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# THE LAMPLIGHTER

**MAY**

## MAY VOLUNTEERS

Here is the schedule of those who have volunteered so far this month:

May 5, 2024	May 26, 2024
Liturgist: Jim Schuyler	Liturgist: TBD
Ushers: Mark Russell	Ushers: Mary Golden
Linda Russell	TBD
Acolytes: Nancy Grumley	Acolytes: Penny Caverly
Penny Caverly	TBD
PowerPoint: TBD	PowerPoint: TBD
Livestream: TBD	Livestream: TBD
Nursery: TBD	Nursery: TBD
Kids' Worship: TBD	Kids' Worship: TBD
Snacks: TBD	Snacks: TBD

May 12, 2024

Liturgist: Dennis Younkin
Ushers: Brett Bruner
Amanda Bruner
Acolytes: Nancy Grumley
TBD
PowerPoint: Mary Golden
Livestream: Penny Caverly
Nursery: TBD
Kids' Worship: TBD
Snacks: Dennis Younkin

May 19, 2024

Liturgist: Mary Golden
Ushers: Dennis Younkin
Doreen Clark
Acolytes: TBD
TBD
PowerPoint: TBD
Livestream: TBD
Nursery: TBD
Kids' Worship: TBD
Snacks: TBD

*\*TBD indicates an opportunity for YOU to serve! Please contact Pastor Steve or Penny Caverly directly with questions or to volunteer.*

## WORSHIP CELEBRATION

**SUNDAYS – 10:00am**

Join us at the point of Saginaw and Washtenaw in beautiful downtown Durand!



### FROM THE PASTOR SIMPLE STEPS TO READING THE BIBLE FOR YOURSELF

No doubt you have heard pastors including myself admonish you to read your Bible. We all know we should read the Bible, but a 2021 Barna Group study showed only 34% of Christians surveyed read their Bible once a week or more. Paul wrote to Timothy, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17). So, not only do we know we should read the Bible, but we also *need* to read the Bible to live out our faith.

Ok, rather than take you on a guilt trip, I'd like to share a few pointers on how to read your Bible, even if you've never done so before.

**1. Pray.**

Never forget the Bible is God's Holy Word and he is our very best teaching. Do not presume to read the Bible without asking him to teach you.

**2. Get a good translation.**

When I was a child, I was taught from the King James Version of the Bible. The KJV is still a good translation, but its language is a bit dated and difficult

to read for many. The Pew Bibles at First Congregational Church are the New International Translation, which was chosen a few years ago because it is easier to read. This is also the translation I use in each week's sermon. We have the luxury in the present age of dozens of print and electronic versions of the Bible. In addition to the two already mentioned I



## DO YOU DEVO?!



STREAMING DAILY AT 6:00AM (AND THE REST OF THE DAY)





## ONE ITEM A MONTH

FCC's One Item a Month item for April is PORK AND BEANS. As always everything collected will be delivered to our



friends at Loaves & Fishes and distributed to those in need. If you wish to make a financial contribution checks and envelopes should be marked "LOAVES & FISHES," or cash and coins can be placed in the Missions Jug on the Literature Table. Thank you!



## THROUGH THE BIBLE 2024

### THROUGH THE BIBLE

First Congregational Church is continuing to read the entire Bible during 2024. The schedule is designed so that selections may be read Monday through Friday with the weekends for catching up.

Here are MAY's readings:

- Week 18
  - May 1: 2 Sam 5; 1 Chr 11-12; Ps 133
  - May 2: Ps 106-107; 1 Chr 13-16
  - May 3: Ps 1-2, 15, 22-24, 47, 68, 89
- Week 19
  - May 6: Ps 96, 100-101, 105, 132; 2 Sam 6-7
  - May 7: 1 Chr 17; Ps 25, 29, 33, 36, 39; 2 Sam 8
  - May 8: 2 Sam 9; 1 Chr 18; Ps 50, 53, 60, 75; 2 Sam 10; 1 Chr 19; Ps 20
  - May 9: Ps 65-67, 69-70; 2 Sam 11-12
  - May 10: 1 Chr 20; Ps 32, 51, 86, 122; 2 Sam 13
- Week 20
  - May 13: 2 Sam 14-15; Ps 3-4, 12-13, 28, 55
  - May 14: 2 Sam 16-18; Ps 26
- May 15: Ps 40, 58, 61-62, 64; 2 Sam 19
- May 16: 2 Sam 20-21; Ps 5, 38, 41-42; 2 Sam 22
- May 17: 2 Sam 23; Ps 57, 95, 97-99; 2 Sam 24
- Week 21
  - May 20: 1 Chr 21-22; Ps 30, 108-110; 1 Chr 23
  - May 21: 1 Chr 24-25; Ps 131, 138-139, 143-145
  - May 22: 1 Chr 26-29
  - May 23: Ps 127, 111-118; 1 Kings 1
  - May 24: 1 Kings 2; Ps 37, 71
- Week 22
  - May 27: Ps 94, 119
  - May 28: 1 Kings 3-4; 2 Chr 1; Ps 72; Song of Songs 1-3
  - May 29: Song of Songs 4-8; Pro 1-3
  - May 30: Pro 4-10
  - May 31: Pro 11-16

## FROM THE PASTOR

(continued from p. 2)

suggest the New American Standard Version or the Christian Standard Bible as possibilities. The point is, get a translation of the Bible that you will read and understand. While we are on the subject, most reliable translations come in a Study Bible format, which means they include helpful tools like footnotes, commentary, maps, charts, and cross-references that will enhance your understanding. If you intend to purchase a new Bible, a Study Bible is an excellent option.

### 3. Read Chronologically.

The order of the 66 books in your Bible is organized by genre, not chronologically, and this can sometimes be confusing for some. A chronological approach will help you keep people and events straight as you read. If you wish to read the whole Bible chronologically start in the Old Testament with Genesis

through Job, followed by the prophetic books, Isaiah through Malachi. Finish the Old Testament with the poetic and wisdom literature, Psalms through Song of Songs. While not precisely chronological, this approach will give you a better historical understanding. From there you can move to the Gospels in the New Testament, Matthew through John, before reading the history in the Book of Acts. After that read the epistles, Romans through Jude, and finish with the Book of Revelation. This approach will give you a better understanding of the thread that goes through Scripture from Genesis to Revelation.

### 4. Read Large Portions.

A devotional approach to Scripture focuses on one verse or a short passage and can be helpful and encouraging. This approach certainly has value and I encourage you to have a regular time of prayer and devotional reading. However, engaging in longer passages will give you a contextual understanding that gives you a grasp of the interconnectedness of various passages and stories. Many books of the Bible can be read in one setting, which leads to a better understanding.

### 5. Join a Group Bible Study.

While you should read the Bible for yourself, a group setting allows for shared insights and perspectives, as well as mutual support on the journey of faith. In addition, it fosters a sense of community and the encouragement of being part of a larger body of believers. So, the best ap-

proach is reading the Bible for yourself while also participating in a group study on a regular basis. Currently, FCC offers Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream) an online group study that begins at 7:00pm and lasts about an hour on Facebook and YouTube. We invite you to join in!

### 6. Take Notes.

Any serious study on any subject is greatly enhanced by taking notes. Not only does note taking secure valuable information, but it also enhances comprehension through the act of writing things down. Find a notebook, a journal, or take notes on a smart phone through text or audibly. If you are going to invest your valuable time in Bible study (and I hope you will) it makes sense to retain and apply what you learn.

### 7. Ask Questions.

Sometimes we forget, God isn't afraid of questions. He welcomes them! Jesus was open and welcomed questions while he taught. If you come across something you do not understand in Scripture, I invite and encourage your questions. If I don't know the answer – and sometimes I don't – I will work with you to find it.

### 8. Focus on Application.

James wrote, "Do not merely listen to (or read) the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the per-





# FROM THE PASTOR

(continued from p. 2)

fect law that gives freedom and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do” (James 1:22-25). In other words, the teachings of Scripture are meant to be lived, not just read. Reading and comprehending biblical truth is very important, but the real value lies application to our daily lives, transforming our thoughts,

attitudes, and actions, and becoming more like Jesus. So, when you read your Bible ask yourself, “How can I make this part of my life? How can I be more like Jesus?”

## 9. Be Persistent.

The folks from the Nike shoe company got it right, “Just Do It.” Read your Bible. Because you are human you may grow weary or discouraged as you read and

there will be days when you don’t feel you get anything from the practice. Keep at it. This is a lifelong pursuit, a marathon, not a sprint. Keep praying and keep reading. God will bless you for it.

In Christ,

Dr. Steven Wood  
Pastor

## RAILROAD DAYS

Durand’s Railroad Days celebration is this month and FCC is planning to participate by serving our community and promoting our church. The Railroad Days Parade is scheduled for Saturday, May 18, 2024, at 1:00pm. The FCC float will be in the lineup, and we will be at the point of Saginaw and Washtenaw with fresh popcorn, bottled water, and open restrooms for our friends and neighbors. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!** Here is how you can be involved in Railroad Days with FCC this year:

- Donate cases of bottled water for distribution. Drop them off in the back

of the Sanctuary.

- Get the float ready for the Parade. Contact Dennis Younkin or Doreen Clark for information.
- Walk with the float and hand out treats during the Parade. The treats will be attached to information about FCC and passed out along the route. Contact Lori Childs or Pastor Steve for more information.
- Be on our property to hand out popcorn, water, and direct people to our restrooms. We will be there from noon – about 3pm. Contact Pastor Steve for information.

Railroad Days is coming! Come help FCC be part of it.





### FCC COFFEE MUGS

## \$10 each

Stop by the Church Office or see one of the Deacons to purchase as many as you would like.

## June 2, 2024 GRADUATE SUNDAY

Attention Class of ‘24! The C.E. Board is planning Graduate Sunday for June 2, 2024. High school and college grads will be honored in the Worship Celebration and with cake reception following. If you know of a graduate connected with our congregation please contact Lori Childs or Pastor Steve.



An investment banker was at the pier of a small coastal village when a small boat with just one fisherman docked. Inside the boat were several large yellow fin tuna. The banker complimented the fisherman and asked how long it took to catch the fish.

The fisherman replied, "Only a little while."

The banker then asked why didn't he stay out longer and catch more fish?

The fisherman said he had .

The banker then asked, "But what do you do with the rest of your time?"

The fisherman said, "I sleep late, fish a little, play with my children, take a nap with my wife, stroll into the village each even-

ing where I play guitar and sing with my friends. I have a full and busy life."

The banker scoffed, "I am a Harvard MBA, and I can help you. You should spend more time fishing and with the proceeds, buy a bigger boat. With the proceeds from the bigger boat, you could buy several boats, eventually you would have a fleet of fishing boats. Instead of selling your catch to a middleman, you would sell directly to the processor, eventually opening your own cannery. You would control the product, processing, and distribution. You would need to leave this small coastal fishing village and move to a big city where you will run your expand-

ing enterprise."

The fisherman asked, "But how long will this all take?"

"15-20 years."

"But what then?"

The banker laughed and said that's the best part. "When the time is right, you would announce an IPO and sell your company stock to the public and become very rich. You would make millions."

"Millions...Then what?"

The banker said, "Then you would retire. Move to a small coastal fishing village where you would sleep late, fish a little, play with your kids, take a nap with your wife, stroll to the village in the evenings where you could play your guitar and sing with your friends."

## FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees would like to thank our congregation for the outstanding support of special projects to improve and secure our beautiful and historic building. Funds donated toward some projects exceeded the final costs of those projects (doors, security system, new chairs etc.). To use remaining funds most effectively for building improvements we have established a “New Project Fund,” where excess money from completed projects will be placed until new projects are defined and approved. Thank you!

# MAY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>“Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:25, 33).</i></p>			<p><b>1</b> Ashley Blight Sherry Dean 7:00pm Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream) Facebook and YouTube</p>	<p><b>2</b> 12noon National Day of Prayer Service (Trumble Park)</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b> Tori Childs</p>
<p><b>5</b> Grace Gilson 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Social Time</p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b> 7:00pm Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream) Facebook and YouTube</p>	<p><b>9</b></p>	<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>
<p><b>12</b> MOTHERS DAY 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Time 11:15am C.E. Board</p>	<p><b>13</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> Sandy Blight 7:00pm Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream) Facebook and YouTube</p>	<p><b>16</b></p>	<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b> 1:00pm Railroad Days Parade</p>
<p><b>19</b> PENTECOST 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Social Time 11:15am Deacons</p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b> 7:00pm Trustees</p>	<p><b>22</b> 7:00pm Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream) Facebook and YouTube</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b> Noah Fryer NECROLOGY SUNDAY 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship 11:00am Social Time 11:15am Mission Board</p>	<p><b>27</b> MEMORIAL DAY</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b> 7:00pm Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream) Facebook and YouTube</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>31</b> Traci Cekander Last Day of School</p>	



## 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,” “Reach the Forgotten,” “The Salvation Army,” 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!

## UPCOMING SERMONS

Pastor Steve is continuing the “Life in the Kingdom sermon series in May 2024. This 10-part series is based on Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). We hope you will join us Sundays at 10am!

May 5, 2024  
Part 5:

*“Counter Cultural Christianity”*  
(Matthew 5:38-48)

May 12, 2024 (Mother’s Day)

Part 6:

*“The Order of the Anonymous”*  
(Matthew 6:1-18)

May 19, 2024

Part 7:

*“The Destructive Nature of Worry”*  
(Matthew 6:19-34)

May 26, 2024

(Necrology Sunday)

Part 8:

*“The Folly of Judgementalism”*  
(Matthew 7:1-6)



# NATIONAL Day of PRAYER

May 2, 2024

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The Durand Area Ministerial Association will host the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Day of Prayer on May 2, 2024, at Trumble Park in Durand. The program begins at noon and the community is invited.

## PRAYER MINISTRY

FCC has an active and effective Prayer Ministry that involves a printed list of praises and concerns, as well as electronic communication of praises and concerns via our text message Prayer Chain. If you have a concern that you wish us to pray about, call the Church Office at (989) 288-6684 and your need will be communicated as soon as possible through our Prayer Chain. If you would like to participate in our Prayer

Ministry by receiving prayer text updates, please text @fccprayerc” to: 81010. To receive updates by email, go to: <https://www.remind.com/join/fccprayerc> and follow the instructions. FCC reserves the right of discretion in that we may choose not to share names and details regarding a prayer request if we feel doing so might cause embarrassment or violate confidentiality.