

The

Congregator

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 2

BLANKET SUNDAY FEBRUARY 13, 2011

For more than 60 years, congregations across the U.S. have been responding to Jesus' call to be neighbors to those in need, in partnership with Church World Service. At home and around the world, our congregation is helping impoverished communities with the basic tools they need to sustain themselves and their families.

When disaster strikes, people often need blankets - and much more. They need food, shelter and safe water. As the recovery process unfolds, they need tools,

training and other resources to help them rebuild their lives.



Contributions to Blankets+ means that Church World Service

is there for the long haul as families recover from disaster. Church World Service is helping families struggling against grinding poverty as they seek to develop viable sustainable communities and livelihoods.

At its heart, Blankets+ means you. Each year, through your contributions, you the congregation make this ministry of hope a reality for people in need the world over. Please be generous in your support for Blankets+ this Sunday.

~Thank You, Outreach Team

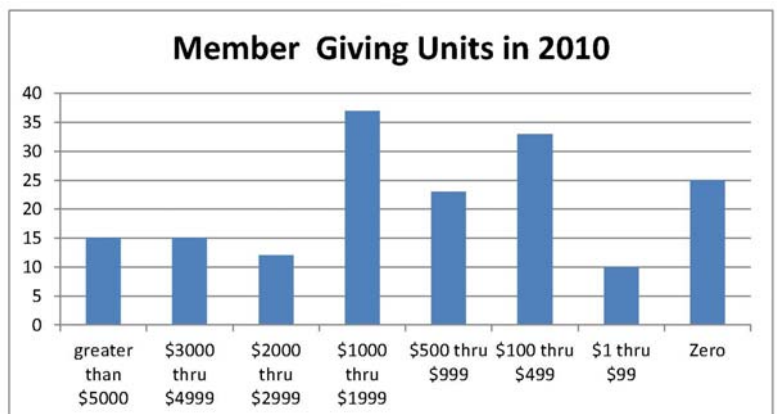
PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE (PSC) UPDATE

The Committee has finally completed the church profile, which has been submitted to Thom Webster at the Michigan Conference and to Pastor Jake for their review and input. When we receive feedback from their respective reviews, the PSC will meet to discuss their suggestions and make adjustments to the profile as necessary. Once these changes are made, the profile will be ready for publication. The expectation is for this phase to be completed by February 14th. The next phase of the search will be the initial review of candidate profiles which will begin sometime later this month.

~ Bryan Riley, PSC Chair

The following bar chart shows the number of member giving units categorized by how much money they donated in 2010. The chart includes only members of First Congregational UCC.

The chart does not include special offerings or gifts to the Capital Campaign.



Jake says . . . “How do you spell *church*?”

Just about every language has a word for a religious entity. Most civilizations observe religious traditions in a group meeting. People have a common experience.

Our Christian tradition uses *church* in a couple of ways. The common use is in reference to a meeting place - a group's building. In our more reflective moments, *church* refers to the people who generally are understood to gather for worship rites and planning service to God.

Both the Christian (*church*) and the Jewish (*synagogue*) meeting places have their names rooted in Biblical words that have to do with a *gathering*. The New Testament word for *church* very specifically refers to being called together for a purpose. The NT root word for *church* could refer to almost any gathering from a city council to a club. The use was w-i-d-e!

Church now seems to have wide meaning, too. As I am writing this page, we recently celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Many churches have been at the forefront of the civil rights movement, and many have given leadership/direction to numerous other social causes. “Faith without works is dead.” Some churches have refrained from any social action, understanding their calling/purpose to be a “spiritual” body untainted by “the world.” “Come apart, and be ye separate.” (These churches often use antique language in worship.) We do our faith in very different ways!

There is a category of churches in which very little community action happens and only a minimal amount of Bible/theology/life-reflection occurs. The primary activity is the *worship service*, often loaded with ritual. A visitor leaves with a sense that *worship* may have occurred, and little *service* may not happen. These “churches” have been characterized as “a poor person's country club.”

Given the fact that our beloved First Congregational United Church of Christ, GB (now you know why we don't print letterhead very often!) books 300+ members, we can be sure that just about every image of *church* is represented in our own faith family. The UCC has great breathing space for an enriching variety of experience and expression. Always our local church and our larger denomination each are in conversation. We never will run out of stuff to discuss, nor ways to grow!

Our blend of traditions gives us a rich resource of techniques to improve our church life. This pastor transition period provides an opportunity to try new ideas, and to learn together. One of our development opportunities is staff collegiality and support. Last year I introduced a staff review procedure I call a *Reflection and Planning Conversation*. The staff member and I, now along with a person from our new Personnel Committee, will review each staff person's past half-year's activity and set goals for the next six months. Conversation about work now is based on goals we've set together, rather than being an imprecise popularity contest.

Now I am instituting the same procedure for discussion about the pastor's work. The conversation will involve a member of the Administrative Board, the Personnel Committee, the Pastor Relations Committee, and the pastor. The final result will be presented to the Administrative Board, Personnel and Pastor Relations Committees, and to our Associate Conference Minister. The confusion of the past few years is less likely to occur again!





WOMEN OF FAITH

Sister Circle is planning their next retreat! The date is set for August 18th through the 20th in Indianapolis, IN. We are returning to see the Women of Faith Tour and this year we are joining up with a trained Women of Faith Group Leader from Swartz Creek. She will coordinate all of the details of our trip, her package deal includes the following: Bus fare, 2-night hotel stay, tickets to the 2-day event, 2 breakfasts, 2 lunches and a chance to revive your faith! Tina will be presenting us with information at our February 22nd meeting, you will not want to miss this opportunity! For more information go to: womenoffaith.com.

COMMUNION SERVICE

It has been brought to our attention that some members and friends of the congregation are unable to fully participate in communion due to an intolerance to gluten. If this condition affects you, please contact the church office 810-695-0550 ext. 22, as soon as possible and let Karen know, so that we may accommodate you.

~The Worship Team



ULTIMATE DATE NIGHT

For those who enjoy Jay & Laura Lafoon they will be holding an "Ultimate Date Night," on Sunday, February 13th at 5:30 at the New Creation Church of God on Lennon Road in Flint. The "Ultimate Date Night" is a 90-minute evening of non-stop music, comedy and laughter! Nuggets of marriage wisdom are sprinkled throughout the program. Jay & Laura's unique "Celebrate" style allows everyone to learn valuable marriage tools while having fun! The date night is a great ministry and encouragement for all married couples. For more information or to purchase tickets log onto www.jayandlaura.com.



MOM 2 MOM SALE

The Sister Circle is hosting a Mom 2 Mom Sale on Saturday, March 19th from 9 am to 1:00 pm. If you would like to rent a table, please print a contract from the church website and contact Jamie at 695-1967 to reserve your spot. The cost is \$20 per table and \$3 per rack space.



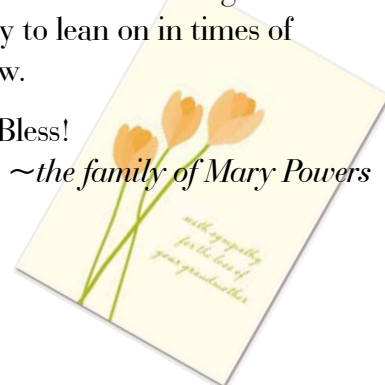
**SPECIAL WORSHIP
SERVICE PLANNED
SUNDAY, MARCH 13TH**

THANK YOU

My family would like to thank all those who sent cards, offered a kind word and prayed for us following the death of my grandmother. It is such a comfort to know I have a caring church family to lean on in times of sorrow.

God Bless!

~the family of Mary Powers



SUMMARY OF ANNUAL MEETING 2011

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational United Church of Christ (FCUCC) was convened at 11:40 am by the Moderator, Mary Powers, on January 30, 2011. There were 82 members in attendance.

Owen Mooney opened the official meeting with a prayer and blessing.

The minutes of the 2010 Annual Meeting were approved.

Mary Powers stated that the Administrative Board at their last meeting approved a switch of positions with Ann Edgcombe changing from Vice Moderator to Member-At-Large and Lori Setera changing from Member-At-Large to Vice Moderator.

Pastor Jake reviewed his Staff Report contained in the Annual Report.

Mary Powers reviewed the Administrative Board Report contained in the Annual Report. She requested that everyone read the Annual Report.

Deneen Munerance, Treasurer, reported on the financial results for 2010. We came very close to meeting our budget in 2010 which is a large improvement over 2007, 2008 and 2009 - where we ran large deficits each year. We would not have run a deficit if everyone would have

met their pledge. She urged those who didn't meet their pledge to please try to do so.

Paris Stetkiw started the New Business portion of the meeting by reporting on the committee which was formed to modify the Constitution and the Bylaws. Paris hopes that the process will be completed in 2011.

Mike Spicer reported for the Pastor Search Committee (PSC). Mike stated that hopefully we will start receiving applications for the installed pastor position in a couple of months.

Owen Mooney reviewed our church's Spiritual Plan. The plan contains our Mission Statement and five purposes which each have a Biblical mandate. The five purposes are worship, discipleship, fellowship, evangelism, and ministry. Owen then went over the 2010 accomplishments and the 2011 goals for the Church. Jeff Zannetti then showed a video of our accomplishments/events/ministries of the church.

Mary Powers introduced and recognized the new Pastoral Relations Committee members and the new Personnel Committee members.

Deneen Munerance then reviewed the status of the Capital Campaign which is due to end this

Spring. In response to a question from Kathy Rembowski, Deneen stated that we will probably not have enough money to pay back all of the loans at the end of the campaign.

Deneen then presented the proposed budget for 2011. It is a zero based budget however it requires a Second Mile Campaign midway through the year. The proposed budget is printed in the Annual Report. The budget was approved by acclamation with no one dissenting.

Mary concluded the meeting by stating that God is working miracles in this church. She asked everyone to take advantage of the power of prayer and the many fellowship opportunities offered at First Congregational. She also recommended three books for fellow Christians to read. They are:

“Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity” by Adam Hamilton

“The Purpose Driven Life” by Rick Warren

“If You Want to Walk On Water, You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat” by John Ortberg

Mary adjourned the meeting at 1:05 pm.

Submitted by Dan Richardson,
Administrative Board Clerk

CELEBRATING OUR YOUTH



Selling concessions



Cheering



Good game!



Playing basketball

YOUTH LED SERVICE - SHARING GOD'S MESSAGE



APPLYING BIBLE PRINCIPLES

Many illustrations found in the Scriptures have to do with an agrarian economy. Farmers in particular find much in the Bible with which they identify directly.

For example, both Old and New Testaments indicate that the ox which is treading out the grain should be allowed to eat of the grain. The owner of that ox is not to place a muzzle on the animal to prevent it from enjoying that which is being produced. But that illustration is to provide insight into a greater truth, namely, that the person who is producing the harvest should share in the harvest. And just in case we're confused about what this means, the Scripture provides clarity by stating, "...those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel." (1 Corinthians 9:14).

This is why we support our pastor and others who in one way or another are involved in preaching the gospel. That is why we support financially, the work and outreach of our church. That is why we give to the work

of the Lord here at First Congregational United Church of Christ (FCUCC). Yes, we give out of our love and devotion to Christ. Yes, we give because God owns everything and we are just managers and stewards. But we also give so that those who preach the gospel might receive their living from the gospel, so that they might give their full attention to their divine calling without being side-tracked by the necessity of other work.

A lady named Mrs. Jones passed away without any survivors - that is, without any human survivors. She left three dogs to mourn her passing: Dolly, Skippy and Bozo. She specified that her estate (consisting of \$72,800) should go for the "care and maintenance of the dogs." When the dogs are dead, what is left is to be given to her church. A veterinarian examined the dogs and, finding them in "excellent health," made this statement. "The church may have to wait as long as 12 years to say 'dog-gone' and receive the money."

How much better to support the work and ministry of the church as a priority. How much better to place first things first. And while we may not have oxen that tread out the grain as part of the harvesting process, we can learn much from that apt illustration. Just as the owner of the ox allows it to eat of the grain it is producing, in the same way, "...the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel."

Or as the Apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 6:6, "Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher."

2011 Flower Chart

The 2011 Flower Chart is located outside the Welcome Center to sign up for Sunday Worship Flowers. Flowers can be in honor or memory of family and friends or in celebration of birthdays or anniversaries. The cost is \$10.00. Please sign up on the chart. Donation envelopes are provided and can be dropped off in the office. Please put "worship flowers" on your check.

Those signed up for Sundays with only one or two people will be charged an additional \$10.00 to cover the cost of flowers. Currently our Worship Flowers cost the church \$40.00 per arrangement.





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

FEBRUARY 2011

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



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			UPWARD SEASON CONTINUES!!			
<p>9:15 Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 Worship/Sunday School/Apprentice</p> <p>11:30 Fellowship</p>	<p>8:30 SHARE Group</p> <p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>6:00 Upward Cheerleading Pract.</p> <p>7:00 Pastor Search Committee</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scout Mtg</p> <p>7:00 Scout Parent Mtg</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study</p> <p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>6:00 Upward Cheerleading Pract.</p> <p>6:30 Alcoholics Anonymous</p> <p>7:00 Bylaws Committee Mtg.</p>	<p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>6:00 Upward Cheerleading Pract.</p> <p>7:00 Seventh-day Adventists</p>	<p>10:00 Toddlerise</p> <p>4:30 Confirmation</p> <p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>9:00 Scherba Basketball</p>	<p>8:00 Upward Games</p> <p>9:00 Seventh-day Adventists</p> <p>12:00 Seventh-day Adventists</p> <p>7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>
<p>9:15 Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 Worship/Sunday School/Apprentice</p> <p>11:30 Fellowship</p>	<p>5:00 SHARE Group</p> <p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>6:00 Upward Cheerleading Pract.</p> <p>6:00 Care & Nurture Mtg.</p> <p>7:00 Pastor Search Committee</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scout Mtg</p> <p>7:00 Scout Parent Mtg</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study</p> <p>12:00 Staff Meeting</p> <p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>6:00 Upward Cheerleading Pract.</p> <p>6:30 Alcoholics Anonymous</p> <p>6:30 Youth Ministries Meeting</p> <p>7:00 Sister Circle</p>	<p>5:00 Administrative Board Mtg</p> <p>5:30 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>6:00 Upward Cheerleading Pract.</p> <p>6:00 Team Leaders Meeting</p> <p>7:00 Seventh-day Adventists</p>	<p>10:00 Zumbatonic</p> <p>4:30 Confirmation Class</p> <p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>9:00 Scherba Basketball Practice</p>	<p>8:00 Upward Games</p> <p>9:00 Seventh-day Adventists</p> <p>12:00 Spencer/Muldorado Wedding</p> <p>3:00 Spencer/Muldorado Wedding</p> <p>7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>
<p>9:15 Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 Worship/Sunday School/Apprentice</p> <p>11:30 Fellowship</p>	<p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>6:00 Upward Cheerleading Pract.</p> <p>6:00 Spiritual Growth Mtg</p> <p>6:30 Building & Grounds Mtg.</p> <p>7:00 Pastor Search Committee</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scout Meeting</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study</p> <p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>6:00 Upward Cheerleading Pract.</p> <p>6:30 Autism Support Group</p> <p>6:30 Alcoholics Anonymous</p> <p>7:00 Bylaws Committee Mtg.</p>	<p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>6:00 Upward Cheerleading Pract.</p> <p>7:00 Seventh-day Adventists</p>	<p>10:00 Toddlerise</p> <p>4:00 Finance Team Mtg.</p> <p>4:30 Confirmation</p> <p>4:30 Worship Team Mtg</p> <p>6:30 Church Growth Mtg.</p> <p>6:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>Spencer/Muldorado Rehearsal</p> <p>9:00 Scherba Basketball Practice</p>	<p>8:00 Upward Games</p> <p>9:00 Seventh-day Adventists</p> <p>12:00 Spencer/Muldorado Wedding</p> <p>3:00 Spencer/Muldorado Wedding</p> <p>7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>
<p>9:15 Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 Worship/Sunday School/Apprentice</p> <p>11:30 Fellowship</p>	<p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>6:00 Upward Cheerleading Pract.</p> <p>6:00 Fellowship Team Mtg.</p> <p>7:00 Pastor Search Committee</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scout Meeting</p>	<p>10:00 Bible Study</p> <p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>6:00 Upward Cheerleading Pract.</p> <p>6:30 Alcoholics Anonymous</p> <p>6:30 Christian Life Center Team Mtg.</p> <p>7:00 Sister Circle</p>	<p>5:00 Administrative Board Mtg.</p> <p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>6:00 Upward Cheerleading Pract.</p> <p>7:00 Seventh-day Adventists</p>	<p>10:00 Zumbatonic</p> <p>4:30 Confirmation</p> <p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>7:00 Unemployment Transition</p> <p>7:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>Ring Leave for Springhill</p> <p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>9:00 Scherba Basketball Practice</p>	<p>Ring at Springhill</p> <p>8:00 Upward Games</p> <p>9:00 Seventh-day Adventists</p> <p>7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>
<p>Ring Return from Springhill</p> <p>9:15 Bible Study</p> <p>10:30 Worship/Sunday School/Apprentice</p> <p>11:30 Fellowship</p> <p>1:00 Rodriguez Court of Honor</p> <p>2:00 Lovellee Travel Softball</p>	<p>5:00 Upward Basketball Practice</p> <p>6:00 Upward Cheerleading Pract.</p> <p>7:00 Pastor Search Committee</p> <p>7:00 Boy Scout Meeting</p>					

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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CHURCH OFFICE MANAGER
KAREN J. PALEVICH

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CARLA MEIER

PARISH VISITOR
BARBARA BENSON

LEARNING HOUSE DIRECTOR
SUSAN M. ARNOULD

CHRISTIAN LIFE CENTER DIRECTOR
KAREN J. PALEVICH

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT
CONGREGATOR IS
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2011**

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DR. HOWARD WEAVER HONORED BY BOY SCOUTS

It was recently announced that our own Howard Weaver has been chosen to receive a “Silver Beaver” award from the Tall Pine Council of the Boy Scouts of America. The Silver Beaver is the highest recognition that a local Boy Scout Council can bestow on a deserving volunteer. Dr. Weaver has been involved with scouting for approximately 70 years. He will receive his award at a recognition dinner to be held on February 19th at Genesys

Conference & Banquet Center. Please congratulate Howard on his very deserving recognition.

