

The

Congregator

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 8



Habitat
for Humanity®

Habitat For Humanity Build August 4th and 5th

Our church is signed up to help with the Habitat house near 8099 Seymour Rd. , Gaines MI, 48436 on Thursday, August 4th and Friday, August 5th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on both days. There are four homes in the vicinity that are being worked on, and we will be working on one of the homes. We will be likely painting and siding the home at the time of the build. You are welcome to volunteer for one day or both days. If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up with Jeff Z. at 810-695-1967 or fcuccwebmaster@hotmail.com so we know how many volunteers we have for each day.

Thanks,

The Outreach Team.

Jake says . . .

“Look, ye saints, . . .”

Yes, L-O-O-K - take a really careful look around you, especially at Sunday morning worship. How many saints do you see?

Identifying a saint is not a precise science. It's easier in the Roman system, because the Roman church tells us which earlier Christians are/were saints. Folks identified as saints typically lived exemplary lives. They were better than most. Quickly we think of John the Baptist and the Apostle Paul. More currently, we might consider Martin Luther or Mother Theresa as saints.

“Saint,” by definition, is a human. Sainthood, in our world, is an official recognition of a human person's unusual commitment to Christ, service to the church, or service to the world in Christ's name. Absolutely nobody does it with perfection!

Saints are people who have made an intentional effort to live “... a life worthy of your calling,” to use Paul's language. We are called *Christians*. We are not called *Perfect-ians*, *Sin-not-ians*, or even *Exemplar-ians*. We are identified by the FUNCTION (office, purpose) of our Leader. We are called *Christians*.

Christ is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew *Messiah*. The term is associated so closely with Jesus that it now almost is part of his proper name. It means, “the anointed one.” Christians are anointed. We each have a calling and a purpose, a place in God's action.

The term “Christian” first was used to designate Jesus' followers in Antioch, about 43 A.D. It was used by people who hated Jesus' followers, so it was a slur, a sort of curse-word.

Focusing one's life on Christian service is one piece of sainthood. The other piece recognizes that no one's service is perfect. Therefore, a saint begins as one who is committed to Christian service **and** is forgiven for those spots in which the service falls short of what God first dreamed or asked. A saint is *committed* and *forgiven*. What kept Judas from sainthood was not that he identified Jesus in the garden, but that he did not come back to be forgiven. What made Peter a saint, even though he denied Jesus in Pilate's house, was that he did come back to be forgiven.

Pastors are not perfect. FCUCC is not perfect. In the meantime, our sainthood and our church mission depend on our willingness to be forgiving toward others and to seek forgiveness for ourselves.

Now we are beginning the process of welcoming Pastor Joe and Beth. We are anticipating a new era in the life of First Congregational UCC. Now is an ideal time to think and pray personally about what I need to forgive in others and to have forgiven in me, what it is to which I am committed, to/for what God has anointed me (what spiritual gift I received in baptism or recently), and what part I will play now in the mission/ministry here at First Congregational UCC.

Be a saint at FCUCC!



The weekend of July 15 was a busy one! Pastor Joe Schulte and his wife, Beth, were here, spending time with church members at several different events, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. It all came together Sunday July 17, when Pastor Joe led the worship service, followed by an overwhelming affirmative vote of the congregation to offer him the position as our next called pastor. Pastor Joe accepted the call, and will prepare over the next few months to move to Grand Blanc in October and begin leading this church into the future.

We need to continue in prayer for our church, and for Pastor Joe's congregation in South Dakota. Let's stand together as God's family, thanking Him for His blessings and the opportunity to grow His ministry in this part



WELCOME!

As you call or come in to the church office in the next few weeks, you will be greeted by our new full time secretary, Wanda Kitchen. Pastor Joe was involved in the interview and hiring, and we are very excited to have her on board and preparing to work with our new pastor. Wanda comes to us with many years of experience in a variety of office settings, including General Motors, Delphi, and Davison Community Schools. Please give Wanda a warm welcome, and continue to pray for our staff as we move forward doing God's ministry.



NEW GOVERNANCE

Your Board members and officers are:

Mary Powers, Moderator

Lori Setera, Vice Moderator

Dan Richardson, Secretary

Joe Bonadies, Officer of the Board

Ann Edgcombe, Officer of the Board

Kay Gibson, Officer of the Board

Owen Mooney, Officer of the Board

Pat Oakes, Officer of the Board

John Urogdy, Officer of the Board

Deneen Munerance, Treasurer.

Reminder -
Copies of the new
Constitution and By-
laws can be picked up
in the Church office or
viewed on the church
website.

THANK YOU!

A special thank you to everyone who sent cards, called, or stopped by to visit while I was in the hospital.

Harold Selesky



Second-Mile Campaign

Throughout the course of this year the Finance Committee has been monitoring the finances of First Congregational United Church of Christ. We had been hopeful that we would not have to go to the congregation at mid-year requesting more funds for church operations. However, once again we are running short of cash to operate the church in the manner which the congregation expects. For this year through the month of June, expenses for operating the church exceeded revenue collected for operations by \$32,691. As a direct result of this deficit situation, the Finance Committee, with approval from the Administrative Board, is initiating a "Second-Mile Pledge Campaign" to bring in additional funds to cover our operating expenses for the rest of the year. We are asking each of you to pray to the Lord for guidance in determining what you can return to the Lord to support His ministry at First Congregational. After prayerful consideration, please fill out a Second-Mile Campaign pledge card, which are available at the church, indicating how much you will increase your giving to help cover operating costs. Please return it to the church either by mail or by placing it in the offering plate on Sunday. Thank you for your generosity.

June Financials

	June	Year-To-Date
Operating Fund (less Learning House)		
Revenue	28,515	213,488
Expense	36,244	246,179
Total	-7,729	-32,691
Learning House		
Revenue	34,239	204,018
Expense	33,709	172,926
Total	530	31,092
Grand Total	-7,199	-1,599

Six-Month Member Statements

Six-Month Member Statements are available for pick-up at the church. The Member Statements detail how much money you have donated through the first six months of the year allowing you to cross check our records with your records.

Sister Circle Kickoff Dinner



If you went to last year's Kickoff Dinner, you know that Sister Circle has some fun surprises planned for you! This year's dinner is no exception. Be prepared for a great night of fellowship and laughs because this night is planned just for you! If you are new to Sister Circle, this is the perfect opportunity to see what we are all about. We will be introducing our new study plan for the year, along with our volunteer and fellowship opportunities. Come join us Tuesday, August 30th at 6:30pm in the Christian Life Center. Contact Jamie at 695-1967.

Women's Retreat

It's not too late to join us for our yearly retreat! If you are looking for spiritual rejuvenation, come with us August 19-20 to Indianapolis to the Women of Faith Event. A few of this year's inspiring speakers are Shelia Walsh, Luci Swindoll, and Lisa Harper.

Musical guests include Natalie Grant and Mary Mary. This is a great weekend to reconnect your life with God and to share this wonderful experience with friends--It is sure to be a fun-filled weekend! We have a great package deal that includes bus fare, tickets to the 2-day event, hotel accommodations, 2 lunches & breakfasts--all for just \$220. For a chance to renew your faith, it is definitely money well-spent. If you have questions, please contact Jamie Z. at: 695-1967 or jamiLzann@yahoo.com. To see the details of the Women of Faith event, visit their Web site at www.womenoffaith.com.



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".

Thanks,

Jamie Zannetti



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



AUGUST

SUN	MON	TUE	WED
	1 10:00 SHARE Group 6:00 FARE Basketball	2 6:15 Spiritual Growth Team 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	3 6:30 Outreach Team Meeting 7:00 Praise Band Practice 7:00 Seventh-day Adventists
7 10:30 Worship	8	9 12:00 Staff Meeting 6:30 Youth Team 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	10 5:00 Administrative Board Mtg. 6:00 Team Leaders 7:00 Praise Band Practice
14 10:30 Worship	15 6:00 Kathy Harris (Jewelry Show)	16 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	17 7:00 Praise Band Practice 7:00 Seventh-day Adventists
21 10:30 Worship	22	23 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	24 5:00 Administrative Board Mtg. 7:00 Praise Band Practice 7:00 Seventh-day Adventists
28 10:30 Worship	29	30 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous	31 7:00 Praise Band Practice 7:00 Seventh-day Adventists

2011

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



THU	FRI	SAT
<p>4</p> <p>7:00 Zumba Class</p>	<p>5</p> <p>4:00 Decorate Gym for Reception </p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:00 Seventh-day Adventists</p> <p>4:30 Isabel/Dimitoff Reception </p>
<p>11</p> <p>7:00 Zumba Class</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:00 Seventh-day Adventists 12:00 Seventh-day Adventists</p> <p>7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>
<p>18</p> <p>Women of Faith Event, Indiana</p> <p>6:30 Evangelism Team 7:00 Zumba Class</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Women of Faith Event, Indiana</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Women of Faith Event, Indiana</p> <p>9:00 Seventh-day Adventists</p> <p>7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>
<p>25</p> <p>4:00 Finance Team Mtg.</p> <p>7:00 Zumba Class</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00 Seventh-day Adventists 12:00 Seventh-day Adventists</p>

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
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BRANDON SANDERS

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
CARLA MEIER

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BARBARA BENSON

LEARNING HOUSE DIRECTOR
SUSAN M. ARNOULD

MAINTENANCE/CUSTODIAN
TOM MCLAREN

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