



Parish Post

Compassion, Community and Christ Build Our Church

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**Nov.
2011**

**Rev. David
writes...**



My favorite hymn for the fall season is titled, "God Whose Giving Knows No Ending". It has such fitting lyrics. The first verse ends with thanksgiving: "*gifted by you, we turn to you*

offering up ourselves in praise..." The final verse is about discipleship in the service of the great giver: "*Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call...*"

God is such a gracious and extravagant giver. There is no end to the gifts. God does not hold back. God is ready to share the blessings that we have been given — the bounty of the harvest, the beauty of the fall colors.

I was humming a fall tune a few days ago while out in the yard. The warm breeze felt like Indian Summer. The sun was shining on the leaves even as they fell. All was well in my world -- until I noticed something with which I wish God had not been quite so generous.

There are two black walnut trees by our house. Judging by their size they must be 50 to 75 years old. And for some reason, this year especially, the trees have been over extravagant in filling our yard with walnuts.

It's really quite an amazing feat of nature: a walnut is protected by a hard shell and wrapped in a thick-skinned covering so that the whole pod is about the size of a tennis ball. Then in October, the walnuts, their shell and outer skin fall to the ground in order to propagate another walnut tree.

The squirrels rejoice wherever there are walnut trees. If they get to the nuts there will be food for the winter. But not even the squirrels anticipated how amazing a creator of walnuts God has been at my house this year.

There have been walnut seed pods everywhere blanketing the lawn. They were spread so thickly that my lawn mower didn't have a chance. Even the squirrels were so daunted by the size of the meal, they didn't know where to start.

I know that God is an extravagant giver and gracious donor, but couldn't the Holy One have been a little more sparing in this case? It took me three hours of black-walnut-seed-pod picking to get them all up. Three hours, filling five gallon buckets 37 times with over 4000 walnuts, from the God whose giving knows no ending.

All that clean-up was exhausting, but with every walnut pod I was reminded of a great truth. Why should one be worried about scarcity with such evidence as this? There is abundance in God's creative design. All can be fulfilled. This world has been made so that there is enough to go around. It is not just nutty to say that, it is the way of faith.

There is enough to go around because God has planned creation to be that way, and because God has also planted a spirit of generosity in our hearts. God's creative intent is in the urge to care and give, even as it is in the urge inside the walnut seed to grow. Generosity is part of our God-given nature. When it is allowed to bear fruit, the harvest of human concern will know no end.

As we approach Thanksgiving, we remember that thanks is about giving: giving thanks to God the extravagant and gracious giver. Thanks by giving with faith enough to open wide our hands in sharing.

GBU, Rev. David





OUR WORSHIP

Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

-Revelation 4:16

Classic Worship at 9 AM, in a traditional setting.
Celebration Worship at 11 AM, praise in a blended setting.

Sunday November 6th Communion Sunday

'Timing is everything,' the pundits say. There is real truth in saying that this moment is a crucial time for us at First Congregational Church. The focus on our Capital Stewardship Journey allows us to center ourselves on the hopes of where we can go from here in faith. Rev. Wheeler will speak about the vision and values of our church in a sermon entitled, "*Before and After*". Our Sanctuary choir will perform at 9; CrossWords at 11.

Sunday November 13th The Children Offer Their Gifts

A stewardship principle is, 'not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice:' Not everyone has the same financial resources but each of us has the same capacity for generosity. A small gift from one who gives with deep conviction is as valuable as any more substantial a gift amount. Rev. Wheeler will speak to that in a sermon entitled, "*The Heart of the Giver*." The children in our church school will be presenting the congregation with gifts they have collected for the Capital Stewardship Journey: columns of pennies collected to reach the height of our growing kids. The youth choir will sing at 9 AM worship; Pray'se choir at 11 AM.

Sunday November 20th Commitment and Celebration

--- Worship Will be at 10 AM ---

Our whole congregation gathers together in thanksgiving as our Capital Stewardship Journey leads us to make commitments on our church's behalf. We'll pull out all the stops to enjoy the moment! Our musical groups will be making joyful songs. Following the service we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a delicious dinner. As the high point of worship, each of us will have the opportunity to bring our Capital pledge to be consecrated at the Communion Table. Rev. Wheeler will offer a sermon lifting up the sacredness of our resolves. It is titled, "*From Good To Great*". Most of our music groups will perform on this day!

Sunday November 27 First Sunday of Advent

Welcome K.C. Lazzara to the pulpit this first Sunday of Advent. As our journey now moves us toward the little town of Bethlehem and the celebration of the Christ child born in a stable there, let us begin the pilgrimage with the ancient hymn, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel..." to rescue those who mourn in lowly exile. CrossWords will play at 11.



Betty Clowesely
Bob Groves
Lynn Musson
Shirley Moore
George Poffenberger
Ella Steele



We celebrate with Karen and Jeff Cuthbertson on the baptism of their infant daughter, **Megan Elizabeth Cuthbertson** on Oct. 16.

Congratulations, also are extended to **Sarah Marie Hirsch and Kevin Tyler Vandenberg** who were married in our sanctuary by Rev. Wheeler on Saturday, October 22!



Thanks to our seminary intern, K.C. Lazzara, for being our pulpit guest on Oct. 30th. K.C. was filling in for Rev. Wheeler who was recuperating after some surgery on his arm. Rev. David had a torn tendon repaired after it was injured last summer in an altercation with a golf cart!



Our VISION STATEMENT

First Congregational Church, U.C.C. of Rochester

Compassion, Community and Christ Build Our Church



CAPITAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN! Finishes with a FEAST!

Sunday, Nov. 20

One service of worship 10 a.m.;
family dinner at 11:30

Informational packets were shared at the home meetings held between October 24 and 30th. Those who did not pick up a packet at the meetings will have one mailed to them soon! Please read these carefully.

Also, invitations to the special event will be sent out soon. This will be your invitation to a fabulous dinner at FCC on Sunday, November 20. The menu for the event is shown below. Each household will be contacted for an RSVP to the dinner between November 7 and 12. We hope everyone will come!

This special meal will be a chance for all of us to give thanks for our church family, for all the blessings we have, and to celebrate the conclusion of the stewardship drive.

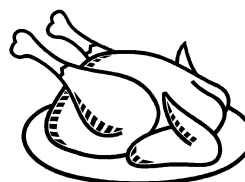
***Be sure to respond "yes" when you are called
For your RSVP to the November 20 celebration of
our Capital Stewardship Journey: Imagine What's Possible!
(we need a headcount for the caterer!)***

The Menu for the 20th:

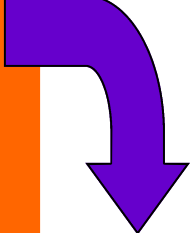
Hummus & Tabbouli & Pita
Veggie & cheese trays
Fruit Trays

Carved roast beef station with sous chef!
Carved Turkey
Caesar salad & Garden salad
Macaroni & Cheese with ham

Green Bean casserole
Cooked Yams
Mashed potatoes and gravy
Dessert & beverages too!



Mission 1 Food collection



Help us collect canned goods to fill the Christmas baskets for needy individuals!

MISSION:1

11.1.11-11.11.11

That they may all be **1**

ONE UNITED CHURCH on a shared mission for 11 powerful days to feed the hungry and confront food-related injustice



[ucc.org/mission 1](http://ucc.org/mission1)

Nov. 1-11, 2011

God is still speaking,



**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

Mission 1

11/1/11 to 11/11/11

Mission I at FCC will be to collect food for our Holiday Basket Program. This has been an integral part of our community outreach for many years. Providing 125 baskets last year to our neighbors in need, we know that number will increase greatly this year. Listed below are the items necessary to fill a basket. In addition to the items in the basket, recipients receive a \$20 gift card to a local grocer so they may purchase the meat and other items to complete their holiday meal.

The cost of a holiday basket including the grocery gift card is \$50. We appreciate donations of the canned items listed below or \$20 grocer cards to Kroger, Hollywood, or Meijer. If you wish to donate money for a partial or entire Christmas Basket, please specify that, and we will do the shopping. In the past, we have included paper products, dish soap, laundry soap and some personal care products. Whether or not we include these items this Christmas season will depend on the donations we receive for this program.

Holiday basket food items include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 cans corn | 1 box jello |
| 2 cans green beans | 1 can cranberry sauce |
| 2 cans cream of mushroom soup | 1 box muffin mix |
| 2 cans chicken noodle soup | 2 boxes mac & cheese |
| 2 cans tuna | 1 loaf bread |
| 2 box stuffing mix | 1 box cereal |
| 1 can gravy | 1 small jar peanut butter |
| 1 box instant potatoes | 1 small jar jam |
| 2 cans fruit | Coffee or tea bags |



Please note that there will be NO Renaissance Dinner this year...

The Village Singers, formerly directed by Alan Lollar have disbanded, so there will not be a Renaissance Dinner this December. (bummer!). Plan to attend the "Family Fun Night" on December 10 instead — Details are on Page 10 of this Parish Post!

From the Board of Trustees...

If it's not one thing, It's another!

The Board of Trustees has been working on several maintenance issues at the church. These are the items being addressed:

Leak in Adult Library—grade outside for drainage will be diverted using cement. (inexpensive route)

Lower level south hallway near the KOOL room has been patched and retiled. (donated)

Heat exchanger for new building that heats the water will be replaced after we approve an acceptable solution regarding a water softener. Anticipated costs: \$11,500. (Ouch)

New boiler to heat our old building; we hope to start saving! Anticipated cost: \$85,000!

With the success of a **Capital Stewardship Journey**, the Board of Trustees will look forward to doing some renovation on our time, with allocated funds and with proper thought and consideration. There are several items on our wish list:

Repair/replace air conditioning for Fellowship Hall, Multi Purpose room, offices, & conference rooms.

Anticipated costs: \$18,200

New windows for the old building.

Anticipated costs: \$60,000

New commercial shades for the new windows.

Anticipated costs: \$10,000

New lighting in Fellowship Hall

Anticipated costs: \$7,500



Of course, these items can be phased in and prioritized based on pricing at the time we choose to do the work, Trustee opinion, and feedback from the congregation.

Thank You!

Sarah Sibert and Tom Dykstra worked on the closet in the Sonrise Cinema room to organize the Hands In Praise (HIP) Puppet Ministry Supplies. We are so grateful for their hours of work and rediscovery of all of the necessary supplies to present the Puppets to our Sunday School classes. If you are interested in participating with Puppets in any way, contact Sarah Sibert. She's ready to go!

Thank you to **Tom Madden** and "Faith Works" handymen for donating their time and materials to the downstairs hallway by the old pantry and youth group rooms. It looks great!

We'd like to thank **Don Westphal and Boris Utszan** for the continued expertise in the area of construction & maintenance.

Don Bishop and Jeff Cuthbertson have been helping us navigate a sticky situation with a heat exchanger. After the third one failed, we knew something was wrong! We are coming to a solution thanks to their professional and volunteer services.

The Board of Trustees is operating at 77 percent. Why is that? We only have 7 members when we could have 9. If you enjoy the nuts and bolts of ministry space and love our building, then we are the right place for your gifts. Please contact any member of the board to get nominated for the openings. You can also call us at any time if you have suggestions for topics, issues, concerns, kudos, etc. that you want to pass along to the group.

Don Bishop 248 375 0113	Fred Dunn 248 656 6081	Boris Usztan 248 622 8353
Kathy Campbell 248 375 2757	Jim Keeler 248 650 7798	<u>Open position</u>
Lloyd Dempsey 248 669 5251	Russ Menko 248 709 2786	<u>Open position</u>

HOORAY FOR RUMMAGE!

The fall sale grossed \$7100! WOW!
Thanks to everyone who donated goods
or time & energy to this semi-annual project!

MEMORY CARDS! Did you donate a video camera to rummage? We found 2 memory cards in the camera case. The first one reads: " Lisa Wedding, Summer 2004, Mt. Nebo" and the second card reads: "Christmas 2000, Jane Strom Wedding." Contact the office if these are your memory cards.

ALSO — a ring was found at rummage...if you can describe it, it might be yours!



NOV. 6

On Sunday, Nov. 6 at 2 a.m. the time falls back to 1 a.m. — So set your clocks **BACK** an hour before you go to bed and enjoy that extra hour of sleep!

EARLY DEADLINE NEXT MONTH!

The deadline for the December Parish Post is Wednesday, Nov. 16, with mailing on Nov. 23, the day before Thanksgiving! This way you all will have the Advent information in a timely manner.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

There is an on-going Bible Study class meeting on Tuesday nights.

ALL adults are welcome.

Right now the group meets at 7 pm

at Earl & Mary Miller's home at 462 Charlesina Drive.

Call them if you need directions! Phone: 248.601.5114

ALL ARE WELCOME!

A Mark Tisdel concert Saturday, Nov. 5 at 7 PM at FCC! *All proceeds to help the food pantry and Neighborhood House!*

Mark Tisdel, locally renowned tenor, accompanied by pianist Phyllis Bengry, will be singing a mixture of sacred and popular music on Saturday November 5, at 7:00 pm here at First Congregational Church. We hope you can come!

Proceeds from the concert will go to the Rochester Area Neighborhood House.

To hear a sample of Mark's recordings visit <http://www.marktisdel.com>.



**IS YOUR PLEDGE
UP TO DATE?**

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE as of Oct. 16

For the operating budget fiscal 2011-12

Pledges received:	\$ 100,946
Pledges anticipated:	\$ 104,430

W.O.W.

Wise, Outstanding, Wonderful **RUSSELL S. BRACEWELL**

Who do we know in our congregation who began attending First Congregational Church in 1949, has been a member of the choir for almost 50 years and keeps a very low profile? Who remembers the man who crooned *Cool Cool Water* in Cabaret 1994?

Russell Starkey Bracewell Jr. was born in 1925 and grew up in South Hadley, Massachusetts with his parents, Russell Sr., a chemical engineer, Myra Bracewell, a homemaker, and his older sister Rena. Russ describes his childhood as a happy one playing cowboys and Indians and touch football with the neighbor kids. The Bracewell family attended First Congregational Church in So. Hadley. Russ attended grade school and high school for two years locally, however, his parents who valued education saw how bright Russ was. They chose to send Russ to the elite Phillips Exeter Academy, a private boy's school in New Hampshire. There Russ kept his nose to the books. He graduated from Exeter in February 1944 and enlisted in the Air Force. From basic training in Greensboro, N.C., Russ was sent to Oklahoma because he had qualified for the aviation cadet training program. Three months later he was sent to navigation school in Hondo, Texas and in April 1945 Russ received his wings as a navigator. By this time, V-E Day had already arrived in Europe and Russ was not seeing much flight time, so in February 1946 the Air Force let him go. Russ moved back to So. Hadley and immediately applied for admission into the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

At MIT, Russ studied math, physics and mechanical engineering. He joined Sigma Nu Fraternity and enjoyed living in the fraternity house. As a freshman, Russ's fraternity brother encouraged him to try out for the rowing crew and after three months Russ pulled #7 oar on the light weight varsity team for three consecutive seasons, becoming crew captain his senior year. During his college years, Russ also enjoyed skiing on the mountains of Vermont and New Hampshire.

After graduation from MIT, Russ spent a fun summer taking flying lessons at a school owned and operated by a couple of Air Force Veteran pilots. In the fall of 1949 Russ moved to Rochester to work for National Twist Drill as a tooling engineer trainee. He eventually became supervisor in the physical testing lab, testing tool performance and learning the metallurgical aspect of tool making and heat treating. Russ worked for National Twist Drill from 1949-1984. When National Twist Drill moved their company to South Carolina, Russ felt he couldn't go along with it, so he decided to take an early retirement. He then worked at the GM Tech Center developing tool design for two years. He also worked at Detroit Tool Industries as chief engineer, tool designer, and consultant before retiring for good in 1993.

In the early 1950s, Russ met the tall, beautiful Patricia Clarke while the two were walking with a hiking club. They fell in love and were married in 1952 in Detroit. The Bracewells will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary next April! They had four children – Dianne, John, James and Carol. Sadly, Dianne passed away several years ago after a 12 year battle with a rare cancer. Russ and Pat are blessed with five grandchildren.

The Bracewells officially joined First Congregational Church Rochester in 1964. In addition to the many years of choir participation, Russ was Chairman of the Music Committee before becoming the Head of Trustees.

Those who know Russ, know how much he loves the water. Russ bought his 32 foot sailboat in 1995 and has sailed for many years traveling around Lake Huron and Georgian Bay - sailing solo at times. He sold his boat in 2005, but never stays far from the water. He and Pat spend the winter months in Bradenton, Florida where they enjoy being close to the water and watching rowing regattas. They have traveled extensively around the U.S. and Europe. Russ enjoys playing bridge, bowling, golf and photography.

Russ is a quiet introspective man. He is analytical and attentive to detail. This faithful Christian man knows he is blessed and we are blessed to know him. Life is good for Russ Bracewell. WOW!



Sunshine list birthdays!

For the month of NOVEMBER

- Nov. 1 Jean Anderson
- Nov. 11 Jean Robertson
- Nov. 13 Joy Arnold
- Nov. 15 Kay Johnston
- Nov. 25 Mary Jean Pearsall

PART-TIME USHERS NEEDED!

Especially January to April!

An invitation is extended to all the men, ladies and high school seniors of the congregation. Because many of our ushers are snowbirds and will be gone for a few months, the usher teams could use some help....If you would like to help out as an usher during our worship services, even for a limited time, please contact Rob Hirsch... at rhirsch2007@yahoo.com.

Help us be a friendly church
and give a warm WELCOME...



to
Our
Visitors!

Sunday, December 4 Rite of Remembrance at the 9 a.m. service.

We will pause to reflect on the lives of those from our church family who have gone on to their eternal reward during this past year at our annual Rite of Remembrance. This is also a day for each of us to celebrate the lives of all those who have touched us.

Christmas offering

This year we will again support our **Pastor's Fund** with gifts given as Christmas Offering.

This fund enables Rev. Wheeler to support church members who are in financial need, by helping cover food, rent, gas, and/or insurance expenses! Funds are given at the Pastor's discretion, and with the love of the entire congregation.

LADIES IN FAITH TOGETHER

November meetings:

Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 7 pm (the second Tuesday of the month)

Thursday Nov. 17 at 7 pm — (the third Thursday — early due to Thanksgiving!)

ALL ARE WELCOME.
LIFT usually meets in Room 20!

GOODFELLOWS PAPER SALE DECEMBER 2 & 3

The Rochester Fire Department will be holding their annual Paper Sale
December 2 & 3, 2011 on the streets of Rochester.

If you would like to help put the papers together at 8 a.m. Fri. or Sat., December 2 and 3, or
sell the papers on that weekend, please call Jim Purdom at 248-651-3268 or email
sandy.purdom@gmail.com.

In addition, if you would like to place an add in our paper cover, call Jim with the information.
From the ads in the paper cover, last year we made an additional \$3,000.00.

ALL of the proceeds from this Paper Sale goes to **our Food Pantry**. This last year has
been very difficult for many families in our area, so this is an important project to help sustain
the pantry as we feed many of our neighbors! Funds gathered will be used to purchase fresh
fruits and vegetables, as well as basic food items as the pantry shelves become empty!

We appreciate all the help our church family has given us over the
years. We extra hands are always welcome.

Thank You,
Jim Purdom



DECEMBER 10 — FAMILY FELLOWSHIP TIME!

A HOLIDAY “FUN” RAISER

*“When the moon hits the sky, like a big pizza pie..
That’s AMORE!”*

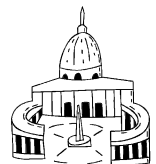
And you are going to LOVE

AN EVENING WITH YOUR INNER ITALIAN —

You know, that passionate, pasta-eating,

Bocci –ball playing, ceiling-painting, gondola-riding

Wonderful person that is YOU!



Come, bring the whole family! Watch for the sign-up sheets.

We will have a lasagna baking contest...!

Best recipe — great prizes! Some entertainment too!

Kids’ activities! Spaghetti—pizza—pasta and MORE!

Sponsored by the Music Committee!





The Giving Tree

(formerly the Sharing Tree)



Neighborhood House, local businesses, other community churches, and First Congregational will again work together to provide Christmas presents to Neighborhood House clients this year. The name and process has changed a little, but the program is still heartwarming.

This is how it works:

- On November 21, the Giving Tree will be put up in Fellowship Hall. It will be decorated with lights and gift tags from Neighborhood House with clients' Christmas needs and wishes. For example, Board Game for Boy and Girl under 10.
- The congregation will have the opportunity to choose a tag from the tree.
- Purchase the needed item listed on the tag.
- Place the tag with the unwrapped gift under the Giving Tree before December 11.
- If a member finds he or she can't purchase the item on the tag, return the tag to the Giving Tree as soon as possible, so someone else will have a chance to purchase the item.
- Cash donations are accepted. Designate Giving Tree on the memo line on your check and place it in the offering plate.
- On December 11, the Mission Possible Committee will meet to purchase remaining items needed with the cash donations.
- December 12-16 in Fellowship Hall at our church,

Neighborhood House will coordinate



PRESENTS FOR PARENTS



Our church is again sponsoring the Christmas project, Presents for Parents. The parents identified by Rochester Area Neighborhood House as candidates for Christmas gifts for their children have very limited resources. To brighten their Christmas, we hope to give them a shirt-sized gift box filled with a variety of items that they can open on Christmas morning. Last year we prepared 315 boxes, and we expect the number to be even higher this year.

We are asking that you donate any of the following items: gloves, socks, toiletries, kitchen linens, wrapped candy, stationery, decks of cards, etc. Large bins will be on the stage in Fellowship Hall from Nov. 21 to Dec. 12 to accept your donations.

There are also 3 activities where you can help:

- **Monday, Dec. 12** (6:30 to 9:00) Come assemble the boxes;
- **Tuesday, Dec. 13** (9:00 to 1:00) Wrap and Pack followed by a pot luck lunch;
- **Friday, Dec. 16** (time TBD) Help pass out the gifts to very appreciative parents at Shopping Day.

Thank you very much for caring about others. Please donate your time and items for these fun and rewarding activities. If you have any questions, please call Sherry Tudrick (248-650-9462) or Joyce Dawson (248-652-2089).

A Letter...

Dear Church Family,
 Now that I am finally on the mend (notice no wheelchair or crutches), I would like to take the time to send a huge thank you to all that helped me through my surgery and recovery. To Reverend Wheeler and Chris Goerg who came to see me with lunches. To Paula and Ken Mage for the yummy soup and bread, it was delicious. For the staff of the church, your kindness and prayers kept me smiling even when I didn't feel like smiling. For all the people that sent cards to wish me well and encourage me. Finally to all the people who prayed for me and met me with a smile and offered to help push me in the wheelchair, or hold a door open, and ask about my foot and toe. Thanks to all for being a wonderful church family.

With highest regards,
 Alan Lollar



December 15 Thursday night 6:30 **COME CAROLING WITH US!**

Come share your voices! Everyone is invited to participate in an all church caroling event, on Thursday, December 15, starting at 6:30 pm....

Come adults, come teens, and bring all the kids! Plan to meet at the church to divide into small groups, and then get your assignments for the homes to visit. We only carol for about an hour, maybe an hour and a half, with each team going to 3 or 4 or maybe 5 homes, depending on travel time!

Also, anyone who would like to deliver flowers/poinsettias after Christmas should let Chris Goerg or Brenda Brannack know that you are available to help!

More details will be on the bulletin boards soon!



K.O.O.L. Kids Of Our Lord Middle School Youth!

November

- 6 12:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Meeting
- 13 12:15 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Meeting
- 20 FAMILY EVENT – Thanksgiving dinner!
- 27 No Meeting



- SHYG NOVEMBER SCHEDULE
- November 6th- Meeting 12:15-2
- November 13th- Meeting 12:15-2
- November 20th-
- No SHYG meeting: All-Church Event
- November 27th- No meeting!

Children & Youth Creating a Penny Stack



This year from October 23rd– to November 13th the children and youth will be collecting pennies for our Capital Stewardship Journey. Our church School goal is to collect a stack of pennies to match the average height of each Sunday school class.

That’s right -- pennies! Not dimes, not dollars — just pennies!!

This is a great opportunity for the children to “earn” the pennies for helping out their families instead of just giving them the change to bring to Sunday school. Each week we will add the pennies to our display and see how close we are coming to making the average height of each class.

On November 13th at both services we will present the pennies to the congregation as one of the first gifts of the Capital Stewardship Journey!

It is estimated that 1”= 18 pennies
Here are our class height averages:
 Preschool: 39 inches (about \$7.02 in pennies)
 Kindergarten to 2nd grade: 48 inches
 3rd and 4th grade: 55 inches
 KOOL: 60 inches
 SHYG: 72 inches

NO
 Sunday
 School on
 Nov. 20!
 Celebration
 Dinner!

Imagine What’s Possible with Pennies Galore!!
 If you have any questions please talk to Lyndsay Carey

Church School CHRISTMAS PAGEANT



Time is flying by!

It is time to start planning the Christmas Pageant.

“Star of Wonder”

To be performed *Sunday December 11, at the 11:00 Service.*

All children and youth through middle school are encouraged to be a part of this great performance!!

Please mark these important dates on your calendar **EVERYONE** needs to attend on these dates to practice.

Run Through:

December 5th at 10:00-10:45 during Sunday school

Dress Rehearsal:

December 10th from 4-5:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Performance Day:

December 11th at the 11:00 Service

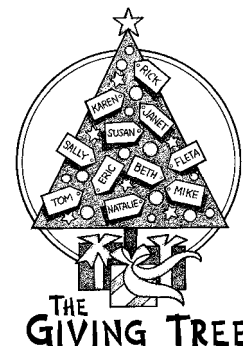
Followed by a lunch celebration and

family Christmas decorating event (12-2 pm)

Please see Ms. Lyndsay for a permission slip and more information!

December Events!

As we start towards the Advent Season, here are several things to keep in mind...
 The Giving tree — collection starts November 21!
 SPONSOR A POINSETTIA — fill out the form below!



- December 2 & 3 **Goodfellows' Paper drive** — raising funds for the pantry!
- December 4 **Rite of Remembrance** (9 AM) and Communion in worship
GO BANANAS! — at coffee hour
 Rochester parade at 2 pm
Community Concert at 7 pm / St. Andrew's Church
- December 10 Kids' pageant rehearsal 4:30 to 5:45
ITALIANO EXTRAVAGANZO — FAMILY FUN NIGHT!
- December 11 Christmas pageant at 11 a.m. worship, with family activities after the service!
 2 pm Ecclesiastical Council for Carol Hall!
- December 12 Help pack Presents for Parents gifts 6:30 PM— sorting/organizing
- December 13 **Wrap N' Pack** at 9 AM with a potluck luncheon
- December 15 **Caroling** starts at 6:30 PM— ALL are welcome
- December 16 Help with passing out Presents for Parents!
- December 17 CrossWords concert — 7:30 pm

December 24 Christmas eve services

- 5 pm — Children from the church school will perform!
- 7:30 pm — Our youth choirs will bring music to worship
- 11 pm — Our adult groups will provide special music at worship



December 25 CHRISTMAS DAY — ONE SERVICE OF WORSHIP 10 A.M.
 December 26 The FCC building is closed...

January 1, 2012 NEW YEAR'S DAY — again one service of worship at 10 a.m.



POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY

Please sponsor a poinsettia to enhance our holiday sanctuary and to cheer those persons on the Sunshine list

Please make your check out to First Congregational Church
 Poinsettias can be designated in celebration of life's events
 or in loving memory of family members.
 Please submit your order by December 15.

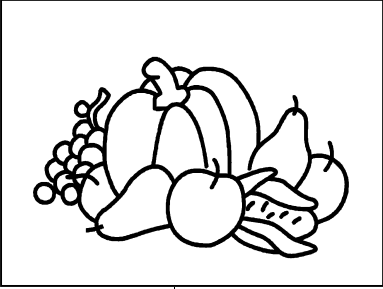
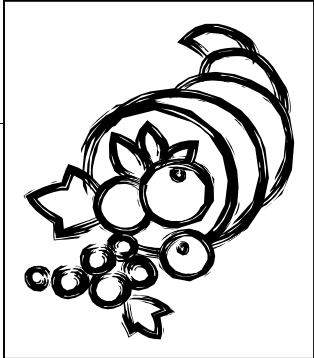
Name: _____
 Number of plants _____ x \$12.50 each = \$ _____ (total)

Designation:
 In Loving Memory Of:
 In Honor Of:
 In Celebration Of:



ALSO _____ Yes, I'd be glad to deliver a poinsettia to someone on the Sunshine List after Christmas day.

November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<p>1 9 AM N. Needles 9:30 AM Practicing our Faith Study 10:30 Great Parents 11 AM Staff 6:30 PM Scout Den 7 PM Scout Den 7:30 PM CE bd.</p>	<p>2 Office hours 8 AM to 7 PM 11 Healing Min. 12:30 Joseph Carpenters 4 PM Blessings In a backpack Wed Night choir Rehearsals PCUUC too</p>	<p>3 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 10:30 Great Parents Class 6:30 PM STEP 7 PM CIT 7 PM rental 7:30 PM OA</p>	<p>4 7 PM CrossWords Rehearsal</p>	<p>5 11 rental—DAR 4:30 PM Pride 7-10:30 PM Upper Room 7 PM MARK TISDEL CONCERT</p>
						<p>Women's retreat in GR</p>
						<p>Daylight saving time ends</p>
<p>6 Worship at 9 and 11 a.m. communion 10 AM Church school 11 PCUUC 12:15 PM KOOL 12:15 PM SHYG 4:30 Confirmation 6 PM bowling 7 PM Scout Bd <i>Back to standard Time!</i></p>	<p>7 6:30 PM Wms. A.A. 7 PM Financial Peace 7:30 PM O.A. 7:30 PM STEP</p>	<p>8 9 AM N. Needles 9:30 AM Practicing our Faith Study 10:30 Great Parents 11 AM Staff 7 PM Ladies in Faith 7 PM Scout Pack 7 PM Trustees</p>	<p>9 Office hours 8 AM to 7 PM 11 Healing Min. 4 PM Blessings In a backpack Wed Night choir Rehearsals PCUUC too</p>	<p>10 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 10:30 Great Parents Class 5 PM Stewardship JOURNEY Mtg. 6:30 STEP 7 PM rental 7 PM scout den 7 PM Stephen Min 7:30 PM OA</p>	<p>11 7 PM CrossWords Rehearsal Camp/Powaga wedding</p>	<p>12 10 AM Scout Pack SPACE DERBY 4:30 PM Pride 7-10:30 PM Upper Room</p>
<p>13 Worship at 9 and 11 a.m. 10 AM Church school 11 PCUUC 12:15 PM KOOL 12:15 PM SHYG 4:30 Confirmation</p>	<p>14 6:30 PM Wms. A.A. 7 PM Financial Peace 7:30 PM O.A. 7:30 PM STEP</p>	<p>15 9 AM N. Needles 9:30 AM MOMS 9:30 AM Practicing our Faith Study 10:30 Great Parents 11 AM Staff 7 PM Scout den 7:30 PM Lay Leaders Mtg.</p>	<p>16 Office hours 8 AM to 7 PM 11 Healing Min. 4 PM Blessings In a backpack Wed Night choir Rehearsals PCUUC too</p>	<p>17 6:30 AM Men's Bible Study 10:30 Great Parents Class 6:30 STEP 7 PM CIT 7 PM Ladies in Faith 7 PM rental 7:30 PM OA</p>	<p>18 7 PM Bridge 7 PM CrossWords Rehearsal</p>	<p>19 4:30 PM Pride 7-10:30 PM Upper Room</p>
<p>20 Worship 10 A.M. NO Church school today! 11 PCUUC DINNER AT 11:30 CAPITAL STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION 4:30 Confirmation 6 PM bowling</p>	<p>21 6:30 PM Wms. A.A. 7 PM Financial Peace 7:30 PM O.A. 7:30 PM Peace x Peace 7:30 PM STEP</p>	<p>22 9 AM N. Needles 9:30 AM Practicing our Faith Study 10:30 Great Parents 11 AM Staff</p>	<p>23 Office hours 8 AM to 7 PM 11 Healing Min. 4 PM Blessings In a backpack Wed Night choir Rehearsals PCUUC too</p>	<p>24 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY BUILDING CLOSED</p>	<p>25 7 PM CrossWords Rehearsal BUILDING CLOSED</p>	<p>26 4:30 PM Pride 7-10:30 PM Upper Room</p>
<p>27 Pulpit Guest K.C. Lazzara Worship at 9 and 11 a.m. 10 AM Church school 11 PCUUC NO youth groups This weekend</p>	<p>28 6:30 PM Wms. A.A. 7 PM Financial Peace 7:30 PM O.A.</p>	<p>29 9 AM N. Needles 9:30 AM Practicing our Faith Study 10:30 Great Parents 11 AM Staff</p>	<p>30 Office hours 8 AM to 7 PM 11 Healing Min. 4 PM Blessings In a backpack Wed Night choir Rehearsals PCUUC too</p>			

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**** AUTO ****

Giving thanks in November!

***First Congregational Church, UCC
Rochester, Michigan***

***We will celebrate the conclusion of our
2011 Capital Stewardship Journey***

***with a HUGE Family dinner on
Sunday, November 20 at
12 noon!***



Be sure to RSVP that you will attend!