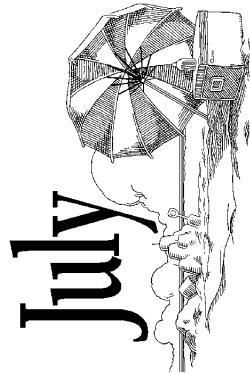


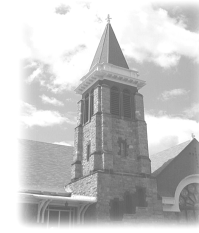
First Congregational Church
100 Maple Street
St. Johns, Michigan 48879

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This Month's Highlights:
Cover, Mint Festival & 150th Celebration
Pg. 2 Rev. Olson
Pg. 5 Summer Classes
Pg. 6 Children and Youth News
Pg. 7 July Schedules, Church Records and Dedication

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



July 2010 The Congregational Connection...

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

150th Celebration!

Get ready for July Joy Jubilee! On Sunday, July 18th, our youth will lead the congregation with a sermon and carnival festivities afterwards. Our theme: "Joy in the Lord". The Senior High PF hope to share some reflections on their conference workshops, missions, and fellowship in Alaska. After the service we invite you outside for hot dogs, popcorn, snow cones, carnival games, an inflatable bouncer for the kids, and the chance to soak the minister! Games include fishing, bowling, beanbag tossing, face painting, and dart throwing just to name a few. Invite everyone you know in celebrating our 150th year Senior-high style! A deeply felt thank you for all those that donated to our Alaska trip. The pizza, submarine sandwich, spaghetti, and t-shirt profits were all because of the giving and loving people like yourselves. Your continued support with pledging allows us to enrich our students' lives and strengthen their studies. It is with these funds that we are also able to provide activities that benefit our larger congregation and our community. Come celebrate our July Joy Jubilee!

Melanie Lounds & Guven Witteveen
Senior High Pilgrim Fellowship Leaders

2010 Mint Festival

Are you interested in finding an "Act of Service" that you can do for the church? Why not step out of your comfort zone and sign up to work with the St. Johns Mint Festival Food Booth Ministry Team?

You can work a shift or two selling at the booth, help prepare food, clean up, or any job that needs to be done.

Barb Sherman is seeking people to help her with all aspects of this fund raiser. *The team does need the following donations: bottled water, any brand of pop and Capri Sun juice for the children. They can be delivered to the church at any time.*



The Mint Festival is being held August 13th, 14th and 15th. Please give Barb a call at 1-517-242-1234 to let her know you are interested in helping to make this the best food booth yet!

Summer is the time to sit in the yard or at the beach, and read novels, do crossword puzzles, and maybe, try your skill at a Bible quiz. Test yourself. Can you identify which of these phrases come from the Bible?

Rev. Olson

1. Charity begins at home
2. Leave no stone unturned
3. Familiarity breeds contempt
4. The road to hell is paved with good intentions
5. The race is not to the swift
6. Separate the sheep from the goats
7. The handwriting is on the wall
8. You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear
9. The salt of the earth
10. Cleanliness is next to godliness
11. Cast pearls before swine
12. Man proposes, God discloses
13. Seventh heaven
14. Pulling the wool over his eyes
15. Feet of clay
16. The evil that men do lives after them
17. Have your cake and eat it too
18. Fowl come home to roost
19. A cheerful heart is good medicine
20. Warm the cockles of the heart
21. The rapture
22. What is impossible with men is possible with God
23. Castor and Pollux
24. My name is Legion
25. Defender of the faith

Answers on page 4

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
Fax: 989-224-8306
E-Mail: fccsj@4wbi.net
Web Site: www.fccsj.com

Hours: Monday - Tuesday
 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 Thursday – Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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: Marianne Harris

Vice Moderator:
 Shirleyan Lake

Board of Ministry Members:
 David Elms
 Tom Flynn
 Gary Larsen
 Eugene Livingston
 Melanie Lounds
 Keith Mino
 Denise Palmer
 Randy Root
 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

1. Next "Throw Down Sunday" is on July 18th.
2. Bring your donation of any canned or boxed food, baby food, diapers, baby products, or cash to be donated to the Baby Pantry.

More information? Contact John Fitch at 224-3565.

"CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTION" NEWSLETTER

We are now taking reservations for 2011 monthly newsletter dedications. The months of **January** and **August** have already been reserved! You are invited to call the church office at 224-2636 to book that special month in 2011. Thank you.



**150TH ANNIVERSARY
1860-2010**

COMMUNITY NEWS

MEN'S MINISTRY, in collaboration with Dunamia.org, is inviting all men in need of personal support, to meet at Community Christian Church (400 East State Street) every fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Please call Mike Stedry for further information at 517-449-5349

The Clinton County Department of Human Services needs safe and caring homes for children of all ages. Especially teenagers in all areas of Clinton County. **FOSTER PARENTS** can make a difference in the lives of children in crisis. Contact Christine Sisung with the Department of Human Services at 989-224-5548 for information packets.

Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group, 3rd Wednesday of every month, 3:00-4:30 p.m. at Grace Haven Assisted Living, 1507 Glastonbury Drive, St. Johns. Respite Care available on site. Please call ahead at 224-1650.

2010 CONCERT IN THE PARK

- July 7 Youth Band from Switzerland
- July 14 Mid Michigan Festival Orchestra
- July 21 The Webbs & Local Performers
- July 27 Clinton County Idol
- July 28 Clinton County Idol Finals

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

DID YOU KNOW?

Your pledge to the church:

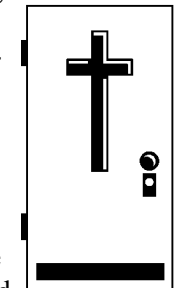
- Is used to pay the custodians, who work very hard to keep the church neat and clean.
- Pays for training of new leaders in "Children in Worship".
- Gives a "Young Children's Bible" to babies being Baptized and awards a "Youth Bible" to children entering the third grade.
- Pays for the communion elements both for in church and for when Rev. Olson calls on someone who can not get to church.
- Donates to Hospice, Meals on Wheels and Clinton County Special Olympics.

OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closing at noon from Monday, July 19th, through Thursday the 22nd. It will be closed on Friday, July 23rd.

In addition, the same schedule will apply from Monday, August 2nd, through Tuesday the 10th. The office will be closed on Friday, August 6th.

The Church Office



Will Be Closed:



CAMPING TRIP

Forty one campers were at the Third Annual Camping trip and quite a few families were there for the first time.

Kayaking, canoeing, fishing and swimming in the pond or in the pool, were all part of the fun. An ice cream social was held on Friday evening and a pot luck dinner was held on Saturday. You could join the group for a camp fire in the evening or have your own.

The Fourth Annual Church Camping trip will be held the weekend following St. Johns High School graduation. Watch the newsletter for information next spring.



ANSWERS TO THE QUIZ!

Answers to Bible quiz

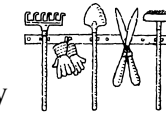
1. Terence, a Roman play write
2. Theban general Polycrates instruction in looking for an enemy's buried treasure
3. Shakespeare, "Merry Wives of Windsor"
4. Vergil
5. Ecclesiastes 9:11
6. Matthew 25:32
7. Daniel 5:25-31
8. My dad, as far as I know
9. Matthew 5:13
10. Francis Bacon, "Advancement of Learning"
11. Matthew 7:6
12. Thomas a' Kempis, "The Imitation of Christ"
13. Ancient theory of astronomy in which the seventh ring of stars was the highest and represented supreme bliss
14. Fooling a wig wearing English judge
15. Daniel 2:31-34
16. Shakespeare, "Julius Caesar"
17. Heywood's Proverbs (c. 1546)
18. Unknown
19. Proverbs 17:22
20. Ancient Latin; the ventricles of the heart seen as similar to the structure of a bivalve mollusk
21. Theological term not in the Bible
22. Luke 18:27
23. Acts 28:11
24. Mark 5:9
25. Title first given by Pope Leo X to Henry VIII

YOUR PLEDGE: MAKING IT EASY

Is your travel trailer packed and ready to leave on that vacation? Spending time at your cottage? Going to see the grandparents? Keep your pledge up to date all year long by signing up for Electronic Funds Transfer. We have authorization forms available in the church office. This system makes it very easy for you to keep up with your pledge to the church. You can determine when you want to give and the amount you pledge and it will automatically be taken care of. Please, stop in and pick up a form at your convenience.

ALL SPRUCED UP!

The church is ready for summer now with all the flowers planted and the mulch down. We would like to thank; Gary and Sue Larsen, Barbara Bullard, Teresa Zuker, Stacie Stevens, Guven Witteveen, Melanie Lounds and the Senior High Youth Group for all the time and effort they put into this big job.



NOTE OF THANKS

So many thank you's for prayers, cards, visits, meals, and well-wishes during my recent hospital stays. I want you to know how very much I appreciated them all. God bless each and every one of you.

*Thank you again!
Dorothy Sousley*

JIM AND SHELLEY GUNTHER!

Jim is originally from Lansing and graduated from Eastern High School. He is the Director of the Cardio Pulmonary Department at Sparrow Clinton Hospital.

Gardening is Jim's passion.

He also plays golf, enjoys singing and has participated in choir, Silo

Singers, Holy Mamas and many Clinton County Capers. He is also active in Kiwanis and Boy Scouts.

Shelly is the daughter of an Air Force pilot, so she has lived in many places. She is a retired SIPS teacher and currently working part time teaching at LCC. Her hobbies include reading and spending time with their seven year old granddaughter, Kendall. She is active in golf league, book club, Hospital Auxiliary and she enjoys spending time with her old teaching buddies.

They have three children. Meghan is a preschool teacher for Lansing Public Schools at Magnet School Montessori. Rachel is a Doctor of Physical Therapy and is getting married in November. Andrew will graduate from MSU Chiropractic College this fall.

The Gunthers have been attending our church since 1997.

They had friends who belonged to this church so they decided to give us a try and have stayed since their first visit. Jim joined the choir almost immediately thanks to support from Chuck Graham. You need to drive by their house to see Jim's handy work. The flowers are absolutely beautiful!



A SPECIALNOTE

June 7, 2010

Dear friends and loved ones of FCC St. Johns,

I am embarrassed that it has taken so long for me to catch up on all the thank you notes. It has been a crazy spring. We want to thank you for the beautiful plant that you sent for Kathy's memorial. I will always treasure the memories of my internship days in St. Johns and falling head over heels for Kathy there. After her memorial service we paged through our wedding album and remembered that very special time we shared with all of you. We thought of how Kathy loved to sing in the choir there growing up in St. Johns and maintained that love throughout our ministry together. I have told many that the last Sunday before she died, she was too weak to walk down the aisle but still managed to stand up with the choir and sing.

The kids and I are so appreciative of all the prayers and support you have been during this most difficult time.

*God Bless you,
With love,
Bill, Sarah and Charlie Trump*

Kathy Trump is the daughter of Dorothy Carson.



ALL SUMMER LONG...

All men from our church and community are invited to attend the **TUESDAY MORNING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY**. They open with a prayer at 7:00 a.m. sharp and always try to close the study time by 7:50 a.m. with time for prayer until 8:00 a.m. They are now studying 2 Peter! Come and join them!

Rev. Olson is leading a **BIBLE STUDY/DISCUSSION CLASS** on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. in Wilcox Hall. You can join the group at any time. This is a good chance to meet new people and grow in your Christian faith. This group is studying Jonah.

Don't forget when you take off on that camping trip, or you are just sitting in your back yard and need something to read, why not take a book out of the **CHURCH LIBRARY**. We have a great variety of fiction and non fiction books for you to borrow for your summer enjoyment.

The "**Holy Mamas**" will continue to meet on Sunday mornings at 11:30 a.m. Everyone interested in singing is encouraged to come and join the group when they can. See Rachael Short, the church organist, for more information.

MINT FESTIVAL FLOAT UPDATE

FCCSJ will have a float in the Mint Festival Parade, 2010, celebrating the 150 years our church has served this community. A member of our church has volunteered a wagon, vehicle to pull the wagon and a driver. Plans are being worked on for the theme for the float. Volunteers are needed to decorate the float prior to the parade. The parade is Saturday, August 14th. The decorating will take place on Monday through Thursday evenings, August 9th through August 12th. Please call Ruth Nihart (989-224-4471) to let her know which evening you can help. You will have fun.



Ruth Nihart, 150th Ministry Team

Children and Youth News

JULY CHILDREN AND YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Ana Witteveen
- 8 Hannah Nelson
- 12 Max Willis
- 12 Georgia Willis
- 14 Lillian Howell
- 19 Skylar Mayes
- 21 Samuel Beagle



SAFE TRIP!

Our ASP team for this year is Zachary Zuker, Jamie Cheeney, Trisha Cheeney and Brad Tooker. John Fitch and Craig Smith are the leaders of this group. They will be leaving from church on August 1st, and returning on the 8th. They are traveling to Perry County, Kentucky.



ALASKA NAPF TRIP

A group of our senior high youth left for their trip to Anchorage, Alaska on June 26th, and will return on July 2nd. Youth that are on this trip are Buddy Stevens, Becca Stevens, Ana Witteveen, Bradley Tooker, Jamie Cheeney, Trish Cheeney, and Shanna Bond. Jerry Stevens is going as the group advisor. We wish them a safe trip!

"Any one wishing to help with the July 150th Celebration, "July, Joy, Jubilee!", is asked to please contact Melanie Lounds at 227-0932.

SUMMER CAMP

Summer camp is ready to start on Sunday, August 1st, to Friday evening, August 6th. It will be held at the YMCA Camp Copneconic in Fenton, MI, Genesee County. Summer camp is for all youth currently in 3rd grade through the 8th grade. This camp is an amazing experience and a great week of Christian fellowship, fun and faith. Registration packets are available in the church office.



Denise Palmer would like to thank everyone who helped make this years Bible School a great event. Both adults and youth did a tremendous job of working with the children. The jobs ranged from greeting them as they came into the church, to preparing the snacks. Everyone did their part of making "Rock Star" a fun time for everyone. We hope to see all of you back next summer for another V.B.S.

Thanks so much!

JULY SIGN UP SCHEDULES

<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Nursery Care</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Fellowship Hour</u>
4 Wilbur & Leola Thurston	4 Shanna Bond	4 *	4 *
11 *	11 Shanna Bond	11 *	11 *
18 *	18*	18 *	18 *
25 *	25 Shanna Bond	25 Doris Swatman Fritz Thurston	25 *

***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

Deaths:

Ray Scott, June 4, 2010 brother of Cathy Sanderson
Juanita O'Leary, June 9, 2010



Wedding Vow Renewal:

Douglas and Ouida Cooper, June 19, 2010 (50th Wedding Anniversary)

4th Sunday Supper Host/Hostess

The 4th Sunday Supper will resume on September 26th.

THE JULY NEWSLETTER DEDICATION

The Congregational Connection for this month has been given by F.C.C. members



Neil and Gene Barnhart