

Greetings All,



I'm taking a few minutes from my four days at the Festival of Homiletics in Washington D.C. to write this article for the Newsletter. And by the time you receive this I may well be back in the Pastor's office at the church. The Festival of Homiletics is an annual preaching conference for ministers of many denominations, from all over the US, with a few folks from England and Canada among us this year. I've run into old friends and have been enjoying time with my two traveling companions, the Rev. Rebekah Rathman-Wingrove and the Rev. Michelle Brown.

This is my third time attending the festival. For Pastors the festival is a blessing since Pastors rarely have an opportunity to worship without the responsibility of leading worship. There's a difference between officiating the worship service and worshipping with no responsibilities except to listen and participate in glorifying God. So as the 1,700 of us worship together, sharing excellent liturgy, music and preaching, we are being filled with a year's worth of really good worship. We really sing out the hymns.

Most of what we're hearing this week is prophetic since the topic this year is "Preaching and Politics". Prophetic

preaching is preaching that challenges. It points out what is morally wrong in society; points out what possible outcomes will be if a change is not made. We're being reminded that God makes it clear throughout Scripture that God created all of humanity to live together and to love one another, and to *care* for one another. Scripture references more than 3,000 times, helping those in need. Charity offers care that is so needed, but we are also being called to seek justice by combatting systems that take advantage of the poor in order to give even more to the rich. We as a people have become ruthless in our treatment of those who are disadvantaged, by putting systems in place that take from the poor in order to allow the rich to take more and more.

We pastors are being reminded by our mentors at the festival that it is our job to be brave in the pulpit; to let the Holy Spirit speak through us; to spend less time trying to soften the rough edges of God's message for fear of hurting someone's feelings. We are called to be pastors who bravely point out the growing number of hurtful injustices that are being heaped on poor people, especially in our country. This is not a new phenomenon. God has been speaking about this since the earliest writings of the Old Testament. So what can we do to educate people about inherent injustices in our land? And how can we be a part of changing

systems that need to be changed? Can we get together to talk about this?

The Prophet Micah asks and answers the question: *God has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*

With You on the Journey,

*Pastor Alana*

(For information on the Industrial Prison Complex, I encourage you to read Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson. It deals thoroughly and compassionately with just one of our problematic systems.)



Remember,  
Newsletter article  
submission deadline is June 20<sup>th</sup>.



Brian Paret, Peg Galvin, Sue Waelens, Pearl Siems, Stan & Ardis Hirt and Family, Pearl Ewart, Vicki Kling, Carol Tyler, Mary Beth Bolla, Margaret Loranger, Ann Whittaker, Cathy Johnson.

Let us also remember Dakota Hazel, Nathan Distelrath, Capt. Kevin Kennedy, Kevin & Karolynn Mamak, Edwin Summers and all who are serving in the military.



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Joe & Sydelle Donnelly – 4th  
David & Jill Scheel – 14th  
Donald & Nancy Rice – 15<sup>th</sup>  
Paul & Laurel Lydy – 17<sup>th</sup>  
Kyle & Rachel O'Connor – 25<sup>th</sup>  
James & Catherine Light – 26<sup>th</sup>  
A.Joe & JoAn Kindsvater – 27th



Randy Kling – 3rd  
 Cindy Frey – 7th  
 Kaitlin Kling – 8th  
 Virginia Hirt – 12th  
 Denise Gregg – 13th  
 Ryan O'Connor – 17th  
 William Putney – 20th  
 Dale Frey – 23rd  
 Alana Montroy – 24th  
 Christina Baker – 25th  
 Wil Malcolm – 29th



STAFF LISTING...  
 Pastor & Teacher:  
 Reverend Alana  
 Kelley

Organist:  
 Denise Gregg  
 Vocals:  
 Anna Nadasky  
 Bookkeeper:  
 Amanda Schweihofer  
 Office Administrator:  
 Julie Wendt  
 Christian Ed Coordinator:  
 Doug Bishop  
 Nursery Staff:  
 Olivia Carlsen/Lori Lewis/  
 Robin Gilbert  
 Custodians: Dale & Cindy Frey

"No matter who you are or  
 where you are on life's  
 journey,  
 you are welcome here!"

WELCOME

Be the Church gathering is set  
 for the fourth  
 Tuesday of  
 every month.  
 This month we  
 will meet on  
 Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm.



MALLARD'S  
 LANDING SERVICE  
 takes place the  
 third Thursday of  
 every month.

Please join us as  
 we provide a much-  
 appreciated communion  
 worship service for some of the  
 residents. You will enjoy  
 getting to know 'the regulars'  
 and seeing the members of this



church who live at Mallard's,  
too! This month's service is on  
Thursday, June 21st, at  
9:15am.

The Little Food  
Pantry needs non-  
perishable  
donations. Please  
help support this  
worthy mission.



YOUR CHURCH  
COUNCIL...

Please feel free to  
contact any member  
of your Church

Council with any questions, comments  
or concerns.

Lisa Hughes – Moderator

Robert Rood – Vice Moderator

Ken Schultz – Treasurer

Caroline Schultz – Church Clerk

Deuane Martin – Trustee & Finance

Kathy Rood – Worship & Music

Mary Ann Martin - Mission & Ministry

Doug Bishop/Penny Malcolm – Christian  
Education

Pat O'Connor – Member at Large

Alana Kelley – Pastor



Volunteers make up  
FCC's various  
committees. If you  
would like to  
participate in the  
stewardship of the  
church, or have any questions or  
concerns about what the committees  
do, please reach out to the  
committee chairs:



Administration: David Scheel

Altar: Cathy Light

Altar Flowers: Vicki Kling

Christian Education: Doug Bishop

Inside Maintenance: Don O'Connor

Memorials: Caroline Schultz

Mission & Ministry: Mary Ann Martin

Open & Affirming: Pat O'Connor

Outside Maintenance: Randy Kling

Parish Nurse: Mary Ann Martin

Parsonage: Don Rice

Pastoral Relations: Bob Rood, Nancy

Rice, Carroll Simmons

Remembrance: Karen Galvin

Treasurer: Ken Schultz

Ushers: Tim Galvin

Worship & Music: Kathy Rood



## **JUNE DUTIES:**

### **LAY READERS:**

- 3 – Pat O'Connor
- 10 – Mary Ann Martin
- 17 – Lisa Hughes
- 24 – Paul Lydy

### **USHERS:**

- 3 – K. Schultz / P. Lydy
- 10 – J. Light / D. Johnson
- 17 – A. Thourlby / D. Vernier
- 24 – S. Hughes / C. Eschenburg

### **POWER POINT:**

- 3 – Doreen Vernier
- 10 – Lisa Hughes
- 17 – David Kelley
- 24 – Pat O'Connor

### **COFFEE HOUR:**

- 3 – Lezlynne Moore
- 10 – C. Simmons / C. Light
- 17 – M. Martin / N. Kennedy
- 24 – C. Schultz / B. Landschoot

### **JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> COMMUNION**

**SERVERS:** Carroll Simmons,  
Lezlynne Moore, Steve Hughes,  
Lisa Hughes

**ALTAR DUTIES:** Laurel Lydy

**TRUSTEE:** Bob Baden

## **OPEN & AFFIRMING INCLUSIVE CHURCH COVENANT**



The members of the First Congregational Church of St. Clair, United Church of Christ, declare that we are a fully inclusive, open and affirming congregation. We affirm the life and teachings of Jesus Christ and believe that all people are children of God. As such, we welcome to the community of faith all people of diverse race, physical and mental abilities, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, and socio-economic status. We covenant to provide to all a safe, loving, nurturing and compassionate community.

**THANK YOU, THANK  
YOU, THANK YOU!**

Dear Church Family: I am so thankful and so blessed to have received all of your cards, prayers, visits and good wishes while I am recovering. I wanted to let you know how much I appreciate each and every one of you. – Sincerely, Sue Waelens

Dear Church Family: I felt you should know how very blessed I am to have you all in my life. Yours visits, cards, prayers and thoughts have been so up-lifting and appreciated. On my visits back to church, I am overwhelmed by your kindness and concern. I have also enjoyed receiving the May Basket you put together and the lovely visit that went along with it. It all means a great deal to me. I am so blessed by you all...thank you! – Fondly, Ann Whittaker

I enjoyed your happy package very much. Thank you! – Martha

Thank you, church members, for the goody-filled May Day gifts I discovered on my porch. It was a delightful surprise. – Sis Johnson  
Dear Members: What a pleasant awakening on my door yesterday! A May Day blue bag/basket packed with delicious goodies! God bless you! – Sincerely, Carol VanBuskirk

Harbor Impact is in need of a few special items. Boxes to house jewelry – bracelet, necklace, ring boxes, etc. are in demand. Also, gently used towels



and washcloths, sheets and pillowcases, all sizes. Comforter sets marked by size are also greatly appreciated! You can leave them in the Library marked “Harbor” or call Bonnie Landschoot or Mary Ann Martin.

**HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
Day!**

**June 17, 2018**

The Alzheimer's Support Group will meet the fourth Thursday of the month at First Congregational Church. All are welcome. June's meeting is Thursday, June 28th, at 1pm. For further information, please call the church (329-4142) or Mary Ann Martin (326-0798).







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LADIES  
LUNCHEON  
will be held on  
Wednesday,  
June 20<sup>th</sup>, at  
The Inn on  
Water Street

in Marine City. We will  
meet at 12pm. If you would  
like to car-pool, please call  
the office.



### **HAPPY MEN'S HEALTH MONTH!**

From infancy to old age, women are simply healthier than men. Out of the 15 leading causes of death, men lead women in all of them except Alzheimer's disease, which many men don't live long enough to develop. Men's approach to their health plays a role in this as well as biology. Men go to the doctor less than women and are more likely to have a serious condition when they do go, research shows. The top threats to men's health aren't secrets: they're known, common, and often preventable.

**Cardiovascular Disease: The Leading Men's Health Threat.** Heart disease and stroke are the first and second leading causes of death worldwide, in both men and women, according to Dr. Darwin Labarthe, Director of the Division for Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control. One in five men will die from cardiovascular disease, with the average age being under 65. What can you do? Get your cholesterol checked, control your blood pressure and cholesterol, if you smoke—STOP, increase your physical activity level to 30 minutes per day most days of the week, eat more fruits and vegetables and less saturated or trans fats

**Lung Cancer: Still a Health Threat to Men.** Lung cancer is a terrible disease—ugly, aggressive and almost always metastatic. By the time it's found, lung cancer is often advanced and difficult to cure. Less than half of men are alive a year later. So....are you still smoking? Tobacco causes 90% of all lung cancers. No effective screening test for lung cancer is available. Quitting smoking at any age reduces the risk for lung cancer. Stopping smoking is hard, get help! Ask your health care professional to assist you.

**Prostate Cancer: A Leading Cancer for Men.** Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men other than skin cancer. Close to 200,000 men will develop prostate cancer this year in the U.S. But while one in six men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in his lifetime, only one in 35 will die from it. Many prostate cancers are slow-growing and unlikely to spread, while others are aggressive. Talk to your doctor about screening options

**Depression and Suicide: Men Are at Risk.** Depression isn't just a bad mood, a rough patch, or the blues. It's an emotional disturbance that affects your whole body and overall health. Depression proves the mind-body connection. Brain chemicals and stress hormones are out of balance. Sleep, appetite, and energy levels are disturbed. Instead of showing sadness or crying, men often get angry or aggressive. Men are also less likely to seek help for depression. Women attempt suicide more often, but men are more successful at completing it. Suicide is the eighth leading cause of death among all men; for young men, it's higher. Most people respond well to depression treatment with medications, therapy or both. Reach out to a loved one and/or your health care professional and seek help!

**Diabetes: The Silent Health Threat for Men.** Diabetes usually begins silently, without symptoms. Resulting frequent urination and thirst are what finally bring many men to the doctor. Excess glucose acts like a slow poison on blood vessels and nerves everywhere in the body. Heart attacks, strokes, blindness, kidney failure, and amputations are the fallout for thousands of men. Overweight and obesity are likely feeding the diabetes epidemic. Exercise, combined with a healthy diet, can prevent type 2 diabetes. Moderate weight loss and 30 minutes a day of physical activity reduced the chance of diabetes by more than 50% in men at high risk in one major study! Know your numbers, including your fasting blood sugar.

Source: Web MD

We love our men. They are the fathers, sons, friends, neighbors, relatives and mentors who mean so much to us each and every day. We educate about these facts, so you can be proactive and fight the good fight! It doesn't have to be hopeless—you are children of God and able to work towards good health! Just do it!

Your Parish Nurse,

Mary Ann Martin, RN, BAS, HCN





As head of the church's CARE TEAM, I send emails to my team members of Joys and Concerns in the congregation. Most of these emails are in the form of a Prayer Request. If you would like to be informed of the members that we are praying for, please email me to add you to this list. (This does not make you an "active" member of the Visitation team). Thank you – Karen Galvin [kmg49@comcast.net](mailto:kmg49@comcast.net)



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**FRIDAY  
MORNINGS AT  
NEIMAN'S CAFÉ..**  
Every Friday,  
10:30 a.m-12:00

a.m. You are welcome to stop by for a chat with Pastor Alana, enjoy some good coffee, or just appreciate a relaxing end to your week!



Christian Education News

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF ST. CLAIR  
300 ADAMS STREET**

**SUMMER ACTIVITIES**

June 2: Kids/Teen Game night and Pizza 6-7:30pm  
June 16: Teen night 6-7pm (ages 12-14)  
June 24: Family BBQ after church 11am-12:30pm  
~~~~~  
July 18: Kids cooking all ages 5-6:30p Church Basement  
July 28: Teen night 6-7pm (ages 12-14)  
~~~~~  
August 3: Bon Fire and s'mores 6:30-8:30pm side lawn  
August 8: Movie and popcorn 5p-7p all ages  
August 18: Teen night 6-7pm (ages 12-14)

**All are welcome**

For more information please  
call: (810) 329-4142  
**FREE Summer Fun!**



**CALLING ALL  
GRADUATES...**If you are a graduate or know of a graduate (high school or beyond) and wish to be recognized or have them recognized on our Graduation/Bible Presentation Sunday (June 10, 2018) – please use the sign-up sheet on the back table.



Last week waiting for church to start I happened to look at our “Be the Church” banner at the back of the sanctuary. I noticed that the very first item listed was “protect the environment.”

Over the past couple of years, I have become aware of the amount of plastic that I see and use and decided to look into the negative effects that plastic has on our world. What I found was stunning. Consider the following:

1. Since 1960, eight million tons of plastic materials have been produced.
2. Only 9% of that has been recycled, 91% has either ended up in landfills or as litter (6.3 billion tons).
3. Eight million tons of plastic debris ends up in our oceans every year. It is estimated that by 2050 there will be more plastic in the oceans by weight than fish. Single use items are the biggest problem.

- One trillion plastic bags are used and thrown away worldwide every year.
- 500 million plastic cups are disposed of daily.
- In the United States alone, 50 billion plastic bottles were used last year.

The numbers are daunting. The most disconcerting fact is that plastic items take 400 to 1,000 years to degrade. Basically, that means that every plastic item produced since mass production began in the 60's still exists (if it wasn't burned).

What we can do going forward is limited but everything helps. Some suggestions include:

- Buy reusable shopping bags
- Don't buy bottled water, plastic straws, foam plates and plastic tableware, amongst many other items we use every day.
- Consider the number of plastic items you use just once and then throw away. Try to think of other substitutes.
- Recycle as much as is possible. However, even recycling is

becoming a less viable alternative. Recycling companies are finding it difficult to make a profit which means even more plastic refuse will end up in landfills.

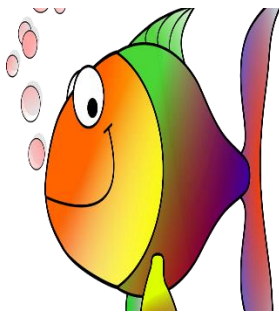
- The best answer is trying to substitute other materials or reusing what we have. It is difficult as we are surrounded by plastic. Indeed, we are drowning in it

Submitted by: Bob Rood

your donations in the box in the hallway. Any questions, speak with Doug Bishop.



If anyone has, or can get, a gently used high chair...we could use one in the Friendship Hall. Thanks!



### **VBS DONATIONS...**

FCC kids will be participating in the ecumenical VBS this year, being held at

St. Peter's Lutheran Church, on July 9-11, 6pm-8:30pm. Pre-K (4 yrs) thru 5th grade are welcome. Ocean Commotion is the program for this year, and the craft department is in need of clean/empty Gatorade or Powerade bottles. Please leave

## JUNE 2018 at First Congregational

1	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am-12:00pm
2	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am Pastor Alana vacation: June 2 – June 9 Christian Ed Game Night & Pizza (all ages) 6pm-7:30pm
3	Sunday	<b>WORSHIP 10:00am / Communion / Moore Bible Presentation / Rev. Wingrove Preaching</b>
6	Wednesday	Trustees Reports Due Amanda Here 9am-12pm
7	Thursday	Music Planning Mtg. 9:30am Choir Practice 11:30am-12:30pm
8	Friday	<b>No Neiman's Café today</b>
9	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am
10	Sunday	<b>WORSHIP 10:00am / Recognize Graduates / Last Choir Performance</b>
12	Tuesday	Trustees Mtg. 4:00pm
13	Wednesday	Council Reports Due Amanda Here 9am-12pm
14	Thursday	Last day for East China Schools
15	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am-12:00pm
16	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am Christian Ed Teen Night (church basement) 6pm-7pm
17	Sunday	<b>WORSHIP 10am / Father's Day</b>
19	Tuesday	Council Mtg. 6:00pm
20	Wednesday	Ladies Luncheon-The Inn on Water St., Marine City – 12pm Channel Deadline Amanda Here 9am-12pm
21	Thursday	Mallard's Landing Service 9:15am
22	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am-12:00pm
23	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am
24	Sunday	<b>WORSHIP 10am / Family BBQ after Church 11am-12:30pm</b>
25	Monday	61 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the United Church of Christ
26	Tuesday	Be the Church Mtg. 7pm
27	Wednesday	Amanda Here 9am-12pm
28	Thursday	Worship & Music Mtg. 9:30am Alzheimer's Support Group 1pm
29	Friday	Neiman's Café 10:30am-12:00pm
30	Saturday	Weight Watchers 8am

