



Newsletter

First Congregational Church, PO Box 15, Laingsburg, MI 48848



Pastors Pen

I hope you all had a blessed Christmas! What a joy it was to celebrate with our church family this Christmas season.

Recently, as I've been looking back on the few months we've been part of your lives in Laingsburg, I can honestly say that God has been at work. Thank you to everyone who made Christmas, and the rest of 2017, a success! Lives have been touched, and God's love has begun to grow in our community.

I'm looking forward to what God has in store for us, as a church, in the New Year. In 2018, I hope you'll join us for the many events we have planned.

And, as always, if you need a pastoral visit, prayer, encouragement, or just someone to talk to, please don't hesitate to reach me at the church office.

Praying that God continues His work through us in 2018!

Pastor Scott

Christmas Giving Campaigns

A very special thank you to all of the fellowship members who gave to our highlighted outreach projects in December. Items for the 12 weeks of Christmas were delivered to the Laingsburg Food Bank. Fifty two local children received 2 toys each from the Laingsburg Toy Drive. A special thank you to our partners; Dairy Den and Laingsburg Eye Care. Thank you for the continued support of our youth program; \$1,474 was raised for the San Diego Youth Conference.

Taking Down Greens

Please lend a hand on January 6th, at 9:00am taking down the greens. It should only take a couple of hours.

Senior High Retreat

MI PF Fall retreat for grades 9 – 12 will be hosted by FCC Wayne, Friday, January 26 – Sunday, January 28, 2018. Registration forms must be postmarked by January 19, 2018. The cost of the retreat is \$40. Please see Shannon for carpooling information.



Bible Study

A new adult bible study series is beginning on January 14th at 9:00 am.

Youth Group

The Jr and Sr PF group will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 7:00 pm for teen focused discussions and fellowship time. Invite a friend!

January Calendar of Events

| | |
|------------|----------------------------|
| Jan. 6 | Taking Down Greens, 9 am |
| Jan. 7 | Worship & Communion |
| Jan. 7 | Connect Youth Group |
| Jan. 14 | Bible Study, 9:00 am |
| Jan. 14 | Worship & Common Meal |
| Jan. 14 | PF Youth Group, 7-8pm |
| Jan. 18 | Board of Trustees, 7:30 pm |
| Jan. 21 | Bible Study, 9:00 am |
| Jan. 21 | Worship Service |
| Jan. 21 | Acoustic Night, 7:00 pm |
| Jan. 26-28 | Senior PF Retreat |
| Jan. 28 | Bible Study, 9:00 am |
| Jan. 28 | Worship & Annual Mtg. |
| Jan. 28 | PF Youth Group, 7-8pm |



Dear Church Family,

On December 21, 2017 the Board of Trustees prepared and approved the proposed budget for 2018. There are a few items that we would like to highlight;

- Payroll changes: The office hours have increased from 10 per week to 20 per week. The one year position of Community Outreach Coordinated (Paden Graham) expired August of 2017. Pastor Statson was given a “total salary”, with the freedom to determine how it was allocated to wage, housing, medical etc.
- The fellowship and the Board have, for many years, supported the youth in their desire to attend summer camp and the NAPF Youth Conference. In the past the funding has been taken from the Ferne Austin estate gift and the mission endowment received by the fellowship each year. The funding is still available through the above resources but in an effort to show a complete budget number the “expense” is being shown in the proposed budget for 2018.
- Katrina Hill has been hired to do payroll and manage our monthly bill payments. The position was approved in a fellowship vote and bylaw change in September of 2017. Mrs. Hill is an independent contractor and not considered an employee of the FCCL.
- A new line item for “special music” has been added. This category will include hiring outside musicians to fill in when our music department is not available for services and for evening worship events.

The Board of Trustees would like to invite you to the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2018 following the service. The meeting will reflect how YOUR time, talents and treasures influenced and impacted the community in 2017 and how we can continue our efforts to “Grow God’s Love in Community” in 2018. An absentee ballot is also attached for those who are out of town (an email can also be sent to fccl.1@juno.com).

On a personal note, I would like to challenge the fellowship to come together in 2018 in a unified effort to grow our fellowship; invite a friend or neighbor to a service, volunteer for an event, attend bible study, bring ideas to the Board of Trustees or to Pastor Statson and reach out to one another for prayer and support. Finally, I would like to challenge each family to give 10% more; if your weekly giving is \$10 try to give \$11, if your weekly giving is \$50 try to give \$55. As a family, we have made consistent giving a priority for 2018 and will be looking for ways to serve more.

Blessings for 2018,

Troy Graham, Board of Trustees Chair