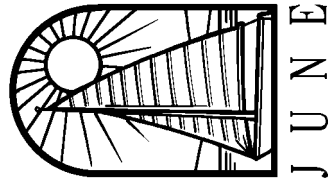


First Congregational Church
100 Maple Street
St. Johns, Michigan 48879

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48879



This Month's Highlights:
Cover, Pages 2 & 3 Graduates
Pg. 3 Summer Worship Schedule
Pg. 5 150th Anniversary
Pg. 6 Children and Youth News
Pg. 7 June Schedules, Church Records and Dedication
Pg. 9 Member Profile

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



June 2010

The Congregational Connection...

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



ZACHARY ZUKER will graduate from Fulton High School with honors 5th in his class. He has been a three year National Honor Society Member. He has been active at First Congregational Church since he was born. He has been a regular attendee in Sunday School, Junior PF, Senior PF and a participant in all of the Christmas pageants. Over the years he has been an acolyte, portrayed "little boy Jesus" in the Easter Cantata, and gone on missions to Appalachia. Playing hand bells and drums and other percussion instruments as requested for church services has been a rewarding contribution for him. In school, Zach has been a drummer in marching, concert, pep and jazz band. He is a CMAC Scholar Athlete playing soccer, basketball and running cross country. He earned a spot on the Top Ten Board at Fulton High School for his best cross country time. Zach was honored to represent Michigan in the Lions All State Band and traveled to Thailand to the Lion's International Meeting. In his spare time, Zach enjoys playing his drum set, hanging out with friends and slalom skiing at Rainbow Lake. Zach loves studying boats and in the fall will be attending The University of Michigan to pursue a career in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering. An open house honoring Zach will be held Saturday, June 12th, from 5-8 p.m. at the Zuker's home. His Mom and Dad are very proud of him and invite you to come and congratulate him on his big accomplishment.



Continued on page 2

KATE ROOT has been very active in the St. Johns theatre program, acting in more than a dozen shows, going back to The Music Man in 5th grade. She was part of the cast for Blood Brothers, the 2008 State Championship production. She also had the lead role in the 2009 competition play, The Boy Friend.

She played French Horn and mellophone in the St. Johns High School bands and orchestra and served as section leader. She also sang in the choir at school and First Congregational Church.

Kate ran on the track team in 10th grade and was a member of the gymnastics team as a senior. She is Vice President of the National Honor Society, and a member of GoodWins. She plans to take her second mission trip with the Appalachia Service Project this summer.

Kate will attend Hope College in Holland, Michigan this fall.



During high school, **KYLE ROOT** was on the sound crew or stage manager for every theater production, including the 2008 State Championship production of Blood Brothers. He was also the “go-to” sound guy for other events.

He was a tenor saxophone player in the award-winning St. Johns High School Marching Band for four years, serving as section leader in his senior year.

As a senior, he was hired as videographer for the Michigan High School Athletic Association’s pilot program with PlayON! Sports to provide broadcasts of Redwing sporting events.

Kyle also made two mission trips to serve with the Appalachia Service Project. He volunteered to help renovate homes for families that could not afford to do the work themselves.

In the fall, Kyle plans to attend Lansing Community College and participate in the MSU Air Force ROTC.



MARY LEWIS will graduate from St. Johns High School on June 6, 2010 in the Top Ten of her class. She finishes her senior year as Concertmistress of the High School Orchestra and has played in the pit orchestra for the SJHS Drama productions as well. Mary will travel overseas with the Blue Lake International Youth Symphony Orchestra during the months of June and July.

Other activities that Mary has participate in throughout high school include French Club (currently Co-President) and Renaissance Club. She has played volleyball for both SJHS and LAVA (Lansing Area Volleyball Association) and is a member of the National Honor Society as well. Mary works part time at Main Street Café. Following graduation, Mary will attend Northern Michigan University, studying Psychology and



Continued on page 3

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

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 June 20th.
2. Bring your donation of any canned or boxed food, or cash to be donated to area food banks. Personal products are also needed.

More information? Contact John Fitch at 224-3565.

"CONGREGATIONAL CONNECTION" NEWSLETTER

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

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
ST. JOHNS, MI



150TH ANNIVERSARY
1860-2010

COMMUNITY NEWS

THE GIRL SCOUTS, Heart of Michigan, St. Johns area Management Team wishes to thank the First Congregational Church for the monthly use of Wilcox Hall. This Management Team is comprised of all the St. Johns area Girl Scout troop leaders. Approximately 20 leaders met each month from September through May to conduct planning and sincerely appreciate being able to use the church for their meetings.

Submitted by, Susan Kilmer
Co-leader of 5th grade Junior Troop 30528

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.

GRADUATION 2010

Biology in the Honors Program. She will continue playing her violin in the Northern Michigan Orchestra and will participate in the Freshman Fellows program, doing research in the field of Psychology. Mary's proud family include mother, Beth Smith, stepfather, Craig Smith, father, Paul Lewis and siblings, Mallory and Garrett Smith.

MARQUIS GILL will be graduating from St. Johns High School where he was the Senior class Student Council Representative. He played on the St. Johns Varsity Soccer team. He also enjoys playing the piano, composing music, and excels in physics and chemistry. He will be working full time this summer and attending Michigan Technological University in the fall to study chemical engineering.



RICHARD L. SHOUP II is the son of Richard F. Shoup and Janet Wickham and the grandson of Dick and Charlotte Shoup. A 2010 graduate of St. Johns High School, Rick played tenor saxophone in the symphonic and marching bands, studied French and traveled to France as an exchange student in the spring of 2009. He participated in a work/study program through Lansing Community College during his junior and senior years to prepare him for a career in audio and digital media. Rick also plays a guitar and is a member of a local rock band. He plans to attend Lansing Community College in the fall, where he will pursue a degree in audio/digital media production.



TIMES ARE CHANGING: What Time Is It At Church?

The older members of our church all seem to agree; in the last 20 years or so our society has changed more rapidly than at any other time in their lives. What seemed permanent and stable has shifted; the news is awful, everything seems in flux, and predictability is gone. Tom Peters, a management consultant, says that this trend will continue. According to him, businesses and other organizations will only survive if they can manage the chaos by surfing on the waves of change.

This is true for the church. One of the biggest shifts in the last several years is that the gulf between the church and the culture at large has grown wider and wider. For centuries the church strongly informed Western culture, instructing morals and governance. The church held a place of honor and influence, and was seen as a positive force. This is no longer the case. Now the church is being systematically shut out of public life. Religion is seen as a private concern, not appropriate for discussion, and hence on the margins of what is really important.

This may not seem true in St. Johns. And to a certain extent it isn't as true here as it is in other places. Go to a large city and you will sense the difference. The churches are seen as artifacts from a bygone era. They are. Yet even here, within walking distance of the church, and certainly within the sound of the bells, there are hundreds of people who don't know, in any meaningful way, that our church exists. Furthermore, they don't care. Why should they?

In many ways our circumstance is like that of the Christians in the first century. They had to invent ways of being Christian and spreading the Christian message in an indifferent and hostile society. So do we. Our job is to figure out how to be the salt of the earth and light of the world in these post-modern, post-Christian times.

This means that we must lay aside what no longer works and creatively engage in being the presence of Christ in the world. As a company of people who live in the presence of God we meet each week to share our faith and be transformed by the power of the Gospel. The love of God, the ultimate supernatural reality, fills our hearts and forms our relationships. When we live this out we demonstrate the reality of our transcendent God.

It is not the form of these things that matter, but the substance. We need to consider everything we do in light of how effective it is in proclaiming Christ.

It is that time at church.

Rev. Matt Olson

**YOUR PLEDGE:
MAKING IT EASY**

Are you planning to be gone this summer? Spending time at your cottage? Are you going camping? Why not keep your pledge up to date this summer 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 it will automatically be taken care of. Please, stop in and pick up a form at your convenience.

**2010 MINT FESTIVAL
FOOD BOOTH**

Barb Sherman has started planning for the 2010 Mint Festival. She is still looking for volunteers who are willing to help with the organizing and running of the Mint Festival Food Booth. The Mint Festival is being held August 13th, 14th and 15th and the planning meetings are getting underway. She will be needing donated supplies and help for this event. Please give her a call at 1-517-242-1234 to let her know you are interested in helping to make this the best food booth yet!



MEET BILL & KATHY!



The Kushmauls have been very active members of our church since 1981 when they moved from Chelsea, MI. They have two grown children Bob and Roxanne. Bill is co-owner of a seed business, Agventure of Michigan and Kathy works at Sparrow Clinton Hospital in the Patient Account Department.

Bill has many hobbies some of which include hunting (not just in Michigan), fishing and camping. Kathy is directing the "Mint City 10 Miler", an event at the Mint Festival this summer. She also loves camping in their trailer, spending time with their grandchildren, and just being a very busy person.

They are both ushers in our church. Bill has been Head Usher for many



years, served as a Trustee, and on the Board of Ministry. Kathy has served on various committees and teams on a variety of projects. They are a very valuable asset to our church family. The next time you see them say "Hello"!

EAGLE SCOUT AWARD TO BE PRESENTED

Alex Lockwood of St. Johns, has earned the highest advancement award the Boy Scouts of America offers, the Eagle Scout Award. Alex will be recognized in a ceremony at 1:00 pm on Sunday, June 27, at the First Congregational Church of St. Johns.

Alex began his scouting career as a Wolf Cub and steadily moved up the ranks. During his career with Troop 72, Alex held several positions, including Senior Patrol Leader, Chaplain's Aide, and Quartermaster. Along with the 21 merit badges he needed to earn, Alex also earned the Order of the Arrow and successfully completed a service project to earn his Eagle.

For his Eagle project, Alex built a gazebo located behind the First Congregational Church of St. Johns. Alex chose this project to provide a restful place for reflection and a lovely spot to have event photos taken. Landscaping was considerably done by members of the congregation and greatly enhance the beauty of the gazebo. Members of the congregation, community and local businesses generously donated the funds for this project, including a large sum from Mr. Paul Kilmer.

Prior to beginning the gazebo, Alex took a four hour class on how to properly construct the metal roofing. Construction of the gazebo was done by Alex and a plethora of family, friends, fellow scouts and church members, most notably Keith Cormier and Paul Kilmer. The actual construction took nearly 40 hours.

Alex would like to thank all those people who guided him on his journey to becoming an Eagle Scout, including Mr. Roger Sosebee, Mr. Warren Falloon, Mr. Mark Black, Mr. Dennis Sykora, Mr. Spirit Tomczyk, Mr. Gary Whitford and Mr. Eric Lockwood.

Alex is currently attending Michigan State University and is the son of Kathryn Lockwood of St. Johns and Eric Lockwood of Lansing.

Submitted by Kathryn Lockwood

ALL SUMMER

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. 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.

YOUR PLEDGE...

With your pledge to the church we help send kids to camp, have Vacation Bible School, and funding towards the Appalachia Service Project Mission trip. The church property is kept neat and trimmed during the warmer seasons. Electricity, water and heat bills are paid with your help. We want you to know how important your pledge is to our church. We need your help all year long! Don't forget your pledge in this summer.

We move to our summer schedule on Sunday, June 6th, Graduation Sunday, with the church service beginning at 10:00 a.m.



150th ANNIVERSARY NEWS

The June event of observing our church's 150th year of presence in this community will be held on June 20, 2010. The theme is, "Celebrate Service." This theme was begun on April 25th when we were all given the opportunity to respond to the Call, Commission, Celebrate. This commitment asked each of us to promise to provide a service to another individual or a cause in the community/world. It was asked that this service be something outside anything we may already be providing. This theme has continued since April 25th and in that time there have been slips of commitment placed in the offering plates, promising to perform various services.

Some individuals have stated they do not know what service to commit to. They think their commitment has to be some huge act. Such is not the case. Some examples of service might be an expansion of a service you are already providing. You might join a group of other individuals and promise to perform a larger service to the community. Or you may dedicate yourself to solitary prayer for others.

The purpose of "Celebrate Service" is to expand our response to Jesus' instruction to love one another and live out that love in acts helpful to others.

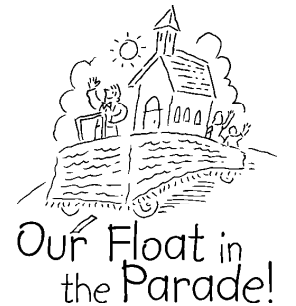
Take the opportunity to commit your promise of service to writing. Then place that promise in the offering plate by June 20, 2010. Yellow slips can be found in our weekly bulletin with which to make your commitment.

This June 20th service does not end our commitment of service to others however. It is simply the conclusion of emphasis during our worship services. It is hoped that many of the commitments made from April 25th through June 20th will be just the start of a lifetime of service by those who respond to this call.

Ruth Nihart, 150th Anniversary Ministry Team

MINT FESTIVAL FLOAT

We are in need of an individual to take responsibility for a float in the Mint Festival Parade. The parade is on Saturday, August 14, 2010. Responsibility would include obtaining the use of a wagon, vehicle and driver for the parade. It also would include developing a theme for the float for the 150th anniversary of our church. The 150th Ministry team would be happy to help with ideas for the theme. Volunteers to decorate and ride on the float during the parade would also have to be obtained. So if you are that individual willing to take on this responsibility, call Ruth Nihart at 989-224-4471.



Children and Youth News

JUNE CHILDREN AND YOUTH BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Cody Hyde
- 8 Madrid Nihart
- 11 Ian LaBar
- 16 Kendall Gunther
- 16 Emmah Nelson
- 16 Emma Simon
- 20 Lauryn Nelson
- 23 Alexis Carpenter
- 27 Alexander Barron
- 28 Samuel Thelen



THANKS TO OUR TEACHERS

We would like to thank the Sunday School teachers and youth leaders for all the time and effort they put in to teaching the children and youth of our church this school year. They are: Randy and Cindy Howell in age 4-Preschool, Tom and Ellen Doppke leading Kindergarten and First Grade, Dave and Michele Elms with the Second and Third Graders, and Rod Fuller teaching the Fourth and Fifth Graders. The Junior High Youth were led by Molly Minnick and the Senior High led by Melanie Lounds. We also appreciate Denise Palmer being the Co-Director of the Children's Choir. We look forward to seeing all of you back in September! We will be starting a new and exciting year of working with the children and youth in our church.

Thank you

SUMMER CAMP

The dates and site of the summer camp for this coming summer have been set. It will be held 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. Please let the office know if you are applying to attend camp.



Vacation Bible School (VBS) this year will be held beginning Tuesday, June 15th, thru Friday, June 18th, from 9:30-11:00 A.M. All children ages 4 to 10 are welcome to attend. Our theme this year will be "Back Stage with the Bible" which includes lots of singing, dancing and learning real life lessons about God's word that kids can apply to their daily lives. We will have snack time, crafts, outside activities and Bible study. There is no fee to attend VBS, however we will be accepting daily donations for the local food pantry. If you need more information please contact Denise Palmer at 989-227-7397. We hope to see you there!

JUNE SIGN UP SCHEDULES

<u>Altar Flowers</u>	<u>Nursery Care</u>	<u>Greeters</u>	<u>Fellowship Hour</u>
6 Zuker Family	6 Stacie Stevens	6 *	6 *
13 *	13 Shanna Bond	13 Arlene & Jennifer Hoag	13 Arlene & Jennifer Hoag
20 Cooper Family	20 Shanna Bond	20 *	20 *
27 *	27 *	27 Fritz Thurston & Doris Swatman	27 *

***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

Member Deaths:

Joyce Garrison, May 6, 2010, wife of Tom Garrison
Charles Weaver, May 20, 2010, husband Pat Butler Weaver

Friend Death:

Gary Devereaux, May 1, 2010, brother of Jayne French

Weddings:

Devin Elsea & Angie Wineland, May 1, 2010
Kyle Feise & Amanda Miller, May 22, 2010

4th Sunday Supper Host/Hostess

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

THE JUNE NEWSLETTER DEDICATION



The Congregational Connection for this month is in celebration of the Graduation from Fulton High School of

Zachary Zuker

Given with love by his grandparents,
Art and Arlene Wood