

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
October 27, 2011

The
Congregator

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 11



Happy Thanksgiving

Take time to reflect on the many ways we have to be thankful, as well as, for our family and friends.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets

The Outreach Team is looking for volunteers to purchase perishables and/or turkeys for the 14 families our church will be supplying with Thanksgiving food baskets. The families are all located in Grand Blanc. Please join us in supporting our neighbors in our community. This year we are adding a personalized note, welcome brochure, and a new crisis resource guide. The resource guide can be helpful to families in need of medical care, food resources, and more. You can also purchase non-perishable items listed below by the first letter of your last name as follows:

A-C canned goods;

D-G paper goods;

H-L cleaning supplies;

M-P hygiene products;

Q-X boxed goods;

T-Z canned fruits/vegetables and



Soups, pastas, tooth paste, paper towels and laundry detergent are all welcome. Please see Marty Royer after worship on October 30th to sign up to purchase perishables or turkeys. All perishable items should be in by November 20th and nonperishable items must be brought to the church no later than Thursday November 17th for delivery on Sunday, November 20th. Thank you for supporting this ministry. - The Outreach Team



Christmas Program

Rehearsal will take place on Sundays, 9:00 AM, beginning in November. Ages: preschool through 5th grade are all encouraged to attend! For more details, contact Susan Urogdy at 606-1482.

Stewardship 2012

Thank You For Caring

The theme for this year's stewardship campaign is "Thank You For Caring", which has a dual meaning. The Administrative Board and the Finance Committee want to thank the congregation for your generosity of time, talent, and gifts that have led us through the past two ears of interim pastoral care. All of us should thank the Lord for caring enough about us to bless us with His gifts and His everlasting grace.

There are many exciting things happening at First Congregational. We have a growing church school, an Upward basketball program that is filled to capacity, and a new forgiven band made up of church members. There are vibrant active groups such as Sister Circle, Brother Square, XYZ, SHARE, the choir, and others. The Learning House Daycare Center is full and is providing children with a safe fun learning environment. With the calling of Pastor Joe we are ready to bust loose and expand our ministries in 2012. We need everyone's financial support to continue to meet our operational expenses and to expand God's ministries through First Congregational. Please keep all of these wonderful ministries in mind as you contemplate how much you can return to the Lord through your pledge to First Congregational. Stewardship Sunday will be Nov 20th this year. You will be receiving a pledge card in the mail prior to the 20th and we ask that you fill it out and bring it with you to church on Stewardship Sunday. There will be a "Thank You For Caring" lunch immediately following worship service that Sunday and we hope you will attend. If you can't make it to church that Sunday, you can return your pledge card anytime later or you can fill out a secure, confidential pledge card online at our church's web site.

God has indeed blessed us abundantly thus far this year, and we joyfully look forward to see what God has in store for us in 2012.

Christmas Shoe Boxes

On October 30th we will be passing out shoe boxes to be filled for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. We will have 115 shoe boxes that can be picked up during coffee hour. This outreach opportunity reaches children all across the world by sharing gifts and the Word of God to all. The shoe boxes need to be given back to the church no later than the morning of Sunday November 20th. The shoe boxes can be filled with many different items, please see the following gift ideas and thank you again for supporting this wonderful ministry. ~ The Outreach Team

Gift ideas:

TOYS

small cars, balls, dolls, stuffed animals, kazoos, harmonicas, yo-yos, jump ropes, small Etch A Sketch®, toys that light up or make noise (with extra batteries), Slinky®, etc.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

pens, pencils and sharpener, crayons or markers, stamps and ink pad sets, writing pads or paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

HYGIENE ITEMS

toothbrush, toothpaste, mild bar soap (in a plastic bag), comb, washcloth, etc.

OTHER

Hard candy and lollipops (please double bag all candy), mints, gum, T-shirts, socks, ball caps; sunglasses, hair clips, toy jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries)

A PERSONAL NOTE

In a separate envelope, you may enclose a note to the child and a photo of yourself or your family. (If you include your name and address, the child may write back.)

DO NOT INCLUDE:

Used or damaged items; war-related items such as toy guns, knives or military figures; chocolate or food; out-of-date candy; liquids or lotions; medications or vitamins; breakable items such as snow globes or glass containers; aerosol cans

XYZ MEETING

The next meeting will be November 17th at 5:00 PM, potluck dinner, bring a dish to pass. Paul McCollom (Fisher House) is the guest speaker. Hope to see you there!!

Evangelical Homes of Michigan cordially invites members of the congregation on Sunday, November 13, 2011 to attend their 2011 Annual Meeting and Recognition Reception, where they will also host a Hard Hat Tour of the Redies Center for Rehabilitation and Healthy Living. This year's event will be held at Saint Joseph Mercy Saline in the Lobby and Community Room, located at 400 W. Russell St. in Saline. The scheduled program is as follows:

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM Lobby Reception and Hard Hat Tour of the Redies Center for Rehabilitation and Healthy Living

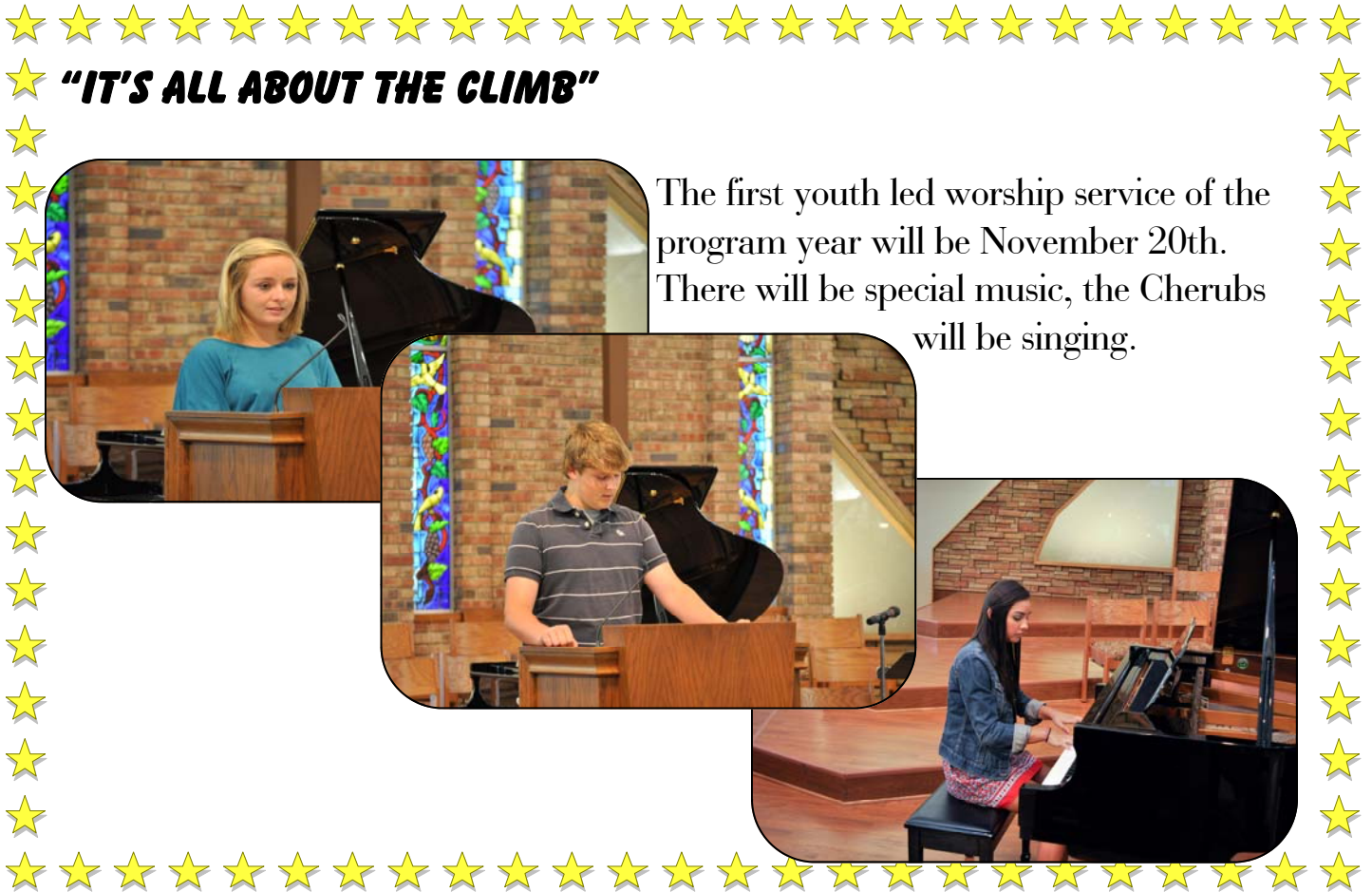
3:00 PM - 3:30 PM 132nd Annual Meeting of Evangelical Homes of Michigan

3:30 PM - 4:30 PM Recognition Reception and Presentation

Denise B. Rabidoux,
President & CEO
Evangelical Homes of Michigan

Thank you to all who enjoyed brunch on Sunday. The Senior High worked hard to prepare a wonderful meal and are so happy that so many people stayed to enjoy it. We raised over \$300 to help offset the cost of our youth activities. A special thank you to Mrs. Kenkel, Mr. & Mrs. Bonadies, Mrs. Harris and all the parents who donated egg bakes.

The Net



★ **"IT'S ALL ABOUT THE CLIMB"**



The first youth led worship service of the program year will be November 20th. There will be special music, the Cherubs will be singing.



*A Faith of Your Own: Naming
What You Believe*

Sunday Mornings at 9:00 AM,
November 6 - December 4

Led by Pastor Joe

There are many dynamics that make up your Faith. What shapes your beliefs? Do you know what we, as a church, stand for? This class will help you identify what you fully believe to be true. Such clarity empowers the present and leads us toward the future in our faith journey. Learn and discuss what goes into creating a *faith of your own* worth believing in.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Tuesday Morning at 9:15 AM,
November 8th

Led by Pastor Joe

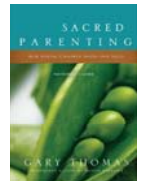
Topics and discussion are based on the Lectionary series, childcare available.

*Sacred Parenting: How Raising
Children Shapes Our Souls*

Monday Evenings, 6:00 PM – 8:00
PM November 7- December 12,

Dinner & Childcare Provided

Ever wonder what God had in mind for you when he gave you your children, each with their own unique personality? Meet up with some of the parents from our church as we look at parenting from a different perspective; as a method of spiritual formation. God gave us these wonderful gifts of children, discover how parenting can bring you closer to Him.





Jake says . . .

Thank you, everyone, who worked so hard to make October 9 happen!" Many thanks, also, for the generous Bordine's gift card. I will remember you as Dawn directs my digging in the yard next spring. A lot of digging will be needed to work off the pounds from the super brunch. It was a celebration to remember! Even more significant, you are a congregation to remember. I am grateful for your support which made the interim mileposts possible.

I will follow your mission *via* the Congregator with keen interest. Blessings to all of you as you move into a new future with God and Pastor Joe.



Book of the Month

Check out this Inspirational book in our Church Library located in the Welcome Center!

Fearless: Imagine Your Life Without Fear by Max Lucado

Fear is like an invisible prison. It holds you captive, influencing your choices and perceptions about life, God, and other people. Can you imagine what your life would be like without fear? With so much going wrong in the world it can seem hard to picture. In *Fearless*, Max Lucado shows you how life can be lived with confidence and joy, when you replace your fear with faith. Let this inspiring and timely message encourage your heart today!

Family Advent Night

Mark your calendars! Advent Family Night is Sunday, December 4th from 5:00 PM -7:00 PM. Advent night is the perfect way to begin the Christmas season. Come and enjoy dinner, a craft, and Christmas carols. This year each family will be making their own Advent wreath, learning what each candle means and why we light them each Sunday. Don't miss out on all the fun!



Thank you to all who supported and walked in our 33rd Annual CROP Walk. God gave us a beautiful day and we collected \$979.00, (25% of which will stay in the local community). A special thank you to Tracy and the kids from The Ring. Their participation was extra special.



*Blessings,
Barb Benson,
Recruiter*

UCC T-Shirts

Attention, we now have awesome new "church shirts". Get in the game, join the UCC team and purchase yours today. The Evangelism Team will be taking orders until November 13th. Order sheets will be in the Christian Life Center on Sunday or call the church office during the week. We have both shirts Zone (yellow with green print) and Adult shirts (blue with white print).
T-shirts - \$10,
Collared Shirts - \$12,
Shirts and Sweatshirts - \$23.



Sister Circle

Sister Circle is working at the North End Soup Kitchen on Sunday, November 6th. Anyone interested in helping, please contact Jamie Z at 695-1967. Sister Circle meets for their book study on Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00 PM.




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

NOVEMBER 2011

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



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>6 Harvest Time * Stake Circle * Soup Kitchen * Stake Circle * 8:30 Brothers Squared 9:00 Christmas Celebration Practice 9:00 Faith of Your Own 10:30 Worship 10:30 The Net 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship 8:00 Men's Basketball</p>	<p>7 10:00 SHARE Group 6:00 Building/Ground Team 6:30 Sacred Parenting Class 6:30 Boy Scout Mtg 6:45 Boy Scout Parent Mtg</p>	<p>8 9:15 Pastor Bible Study 6:00 FA/BE Basketball 6:30 Youth Team 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Foreign Band Practice</p>	<p>9 10:00 Chapel 12:00 Staff Mtg 5:00 Admin Board Mtg 6:00 Autism Group Basketball 6:00 Team Leader Mtg 7:00 Seventh-Day Adventists</p>	<p>10 4:30 Confirmation 7:00 Zumba 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>11 6:00 FA/BE Basketball</p>	<p>12 9:00 Seventh-Day Adventists 12:00 Seventh-Day Adventists Luncheon 2:30 Barber Birthday Party 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>
<p>13 9:00 Christmas Celebration Practice 9:00 Faith of Your Own 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship 8:00 Men's Basketball</p>	<p>14 6:00 Upward Evaluations 6:30 Boy Scout Mtg 6:30 Sacred Parenting Class</p>	<p>15 9:15 Pastor Bible Study 6:00 Upward Evaluations 6:00 Fellowship Team 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Foreign Band Practice</p>	<p>16 10:00 Chapel 6:00 Autism Group Basketball 7:00 Seventh-Day Adventists 8:00 FA/BE Basketball</p>	<p>17 4:00 Finance Team 4:30 Worship Team 4:30 Confirmation 5:00 XYZ Mtg 6:30 Evangelism Team 7:00 Zumba 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>18 6:00 FA/BE Basketball</p>	<p>19 9:00 Seventh-Day Adventists 12:00 Seventh-Day Adventists Luncheon 2:30 Barber Birthday Party 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>
<p>20 Sewanapim Sunday Youth Worship Service 9:00 Christmas Celebration Practice 9:00 Faith of Your Own 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship 11:30 Net/Delivery Food Baskets 8:00 Men's Basketball</p>	<p>21 Congregator Advice Devotion * 10:00 Christmas Decorations 6:30 Boy Scout Mtg 6:30 Sacred Parenting Class</p>	<p>22 Community Thanksgiving * St. Chirophora 9:15 Pastor Bible Study 10:00 Christmas Decorations 6:00 FA/BE Basketball 7:00 Sister Circle 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Foreign Band Practice</p>	<p>23 5:00 Admin Board Mtg 6:00 Autism Group Basketball 7:00 Seventh-Day Adventists</p>	<p>24 Learning House & Office Closed </p>	<p>25 Learning House & Office Closed</p>	<p>26 9:00 Seventh-Day Adventists 12:00 Seventh-Day Adventists Luncheon 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>
<p>27 9:00 Christmas Celebration Practice 9:00 Faith of Your Own 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship 8:00 Men's Basketball</p>	<p>28 6:30 Boy Scout Mtg 6:30 Sacred Parenting Class</p>	<p>29 9:15 Pastor Bible Study 6:00 Upward Evaluations 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Foreign Band Practice</p>	<p>30 10:00 Chapel 6:00 Autism Group Basketball 7:00 Seventh-Day Adventists 8:00 FA/BE Basketball</p>			



**2011-12 Upward
Basketball/Cheerleading**



First Congregational United Church of Christ is pleased to announce the registration is now open. Registration and credit card forms can be found at <http://www.uccgrandblanc.org/Upward.html>. Early Registration fee is \$65, after November 7th, registration fee is \$75. **Deadline for registration is November 29th.**

All participants must attend Orientation/Evaluations!!

Orientation/Evaluations

November 14th and 15th - 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Kindergarten through 2nd Grade - Monday, Nov. 14

3rd through 6th Grade - Tuesday, Nov. 15

Make-up Evaluations

Tuesday, November 29

Kindergarten through 2nd Grade - 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

3rd through 6th Grade - 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Games start January 21, 2012

Due to the phenomenal growth the past 4 years, we encourage all participants to pre-register. Form and registration fee may be dropped off at the church office Monday through Friday between 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM. Registration may also be faxed to (810) 695-5117.

Upward Ministry Volunteers Needed

We have been blessed with phenomenal growth the past four years. As we continue to serve God and touch lives of our community, we need volunteers in multiple areas. Please see the enclosed card for details on how you can help.

CONGRADULATIONS!!



Jacob Tali competed in a Soccer Accuracy Shootout competition sponsored by the Knights of Columbus over the past month. Taking first place here in Grand Blanc at the Districts, then again at the Regionals in

Ann Arbor qualifying him for the State Finals in Standish last weekend. For his age group, 11 year old boys, he took first place in the State on Sunday.

Bob and I want to thank everyone for your prayers and cards during Bob's surgery and recuperation. Bob is now



Thank You

at home and working on getting stronger. We hope to be able to join you in worship soon.

We want to thank all members and friends of the First Congregational UCC for your thoughts and prayers during the past months. We're feeling stronger every day. Thank you!

God Bless!

DeJoy & Norma Burrow



	Aug	Year-To-Date
Operating Fund (less Learning House)		
Revenue	27,890	273,315
Expense	34,257	311,111
Total	-6,367	-37,796
Learning House		
Revenue	32,093	261,491
Expense	27,640	224,820
Total	4,453	36,671
Grand Total	-1,914	-1,125

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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REV. DR. M. JACOB KAUFMAN

PASTOR EMERITUS
REV. JOHN M. BYERS

**DIRECTOR YOUTH &
EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES**
TRACY LOOMIS

CHURCH SECRETARY
WANDA KITCHEN

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
BRANDON SANDERS

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
CARLA MEIER

PARISH VISITOR
BARBARA BENSON

LEARNING HOUSE DIRECTOR
SUSAN M. ARNOULD

MAINTENANCE/CUSTODIAN
TOM MCLAREN

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