

*First Congregational*  
*United Church of Christ*  
*September 22, 2011*

**The**

# **Congregator**

VOLUME 28, ISSUE 10



**Neighbors in Need &  
World Communion - Sunday, October 2, 2011  
CROP Walk - Sunday October 9, 2011  
Backpack Program - Sunday, October 23, 2011**

## Jake says #1...

“Pastor Joe is coming!!”

**YES !!!** The exciting morning of July 17 is just a memory now. In about three weeks, Pastor Joe and Beth will be settling in Grand Blanc. You soon will have a new installed pastor!

You have asked Pastor Joe to take care of you - teach, lead, inform, challenge, and love the FCUCC family. In turn, you are called to love and care for him and his family. The topic of the Academy of Parish Clergy Annual Convocation three years ago was a question: “What makes for healthy clergy?” The presenter was The Rev. Kent Siladi, Conference Minister for the UCC in Florida.

The question is posed as a medical model, and does presuppose a concern about the incidence of pastoral heart attacks, mental/emotional imbalance, and stress-related conditions. More clergy are alcoholics and more clergy suicides occur than we might expect. The medical model presumes a prescription. Such prescriptions often are heard at installation services, especially in the Charge to the Pastor: “Take your ‘weekend’ (2 days) off, reserve some evening time for your family, remember devotions, find a supportive colleague/friend, have a hobby, pray, exercise, . . .” In addition to 50+ hours of ministerial practice, “You should . . ., you ought . . ., you need to . . ., you must . . .” Add your favorites.

What might happen if we rephrased the question: “What makes for *effective* clergy?” When I finished seminary, there was an expectation that pastors would be counselors. After a few malpractice lawsuits, the church and most clergy junked that idea. Around 1975, someone decided that pastors should be administrators, so we all registered for continuing education seminars in management, administration, personnel, and finance. Around 2000, another perceptive observer of the church scene noted that clergy were having a high incidence of physical and mental health issues, coupled with a high rate of being encouraged to pray for a speedy new call from God. Clergy thought they had heard a call from God, and in response, made a life-commitment to become pastors (shepherds, Bible teachers, spiritual leaders). Clergy found themselves contorted into business-world models which had little or no relationship to their call, commitment, or initial training. No wonder clergy had ulcers, felt confused, and dropped out in droves! Add to that the frequent experience of being blamed for shrinking churches, and the stats on clergy breakdown make sense. When a pastor does 40+ hours of congregational spiritual care and development (with more waiting to be done, resulting in guilt and shame), and then is burdened with 20 hours of church operation (for which there often is little personal skill, interest, or commitment), we easily can understand why churches fail even faster than the neglected clergy families fail.

My late father-in-law was a skilled glass-blower and electronic tube developer. He blew envelopes and vacuum-pumped tubes for Philo Farnsworth’s initial TV experiments, which later became RCA’s image orthicon camera and CRT display tubes. His career was research, not business. When he retired, he volunteered two days/week as the business manager for a large church in Charlottesville, VA, where he and Momma settled. Who, here and now, will step forward to make it possible for Pastor Joe to be FCUCC’s pastor, investing his time and self into the future of FCUCC’s mission, rather than into micro-managing FCUCC’s current institutional survival? Let’s free Pastor Joe to be the pastor God has chosen for FCUCC, and the pastor you are dreaming him to be!

The future is upon you. God is with you.

**Blessings on FCUCC!**

## Jake says #2. . .

“Pastor Jake is leaving!”

YES !! On Sunday morning, October 9, we will have a *Celebration of Interim Closure*. I will be in the office for a couple of days the week following, mostly moving out. The Administrative Board meets on Wednesday evening, so I’ll be at church then for sure. The Rev. Reginald Lancaster will be leading worship on October 16, the Sunday between Interim Closure and Pastor Joe’s beginning on October 23.

As I am writing this, your future is fairly clear. My future is not 100% defined yet, though it will be by the time you read this.

Our interim transition time is ending. I am leaving you, having collected great new memories from my interim work. FCUCC has made significant progress in understanding its mission. That progress gives me a sense that this has been worthwhile time. I am excited about your future. You, as you respond to God’s call for FCUCC, will determine how you carry out your mission in your future.

I am excited about my future, too. Though my future is unofficial now as I write, it will be much more firm as you are reading this some two weeks later. This is both a nervous time and a time when my theology takes on very practical dimensions.

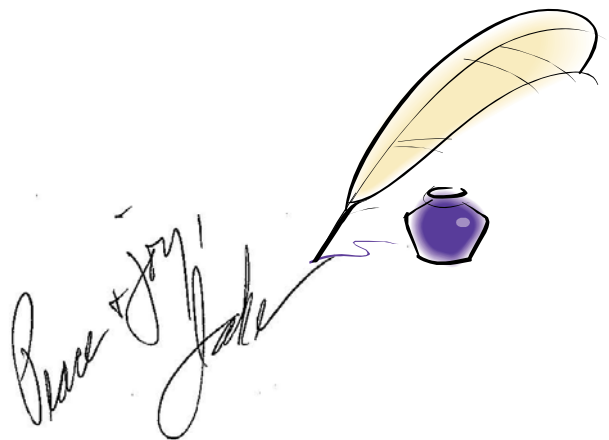
Someone once said, “I don’t know what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future!” For me, that knowledge is security, it is hope that is promise, and it is peace in the midst of chaos.

One of the important parts of concluding a pastorate, regardless of style or duration, is the responsibility to make a clean break. Your incoming pastor, Pastor Joe, is entitled to a clean playing field. I will be watching your progress with keen interest by way of the *Congregator*. That is one way I can monitor the effectiveness of the work I have completed, deepening my experience reservoir by observation and reflection.

After the benediction on our Interim Closure Sunday, October 9, I will remove my preaching bands (tabs). The bands are the mark of a current resident pastor. From that moment forward, I will follow your progress from wherever I may be as another pilgrim, and not as your pastor. We will celebrate letting go of my pastoral role at FCUCC. You will be free to begin welcoming your new resident pastor, The Rev. Joe Schulte!

You, and our time together, have been a joy for me. Paraphrasing Tiny Tim in Dickens’ *Christmas Carol*,

“God bless you, everyone!”



## *Farewell to Pastor Jake*

*Please join us for Christian fellowship as we honor Pastor Jake's interim ministry with us and wish him well in his future endeavors.*

**WHAT:** *Brunch after Church*

**WHEN:** *Sunday, October 9, 2011*

**WHERE:** *First Congregational Church Christian Life Center*

**Gift Donation:** *If you would like to make a donation toward Jake's farewell gift, please put in the collection plate or drop off in the church office by October 2<sup>nd</sup>.*

# Welcome!!

**FCUCC Welcomes Pastor Joe October 23rd as he officially begins his role as the Senior Pastor. In honor of this special event, please be in attendance to offer a warm welcome to Pastor Joe and his wife, Beth. We are excited about starting our journey with them.**

### **Men's Basketball**

The basketball season is upon us. Join us for men's basketball on Sundays, starting September 18th, from 8:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**XYZ Group** is meeting on October 20 at 5:00 p.m. with host guest speaker, Anita Salustro from the Attorney General's office.

The *Spiritual Growth Team* would like to thank all who donated books to the church library. The library is located in the Welcome Center and is now open and ready for you to check out books.



**Thanks**

### **2nd Annual Family Apple/Raspberry Picking Outing**

Join the Fellowship Team at Spicer's Orchard in Fenton on Sunday October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2:00 p.m. For more information contact Erin Spicer at (810) 397-4564.



### CROP Walk



The 33rd Annual CROP Walk will take place on October 9th at 1:30 p.m., starting at Holy Family Church. CROP Walk funds provide emergency food and supplies to build better lives. The local community receives 25% of the donations and the rest goes to the Church World Service. Our church goal is \$1,100.00. Can't walk? Please sponsor a walker. Opportunities to give will be in the Fellowship Hall after worship on September 25th, October 2nd & 9th, or call Barb Benson (694-1867) for more details. Why should we participate? Read Matthew 25:31-46.

### Backpack Program - Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>

The Outreach Team is excited about the church sponsoring the McGrath School for a second year for the Backpack Program Ministry through The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan. The church will be sponsoring 24 McGrath Elementary School students in Grand Blanc. The Backpack Program is a project that attempts to reduce child hunger. Approximately 50% of the students at McGrath are enrolled in the free-lunch program and do not have adequate supplies of food at home. The program provides an at-risk child with a backpack of nutritious food every weekend throughout the entire school year. We are leading the community by being a continuing sponsor for the first Grand Blanc School to have been involved in the Backpack Program. The program begins in the school the first full week of October once all the students are settled in. We have donations to cover the first few weeks before the special Sunday collection. We are sponsoring 24 children for an entire school year and will need to raise \$2400. We will be collecting donations during the worship service on October 23rd. You will also have an opportunity to donate by sending in a donation to the church office. Make checks payable to The Food Bank of Eastern Michigan with "McGrath School" listed in the memo line. If you have any questions contact Jeff Zannetti at (810) 695-1967.



- For \$25 you can feed a child for a quarter of the school year.
- For \$50 you can feed a child for half of the school year.
- For \$100 you can feed a child for an entire school year!

## Sacred Parenting Class begins October 12th

Sacred Parenting helps you look at parenting from a different perspective. In this six-week video group study, you will follow the roadmap to spiritual growth through the children that God has given you to parent. You will grow closer to Christ and your children as you learn to enjoy your kids for who they are, and build a closer, grace-based family.

Please sign up with the church office at 695-0550 to reserve your place in this exciting class. It will be offered Wednesday nights, **October 12 - November 16 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** The cost of this class is \$20 per family. The cost includes 1 participant guide book, dinner every week, and childcare.



## Book of the Month

The Spiritual Growth Team invites you check this month's feature book out from our Church Library: *If You Want to Walk on Water You've Got to Get Out of the Boat* by John Ortberg

Far too many of us have put our faith in a casual Christianity that never compels us to leave our comfort zones. But, deep within our hearts we know that Christ has not called us to comfort, but to an exciting, sacrificial and overwhelmingly fulfilling faith.

You're One Step Away from the Adventure of Your Life Deep within you lies the same faith and longing that sent Peter walking across the wind-swept Sea of Galilee toward Jesus. In what ways is the Lord telling you, as he did Peter, 'Come'? John Ortberg invites you to consider the incredible potential that awaits you outside your comfort zone. Out on the risky waters of faith, Jesus is waiting to meet you in ways that will change you forever, deepening your character and your trust in God. The experience is terrifying. It's thrilling beyond belief. It's everything you'd expect of someone worthy to be called Lord. The choice is yours to know him as only a water-walker can, aligning yourself with God's purpose for your life in the process. There's just one requirement: *If You Want to Walk on Water, You've Got to Get Out of the Boat.*



## Neighbors in Need

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 2nd, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through UCCTakeAction.org, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbors in the UCC. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked in Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in the North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the United States.

## THE DISCOVERY ZONE



The Discovery Zone  
Learning about God

*...to tell and live  
the story of God's  
love, so that  
those who hear  
may experience  
and participate in that love.*

As young children begin their educational journey, our mission in the Discovery Zone is for children to learn basic Bible stories and experience God's love.

This group is divided into five zones: Infants, Zone One & Two, Zone Three & Four.

The Discovery Zone meets on

Sunday mornings:

- ✦10:30 to 10:45 Pre-K (*Cherub Choir*)
- ✦10:30 to 11:30 Classes



## THE CONSTRUCTION ZONE



The Construction Zone  
Growing with God

*As children  
mature in their  
educational  
journeys  
through the  
Construction  
Zone, they will experience the  
stories of the Bible and begin to  
demonstrate and understand  
God's call to share His love with  
others in the world*

The elementary children are divided into four groups: Kindergarten (Betty Shier and Paris Stetkiw), First (Jamie Zannetti), Second grade (Greg Kenkel), Third/ Fourth grade (Bob and Deb Ermiger). The Multi-Age sessions are led by Steve and Betsy Wambaugh, and Mike Spicer.

The Construction Zone meets on Sunday mornings:

- ✦10:30 to 10:45 Worship (leave after Moment with the Youth)
  - ✦10:45 to 11:30 Christian Education
- This year we have divided the C. Zone into two groups for multi-age, K-1st and 2nd- 4th.



## THE APPRENTICES



*Learning to  
stand on their  
own in their  
faith and  
experiencing what it means to  
journey with God and bringing  
others together to do the same.*

These are young people preparing to enter confirmation and consist of 5th graders. The Apprentice class learn the elements of worship, history of the UCC and First Congregational Church, understanding of the bible, and transitioning the middle high.

This group meets on Sunday mornings in the conference room from 10:30 to 11:30.



## THE RING



*Continue  
the journey  
down the  
path of*

*discipleship by learning about the  
Bible and church history.*

Monthly Fellowship/Service  
Events

Middle High youth groups meet  
on Thursday evenings:

- ✦ 4:30 to 5:00 Gym Activities
- ✦ 5:00 to 5:30 Dinner/Fellowship
- ✦ 5:30 to 6:15 Confirmation Classes



## THE NET



*Learning to  
walk the  
path of  
discipleship*

*in the world*

Participating in study and fellowship events. All study and activities are focused on the five biblical purposes. Each year, The Net participates in special service projects including Work Camp, a week of focus on outreach and community-building.

The Senior High group meets Sunday morning at 10:30 on week one/two of month and at 6:00 on Sunday evenings on

week three/four of month.



## **SPIRITUAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS**

- 1) Series 1: "Focus on the Family"  
Session 1: "Sacred Parenting"  
Oct. 12 - Nov. 16  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.  
Session 2: "Things I wish I knew before I got Married"  
Mar. 19 - Apr. 23  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- 2) Series 2: "Building your Faith"  
Session 1: "A Faith of Your Own: What You Believe"  
Nov. 6 - Dec. 14  
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.  
Session 2: "Have a Little Faith"  
Feb. 19 - Mar. 25  
9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- 3) Small Group Home Studies  
"God is Closer than you Think"  
"The Life you've always Wanted"  
Session 1: Oct. - Dec.  
Session 2: Mar. - May
- 4) Tuesday Morning Bible Study  
Lectionary Study  
Tuesdays, Fall & Spring  
9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
- 5) "The Way we're Wired"  
Jan. 19 - Feb. 23  
5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
- 6) Sister Circle - meets 4th Tuesday each month @ 7:00 p.m.  
Brother Square - meets first Sunday a month @ 8:30 a.m.



**Fellowship Brunch on Sunday, October 23rd**

The Net is hosting a fundraising brunch following worship at 11:30 a.m. The cost is \$15 per family or \$5 per person. All profits help to offset youth activity expenses. Please join us and help support the youth program.



**Sister Circle Meets September 27th**



This year we have a great Sister Circle planning team set up for you. It includes Jamie Emmendorfer, Paris Stetkiw, Susan Urogdy, and Jamie Zannetti. Please feel free to contact any of them with questions or ideas!

We had a great turn out at the Kickoff dinner with 10 new faces joining us! We introduced our new DVD book study "*The Esteemed Journey*" and had a great dinner while catching up with friends. If you are interested in ordering a book, please let us know. The cost is \$9.99, checks made payable to the church.

Mark your calendars now--We will have our first official meeting **Tuesday, September 27th @ 7:00 p.m.** (and every 4th Tuesday of the month). This will be a time to get to know one another and pass out our new study books. We will also be looking ahead to see what is on the calendar for the year.

***Special Thanks***

I wish to thank all of you for the many cards, visits, gifts, phone calls and prayers, etc. during my recent hospital stay and several other weeks. It was very comforting to know so many people cared.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness. May God bless each and every one of you!

Sincerely,  
Dale Wells


















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

# OCTOBER 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
<p>30</p> <p> <b>New Members Join</b></p> <p>9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship 8:00 Men's Basketball</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:30 Boy Scout Mtg.</p>	<p>4</p> <p> 10:00 Pastor Bible Study</p> <p>6:15 Spiritual Growth Team 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Forgiveness Band Practice</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00 Chapel</p> <p>6:00 Autism Group Basketball 6:30 Outreach Team Mtg 7:00 Seventh-Day Adventists</p>	<p>6</p> <p> 4:30 Confirmation 7:00 Zumba 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1</p> <p>9:00 Seventh-Day Adventists</p> <p>4:00 McCormell/A Miami Wedding 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>
<p>2</p> <p> <b>Neighbors in Need Offering</b> <b>World Communion Sunday</b></p> <p>8:30 Brothers Squared 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 10:30 The Net 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship 8:00 Men's Basketball</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 SHARE Group</p> <p>6:00 Building/Ground Team 6:30 Boy Scout Mtg. 6:45 Fall Parent Troop Mtg</p>	<p>11</p> <p> 10:00 Pastor Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 Youth Team 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Forgiveness Band Practice</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00 Chapel</p> <p>6:00 Autism Group Basketball 6:00 Sacred Parenting Series 7:00 Seventh-Day Adventists</p>	<p>13</p> <p> 4:30 Confirmation 7:00 Zumba 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00 Stewardship Mailing</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00 Seventh-Day Adventists 12:00 Seventh-Day Adventists Luncheon</p> <p>7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>
<p>9</p> <p> 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 The Net 11:30 New Member Orientation 11:30 Fellowship 1:30 S/Baby Shower 8:00 Men's Basketball</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:30 Boy Scout Mtg.</p>	<p>18</p> <p> 10:00 Pastor Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Forgiveness Band Practice</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00 Chapel</p> <p>6:00 Autism Group Basketball 6:00 Sacred Parenting Series 7:00 Seventh-Day Adventists</p>	<p>20</p> <p> 4:30 Worship Team 4:30 Confirmation 5:00 XYZ Mtg 6:30 Evangelism Team 7:00 Zumba 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>21</p> <p> 4:00 Lawrence/Vanderlaan Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00 Seventh-Day Adventists</p> <p>4:00 Jeremy Memorial 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>
<p>16</p> <p> 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 New Member Orientation 11:30 Fellowship 6:00 The Net</p>	<p>17</p> <p><b>Congregator Articles Deadline</b></p> <p>6:30 Boy Scout Mtg.</p>	<p>25</p> <p> 10:00 Pastor Bible Study</p> <p>7:00 Sister Circle 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous 7:00 Forgiveness Band Practice</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10:00 Chapel 12:00 Staff Mtg</p> <p>6:00 Autism Group Basketball 6:00 Sacred Parenting Series 7:00 Seventh-Day Adventists</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00 Congregator Folded 4:00 Finance Committee 4:30 Confirmation 7:00 Zumba 7:30 Choir</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00 Seventh-Day Adventists 12:00 Seventh-Day Adventists Luncheon 3:00 Lawrence/Vanderlaan Wedding 4:00 Sister Circle Social Event 7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>
<p>23</p> <p> 9:00 The Net 9:15 Bible Study 10:30 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 11:30 Fellowship 11:30 Fundraiser Brunch 8:00 Men's Basketball</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:30 Boy Scout Mtg.</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00 Pastor Bible Study</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00 Seventh-Day Adventists</p> <p>7:00 Alcoholics Anonymous</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>29</p>	

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