

The First Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

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Creative Ministries	Mat Emerick	924-9558
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Secretary	Lorene Witte	924-4710
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Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 26, 2017

10:00 a.m.

* those who are able, please stand

As you enter the sanctuary, please be mindful of those already seated who want a quiet place to pray.

The Order of Worship

Prelude

Apres un Reve
Spirit Song
Heaven Medley

David VandenBelt

Faure
Wimber
Joel Raney

Chimes

Call to Worship

“Give Thanks” selection #170 Blue Hymnal

Praise Group

Welcome

Opening Prayer

***Opening Hymn**

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Blue Hymnal #793

Special Music

“Mighty to Save”

Praise Group

Prayer of Confession

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

Story Bell

“Juggling Thanksgiving Stuff”

(Following the Story Bell children are dismissed for Sunday School)

Mat Emerick

Hymn Of Preparation

“Alleluia”

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Blue Hymnal #189

Scripture Reading

Psalm 100

552 O.T.

Message

Living Gratefully

Pastor Ray Dekker

***Hymn**

“In Thanksgiving, Let Us Praise Him”

Blue Hymnal #796

Prayers of the People and Silent Prayers

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Offertory

David VandenBelt, Sandy Dekker, keyboard accompanists
“Cornerstone”

Praise Group

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing**

“Let All Things Now Living”

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving to God the Creator triumphantly raise; Who fashioned and made us, Protected and stayed us, Who still guides us on to the end of our days. God’s banners are o’er us; His light goes before us - A pillar of fire shining forth in the night - Till shadows have vanished And darkness is banished, As forward we ravel from light into light.

Blue Hymnal #794

***Benediction**

***Pastor:** The Peace of Christ be with you. **Congregation:** And also with you.

***Postlude**

David VandenBelt

Welcome to worship as we gather to praise God for his generous outpouring of love and blessings!

***Visitors ~ Welcome!** There is a Welcome Packet in the pew rack for you. Please fill out the Guest Information insert, place it in the offering plate and take the packet home for review of the other information. We are thankful you are here and hope that your time here is a special blessing to you and your family. Please let us know how we can best serve you. **Guests ~** please take a “ToasterTong” home with you today as our gift to you for attending our service. You can find them on the Welcome Table at the entrance you came in. No more burnt fingers or potential electrocutions by fork in your future now!! Anyone who would like a “Toaster Tong” but is not a visiting guest, please make a contribution to the WOODSHOP. See Dean Morehouse, Bernie Denney, Bill Black or Pastor Dekker for more information

***Large print Bibles, bulletins, and Children’s bulletins** are available from the ushers. Quiet bags for children to use while they are in the worship service are available on the table in the narthex.

***Families with young nursery age children** are welcome to use the “Family Room” in the balcony located on the 2nd floor.

***Our sanctuary is equipped with a T-Coil Hearing Loop.** Please turn your hearing aid to the T-Coil position to access this feature. Other hearing devices are available at the sound booth upon request.

Following the worship service you are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall. Come meet new friends and have some refreshments. We look forward to meeting you.

Serving Us:

Altar Rep:	Jim Rynberg
Altar Flowers:	Cornucopia(today) Poinsettia’s(next week)
Greeters:	Wendy St. Peter(today) Jack & Mary Butterick(next week)
Ushers:	Yvonne Lee, Jerry & Helen Miller(today) Kendra Lachniet(next week)
Compassion:	Steve Johnson & Helen Miller
Organist:	Jack Brooks
Sound System:	Rick St. Peter
Coffee Hosts:	(today) Deb & Mat Emerick(next week)

Thank you to the Zeerips for supplying the items for our cornucopia and to Barb Clark & Jim Rynberg for arranging the display. What a beautiful way to demonstrate the bounties that God gives us.

Celebrating this week:

Happy Birthday to ~

David White (29), Robin DeKleva, Bonnie Erber (2)

Happy Anniversary to ~

Bill & Millie Sherman (26)

Prayer Requests ~

(Prayer requests will be printed for two weeks. The person or family requesting prayer must call the church office or Pastor Ray in order to have the request printed)

Don Potter - medical concerns

This Week’s Calendar

Sunday, November 26

8:45 a.m. Praise Singers Rehearsal - sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Worship & Sunday School
11:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time - Fellowship Hall

Monday, November 27

Tuesday, November 28 - Church Office Closed

3:00 p.m. Violin Lessons - Fellowship Hall
Fellowship Hall reserved

Wednesday, November 29

6:30 p.m. Praise Group Rehearsal - sanctuary
7:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal - choir loft

Thursday, November 30 - Church Office Closed

Friday, December 1

Saturday, December 2

9:00 a.m. Woodshop Open

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Christmas Shopping & Home Tour

Sunday, December 3

10:00 a.m. Worship with communion & Sunday School
11:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time - Fellowship Hall

Special thanks to David VandenBelt for providing organ/keyboards for the service today filling in for Jack who is on holiday vacation. Thank you! David.

Our Church News

Special thanks to David VandenBelt for providing organ/keyboard for the service today filling in for Jack who is on holiday vacation. Thank you! David.

Thanks to all who came to last Sunday's Thanksgiving Party. A great time was had by all. Special thanks to Karla Johnson, Linda Oosterhouse and Pat Krehn for the delicious food.

Christmas Giving - this year our Boards are sponsoring giving to the Empowerment Network here in Fremont. Some of their needs are frying pans, bedside tables and lamps, blankets, mattress pads or comforters for a twin or full size bed, shower curtains, Wal-mart gift cards, Shop n Save gift cards, hygiene products (especially deodorant & toothpaste), undergarments & socks, movie passes, dish towels & wash cloths, local restaurant gift cards, nice fleece, flannel or pull overs (l, xl, xxl sizes), cash or check made out to Feeding America or Empowerment Network. The final date of acceptance is December 12 as their party is Dec 13.

Help Wanted: The trustees are looking for an able and responsible person to keep the church's walk free of snow and ice during the winter months. If you or someone you know might be interested in doing this, please contact Roger Tuuk or Al Smalligan.

We have just received from one of our members an audio Bible recorded on CD's. For a loved one who has difficulty seeing to read this is a great way for them to still be blessed by scripture. If you commute and would like to hear the word as you drive, etc.

Christmas is getting close, and we hope you are planning to give SCRIP cards to friends and family. December 17 is the last day you can order from us to ensure receiving your SCRIP cards by Christmas. We would be happy to give you some gift ideas, if you need help. For example, Amazon cards are a popular gift choice for many ages. Also, did you know that you can purchase Discover, Visa and American Express cards from SCRIP? This is the season of the year when we count on your SCRIP orders in order to pay our pledge to the church. Everything you buy helps meet the church's budget. Come see us, or call Becky 924-6069!. You can also find gift card holders at the SCRIP table. Some are 25 cents, some 35 cents.

Newaygo County Community Choir presents their Christmas Concert Favorites (specially-selected seasonal songs from 10 past performances under the direction of Joseph Jennings. Sunday, December 3 at 3:00 p.m. at the dogwood Center. Free will offering & punch reception. Singing from our church this year are: Bill Black, Al Smalligan, Dave & Sue VandenBelt, David White and Beverly Williams.

Life Line Screening will be using our Fellowship Hall on Friday, December 15 for checking for plaque, vascular disease and heart rhythm and also for osteoporosis. Pre-registration is required. There are flyers available by the table outside the church office and in Fellowship Hall.

Requested Announcements

Second CRC is looking for a Music/Worship Assistant. Areas of service would include piano accompaniment, direction of the children's and youth choirs and leadership of the annual children's Christmas program. Please inquire through the church office or by contacting search committee members Mark Wyn - 231-519-7374 or Wes Miller 231-031-5968 if you are interested. A job description is available at the 2nd CRC church office.

Save the date- Sunday, December 3 - Fremont Wesleyan Church will host a concert with Jason Gray, Chris August and Hanna Kerr sponsored by CureUs.

Circles Newaygo County is a program aimed at reducing poverty in Newaygo County. We do this by pairing those who struggle with volunteers from middle-upper income to walk alongside them on their journey out of poverty. These volunteers known as Allies help provide emotional support, share in life experiences, and ultimately become a friend to someone in need. We find that those who struggle don't often have the support system, the cheerleader in their court, or the networks to help them get ahead. It only takes six hours to impact the life of a fellow community member! To learn more about Circles Newaygo County and our other volunteer opportunities please contact Michelle Marciniak at mmarciniak@truenorthservices.org or 231-924-0641 ext 220.

Announcing “ConGo Enjoy-Meant” Events

We are “ConGo” (Christians on the Go) and **meant to go and enjoy** good food and fun activities together!

“Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

Neh. 8:10

“Go and enjoy”:

Sunday, Dec 17- Congo Christmas Party at the Church, 6:00-7:30pm- Please bring a Favorite Festive Food to share. The night will feature... of course... a rousing game of Christmas Trivia and then gathering around the piano to sing Christmas Carols! Festive Fun and Fellowship at it's Finest!

Please RSVP with Mat, 231-414-7501



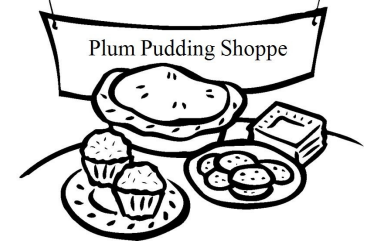
Plum Pudding ~ 2017

In accordance with the State of Michigan Food Requirements this is the required list of food items that can be made for Plum Pudding:

- Breads - not frozen
- Similar baked goods
- Vinegar & flavored vinegar
- Cakes - not refrigerated
- Muffins
- Cooked fruit pies
- Jams & Jellies

in glass jars that can be stored at room temperature.

- Cookies
- Dry herbs and dry herb mixes
- Dry baking mixes
- Dry dip mixes
- Dry soup mixes
- Dehydrated vegetables or fruits
- Popcorn
- Chocolate covered pretzels, marshmallows, graham crackers, rice krispie treats
- Coated or uncoated nuts
- Dried pasta made with eggs
- Roasted coffee beans or ground roasted coffee



All food items have to be labeled with a list of ingredients with your FIRST name, The First Congregational Church 231-924-4710 on the label.

Thank you for your cooperation,
Mary Butterick, Plum Pudding Coordinator