



July 2024

**NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED ON JUNE 9TH**



L-R: Danielle Stevens, Terri Marquess, James Marquess,  
Geneva Halliday, Ky T, Pastor Dave

Please continue to pray for...

Bonnie Deke  
Janet Danczyk  
Barb Musgrove  
Linda Olsen  
Joyce Thompson  
Steve Gray



## Food Truck

August 15



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

## Monthly News

Anyone is welcome to provide news material for the monthly newsletter. Your news can be a thank you, congrats, or an event the congregation is invited to. Pictures are also nice to have.

The deadline for handing in this material is the 15th of every month. If you don't have access to the internet your news can be handwritten or typed.

*Note: The editor may edit material if necessary.*

## Church Continuity Corner

The Trustees have reversed the former policy NOT to rent to non church members, meaning we can soon start to rent out parts of the building for events (weddings, reunions, etc) to non- members, for a fee. Awaiting final approvals on the new contracts, fees list, etc. that have been developed by the Rental/Event task group.

Most of the "task groups" have done the bulk of their research/work; though there is still some information yet to gather. So far, likely income anticipated (at this point) from rentals (25K through 2025, though could increase) and about 10K a year from concerts. This will still leave a deficit of 65K per year.

A new Task group was created at the last council meeting, to explore many aspects of what we need to consider if we do have to leave the building, future planning steps, etc. The goal is to provide a written letter/update to the congregation about our status.



Faith, I submit for your consideration, is a spiritual muscle—it needs to be stretched to remain healthy and strong; it atrophies when it isn't exercised. Consequently, I believe it is important that people of faith regularly engage in some form of spiritual exploration. Not only is this good for individuals, but I sense that the whole congregation—and, I think, also the larger community—benefits when anyone grows in depth of thought, breadth of spiritual practice, and love of God. And, since leading faith enrichment experiences is something I enjoy, I'd like feedback.

What kinds of gatherings would you and other friends be interested in supporting through participation? Here are some possibilities:

*Following Jesus in the Gospel of Mark* (aka, "Bible Study," but I am more interested in how the Bible reads us than in how we read it. Although I believe that the Bible is more valuable as a spiritual resource than as an object of intellectual inquiry, I also acknowledge that some exertion of the mind is necessary to read it with an understanding that yields wisdom and inspiration.)

*Read, ponder, and discuss a non-biblical book.* The following are all on my list: David Brooks, How To Know A Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen; Brian D. McClaren, Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned; and Pádraig Ó Tuama's memoir, In The Shelter: Finding a Home in the World. I am always open to suggestions—what book do you think would offer an insightful read, a stimulating conversation, and a prompt to personal growth?

*Spiritual exploration through poetry or song.* Individuals bring either a poem or song to share; group participants listen and discuss.

*Experiencing prayer.* How many of these forms of prayer have you tried: *Lectio Divina*, the examen, centering prayer, walking a labyrinth, the Jesus Prayer, intentional listening? What prayer practice have you tried that isn't on this short list? What connects you to the holy but is difficult to describe or name?

*Post-worship reflection* on the liturgy, scriptural texts, songs, and meditation.

Indicate some form of spiritual quest that you would like to undertake in a community of supportive friends...

Thanks for reading. Let me know what intrigues you. I look forward to exploring with you the mysteries and pleasures of life in the family of the Loving God.

In time with hope, Pastor Dave

## Church Office Admin position

Do you have thoughts on what the church office admin position should/should not do-- skills needed, etc? For example, a person with ability to manage a website.

If so, please share those thoughts with Dea Bishop, as a new job description is in process.

## Open Mic nights

Have you been to the Open Mic nights recently? If not-- you're missing some tremendous fun! multiple participants-- both church and non members- offer up and share songs of many kinds--poignant, funny, all creative. Others share written word in form of poems, stories- also creative and delightful. Its an easy evening of fun together-- do come and join in!





## Graduation Sunday June 2nd

Our high school graduate Kyle Bos. He will be attending Aquinas College this fall.



## 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.

**July 3, 2024 12:00 pm**

“Help! Our church bylaws are killing us”

**August 4, 2024, 12:00 pm**

“Help, our church building budget is killing us!”

Dea Bishop anticipates participating in both; if interested, let her know, she’ll forward the registration link.

**The Southwest Association is exploring becoming an Open and Affirming association.** This designation would be for the SWA specifically and wouldn’t impact the choices or status of individual churches. Our goal is for all SWA gatherings and meetings to be welcoming and affirming for all of God’s children.

To this end, we are having conversations with each church in the SWA to get feedback. After our visits, and any further discussions and discernment, we will make an official presentation at an Association meeting and hold a vote regarding the approval of an ONA Covenant. Then, we will work on living out our Covenant. Thanks for your help as we move forward toward God’s realm on earth.

Blessings,  
Rev. Ken Arthur and Rev. Mak Kneebone  
SWA Ambassadors

These concerts are a fundraiser for the church. Invite your friends and family!

Special THANKS to Diane and Lisa for creating and coordinating these special events.

## Summer Concert Series Spotlight

**Sunday, July 14**

**3pm \$20 at the door**

### **The joHn Kennedy Show with Chris O'Brien (All things Irish from South Bend)**



On Sunday, July 14, our Summer Concert Series begins with The joHn Kennedy Show with Chris O'Brien from South Bend. joHn and Chris are founding members of the Irish band Kennedy's Kitchen, and have performed throughout the Midwest and Ireland for 25 years. Pastor Dave and Maureen have close ties with joHn and Chris. They used to be neighbors in South Bend. joHn and Chris sang at Pastor Dave's church there and even played for their wedding.

We know you will love their music and storytelling. Please join us for a wonderful afternoon of music on Sunday, July 14 at 3 pm in the sanctuary.

Thanks to our sponsors, all of the proceeds from ticket sales for this series will benefit the church. Tickets are \$20 at the door, general admission. Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall following the concert.

Please tell your friends. See you there!





Great food—great company!

Family Fellowship of June







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07/01 Stuart Comiskey  
07/02 Janice Peterson  
07/03 Jim Mears  
07/06 Mary Pietenpol  
07/08 Elena Garcia  
Louise Wepfer  
07/17 Laura Bos  
Cheryl Gauntlett  
07/18 Yamil Garcia  
Keri McGarr  
07/20 Linda Olsen  
Elaine Stephens  
Celeste Wheeler  
07/23 Pat Martorano  
07/25 Rick Olsen  
07/26 Bob Linderman



07/02 Terry & Keri McGarr  
07/11 Larry & Barb Wittkop—60th  
07/19 Danielle Stevens and Larry Hopp—10th

#### Deacons for July

Jason Turner and Mary Pietenpol

