

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF DURAND**  
 403 N. Saginaw St., Durand MI 48429 (989)268-6684 www.durandchurch.com

**#forDURAND**

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 Permit #29  
 Durand, Michigan  
 Non-Profit Organization

# THE LAMPLIGHTER

**NOVEMBER**



**Advent Begins November 28, 2021**

## ADVENT / CHRISTMAS AT FCC

The Advent Season begins November 28, 2021 and concludes December 24, 2021. FCC is making plans for all the wonderful things that go into our annual preparation celebration of the coming of the Christ child.

### MISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES

One of the highlights of our church year is the wonderful ministry opportunities Christmas brings and 2021 will be no different. We invite our members and friends to participate however God leads.

#### Operation Christmas Child

FCC has participated in "The Shoebox Project" for several years and will do so again this year. In 2019 we collected a record (for us) 128 shoeboxes that were distributed by our friends at Samaritan's Purse to children all over the world. Of course, 2020

was completely different and our box count was down since our building was closed. However, Samaritan's Purse still distributed



more than 178 million boxes to children in more than 150 countries last year and FCC was part of that number.

**We have set a goal to fill 150 boxes this year!** Boxes can be picked up at the Operation Christmas Child display at the back of the Sanctuary. In addition, shoeboxes can be packed virtually on line at

Samaritan's Purse's website: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/buildonline/>. Those who want to make a financial donation toward this project should mark their gift, "SHOEBOXES." For the first time, FCC invites our friends and neighbors who might not be connected with our fellowship yet to participate in this worthy project. If you know of someone who might want to be part of it, tell them about it! **All shoeboxes must be filled and turned in at FCC by Sunday, November 21, 2021!**



#### Toys for Tots

While FCC encourages our members and friends to support this worthy project of the United States Marine Corps, we will not have a drop box this year. We encourage everyone to drop off their new, unwrapped toys to our friends at Changes Barber Shop (205 W. Main St., Durand). Tell Lori Childs, Cindy Stull, and all the others hello for us! If you can't make it to Changes, just drop your toy off at the church building and we'll make sure it gets there. **Continued — see p. 2**

## MISSION BOARD UPDATE

FCC's Mission Board (formerly known as the Benevolent Board to some of you) has been active and putting your financial donations to work so as to spread the Gospel and help those in need. In addition to coordinating "Operation Christmas Child," the Board voted to fund 15 boxes toward the project. In other action, the Board voted to donate \$400 to "House of Hope," an effort lead by our friends at The Crossing Free Methodist Church to provide short-term emergency housing for the homeless. The Free Methodist Church converted their parsonage, which was unused at the time, to serve as the physical space for this ministry and FCC is very pleased to participate in this effort with them. "House of Hope" is the only ministry currently providing short-term housing here in Durand.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**DURAND, MICHIGAN**

**"In-Person" AND online**

**WORSHIP CELEBRATION**

**SUNDAYS 10:00am**

**LIVE STREAMING**

**Fall Back**

**SUN, NOV 7, 2021**

*Set your clocks back an hour*

[www.durandchurch.com](http://www.durandchurch.com)



# CHRISTMAS AT FCC

(continued from p. 1)



## 8TH ANNUAL "HANGING OF THE GREENS"

FCC will celebrate our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual "Hanging of the Greens" on Sunday, November 28, 2021. The service will begin at 10:00am and will be livestreamed for those unable to attend in person. "Hanging of the Greens" is a very special Sunday Worship Celebration that incorporates decorating our beautiful Sanctuary with Scripture, historical readings, prayer, and nearly every Christmas Carol in FCC's hymnal. When the service concludes the Sanctuary will be decorated and Advent will be underway. In addition, FCC will be decorated outside with Christmas lights in the shrubbery and a manger scene that will be placed in the front yard. As usual, members and friends of FCC are invited to participate by contributing financially toward decorations and lights in memory or in honor of a loved one. **The form for donations is on p. 4 of this issue of The Lamplighter.**



## ADVENT DEVOTIONS

### Hidden Christmas

As has been the case for seven years now, the Pastor has written a book of Advent devotions for FCC this year. "Hidden Christmas," is a collection of brief devotions focused on the perceived tension between sacred and secular during Advent. For generations followers of Jesus have been pompously offended by merchants who wished them, "Happy holidays," and proclaimed "Merry Xmas," in store displays, while non-believers were terrified of baby Jesus in a Nativity, or children singing "Silent Night," in a

school pageant. Both are incorrect and ridiculous. Christmas is the one holiday that transcends sacred and secular and Jesus is woven so tightly into its fabric that he cannot possibly be removed. This series of devotions begins there and continues through the four weeks of Advent making note of biblical, historical, and traditional aspects of Christmas all of which point directly and obviously to Jesus. The book will be available free of charge beginning with FCC's "Hanging of the Greens" service. It will also be featured each morning in our "Café Devo" broadcasts on Facebook and YouTube, as well as on our website at: [www.durandchurch.com](http://www.durandchurch.com).

## CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Once again this year the Pastor is compiling a collection of Christmas music that will be played before and after our Advent services and made available free of charge on CD and USB at our "Hanging of the Greens" service. This year's collection features traditional Christmas music with a newer twist, as well as some brand new selections.

## CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

An FCC tradition that goes back over a century and draws participation from the whole community, the **125<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Eve Worship Celebration will take place Friday, December 24, 2021 at 7:00pm.** After being forced to hold last year's service virtually because of a surge in COVID-19 cases, FCC is thrilled to hold this year's service in-person, opening our doors to our family, friends, and neighbors and celebrating with all the precious traditions that have been part of this service for over a century. Help us get the word out — FCC's Christmas Eve Service is back!

## SUNDAY EVENTS

### Ladies' Christmas Dinner

See the related article in this issue of The Lamplighter! **Christmas Caroling**

On Sunday, December 12, 2021 FCC will head out into our community for some good, old-fashioned caroling. More information is coming soon.

### Christmas Fellowship

A special Christmas Fellowship is being planned for Sunday, December 19, 2021 following the Worship Celebration. Plan to be there!



## Opportunities to Be Involved 2022 NOMINATIONS

The Nominating Committee will be meeting soon to fill positions on boards and committees. Here is a short description of each:

- **DEACON BOARD:** Together with the pastor, they support Sunday services. They fill the positions to make the service run smoothly. They reach out to the people of the congregation that are ill and need uplifting. They also plan extra activities like the Annual picnic.
- **TRUSTEE BOARD:** Receive and disburse all funds of the church. They are in charge of financial planning and oversight. 3 subcommittees, personal, church property, financial planning.
- **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION BOARD:** Outline and promote Church wide Christian education. Specifically Sunday School, (including nursery) and youth group, along with Vacation Bible School.
- **MISSIONS BOARD:** Oversee all funds and disbursements of money for mission work, as well

as raise money for such endeavors.

- **YOUTH FELLOWSHIP:** Implementation of programs for kids leaving Sunday School thru high school.
- **LIVING MEMORIAL TRUST:** Oversight of monies invested for perpetuity for the support of the church long term.
- **GIFT AND MEMORIAL COMMITTEE:** Oversight and disbursement of money received from memorials.
- **NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** They shall fill vacancies of boards and committees at the end of each year to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

With the 2022 Annual Meeting coming up in January next year our current Nominating Committee is working to fill these positions. If you are interested in becoming more involved by serving in one of these areas, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee (Sherry Dean, Mary Jane Edwards, Shirley Polen, George Polen, Janet Young) or call the Church Office.

## UPCOMING SERMONS



Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). However, overcommitted seems to be the new normal, overworked is the path to success, and overwhelmed is an everyday condition.

This can't be what Jesus was talking about.

Beginning November 7, 2021

Pastor Steve will lead us through a series of sermons designed to relieve the pressure.

November 7, 2021

"No, Stressed Out is NOT Normal ...or Good for You."

November 14, 2021

"Time and Energy Are Your Friends"

November 21, 2021

"Your Real Priorities"

#forDURAND





## PRAYER MINISTRY

**CAN WE PRAY FOR YOU?** If you have a prayer concern we would be glad to pray for you. Just call the Church Office at (989) 288-6684 and your need will be communicated through our Prayer Chain.

- To participate in our Prayer Ministry by receiving prayer updates and remembering to pray over them, please text "@fccprayerc" to: 81010.
- To receive updates and information from FCC by email go to: <https://www.remind.com/join/fccprayerc> and follow the instructions.

## LOAVES & FISHES

FCC is pleased to report your financial and "One Item a Month" donations, as well as your non-perishable food donations were delivered to our friends at Durand Area Loaves & Fishes (thanks, Janet Fries!). We received the following note:

*Thank you on behalf of our Board of Directors for your generous donations. The donations you have so freely given will serve to provide food for families in our community who are in need of assistance. God bless you for walking with us in this ministry.*

While many may be unaware of the history of Loaves & Fishes, it was started as a ministry of First Congregational Church before expanding to include our sister churches in the Durand area. It currently operates in cooperation with the Durand Area Ministers' Association and services those in need in Durand, Byron, Bancroft, Vernon, Gaines, and Lennon.

# WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

FCC loves to involve as many people as possible in our Sunday Worship Celebrations. If you wish to serve as Liturgist, Greeter, Usher, or Nursery Attendant on an upcoming Sunday sign up at the Literature Table. Here is the schedule of those who have already volunteered for November. Thanks!

November 7, 2021	November 14, 2021	November 21, 2021	November 28, 2021
Liturgist: Linda Russell	Liturgist: Nancy Grumley	Liturgist: Mary Golden	Liturgist: <i>Hanging of the Greens</i>
Ushers: Mary Golden (vacant)	Ushers: Mark Russell Linda Russell	Ushers: Brett Bruner Amanda Bruner	Ushers: Cindy Stull Janet Fries
Acolytes: Dennis Younkin (vacant)	Acolytes: (vacant) (vacant)	Acolytes: (vacant) (vacant)	Acolytes: (vacant) (vacant)
Kid's Worship: Lori Childs	Kid's Worship: Sherry Dean	Kid's Worship: Dobbs	<i>*no kid's Worship today</i>
Nursery: Trudy Nicks	Nursery: Heather Costigan	Nursery: Tina Wilhelm	Nursery: Mary Golden
Snacks: Penny Caverly	Snacks: Trudy Nicks	Snacks: JoDee Merrell	Snacks: (vacant)

## YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

ATTENTION TEENS! We haven't meet in awhile, hope you can make these activities!

- November 19, 2021 - 6:00 pm**  
**Meet at HQ Bunker (the bowling alley) for fun and pizza.** Must RSVP by November 17! A parent must accompany teen and please join us for pizza. RSVP on the youth Facebook board, Messenger, or call the church (288-6684).
- December 17, 2021 - 6:00 pm**  
**Meet at the church for baking and decorating cookies to sell on Sunday, December 19.**
- January 20 or 21, 2022 (TBA).**  
**Defy trampoline park.** More info to come.

*\*All activities subject to change depending on participation.*



## LADIES CHRISTMAS DINNER

**December 5, 2021**  
**4:00 pm**

FCC ladies are invited to a fun afternoon of dinner and fellowship in the church Social Room. We will need about 6-8 ladies to be table heads and invite 6-8 ladies to join them for dinner. Responsibility of table heads will be to decorate their table, and invite friends and family to join them. It's a great opportunity to invite friends and family you have wanted to introduce to our church family. Sign up sheet is on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Any questions contact Lori Childs.



## THROUGH THE BIBLE

First Congregational Church is taking a different approach to reading through the Bible in 2021. This Bible reading schedule is thematic or connective in nature. Our goal is to make as many connections as possible between the different parts of Scripture while still reading individual books of the Bible from start to finish. In this way we will see the themes and connections that tie the Old Testament and New Testament together and gain a greater appreciation for the inspired nature and unity of the Bible. Here are October's readings. Join us in the adventure of reading through the entire Bible in 2021!

- |                                 |                               |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| . 1 - Ezekiel 17-18; Psalms 24  | . 14 - Ezekiel 40; Acts 4     |
| . 2 - Psalms 80; Ezekiel 19-20  | . 15 - Ezekiel 41-42; Acts 5  |
| . 3 - Ezekiel 21-22; Psalms 5;  | . 16 - Ezekiel 43-44; Acts 6  |
| 1 Timothy 1                     | . 17 - Ezekiel 45; Acts 7     |
| . 4 - Ezekiel 23-24;            | . 18 - Ezekiel 46-47; Acts 8  |
| 1 Timothy 2                     | . 19 - Ezekiel 48; Acts 9     |
| . 5 - Psalms 60; Ezekiel 25-26; | . 20 - Joel 1; Acts 10        |
| 1 Timothy 3                     | . 21 - Joel 2-3; Acts 11      |
| . 6 - Ezekiel 27-28;            | . 22 - Amos 1-2; Psalms 142;  |
| 1 Timothy 4                     | Acts 12                       |
| . 7 - Ezekiel 29-31;            | . 23 - Amos 3-4; Acts 13      |
| 1 Timothy 5                     | . 24 - Amos 5-7; Acts 14      |
| . 8 - Ezekiel 32-33;            | . 25 - Amos 8-9; Acts 15      |
| 1 Timothy 6                     | . 26 - Nehemiah 1-2; Acts 16; |
| . 9 - Jude 1; Ezekiel 34;       | Psalms 66                     |
| Psalms 4                        | . 27 - Psalms 122;            |
| . 10 - Ezekiel 35; Obadiah;     | Nehemiah 3; Acts 17           |
| Psalms 108                      | . 28 - Nehemiah 4-5; Acts 18  |
| . 11 - Ezekiel 36; Acts 1;      | . 29 - Nehemiah 6; Acts 19;   |
| Psalms 109                      | Psalms 59                     |
| . 12 - Ezekiel 37; Acts 2       | . 30 - Nehemiah 7; Acts 20    |
| . 13 - Ezekiel 38-39; Acts 3    |                               |



# NOVEMBER



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 DEBORAH OFFENHAUSER	2	3 7:00pm Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream)	4 TRUDY NICKS	5	6
7 *Daylight Savings Time ends, 10:00am WORSHIP / Worship(stream)	8	9	10 7:00pm Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream)	11	12 SHERYL ZDUNIK	13 ALICE SPRINGSTEEN
14 10:00am WORSHIP / Worship(stream)	15	16 7:00pm Trustees	17 BETH AUSTIN GRACE GILSON 7:00pm Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream)	18	19	20
21 ANNA GLASS 10:00am WORSHIP / Worship(stream) 11:00am Deacons	22	23 7:00pm Community Thanksgiving Service (Durand Church of the Nazarene)	24 MARY GOLDEN 7:00pm Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream)	25 THANKSGIVING DAY	26 AMY DRURY	27 10:00am Set-up for "Hanging of the Greens"
28 First Sunday of Advent 10:00am 8th Annual "HANGING OF THE GREENS" SERVICE	29	30	<b>SCRIPTURE OF THE MONTH</b> <i>"I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing the praises of your name, O Most High" (Psalm 9:1-2).</i>			

## MISSIONS JUG



The five-gallon jug on the Literature Table is intended to raise money for our Missions Board. This Board supports individual missionaries, as well as worthy ministries such as "Loaves & Fishes," "Operation Christmas Child," and "Angel Tree." If you have any spare change you care to donate for missions please drop it in the jug. A full jug will raise approximately \$1,500 for missions. Thanks!



CLIP HERE AND MAIL IN OR DROP OFF WITH PAYMENT. THANK YOU!

## ORDER FORM

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Please indicate the item(s) and quantity you wish to donate, fill in the your name and name of the individual(s) your gift is in honor/memory of, and turn in this form with your donation to PASTOR STEVE by November 21, 2021. Thank you!

QTY	ITEM	ALREADY DONATED - THANK YOU!	ALREADY DONATED - THANK YOU!
_____	Christmas Tree (need 1)	_____	_____
_____	Altar wreath (need 2)	_____	_____
_____	Sanctuary Wreath (need at least 10)	_____	\$40.00
_____	Advent wreath (need 1)	_____	\$30.00
_____	Garland rope (need at least 4)	_____	\$35.00
_____	Large poinsettia (need at least 4)	_____	\$30.00
_____	Medium poinsettia (need at least 20)	_____	\$10.00
_____	Undesignated monetary donation (any amount)	_____	_____

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL DONATION: \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR/MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_