcie Slater  
Danielle Breier  
Debbie Kolusk  
Kevin Hodge  
Patricia Lauren  
James Cantrell  
Robert Hatfield  
Sonny Lucas  
Steve Hawley  
Matt Wensko  
Christine Van Meter Melow  
Alice Fuhrman  
Charlene Oliver  
Terry Shenk  
Margaret Harlow

### Home bound members:

Pat Fowler  
Marilyn Birdsall  
Jim & Marcie Slater  
June Williams  
Danielle Breier  
Irene Carpenter  
Janet Provot

Our home bound members would love to hear from other church members. Please drop them a line or give them a phone call.

### Member update:

Norm Mitchell passed away on December 8.

Margaret Harlow is still hospitalized receiving treatment for a brain aneurysm.

Fay Poremba is going through tests and treatments.

Mary Ann Ellis is scheduled for another knee replacement on January 19.

Bill Carney is awaiting a heart procedure.

Prayers to all these people.



## Office Update

The church office is now opened with the hours of Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

The church building is opened to receive visitors or those with business, however, everyone must use the south door (by the elevator) and be buzzed in. The north door will not be used, even if you have a key.

You must sign-in when you enter the building, for contact tracing. And most importantly, everyone must wear a mask coming into the church and keep it on while in the church!



**THANK YOU**

FOR PRACTICING SOCIAL DISTANCING!

### Bulletin, Tower, Flower Support

Towers (\$30)  
Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec

Bulletins (\$30)  
January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Flowers (\$20)  
January 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

### January Readers

Jan 3 Joe Nowaske  
Jan 10 Bev Woodard  
Jan 17 Kevin Wensko  
Jan 24 Mary Carney  
Jan 31 Bill May

(For now we will not have greeters or Coffee Hour in the Parlor)

## Thank you

My friends at First Congregational of Wayne, thank you so much for the wonderful card you sent, filled with good wishes. I appreciated every comment and signature. And for the very generous check, of course. Thank you.

My time with you already seems like a

dream. I thoroughly enjoyed getting acquainted with so many of you. I enjoyed the challenges of ministry during the pandemic, and I LOVED how you all supported the various changes and challenges.

May you all be blessed in this season and going forward. You have been a blessing to Sue and I and we will always cher-

ish our time with you all.

Our love, Steve and Sue Schafer

THANKS FROM THE HEART

**FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF WAYNE**

Church address:  
2 Towne Square St.  
Wayne, MI  
48184

Church phone:  
734-729-7550  
FAX:  
734-729-7576  
Email:

Fccow.churchoffice@gmail.com

**First Congregational Church of Wayne  
Volume LXX No. 1 2021**

2 Towne Square, Wayne, MI 48184-Office: (734) 729-7550, Fax: (734) 729-7576

Moderator's email, [JWEB2005@hotmail.com](mailto:JWEB2005@hotmail.com)

Music Director's email, [mgood1@emich.edu](mailto:mgood1@emich.edu)

Office Administrator's email, [fccow.lindabeasley@gmail.com](mailto:fccow.lindabeasley@gmail.com)

Financial Secretary's email, [fccow.judyzajac@gmail.com](mailto:fccow.judyzajac@gmail.com)

Church email, [fccow.churchoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccow.churchoffice@gmail.com) Church website

[www.fccow.com](http://www.fccow.com) Tower Editor, Linda Beasley

10:30 a.m. Worship/Nursery, 10:45 a.m. Sunday School (Children are with parents until they go to Sunday School), 11:30 a.m. *Coffee Hour in the Parlor*



**TOGETHER IN**  
*Spirit*  
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**STAYING CONNECTED**

**We are on the web.**  
**Fccow.com**

**Join us on YouTube and Facebook :**  
**First Congregational Church  
Wayne**

**Sufficient for the day**

John Newton (1725-1807), author of "Amazing Grace," wrote: "We may easily manage if we will only take, each day, the burden appointed for it. But the load will...be too heavy for us, if we carry yesterday's burden over again today, and then add tomorrow's." This maxim might be easy to dismiss unless we knew about Newton's troubled life.

Having been pressed into naval service and then slavery, Newton was finally rescued but became a slave-ship captain. He faced abuse, contemplated murder-suicide, suffered a stroke and was caught in a storm. When he cried out to God, the waves subsided, prompting a spiritual conversion for Newton, who became a

priest and abolitionist.

We never know how God will transform our sinful past into future good, but we can trust he will. That adds power to Newton's advice, which echoes Jesus' words: "Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Matthew 6:34).

*Amazing!*

# January 2021

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3	4	5 Annual Reports Due	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Women's Fellowship 1:00 pm	21	22	23
24 Annual Meeting	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						