



July, 2024

*Embracing people at every age and every stage
of life, helping them to become the most loving version of themselves possible.*

First Congregational United Church of Christ

218 W. Second Street
Gaylord, MI 49735
989-732-5726

www.firstuccgaylord.org

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pastorg@firstuccgaylord.org

Moderator: Maggie Wallin
margaretwallin@msn.com

Finance: Jessica Benoit
finance@firstuccgaylord.org

**Communications
Coordinator:**
Stephanie Kalember
office@firstuccgaylord.org

Church Service: Sunday, 10 am



Pastor's Column – July, 2024

"Gaylord's First Church"

This month, we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of First Congregational Church. We'll gather in worship at 10:00 AM in the sanctuary, followed by a catered meal immediately after. Thank you to Women's Fellowship for a generous donation toward most of the cost of the meal. The rest will come from church funds.

The meal will also feature some pictures and Brenda is working on a video about our history. Between now and then, I will be interviewed on TV 9/10 on Tuesday, July 9 (thank you, Laura Hotelling!). I'm not yet sure when the broadcast will air.

As if that is not enough, we also have been featured in the Otsego County Historical Society's latest book of county history (along with our beloved June Jans!). A copy of the book can be purchased at the Otsego County Library (easiest method) or the Historical Society (limited hours) for \$20. There is one copy being shared through the church. Let me know if you would like to see it!

But we're not done! The night before the anniversary, Rokko will have his annual concert in honor of his mother, June, at 7PM. We plan to hold this concert in the sanctuary, unless there is excessive heat, and then it will move to the fellowship hall. Donations are requested and this year will benefit Crossroads Industries.

We've never been Gaylord's largest church, but we have always been an active member of our communities. Whether it is the community meal, hosting community groups, or sharing a message of love, peace and inclusion, this congregation may be small, but it certainly is mighty!

I hope you'll join us in celebrating the 150th anniversary. If you plan to attend the meal, please RSVP by **JULY 7** on either the sign-up sheet in fellowship hall or email the office (office@firstuccgaylord.org) or send a note. You may call the church office to RSVP but know that there isn't someone here to answer the phone much of the time.

If you have questions, please ask! It should be a great celebration weekend!

In Christian love,

Greg

Pastor Greg's New Schedule

As many of you know, I work part-time here at church. In addition, I work part-time for Gaylord Community Funeral Home, which includes home and facility removals of those who have passed, and occasionally helping with funeral services. Up until now, that schedule has largely been Friday nights and every other weekend, plus filling in for others vacations/illnesses/family events.

Starting July 1 I will be working a new schedule that will impact church a little more than before. In the new schedule, I will be on call every other week for the full week. Most of these calls happen overnight. Although the schedule is not completely finalized, Sunday mornings (of course) are church times, as well as most all day on Thursdays (with limited exceptions). To make this work, I may be working Mondays to free up my counterpart (who is also a pastor). That means that on Mondays it is possible that I will not be as available as in the past. It is best to call the church first if you plan to come in that day.

This doesn't change the fact that you may always contact me in the event of an emergency or if you need pastoral care in any way. My cell phone number is (920)472-9172. PLEASE leave a message if you don't get me right away. Sometimes I'm unable to answer if I'm with a family for either the church or funeral home.

I know this may be confusing, and you are more than welcome to ask me any questions you may have about the schedule.

In short, I still will be in the office on Mondays and Thursdays.



July 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 6-7 AM Gratitude Group Reaching In, 12 PM	2	3 6-7 AM Gratitude Group	4 NO Bible Study NO Choir 	5 6-7 AM Gratitude Group NO Community Meal Talking Circle, 7-9 PM	6 Fellowship Hall in use, 2:30 - 4:30 PM
7 Worship, 10 AM RSVP deadline for 150th	8 6-7 AM Gratitude Group	9 Alpenfest 	10 6-7 AM Gratitude Group Alpenfest 	11 Bible Study 11 AM Choir 4 PM Alpenfest 	12 6-7 AM Gratitude Group Community Meal 4 PM Talking Circle, 7-9 PM Alpenfest 	13 ALPENFEST PARADE 
14 * OUTDOOR Worship, 10 AM 	15 6-7 AM Gratitude Group Reaching Out, 7 PM	16 Lunch Group, 12 PM @ Pine Squirrel.	17 6-7 AM Gratitude Group Trustees - 7 PM	18 Bible Study 11 AM Choir 4 PM	19 6-7 AM Gratitude Group Community Meal 4 PM Talking Circle, 7-9 PM	20  June Jans Concert 7 PM
21 150th Worship, 10 AM Luncheon after service RSVP by 7/7	22 6-7 AM Gratitude Group	23 Salad Luncheon, 11:30 AM 	24 6-7 AM Gratitude Group Church Book Club, 1 PM	25 Bible Study 11 AM Choir 4 PM	26 6-7 AM Gratitude Group Community Meal 4 PM Talking Circle, 7-9 PM	27
28 Worship, 10 AM	29 6-7 AM Gratitude Group	30	31 6-7 AM Gratitude Group	AUGUST 1 Bible Study 11 AM Choir 4 PM	2 6-7 AM Gratitude Group Community Meal 4 PM Talking Circle, 7-9 PM	3

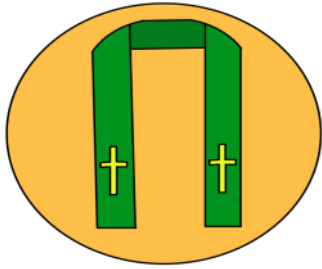


This summer we will have outdoor worship on the second Sunday of June, July, and August. July 14th, will be the next outside service for this season. Please bring a lawn chair, if you are able.

Tables!

The trustees approved the use of memorial funds to purchase some new tables for Fellowship Hall. Due to this recent purchase and the arrival of the new tables we have 4 older (heavier) tables available. We also have 12 wooden folding chairs. If you are interested in the tables or chairs, please see Pastor Greg.





Ordination

You're invited

UNITED NORTHERN ASSOCIATION

Michigan Conference, United Church of Christ
P.O. Box 1006
East Lansing, Michigan 48826-1006

To the Clergy and Laity of the
United Northern Association

The Committee on Ministry
Invites you to attend the

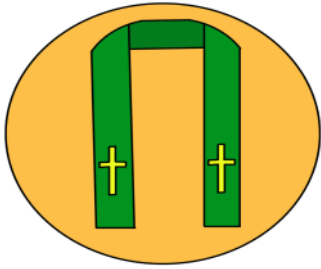
Service of Ordination for
Aaron Rieder

to be held at 3:00 p.m.
Sunday, July 21, 2024

First Congregational Church
308 S. Main St.
Cheboygan, MI 49721

Clergy are invited to wear robes and red stoles.

Refreshments will follow the service.



Ordination

You're invited

*The First Congregational United Church of Christ of
Onokama in covenant with the United Northern
Association of the Michigan Conference United Church
of Christ cordially invites you to attend*

The Installation Service for

*The Reverend Alison Andrea Young
As pastor and teacher of our church.*

*First Congregational UCC of Onokama
4920 Spring Street
Onokama, MI*

July 14, 2024

4:00 PM

*Please join us in the sanctuary for the service.
Refreshments will be served under the tent on the
front lawn following the service. Special music
and fellowship will also be enjoyed.*

*If you plan to attend, please RSVP at
appledumplingchurch@yahoo.com
Clergy are invited to robe and wear red stoles.*



July Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays:

- 3 Joel Sietsema
- 4 Tony Dockery-Fobar
- 4 Laura Hotelling
- 16 Lori Ferguson
- 16 Harrison Kalember
- 18 Whitney Rigney
- Mary Evans
- 21 Gloria House
- 23 Nola-Jean ("Nola")
Brown
- 26 Jackie Fry
- 31 Brianna Boughner

Birthdays:

- 3 Roger and Brenda
Brummel

NEW SERMON SERIES TO CONTINUE. . .

For years, I have wanted to preach a series on "The Beatitudes". Years ago, someone mentioned in a book (I think it was Fr. Richard Rohr) that no one preaches on those, and the church spends little time discussing The Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew's Gospel. I'm still working on what this series will look like, but it will be based on Fr. Rohr's book *Jesus' Alternative Plan: The Sermon on the Mount*. My goal is that we will begin to memorize the Beatitudes the same way we memorize the Ten Commandments.

We will share the Beatitudes each week in worship, concentrating on one at a time (I think). To get us thinking, what is different between "Thou Shalt Not..." and "Blessed are you when..."?

Maybe Jesus is trying to say something important to people of faith? Let's learn together.

Pastor Greg

The Beatitudes

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.



Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.



Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.



Salad Luncheon Season!



Salad luncheons are back! Below are the dates and sponsorship for each. Watch for a sign-up list each month, if you would like to help!

2024 Salad Luncheon Schedule

MONTH	COMMITTEE
May 28, 2024	Women's Fellowship
June 25, 2024	Scholarship
July 23, 2024	Reaching In
August 27, 2024	Council
September 24, 2024	Reaching Out
October 22, 2024	Women's Fellowship

~ *In Our Prayers* ~

During the month of June the UNA is holding the *Ironton First Congregational UCC* in prayer.

Staci Brown's mother, Jean Radke – she is now home and recovering well from a recent stroke. Staci is asking for prayers for continued progress moving forward.

The Clark Family – As they grieve Charlene's passing on June 23, 2024.

Laura Bantens' partner, Chris Crumbaugh – she is recuperating after an ER visit.

Mike Termaat, brother-in-law of Pat Dressel – as he has had surgery to remove fluid from his lungs and is need of prayers.

Roger Brummel – as his recovery from pneumonia continues.

Tom and Jenni Johnson– While Tom has completed his chemotherapy resulting in a considerable reduction in his cancer markers, the tumor is still inoperable. Now, he focuses on gaining some weight and preparing for the coming round of radiation.is undergoing more chemo and a round of radiation in an effort to shrink it.

Rev. Michael Bush, Tucson UCC Pastor – prayers for healing as he is now on medical leave until mid-August, as he faces surgery.

Laura Bantens' mom – as she has suffered a broken shoulder.

Brad Derenzy – as he faces continuing health issues.

Cathi Gatewood-Keim's cousin, Jacob – as he is suffering from stage 2 intestinal cancer, recovering from surgery, and awaiting further results for treatment options.

Jim Boughner – as he faces continuing health issues.

Ariah House – (from Diane House) Ariah had her last in-hospital treatment in December 2023. She is doing great. I have to take her back to DeVos in March for the next step, providing she doesn't relapse. With this OMAS disease, there is a 50% - 75% chance of relapse. We are only

going to focus on the wins. ☐ Keep the prayers coming. God Bless you all. We really miss our church families.

Stacy Wright, friend of Kathy Menkes – Stacy has been facing metastatic breast cancer. All prayers are appreciated.

Laura Bantens and family – For Laura's sister-in-law, Jasme, continued prayers as she has been enrolled in a MS drug study free of charge. The study will cover her for two years!

Gloria House's granddaughter, Alyssa Crawford, – Who has had her surgery, is recovering well, and will soon be returning to her preschool students.

The English Family – as they manage medical and family challenges.

Gloria House's granddaughter, Madison Crawford – as she suffers from cataplexy in narcolepsy along with other neurological struggles. She is at home and adjusting to new medication, which seems to be helping, but Madison is still in need of prayers.



JOIN US!

CELEBRATING



21 JULY 2024

Please join us as we celebrate the
150th anniversary of the First
Congregational United Church of
Christ, Gaylord, Michigan.

Worship, 10:00 AM Service followed
by a luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

Please RSVP by July 7 to
office@firstuccgaylord.org
or sign up in the Fellowship Hall,
including names and the number of
people in your party.



JOIN US!

C E L E B R A T I N G



20 JULY 2024
7:00 PM

The annual June Jans memorial concert will be held in tandem with our sesquicentennial celebration.

Join Rokko and friends from Ned the evening of Saturday, July 20 in the sanctuary.

All 2024 concert donations will benefit Crossroads Industry.

In the case of extreme temperatures, the concert will be moved to Fellowship Hall.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sesquicentennial: Our 150TH anniversary is fast-approaching. To RSVP, please sign up in Fellowship Hall (office@firstuccgaylord.org) by July 7th. The luncheon is in Fellowship Hall on July 21, following worship.

June Jans Memorial Concert- – The annual June Jans concert will be held in tandem with the sesquicentennial. The concert will take place in the sanctuary the evening of July 20th at 7 PM.

Join us for lunch! – a group of people from our church family meet for lunch on the third Tuesday of each month. Everyone is welcome! Please join us. The next scheduled lunch is Tuesday, July 16th, 2024 at Pine Squirrel.

Salad Luncheon – The next salad luncheon Tuesday, June 23rd.

Outdoor Worship – We will have outdoor worship on the second Sunday of July, and August. July 14, will be the second one. Please bring a lawn chair if you are able.

Calling all Creatives! There is a new section our website for displaying all things creative by the members of this congregation. This can include poetry, paintings, needlework, gardens, prose, and anything else that you would like to share. We already have some poetry there and will welcome any additions. Please submit your project to Brenda at brendabrummel@me.com or message to 810-623-1691. To view this new section, just go to the website and scroll down to the Special Events.

The website is www.firstuccgaylord.org.

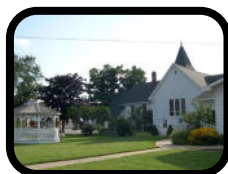
“Shoe Some Love” campaign – The United Way is running a fundraiser and they need us to donate new or gently used pairs of shoes we no longer need. To pitch in clean out your closet and leave them in the collection box in Fellowship Hall or take them or to the United Way building on Fifth St. The fundraiser runs through July.

Prayer Cards: In the pews, you will find prayer concern cards. When possible, to ensure accuracy in the bulletin and newsletter, please use the new cards.

Directory – If at any time you have changes, please forward them. You can access the most up-to-date directory via our weekly eblast or stop in the office for a copy. I appreciate your continued input.

Food Pantry – needs a few more volunteers. Please contact Don Storing if interested.

Reaching Out meeting link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83640729481>





2023 Flower Schedule

January: *Margaret Hafner and Dave Henson*

February: *Margaret Hellenberg*

March: *Jeannine Wambold*

April: *Cathy Otto*

May: *Mary Evans*

June: *Joanie Sietsema*

July: *Helen Mate*

August: *Evelyn Pratt*

September: *Sallie Anderson*

October: *Vicky Rigney*

November: *Louanne Spearman*

December: *Christian Ed.*



5 for 5

from your Reaching Out Team

OCWM (Our Church's Wider Mission)

Basic support for the Michigan Conference and National Settings.

Collected on an ongoing basis

Received to date: \$262 (2024)

One Great Hour of Sharing

Supports partners in countries with ministries that fund health, education and agricultural development, emergency relief, refugee ministries and both international and domestic response.

Collected in March

Received to date: \$495 (2024)

Strengthen the Church

Supports church growth, pastoral and lay leadership development, young and young adult ministers within conferences.

Collected around Pentecost

Received to date: \$75 (2023)

Neighbors in Need

One third supports Council for American Indian Ministry and two-thirds is administered to Justice and Witness Ministers to support a variety projects. Due to Covid-19 the elected UCC officers have deemed this to be a priority.

Collected in October

Received to date: \$256 (2023)

Christmas Fund

Provides direct financial assistance to retired UCC ministers and lay employees and spouses.

Collected in December

Received to date: \$694 (2023)





Current Meeting Times

All are welcome to “attend” these meetings except where noted otherwise.

Reaching In* will meet the first Monday of each month at noon:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84945686588>

Reaching Out will meet the third Monday of each month at 7 PM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83640729481>

Council will meet the after worship. Check monthly calendar for Specific dates.:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85297662581>

Trustees will meet the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83432888287>

Bible Study meets Thursdays at 11am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84612895017>