



Morning Worship CELEBRATION

October 9, 2011

177 Years of Reaching Up in Faith- -Reaching Out in Love

ADORATION

PRAYER REQUESTS (Prayer requests are received by writing down prayers on the card found as an insert in this bulletin. These cards are passed down the pew, to the aisle, and collected by the Ushers during the Hymn of Praise. Then, during Time for Meditation and Prayer, these prayers are lifted up by the Congregation.)

"A quiet time for prayer and centering"

THE BELL CALLS US TO WORSHIP

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

PRELUDE "Dear Lord And Father of Mankind" Arr. Van Denman Thompson

***HYMN OF PRAISE** "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" 80
(receive prayer requests)

COMMUNITY

CELEBRATING OUR SALVATION IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

*Family Hymn "Blessed Be the Tie That Binds" vs. 1 368

*CENTERING OUR CELEBRATION

One: I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord.

All: **I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.**

One: Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Lord.

All: **Happy are the people who walk in the light of your countenance!**

MOMENT WITH THE YOUTH

Pastor Jake

(Elementary children may leave for Sunday School)

TESTIMONY

LISTENING TO GOD'S WORD

*Hymn of the Word "God of Our Life" 83

God's Word in Scripture

The First Gospel Reading Matthew 1:18-23 p.835

The Second Gospel Reading Matthew 28:16-20 p.866

God's Word in Music "Shout To The Lord"

God's Word Interpreted "The Simplest Gospel: Peace Be with You!"

"... and lo, I am with you always,
to the close of the age." Matt. 28:20b

SOME TIME FOR MEDITATION AND PRAYER

SERVICE

OUR OFFERING HONORS GOD AND DEMONSTRATES OUR LOVE FOR NEIGHBOR

(Please sign the attendance pad located at the center aisle end of the pew.)

Opportunities for Ministry: Offering of Our Service

Growth Team

Offering our Gifts for God's Work

Offertory Music "Softly and Tenderly"

Arr. Peter P. Slack

Prayer of Dedication

Lord, your work continues all around us. Empower our gifts to do miraculous things. Empower us also, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

THE STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Prayer of Reflection

Let us pray now for the saving presence of our Lord:

in this world, **be present, Lord;**

in this congregation, **be present, Lord;**

in this community, **be present, Lord;**

in this Association and the whole church, **be present, Lord;**

in the homes and hearts of all your people, **be present, Lord.**

I ask you to pray with me for our Lord's mercy:

for things not finished, **Lord, have mercy;**

for expectations not met, **Lord, have mercy;**

for wounds not healed, **Lord, have mercy;**

for gifts not given, **Lord, have mercy;**

for promises not kept, **Lord, have mercy.**

Let us give thanks for our journey together in this place:

for friendships made, for joys celebrated,

and for times of nurture and growth, **thanks be to God;**

for wounds healed, expectations met, gifts given,

and promises kept, **thanks be to God;**

for each other, and for God's love which has sustained us

during our time together, **thanks be to God. Amen.**

The Declaration of Closure and Promise

Do you, members and friends of our church, now release Pastor Jake as our Interim Pastor? Do you offer your encouragement and support to him in the next step of his journey?

We do, with praise to God.

Do you, Jake, now recognize and accept the end of your service to the members of this congregation as their Interim Pastor?

I do, with praise and thanks to God for our time together.

On behalf of The Covenant Association and The Michigan Conference, I witness the intentions spoken: words of thanksgiving, forgiveness and release. Our Covenant Association celebrates with you the new life and hope found in your journey together as a congregation and Interim Pastor, and in your call to Pastor Joe. We pledge to you, our sisters and brothers in Christ, our continued support and prayers.

We thank God for our fellowship with you in Christ.

Now our journeys lead us in separate ways. Yet, always we are bound together in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Go in peace.

We celebrate the coming of a new time, new adventures, and new gifts to discover and share with faithful friends and new.

We praise and thank God for our exciting future!

The Closing Prayer

O God, whose everlasting love for us all is trustworthy, help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. The time when we were together here in your name saw our laughter, our tears, our hopes and disappointments. You are Alpha and Omega, both Beginning and End. Whether near or far, we always are held by your love, and so are safe from any lasting loss. End this time together with your blessing. Touch all memories with your grace and peace. Help us to live in the new futures You give us with courage and glad hearts. Grant that in every new time You give us, we may offer You our highest and our best, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Alleluia and Amen.

***EMPOWERING HYMN** "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" 345

*BENEDICTION

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** "In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,

In the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God, do not be afraid.

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near,

Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.

*POSTLUDE

"Psalm 19"

Benedetto Marcello

**Please stand if able.*

This morning we welcome The Rev. Mr. Reginald V. Lancaster, representing our Covenant Association and Michigan Conference, UCC. Representing our Administrative Board and congregation in the Celebration of Interim Closure is Moderator Mary Powers.

The preaching bands (clerical tabs) which Pastor Jake wears each Sunday morning are the symbol of a resident pastor. Following the benediction, Pastor Jake will remove the bands as a visible sign that he no longer is the resident pastor for FCUCC.

SERMON NOTES

Key idea: Jesus (God) often is so quiet that we easily miss him.

Points to remember:

Questions to ask Pastor Jake at coffee:

To pray, talk, think about later (listening to the Holy Spirit - the sermon ends when God has finished speaking to me):

What is my least busy time, when God could have my attention?

What is my quietest time, when God could whisper to me?

PASTOR JAKE CONTACT NUMBERS:

h: 517-596-2275 Emergency: Call the office 810-695-0550

Please join us after worship for refreshments in the Christian Life Center as we wish Pastor Jake well in his future endeavors.

THANKS

To those who assisted in today's worship services

Ministers All the Members	Acolytes Meghan & Matt Otenbaker
Interim Pastor Rev. Dr. M. Jacob Kaufman	Lay Liturgist Tom McLaren
Organist Lavonne Bomeli	Prayers Lana Bellah
Director of Music Brandon Sanders	Ushers Owen Mooney
Public Address System Bob Throop	Tally Team Dawn Bentley
Host Dawn Bentley	Coffee Hour Hosts
Greeters Barb Cunningham	Open & Close Church Dawn Bentley



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HEARING ASSISTANCE

If you need hearing assistance, ask an usher about our Williams

Church Staff

Interim Pastor

Rev. Dr. M. Jacob Kaufman

Director of Youth & Educational Ministries

Tracy Loomis

Church Secretary

Wanda Kitchen

Chief Financial Officer

Carla Meier

Director of Music

Brandon Sanders

Organist

Lavonne Bomeli

Learning House Director

Susan Arnould

Parish Visitor

Barbara Benson

Custodian

Tom McLaren

OPPORTUNITIES

for this week

<i>Sunday, October 9</i>	9:00 The Net
	9:15 Bible Study
	10:30 Worship
	10:30 Sunday School
	11:30 Fellowship
	11:30 Pastor Jake Farewell Brunch
	11:30 New Member Orientation
	1:30 Sly Baby Shower
	8:00 Men's Basketball
<i>Monday, October 10</i>	6:30 Boy Scout Mtg.
	7:30 Pastor Search Committee
<i>Tuesday, October 11</i>	10:00 Bible Study
	6:00 GB Piston Basketball Team
	6:30 Youth Team
	7:00 Alcoholic Anonymous
	7:00 Forgiven Band Practice
<i>Wednesday, October 12</i>	10:00 Chapel
	6:00 Autism Group Basketball
	6:00 Sacred Parenting Series
	6:00 Team Leaders
	7:00 Seventh-Day Adventists
<i>Thursday, October 13</i>	4:30 Confirmation
	7:00 Zumba
	7:30 Choir
<i>Friday, October 14</i>	
<i>Saturday, October 15</i>	9:00 Seventh-Day Adventists
	2:30 Raether Birthday Party
	4:00 David Jeremy Memorial & Luncheon
	7:00 Alcoholic Anonymous
<i>Sunday, October 16</i>	9:15 Bible Study
	10:30 Worship
	10:30 Sunday School
	11:30 Fellowship
	11:30 New Member Orientation
	1:00 Joyner - Court of Honor
	6:00 The Net
	8:00 Men's Basketball

Prayers and Concerns:

Please pray for Norma & Deloy Burrows, Ann Edgcombe, Arnold Fletcher, Helen Jewett, Owen Mooney, Wilma Palmer, Claude Shinn, George Smith, Bob Throop, Howard Weaver, Dale Wells

WELCOME!

Interim Closure Sunday



“Our mission is to enable disciples to change the world to the glory of God by living the teachings of Jesus our Christ.”



**FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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Web site: www.uccgrandblanc.org

OUR STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT:

As God blesses us our response should be one of gratitude and thanksgiving. "You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land he has given you."

(Deuteronomy 8:10)