



August 2024

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES continues

August 18

Spencer LaJoye

(Pop/folk singer/songwriter vocal
loop artist, originally from Hastings)



September 8

Southside Denny

(Chicago-style blues guitar, originally from
South Bend)

First Congregational UCC
651 Phoenix St.
South Haven



For info, call
(520) 370-5912
General admission
Doors open at 2pm

ALL PROCEEDS OF THE CONCERTS BENEFITS THE CHURCH!

Please continue to pray...

Cheryl Gauntlett
Bonnie Deke
Janet Danczyk
Barb Musgrove
Linda Olsen
Joyce Thompson



Food Truck August 15

Contact Scott Raue if you can help. Workers arrive at 11:30. We serve beginning at Noon.



Women's Fellowship Fall Rummage Sale returns! September 18 & 19

All seasons accepted.

Same place,
same set up,
same guidelines.

More details in August after the Blueberry Festival.

Notes from Mission Board

Missions is more than sending money - although that's certainly important and appreciated.

Among our church Missions, most know about the Monday, Wednesday, Friday food pantries and Rick Olsen's Sunday night suppers for families in need. Many of us enjoy providing Christmas gifts through We Care or getting items for Holiday Food Baskets.

Are there other local Missions projects that could use our help? Are there new areas of need where we could make a difference?

In the past we sometimes spent an autumn afternoon after church on other local projects. We called these "Work Days for Christ," and used members of all ages. Tasks included leaf raking, window washing, newborn layettes. Some of us even went to the cemetery to clean neglected tombstones!

If we planned a Sunday afternoon workday, what projects would you like to see?
What would you like to do?

Please share your brilliant ideas with any Mission Board member: Elaine Fluck, Louise Wepfer, Patty Gruber, or Kathy Straits.

Looking forward to hearing the ideas!

Celebrating Pride

Special thanks to everyone who participated in all of the ways we celebrated Pride in June; from heartfelt testimonies, rainbow colors and songs and messages of love and affirmation, to showing up out in the community by supporting the first ever Pride in the Park festival. Nancy Nelson spent months working closely with festival coordinators and our church members, organizing a booth for our church at the festival, parking in our lot, advertising for our church in the festival brochure, and a host of volunteers for our parking lot and our festival booth.

Everyone who came to our booth, to get their face painted by Kt Lyn, toss bean bags lovingly sewed by Donna Schnepf, and fill the air with bubbles, thanked our church for being present at the festival. All who passed by thanked us for being allies and showing that our church is a safe place for everyone. Our light is shining bright!

Below is just one of many social media thank yous for our church community

South Haven Pride

Thank you First Congregational Church UCC South Haven for being so supportive and thank you for working with us to help put on South Haven's first pride. Your commitment is more than a sticker on the door, we are happy to send our attendees to your church if they are looking for a home of worship!



U.C.C. Updates -

The Southwest Association is offering Leadership Lunch with Michigan Conference Minister Lillian Daniel. This is a monthly zoom on the first Wed of every month 12-12:45 PM offered to the clergy and church leaders of the Conference.

August 4, 2024, 12:00 pm
"Help, our church building budget is killing us!"

If you are interested in being a part of this zoom feed, contact Dea Bishop for the registration link. There is no cost to participate.



Diane and Lisa will be taking a week of vacation at the beginning of August. While they are gone we will be having a guest organist, Suzanne Hoekzema. Suzanne is the organist for Trinity Lutheran in Lansing.

The Rotary Club of South Haven celebrated another year of service to the community with its annual leadership induction dinner and recognition of the **Rotarian of the Year, Jerry Gruber**. Jerry has been a Rotary member for over 25 years. He is instrumental in the Rotary Club pancake breakfasts fundraisers and is always 'working the crowd' to make sure everyone is having a good time. For the breakfasts you can find Jerry setting up the signs around town, ensuring Health Dept. compliance, and mixing hundreds of gallons of batter.

Besides the breakfasts Jerry has been an organizer for the Open Door Christmas Dinner for many years; you can find him ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Christmas fund drive.

Jerry Gruber is an inspiration for those who want to make great things happen in a small community like South Haven.



Photo courtesy of South Haven Rotary Club
 Jerry Gruber (left) receives the South Haven Rotary Club's Rotarian of the Year award from outgoing president Melinda Gruber.

- 08/01 Dan Thompson
- 08/10 Doug Schnepf
- 08/11 Jerry Gruber
- 08/16 Ron Danczyk, Jr.
- 08/18 Liam Cochran
- 08/24 Doug Gruber
- 08/25 Terri Marquess
- 08/26 Donna Schnepf
- 08/29 Donna Capps
PJ Lindemann
- 08/30 Sean Peterson



- 08/10 Wes & Elaine Stephens
- 08/11 John & Sue Gillett
- 08/15 Rick & Linda Olsen
- 08/21 David & Kathy Campbell
- 08/24 Tom & Karen Ruesink
- 08/31 Jack & Millicent Huminsky

Deacons for August

Mary Pietenpol and Jane Strebeck



We wanted to give a **big thank you** for everyone who came out to our first Summer Concert Series Sunday afternoon. joHn Kennedy, Chris O'Brien, and Joel Cooper from Kennedy's Kitchen gave an uplifting concert with remarkable harmonies and amusing and inspiring storytelling. Sarah Peterson hosted refreshments with delicious desserts and an assortment of cheeses, meats and fruits. We raised \$870 for the church! Everyone commented on how they wanted to have Kennedy's Kitchen back for another concert. joHn, Chris and Joel told us how wonderful our church community is and how they would love to return and sing in our beautiful sanctuary with its "fantastic acoustics."

We designed these concerts to make an entertaining way to provide financial support for our church and create an enriching and enjoyable time for our community, and we need your help. We advertise in local and social media, put up posters around town, send out emails with posters you can share, and have announcements during our Sunday service. What we really need is for more people to come. These concerts are such an entertaining way to raise money for our church and we need you to make them a success. We are asking everyone to help support our church community by attending these concerts, sharing the news, and bringing your friends and family. Thanks again to all who came, brought friends and helped us spread the word!

Diane & Lisa

