



PILGRIM JOURNAL

First Congregational Church, UCC
PO Box 5 ~ 102 Church Street
Romeo, MI 48065

Church Office: 586-752-3661

e-mail: firstcongromeo@gmail.com

website: firstconguccromeo.com

FEBRUARY SCRIPTURE READINGS

- FEB 03 Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6;
 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30
- FEB 10 Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13); Psalm 138;
 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; **Matthew 5:1-13**
- FEB 17 Jeremiah 17:5-10; Psalm 1;
 1 Corinthians 15:12-20; **Philippians 4:8-9, 12-13**
- JAN 27 Genesis 45:3-11, 15, Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40;
 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50; **Luke 6:27-38**

The scripture in bold is what Pastor Kim will use in her sermons.

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The following is written by Rev. Traci Blackmon, Executive Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries for The UCC and Senior Pastor of Christ The King United Church of Christ in Florissant, MO



"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." - Matthew 4:19

Whenever I read the gospel accounts of how Jesus organized The Discipleship Movement I am reminded of how important it is to understand the roles of both leader and ally.

"Follow Me" Jesus proclaims over and over again as he invites others to help change the world. Some of his actions may seem illogical. A carpenter from Nazareth telling fishermen to "follow him" and he will make them fishers of men.

Who is he to tell others how to fish?

Later, Jesus issues an invitation to a tax collector to "follow him" in the Movement with no promise to make him treasurer. Time and time again, Jesus invites others to join him. The invitation is broad, and the directions are minimal but consistent. All who are willing to join are welcome, but you must "follow me."

Isn't it just like Jesus to teach us so much with so little? The organizing skills of Jesus remind us that true movements of liberation are best led by those who are being oppressed. This is why it matters that Jesus did not come as a person of great privilege, but rather as an Afro-Semitic Palestinian born on the wrong side of the tracks. It is from this context that Jesus begins a Movement, and it is from this context that Jesus invites others to follow.

And allies begin to show up, with their bodies and their gifts and their skills, to follow.

Even when the plan does not seem to make much sense, even when some think a more aggressive agenda is needed, over and over again, they agree to be Jesus' allies in the struggle and they follow. There are moments when the disciples struggle with the leadership style of Jesus, yet they still follow. Most of them were oppressed themselves. They knew what it felt like to be hurt and marginalized in varying ways. But they followed.

I offer Jesus' example to us as we continue to strive together in the Movement work of our time.

The invitation to the ally is always to follow the leadership of those who are at the center of the pain.

The story matters. And choosing to work toward liberation of any kind requires a commitment to support the narrative of the ones who own the story. The role of the ally is not to lead or to fix. The ally holds the story and amplifies the voice of the storyteller.

"Follow me," Jesus says. Perhaps this simple invitation is the hardest of them all.

Blessings,

Rev. Kim



BIRTHDAYS

2/04	Noah Weber
2/10	Mary Lou Coker
2/13	Lois McGinley
2/18	Dennis Green

ANNUAL MEETING - EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED



All-Church Meeting

As part of our continuing journey as a church family and the ongoing financial, spiritual and outreach planning for 2019 and beyond, Ministry Council would like to invite you to our 190th Annual Congregation Meeting, to be held immediately after worship on Sunday, February 24.

We have a strong desire to continue our conversation around the life cycle of the church and engage in new, creative and fruitful discussion. To accomplish this, we are inviting everyone to attend. This includes members, non-members, family and friends, regular and part-time visitors, those that may be looking for a church, those that aren't sure, and anyone else that may be interested in our church.

While we have business to attend to, we will focus on our future, so expect the unexpected. This isn't just about those of us that have been here for years, it's also about all of you who have recently become part of our family, those that are considering it, and everyone who is yet to come.

We will discuss our 2018 financial results and then dive into some creative ideas for our 2019 budget. This is a great opportunity for everyone to get an insight into what it takes to manage our church. It doesn't just happen on its own, there's quite a bit that goes into it, and everyone is needed for its success.

In these changing times, we also want to discuss our membership practices and consider some alternative ways to bring people into our church family. We want everyone to feel a sense of belonging and participation, without the need for a formal process.

Finally, we want to spend the rest of our time talking about our mission and outreach, and how we can engage more in the community, opening ourselves up to more innovative, exciting and some not yet known possibilities.

Ministry Council will provide snacks and drinks during our time together. We will also offer nursery care, but would really appreciate knowing if you might need this ahead of time so we can make sure we have enough help.

Please let me or anyone else on Ministry Council know if you have any questions, otherwise, we look forward to engaging with each of you during this special time.

Blessings,

Rob Butz, Moderator, and your Ministry Council

MINISTRY of OUTREACH and MISSION



EMERGENCY CLEANUP BUCKETS

Due to the many natural disasters that have occurred in recent months here in the U.S. as well as around the globe, there is a desperate need right now for Church World Service Emergency Cleanup Buckets. Our congregation will be collecting items for buckets starting Sunday, February 17th, culminating in a bucket assembling party after the service on Sunday, April 14th. Please consider purchasing items or making a monetary donation so that we can support this vital global mission. Lowes has generously donated 30 buckets and lids. All we need to do is donate the supplies. We'll have boxes available for items in the Sanctuary and outside the church office for easy drop off. Here's what each bucket will contain:

- Four scouring pads
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen reusable cleaning towels (e.g. Easy Wipes)
- One 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottles of liquid laundry detergent
- One 12 to 16 oz. bottle of household cleaner that can be mixed with water (no spray bottles)
- One package of 48 to 50 clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Five dust masks
- Two pairs of non-surgical latex gloves
- One pair of work gloves (cotton with leather palm or all leather)
- 24 to 28 heavy duty or contractor type 30 to 45-gallon trash bags on a roll, removed from carton
- One 6 to 9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent

Please plan on joining us on April 14th for bucket assembling as part of our Lenten Mission Project. Your generosity will help those around the globe who have lost everything in hurricanes, fires and other natural disasters.

More from MOM...



Mark Sunday, February 3 on your calendar to have breakfast with and prepared by the Ministry of Outreach and Mission, following the worship service! Pancakes,

sausage, fruit, juice, coffee will be served as a Thank You for supporting our church's outreach activities!!!! Yes, it is Super Bowl Sunday, but all those festivities begin much later in the

day! Don't miss good food, pancakes flipped by the experienced Dennis's, and lots of fellowship with your church family!!!

And even more from MOM!!!

For several years, our church, organized by the Ministry of Outreach and Mission, has served a MCREST meal at St. Francis-St. Maximilian Church in Ray Twp., helping as they host a group of homeless women and children for a week. We are going to participate again this year on February 14. We have enough servers, enough main dishes, but need help with desserts and side dishes. Sign-up sheets are posted next to the church office. Items should be at church by 3:00 p.m. on that Thursday, February 14, marked for MCREST meal! Thank you for your help.

*MOM's not done yet - here's
a Thank You*



Where Transition Begins!

Members of First Congregational Church -

Thank you for donating time and food for the week we hosted MCREST at our church. It is such a big undertaking to host MCREST but we are honored to be able to do it. We are grateful for your help. Not only did you prepare the meal, but you served it and then cleaned up after. Your unselfish donation of time and food helps to make MCREST a success and does not go unnoticed. We wish and pray for all of you to have a blessed and happy new year!

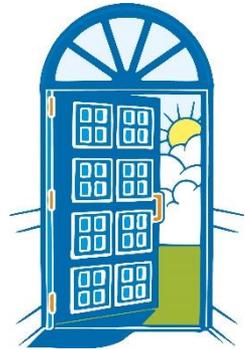
Lori Ehrhardt - Outreach team New Apostolic Church

February 9 - United in Drumming

Come join us and learn some basic drumming skills. Led by Spiritual Drummer Amy Grande, we will learn how to create rhythm under our hands that helps balance our spirit. We ask that you bring your own Djembe, hand drums, rattles, bells, or any percussion instruments, even those unique to your personality. Dancers also welcomed and encouraged.

HOME SALE

We have formally accepted the final offer on the church home in Romeo. We are now awaiting the mortgage and title companies to complete their processes and paperwork, and baring any surprises, expect to close sometime in early February. I would like to thank Bill Adams, again, for helping us through this process and also to all of you for supporting the sale. We are very appreciative of what this home has provided us – an opportunity to offer a safe, secure place for our families that participated in the Angel's Wing Transitional Home for Families with Children program and the same for Pastor Kim during her first full year as our Pastor. We hope and pray that the family purchasing the home receives the same blessings we have had during our time of ownership.



Ministry Council

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR:

Sarah Swinney - Kati (Adams) Swinney's mother-in-law

Nancy Parsons - Lois McGinley's friend

Lou Jaros - friend of Kay and Mike Maniscalco

Brian Ibbotson - son of Sally Hess

Geoffrey Lopus - Dale and Judy's son

Tom Raymond - Theo's son

Jim Wade

Karyl Lyn Dietz - Lois McGinley's sister

Kay Maniscalco

Bill Moffet - Terry Butz's step-father

Lisa Shibley - Joyce Couch's cousin

Max Finnen - Marnie Adams' cousin

Miles McGinley- grandson of Lois McGinley

Timothea - daughter-in-law of Lois McGinley

Matt McGinley - son of Lois McGinley

Janet Laloup - sister of Mary Lou Coker

Christa Salyer - Mike Price's sister

Bob Warner - Joyce Couch's brother

Patricia Jackson - Lynelle Novak's mother

Mary Lou Coker

Joe Grippe - friend of Marnie and Bill Adams

Tim Johnson - brother-in-law of Tammy, our custodian

Harrison Gourlay - Dale and Judy Lopus's grandson

Todd - friend of Chery and Matt Smith

Ray Guzall II - son of Sally Hess's best friend

Shirley - mother-in-law of Sally's Hess's nephew

Jenny - daughter of Suzanne, friend of Maniscalco's

Janice Brown - Janessa (Butz) Brown's mother-in-law

Dale Lopus

John O'Neil - friend of Penny Lowes

Elyse Peters - friend of Lois McGinley

Jason Stupera - son of a long-time friend of Vita Green

Marianne Abate - relative of Vita Green

Etsuko Ryutani - friend of Glen and Lynelle Novak

Bob Whitman - friend of Lois McGinley's

Olivia Velicevic - granddaughter of Maniscalco's

Those serving in the military:

Sergeant Mark Buzzell - Gerry Buzzell's grandson

Caleb Comock - brother of Lois McGinley's daughter-in-law

Jason Dean - relative of Vita and Dennis Green