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Charlotte, MI uccCharlotte.org

SEPTEMBER 2022

Volume 95

Issue 9

It's "Hispanic" Heritage Month—

Let's Talk About the Problematic History of the Word "Hispanic"

Araceli Cruz

(Excerpts) "Hispanic" is a misguided blanket term when you consider the complex identities within the Latinx community.

The Oxford Dictionary defines the term as "relating to Spain or to Spanish-speaking countries, especially those of Central and South America" and as "relating to Spanish-speaking people or their culture, especially in the U.S." In Spanish, "Hispanic" translates to Hispano: "a person descended from Spanish settlers in the Southwest before it was annexed to the U.S."



Given definitions like these, it might not be surprising that the United States government has unequivocally lumped all Latinx people under the Hispanic umbrella whether it applies to us or not. Which is why celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month can sometimes leave us indifferent: While it's supposed to celebrate our culture, it's also excluding so many others. Its meaning is simply spread too thin.

"Hispanic" isn't being used as much as it once was, at least not by a new generation of Latinx people, despite the continuing effort by the government to force the term down our throat. Many Latinx people can picture the tiny box on any federal or state form; our only option to categorize ourselves, to embrace our identity, is to check off "Hispanic." The same goes for college forms, job applications, and much more.

Who popularized the term "Hispanic"?

"The history of 'Hispanic' is intimately tied to the U.S. government and the way that the

government attempted to identify different groups of people, particularly in relationship to the U.S. Census,” says Joseph M. Pierce, an assistant professor of Hispanic languages and literature at Stony Brook University.

According to the Pew Research Center, census records from 1930 show that in that year, the government counted Latinx people under the catchall category “Mexican.” The idea that all people of Latin descent were labeled as Mexican is appalling considering that the U.S. took control of Puerto Rico as a territory in 1898.

According to Pew, it wasn’t until 1970 that the Census Bureau asked people living in the U.S. if they were either “Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, Other Spanish” or “No, none of these.”

But the results of that question, according to Pew, gave way to a bigger problem that is laughable and ironic: People in the U.S. were reporting themselves as being from Central America and South America because they thought the answers meant the south or central regions of the U.S. — not South America and Central America. The government desperately needed a new term to categorize this population that wouldn’t leave any doubt about their background.

In 1980, the government first used “Hispanic” on census forms with further options for Mexicans, Mexican Americans, Chicanos, Puerto Ricans, Cubans, and “other,” still not fully identifying the various countries whose residents constituted the Latin American diaspora. Central America and South America were no longer listed in the census after the earlier confusion those categories had created.

But to this day, Pew Research shows that “11 percent of American adults with Hispanic ancestry do not identify as Hispanic.”

The census has made some minor progress. In 2010, it allowed people to be more specific about their background, asking if the person is “of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin,” which can be confusing because Hispanic and Spanish are basically the same thing. However, the census allows for further explanation, including examples such as “Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard and so on.”

Why don’t people like the term “Hispanic”?

The word “Hispanic” has baggage, given its history. But what makes being labeled Hispanic worse is the negative connotations and racist undertones. Growing up, I despised being labeled Hispanic. It made me feel as if my Mexican and indigenous side was being wiped out.

“‘Hispanic’ has function and the power to whiten people even though in practice, in their daily

life, people might not be read as white or be identifying themselves as white in that particular way," Pierce says, explaining how the term can miss the nuance of an identity like Afro-Latinx, by grouping it in with white Latinx people. "So it erases people's mixed heritages, their families, their stories by making people identify with the whiteness of Spain and the virtues of that particular term."

Another key problem with the term is one of geography: "Hispanic" refers to Spanish-speaking people, which excludes Portuguese-speaking Brazil, South America's largest country, but includes people from Spain—who I contend are actually European. "Latino" and "Latina" work around this by including people from all Latin countries, though with a gendered subtext. That is why "Latinx" is a more favorable and inclusive term.

Will people use "Hispanic" in the future?

"Hispanic" appears to be receding from usage. According to Google Books data, the usage in print rose throughout the 20th century and peaked in the 1990s before a steady drop-off began.

People have started to use more specific ways to identify themselves, including Chicanx for Mexican Americans, Boricua for Puerto Rican Americans, or using a hyphen to attribute their family's country of origin. "Hispanic," it should be known, isn't really used outside of the United States, or may have a different meaning in other places. People from Colombia or El Salvador or Peru or any other Latin country don't really refer to themselves as Hispanic. So it's important to question the structures in which the government uses "Hispanic," not only in official forms but during Hispanic Heritage Month, too.



"It drives me crazy when I see a poster for Hispanic Heritage Month and I see a flamenco dancer," Pierce says; he refers to this monthlong celebration as a "Band-Aid." "What type of heritage are you privileging? Without having these nuanced and difficult conversations, we're gonna keep marginalizing people. Hispanic Heritage Month has the potential of being something really good and positive, but it also has the same potential of marginalizing and repeating the same stereotypes it was meant to point out."

As a Mexican American who's been wrongfully pigeonholed my entire life, I am amazed and proud to be part of a Latinx community that's reclaiming its heritage.

Latinx Heritage Month Activities

We are fortunate to have two people so deeply engaged in issues related to immigration and our Latinx siblings who are willing to share with us.

Marylyn Bernard, along with her husband Richard, spends time at the border offering her skills in aid of those seeking a better life.

Mary Roessler has a story to tell of her experience with those across the border.

There will be many opportunities during the month to listen more carefully to the circumstances of our Latinx neighbors and to learn how we might respond with prayer and action to make a difference. Please note the events, dates and times and plan to participate!

September 11, Noon, Movie, "Crossing Arizona," about immigration at the Mexican border.

September 12, 7 pm, presentation by Mary Roessler, A Peace Corps Experience in Columbia.

NOTE: *All women and men are invited to join the Blanche Moyer Circle for a 6 pm meal prior to the meeting (see page 23 for more information).*

September 19, 7 pm, "How Did We Get Here?" Presentation by Marylyn Bernard—Latinx immigrating to the US, part 1.

Also, Daniel Soza from Samaritas will talk about young area Latinx immigrants. Art projects by the youth will be available for sale, with proceeds going directly to the individual artists.

September 26, 7 pm, "How Can We Help Resolve the Immigration Crisis?" presentation by Marylyn Bernard—Latinx immigrating to the US, part 2





From the Desk of Pastor Jody

There are so many things that make a church a church. People who care about one another. People who care about the world. People who love God. Well, maybe there is only one thing that makes a church, people! And, yes, people who care about one another, but we all sometimes behave badly. And, yes, people who care about the world, but sometimes we aren't sure why we should care about "those things" going on in the world. And, yes, people who love God, but sometimes just from the comfort of their own homes. So maybe we should say imperfect people; that's what makes a church. The Church is people journeying together to learn how to make the world a better place.

The journey you are on includes; outreach to let others know about the amazing things you do, volunteering with and support of organizations that are helping needy people, classes and discussions in meetings about how to better serve our world, lifting up those among you who model servanthood and who champion causes, creating the infrastructure to keep it all going, and so on! There is a lot going on! Please read through this month's issue of the newsletter to see how you fit in.

From the Michigan Conference of the UCC

Autumn brings pumpkin spice lattes, toasted marshmallows in bonfire flames, and fresh apple cider. We gather. We reflect. We plan.

Similarly, in the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ, autumn brings opportunities to gather with siblings across the Mitten.

- Women's Gathering – September 29 (see pages 18 and 19 for additional details) Contacts Eileen Harrison eharrison@att.net or Jody Betten pastor@uccCharlotte.org
- Covenant Association Fall Meeting - Saturday, October 1, 9am – Noon (details to follow, watch the Sunday program)
- Michigan Conference Annual Meeting – Saturday, October 22, 9am – Noon (details to follow, watch the October Newsletter)

Child Care Provided for Meetings

We want to make it possible for anyone who wants, to attend the various meetings that take place at the church. Teams, Committees, activities, are open to all. We don't want anyone who has children to feel that they are not welcome or to bear an extra burden because they have children.



If you have children and wish to participate in a meeting, please let the church office know (office@uccCharlotte.org) or Pastor Jody (pastor@uccCharlotte.org). We will make sure there is childcare available. We would like to know at least a week ahead so we can make arrangements.



Check out the monthly calendar on our website (uccCharlotte.org) for dates and times of the various meetings. Also, check out the program on Sundays for upcoming meetings.

Welcome Cards

Please use them often!

Welcome

You may have noticed a renewed effort to lift up the use of the Welcome Cards which can be found in your programs each Sunday. These cards capture any feedback people might have during the worship service. We especially encourage comments about when you experienced the presence of God in the service, when you were encouraged, when you felt the Spirit's nudging, or when you were challenged to make a change in your life.

The Welcome Cards are also useful for capturing change of address or contact information for those who are with us frequently. We also invite people to volunteer for the various opportunities coming up. If you are a guest among us, these Cards are a way to request information, or share with us whatever you are comfortable sharing.



Rally Sunday Is Just Around the Corner! September 11, 2022 after Worship in the Bess Fulton Room

Rallying – “to come together again to renew an effort” (*Websters Dictionary*)

Get ready for a rally! Invite those you know who haven’t been around for a while “to come together again to be renewed.” Hanging out with familiar faces doing such amazing things is an opportunity for encouragement and reengagement.

A rally is an appropriate way to describe what we’re doing. We might want to rally again after Covid, to come together again to renew our ways of being a faith community. There were many months when the church wasn’t meeting in-person which effected people in different ways. Many stayed away to stay safe. Many didn’t or couldn’t use Zoom to stay connected. Since in-person events are being held, people are more or less on board and involved. Some feel like they’ve lost touch with others in the community. Things seem different; “it doesn’t feel like home anymore,” after being away for so long.

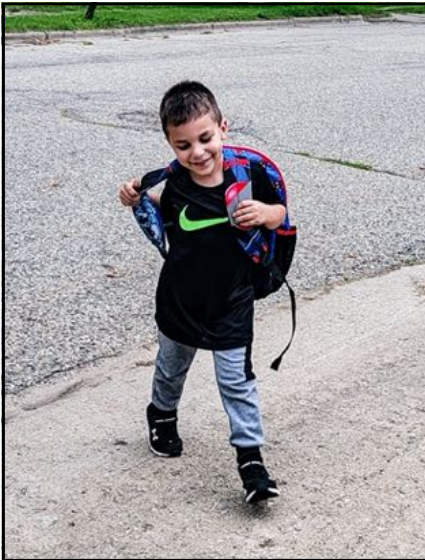
Yet, many things are getting back to normal. This is an opportunity for an official restart or rally. So Sunday, September 11, join us for Rally Sunday. Children will register for Godly Play. Anyone with a program or ministry in the church can put a display or brochure out for people to see. Teams and Committees and Groups can promote their ministry within the church and invite people to join them in their endeavor. Join us in the Bess Fulton Room after worship!

Zeffy

Who’s Zeffy? Zeffy is the business that helps non-profits collect donations through online giving. They don’t charge for their use, so the non-profit collects the total gift. You are invited to give a “gift” to Zeffy when you use their service, but it is not required. We are already seeing the results of offering this way of giving to the church!

Blessing of the Backpacks On Rally Sunday!

Backpacks are symbolic of the joys and fears of school. For some it is a mixed bag, so to speak. Some experience much success academically, for others they are social butterflies. Some are fearful of the larger groups and being asked to speak up as an introvert. For others they are not as intellectually on par with the class and fear being called upon and not knowing the answer. For many school is a time to grow in friendships



and learn about the world outside their home, including all the necessary disciplines for success in life. What ever ones academic career may hold, the beginning of a new school year is an opportunity to start again. We want to acknowledge this reality with a ritual of blessing.

On Sunday September 11 during the Children's Moment, we invite the children to bring their backpacks with them to the service. If the child is not in school yet, a bag that holds items they bring to child care or a diaper bag that holds their toys and necessities is appropriate. During the Children's Moment they will be encouraged to come forward with their backpacks. We will have talk about new beginnings and hope. Then we will have a prayer together with our hands on our packs or bags.

Please join us! All are welcome! Invite your friends!



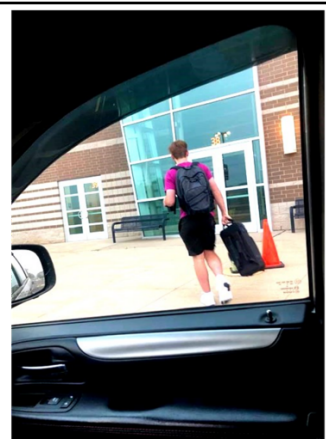
Back to School Days & Back to Godly Play

When our young ones head to school, we know that Godly Play will be starting soon. Yes, this is a plug to remind you to register for Godly Play on Rally Day September 11, but it is also an opportunity to recognize the new horizons for our little people as they return to or start their educational journeys. We didn't capture everyone, but we managed to find a few pictures to help us celebrate their journey while remembering our own. Pictured: Rosie and Claudia R. (with mom, Sarah); Wyatt C.; Le'Tayvia, Lynn'Aiyah, and Anijah E.



A Tale of Two Seniors

As Adam Slot enters his senior year in high school, his sister Kaileigh enters her senior year at Central U studying Fashion Design & Merchandizing. But only 4 short years ago, both paused on a Sunday morning to let their mother take a picture outside our church. Best wishes to both of these seniors as they walk their educational paths, and to their older brother Lucas, too.



Service Above Self: Ed and Linda Foster

Helen Schneider

“Service above self” would be one way to describe Ed and Linda Foster’s philosophy of commitment to this community and our church for almost 60 years. It would take a narrative the length of a book to tell their story. This article is only a snapshot of a remarkable couple.

Ed and Linda both grew up in East Lansing. They were classmates in kindergarten and both attended People’s Church, including the youth group. They were students at East Lansing High School when they started going together. Both attended MSU. They married before Ed went to veterinary medicine school there. Linda had earned an associate degree in business by then and worked as a secretary at the college to help pay for his tuition and expenses. He received his DVM degree in 1963.

They moved to Charlotte in 1964. Ed started his veterinary practice at Town and Country Animal Hospital. Linda did the bookkeeping and payroll. They also joined First Congregational UCC in 1964. During these years, they had their three children and Linda completed a degree in elementary education at MSU.

In 1969, Linda started teaching full time at Parkview Elementary School in Charlotte. She taught for 20 years, in addition to substitute teaching in area districts. She earned her master’s degree from MSU in 1974. She took a leave of absence in 1975 to be able to transport her mother to chemotherapy. Over the years Linda stepped in to help several other relatives with serious health needs. Volunteerism and community service have been core values for both Linda and Ed their entire lives.

For more than 57 years Linda has been a driving force in the General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC) at the local, district and state levels. Her leadership skills are evident from the numerous offices she has held in this organization. She remains actively involved. In the Charlotte chapter, she helped develop the Mobile Meals program beginning in 1971 in cooperation with the local hospital. She started the club’s women’s choir in her living room a few years later. Linda is the club’s





communication chairperson, editing and publishing their newsletter and taking responsibility for their web site and social media posts. She has been a “can do” member, participating on committees that provided scholarships, outreach, fundraising, and support to local non-profits. She has received the Woman of Achievement Award at the local and state level (and the Ms. Federation Award). In 2021, the GFWC MI chose Linda to receive the prestigious Jennie Award in recognition of her many years of outstanding service to community and the GFWC.

Linda was the Rotary District 6360 Administrator for 14 years, is on the Lansing Town Hall Board (supports the Lansing Symphony Orchestra), has been a member of several veterinary medicine auxiliaries, and has been active in the Sparrow Eaton (formerly Hayes-Green-Beach/HGB Hospital) Auxiliary for 48 years. Linda was the chair of the HGB Development Council in 1973. She and Ed both received community service awards from Rotary in 1995. She received the Athena Award in 1998.

Ed sold his veterinary practice in Charlotte in 2001 but continued to work part time after that for 14 more years helping at a practice in Jackson and was the county veterinarian for 50 years. He has been a member of several professional veterinary medical associations, has been a past president of the Michigan Veterinary Medicine Association, appointed by the governor to the Michigan Board of Veterinary Examiners, and was a member and president of the Michigan Association of Professions. He also served on the Dean Search Committee at MSU. Ed was honored with the prestigious Ken McKersie Award.

Rotary at local, district and state levels is a big beneficiary of Ed’s time and talent. He’s been a member with perfect attendance for 58 years and has held office or been on committees at all levels. A polio survivor himself, Ed has a special interest in polio eradication. His work on the Polio Plus program was recognized with a Paul Harris Fellow award. Ed helped start a Big Brothers program in Charlotte and worked with it for 20 years. He worked at fundraising as the chair of the Charlotte Community Library Completion Committee. He has served on the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce Board. Rotary recognized both Ed and Linda with a community service award in 1995. Ed was honored by Rotary in 2004 and Linda in 2022 with the Clyde A. Fulton Community Pride Award for all of their contributions to the Charlotte community. (Many not listed here.)

Faith and service to church have always been important to the Fosters. Linda says that worship and the work of this church are sources of inspiration and spiritual assurance. Linda spearheaded the efforts to research the feasibility, planning, logistics, fundraising, and all else involved in installing the church elevator 1995-6. She saw that people who used wheelchairs or walkers could not access the lower level. During their 58 years as members here, the Fosters have been youth group leaders and have each served on the board of trustees (each for 6 years). Ed has served on the Christian Education Board. Linda has been a member of Women's Fellowship for many years and its treasurer since 1976. She's also on the steering committee. She was in the Evening Bells and then a member of the Blanche Moyer Circle. She organizes the annual progressive dinner and works at the annual bazaar and luncheon. She makes sure proceeds are deposited and then allocated to the intended non-profit organizations and projects. She was involved in the research, purchase and training required for the church's emergency defibrillator, securing a device to accept credit cards, and helping to establish the church endowment fund, serving as its secretary for many years.

Family and friends are a source of happiness for the Fosters. They enjoy time spent with their children and grandchildren. Ask them to tell you about their trips to Colorado and the Caribbean with friends from Charlotte.

Green and white are Ed and Linda's favorite colors when it comes to sports and all things MSU. They enjoy the vitality of tailgating and attending Spartan football games. Other activities they have enjoyed in previous years include ballroom dancing, golf, tennis, reading, playing bridge and travel.

Our church and community owe the Fosters a debt of gratitude for all their positive contributions. They are both dynamos and examples of what one person can do. It's with sadness that we learn they will be moving in the next several months. Their children have urged them to downsize to a place with less yard work and upkeep. But they will be returning to their home town and Spartan territory, not so far away. We are very happy for them but they will be missed.

Thanks, Ed and Linda, for all you have done to make a difference.





Newsletter Name

*Matt Slot,
Communications Committee Chair*

At the August Communications Team meeting, we considered the response to a possible newsletter name change. While we heard from one or two of you that you felt it was unnecessary, the overall response was somewhere between general approval and great enthusiasm. As such, we want to continue to engage with you to help suggest what we might choose for the name.

To that end, we'd like to offer some considerations for what would make a good name for a newsletter:

1. Words carry weight; they stir emotions. Properly chosen, words can heal, educate, and even shape our perceptions. What image do we want to project? How do we see ourselves, and how do we want others to see us?
2. Our newsletter is an outward facing document. What first impression do we want to convey? What name compels someone to want to know more?
3. Our Church has a deep history in the community of Charlotte, and now its reach is even broader, beyond one town to the whole area. What name suggests both intimacy and outreach?
4. Our Church is part of a larger faith tradition called the United Church of Christ (UCC). The UCC is known for its radical hospitality, extravagant generosity, engagement with social issues, and advocating for justice for all. What name might convey those ideals?

We call newsletters "The _____" (fill in the blank), so the name could include a noun for ease of reference. Here are some examples: The Press, The Gazette, The News. You can add an adjective: The Monthly Journal, The Joyful Word, The Gospel Truth, for instance.

We invite you to suggest names for the newsletter. During the month of September we will be collecting names from everyone through the Welcome Cards in your weekly programs, via email to Matt Slot (mattslot@gmail.com), Jody Betten (pastor@uccCharlotte.org), Caryn Hansen (carynhansen@uccCharlotte.org), or send it to the church office.

We invite you to contribute a rationale for the name you suggest, if you like. All submissions will be considered by the Communications Team and narrowed down to a manageable few. Then, the final name will be chosen by an informal congregational vote, some time in October. Happy Imagining!

Finding Ourselves in our Community

Cooper Frost

At the annual Charlotte Chamber of Commerce Dinner, our own Cooper Frost was awarded Millennial Professional of the Year for his enthusiastic results driven service to the local community. Although new to the business community, Cooper hit the ground running showing great leadership skills, serving a number of local non-profits.



Ramona Kime



Dr. Ramona Kime, Ph.D. was awarded the honorific title Professor Emerita of Music by the Olivet College

Board of Trustees last May. Her honor was celebrated by the entire college at the college's Opening Convocation on August 17.

The designation *professor emerita* (or emeritus, for a man) is awarded after retirement to long-time faculty members at Olivet College who have demonstrated exceptional service to the college, its students and the community.

The faculty nominated Ramona for this special designation for her excellent work as a teacher and mentor and for going above and beyond what is generally expected of a faculty member. The President of the college supported the nomination and the Board of Trustees endorsed it. In addition to her excellence as an educator, the faculty's nomination letter also cited Ramona's service as Chair of the Arts and Humanities Department and her decades of exceptional work as accompanist for ensembles and individuals throughout the course of her time at the college.

Although formally retired from her full-time position, Ramona continues to teach part time at the college.



Morgan Englehart

If you check out the Dancing Deputies troupe during Charlotte Frontier Days, you will see our own, multi-talented Morgan Englehart. Their first performance will be during open ceremonies at the fairgrounds on Wednesday night, September 7, 6 pm.

Impressions on the First Annual Vermontville Youth Pride Event

—the collective thoughts of the team who attended the event

Amy Frost

We gave away rainbow bandanas and LGBTQ+ books for kids and teens, and a no cost opportunity for all ages to paint rocks with words like “Peace,” “Community,” and pictures of sunrises over still waters. It seemed like the best thing we gave was hope that there was a church family that will love and welcome folks just as they are. So many people shared that they have been excluded from or hurt by churches. They approached us tentatively, wondering if we would be just another one of those churches.



Some comments we heard:

"You would really want us to come to your church? Even though my daughter is gay? No one ever wanted us before."

"I was raised Catholic but I want to find a place where my girls can learn about God."

"I moved 1000 miles to try and find a place where I fit in. Thank you so much for being here."

"We've tried several churches and they always let us know we're not welcome."

"I'm going to take this book for my niece. Her mom tells her she is just going through a phase."

"This book is going to my high school English classroom."

"I am going to take this book to my preschool classroom."

We were blessed to chat with so many people. Many folks asked for more information about



the church and when we have services. Hopefully they left knowing there are loving options if they are searching for a place to be welcomed. This is God's love in action!

Closing Out Our Concert Season

More than 125 people gathered for the final concert of the season on Congregational Commons. Two-Faced Wilson (our own Adam Droscha) warmed the crowd with lyrics from the heart filled with early morning ponderings and love. In one of his key pieces, he sang of our community, Charlotte, Michigan, in a ballad layered with youthful mistakes, crisp memories, and the passage of time.



At 6:30, Michigan Mafia String Band took the stage, fresh from winning Lansing's Got Talent a mere two days before. They played for the audience and with the audience, bringing their instruments into the crowd. We laughed; we sang along with them; we reminisced of other voices and other summers; and, more importantly, we created new memories.



The food tent reported 49 pulled pork dinners and 16 brisket dinners were sold, while 7 free dinners were provided for the bands themselves.

Thank you to all who volunteered to make this evening enjoyable for all and thank you to Mary Normand for her yummy slaw making skills, and to Matt Slot, who was not only our chief smoker, but also the lead organizer and volunteer coordinator.





Growing from the Heart

a few minutes with Rachel Harvitt

For Rachel Harvitt, volunteering became a way to make friends, develop social contacts, share her skills, and give back to the community.

It started slowly. She matched her likes with the needs she saw around her. She loved cooking and found that the person in charge of funeral dinners at our church needed help. So she stepped in.

She was visiting the Eaton Clothing and Furniture Center and realized they needed help in the office, so she started helping out one day a week. We had a need for help with worship, so she became a deaconess (a position we don't have any more). She liked to sing, so she joined choir. Judi Cates encouraged her to join the Bell Choir, something she never tried before, so she did and loved it!

Most of Rachel's volunteering started after her children were grown and even more after she retired, but where she could, she was careful to instill in her children while they were growing the need to give back.

Today, the years of participating in church and community through volunteer opportunities has brought her friends and goodwill throughout the area. "There's almost always someone I know," she says, thinking of the various places she goes in the course of a day. "I'm always encouraging people to step up, especially if they have gone through a change in their lives," (giving an example or two).

As we enter the holiday season, a time of merry busyness, please look for the small areas where your skills and time might help. If you have children and love to bake cookies and pies with them, consider bringing them to a cookie or pie baking session for the Bazaar. If you want to help feed the community, consider helping with Harvest Feast.

On Rally Sunday, September 11, committees and teams will have booths set up to help us learn how we do what we do, and ways we can participate more fully.

"I am only one volunteer among many here in our church family, and so many more in our community," Rachel writes. "If you want to live a long and fulfilling life—Volunteer."

UCC WOMEN OF MICHIGAN
invites you to join in
"CELEBRATING ...THE PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE!"



Heartfelt
Optimistic
Proactive
Evolving

When: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022
Where: Frankenmuth - The Bavarian Inn Lodge,
Time: 9:30 AM Registration -to- 3:30 PM Closing
Registration Fee of \$25.00 (lunch included) Due 9/10/2022

*Join us for an uplifting time with Old Friends
and the opportunity to welcome New Friends!*

"You have been called to one glorious hope for the future." Ephesians 4:46

Face masks optional!

"We are looking forward to celebrating our past, checking in
together on the present, and conversing about the future."

Please remove portion below for mailing!

REGISTRATION FORM - DUE BY SEPTEMBER 10, 2022!

Please complete this entire form and mail with a check or money order for \$25.00, payable to UCC Women of Michigan
to: **Shari Hoppe** PO Box 68248 Grand Rapids, MI 49516 (614)403-2364 sfhoppe@gmail.com

Name (as you want it to appear on your nametag) _____

Address _____ **City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Home phone _____ **Cell phone** _____

Email _____

Are you a first time attendee? ____ **Are you a clergy person?** ____

A block of motel rooms has been reserved for 9/28 & 9/29. Individuals are responsible to make a reservation directly with The Bavarian Inn Lodge BY AUGUST 27th. [Please read specific registration information on pg 2.]

Reservations can be made by calling toll free number at 1-855-652-7200. Please ask all attendees to have the group number as reference when calling to get the group rate. Group Number: 13H6M4

Group rooms are not blocked together in the same area of the hotel. If guests would like their rooms together, they must be booked at the same time within the same phone call. The method of payment for each room must be given when the reservation is made.

UCC WOMEN — RESERVED BLOCK OF 10 GUEST ROOMS FOR 9/28/22 AND 9/29/22

RATES & RESERVATIONS PROCEDURE

Room rates are \$120 per standard double room, \$130 per premium queens or king room, and \$195 per suite, single, double, triple, and quad occupancy per room, per night. There is an additional \$15 charge per person for a 5th or 6th person in the same room. Rollaway bed charges are \$15 per night.

INDIVIDUAL RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE 30 DAYS PRIOR TO MEETING — NO LATER THAN AUGUST 27, 2022.

Reservations can be made by calling our toll free number at 1-855-652-7200. Please ask all delegates to have the group number as reference when calling to get the group rate. **Group Number: 13H6M4**

Group rooms are not blocked together in the same area of the hotel. If guests would like their rooms together, they must be booked at the same time within the same phone call. The method of payment for each room must be given when the reservation is made.

Individuals are responsible for their own rooms, tax and incidental charges. A credit card guarantee is required to hold each individual's reservation and will be charged for the first night's stay plus tax. A valid American Express, Visa, MasterCard, or Discover card number and expiration date are acceptable. A cancellation fee of the first night's room and tax will apply should a guest cancel their reservation less than 72 hours prior to arrival or does not arrive to check in on their scheduled arrival date (no show).

Room rates are net non-commissionable, and are subject to 6% state sales tax and 7% occupancy tax/city assessment. Groups exempt from state sales tax must provide approved written proof a minimum of 30 days prior to arrival.

Per State of Michigan law, the entire hotel is non-smoking, including all public areas, guestrooms and balconies.

Questions?

Co-Chairs: Nancy Fay
Shari Hoppe

faynancy@yahoo.com
shhoppe@gmail.com

September/October Book Group

• Saturday, Sept. 24th at 10 AM
(pg. 1–91)

• Saturday, Oct. 8th at 10 AM
(pg. 92–160)

• Saturday, Oct. 22nd at 10 AM
(pg. 161–254)

Fay's Evelyn Bay Coffee
(134 S. Cochran)

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

**STACEY
ABRAMS**

**OUR TIME
IS NOW**

From the book cover:

“Celebrated national leader and bestselling author Stacey Abrams offers a blueprint to end voter suppression, empower our citizens, and take back our country. A recognized expert on fair voting and civic engagements, Abrams chronicles a chilling account of how the right to vote and the principle of democracy have been and continue to be under attack. The book compellingly argues for the importance of robust voter protections, an elevation of identity politics, engagement in the census, and a return to moral international leadership. “

First Congregational UCC Endowment Funded Mini-Grant

Judi Cates, Dottie Moore, Sharon Oatman, Mini-Grant Committee

Reminder: We are still looking for Projects to fund!

To date, we have awarded dollars for two projects:

- Cost of a Movie for the Public Performance Screening Fee for the documentary “Crossing Arizona”. This film will be shown in September in conjunction with the Social and Environmental Justice Committee’s Latinx Heritage/Immigration Month. \$50.00
- Donation will be spent to help sponsor the Gun Buy-Back Project that is being organized by the Advocacy Group at St. Michael’s Episcopal Church in Lansing. They are working with the Lansing Police Department and the Ingham County Sheriff’s Department who will handle the return of the guns. \$200.00

Below is attached the original information. All Teams/Committees are encouraged to consider where best you might like to use dollars to support programming. We ask that your requests be “aligned” with our Pillars in the Strategic Plan.

Unity: Building Relationships **Sustainability:** Plan for the Future
Growth: Embrace Change **Healing:** Embody Grace **Outreach:** Inspire Love in Action

Does the project align with one or more of our values?

We are God’s Love in Action

-Inclusion -Outreach -Creativity -Diversity -Community -Education

ALL IDEAS ARE WELCOMED AND ENCOURAGED FROM THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION!!

There is a request form available in the church office and it will be put on the website shortly. You can also request one electronically from Judi Cates at judithcates68@gmail.com. Once approved, the funds will be transferred for dispersal.

Put your thinking caps on and let’s be creative in this Mini-Grant Process!



Replacing the Peace Pole with a Peace Pillar

Discussions of replacing the Peace Pole originally started by the ONA group. The Social and Environmental Justice Committee chose to champion the project last fall when the idea came about to do an actual art piece for churchyard. The intention was to replace the old Peace Pole with this new art piece. Local artist, Christine Fleischman, came to our church in the November and did a presentation of all of her artwork, answering questions from the congregation. During this meeting, individuals put forth a list of items that they wanted to see on the new pole.

This month, Pastor Jody Betten and Deb Cogswell visited our artist to see how the Peace Pole is progressing as it nears completion. At the same time, the church office has been receiving queries from local media (tv and paper) about the Peace Pillar.

Completion is expected to be late September. Installation into the ground, as well as a dedication ceremony will occur at some point after that. The "pillar" (8" x 8" x 8') will need to be covered with plexiglass to dissuade vandals and anchored into the ground.



CHANTICLEER



September 2022



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Mission Moment

Mary Normand, Chairperson

The Concert on the Square went well. We gave out approximately 265 ice cream sandwiches. I hope some of you were able to get there and enjoy the music and ice cream.

Neighbors in Need and CROP walk are coming up soon. In October so we are going to collect for CROP walk, during coffee hour, on October 2, 9, and 23. In November we will discuss and collect for Neighbors in Need. More information will come out about that as it gets closer.

Giving Tree for the rest of the year:

September benefits Mitten Misfits for which we are collecting gift cards from TSC, Farm and Home, and the Farm Bureau on East Clinton Trail.

October will be brown bags again as it is Food Insecurity month.

November we will create health kits, which Missions is funding. Gas cards and adult socks can be donated as it is Homeless Awareness month.

December benefits Christmas families we adopt; plus we will also be collecting hats, mittens, and gloves.

October through December we will collect winter coats for the project that Bill and Carol Yerkes coordinate.

In July, when we collected sheets and towels, we were able to donate 11 sets of sheets and 4 sets of towels to EFCC. Thank you to all who donated.

Rally Sunday is coming up September 11. Missions will have a display. Please check it out to see all we do and consider joining our group.

NEW: We are exploring how we might help Crosswalk Teen Center with some meal preparation. Currently, 2 women cook a meal everyday for the young people that come there. They are wearing out. We are working on getting more information on this and will share with you in later articles.

Our next meeting is September 18. We would love to have you join us. We meet in the large room in the annex around 11:30.

Harvest Feast

Mary Normand

It's hard to believe, but Harvest Feast is just a month and a half away. It is Oct. 16 this year right after church. We are moving it back inside. You will be able to get take out but there will be no drive through. With Harvest Feast coming that can only mean one thing: It's time for my turkey fund raiser!!! I will have my turkey sugar cookies starting Sept 18 and going through October 9. I will be at coffee hour those Sundays. As in the past, for every \$5 donation, you will get a large cookie. I use this money to pay for the turkeys. As we get closer, sign up sheets for helpers will be in the Bess Fulton room or on the back of the Sunday Welcome Cards. I'm looking forward to a successful feast this year.



Blanche Moyer Circle September 12th Meeting

Judi Cates, Chairperson

The Blanche Moyer Circle will meet on Monday, September 12th for a very special evening! The SEJ Committee is starting a three-part series for Latinx Heritage Month and will showcase Mary Roessler as their presenter at 7:00 pm.

Blanche Moyer would like to invite any and all who would like to come to our monthly dinner meeting at 6:00 pm! We start with a short devotional and then a dinner prepared by the September Committee. Cost of \$5/meal goes to our Circle to fund charities outside the church and also needs not covered by the General Funds of the Church.

Please RSVP to Judi Cates at 517-667-6659 (text or phone) or judithcates68@gmail.com so we can prepare for the number of folks planning to come.

After dinner there is usually a short business meeting, this month an emphasis on short! Then on to the presentation by Mary Roessler.

Please come and share dinner and desert with the Blanche Moyer Circle on September 12th at 6:00 pm and then the presentation by Mary Roessler. Depending on weather the presentation might be in the Annex with A/C so watch for more information to come.

We all hope to see you on the 12th of September!!! Judi Cates at 517-667-6659 (text or phone) or judithcates68@gmail.com

GUN BUYBACK

\$\$\$ FOR CASH \$\$\$

Saturday, October 1

11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

***UNTIL CASH RUNS OUT
LIMIT 2 GUNS PER PERSON**

ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Parking Lot

6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing, MI 48911

Guns received by Lansing Police & Ingham County Sheriff Deputy

Place unloaded guns in the trunk of your car.

\$100 for revolvers, and shotguns

\$200 for rifles & semi-automatic handguns



**Sponsored by The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, First Congregational UCC Church of
Charlotte, and St. Michael's Episcopal Church in conjunction with Lansing Police
Department and Ingham Co. Sheriff's Office**

Leaders and Staff of the Church

Council President 3rd Thursday, 6:30 pm	Amy Frost	Frosta@pennfield.net
Vice President	Curt Scott	CurtisJScott@hotmail.com
Church Clerk	Barbara Anderson	BarbaraF5543@icloud.com
Financial Secretary	Don Johnson	DonJohnson106@mac.com
Treasurer (Finance Team)	Kathie Cook	crkfcCook@hotmail.com
Endowment Team	Mike Fulton	mjfulton@sbcglobal.net
Congregation At-Large Representative	Mary Kohmuench	MTheoharis@gmail.com
Buildings and Grounds	David Frost	Black_ice@att.net
Business Team Leader	Bill Oatman	Oatman701@att.net
Education Team Leader 1st Sunday, 11:30 am	Judy Johnson	Johnsoj@ameritech.net
Mission Team Leader 3rd Sunday, 11:30 am	Mary Normand	DavidNormand@att.net
Worship Team 4th Sunday, 11:30 am	Dennis Cates	DWCates55@yahoo.com

Staff

Minister	Pastor Jody Betten	Pastor@uccCharlotte.org
Director of Music	Ramona Kime	Ramona.Kime@gmail.com
Student Intern	Adam Droscha	Adam.Droscha@gmail.com
Communications	Caryn Hansen	Office@ucccharlotte.org
Bookkeeper	Sher Brown	Office@ucccharlotte.org
Custodian	Rex Todd	

The Chanticleer is the monthly newsletter, distributed to members and friends of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Charlotte. We welcome most comments and articles.

Editor: Editor@ucccharlotte.org

Chanticleer monthly deadline is the 18th to inform us of intended articles.

When We Come Together . . .

Sunday Worship: 10 am In Person and on Facebook, [facebook.com/ucc48813](https://www.facebook.com/ucc48813) and website: ucccharlotte.org, Instagram: [ucccharlotte](https://www.instagram.com/ucccharlotte)

Faith Groups

Adult Bible Study	Sundays, 8:15 am, Annex/LMR	Dale Dodds vdd6@att.net, Sundays, 8:15 am
Contemplation, Meditation, Prayer	Sundays, 7:30 am, 8 am, 8:30 am	Adam Droscha Adam.Droscha@gmail.com
Prayer Group	1st and 3rd Thurs, 10:30 am	Sandra Field yourstrulycollection@hotmail.com
Prayer Shawls	1st & 3rd Saturdays, 9 am, Lounge	Amy Krizek Mom_Krizek@hotmail.com,
Pub Theology:	2nd & 4th Thursday, 7 pm, Riedy's	Adam Droscha
Tuesday Night Study	Tuesdays, 6:30 pm, Annex	Curt Scott curtisjscott@hotmail.com

Music

Senior Choir Wednesdays, 7pm, Lounge, September—May

Committees and Groups

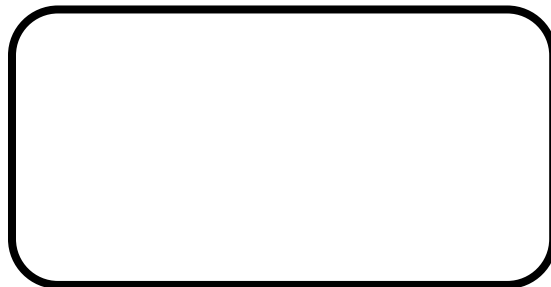
Art Committee	Mondays, 1 pm, once a month	Sandra Field yourstrulycollection@hotmail.com
Blanche Moyer	2nd Monday, 6:30 pm	Judi Cates JudithCates68@gmail.com
Care Committee	1st Wednesday, 10 am	Pam Rinckey rinckey1@hotmail.com
Commons Comm.	Times Vary	Matt Slot MattSlot@gmail.com
Communications	3rd Monday, 6:30 pm, Annex/smr	Matt Slot
Personnel Committee	As needed	Terry Davis tdavis@msu.edu
Social and Environmental Justice Committee	2nd Sunday, 11:30 am	Ramona Kime Ramona.Kime@gmail.com
Women's Group	As needed	Mary Normand, Rachael Harvitt, DavidNormand@att.net



THE CHANTICLEER

First Congregational United Church of Christ –
517.543.1310
106 South Bostwick - Charlotte, MI 48813
office@uccCharlotte.org www.ucccharlotte.org

Office Hours
Tues - Wed & Fri 9am - 2pm
517 543 1310
Worship Service 10 am
Sunday In Person,
Facebook & YouTube



Some of the special days celebrated in September:

September 2—College Colors Day
September 3—National Doodle Day
September 5—Labor Day
September 9—National Teddy Bear Day
September 11—Grandparents Day
September 12—National Day of Encouragement
September 17—International Eat an Apple Day
September 20—National Voter Registration Day
September 21—International Day of Peace and World
Gratitude Day
September 22—Autumn Equinox
September 26—Love Note Day
September 27—Ancestor Appreciation Day

