

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
August 25, 2011

The

Congregator

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 9



July 30, 2011 Family Camping Group

Jake says . . . “The old gray mare, she ain’t what she used to be, . . .
and neither is First Congregational UCC !”

Fall is coming on strong; anticipation is high! **Pastor Joe is arriving!!**

Unlike the old gray mare, not being like we used to be is a positive thing. Real progress has excitement and discovery that are a great experience.

The grandkids are young enough that each time I see them, there is a bit of new growth, new development, new grandkid. I wouldn’t want them to stay like they were. Oh, they were cute enough. However, in the current generation, the concept of “terrible two’s” took on a whole new meaning! Now the “terrible teen’s” is an imminent reality. Besides, it’s a joy to watch them catch fresh ideas, develop new skills, and discover a bigger world.

Church is similar. Just as each one of us is a *work in progress*, so too is FCUCC. Some of our process in time and being has great joy - what grand possibilities are before us because of what we already have dared to do! Some of our process in time and being has great challenge - what coping skills we developed because of our experiences during the past 21 months! Wisdom comes from experience.

Here’s a perspective. Back in ’76, I was in Scotland on a pulpit exchange venture. My base was in Paisley, a Glasgow suburb. Paisley Abbey was the site of a major USA Bicentennial observance. In addition to having the Abbey, which was big enough to handle the crowd, Paisley was home to The Rev. John Witherspoon, a signer of our Declaration of Independence and later a professor at what would become Princeton Theological Seminary. Being from the USA, a PTS grad, and mostly being available, I was one of the lecturers in worship. We were so proud of our **200 years** since 1776! The service was in the new part of the Abbey, built around 1300-something (the old part dates back to the 1100’s!). What’s that famous saying . . . “History is in the mind of the beholder?”

Our nation, with a relatively short history, has had some great moments: the “golden spike” on the transcontinental railroad, Empire State Building, Farnsworth’s TV project, Tennessee Valley Authority, NASA’s man on the moon, What would we be like if we spent a major portion of our time looking back with longing admiration at pictures of driving the golden spike? I remember a salesman for what originally was Michigan Alkali, an officer in the church I then was serving, commenting after a meeting, “Jake, it doesn’t matter that I made a \$200,000 sale yesterday. All the boss cares about is what I did today!”

Sure, we take a moment or a day to retell Paul Bunyan stories on anniversaries. It’s important to keep contact with our roots. Even so, our greatest honor to our history is what we do now to carry on the spirit, not the action, of great moments and persons. Our ministry and mission are *works in progress*. Each of us is a *work in progress*. An important goal for our transition period is to set clearly before us a vision of our next “golden spike” - to what God is calling us, and who God is calling us to become,

The Holy Spirit is alive and well in Grand Blanc, FCUCC, and our United Church of Christ!



THE CLC TEAM NEEDS YOU!

This team is working to improve the organization of rentals in the CLC. We need members of the congregation to step up and help in the following areas:

- Event Coordinators – These individuals are paid a stipend to assist those who rent our facility, to open and close the building and provide minimal assistance during the event.
- Wedding Hosts – A stipend is paid to individuals who help coordinate the wedding and assist the wedding party during the rehearsal and the ceremony.
- Floor plan design – the team needs someone with CAD experience who can help design several floor plans for the CLC showing various table placements for different size events. These designs would be shared with the interested renters when inquiries are made.

If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, or would like more information, please contact the church office.

July Financials

	July	Year-To-Date
Operating Fund (less Learning House)		
Revenue	31,936	245,425
Expense	31,952	278,131
Total	-16	-32,706
Learning House		
Revenue	25,379	229,397
Expense	22,975	195,901
Total	2,404	33,495
Grand Total	2,388	789

Band Name Change

The band members voted to change their name from Praise Band to Forgiven Band.

Thank you to all the volunteers who worked on one of four Habitat homes on Seymour Rd in Gaines on Thursday August 4th and Friday the 5th. Jerry Allen, Rich Ballerich, Lana Bellah, Barb Benson, Lavonne Bomeli, Paul Fuhs, Owen Mooney, Bethany Sly, Steve Wambaugh, & Jamie Zannetti. Thank you to the Outreach team members Georgette Engard, Karen Palevich, and Marty Royer for donations of paper cups, plates, napkins and donuts. Thank you for supporting this outreach ministry, it was fun working alongside each one of you.

Jeff Zannetti—Outreach Team Leader



Sister Circle Study: *The Esteemed Journey*



Women are unique creations designed extraordinarily by God. Yet many of them underestimate themselves, devalue the impact of their purpose, belittle the merit of their passion and fail to grasp their full potential. It is only in the fullness of their worth in Jesus Christ that women can experience all that he has for them as his beloved daughters. Discovering that full worth in Christ is what *The Esteemed Journey* is all about.

The Esteemed Journey takes participants on a journey through six DVD-based sessions where they will discover for themselves their full worth in Christ as God's Word illuminates...

- where their momentum comes from and what keeps them stuck
- the rich lessons they can learn from past mistakes
- where their internal compass is pointing
- the untapped potential Christ wants to release in them
- how to respond to their desire for growth, challenge, and inspiration

Contact the church office to order your participant book. *The cost of the book is \$9.99 and will be available on or before the September 27th meeting.*



Sister Circle will be meeting the 4th Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm.
Carpool can be arranged upon request.

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

At this time of the year, our church is facing a temporary financial crisis. Giving has been down this summer, we have three payrolls to meet in September, and moving expenses to meet for Pastor Joe and Pastor Jake in October. If you could pull ahead your pledge or give extra donations, it would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration.

Spiritual Growth Team



The Spiritual Growth team is requesting gently used Christian books for the Church library.

If you would like to donate your used books, please drop them off in the Welcome Center clearly labeled "Church Library".

YOUTH NOTES

- September 11: Sunday School Kick-Off
- September 18: Senior High Kick-Off
- September 22: Confirmation Begins











FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
OFFICE HOURS:
MON-FRI FROM 8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM



SEPTEMBER 2011

THE LEARNING HOUSE
INFANTS THROUGH LATCHKEY
PROGRAM HOURS:
MON-FRI FROM 6:00 AM TO 6:30 PM



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship	LABOR DAY Learning House Closed 	6:15 Spiritual Growth Team 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Forgiven Band Practice	6:30 Outreach Team Mtg 7:00 Seventh-Day Adventists	7:00 Zumba	5:30 Tedosi Wedding Rehearsal 	9:00 Seventh-Day Adventists 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Education Sunday Fall Kick-Off & Concert 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship	6:45 Fall Parent Troop Mtg	6:30 Youth Team 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Forgiven Band Practice	10:00 Chapel 12:00 Staff Mtg 6:00 Team Leaders 7:00 Seventh-Day Adventists	5:30 XYZ Mtg 6:30 Confirmation Parent Mtg 6:30 Evangelism Team 7:00 Zumba 	5:30 Cook/Kelly Wedding Rehearsal 	9:00 Seventh-Day Adventists 12:00 Seventh-Day Adventists Luncheon 3:00 Rosalina Teodosio Wedding 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Sunday School Kick-Off 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship 1:00 Joyner-Code of Honor 6:30 Net Kick-Off	Congregator Article Deadline	9:15 Pastor Bible Study 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Forgiven Band Practice	10:00 Chapel 7:00 Seventh-Day Adventists	10:00 Congregator Folded 4:30 Finance Committee 5:00 Confirmation 7:00 Zumba 		9:00 Seventh-Day Adventists 1:00 Mervyn's Granddaughter's Bridal Shower 3:00 Cook/Kelly Wedding 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Soup Kitchen (SHARE) 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship 6:30 The Net		9:15 Pastor Bible Study  7:00 Sister Circle 7:00 Forgiven Band Practice 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	10:00 Chapel 7:00 Seventh-Day Adventists	4:30 Finance Committee 5:00 Confirmation 7:00 Zumba 		9:00 Seventh-Day Adventists 12:00 Seventh-Day Adventists Luncheon 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous
25	26	27	28	29	30	
		9:15 Pastor Bible Study  7:00 Sister Circle 7:00 Forgiven Band Practice 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	10:00 Chapel 7:00 Seventh-Day Adventists	4:30 Finance Committee 5:00 Confirmation 7:00 Zumba 	5:30 McConnell Wedding Rehearsal 	



MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!

What a blessing music can be to our worship experience! The chancel choir, the cherubs, the praise band, and other special musicians have certainly helped us to reflect on our faith and offer praise to our Lord. Now is your chance to join in this ministry! Beginning in September, we need members to participate in the following musical opportunities:



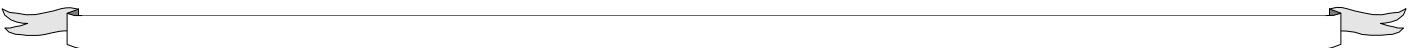
Chancel choir – you don't have to be great, just have a desire to sing.

Bell choir – we have a great set of bells, we need to get them back in use! Any one can do it—really! Any age can participate.

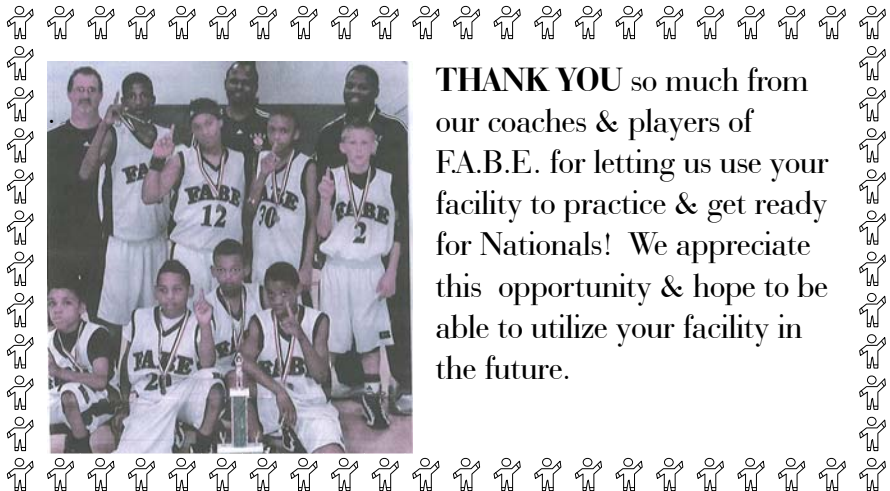
Youth choir – I know we have some very talented young people in our congregation who could be a real blessing to this church through music.

Cherub choir – We need adults to help supervise and continue to welcome all the little ones to enjoy learning songs of praise and delight in singing during church services.

If you feel God is calling you to serve in any of these areas this fall, please email Brandon Sanders at brandon24@mail.com, or contact the church office.



XYZ will meet on **Thursday, September 15th at 5:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. All in the Congregation are welcome. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. Coffee and Tea are provided. The program will star our own Jill Richardson on her guitar and Howard Weaver on his squeeze box. Hosts are: Fran and Jim Cuthbertson and Trish and Peter Ashurkoff.



THANK YOU so much from our coaches & players of F.A.B.E. for letting us use your facility to practice & get ready for Nationals! We appreciate this opportunity & hope to be able to utilize your facility in the future.



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
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BARBARA BENSON

LEARNING HOUSE DIRECTOR
SUSAN M. ARNOULD

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TOM MCLAREN

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