



**FIRST
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH OF DURAND**

403 N. Saginaw St., Durand MI 48429 (989)288-6684 www.durandchurch.com



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THE LAMPLIGHTER

APRIL

HOLY WEEK *at First Congregational Church*

Holy Week began with Palm Sunday on March 29 and will conclude on Holy Saturday on April 4, 2026. Here are the remaining plans for Holy Week and Easter Sunday.

April 3, 2026

COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

This year's annual Community Good Friday Service will be held at The Crossing Free Methodist Church (708 S. Oak St, Durand) on Friday, April 3, 2026. The service begins at 7:00pm. Everyone is encouraged to join our friends and neighbors for worship!

April 4, 2026

COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT

Once again, the Durand Fire Department is coordinating the annual Community Easter Egg Hunt at Trumble Park on Saturday, April 4, 2026. The fun begins at 10:00am.

April 5, 2026

EASTER SUNDAY

**9:00am Coffee & Donuts
10:00am Worship
Celebration**

Easter Sunday is April 5, 2026. FCC will begin the morning at 9:00am with fellowship and donuts (imported from Donna's Donuts, of course), fresh ground coffee, juice, and milk. The Easter Sunday Worship Celebration will begin with an Easter Procession including banners, lilies, palms, and other items. The celebration will include old school hymns, modern music, Scripture reading, prayer, reflection, Communion, and Pastor Steve's Easter sermon. Everyone is invited at we celebration the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THURSDAY - April 30, 2026

4:30pm - 7:00pm

(or until the food runs out!)

Adults: \$15.00 / Children (4-12): \$6.00 / Children under 4 are free

Menu:

- Our "Oughta-Be-World-Famous" Roast Beef
- Mashed potatoes & gravy
- Vegetables
- Rolls
- Homemade pies and cakes

All you care to eat.
Take out available starting at 4:30pm
Call for reservations.

**403 N. Saginaw St.
Durand, Michigan**
*(at the point of Saginaw and Washtenaw
in beautiful, downtown Durand)*
(989)288-6684

FROM THE PASTOR GUARD YOUR HEART AND YOUR MIND



It seems like our culture is seeing a marked increase in division, disillusionment, despair, and depression in 2026. While all of us deal with difficult situations, fear, anger, greed, and temptation from time-to-time, the impact of such things on the hearts and minds of individuals seems to be more intense. However, I wonder if trials have increased and grown in intensity or simply

adapted and evolved to our modern age. The Apostle Paul dealt with disappointment, trials, and maybe even depression way back in the first century. But he wrote, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your re-

quests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:4-7). So, perhaps what we all seek, crave, and need is the peace of God that can guard our hearts and minds through Christ. Please understand, you will never find the peace of God
Continued - see FROM THE PASTOR on p. 2



APRIL VOLUNTEERS

FCC is very grateful for all the volunteers who keep things running smoothly on Sundays. Here are those who have volunteered to help during Worship this month. If you would like to serve in any of the areas marked TBD, please sign up at the Literature Table located at the back of the Sanctuary, or contact Pastor Steve directly. Thanks!

April 5, 2026

Liturgist: NA
 Ushers: Dennis Younkin
 Doreen Clark
 Acolytes: Penny Caverly
 Mary Jane Edwards
 PowerPoint: Penny Caverly
 Camera: Rodney Dean
 Childcare: NA
 Snacks: NA

April 12, 2026

Liturgist: Mary Golden
 Ushers: Mark Russell
 Linda Russell
 Acolytes: TBD
 TBD
 PowerPoint: Sue O'Brien
 Camera: Rodney Dean
 Childcare: Doreen Clark
 Snacks: Mary Golden

April 19, 2026

Liturgist: Linda Russell
 Ushers: Lori Childs
 Terry Childs
 Acolytes: TBD
 TBD
 PowerPoint: Penny Caverly
 Camera: Rodney Dean
 Childcare: Sherry Dean
 Snacks: TBD

April 26, 2026

Liturgist: TBD
 Ushers: TBD
 TBD
 Acolytes: Mark Russell
 Linda Russell
 PowerPoint: TBD
 Camera: Rodney Dean
 Childcare: Mary Golden
 Snacks: Dennis Younkin

FROM THE PASTOR (continued from p. 1)

without Jesus Christ – many try and none succeed. So, everything I am about to say about peace assumes you have accepted Jesus and are following his teachings and example. None of this will work without that. If you are following Jesus, here are a six things that will help you walk a little more peacefully in your day-to-day:

1. Pray.

This one really should be obvious, but I'm going to say it anyway... and I'm going to say it first because it needs to be said first. In the words of Paul, "pray continually" (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Is that even possible? Absolutely! Praying continually is possible if you understand prayer as a sacred, ongoing conversation – some-

shelf! If you need direction read the Bible. If you need encouragement read the Bible. If you

too). So, eat right, take a walk, get a good night's sleep, take a break, take a nap.. Even Jesus



want to know God read the Bible.

3. Take care of your physical self.

took time away from the crowds to rest (Mark 6:31). King David wrote, "In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, Lord, make me dwell in safety" (Psalm 4:8) and "I have calmed and quieted myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content" (Psalm 131:2).

4. Check your media consumption.

Whether it is smartphones, PC's, or TV's, screentime has become a big concern in 2026 and rightly so. However, I am referring to both time spent and content consumed. While I am not at all interested in telling you what to read, or what to watch, or what to listen to, we all know the principle: garbage in, garbage out. Just like your physical body can't stay healthy on junk food and soda pop, your heart and mind can't stay healthy if you consume junk all the time. The Apostle Paul wrote, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be

Continued—see FROM THE PASTOR on p. 3



times we talk and God listens, sometimes God talks and we listen, and sometimes we just sit and enjoy his presence.

While there are lots of times when a dedicated, focused time of prayer is required, the sacred, ongoing conversation is important, too. So, do both!

2. Read your Bible.

Come on, you knew this was coming! Read your Bible daily – just read it... or listen to it if that helps. Notice I did not say, 'study your Bible' – of course, you should study, but that is not what I'm talking about here. Just take in a little Bible every day and I promise you it will be a blessing to you. Start with the Gospel of John and go on from there. If the Bible is our metaphorical "sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12) and "a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105) it is way too valuable to leave on the

Our physical bodies are not designed to run on empty – we need decent food, a little exercise, and rest. When we neglect those basic things our physical self struggles and when our physical self struggles it affects our emotional, mental, and even our spiritual self. We all know we are not at our best when we are tired or hungry (the devil knows it,



April 7, 2026

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

ATTENTION LADIES! Mary Golden will lead our next Women's Bible Study on Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 6:30pm. We will be studying prayer. Come join us!



FROM THE PASTOR (continued from p. 2)

transformed by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2) and “...whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, what-

with a local church? They choose to. Some claim Sunday is their only day off – and then fill the day with all kinds of ac-

ever seen anyone pull that off? If a person wants to follow Jesus in the hardest, most foolish way possible, that’s how to do it. We are not designed to do this alone! We need the fellowship of a few folks who are trying to follow Jesus, too. The best place to find them is in a local church (and I know a good one).

A Final Word.

I know some of you reading this are going through a season of trial and difficulty in which peace is just that much harder to find – even though you are trying to follow Jesus. Please read these words of Paul, “We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed... because we know that the one who



ever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things” (Philippians 4:8).

5. Serve somebody.

We all know Jesus told us to serve him by serving others (Matthew 25:31-46), but have you ever considered the personal benefits of service? It must never be our motivation – that should always be glorifying Jesus, but serving others takes our minds off ourselves, our problems, our circumstances and shifts the focus to others and ultimately to Jesus. Depression thrives in isolation, but when we “...do good and share with others... with such sacrifices God is pleased” (Hebrews 11:16). God will bless your humble service and that is good for your heart and mind.

6. Cultivate fellowship.

Do you know why people neglect worship and fellowship

activity; others say Sunday is their day to sleep in – when most churches gather at 10am or 11am or even at night; then there are those who want to blame the church they ‘used to



go’ – when there are a handful of Christian churches even in the smallest towns in our country, pick one! Finally, there are those who claim they can follow Jesus without a local church – seriously, have you

raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus... Therefore, we do not lose heart... For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:8-18). So, keep the faith, my friends. No matter what you face today follow the example and teachings of Jesus – peace will come!

God bless you!

Dr. Steven Wood
Pastor



THROUGH THE BIBLE - APRIL

FCC encourages our members and friends to read the Bible with us in 2026. This year’s plan is chronological in that readings are scheduled in their historical order of events as much as possible. By reading five days a week we will read the entire Bible in 2026. A printed brochure is available on the Literature Table at the back of the Sanctuary, and the plan can also be accessed online at: <https://durandchurch.com/through-the-bible>. Here are the readings for the month of April:

Week 14

- Apr 1: Jdg 3-5
- Apr 2: Jdg 6-8
- Apr 3: Jdg 9-11

Week 15

- Apr 6: Jdg 12-16
- Apr 7: Jdg 17-19
- Apr 8: Jdg 20-21; Rut 1
- Apr 9: Rut 2-4; 1 Sa 1-2
- Apr 10: 1 Sa 3-6

Week 16

- Apr 13: 1 Sa 7-10
- Apr 14: 1 Sa 11-14
- Apr 15: 1 Sa 15-17
- Apr 16: 1 Sa 18-20
- Apr 17: Ps 11, 59; 1 Sa 21-23

Week 17

- Apr 20: 1 Sa 24; Ps 7, 27, 31, 34, 52, 56, 120, 140-141
- Apr 21: Ps 142; 1 Sa 25-27
- Apr 22: Ps 17, 35, 54, 63; 1 Sa 28-30
- Apr 23: 1 Sa 31; Ps 18, 121, 123-125, 128-130; 2 Sa 1
- Apr 24: 2 Sa 2-4; Ps 6, 8-9

Week 18

- Apr 27: Ps 10, 14, 16, 19, 21; 1 Chr 1-2
- Apr 28: Ps 43-45, 49, 84-85, 87; 1 Chr 3-4
- Apr 29: 1 Chr 5; Ps 73, 77-78
- Apr 30: 1 Chr 6; Ps 81, 88, 92-93; 1 Chr 7-8

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Church Secretary, Tammy Cauthen will be changing her hours beginning the week of March 30, 2026. Her new hours will be Wednesday and Friday, 9:00am - 2:00pm.



APRIL



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY 7:00pm Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream) 	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY	3 GOOD FRIDAY 7:00pm Community Good Friday Service
LENT						
5 EASTER 9:00am Donuts & Coffee 10:00am WORSHIP	6	7 6:30pm Women's Bible Study 	8 7:00pm Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream) 	9 6:30pm Pastoral Relations Committee 7:00pm Prudential Committee	10	11
12 TODD FRYER 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am WORSHIP 11:00am Social Time 11:15am C.E. Board	13	14	15 BRAD RITTER 7:00pm Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream) 	16	17	18 VICKY LLOYD
19 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am WORSHIP 11:00am Social Time 11:15am Deacon Board	20	21 JACQUE FORREST 7:00pm Trustees	22 EARTH DAY SECRETARY'S DAY MARY JANE EDWARDS 7:00pm Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream)	23	24 FERN WILSON	25 ARBOR DAY
26 9:30am Coffee Fellowship 10:00am WORSHIP 11:00am Social Time 11:15am Mission Board	27	28	29 RON NICKS 7:00pm Wednesday Nite LIVE(stream) 	30 ROGER DRURY 4:30pm Roast Beef Dinner		

Memorial Flowers

FCC is grateful to these people who have provided the Easter flowers in our Sanctuary in memory of their loved ones.

LILIES

Dennis & Sue O'Brien
*In memory of Dick McKay
and Merrell & Edna Harris*

Darlene Yarbrough
In memory of Milton R. Brown

Susan Kinell
In memory of loved ones

Connie Klein and Gerald Childs
*In memory of Diane Childs
and Gary Klein*

Vicky Lloyd
*In memory of John Lloyd,
Dale & Irene Bark, Ron Casto*

Rodney & Sherry Dean
In memory of Marilyn Dean

**Amanda Bruner and
Branden Butler**
In memory of Brett Bruner

Kris & Ashlee Shenk
In memory of Uncle Wess

Steven & Melanie Wood
In memory of Dan Malin

Anna Glass and Michelle Glass
In memory of Papa Jeff

TULIPS

Darlene Yarbrough
In memory of Wess L. Brown, Sr.

Mary Jane Edwards
In memory of Bob Edwards

Rodney & Sherry Dean
In memory of Tom Pritt

Cindy & Brett Stull

In memory of our grandparents

Ann Monroe
In memory of James Monroe

Nancy Grumley
In memory of Bud & Mike

Anson Clements
*In memory of
Malcolm & Lucille Clements
and Jim & Dorothy Jurd*

Doreen Clark
In memory of Dorothy Frederick

Mark & Linda Russell
In memory of Katie Ann Russell

Terry & Lori Childs
*In memory of Diane Childs and
Doug & Janet Young*

Kris & Ashlee Shenk
*In memory of Dad
Duane Van Riper, Jr.*

Steven & Melanie Wood
In memory of James & Audrey Wood

Anna Glass and Michelle Glass
In memory of Aunt Cyndi

DAFFODILS

Darlene Yarbrough
In memory of Emily Farmer

Rodney & Sherry Dean
In memory of David Pritt

Mary & Larry Golden
In memory of L.C. & Helen Golden

Nancy Grumley

*In memory of Hugh & Mildred
Doreen Clark*

In memory of Dorman Frederick, Jr.

**Amanda Bruner
and Branden Butler**
*In memory of Uncle Jim Butler
and Uncle Bob Butler*

HYACINTHS
Darlene Yarbrough
In memory of Hilda Yarbrough

Tammy Cauthen
*In memory of my parents,
Amos & Margene Morris*

Vicky Lloyd
*In memory of John Lloyd,
Dale & Irene Bark, Ron Casto*

Rodney & Sherry Dean
In memory of James Handy

Doreen Clark
In memory of Gene Frederick

Mark & Linda Russell
In memory of Katie Ann Russell

JoDee Merrell
*In memory of Dr. Glenn & Janice
Blakenhorn and Cathy Wilhelm*

George & Shirley Polen
In memory of our parents

Kris & Ashlee Shenk
*In memory of Mom & Dad
Anne & Don Shenk*



FCC MISSIONS

ONE ITEM A MONTH

FCC's One-Item-a-Month for April is TOILET PAPER AND PAPER TOWELS. Please leave these items and any other non-perishable items at the back of the Sanctuary. They will be loaded up and delivered to our friends at Loaves & Fishes for distribution to those in need. If you wish to donate cash, mark your contribution, "Loaves & Fishes" or drop them in the blue jug on the Literature Table. Thank you!

MISSIONS JUG

The five-gallon jug on the Literature Table is intended to raise money for Loaves & Fishes. Everyone is invited to drop in spare change (we take paper money, too!), which is collected by our Missions Board and sent on to Loaves & Fishes to purchase groceries for those in need. Thank you!