

MINISTRIES & MISSIONS



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2018
VOLUME 1

WELCOME

This booklet provides a summary of current Ministries and Missions of First Congregational Church to introduce, briefly explain, and invite the reader to become involved. Feel free to contact those identified with a Ministry or Mission with which you would like to participate. As always, the latest information is found on our website, www.fcctc.org.

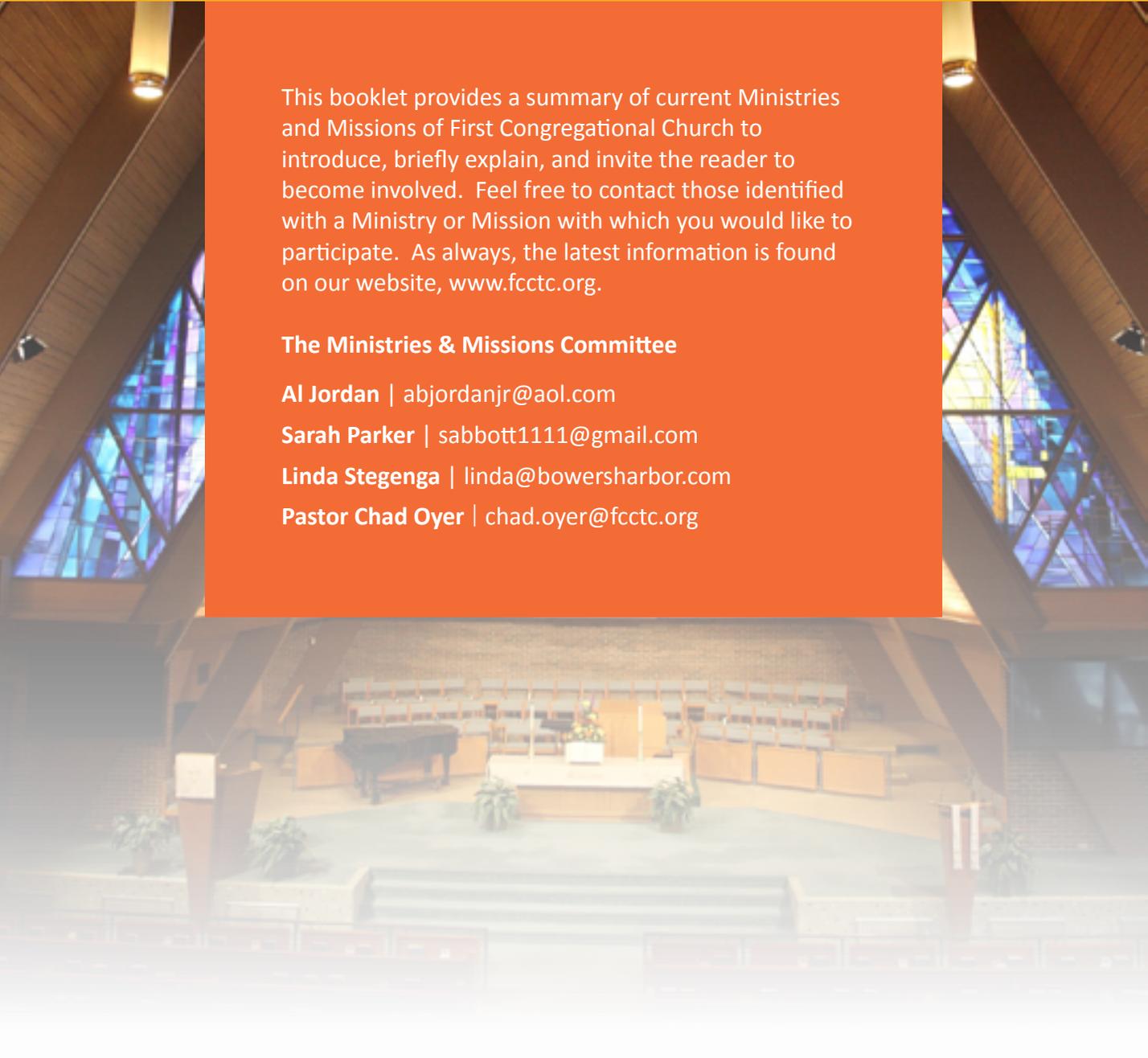
The Ministries & Missions Committee

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AUGUST

HELPLINK Laundry
Project

OCTOBER

Crop Walk
Fall Festival
Guatemala Mission Trip

NOVEMBER

Hanging of the Greens
Dickens' Christmas Bazaar
Operation Christmas Child
Safe Harbor

DECEMBER

The Giving Tree
Angel Dinner

WHAT'S HAPPENING DURING THE WEEK

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Our Brother's Keeper
Pantry Sunday
Congregational Care
Hospital Visitation
Children's Choir
Kids Crew / Nursery
DivorceCare

Sanctuary Choir & Bells
Praise Team
Audio
Camera Operator
Lighting
Production Director
Video Presentation
Video Production

Recording Audio
Remote Camera Operator
Communion
Greeters
Ushers
Welcomers
Worship Leaders
SALT (Senior Adults Learning Together)



SPRING-FALL WEEKLY

Caring Garden
Garden and Landscape Board
Garden of Remembrance

MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO CONTRIBUTE

Habitat For Humanity
Safe Families for Children
Ukrainian Connection
Scholarships
Mel Larimer Concert Series
Aesthetics Board
Funeral Receptions
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MINISTRIES

WHAT ARE MINISTRIES?

**MINISTRIES ARE ACTIVITIES THAT WE DO
FOR OUR CONGREGATION.
THINGS WE DO TO GROW, SUPPORT AND
STRENGTHEN OUR CHURCH FAMILY.**

CARE & SUPPORT

CONGREGATIONAL CARE MINISTRY

The Congregational Care Ministry offers many ways to share in Christ's ministry at FCC. Karen Hogue coordinates this aspect of God's work at FCC, with input from Dr. Hogue.

Jesus teaches us to love one another as he loves us. Volunteers who have a heart for seniors reach out in a variety of ways to members and/or friends of FCC who can no longer be actively involved in the church, but appreciate contact from the church family. Currently our volunteers regularly visit or phone a few "sidelined" seniors, building supportive relationships and sharing news of the church. These visits take our volunteers into homes, and to nursing and/or assisted living facilities. Additional volunteers deliver altar flowers to homes and hospital rooms. Volunteers also visit those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. The relationships formed benefit not only the "sidelined" seniors, but those who visit benefit as well, as they discover so many wise and wonderful people! Our "sidelined" list changes often due to moving from home to assisted or nursing care facilities, or additions as age and declining health takes its toll. We count on families to inform us of these changes.

The care of Christ that we share with each other also comes through signing the caring cards, making phone calls, and spontaneous visits from FCC friends to their neighbors. The church is known by the love of Christ shared in specific ways.

CONTACT: Karen Hogue | KarenLHogue@gmail.com | 231-947-5899

CONTACT: Dr. Gary Hogue | dghtcmi@hotmail.com | 231-392-9934

SALT (SENIOR ADULTS LEARNING TOGETHER) ★ ⌚

Opportunities for our aged 64+ members to enjoy additional fellowship, programming and service opportunities tailored for them. The SALT Ministry team is reaching out to coordinate driving members to Sunday services. Book studies are also offered and usually held on Wednesdays around 4:00 p.m.

CONTACT: Dr. Gary Hogue | dghtcmi@hotmail.com | 231-392-9934



HOSPITAL VISITATION ★ ⌚

A separate team, coordinated by Dr. Hogue, visits people who are hospitalized at Munson.

CONTACT: Dr. Gary Hogue | dghtcmi@hotmail.com | 231-392-9934

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

ANCHOR KIDS ★🕒

Kids Crew is specially designed for your kids to know, grow and show God's love. Children pre-school-5th grade are invited to join us on Sunday mornings for an engaging time of creative worship. Kids Crew provides engaging programming that includes singing, interactive Bible stories, high-energy games, experiments, and fun crafts. Kids Crew also provides opportunities to serve others in the community. FCC Children's Ministries also includes Vacation Bible School in the summer and other special events.

CONTACT: Ben.Royer | ben.royer@fctc.org | 231-947-6698

ROOTED YOUTH GROUP ★🕒

Every Wednesday night from 6:30-8:00pm, we open our doors for students to come be in a safe space, have some snacks, to be with other students together, have fun, and learn about God. In some ways, it's similar to what you'd see on a Sunday Morning at most churches, where we worship and then hear a message. What makes Rooted so unique and great are two things that I don't believe a teenager can find anywhere else today; the truth of Jesus and a family atmosphere to do life together. At Rooted, we seek to create environments where students can grow in biblical knowledge, heart attitude, and spirit-led action as they are Believing in Jesus, Belonging to Family, Becoming a Disciple, and Building His Kingdom. If you have any questions, want further clarification on anything, or if there is anything I can help you with, don't hesitate to give me a call if you want to learn more.

CONTACT: Ben.Royer | ben.royer@fctc.org | 231-947-6698

CHILDREN'S CHOIR ★ 🕒

The purpose of the FCC Children's Choir is to provide an opportunity for children to serve the Lord through song. Children will work to develop vocal skills and musicianship through the art of sacred choral music. Children's Choir is for children in 1st through 6th grade. Rehearsals are held on Sunday mornings prior to Sunday school. Children's Choir sings in services and at nursing homes throughout the year.

CONTACT: [Stephanie Schall-Braze](mailto:schallbrazee@charter.net) | schallbrazee@charter.net | [231-944-6142](tel:231-944-6142)



FACILITIES & GROUNDS

AESTHETICS BOARD ★🕒

Aesthetics Board was established with the responsibility of approving all matters and questions of aesthetics and design, related to the church and/or grounds. The board is asked to make recommendations directly to the Church Council/Trustees. The Aesthetics Board consists of five members or up to seven, appointed by the board. They should have a reasonable knowledge of art and/or aesthetics. No design related to the present church structure, or a new structure which shall be erected upon FCC property, or landscaping said property, shall be implemented without the approval of the Aesthetics Board. The board meets upon need and not with any set date or time.

CONTACT: Carole Bell | bellweather2@gmail.com | 231-946-3498 or 231-409-3438

CARING GARDEN ★🕒

The Caring Garden is a mission unique to FCC that provides hundreds of pounds of fresh produce to a local food pantry or homeless shelter each summer.

Individual garden beds, both raised and conventional, are leased each spring to gardeners who provide their own plants and seeds. At harvest time, gardeners are asked to contribute at least 10% of their yield to a food pantry; the produce is delivered fresh each week.

Not only do the Caring Gardeners benefit from the fresh and healthy vegetables and fruit they grow and share, but the fellowship and fun hours they spend in the gardens together make this mission especially meaningful.

CONTACT: Rick Smith | rdsdvm@icloud.com | 231-392-1689

CONTACT: Tricia Smith | klaasensmith@gmail.com | 231-392-2952

GARDEN & LANDSCAPE BOARD ★🕒

The Garden and Landscape Board is responsible for the planting, design and maintenance of the Garden of Remembrance along with the entire landscape and various individual gardens surrounding FCC. Our board members also manage, promote and maintain the Caring Garden and the Pumpkin Patch. The Garden board members meet monthly on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. from May through October. Garden volunteers meet every Tuesday morning between April through November from 8:30 a.m. until noon.

CONTACT: Barbara Kausler | barbygirl1220@aol.com | 231-620-5287

GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE 🏠

The Garden of Remembrance is a memorial garden for people to have their or their loved one's ashes interred directly into the ground. There are markers in the ground where ashes are interred and each person interred has a name plaque placed on bronze plaques on large boulders in the garden or on the outside wall of the Fireside room. A book in the Narthex has information regarding names of the interred and places of interment. The Guardian of the Garden of Remembrance keeps records of interments and works with the church financial officer to keep records of payments. The interment can happen anytime the ground is uncovered and unfrozen, as determined by the custodial staff.

CONTACT: Barb Springsteen | bannspringsteen@gmail.com | 231-735-1118



TECHNICAL ARTS MINISTRIES

This ministry provides technical arts support for worship services and events at First Congregational Church, including Sound Reinforcement, Video Presentation, Video Production (Recording), and Lighting. As Media Center Director, my goal is to have enough trained volunteers to provide excellent technical support for all worship services and programs at First Congregational Church, and to do so in such a way that volunteers do not have to serve every week. The areas of service are divided between Audio, Video Presentation, Lighting, and Video Production (recording).

CONTACT: David Russell | david.russell@fcctc.org | 231-947-6698

AUDIO ★ 🕒

I believe the most important asset for running sound is an appreciation of the music being used in worship: Contemporary Christian music for the Contemporary service and Children's Ministry, and classical music for the Traditional service. Although audio mixers (that control sound) are complex and may appear daunting, the controls are easily categorized and sorted, making most tasks reasonable and easily learned. If you know what the music is supposed to sound like, I can teach you to make it sound that way. We need an audio person at each worship service, including the Children's Ministry.

VIDEO PRESENTATION ★ 🕒

This person is in control of everything that's shown on the screens during worship. The task requires full time engagement in worship, to be sure the proper slides, pictures and videos are displayed at the proper times. The slide shows are prepared for you in advance. Good, basic computer skills are required: knowing how to start (and re-start) a computer, using a keyboard and mouse, opening applications and navigating between opened windows, opening and closing files, etc. are needed skills. We will teach you the specifics of the software we use, and how to use the "Scaler/Switcher" that actually selects and routes the images to the screens. Again, we need someone at each service.

LIGHTING ★ ⌚

Right now, our lighting is very basic, with only simple changes in lighting during worship, mostly in the contemporary service. However, with people interested in creating and running more advanced lighting designs, this role could be expanded.

VIDEO PRODUCTION (RECORDING)

This team involves operating cameras, controlling audio for recording, and directing the production. The team is divided into several tasks:

CAMERA OPERATOR ★ ⌚

This person is in worship and physically operates a camera. The director tells the camera operator what “shots” are needed via intercom headset, and can coach the operator in obtaining the desired shots. A steady hand and the ability to concentrate on the service while listening for instructions makes a great camera operator.



REMOTE CAMERA OPERATOR ★ ⌚

This person uses a control panel with a joystick (typically in the control room) to control 1 or more “PTZ” remotely operated cameras. A steady hand and the ability to operate delicate controls is necessary for this position.

RECORDING AUDIO ★ ⌚

The audio that is recorded along with and in addition to video has different requirements than live audio in the worship spaces, so we have a separate audio mixer in the control room for that purpose. The needed gifts are similar to those for live audio, but the volunteer is in the control room instead of the worship space.

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR ★ ⌚

The director monitors and oversees all areas of recording worship. The most important director's gifts are the ability to keep track of many things at the same time, to always be thinking ahead - "This is the shot I have now. What's the shot after the next shot?" Also, the ability to stay calm when things don't go as planned! People who love music seem to be better directors. Generally, a director will serve in an assisting role while learning control room equipment and procedures.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship is an organization of the men of FCC, for the purpose of spiritual growth, fellowship, and service. All men, members or guests are welcome. We meet on the second and fourth Friday of each month at 11:00 a.m. until 12:30, usually in the Fireside Room at FCC.

CONTACT: Dave Jankowski | davejankowski@gmail.com | 231-392-3753



HEAVEN'S HELPERS ★ 🕒

Help people with small home projects so they may stay in their home safely, and comfortably. This requires listening skills and maintenance skills. We help people think through thoughts regarding their living arrangements.

CONTACT: Ron Tennant | trvtennant@gmail.com | 231-922-2693

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The purpose of the Women's Fellowship shall be to enlist the women of the church in a fellowship of worship, education, and giving, to work with the ministries and missions of the church as it serves the cause of Christ in this church, our community and throughout the world, sharing God's love through service.

Quarterly Potluck Planning Meetings are scheduled from 6-7:30pm in the Fireside Room, during which we enjoy a light fare, fellowship, and plan for the upcoming quarter. All women are invited to attend and take part in guiding the direction of Women's Fellowship.

CONTACT: Marlene Baldwin | fcctcwf@gmail.com | 231-943-1278



FUNERAL RECEPTIONS ★ ⌚

We provide coffee, tea, punch and cookies for the family and friends after a Memorial or Celebration of Life service. If additional food is involved, it can be catered or provided by the family. Our purpose is to provide the family with a comfortable setting so they may greet their family and friends. We have volunteers for cooking, baking and others to serve and clean up.

CONTACT: [Marlene Baldwin](mailto:MarleneBaldwin@gmail.com) | fcctcwf@gmail.com | 231-943-1278

DICKENS' CHRISTMAS BAZAAR ★ \$ ⌚

Beginning in 1987, and always held on the first Saturday in November, this is the largest, longest running Arts & Crafts show in Traverse City. Dickens' Christmas Bazaar has grown tremendously, with over 100 vendor spaces showcasing local, regional, and international artists. The event also features a Luncheon, Country Store, Cherry Blossom Jams, Boutique, Vendor Raffle, live carolers, and much more. As many as 200 FCC volunteers team together for this annual event celebrating both artistic excellence and community spirit, with 100% of the FCC proceeds given to community and global causes.

CONTACT: [Marcy Rogers](mailto:marcy.rogers@fctc.org) | marcy.rogers@fctc.org | 231-947-6698



HANGING OF THE GREENS ★ ⌚

We decorate the Sanctuary, Cross Way, Fireside Room, Front Room, Chapel, Narthex, Fellowship Hall and assorted office areas. We order and pick up poinsettias placing them in various locations in the church. Decorating takes place around Thanksgiving week-end and is completed by first day of Advent. The team also takes down all decorations in January.

CONTACT: [Stewie Zacks | stewzack@charter.net](mailto:stewzack@charter.net) | 231-946-2312

SCHOLARSHIPS ★ \$ ⌚

Women's Fellowship scholarships transforms the lives of both church and community students who pursue learning through a college, university, vocational school, or graduate school. Each spring, application links are available on our website, with awards given in May or June.

CONTACT: fcctcwf@gmail.com

ANGEL DINNER ⌚ ★

This Women's Fellowship event is a festive beginning to the Christmas season, a warm time of friendship and fellowship. Held on the first Monday in December, FCC ladies and their friends & family, are invited to enjoy a meaningful program, dinner, and live music. Help is needed with various aspects of the event, including planning and table setup.

CONTACT: [Betty Lien | themanorhouelakedrive@gmail.com](mailto:themanorhouelakedrive@gmail.com) | 231-943-1617

MUSIC MINISTRIES

SANCTUARY CHOIR & BELLS ★ 🕒

Staff and volunteers provide uplifting and inspirational music for the Traditional Worship Service and the Contemporary Worship Service every Sunday throughout the year. Musical offerings at the Traditional Service are Sanctuary Choir, vocal and instrumental soloists, organ and piano. Contemporary music is provided by the Praise Team and vocalists. The Sanctuary Choir sings at every Traditional Service throughout the year, and the Sanctuary Handbell Choir plays at the Traditional Service 8 times October-May. Sanctuary Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:30 p.m. (September through mid-June), while the Sanctuary Handbell Choir rehearses on Wednesday from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. (September through May).



CONTACT: Sally Lewis, Sanctuary Bells | lewistvc@charter.net | 231-941-8938

CONTACT: Russ Larimer, Choir | russlarimer@gmail.com | 231-631-5380

PRAISE TEAM ★ 🕒

Our goal is to lead the congregation in a time of meaningful musical engagement with the triune God. The Contemporary Service is 10:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings, and praise team rehearsals are 7:30pm-9:00pm on Wednesday nights.

CONTACT: Carter Jones | jonesc93@ferris.edu | 231-360-7382

WORSHIP MINISTRIES

GREETERS ★ ⌚

We need Greeters every Sunday Morning before the services begin. There will be a sign-up sheet on the Caring Card counter for people to sign-up for a Sunday they would like to be the Greeters. When you are a Greeter, please make sure you come a half hour before the Church service begins, that would be about 9:30. You are welcome to Greet with your spouse, a friend, or your entire family.

CONTACT: Barb Good | donagood1938@gmail.com | 231-947-1352

USHERS ★ ⌚

Ushers welcome worshippers, provide a bulletin, always offer needed assistance for worship, collect offerings, distribute Friendship pads during the service, and then straighten the sanctuary after the service.

CONTACT: Bob Portenga | rportenga@chartermi.net | 231-947-2435



WELCOMERS ★🕒

The Welcomers staff the Welcome Center located in the main entrance Cross Way on Sunday mornings prior to and after the service. Welcomers provide a “Welcome Packet”, devotional and FCC travel mug to guests. Welcomers strive to make any guest feel welcomed by sharing the love of Christ at FCC.

CONTACT: Mary Jankowski | maryjankowski@gmail.com | 231-392-3997

COMMUNION ★🕒

Communion is served the first Sunday of each month for the Traditional Service. Servers are needed to assist the Pastors and also Roamers are needed for those who are not able to come forward. Also, a Server will be needed in the Balcony. (Eight people are used to serve Communion each first Sunday of the Month.)

CONTACT: Barb Good | donagood1938@gmail.com | 231-947-1352

WORSHIP LEADERS ★🕒

Our church is committed to lay leadership in worship! A Worship Leader participates in worship services by leading prayers, assisting with Communion, and serving alongside of clergy as needed.

CONTACT: Pastor Chad Oyer | chad.oyer@fcctc.org | 231-947-6698

MISSIONS

WHAT ARE MISSIONS?

MISSIONS ARE ACTIVITIES TO SERVE AND LOVE OTHERS OUTSIDE OUR CHURCH'S WALLS. WE ARE A MISSIONAL CHURCH SO OUR EFFORTS ARE TO REACH OUT TO OTHERS AND SPREAD CHRIST'S LOVE.

CHURCH SUPPORTED MISSIONS

COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CENTER

Providing experiences and an environment that foster the wholesome development of each individual child. This goal is fulfilled through a carefully planned program using The Creative Curriculum, a healthy climate, and age appropriate equipment and activities run by a professional staff.

Community Children's Center strives to always provide a secure, loving, and safe environment in which to grow and learn. We celebrate the abilities and characteristics that make each child and family unique. Close rapport between parents and teachers allows children to develop to their potential, and to support their social-emotional, physical, cognitive, spiritual, and language development.

CONTACT: Kate Attwood | kate.attwood@fcttc.org | 231-947-1650

MEL LARIMER CONCERT SERIES

The Mel Larimer Concert Series brings together Grand Traverse area musicians to perform great music, typically classical masterworks involving both choral and orchestral performers. Choral musicians up to the challenge and able to fulfill rehearsal requirements are welcome to participate in the venture. Instrumentalists are engaged from GT area symphonies. Masterworks selected may include music of various world cultures, creeds and historical origins, and can be from sacred or secular choral traditions. The Mel Larimer Concerts are outreach events offered to individuals and established public and private institutions as a community service. Concerts are provided at various times of the year.

CONTACT: Russ Larimer | russlarimer@gmail.com | 231-223-7442

SCOUT TROOP 34

FCC chartered this troop on February 1, 1965 and it has been a thriving, active Scout troop since. Scout Troop 34 at FCC develops character and leadership in Scouts while offering opportunities to experience the outdoors, learn life-long skills, and perform service projects for the community. Troop 34 is comprised of approximately 30 boys and meets weekly throughout the school year on Tuesdays from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Studio B. Troop 34 also attends a week-long summer camp, offers a weekend camp out per month during the school year, and participates in other special events and service projects.



CONTACT: Nick Roster, Scoutmaster | nroster@nmc.edu | 231-360-9424

CONTACT: Bill Myers, Assistant Scoutmaster | myersintc@gmail.com | 231-883-5833

www.bsatroop34.weebly.com

CUB SCOUT PACK 26

The pack provides youth from 1st through 5th grade with several different activities including service to our community and important camping skills in the outdoors. Each year the pack engages in 3-4 camp outs at such places as Camp Greilick, Camp Kellogg and Camp Gerber. Pack 26 has engaged in service projects such as tree planting and Operation Shoe Box at FCC. One of the highlights of the pack is their annual Pinewood Derby where they race their handmade cars to compete locally and district-wide. The pack meets every other month at FCC during the school year. Individual dens based on age groups meet twice a month.

CONTACT: Pete LaCourse, Pack Leader | petelacourse1@gmail.com | 231-929-9616

TRINITY SCHOOL OF TRANSFORMATION 🏛️

Formed in 2003 as a not for profit 501c3 entity by Jo Panter, with a local board of pastors and lay people, Trinity School of Transformation provides classes, conferences, and resources for the purpose of encouraging and developing Christian spiritual formation. It has included one and three-year programs, summer conversations sessions, evening classes, special meetings and conferences. It is not affiliated with any particular denomination or church; it welcomes participants who are seeking a deeper relationship with the Trinity as understood by scripture and Christian tradition.

Influenced heavily by the teachings of others on spiritual formation, such as Dallas Willard, John Ortberg, C.S. Lewis, Ignatius, and Richard Foster, it draws from an evangelical tradition within all of the streams of Christian practice. For example, participants have included Catholics, Baptists, Congregationalists, Lutherans, Quakers, Non-denominational evangelicals, Episcopalians, Reformed Church traditions, Presbyterians and Methodists.

CONTACT: Jo Panter | paquilla@aol.com | 231-947-8929

CONTACT: Dr. Gary Hogue | dghtcmi@hotmail.com | 231-947-5899

UKRAINIAN CONNECTION 💰🏛️



The Ukrainian Connection helps those families of our friends in the Ukrainian Church that immigrate to this country as they flee from the tyranny and persecution in the Ukraine. We offer assistance in the provision of household necessities, clothing and monetary help, as well as assisting with needs of those families still in the Ukraine. We have assisted Pastor Vonya, sent supplies to a hospital and have helped provide summer camp experiences for children in the Ukraine.

CONTACT: Karen Hogue | KarenLHogue@gmail.com | 231-947-5899

LOCAL COMMUNITY MISSIONS

CROP WALK \$ 🕒 ★

Church World Services is the organization that oversees the CROP WALK. CWS helps around the globe and in our immediate area. CROP monies go to help the hungry, drill wells for clean water, teach sustainable farming, natural disasters, and many other social issues. 25% of all of the money raised locally stays in our area to support the local food pantries. The CROP WALK is the 2nd Sunday in October. The group of walkers from 26 area churches meet at the Civic Center. Together we walk the one-mile track around the Civic Center then we walk out into the community for a 5K chartered course in the Boardman and downtown TC area.

CONTACT: Gary Clous | garyclous@gmail.com | 231-313-4849

EASTER EGG HUNT \$ 🕒 ★

This free, outdoor, community event began in 2016, and by 2018 expanded to include a second egg hunt for special needs children. Complete with craft activity tables, face-painting, bounce houses, food, music, and prizes - this event offers plenty of family fun - in addition to several thousand candy-filled eggs! We offer an indoor egg hunt for special needs children who opt for a quieter setting, with all of the same family-friendly, free activities. Both egg hunts feature a nice backdrop where parents can photograph their child with the Easter Bunny.

CONTACT: Ben Royer | ben.royer@fcctc.org | 309-857-3534



FALL FESTIVAL ★ \$ 🕒

Another free event for families, the Fall Festival is an outdoor event for the entire community held in early October. Guests enjoy a tractor ride to the pumpkin patch where children thru age 12 can choose one pumpkin. Kids can decorate their pumpkin in the craft tent, enjoy a coloring table, face-painting, hay maze, and bounce houses. Families also partake of free hotdogs, donuts, and cider. This event is great fun for all ages, and FUEL FM is on site supplying the music.

CONTACT: Ben Royer | ben.royer@fcctc.org | 231-947-6698



DIVORCECARE ★ 🕒

DivorceCare is both a seminar and a support group, conducted by people who understand what you are experiencing. Video seminars, featuring nationally recognized experts on divorce and recovery topics, and the shared experiences of others in the group, help you learn to deal with the pain of the past and look forward to rebuilding your life. DivorceCare is non-denominational and features biblical teaching. DivorceCare meets weekly on Thursdays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. Please contact a facilitator or check website for latest schedule.

CONTACT: Dan Baldwin | durbtc@gmail.com | 231-620-4993

CONTACT: Marlene Baldwin | mbaldwin623@gmail.com | 419-565-2266

www.divorcecare.org/groups/97951

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ★ \$ 🕒

Seeking to put God’s Love in action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build sustainable homes, communities and hope. Without the willing hearts and hands of our many volunteers, we could not even come close to fulfilling this mission. Each year, volunteers log over 30,000 hours working both on our build sites and in the Habitat ReStore.

CONTACT: Dan Baldwin | durbtc@gmail.com | 231-620-4993

www.habitatgtr.org

HELPLINK LAUNDRY PROJECT \$

Providing laundromat service to local families living below or near the poverty line. The goal is acceptance in school and other kid environments. Low income seniors and handicapped are also served. FCC provides laundry detergent and financial support for the program. The HELPLINK Laundry Project hosts 4 free laundry days a month alternating locations between Eastfield Laundry and Traverse City Laundry throughout the school year.

CONTACT: Jim Rowlett | jimrowlett@charter.net | 231-922-5050

www.littlecollaborative.org/laundry-project

KIDS HOPE USA 🕒 ★

Our mission is to form caring and life changing relationships, one at a time. Kids Hope USA is an award-winning mentoring program that works exclusively through local churches. We hope to give hope to children in public schools through a relationship with a caring church member, helping to meet the emotional, social and academic needs of at-risk children by giving them a one to one relationship with a mentor from FCC.

Our Kids Hope program works with Eastern Elementary students. Mentors meet with their students one hour each week for the school year. Students are mentored October through May.

CONTACT: Brenda Garrity | garritybrenda@gmail.com | 231-228-6023

www.kidshopeusa.org

OUR BROTHER'S KEEPER 🕒 ★

Sewing sleeping bags out of donated materials for the homeless population or those without adequate heat in their homes. Group meets in the Choir Annex on Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

CONTACT: Rosemary Henriksen | rlhsen1@gmail.com | 231-938-2068



PANTRY SUNDAY \$



FCC members fill red food pantry bags (or other) at their home with commercially canned, dried and/or non-perishable food items and return to the FCC Narthex in the yellow wagons for delivery. The groceries are delivered to various food pantries around the GT region. Bags are collected on the first Sunday of the month.

CONTACT: Dave Jankowski | davejankowski@gmail.com | 231-392-3753

SAFE HARBOR \$ 🕒

Dedicated to the preservation of the physical health and spiritual welfare of people experiencing homelessness, a primary goal of Safe Harbor is to offer food, shelter, and hope for guests staying in our shelter. As part of the Continuum of Care, Safe Harbor also focuses on community partnerships in order to better collaborate on long-term solutions to ending homelessness in our region. Safe Harbor is a non-profit organization providing seasonal emergency shelter, case management and housing assistance for adults experiencing homelessness. Safe Harbor provides overnight shelter for a nightly average of 64 individuals during the months of November through April. FCC participates for one week within the operating season volunteering hours and financial support.

CONTACT: Peggy Byland | pabyland@gmail.com | 231-349-5269

CONTACT: Gary Clous | garyclous@gmail.com | 231-313-4849

www.gtsafeharbor.org

SAFE FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN 🕒 ★

Safe Families for Children helps parents in a crisis situation by providing a loving, Christian family with whom their children may stay with until the crisis has passed. When a crisis strikes, families rely on their support network, but some families don't have this safety net. In these situations, parents can ask SFFC to find a Christian host family for their children (newborn through 17) to stay with while the parents address the issues that led to the situation.

This ministry is year-round and helps people in a variety of situations. Some of the circumstances include eviction, homelessness, hospitalizations, unemployment, sickness, rehabilitation, or respite care. SFFC is used when child care is limited or impossible by the parents during their crisis situation. Volunteer host families are motivated by compassion and hospitality. Depending on the crisis the length of stay can vary and ranges from a weekend to a couple of months.

CONTACT: Sarah Parker | sabbott1111@gmail.com | 231-735-3927

THE GIVING TREE \$

The Giving Tree is located in the Cross Way in November/December. The tree is decorated with paper ornaments. Each ornament has a name and gift to be purchased. These names are submitted by teachers from Early Head Start programs. You can help make these families Christmas a little brighter by purchasing a gift.

CONTACT: Joyce Schreiber | joyceschr@gmail.com | 231-938-3012

CONTACT: Ken & Stewie Zacks | stewzack@charter.net | 231-946-2312

THE GREAT GIVEAWAY ★ \$ 🕒

Late Spring, early Summer since 2016, FCC has welcomed several hundred community members to The Great Giveaway. This event features large quantities of donated furniture, household, lawn, and sporting goods, all organized under large tents and given away free of charge to those who need it. Families wishing to donate large furniture items, can schedule a pick-up with us in the days preceding the event. At this “free garage sale” we also offer grilled hotdogs, along with popcorn and water. Above all, God’s love is shared with those in need, and many stories emerge from grateful families, overcome by the love and generosity shown through this event. Kindness is truly contagious!

See www.fcctc.org for latest information.



GLOBAL MISSIONS

GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP ★ \$ 🕒

Living in Traverse City, surrounded by the beauty of Grand Traverse Bay, we can easily become complacent about our accessibility to clean drinking water. Yet, over 700 million people globally are affected by a water crisis and face serious health risks and water related illnesses. Children are especially at risk from contaminated water, preventing them from going to school and struggling with chronic illnesses and even death. The impact on the family and the community as a whole is difficult for us to truly grasp. Next fall there will be an opportunity to travel to Antigua, Guatemala for an Adult mission trip. Working with Filter of Hope, an organization that has developed household water filters for families living in abject poverty, we will be able to see first hand the difference access to clean water can make. The household filters we will distribute and install can last up to 10 years, are efficient and affordable. Our team will work with local churches to distribute and install the water filters to villages near Antigua. The purpose of this trip will be to provide a solution for contaminated water sources and to facilitate personal connections for the local church. Most importantly, the team will have an opportunity to share with others the parallels between these filters and the cleansing we all have through the filter of Jesus in our life.

CONTACT: Marilyn Vlach | marilynlach@gmail.com | 231-929-1577

CONTACT: Eric Davis | ebdavis@chartermi.net | 231-929-9348



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD ★ \$ 🕒

A ministry of Samaritan's Purse, delivers the gospel message through a simple shoe box packed with small gifts. These gifts help explain God's gift of salvation to boys and girls around the world. Many of the recipients live in extreme poverty, are displaced by war, or orphaned, and the message that someone loves them is very powerful. For some, this is the only gift they have or ever will receive. FCC holds a group packing party every November. Items collected for the boxes can be placed in bins located in the glassed-in area near the church offices.

CONTACT: Liz Lutheran | mobilizeocc@gmail.com | 231-929-2945
www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child



STARTING POINT

At FCC, we want everyone to feel plugged-in to our church family, growing in Christ and serving others. We realize this isn't going to happen for everyone automatically. That is why we have created an experience called Starting Point. This is a one-time, 90-minute, laid-back, yet inspiring experience designed to help you learn more about FCC and connect with others. The goal of this experience is to help you grow and thrive as part of this church family. This experience is also the first step towards membership at FCC.

Starting Point class information is available on fcctc.org.

CONTACT: Pastor Chad Oyer | chad.oyer@fcctc.org | 231-947-6698



WE NEED YOU

Study your Ministries and Missions Booklet. Consider the opportunities that are available for you to participate in the daily life of First Congregational Church. Pray about those opportunities that appeal to you for whatever reason. Then become involved in a Ministry or Mission that appeals to you.

Involvement may include time and talent, prayer, and treasure. Consider that involvement will advance the Kingdom of Jesus Christ by improving the reach of First Congregational Church. Plan your involvement so that you have contributions each month of the year.

As you consider your level of involvement in our Ministries and Missions you may discover an unfilled need about which you are passionate. Prayerfully consider starting a new Ministry or Mission. Contact the Ministries and Missions Committee for assistance.

THE MINISTRIES & MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Bruce Rogers | wbr@voyager.net

Al Jordan | abjordanjr@aol.com

Sarah Parker | sabbott1111@gmail.com

Linda Stegenga | linda@bowersharbor.com

Pastor Chad Oyer | chad.oyer@fcctc.org



**BE A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER.
JOIN A MINISTRY OR MISSION TODAY.**



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH