



**FIRST  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH OF DURAND**  
403 N. Saginaw St., Durand MI 48429 (989)288-6684 www.durandchurch.com



“Speak Lord, for your servant is listening” (1 Samuel 3:10).

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# THE LAMPLIGHTER

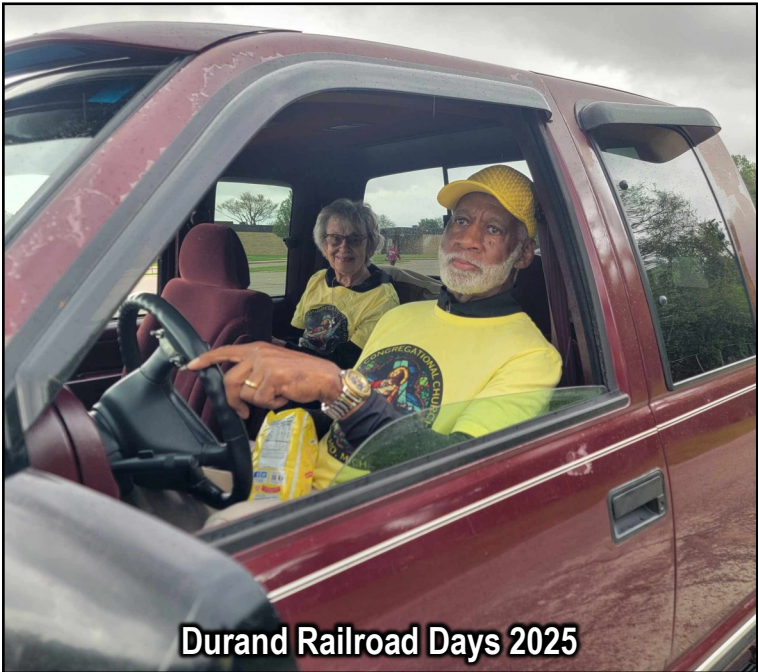
JUNE

June 8, 2025

## FCC TO CELEBRATE 129th ANNIVERSARY

On June 8, 1896, 13 individuals met in Durand with Rev. Arthur Metcalf of Bancroft and signed the charter of First Congregational Church. They drafted Articles of Association and began holding worship services the following Sunday. By 1898 ground was broken on the land where First Congregational Church still stands. The building was completed for a cost of \$4,927.93 and paid off in 1899. In 1941 Elizabeth Conn, the last surviving charter member, bequeathed her house next door to the church to be used as a parsonage. This house served well until it was replaced in 1978 by our present parsonage. In 1960 the church building was remodeled and expanded, adding the balcony and education wing. The congregation continues to grow and serve Jesus in the Durand area. In 129 years, God has

blessed First Congregational Church through two world wars, two pandemics, the Great Depression, and other world events too numerous to list. Through it all our home has stood at the point of Saginaw and Washtenaw Streets in beautiful downtown Durand as a testimony to God’s grace and the faithfulness of his people. May God continue to bless us as we serve him until Jesus returns.



Durand Railroad Days 2025

### FROM THE PASTOR

## FAITH THAT TRUSTS WITHOUT KNOWING



Faith is a funny thing, often misunderstood especially when it comes to Christianity. Some well-meaning followers of Jesus claim to ‘know for sure,’ but do they? Furthermore, if one claims to ‘know for sure,’ is that faith? Probably

not because faith is not certainty, it is belief even in the face of uncertainty. Paul wrote, “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1). Confidence is great as long as it is placed in something reliable, hope is vital for sustaining us in this life, and assurance is a blessing from the Holy Spirit, but none of them is 100% certainty. It is that quest for certainty that vexes many Christians and keeps some from believing in the first place.

Just after he was baptized (Matthew 3:13-16) Jesus headed into the wilderness for a duel with the devil (Matthew 4:1-11). Because of my love for old western movies, I can’t help but see a dusty street at high noon - I know that’s a stretch, but that’s how my brain works. After waiting for

Jesus to be physically weakened by 40 days of fasting the devil challenged Jesus, “If you are the Son of God...” (Matthew 4:3) and tempted him to prove himself by turning stones to bread, jumping off a cliff, and taking charge of the world (which is what most people expected the Messiah to do). Jesus never took the bait and defeated the devil with Scripture, he just quoted the Bible, that’s it. Not once did he try to prove he is the Son of God. Why would he? Jesus is God so proving it to anyone is unnecessary, even the devil.

There is a lesson for us to learn from Jesus in the wilderness. He is not going to prove himself until we believe. That’s why John wrote, “God so loved the world that he gave his one **CONTINUED - see “From the Pastor” on p. 2**



Durand Railroad Days 2025





## JUNE VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to those who have already volunteered to serve in Worship during the month of May! Would you like to help out, too? Contact Pastor Steve!

### June 1, 2025

Liturgist: Mary Golden  
Ushers: Dennis Younkin  
Doreen Clark  
Acolytes: Mary Jane Edwards  
TBD  
PowerPoint: Penny Caverly  
Camera: TBD  
Childcare: Cheryl Davenport

### June 8, 2025

Liturgist: Sue O'Brien  
Ushers: Lori Childs  
Terry Childs  
Acolytes: Penny Caverly  
TBD  
PowerPoint: TBD  
Camera: TBD  
Childcare: Lori Childs  
Snacks: Sue O'Brien

### June 15, 2025

Liturgist: TBD  
Ushers: Cindy Stull  
Mary Jane Edwards  
Acolytes: TBD  
TBD  
PowerPoint: Penny Caverly  
Camera: TBD  
Childcare: Sherry Dean  
Snacks: Trudy Nicks

### June 22, 2025

Liturgist: Dennis Younkin  
Ushers: Penny Caverly  
TBD  
Acolytes: TBD  
TBD  
PowerPoint: TBD  
Camera: TBD  
Childcare: Doreen Clark  
Snacks: Dennis Younkin

### June 29, 2025

Liturgist: Lori Childs  
Ushers: Mark Russell  
Linda Russell  
Acolytes: Dennis Younkin  
Doreen Clark  
PowerPoint: TBD  
Camera: TBD  
Childcare: Mary Golden  
Snacks: Lori Childs

## FROM THE PASTOR (continued from p. 1)

and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16). That's why Paul wrote, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Faith must come first. Of course, once we accept Jesus as Savior all kinds of great things happen — the Holy Spirit fills us and gives us discernment, understanding, and guidance, we gain deeper understanding through prayer, Bible study, and fellowship with a local church, and our faith grows as the assurance Paul wrote about deepens and our spiritual confidence increases — but first we have to believe by simply trusting Jesus with a childlike faith that accepts him as the Son of God, sent by God to save us from the death of sin.

With all that said, here's the thing (you might not like this, or even agree with it, but that's ok): you and I will never achieve 100% certainty about anything in this life. I have been following Jesus for over 50 years, and I still can't be more than 99% certain about anything. Do I believe? Absolutely! Am I 100% certain? I really wish I could say 'yes.' That's what faith is for. Faith begins where certainty ends and covers the gap with hope and assurance, giving those of us who trust Jesus the confidence to step out with him. I am ok with 99% (or even less in some areas) because I believe in Jesus Christ and my life here and in eternity depends on his love, power, and faithfulness, not mine.

So, if you're like me and you have some questions or even some doubts remember faith has to come first — trust Jesus as your Savior and then remember these things:

### God's ways are not my ways.

God told the Prophet Isaiah, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are

my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). In other words, I will never understand or even grasp God — his ways, what he's doing, and what is going on in the world he controls are beyond me. So, I must trust him and believe he loves me and knows what he is doing.

### I have never seen God forsake or fail those who follow him.

King David wrote, "I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread" (Psalm 37:25). Like some of us, David was getting old and as he looked back over his years there were good times and bad times, victories and losses, successes and failures. However, David could not come up with a

**CONTINUED - see "From the Pastor" on p. 3**



Durand Railroad Days 2025

### June 8, 2025

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

Sunday, June 8, 2025, is designated Pentecost Sunday on the liturgical calendar. It is observed annually throughout the Christian Church on the Sunday seven weeks after Easter. Pentecost Sunday commemorates the manifestation of the Holy Spirit, "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-

fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? ...we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" (Acts 2:1-12)

**CONTINUED - see "Pentecost Sunday" on p. 4**





# THROUGH THE BIBLE

- June 1: Rom. 7; 1 Sam. 16; Psalm 61
- June 2: Rom. 8; 1 Sam. 17:1-54; Psalm 62
- June 3: Rom. 9:1-29; 1 Sam. 17:55-18:30; Psalm 63
- June 4: Rom. 9:30-10:21; 1 Sam. 19; Psalm 64
- June 5: Rom. 11:1-24; 1 Sam. 20; Psalm 65
- June 6: Rom. 11:25-36; 1 Sam. 21-22; Psalm 66
- June 7: Rom. 12; 1 Sam. 23-24; Psalm 67
- June 8: Rom. 13; 1 Sam. 25; Psalm 68
- June 9: Rom. 14; 1 Sam. 26; Psalm 69
- June 10: Rom. 15:1-13; 1 Sam. 27-28; Psalm 70
- June 11: Rom. 15:14-33; 1 Sam. 29-31; Psalm 71
- June 12: Rom. 16; 2 Sam. 1; Psalm 72
- June 13: Mark 1:1-20; 2 Sam. 2:1-3:1; Dan. 1
- June 14: Mark 1:21-45; 2 Sam. 3:2-39; Dan. 2:1-23
- June 15: Mark 2; 2 Sam. 4-5; Dan. 2:24-49
- June 16: Mark 3:1-19; 2 Sam. 6; Dan. 3
- June 17: Mark 3:20-35; 2 Sam. 7-8; Dan. 4
- June 18: Mark 4:1-20; 2 Sam. 9-10; Dan. 5
- June 19: Mark 4:21-41; 2 Sam. 11-12; Dan. 6
- June 20: Mark 5:1-20; 2 Sam. 13; Dan. 7
- June 21: Mark 5:21-43; 2 Sam. 14; Dan. 8
- June 22: Mark 6:1-29; 2 Sam. 15; Dan. 9
- June 23: Mark 6:30-56; 2 Sam. 16; Dan. 10:1-21
- June 24: Mark 7:1-13; 2 Sam. 17; Dan. 11:1-19
- June 25: Mark 7:14-37; 2 Sam. 18; Dan. 11:21-45
- June 26: Mark 8:1-21; 2 Sam. 19; Dan. 12
- June 27: Mark 8:22-9:1; 2 Sam. 20-21; Hos. 1:1-2:1
- June 28: Mark 9:2-50; 2 Sam. 22; Hos. 2:2-23
- June 29: Mark 10:1-31; 2 Sam. 23; Hos. 3
- June 30: Mark 10:32-52; 2 Sam. 24; Hos. 4:1-11

single instance where God had failed him. I can't either. Neither can you if you care to think about it. Remember that when life comes crashing in. **God's calendar doesn't always match mine.**

Like some of you, I do not wait well. This can be a problem because impatience tells us God is not listening to our prayers or is not involved in our lives. We want what we want and we want it now, right? King David wrote, *"I trust in you, Lord... you are my God... My times are in your hands"* (Psalm 31:14-15). Just as God has a purpose and a plan, he has a pace — things happen in his time (not mine... or yours). When you think you've waiting too long for God to move remember the Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness, waiting thousands of years for the promised Messiah, and endured 400 years in which it seemed like God was not moving between the end of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament. Be patient. God is working. Trust him.

## God is never surprised.

When something unexpected crashes into our lives — check engines lights, phone calls in the middle of the night, bad test results, volatility with the stock market, etc. — we enter crisis mode accompanied by stress or even panic. God never does that. He is never surprised, and nothing is unexpected for him. He is omnipotent (all powerful), omniscient (all knowing), and omnipresent (everywhere completely, transcendent of time and space). That's why David wrote, *"You have searched me, LORD, and you know me... You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways... If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast"* (Psalm 139).

## God loves you and is always with you.

On one of the Prophet Jeremiah's darkest days, God reminded him, *"I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with unfailing kindness"* (Jeremiah 31:3). Centuries before that he told Joshua, *"I will never leave you nor forsake you... Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go"* (Joshua 1:5-9). Think about this: the omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent God of all things has declared his everlasting love for you and promised to be with you wherever you go. Trust him.

As I said, faith is a funny thing. Some even consider the Christian faith to be a paradox because those of us who follow Jesus believe in a God we have never seen. That's ok. Everyone has to figure this out for themselves. You have to figure it out for yourself and answer the question Jesus asked his disciples, *"Who do*

*you say I am?"* (Matthew 16:15). See? You have to believe. Faith must come first. That's what Peter expressed when he answered Jesus, *"You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God"* (Matthew 16:16). That's it. That's the first step. Even if Peter was only 99% certain (or less), he believed. Do you?

God bless you!

*Dr. Steven Wood*  
Dr. Steven Wood  
Pastor

## June 15, 2025 FATHER'S DAY

First Congregational Church will celebrate Father's Day during the Worship Celebration on June 15, 2025, by recognizing fathers, grandfathers, great-grandfathers, as well as all the men of our fellowship. We invite everyone to join us as we honor the men and their place in our church.

## GRADUATE SUNDAY

First Congregational Church will honor those from our church family who have graduated from high school or college Sunday, June 1, 2025, during the Morning Worship Celebration and with a cake reception to follow. We will be recognizing the following:

**Morgan Wilhelm**  
Owosso High School  
**Bobby Donley**  
Corunna High School  
**Bryce Ritter**  
Byron High School  
**Adam Alme**  
Byron High School



Durand Beautification Project



# JUNE



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> GRADUATE SUNDAY 9:00am Women's Mtg 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Graduate Reception	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> BRAD DEYOUNG	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> PENTECOST SUNDAY 129th Anniversary of the Founding of First Congregational Church 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Social Time 11:15am CE Board	<b>9</b> RODNEY DEAN WESTYN MASON	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> FLAG DAY 11:00am Claudia Howdyshell Memorial
<b>15</b> FATHER'S DAY JEFF BLIGHT 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Social Time 11:15am Deacons	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> BETTY BENSON 7:00pm Trustees	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> STEVEN WOOD
<b>22</b> 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Social Time 11:15am Missions	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> CHERYL DAVENPORT	<b>27</b> TAMMY CAUTHEN	<b>28</b> ROBERT CONRAD
<b>29</b> 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am Worship Celebration 11:00am Social Time 4:00pm Brett Bruner Memorial	<b>30</b>					



## First Congregational Church PRAYER Ministry

### PRAYER MINISTRY

#### PRAYER CHAIN

To submit praises and prayer requests text Pastor Steve (810-624-2418).

#### PRAYER SPACE

We invite everyone to use our Prayer Space in the northeast corner of the Sanctuary for prayer and meditation before, during, and after Worship, as well as any time throughout the week.



### ONE ITEM A MONTH

FCC's One-Item-a-Month for June is CANNED TUNA OR CHICKEN. Please leave cans at the back of the Sanctuary throughout the month. They will be delivered to Loaves & Fishes for distribution to those in need. Financial donations should be marked, "Loaves & Fishes." Thank you!

### MEMORIAL SERVICES

First Congregational Church will host memorial services for two of our members who have gone home to be with the Lord.

**Claudia Howdyshell**  
June 14, 2025  
11:00am  
**Brett Bruner**  
June 29, 2025  
4:00pm



### PENTECOST SUNDAY (continued from p. 2)

Historically, the day of Pentecost was part of the Jewish Festival, Shavuot - the Feast of Weeks, a harvest celebration prescribed by God through Moses. "Count off seven weeks from the time you begin to put the sickle to the standing grain. Then celebrate the Festival of Weeks to the LORD your God by giving a freewill offering in proportion to the blessings the LORD your God has given you. And rejoice before the LORD your God at the place he will choose as a dwelling for his Name..." (Deuteronomy 16:9-11). So, "...Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James... along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers" were "...all together in one place" (Acts 2:1) to observe the Festival of Weeks with "...God-fearing Jews from every nation..." (Acts 2:5) when the Holy Spirit manifested as "tongues of fire that sep-

arated and came to rest on each of them" (Acts 2:3). They were able to declare "the wonders of God" (Acts 2:11) so that those gathered heard them in their own languages and after Peter's sermon (Acts 2:14-40) "Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day" (Acts 2:41).

Because of what happened that day in Jerusalem Pentecost Sunday is commonly referred to as the birth of the Christian Church. Jesus declared, "...I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (Matthew 16:11) so Pentecost Sunday commemorates the manifestation of the Holy Spirit, as well as the birth of his church.

