



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Member of the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference

120 W. Morrell St., P.O. Box 227, Otsego, MI 49078

269-694-6085

April 2022

A Message From Pastor Bruce...

There is nothing like hearing and singing the great Easter hymns. A few weeks ago from the pulpit I mentioned about a past church I served that was engulfed in a struggle between using hymns versus newer worship songs. A couple of you weighed in with me on the subject. I understand that the new catchy camp songs are written to evoke emotion. However, hymns were written to teach people about the character of God and the wonders of Christ. One of my favorite theologians is A.W. Tozer. He wrote a book about hymns which I read many years ago. It was his belief that people grew in their faith from listening to the old hymns. In his book he states that the wonderful and poetic lines show great works of faith, love and devotion from the writers. Who has not shed a tear when singing a favorite hymn while attending a funeral of a relative or dear friend? Great hymns touch our souls in powerful ways. I understand our society has changed and people look to be lifted up and feel the Spirit upon them by the power of a song. I feel that repetitive verse singing is doing little towards educating people about God. A hymn however, if done right, can have a great impact on worship. They are not just sweet melodies, but educational tools that teach us solid theology. For example, verse 3 of **"How Great Thou Art"**: *And when I think that God, His Son not sparing, Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in, That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing, He bled and died to take away my sin.* Does this speak to your soul and teach you the meaning of the cross? A deeper grasp of Christian theology is very much needed in the church today. Each week Ray does a beautiful job of choosing the right hymns to match the scripture from the weekly devotion. I encourage each of you this Easter season to join Nancy, Ray and Jane as they play and lead these hymns for us. Sing loud, sing with joy, sing with gladness - and why not invite a friend to come sing with you!



By His Hand of Grace, Pastor Bruce

From Your Leadership Council:

An FCC Quarterly Business Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 10th following worship service. There will be Fellowship Lunch after the meeting with Sloppy Joes and ice cream on the menu. All are invited to attend.

Beginning this week you will find an ad in the Shoppers Guide that will include a portion of Pastor Bruce's devotion. The Leadership Council feels that we are called to share the gospel to our community. It is our belief that this could be the first time someone reads the Word of God and if it draws them to us that is nice, but if it draws them to the family of God anywhere in our community - that is wonderful!

The cost to run these ads are an expense we didn't budget for, but are

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The following names and dates are promoted by the FCC Prayer Team as a way to pray each day for church members, pastors, various ministries that FCC is involved in, as well as missionaries that we support. Please use it as a guide sheet during your daily prayer time. What better way is there to show love and concern for our church family and missionaries than to hold them up in prayer.

- Apr. 1 - Pastor Bruce & Lynn
- Apr. 2 - Roberta Miles
- Apr. 3 - Sara Miller & family
- Apr. 4 - Tom & Darcy Pavlack
- Apr. 5 - John Rakoski
- Apr. 6 - Wayne & Kim Rayburn
- Apr. 7 - FCC Quilters
- Apr. 8 - Pastor Bruce & Lynn
- Apr. 9 - Walt & Sue Rickli
- Apr. 10 - Tom Scheerenberg
- Apr. 11 - FCC Leadership Council
- Apr. 12 - Scott & Linda Sleeman
- Apr. 13 - Irene Smith
- Apr. 14 - Christian Neighbors
- Apr. 15 - Pastor Bruce & Lynn
- Apr. 16 - Mike & Julie Smith
- Apr. 17 - Brian & Kim Sparks
- Apr. 18 - Ron Thaxton
- Apr. 19 - Ann Thurston
- Apr. 20 - Steve & Marie Tucker
- Apr. 21 - Mary Ann Lord, Peru
- Apr. 22 - Pastor Bruce & Lynn
- Apr. 23 - Ken & Gail Watson
- Apr. 24 - Mare` Westin
- Apr. 25 - Joddi, Drake & Jack Witt
- Apr. 26 - Virginia Allen
- Apr. 27 - Nora Leon, Haiti
- Apr. 28 - Tim & Deb Anderson
- Apr. 29 - Paula Baker
- Apr. 30 - The LEMA Institute

The FCC Prayer Team is a dedicated, committed, group of "prayer warriors". Requests are prayed daily for three weeks by each team member. Verbal and written requests are welcome. Prayer requests can be included in the bulletin or kept within the "team" - please make this known when you submit your request.



APRIL

BIRTHDAYS

4 - Marie Tucker
 6 - Nancy Benedict
 7 - Brian Sparks
 8 - Dale Blanchard
 10 - Connie Meles
 10 - Ron Thaxton
 11 - Robert Krcatovich
 14 - Jack Witt
 16 - Tammy Maurer
 20 - Walt Rickli
 20 - Shawna Bell
 22 - Drake Witt
 24 - Denise Krcatovich
 24 - Deb Anderson
 26 - Jack Buck
 26 - Pastor Bruce VanDer Kolk
 30 - Stephen Tucker

Sunday, April 10th

following morning worship and
the FCC Quarterly Meeting

SLOPPY JOE LUNCH



Join us for lunch!
Sign up in the Fellowship Hall

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necessary to share the Kingdom and invite folks to learn more at FCC. If you would like to contribute to this important ministry you may do so through special contributions or by increasing your tithes.



COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP

April 15th at 6:00pm
First Baptist Church of Plainwell
404 W. Bridge St.

Pastor Bruce will be part of this service.
There will be a fellowship time following the service. Bring cookies to share if you desire.

Mary Ann Lord - Wycliffe: Mary Ann has two Nahua families that are helping her with translations for the book of Luke. She would like prayers for safe travel for the families to return to Sepahua so that their young children can attend school. The men will return to Pucallpa to continue the translation work. They are working on Luke, chapter 11.

Christian Neighbors: The Reflection of Hope Auction is just around the corner, Thursday, May 12, 2022. Join CN at The Silo, in Allegan, for an evening of food, fun, and some great auction items. This fundraiser provides state housing by paying rent and utility shut-offs for their clients. For more information call Christian Neighbors at 269-685-4166.

FCC Third Quarter Mission's Distribution

\$400 Christian Neighbors	\$450 Kalamazoo Gospel Mission
\$300 Backpack Buddies	\$200 God's Helping Hands
\$100 FCC Quilters	\$200 Jeff Mehne/CRU Ministries/WMU
\$200 Young Life/Wyldlife	\$450 Mary Ann Lord/Wycliffe Translators
\$450 Nora Leon/Caribbean Children's Foundation	



OVERALL BUDGET ANALYSIS Year To Date

Attendance for

MARCH

March 6th
60

March 13th
74

March 20th
70

March 27th
66

	July-February BUDGET	July-February ACTUAL	July-February DIFFERENCE
REVENUE	\$114,900	\$119,859	\$4,959
EXPENSES	\$114,900	\$118,467	(\$3,567)
OVER/UNDER	\$0	\$1,392	\$1,392

The above shows we have taken in \$4,959 more than budgeted. We have spent \$3,567 more than budgeted.