



September 2013

The Congregational Connection...

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

HOMECOMING SUNDAY * SEPTEMBER 8TH * 11 A.M.

In a change from our usual pattern we will be celebrating Homecoming Sunday in our meeting house at 100 Maple Avenue.

With doors wide open and church bells ringing we will welcome those returning from summer vacation and people who are looking for a spiritual home. Gathering for worship we will celebrate our reunion with each other and with our Lord Jesus Christ as we share the Lord's Supper.

Join us after the service for a special hour of food and fellowship in Wilcox Hall. Register for Sunday School, (which begins at 10 a.m. the following Sunday), and find out more about our fall plans.

WELCOME HOME!



Projections of God

“**Projections of God**,” the weekly video presentation of spiritual topics relevant to our spiritual growth, will continue on **September 7th 2013** in the sanctuary starting at **6:30 p.m.** Our first program is entitled “Eternity” and is a biblical view of Heaven and Hell. Discover what the bible really teaches us about heaven and hell in this insightful DVD from Coral Ridge Ministries. We are confident you will find this an excellent presentation that clears the fog about the afterlife. Please mark your calendars and make time to join us.

~Rod Fuller and Howard Sousley



Notes from the Music Ministry Team: **Worship Matters**

Last year, the Music Ministry Team studied a book called Worship Matters. Author Bob Kauflin writes out of extensive experience as a Christian singer, songwriter, pastor, current director of worship development for Sovereign Grace Ministries. Kauflin touched our hearts with his message to worshipers and worship leaders. The following is a broad overview.

Part One: The Leader

Kauflin devotes six chapters to “the important things” -heart, mind, hands, and life. Summarized below, they will sound familiar if you have heard a few sermons at FCC:

- * Worship is about what we love and what we live for, who we are before God.
- * God must be #1 in our hearts. It is infinitely important, and our greatest challenge.
- * We are called to know and to love God, mind and heart together.
- * Genuine worship that effects our entire lives requires skill and sensitivity to the Spirit’s leading. We balance skill development with the knowledge that our brokenness is the only gift that matters to God.
- * Whether we’re leading a congregation in worship or doing anything else, our actions (public and private) should reflect and magnify Jesus Christ.
- * Old Testament Levites foreshadowed Jesus Christ, the perfect priest. Now the entire church worships through the perfect temple of Jesus Christ and we are part of “a royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2:9). Conclusion: Anyone who encourages others to praise God can be called a worship leader!

Part Two: The Task

Over the course of ten chapters, Kauflin describes what worship leaders do. He structures each chapter (sometimes two) around each phrase from the following definition of a worship leader:
A faithful worship leader (7)... magnifies the greatness of God (8)... in Jesus Christ (9)... through the power of the Holy Spirit (10)... by skillfully combining God's Word (11)... with music (12-13)... thereby motivating the gathered church (14)... to proclaim the gospel (15)... to cherish God's presence (16)... and to live for God's glory (17).
 No pressure!

Part Three: Healthy Tensions

Kauflin describes an unsuccessful attempt to set up a volleyball net by himself. Without healthy tension between the poles, it was impossible. In discussion, team members offered these relevant expressions of healthy tension:

- **"We market Jesus as 'your buddy.' He [Jesus] doesn't. This will be harder than you ever imagined... but it's the only way to REAL LIFE."*
- **"We're all musical instruments, ready to be engaged in worship!"* (Not every instrument plays every song.)
- **"Imagine... we're part of the Heaven experience NOW!"*

When we consider healthy tensions in worship, we can better "understand, pursue, and enjoy all the ways God has enabled us to worship him" (pg. 157).

Part Four: Right Relationships

Relationships are difficult, messy, and essential. We need each other and tending to relationships within the church is one of the most important ways that we honor God. Kauflin's final chapter address specific relationships between worship leaders and the congregation, the worship team(s), and the pastor(s).

Music Ministry Team consensus: a book worth reading! If this piqued your interest, you can borrow the book from the church library. Blessing! -Rachael Short

The mission of the Music Ministry Team:

- ¹ to support and sustain a creative atmosphere that supports worship for each member;
- ² to encourage active participation for the purpose of worship;
- ³ to proactively develop musical worship experiences that are varied, meaningful, and personal.

The Music Ministry Team: Susan Kilmer (Chair); Chuck Graham; Nathan Sherman; Rachael Short; Beth Webb; Guven Witteveen; Teresa Zuker



Staying Connected

Jane Knight
Grace Haven Assisted Living
1507 Glastonbury Drive
St. Johns, MI 48879

Helen Johnson
Grace Haven Assisted Living
1507 Glastonbury Drive
St. Johns, MI 48879

Bill Clark
Hazel Findlay Country Manor
1101 South Scott Road
St. Johns, MI 48879

Bruce MacRae
Hazel Findlay Country Manor
1101 South Scott Road
St. Johns, MI 48879

Brain Buster

How tall is the church steeple?

- A) 182 feet
- B) 157 feet
- C) 109 feet
- D) 98 feet

© 109 feet

Hungry?

This is a reminder that the congregation is invited to **THE WHEEL INN**, St. Johns, on Saturdays and Sundays. Be sure to bring along a copy of our current weekly bulletin. The Wheel will collect those bulletins, attach your bill to it and every quarter they will total those numbers (pre-tax) and make a 5% donation back to our church.

Air Conditioning Update

The total estimated cost of this project is \$50,000.00. With the matching funds we now have approximately \$25,679.00, as of August, 2013. We will continually keep you updated on our fund raising progress for this church improvement.

St Johns area CROP Walk is Sunday Oct. 6

The St Johns 28th annual CROP Hunger Walk is Sunday Oct 6th at 2:00 PM. Church World Service sponsors the 5K walk will start at the city park pavilion and will raise money to fight hunger, dig wells for clean drinking water, and provide disaster relief worldwide. This year, people from several area churches and the Kiwanis Club are walking to raise money for this important cause. Of the funds raised, 25% will stay in our local community. The local funds will benefit Clinton Co Meals-On-Wheels, the Basic Needs Food Bank, and the Community Christian Church Food Pantry. Please sign up to walk or sponsor someone who is walking to help fight hunger.
– Susan Kilmer, St Johns CROP Walk Coordinator

**September Dedication**

In honor of our seven grandchildren
and praying they all have a great
school year.

Dennis & Janet Scott



Want to Lead?

We are looking for leaders for our Children in Worship and Follow Me programs. Both programs meet after the Children's Story each Sunday. Interested in helping with Children in Worship? Please contact Ellen Doppke at 810-307-3682. Contact Patti Mayes at 989-307-9026 for Follow Me.

Doublets Disbands

Due to lack of attendance, Doublets will no longer be meeting. After consulting half of the members, it has been decided to give the remaining Doublets funds to the Basic Needs Center. If you have any questions, please call Dennis or Janet Scott at 989-224-2601.

A Huge Success!

Thank you to everyone who helped with the 2013 Rummage Sale either by working, donating, or praying. We made a profit of \$1,130.00 for the Church! We also donated 3 truck loads of the left over items to Goodwill to help others.

This was a great time of fellowship and we would like to do this again next year during the Mint Festival Weekend, only bigger and better! Please share your thoughts and ideas with me as we continue to explore new ways to raise funds for the Church!

God Bless
Barb Sherman

~Devotion With Motion~

"Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with tambourine and harp."
Psalm 149:3

Join us in weekly Saturday morning rehearsals beginning in September. No experience needed. Those interested should contact Jolly Graham at 989-640-8604.

Sunday School September 15th!

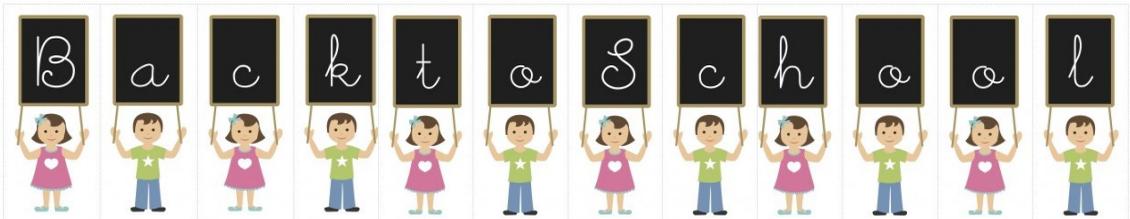
Sunday School resumes September 15th at 10:00 a.m. Classes available for Pre-school through 5th grade.

Junior High P.F. (grades 6-8) meets at 10:00 a.m. in the classroom across from the nursery, next to the baby pantry.

Senior High P.F. (grades 9-12) meets at 10:00 a.m. upstairs in the Rose Room.

Time Change

Beginning September 8th,
the worship service starts at
11:00 a.m.



Deadline Reminder

All articles for the newsletter should be submitted by the 21st of each month. Bulletin announcements are due by Thursday.

Linda Scott Division

Our September luncheon meeting will be held on Tuesday September 17, at 12:30 p.m. at Big Boy Restaurant.

All ladies of the church welcome. Reservations to Joann Martis, 989-224-4165. Come join the fun!

Third Sunday Throw Down

Third Sunday Throw Down is Sunday September 15th. Clean clothing and food items are donated to the "Basic Needs Center" in St. Johns. Empty baskets are located in the rear of the sanctuary. Contact John Fitch for more information at 989-224-3565.

How Do You Want It?

The Congregational Connection will soon be available in a variety of ways to save on paper, ink, and postage. Copies will be available in the back of the sanctuary, on the church website, and you can even receive it through email. If you are still interested in receiving the newsletter through the mail, please contact the church office. You can also respond with your delivery preference online at: tinyurl.com/fccsj2013newsletter

Prayer Support for Our Board of Ministry

All members and friends of FCCSJ are invited to partner in prayer with a member of the Board of Ministry. Prayer partnerships are unique relationships between two or more people who communicate regularly about what the Holy Spirit places in their hearts. They may pray together or independently, unified in spirit.

Sign up in the entry way of the church. Your participation is important.

Cares and Concerns

Volunteer needed to continue Cares and Concerns. Duties include mailing get well and sympathy cards. For more information, please call Bonnie Wickerham at 989-227-5635.



Church Mice.

Senior Minister: Matthew Olson

Director of Music Ministry: Rachael Short

Church Administrator Interim: Holly Graham

Treasurer: Tom Webb

Financial Secretary: Paul Martis

Chancel Choir Director: Dr. Charles Graham

Hands of Harmony Director: Susan Kilmer

The Board of Ministry

Moderator: Shirleyan Lake
Vice Moderator: Bill Rockwell

Board of Ministry Members:

Tom Doppke
 Dave Elms
 Tom Flynn
 Rod Fuller
 Jeramie Goetschy
 Lois Graham
 Melanie Lounds
 Marilyn Newman
 Barb Sherman

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

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.*

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

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

Hours:

Monday-Wednesday 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday -Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Closed Friday

Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Service 11:00 a.m. (beginning Sept 8th)

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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48879
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This Month's Highlights

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