

# The ADVANCE

Second Congregational UCC

FACEBOOK: Second Congregational UCC, Grand Rapids

## MARCH

### Checking our Vital Signs

In our physical bodies, vital signs are a clear indication of health. In a church, spiritual vital signs are also clear indicators of health.

Your pulse rate, blood pressure, respiration, vision and hearing are signs of physical vitality or depleted health.

Doctors and nurses can easily measure these indicators of life in our bodies. To measure the vital signs of health in a church is not so easily done. On March 10, that is exactly what we will attempt to do, to check the Vital Signs of Second Congregational Church. What is the air we breathe? The values we hold closest? Our vision of life? Our hope for the future?

The vital signs in our body are related. If there is no blood pressure, there will not be any pulse or respiration or body temperature or reflex. If there is no respiration, there will not be any blood pressure or pulse or ...

And what is true for these physical vital signs is also true for the vital signs of the church. If one of them is not present, none of them will be present. If we have no vision, we will have no hope. If we have no passion, we will have no life.

You are a vital part of our life at Second and we need you to share your values, your heart and your passion for our ministry and its future.

As we assess our church's vision, do we need an adjustment in our progressive lens? Are we seeing clearly both up close and far away? How about our hearing? Are we listening for what God is calling us to be? Are we hearing the cries of our community and our world? What about our pulse? Are we moving too fast? Are we slow and unable to keep pace with our surroundings? And our heart, so important! Do we have a heart to reach into our community with the life-giving love of God and Christ?

It's time to check our vital signs. Please be with us on March 10 following our worship service at our "Lifeline-Check our Vital Signs" workshop.

Steve Armfield  
Senior Pastor  
March, 2019

## Women's Fellowship Lenten Series

Every year during Lent, Women's Fellowship hosts a series of Lenten services. The first Lenten Series was held in 1949. It is now 2019 - 71 years!!!!

Beginning on Tuesday, March 12, the services will be held in our Chapel on Tuesday mornings at 10 o'clock. Each service is followed with fellowship and refreshment in the Drawing Room. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend - and bring a friend.

Our speakers will be:

Tuesday, March 12	Ms. Gayle Campbell
Tuesday, March 19	Pastor Dawn Damon, Tribes Church
Tuesday, March 26	Operation Stork
Tuesday, April 2	Pastor Karen Ingebretson, Thornapple Covenant Church
Tuesday, April 9	Judy Bode
Tuesday, April 16	(White Breakfast) Ms. Kim Murphy, Heron Manor

## Calling All Second Church Brides/Grooms

Were you or yours married at Second Church? We would like a copy of the wedding photo to display in June. Please send the copy to Vicki Tingley at 1537 Geddes NW, GR 49534 or [littleolady40@yahoo.com](mailto:littleolady40@yahoo.com) or 616-634-2404 cell.

## O.C.W. M. Kit Fundraiser

A school kit, health kit, or emergency clean-up kit makes it possible to tackle some of the basic equations of life. Problems like basic hygiene, or cleaning up after a flood, or being able to go to school prepared to take notes. During the month of March, Women's Fellowship is asking for monetary donations toward the purchase of these kits. The money is sent to Church World Services, they purchase the kits.

*\$15 covers the cost of either a health kit or school kit; \$75 covers the cost of one clean-up kit. Please keep this in your hearts for March.*

Your check sent to 2<sup>nd</sup> Church can be designated O.C.W.M. kits; any amount is appreciated. Thank-you.

Women's Fellowship

**THANK YOU** to my Second Church family for all the cards and get-well wishes! You brighten my days so much. I'm looking forward to being able to come back to worship services this spring! ---Jeane Swart

## SECOND COFFEE HOSTS for 2019

### March

3 2nd Stitches  
10 Property Board  
17 Stewardship Team  
24 Library Team  
31 Red Hats



### April

7 Harmonizers  
14 Cavaliers  
21 Worship Life Team  
28 Governance Board



JOIN US IN WISHING THE FOLLOWING  
PEOPLE A VERY **HAPPY MARCH** BIRTHDAY!



02 Jill Smith  
04 Don Long  
05 Cindy Leonard  
07 Tom Cole; Ryann Gladding  
10 Joe Heinz; Madison Jalacki  
12 Cheryl McCarthy  
13 Becky Irwin  
18 Marlene Bard; Don Curtis  
19 Michael Maresco  
20 Maryann Couter  
22 Matt LaMore  
29 Candy Marz  
31 Pam Chambers



## FROM YOUR MISSION TEAM

The support is greatly appreciated and the  
Mission team thanks you!!!



	<u>Loose coin</u>	<u>Pop cans</u>
February:	\$ 78.04	\$ 26.00

An anonymous donor matched our loose coins for \$78.04  
Money collected from the POP UP Brunch - \$120.00

Please remember our missions:  
Veterans, School Supplies, In the Image  
Food Pantry, Family Fare receipts

School supplies were delivered to deserving students- Please read the Thank You note from a school that received some items. The letter is on the Mission Board, and it states how welcomed the items were received.

**Floor Covering Update!** We are on the move! While we still need to fund raise for the hallway installation funds, we are making plans for the Sanctuary. A team, with representatives from Music Dept., Choir, Worship Life, Gov. Board and the Property Board have met once, and will meet again soon. Looking at several options for our Sanctuary. The goal is to have the work done in June. Stay tuned for exciting developments!

## ARTS and MUSIC

### “150” Festival and Celebration

Let's fill the church with our Art and Music.  
Let those creative juices flow !!!



Paint  
Watercolor  
Pen/ink  
Crayon  
Clay  
Rice Krispy Treat art  
Cake, cookies  
Quilt, knit, sew  
Photography, cross stitch, embroidery

Use YOUR imagination and create “ART FOR SECOND”!

You have until May 1!!!  
The Arts and Music “150” Festival is Sunday, May 12.

Have fun with this!!!

---Your 150 Team

# MESSAGES FROM YOUR GOVERNANCE BOARD

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CHURCH MEMBERS....  
Income exceeded expenditures by \$3821 for calendar year 2018!

**INSURANCE**....Dykstra Agency Inc. is a local company specializing in insuring churches. They submitted a proposal to the Governance Board that is comparable in coverage to our current insurance carrier. The proposal was approved by the Governance Board and the Moderator signed a contract effective February 1, 2019.

THE ANNUAL COST SAVINGS IS ALMOST \$7200!

## 2019 OFFERING ENVELOPES...

**General Fund**...Provides funding for the day to day operations of the Church.

**Maintaining God's House**...A fund established to replace or improve functional items essential to maintain church building operations.

**Pastor's Discretionary Fund**...Provides emergency financial relief to members of the congregation at the discretion of the Senior Minister with approval of the Chair of the Worship Life Team.

**Mission**...Funds dedicated to support the Outreach Programs of the Church administered by the Mission Ministry Team.

**Food Pantry**...1/2 of the income is distributed to NECOM/UCOM and the other half to the Mission Ministry Team for Food Trucks and Supper House.

**Connectional Ministry Fund**...A fund established to provide financial support to host inter-generational gatherings with members.

**Community Discretionary Fund**...Provides a gas card or monetary assistance to non-members of the Church at the discretion of the Senior Minister. Contributions to this fund may be by check, noting Community Discretionary Fund, or by check or cash in the pew envelope noted as Community Discretionary Fund.

# March

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
<b>3</b> 9:00 Adult Ed. 10:00 Worship	<b>4</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  1:00 Mahjong  7:00 Barbershop	<b>5</b> 9:00 Calder Band  9:30 Bible Study	<b>6</b> 8:00 Breakfast 9:30 2nd Stitches 10:00 Staff Mtg <b>5:00 Ash Wednesday Service</b> 7:00 Ministry Cnl.	<b>7</b>  6:15 Cheshire Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>8</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>9</b>  Time to Spring Ahead
<b>10</b> 9:00 Adult Ed. 10:00 Worship <b>Change for a cause WORKSHOP</b> 11:00 "Lifeline A Check of our Vital Signs"	<b>11</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  1:00 Mahjong  7:00 Barbershop	<b>12</b> 9:00 Calder Band  <b>10:00 Lenten Service</b>	<b>13</b>  <b>LIFETIME SCREENING</b>  10:00 Staff Mtg  1:00 Book Club	<b>14</b>  6:15 Cheshire Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>15</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>16</b> <b>CNA Pancake Breakfast</b> 8:30 - 11:30 and <b>River City Jazz</b> at 10:45
<b>17</b> 9:00 Adult Ed. 10:00 Worship  	<b>18</b> <i>Office Closed</i> President's Day 1:00 Mahjong 7:00 Barbershop Chorus	<b>19</b> 9:00 Calder Band  <b>10:00 Lenten Service</b>  6:30 Governance Bd	<b>20</b> 8:00 Breakfast 10:00 Staff Mtg  <b>1st day of Spring!</b>	<b>21</b> <b>Noon April ADVANCE items due</b> 6:15 Cheshire Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>22</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 Adult Ed. 10:00 Worship  <b>319:00</b> Adult Ed 10:00 Worship Rev. Greg Larsen	<b>25</b> <i>Office Closed</i>  1:00 Mahjong 7:00 Barbershop Chorus	<b>26</b> 9:00 Calder Band  <b>10:00 Lenten Service</b>	<b>27</b> 10:00 Staff Mtg 11:00 Operation Stork	<b>28</b>  6:15 Cheshire Bells 7:30 Chancel Choir	<b>29</b> <i>Office Closed</i>	<b>30</b> 

## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 6	Ash Wednesday
March 9	Spring forward
March 13	Lifeline Screening
March 16	CNA Breakfast and River City Jazz
April 14	Palm Sunday
April 18	Maundy Thursday
April 19	Good Friday
April 21	Easter

## THANK YOU

We are so grateful to have a helpful, loving, faithful Church family. Thank you to everyone for your prayers, cards & generous gifts during Cindy's illness and passing. We can't thank you enough! Thank you to Pastor Steve for all your hospital visits to Cindy, before and after her passing. She enjoyed your visits. Your kindness is so much appreciated during this difficult time.

Thank you to all our Church Family!  
Joan, Kyle & Lauren

### Principal Leadership Called to Serve You

<i>Senior Pastor</i>	Steve Armfield	steven@2ndchurch.com
<i>Director of Church Business Affairs</i>	Bill Bode	bill@2ndchurch.com
<i>Director of Music Ministries</i>	Barbara Dulmage	barbara@2ndchurch.com
<i>Church Secretary, Advance</i>	Mary Harrison	mary@2ndchurch.com
<i>Bookkeeper</i>	Shelley Plambeck	shelley@2ndchurch.com
<i>Custodian</i>	Kailee Downer	kailee@2ndchurch.com
<i>Nursery Coordinator</i>	Amanda Curtis	
<i>Governance Board</i>	Cheryl McCarthy, <i>Moderator</i>	
	Laura Haas, <i>Vice Moderator</i>	
	Jim Biener, <i>Treasurer</i>	
	Betsy Flory-McCoy, <i>Clerk</i>	
	<i>Members at large:</i> Pat DeGraaf, Ken Bird,	
	Bill Clark	
<i>Prayer Chain</i>	Joan Beebe, Janet Van Geison, Dorothy Tock	

### Serving Our Members in March

*Head Usher:* Jim Biener

*Lay Readers:* Valerie Knapp (March 3); Jim Hunsberger (March 10); Betsy Flory McCoy (March 17)  
David Sharp (March 24); Valerie Knapp (March 31)

#### ATTENDANCE

Feb. 3	86
Feb. 10	82
Feb. 17	92
Feb. 24	71

### FINANCIAL STATUS

Detailed figures are available on the Governance Board bulletin board outside the church office.

*Thank you for your generous financial support for your church.*

SECOND CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
525 Cheshire Dr. N.E.  
Grand Rapids MI 49505  
www.2ndchurch.com  
Office Hours: 9:00 - 4:00  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday



## CHILDREN & WORSHIP

Children & Worship was created to make a special place where children can come to encounter God, to be still with God and to listen to God. It is a place where children come to nurture their spiritual life.

The Stories for March are:

March 3	Communion-Children remain in Worship
March 10	Lent I: Lenten Puzzle, Bury Alleluia
March 17	Lent II: Jesus and the Children
March 24	Lent III: Jesus and Zacchaeus

Guest WiFi for Second Church is:

Sign-in: 2ndChurch-Guest

Password: 2ndCGuest159