

The Tower

November 2020

Special points of interest:

- Pastor Steve
- Board of Christian Education
- Care and Share for November
- Moderator
- November birthdays
- Stewardship Message
- November Calendar

Inside this issue:

Board of Christian Education	2
Going in God's Grace	2
Christian Service	2
Moderator	3
November Birthdays	3
Treasurer	4
Stewardship Message	5

Change, Change, Change... and more Change

They say that the only constant in the world is change. We've seen that more in the past seven months than we have, perhaps, ever. When the pandemic hit us, we were going along quite well. Then – BOOM! – change hit us. We suddenly couldn't even be in the building in which we've worshipped for decades. We couldn't go out to restaurants or to Target or to get groceries. We were asked to not be around people.

We all adapted. That's what change requires. If we can't change with the times we wither and die. You did it. I did it. The church did it.

We started video worship (didn't Michelle do a marvelous job putting those videos together? I've looked at what dozens of other churches have done and none – including those with skilled A/V people – had worship videos as well done – so artistically and beautiful). Then we had 'drive-in church.' Who would ever have thought?... Now, we are about to embark on yet another change – in person, in-the-sanctuary-worship. But not like it used to be. It will require distancing (no hugging or hand shaking or fellowship hours). It will be without singing (who ever thought that possible?). It will be 'different' (and that is an understatement).

But one thing we know about the church – it will go on until the end of the age. NOTHING will keep God's people from worshipping the Lord of the universe, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords... NOTHING.

One of my favorite passages in the Bible says it pretty well: "we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers; neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:37-39).

That's pretty all inclusive. Worship may 'look' different. It may 'feel' different. It may actually 'be' different. But NOTHING can separate us from the love of God (and, dare I say, from the love of one another?). NOTHING.

So let the changes continue. Let the world force us to change in any number of ways. One thing it cannot change is the love we have for God and God's love for us. Those are constant – until the end of time.

-Pastor Steve





Board of Christian Education

The Board of Christian Education is planning to open church school classes when the church opens Sunday, November 1. We understand that some children and families may not be comfortable returning at this time. For those who are ready to return, we would like to ask parents to register them for attendance. We are working to have

our classrooms as clean and sterile as possible so we will have a safe environment for all. We have set up some guidelines for this return and are asking all parents and children to follow these guidelines listed below.

*Parents will notify the church office or Darlene Hawley (734-716-0780) that their children will in church

on Nov. 1.

*Children will not enter the sanctuary but will go directly to their classrooms with a teacher.

*Children will wear a mask when they enter the church and during the class period. We look forward to seeing and working with our students again. Safety is our top priority.

Going On in God's Grace



I talked about change in the front page article. But one of the changes I did not mention—although I suspect you all know—is that I won't be going on with you. I retired in January of 2017 with the intention of doing retirement kinds of things. Sue and I wanted to travel, to visit the girls more often, to attend church as parishioners, sitting side by side. We wanted to see what a normal person's weekend looked like. I wanted to pursue a new ministry of eulogy writing. Some of those we can't do because of

the pandemic, but such is life. Someone asked me, shortly after I retired, if I'd be interested in being an interim pastor if such an opportunity opened up. I told then 'no - I just want to sit in the pew. I just want to not be responsible for the spiritual well being of others for a while'. But then I was approached by the pulpit committee of First Congregational and found that what I had thought to be true, wasn't. I would like to be in ministry again, so long as it was of limited duration. I agreed to serve First Congregational for a year (or less if a new pastor was found), part time. I've been with you for seven-teen months...weeks and months that have been a pleas-

ure. The people of First Congregational of Wayne have been welcoming, warm, gracious people. I have LOVED being part of your church family. Thank you. I am departing because it's time for me to get back to the business (or lack of busyness) of retirement. Beginning the next change just now seems to be a natural departure point. I'm pretty sure we will see one another again. I am certainly open, going forward, to filling the pulpit when needed—just not on an every-week basis. I shall be praying for you all and reading the church newsletter to see what you are all doing. I love you.
Blessings, Steve

Christian Service Committee-November Care and Share



Care & Share for November goes to "Women's Fellowship Holiday Baskets. These baskets are given to the area needy for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. Your contributions will go to purchase turkeys or hams and other food supplies to fill the baskets.

As you know, the virus outbreak has prevented the Women's Fellowship from having their two rummage sales and the traditional Fair. The loss of funds from these events have severely depleted their "basket" account. Please consider a donation to Care & Share. Thank you.

Special Collection Update

We have had a wonderful response to the special collection for the Disaster Relief. We have collected \$755 as of this printing. Thank you so much to everyone for their generosity.

CS Committee

Moderator | Deacons

After much discussion and careful consideration, it has been decided that beginning November 1, 2020 we will resume in person church services. We will be proceeding with the utmost caution to reopen the church in the safest way possible. Below is our initial plan for returning inside.

Arrive no sooner than 25

minutes before the service is to begin. Remain in your cars before that time to limit exposure time inside.

Wear a mask at all times while inside the church.

Use hand sanitizer when entering the building, the bottles are located at the entrance and through the area; and sign in on the pad at the entrance.

Pick up your worship materials as you enter the sanctuary.

Sit in designated rows only and 6 ft. apart, unless you are family.

The worship team is off limits as well as the organ area.

Singing is permitted as long as you continue to wear a mask.

Do not walk around to socialize before, during or after the service. If you wish to socialize, please do so outside.

It is up to each individual to exercise personal responsibility and follow the guidelines set forth.

It is with great anticipation that we are once again going to be together to worship our Lord.

Deacon News

Community Thanksgiving Eve Service

Our annual community Thanksgiving Eve Service will take place Wednesday, November 25 at 7:30 pm at St. Mary's Catholic Church.

We will also be joined by the First United Methodist

Church. This will be an excellent opportunity to give thanks with others in our community here in Wayne. Please plan to join us.



Please Remember

- Your job is the dream of the unemployed
- Your house is the dream of the homeless
- Your smile is the dream of the depressed
- Your health is the dream of those who are sick.

Don't let difficult times make you forget your blessings.



November Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Ted D'Pulos | 16 Shelly Gunther |
| 3 Steve Radley | 19 Chase Glover |
| 4 Liza Jane Throne | 21 Jacquie Hallinan |
| 9 Shane Husted | 21 Margaret Harlow |
| 11 Doug Good | 22 Dina Barber |
| 11 David Husted | 24 Jacob Quattro |
| 11 Margo Horzelski | 25 Deborah Kolusk |
| 11 Shelby Seymour | 26 Madison Ramus |
| 11 Jeff Harlow | 28 Kerri Wensko |
| 12 Susan Hatfield | 29 Bill May |
| 12 Jeff Fratjeskos | 30 Jim Barber |
| 13 Irene Carpenter | |
| 13 Ashley Hoops | |



Women's Fellowship



Women's Fellowship has sent out a letter to our members and supporters requesting monetary support for our Holiday Baskets program. We have had to cancel all fund raising projects this year due to the pandemic.

The need is greater than ever in our community due to illness and loss of jobs. If we all contribute to this cause we can give 100 Thanksgiving and 100 Christmas baskets to those in need and make the holi-

days a little brighter for many! Watch for your letter and donation envelope. Thank you in advance for any help you can give. Holiday Baskets/ Women's Fellowship

Thanksgiving with the Pilgrims at Plymouth

The most prominent historic thanksgiving event in American popular culture is the 1621 celebration at the Plymouth Plantation after a successful growing season. Squanto, a Patuxet Indian, had taught the Pilgrims to catch fish and grow corn and served as an interpreter. After Squanto died, Massasoit, a Wampanoag Indian, gave food to the colonist during the

first winter. The Pilgrims celebrated at Plymouth for three days after their first harvest in 1621. It included 50 people who were on the Mayflower (all who remained of the 100 who had landed) and 90 Native Americans. The feast was cooked by the four adult Pilgrim women

who survived their first winter in the New World, Eleanor Billington, Elizabeth Hopkins, Mary Brewster and Susanna White. They prepared wild turkey, venison, fish and root vegetables. The feast continued sporadically in later years, first as an impromptu religious observance and later as a civil tradition.



Board of Trustees October 13, 2020

A reminder that the annual Budgets are due from all the Boards and Committees.

Two parking lot lights were replaced. The warranty covered the bulbs, but not the installation; will check to see if the warranty will cover some of that cost as well.

Bride's room renovations are ready to resume.

Cabinet voted to re-open the church to indoor services on November 1.
Pam Wright, Secretary, Board of Trustees

Treasurer

The Budget Committee will be meeting soon to work on the 2021 budget.

Please send in your pledge card as soon as possible. Our pledges, combined together, make up the proposed budget possibilities for the coming year.

If you have never pledged before, please take some time to seriously consider being a part of this ministry. If you have pledged before, hopefully you will continue to do so.

While it is difficult to talk about money, it does take a certain amount of money to take care of

our beautiful church, to have our wonderful and dedicated staff and to fund the missions that are near and dear to our hearts.

Our commitment together will give us the resources to move past this difficult year and grow in our faith and the future of our church.

Thank you for your continued support.

FCC Treasurer

Member information

In our prayers:

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

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.

In memory of:
Billie Chorbajian, who passed away on October 9, 2020. Billie did not have COVID, the cause of her death was heart failure.

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

2 Timothy 1:7

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!



Bulletin, Tower, Flower Support

All of the Tower's have been supported. Thank you.

Bulletins (\$30)
Nov 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Chancel Flowers-We have flowers for the rest of the year. Thank you.

The November Tower is supported by John and Judy Smith of Lake Orion, Michigan.

October Readers

Nov 1 Elaine Pittman
Nov 8 Darlene Hawley
Nov 15 Jeremiah Webster
Nov 22 Allen Lucas
Nov 29 Bill May

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

Stewardship Message

Giving is something we do because we want to honor God and because we love the church. We all know what goes on at First Congregational is important in our own lives and in the community.

So why have so many committed themselves to fulfilling Jesus' mandate to love and serve here with FCC? Maybe it's because we'd miss the Sunday

worship hour, the sense of the holy, the realization that we are accepted and loved for who we are. We'd miss the community of friends and family, who touch our lives and make us an extended family. We'd miss learning about real life forgiveness. We'd miss the music, prayers, messages and life-long learning. We'd miss sharing together so many of life's transitions, rites and blessings.

We are a part of this family of faith. We are rooted here. We are a congregation of generous people.

We give in many ways. May our gifts be bright expressions of lasting blessings.

"God can pour out the blessings in astonishing ways."

11 Corinthians 9:8



Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Offerings

2020



Dear Church Family:

The holiday season is fast approaching and we will soon be celebrating the many blessings we enjoy with our families and friends; however, we realize that there are many families in need during this time.

To help those families, won't you please consider making a special contribution? You may use your holiday envelopes marked *Thanksgiving Offering* and *Christmas Offering*, which are in your regular offering box, or you may use an offering envelope located in the back of the pew and designate *Women's Fellowship Holiday Offering*.

Checks may be made payable to: First Congregational Church, with a notation *Holiday Food Baskets or Holiday Offerings*.

The holiday season will be much brighter for many area families because of your generosity.

We wish you God's richest designs this holiday season.

The Christian Service Committee



It's Time to Order Your Christmas Poinsettia 2020

The beautiful poinsettias will decorate our Sanctuary on December 6th, 13th, 20th and the Christmas Eve service. Poinsettias may be taken following the candlelight service. Flowers may be ordered in honor of or memory of a loved one. Orders will be taken until November 15. The cost this year will be \$13.00.

From: _____

In memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Red

Pink

White

Please circle the color of your choice.
If you don't make a choice, a RED poinsettia will be ordered.

**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

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

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

**First Congregational Church of Wayne
Volume LXIX No. X 2020**

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

Moderator's email, jweb@att.net

Music Director's email, mgood1@emich.edu

Office Administrator's email, fccow.lindabeasley@gmail.com

Financial Secretary's email, fccow.judyzajac@gmail.com

Church email, fccow.churchoffice@gmail.com Church website

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*



A singular focus

When we try to focus on too many things at once, sometimes we end up doing nothing well. During a visit to their house (Luke 10:38-42), Jesus tells Martha that only one thing is needed and that Mary has chosen rightly. Surely Jesus doesn't mean that quiet devotion is needed while serving others is not.

But when we let ourselves get "worried and distracted by many things," we may lose sight of the one crucial thing: love.

St. Francis is credited with the following quote: "God came to my house and asked for charity. And I fell on my knees and cried, 'Beloved, what may I give?' 'Just love,'

God said, 'Just love.'"

And in Galatians 5:6 (NRSV), St. Paul writes, "For in Christ Jesus...the only thing that counts is faith working through love." Amid all the worthy pursuits that fill your days, remember to choose rightly—by choosing love.

November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Indoor Service DST Ends	2	3 Election Day	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 (Full) Board Meeting 7:00 pm	11	12	13	14
15 Poinsettia orders due	16	17	18 Women's Fellowship 1:00 pm	19	20	21
22 Heritage Sunday	23	24	25 Thanksgiv- ing Eve Service at St. Mary's at 7:30 pm	26 	27	28
29	30					