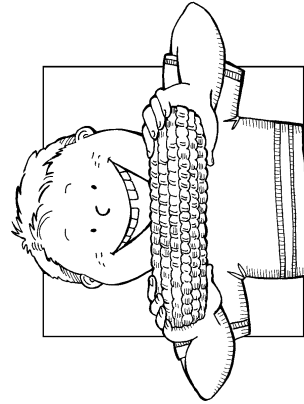


First Congregational Church
100 Maple Street
St. Johns, Michigan 48879

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August

This Month's Highlights:
Cover, *Mint Festival*
Pg. 2 *Rev. Olson's Article*
Pg. 4 *Air Conditioning!*
Pg. 4 *Children and Youth News*
Pg. 5 *August Schedules, Church Records and Dedication*

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



August 2011 The Congregational Connection...

*Our connection to the family and friends of
First Congregational Church, St. Johns, MI*

2011 ST. JOHNS MINT FESTIVAL

AUGUST 12TH, 13TH AND 14TH

It's time to help your church by volunteering at the First Congregational Church Mint Festival Food Booth! Barb Sherman is looking for people to assist with the set up and take down of the food booth. She will also need volunteers to work a shift or two during the Mint Festival!

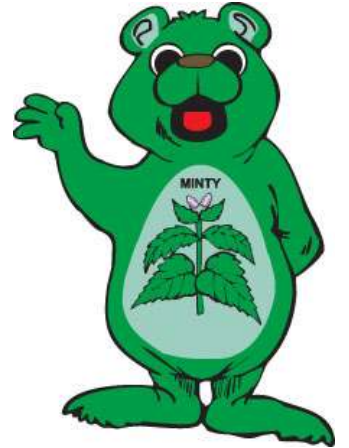
If you are interested in helping, Barb can be reached at 517-242-1234 (cell) or 989-292-4029 (home).

Give her a call or sign up on the schedule posted on the landing outside the sanctuary.

The booth also is in need of donations of Pepsi, Coke, bottled water and Capri Sun products. She would also appreciate it if you would bring empty and clean milk containers to church so that we can make our own ice.

All donations can be brought to church and put in the first classroom, upper level, in the Carson Center where "Minty" Signs are posted.

Come and have fun and fellowship as you work with Barb Sherman and the Mint Festival Food Booth!



“We believe in God...the Holy Spirit, who takes the things of Christ and reveals them to us, renewing, comforting, and inspiring our souls”

–First Congregational Church of St. Johns Bylaws, Article IV. A. Faith.

The least spoken of and understood of the trinity, the Holy Spirit is seen by most Christians as God’s immanent, uniting, and inspiring presence in our lives and in the life and worship of the church. God the Father is related to creation and the Old Testament period, God the Son the Gospels, and God the Holy Spirit the current church age.

Unfortunately many mainline Christians associate the Holy Spirit only with the dramatic and emotional worship of the charismatic and Pentecostal congregations. “We are not Christians like that, and our church is not that kind of church” they say. They forget that, in our church for example, we invite the Holy Spirit to be with us during our “Prayer of Invocation” every Sunday; that is, we invoke the Spirit to be present in and with us as we worship.

The Holy Spirit may take many forms, and its presence felt in a variety of ways. It may descend on us as a mighty wind and tongues of fire (see Acts 2:1-13). That same Spirit may come to us in gentle, life-giving breath (see John 20:22). The Holy Spirit may even inspire us in moments of quiet prayer and contemplation in *“sighs too deep for words.”* (Romans 8:26)

We come to worship, then, considering these questions:

- Where is the Holy Spirit present in our world?
- What is the work and movement of the Holy Spirit?
- How can we be more open to the Holy Spirit in our church?
- How can we more completely be guided by the Holy Spirit as we worship?
- Where have you experienced the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in your life?
- How has the Holy Spirit inspired you to act more faithfully toward God?
- In what specific ways has the Holy Spirit moved you to grow spiritually?

The word for “spirit” is the same word for “wind” or “breath”. Identification of the Holy Spirit as the breath of God present in the church draws those who worship into a deeper appreciation God’s Spirit breathing through us as we draw breath and sing, welcome one another, and pray.

Our worship is truly enlivened when we imagine God with us, recreating us, breathing through us, filling us with new life, whenever we gather as his people.

Rev. Matthew Olson

THE CHURCH STAFF

Senior Minister, Matthew Olson
Church Administrator, Susan Larsen
Treasurer, Jim Beagle
Financial Secretary, Paul Martis
Chancel Choir Director, Dr. Charles Graham
Director of Music Ministry, Rachael Short
Hands of Harmony Director, Susan Kilmer

First Congregational Church

100 Maple Street
St. Johns, MI 48879

Telephone: 989-224-2636

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E-Mail: fccsj@4wbi.net

Web Site: www.fccsj.com

Facebook: [firstcongregationalchurchofst.johns](https://www.facebook.com/firstcongregationalchurchofst.johns)

Hours: Monday - Tuesday
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Closed Fridays

STATEMENT OF FAITH

*We believe in God, the Father;
infinite in wisdom, goodness and love, and in
Jesus Christ, His Son, our Lord and Savior,
who, for us and our salvation, lived and died
and rose again and liveth evermore;
and in the Holy Spirit, who taketh of the things
of Christ and revealth them to us, renewing,
comforting, and inspiring the souls of men.*

THE BOARD OF MINISTRY

Moderator: Molly Minnick

Vice Moderator:
Shirleyan Lake

Board of Ministry Members:

David Elms

Tom Flynn

Tom French

Bill Kushmaul

Gary Larsen

Eugene Livingston

Melanie Lounds

Keith Mino

Cali Sackrider

MISSION STATEMENT

We are a church open to all.
As modern day pilgrims we
consider

it our privilege and committed
responsibility to:

CELEBRATE the glory of God
through worship, service and
stewardship

NURTURE our relationships with
Christian love and truth; and

SERVE others in our daily lives,
individually and collectively
as Christ’s people.

FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Please mark your calendars for the next “Throw Down” Sunday on **August 21st**, when we donate non-perishable items to the new RPM Food Bank in downtown St. Johns. *See the following article.* If you have any questions about this ongoing project or anything else regarding the Missions Ministry Team, please contact: John Fitch, Sue Gladstone, Barb Sherman, Sue Neuder, Karen Pontius, Jan Myers, or Jennifer Beagle. They would be happy to talk with you. More information? Contact John Fitch at 224-3565.

NEW FOOD BANK

Red-Line Paraclete Ministries (RPM) is a Christ centered ministry serving those in need here in Clinton County. They have a vision of being a safety net that will assist people and find the help they need in these trying times.

With God’s help, no problem should be too small or large that we wouldn’t try to at least get the wheels turning towards a solution.

The “Basic Needs Center” is a volunteer based service. They can only operate through the love of our community stepping up to serve those in need.

Pastor Russ and Adele McCoy are the founders of “The Basic Needs Center” at 105 North Clinton Avenue, and they are looking for your help. They need volunteers, donations of food, clothing and monies.

Call 517-230-4618 or 989-640-3723 for more information. They plan to open the store front the first week of August.

COMMUNITY NEWS

2011 SERIES

- August 3: Cats and the Fiddler
- August 10: The Capital City Chordsmen
- August 17: Shepard’s Folly
- August 24: Metro Jazz Voices
- August 31: Elvis Impersonator, Matt King



All shows begin at 7:00 p.m. rain or shine. Bring your own seating.

John and Pam Foster, owners of *The Wheel Inn*, would like to invite our congregation to visit their restaurant on Saturdays and Sundays and bring along your current weekly bulletin. They will keep the bulletin, attach your paid bill to it and once every month they will total those numbers (pre-tax) and make a 5% donation back to the church. They hope that these monies will assist in supporting our favorite mission in these economic hard times. This program will go on indefinitely.

“TUESDAY TOGETHER TIMES”, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. All free at the Depot in St. Johns!

August 2: Games in conjunction with “National Night Out” at St. Johns Lutheran Church, corner of Sturgis and US-27.

August 9th: PKSA Karate, demonstrations and activities.

August 16th: The Flying Aces. Max Dollarhite of Lansing Flying aces demo of radio controlled planes.

August 23rd: David Wyatt. Organized chaos-Bubbles everywhere!

For more information contact any St. Johns Kiwanis Club member.



Sunday, September 11, 2011
at the Thurston Farm
5512 West M-21
(look for the FCC sign)

Worship service at 11:00 a.m.

Hog Roast and Pot Luck Dinner at 12:00 p.m. Bring a dish to pass and your own table service. Everyone is welcome to attend, so ask a friend or neighbor to come and enjoy this special morning with us.

**“CONNECTIONS”
to family and friends**

Hazel Findlay Country Manor Nursing Home, St. Johns:

Phyllis Rice, long time member
Vianna Bond, sister of Doris Swatman & Fritz
Thurston, mother of Rod Bond



Michigan Masonic Home, Alma:

Geraldine Workman, long time member

Grace Haven Assisted Living, St. Johns:

Helen Johnson, long time member
Donna Magsig, mother of Linda Kentfield



Our family for the month of August is Larry and Barbara Salters.

Larry and Barb have three daughters, Vicky, Kim and Pam, ten grandchildren and two great grand children.

Larry is retired from General Motors and now works at Kroger. Barb is a retired nurse who worked at Sparrow Hospital in Lansing. She also sings with the Holy Mamas and helps file music for the Chancel Choir.

The both enjoy working out, bowling, reading, yard work and short trips.

Anyone who has worked with Barb knows she has a great sense of humor and Larry is a true gentleman.

Larry and Barb originally were going to church in Eureka but thought St. Johns was closer to where they lived.

They have attended F.C.C. on and off for about thirty years.

Larry and Barb are really a great couple to have in our congregation!



Children and Youth News

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS SEPTEMBER 18TH!

More Jesus!

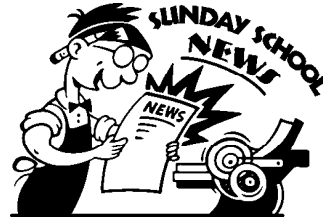
Classes filled with creative Bible story presentations.

Engaging music and videos.

The materials are in and we will be getting ready for Rally Day!

We are in need an age 4—preschool teacher (or teachers) for this coming school year. If you are interested in helping with this age group please contact Beth Olson at 224-4110.

Get ready for another fun and exciting year!



AUGUST CHILDREN AND YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Allyse Johnson
- 7 Troy Cramer
- 12 Riley Petersen
- 15 Logan Johnson
- 16 Keegan Elms
- 16 Danielle Flynn



CHURCH NEWS!

An Air Conditioning Endowment Fund has been established with the seed money being donated by a member of our congregation. Our hope is that others in the congregation who feel strongly about the importance of this project will also come forward with financial support. Based on information obtained in the past, we are likely to need approximately \$50,000.00 to complete this project. The Board feels that the addition of air conditioning in the sanctuary would greatly enhance our worship services throughout the summer months. Donations may be made to First Congregational Church with “Air Conditioning” listed in the memo line.



AUGUST SIGN UP SCHEDULES

<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Nursery Care</u>	<u>Fellowship Hour</u> 9:30 a.m.	<u>4th Sunday Supper</u> <u>Host/Hostess</u>
7*	7 Stacie Stevens	7 Molly Minnick	The 4th Sunday Supper will resume on September 25th.
14 Wood Family	14 Stacie Stevens	14*	
21*	21 Stacie Stevens	21 Dennis & Janet Scott	
28*	28 Miriam VanValkenburg	28*	

*Openings that need to be filled.

This page is published to keep you informed of participation in our church on Sundays and of changes in our church records. This also includes the dedication of our monthly newsletter.

CHURCH RECORDS

Wedding:

Alex Fuller & Danielle Kochensparger, July 9, 2011. Alex is the son of Rod and Betsy Fuller

Baptism:

Alexa Kathrine Ayer, July 3, 2011, daughter of Adam and Solitaire Ayer

Member Death: Member since March 25, 1934

Evelyn Buck, July 4, 2011, sister of Vianna Bond, Doris Swatman & Fritz Thurston

THE AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEDICATION

In celebration of the

25th Wedding Anniversary of

Larry and Teresa Zuker

Given by their son, Zachary Zuker
Teresa's parents Art and Arlene Wood
and her siblings

