

# still speaking

## First Congregational

United Church of Christ  
Charlotte, Michigan

September 2024  
Volume 2  
Issue 9



Never place a  
period where God  
has placed a comma



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**Still Speaking** is the monthly newsletter distributed to members and friends of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Charlotte. We welcome inside and outside comments, creative writing, illustrative photos/art, and articles. We appreciate feedback; please send comments to the Editor @ [Editor@uccCharlotte.org](mailto:Editor@uccCharlotte.org)

**Editor:** [Editor@ucccharlotte.org](mailto:Editor@ucccharlotte.org) **Still Speaking** article deadline is the 25th of each month.

**About the cover:** "One Glad Morning," Alexis (Lexi) Konietzko spends time with Wyatt Carabajal (and all the children) on August 25. In the background, Pastor Adam speaks of using wise words during challenging conversations in a service interlaced with old time gospel favorites featuring Don Sovey, Kurt Young, Ron McKeever, and Morgan Englehart.



# The September Giving Tree Supports Two Worthy Causes!

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Ramona Kime, Missions/Outreach Team

## Third Annual Gun Buy Back

We are again sponsoring the Gun BuyBack at St. Michael's Episcopal Church in Lansing to be held on Saturday, October 5. Last year we bought back over 100 guns! That's over 100 guns that won't find their way into the wrong hands or be used unsafely! The guns are turned over to the Lansing Police and the Ingham County Sheriff's Department who then completely destroy the guns.

There are two ways to donate.

Please make checks out to **St. Michael's Episcopal Church**, with **"Gun BuyBack"** in the memo line.

- Put money or checks in the glass jar at the front of the sanctuary (or Commons stage).
- Give money or checks to Ramona Kime during September.

The **deadline** for donations is **September 29**.

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## The No-Walk CROP Walk!

Our church is again participating in the local Crop Walk, although without any of the walking! (If you really want to walk, it will take place on Sunday, October 6.) The annual CROP Hunger Walk is a continued effort to fight against disease, disaster, displacement, and other challenges that leave people hungry.

Similarly, there are two ways to donate. **Please make checks out to CWS/CROP.**

- Put money or checks in the glass jar at the front of the sanctuary (or Commons stage).
- Give money or checks to Ramona Kime during September.
- Or (option #3) Eat Pancakes! (see page 15 )

The **deadline** for donations is **September 29**.



Christine Histed, Registered Dietitian/Evidence Based Programs Manager

Please register by September 12th  
**Must be registered to attend! \*\***

**Thursdays, September 26 to October 31, 1 to 2:30 pm**  
Annex Large Meeting Room

Do you attend doctor appointments with an aging parent? Do you prepare meals, grocery shop, or do laundry for someone you care for? Then you're a caregiver! Join us for the next Powerful Tools for Caregivers workshop where we will discuss self-care strategies for caregivers such as stress management, dealing with difficult emotions (like anger, guilt, depression), communicating in challenging situations, dealing with losses and much more! Workshop is free of charge but donations accepted.

In this workshop, learn how to:

- Take care of yourself
- Reduce stress and help you relax
- Make tough decisions
- Reduce feelings of guilt, anger, and depression
- Communicate effectively
- Work with family, providers, and care staff
- Set goals and problem-solve, and more!

**\*\*To register:**

Call the Tri-County Office on Aging at 517-887-1465 or e-mail  
Christine at [histedc@tcoa.org](mailto:histedc@tcoa.org)



# Presentation on Eaton County Tax Proposal

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Ramona Kime, Social and Environmental Justice

**Monday, September 16, 6:00 PM**

Annex Large Meeting Room

Join us for an informational meeting to discuss the **Separate Tax Limitation Proposal** for Eaton County which will be voted upon in November. Ben Dawson, from the County Administration offices, will be here to discuss the nuances of this ballot proposal. Contrary to what we've heard through the 'grapevine,' this is a statutory process that is structured differently than a typical millage proposal that voters are used to seeing. It's important that we understand the difference so we can make an educated decision at the ballot box.



# Book discussions on Christian Nationalism

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Ramona Kime, Social and Environmental Justice

Saturday, **September 21**, 10 am, pages ix – 87 (Introduction; Chapters 1, 2)

Saturday, **October 19**, 10 am, pages 89 – 164 (Chapters 3, 4; Conclusion)

Annex Large Meeting Room

In response to concerns about the Christian Nationalism movement, Adam has chosen the award-winning book "Taking America Back for God: Christian Nationalism in the United States" for our next all-church book discussions. It's important for us to understand what this ideology is all about and why we need to speak out against it.

There are a limited number of books available in the office, so pick yours up soon!



# A Few Points about What Christian Nationalism is and Why Should Christians Speak Out Against it

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Pastor Adam Droscha, Pastor's Corner

In the current social, political, and religious discourse in the U.S., Christian Nationalism has come up as the name for a political movement and ideology that claims to be the true expression of Christianity and American national identity. There is confusion for many about what Christian Nationalism is, including some who hold Christian Nationalist beliefs. Here are a few points about Christian Nationalist ideology and why it's a distortion of things like the Christian faith, U.S. history, Christian identity and more.

1. Christian Nationalism is a political ideology centered on the belief that the United States of America, from its founding, is a Christian nation and that Christianity and Christians should therefore enjoy a privileged status in American civic life, in government, in education, and exercise of religious freedom.

***This is ideology is problematic for many reasons, but the primary problem is that it ignores that the U.S. Constitution explicitly prohibits the establishment of any official state religion in the 1st Amendment, and that it also prohibits any religious tests for government officials and representatives in Article IV.***

2. Christian Nationalism relies on the interpretation of U.S. history that God has uniquely ordained the United States to be an instrument of his will, and God's will is exercised through everything from U.S. government and laws, wars, colonial projects, education, and the centralization of Christianity in civic life.

***This interpretation of U.S. history is problematic (1) because it places the United States at the center of the Christian faith and story (which it is not); (2) because it ignores that indigenous peoples who were here before the founding of U.S. were not Christians; (3) because it implicitly, and at times explicitly, condones historical crimes against humanity and fundamentally un-Christ-like acts such as genocide of indigenous peoples, slavery, segregation, wars, colonial projects, and more; (4) it disproportionately relies on narrative-based historical interpretation with a bias toward specific Christian traditions, as opposed to interpretation based in more objective facts and evidence.***

3. Christian Nationalism blurs the lines between things like Christian identity and U.S. citizenship, religion and government, faith and politics, nationalism and patriotism.

***This blurring of the lines is harmful because it confuses things that have different priorities and that historically do not mix well. For example, religion is generally concerned with spirituality, faith, and humanity's relationship with the divine, whereas government is***

***concerned with laws and their enforcement, public welfare, protection of rights, and the arrangement of society. Confusing things like religion and government means they could cease to serve their proper function, or be misused and abused.***

4. Christian Nationalism defines 'Christian' very narrowly, and is disrespectful of other religions. In American Christian Nationalist ideology, the term 'Christian' is most commonly understood as American-European evangelical Protestantism. While some 'moderate' Christian Nationalists may tolerate other Christian traditions such as Catholicism, Eastern Orthodoxy, and mainline Protestantism, more extreme Christian Nationalists will treat them as illegitimate or heretical. Non-Christian religions, spiritualities, and philosophies are considered not just illegitimate, they're considered dangerous and un-American.

***This dismissiveness and condemnation of other Christian traditions and other religions is harmful, first, because it's ahistorical and categorically false. There are many legitimate varieties and traditions within Christianity, and evangelical Protestantism is not even the oldest, nor did Jesus reference it. Secondly, disagreeing with other religions and spiritualities does not mean (1) that they don't enjoy the same Constitutional protection as Christianity, or (2) that they don't do good in the lives of others. At a fundamental level, Christian Nationalism disregards the rights of others to think and believe for themselves.***

5. Christian Nationalism is not about Christian religious freedom; it's about Christian dominance.

***Christian Nationalism confuses exercise of religious freedom with exercising religious freedom over others. Instead of a belief such as, 'My Christian faith is important to me and guides how I engage political issues,' it looks more like, 'My Christian faith should be important to everyone and should also determine how others live their lives.' This looks like the belief that prayer should not just be enjoyed in religious or private settings, but that it should be practiced in government and in classrooms, or the belief that specific Christian teachings should not just be explored in religious settings, but should be taught in schools, or the belief that only Christians should be allowed to serve in government and not people of other religions.***

6. Christian Nationalism attempts to use the Bible and the teachings of Jesus to justify its ideology and political stances, even if they contradict each other.

***There are many examples to pick from to highlight how Christian Nationalism misuses, misrepresents, and distorts the Bible and the teachings of Jesus. Perhaps the most applicable example is how on multiple occasions Jesus rejected worldly political power. When Jesus was tempted in the desert (Matthew 4) and was offered all the kingdoms of the world, he rejected the tempter's offer. In John 6:15, Jesus flees from a crowd when he realizes they wanted to make him their king. In John 18 when Pilate asks Jesus if he is a king, Jesus replies directly that his "kingdom is not of this world." As Christian Nationalists attempt to make Jesus the idol of their political movement, it's important to remember that Jesus rejected such idolatry and political power.***

# Mission Moment

Mary Normand, Chair

**Concert on the Square:** This was another successful event for us. Folks were so happy we were there with our ice cream sandwiches. They indicated they look forward to it every year. It was a bit of a challenge making them this year but there was lots of help. Thank you to everyone who came and helped us.



**Loads of Love:** Our July event went well. There was lots of good conversation. The children and adults appreciated the books. We can always use good adult books. Our next Loads of Love is October 19. In addition to Peace Lutheran participating in this project, St Mary's has now joined and will be sponsoring one in September and December. This is such a needed thing. I'm grateful to Peace Lutheran Church for bringing it to our attention.



**Giving Tree:** September will be CROP Walk and Gun Buy Back. Please refer to Ramona's article on page 3 about these two things.

**Rally Sunday:** This is September 15. Please check out our table and see what we are all about. We would love to have some folks join our team. Generally we meet the third Sunday of the month however since that is the 15th and Rally Sunday, we have moved it to the 22nd.



Thank you to all who helped at booths in August: Youth Pride Festival in Vermontville on August 17 and Festival of Oddities in Charlotte on August 31. Pictured: Bill and Carol Yerkes and Ramona Kime, and Jan Shall and Ramona Kime.



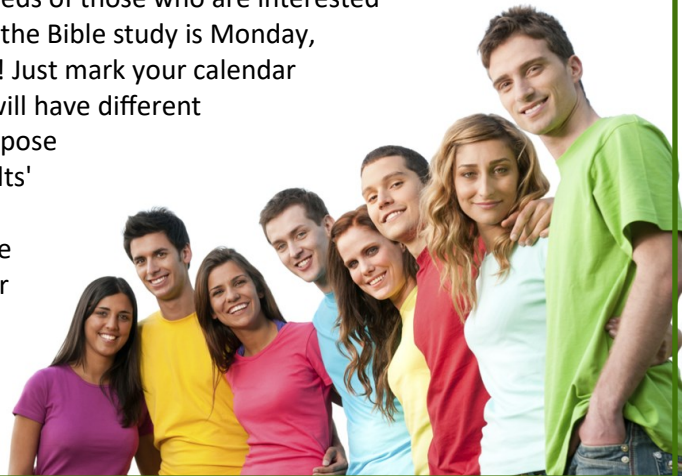
## Young Adults Group

This fall, First Congregational Church is starting its very own group for young adults! We're gathering our folks who are in their 20s, 30s, and 40s for outings, good conversation, and fellowship! We're all busy, so these get togethers will take place once a month to start. This group will be led by Pastor Adam, so if you're interested in being on his email list for this group, shoot him an email at [adam.droscha@ucccharlotte.org](mailto:adam.droscha@ucccharlotte.org) and he'll make sure you're kept in the loop and notified about upcoming get togethers. We hope you'll join us! The first gathering is still to be determined.



## Devotional Bible Study

Pastor Adam is starting a new weekly devotional Bible study this fall! As Christians and followers of Jesus' teachings, it's important to have a grasp of the Bible, what's in it, what it does and doesn't say, and what we can learn from it. This devotional Bible study will primarily focus on the content of different passages and reflecting on them, and sometimes a book or video series will be the guide for a few weeks to hear a variety of perspectives. This Bible study will take place Mondays at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. (Times can be adjusted depending on the needs of those who are interested in participating.) The starting date of the Bible study is Monday, September 16! No sign-up is required! Just mark your calendar and show up! (This new Bible study will have different content and will serve a different purpose than Curt Scott's 'Bible Study for Adults' on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Curt's focuses primarily on the history of the Bible and Christianity, whereas Pastor Adam's will focus on the content of various passages. Both are important, and all are welcome to attend both either as they please!)





# Rally Sunday!

Written by or with contributions from: Pam Rinckey, Jeannine Scott, Ramona Kime, Curt Scott, Amy Frost, Larry Taylor, Sandra Field, Jenny Bohms, Judi Cates, Bren Wood, Adam Droscha, Mary Normand, Matt Slot

First proposed by Shirley Ripley during a strategic planning session in 2021, this year is the third annual Rally Sunday at our church. We rally for many reasons: to mark going back inside after worshiping outdoors all summer; to commemorate a coming together after so many have been on vacations during the summer; and we rally to show a resumption of meetings for those groups that may have taken a summer hiatus.

In rallying, we introduce ourselves again - to one another because we are always growing, and to any new people who may have started attending in the last year and may be looking for a way to be more involved.

To prepare this year, we did a write up of each of the committees and organizations that will be represented on Rally Sunday.

**Care Community** The CARE Community is just what the name implies. We are a group of 7 – 10 members who saw the need for support for our members and friends, especially when it was founded meets once a month with the Pastor to discuss the needs of our church family. We send cards or call visitors to our services, those who have been missing from services, and cards of encouragement to those who grieve or are ill.

We also drive members and friends to doctor appointments or grocery and supply support to all who need some meals prepared or a personal visit. We are the church's family support system.

**Worship Team** Do you ever wonder how folks are chosen to be liturgist, or greeters for a Sunday service? Are you curious about how the chancel table gets decorated with candles or flowers or other creative displays? Have you enjoyed watching our service live-streamed? Are you amazed at the provision of coffee and goodies to accompany your conversations with friends during coffee hour?

These Sunday specialties and more are coordinated by the Worship Team, an active group of volunteers that oversee all aspects of services that happen on church property, whether they are in the sanctuary, chapel, annex or on the Commons. Members of the Worship team oversee seasonal decorations, flower contributions, and liturgical colors



of the paraments. Importantly, they also support any sacramental services (baptism, communion, confirmation, weddings, and funerals), or special requests from the pastor.

If you would like to be part of the team that strives to make sure that “all things are ready” and services proceed without a hitch, please join us! The Worship Team generally meets after coffee hour on the 4th Sunday of the month.

**Social and Environmental Justice (SEJ)** Our Social and Environmental Justice (SEJ) group is active in many ways, from organizing presentations on specific topics, showing films, planning book discussions, or writing articles on our current issues of concern, to participating in activities in the Charlotte greater community, such as having a booth at the Vermontville Youth Pride or helping people register to vote at our Frontier Days booth.

Currently, our primary focus is on voting issues, given that this is an important election year, but we also work on environmental causes, racial justice concerns, and LGBTQ support. We also currently have a subgroup helping the church move toward becoming a WISE Congregation—one of the UCC’s programs which acknowledges the need for us to become Welcoming, Inclusive, Supportive, and Engaged with mental health in our congregation and in our community.



We welcome all ideas and invite you to be part of our activities and discussions. We meet on the second Sunday of the month at 11:30 in the Annex. If you’re interested, join us at our next meeting, or reach out to the head of SEJ: Ramona Kime, at [ramona.kime@gmail.com](mailto:ramona.kime@gmail.com) or 269-967-4478. We’ll also have a table at Rally Sunday, so look for the table with Mary Kohmuench’s yummy baklava!!

**Christian Education** For those new to this church, it might help to know that our intention is always to educate and never to indoctrinate. What falls under the heading of Christian Education here means the Teachings of Actual Jesus, and the history of Christianity, good and bad, within Western Civilization.

We study what the bible is and never was, where and how such sacred writings came to be and how people and ideas have changed over time. Though individual topics range from Ice Age Love to biographies of the living, the point is to better understand how Christianity is changing and what Jesus and the Early Church had in mind in the first place.

For children, we offer a safe space and teach inclusivity, Jesus’ ethics and the essential nature of compassion. Aside from the teaching moment offered during the church service, we guide our young through a program called, Godly Play.

This fall, we anticipate enough teenagers to start a new program.

For adults, there are two regular classes and various book club-type opportunities throughout the year. Tuesday evening is the main event: Bible Study for Adult, 6:30-8pm, a semester-oriented program that shifts from history and sociology to archaeology and philosophy. This class is an eye-opening experience.

Wednesdays at noon, eating lunch together, I offer a speed version of Tuesday evening: What, exactly, is changing in Christianity and society?

Embedded in all we do is the understanding that church, the concept, is in flux; and that every such transition in Christianity has demanded that the Body of Christ pull out the manual and ask an old question: what, exactly, did Jesus tell us to do?

**Music Program** We have a strong history of music in this church, and we're still going strong! With our choir, our bell choir, and the many talented individuals in our church, music is an important part of our services.

We try to include a variety of music styles in all our services. You may hear a gospel song on the



piano, a choral arrangement of a spiritual, a soloist singing an old-time camp meeting song, a more contemporary song from the Sing book, a standard hymn, a bell choir arrangement of a quiet and reflective song, a classical piece on the organ, a Celtic tune on the penny whistle, or an old-time hymn played on a guitar. It's all an important part of who we are.

If you have an interest in being a part of the music program, in whatever way, reach out to me: Ramona Kime, Director of Music, at [ramona.kime@gmail.com](mailto:ramona.kime@gmail.com) or 269-967-4478. We'd love to have you join us!

**Communications Team** Communications Team is just what you would imagine.

The team oversees all types of communication—weekly emails, Still Speaking, Facebook, Instagram, advertising, weekly bulletin/program. The goal is to promote all events/ activities of the church.

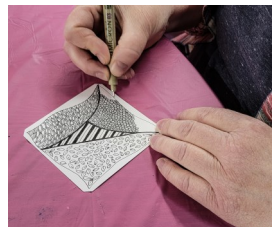
The team also works to coordinate the “brand” of the church, trying to build a cohesive message.

**Men’s Group** (aka, the Congregational Men) Larry Taylor started a men's group this past spring. We have about 8 to 9 (give or take one or two) men that attend. Early in the year, the mens group did coffee hour after the services. We got together and helped clean up the neighborhood. The Bess Fulton Room got “re-lamped” by the men's group (new lights all around). We went to the Gilmore antique car museum which turned out to be very much fun..

The men's group is in the process of planning a fall retreat up north. It is a welcome addition to the life of our church. Larry “LT” Taylor, 517-213-6112, TaylorLT1752@att.net.

**Art Ministry Team** “WE ARE ALL CREATED TO CREATE,” Sandra Field.

Join the Art Ministry Team in creating and using art as a way to challenge, educate, and transform our way of processing our differences. By providing a sacred space for artist and non- artists, believers and non-believers, we hope to become an active force in creatively providing ways to communicate with God and each other on a deeper and more intimate level.



Join us as we draw, paint, stamp, and stencil our way to discovering ourselves and our God in a more creative way.

**Celestial Hand Bell Choir** is happy to announce our first full season in many years of hiatus!

You had a small “sneak a peek” last spring but now we are planning for a full season. I am Jenny Bohms, the current director. I would like to introduce my personal approach to filling the role of director. It is my personal philosophy that anyone and everyone who wants to ring is welcome to participate. Yes, even if you don’t read music or know how to count the beats that we use to stay together as one cohesive group, you are welcome.

You may have noticed that it appears that all ringing positions are filled. We need more ringers to train and fill positions because not every person is always available for rehearsals as well as performances. The more the better. We have plenty of bells and chimes to go around.

NOW! The important information: Bell Choir Practice is at 4:00 pm on Wednesdays and will begin on August 28th (same day, new time). In case you don’t know, we practice in the Sanctuary, where the bell tables are located. Try to arrive by 3:50 pm and my goal is to leave by 5:15 pm.



Here’s to an exciting season! - Jenny Bohms

**Blanche Moyer Circle** was first started in 1917 and is the last of the seven circles. Attendees, known as Blanchettes, continue to meet the second Monday of the 9 out of 12 months a year. The circles started with the purpose to empower women at a time when women didn't even have the right to vote. Today, the gatherings draw about 15 to 20 women each month.



Each meeting includes a devotional, a meal, a game or other fun item, and a discussion of business or a current project. Each Blanchette pays an annual due of \$5 and the meal is \$5 each month. On occasion, outside individuals may be invited to speak on topics with which they hold an expertise which are of intellectual curiosity to the Circle.

**Commons Team** In 2017, we broke ground on the Congregational Commons. The Commons team is responsible for maintaining and improving this space, but also for finding new ways to engage with the congregation and community through programs, activities, and summer worship services. The team structure is informal, and open to anyone who finds inspiration in the arts and beauty in nature.

**Missions Team** Mission Board generally meets the 3rd Sunday of the month after coffee hour. Our purpose is to reach out into the community and help with their needs. This may be within Charlotte, within our state, country, and sometimes worldwide. We support 2 students over in Asia through Global Ministries. We support EFCC, SIREN/Eaton, Housing Services, and Helping Hands through various events/projects. We welcome new folks with new ideas on how we can reach out to help folks. Please check out our table display to see all the things we do.

**Buildings and Grounds** has an important role in the ongoing life of our church. An old building like ours requires a lot attention and maintenance. Even our more modern Annex building needs a little help from time to time. Our volunteers have a large choice of tasks to choose to work on from painting, weeding and mulching, small construction projects and even minor electrical fixes. Sometimes we just need a little muscle. If you can help in any way there is place for you on our team. We meet at least monthly on Mondays from 6 to 7 pm in the Annex.

**Pub Theology** The idea of Pub Theology is simple. We get outside of the church walls to gather at the local bar, we discuss a topic, we eat and drink, then we go about our lives. The group is mostly comprised of people from First Congregational, but not exclusively. Our church folks have brought friends, a few people have come because they saw one of our social media posts, and more than a few people have stopped just to see what we are up to. We're getting out of Pub Theology, more or less, exactly what we set out to: open conversations about God and how we live our lives. The good fruit of Pub Theology is deeper than mere conversation, good company, and a shared meal. In gathering around that table with beer in hand we've learned

to listen, to hear each other and to see each other. We've learned to anticipate how each person might think about something and be pleasantly (sometimes unpleasantly) surprised at their response. We've learned to constructively discuss, think outside our usual box, and to debate and pushback well. We've learned to get personal and notice when someone is opening up about something vulnerable, or new. Generally, we've just learned a lot. Pub Theology is open to everyone, religious and non-religious, faithful and faithless, doubtless and doubtful, young and old, friend and stranger. We hope you'll join us and maybe bring a friend. We meet at Riedy's the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 7 p.m.

# End Hunger with a Pancake!



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

**8:00-10:00 AM**

## **PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

+bacon, eggs and, of course, maple syrup

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**Gresham United Methodist Church**

5055 Mulliken Rd, Charlotte, MI

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**Join us in supporting the Charlotte  
Area CROP Hunger Walk**

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

2024

CROP HUNGER WALKS

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

*and pancake*

ENTERING THE BROWN

Through the mountains  
winding  
through the mountains  
ten thousand feet up,  
where hearts are larger,  
where campesinos  
wear only brown and gray,  
their somber temperament  
reflected in their clothes.  
Through the mountains, winding still,  
we arrive at last in Tunja,  
the clay and tile city  
that is to hold my life  
for the next two years.  
Tunja is a brown place  
amongst brown hills.  
Her buildings are brown,  
her people's faces are brown,  
brown veins





coursing rich brown Chibcha blood.  
Barren brown barrancas  
beyond dusty brown streets.  
We enter the main square, la Plaza de Bolívar,  
lined on one side by tiny almacenes,  
and opposite them the bulky brown  
sixteenth-century cathedral.  
I feel brown eyes  
on my too long too white body,  
inquisitive, suspicious,  
they linger a moment,  
they linger a moment,  
turn away, leave me free,  
anxious to absorb  
the warm sounds  
the clay and dust  
the brown  
the brown.

Former Peace Corps volunteer,  
retired educator, and published author,  
member Mary Roessler shares from the poetry  
she wrote while working on her masters thesis.



# Yes She Can

Reverend Molly Baskette, lead pastor of First Church Berkeley UCC and author

*In the beginning ... God said, "Let us make ha'adam, humankind, in our image and likeness." So God did. God created humankind in their own image, in the image of God, male and female, God created them. – Genesis 1:26-27 (adapted)*

God created humankind 'male and female' in Their image. But somewhere along the way in the vascular system of human imagination, an artery got clogged and narrowed. The divine image in Christian art was primarily male. The pronouns only male. The priesthood only male. Politics, the locus of divine power enacted on earth, exclusively male.

It is as if we forgot half of who we are: made in the image and likeness of God, male and female and expanding beyond a simple M-F binary into a multi-dimensional universe of gender. The Divine Feminine was lost, as were so many other images of God. White Jesus, muscular Jesus, or the old man enthroned on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel took up more and more space in our consciousness. God was a man, and by default, men were gods.

There have been cracks in the patriarchy along the way. One of those came 175 years ago when Congregationalists ordained the first woman Protestant minister, Antoinette Brown. I stand on her shoulders and many others who cracked the stained-glass ceiling so that I can do what I do with less obstructive sexism—and so the girls in my church can see someone who looks like them in religious leadership (which, by the way, has positive mental health benefits).

But for the 248 years that the U.S. has been a nation, we have routinely left out of executive political leadership half of the humans made in the image of God. More than half, when we disrupt the dichotomous construction of sex. Will that change now?

Let me be clear: God endorses no one human being. Throughout the Bible, our God had a very reluctant relationship with monarchs and executive leaders. God is God.

Who does God endorse? The wholeness of humanity, fairly represented, justly cared for. No kings or queens. Just a sacred kin-dom, if we can make it. If we can keep it.

## Prayer

*God, in the words of Rev. Senator Raphael Warnock: a vote is a kind of prayer for the kind of world we want to live in.*

# When We Come Together . . .

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

<b>Learning Opportunities</b>	<b>Meeting Times</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>
Words and Tangents	Sun, 8 am, Annex/Library	Jan Shall, JanShall00@gmail.com
Godly Play	Sunday, 10:10 am	Sarah Cook, scook@uolivet.edu
Prayer Group	1st & 3rd Thur, 10:30 am Small Prayer Room	Sandra Field yourstrulycollection@hotmail.com
Pub Theology	2nd & 4th Thurs. 7 pm	Adam Droscha adam.droscha@uccCharlotte.org
Adult Bible Study	Tues, 6:30 pm, Wed. 11:30 am Annex Large Meeting Room	Curt Scott, CurtisJScott@hotmail.com
Coffee Hour with a Pastor	Evelyn Bay, Tuesday, 10 am	Pastor Droscha, pastor@uccCharlotte.org
<b>Music</b>		
Choir Practice	Wednesdays, 7 pm	Ramona Kime, Ramona.Kime@gmail.com
Bell Choir	Wednesdays, 4 pm	Jenny Bohms, rjbohms@yahoo.com
<b>Committees &amp; Groups</b>		
Art Ministry Committee	2nd & 4th Tuesday, 11 am 2nd & 4th Monday, 7 pm, Zoom	Sandra Field, yourstrulycollection@hotmail.com
Blanche Moyer	2nd Monday, 6:30 pm	Judi Cates, JudithCates68@gmail.com
Commons Committee	Times Vary	Matt Slot, MattSlot@gmail.com
Communications	3rd Monday, 6:30 pm, SMR	Amy Frost, frostamy58@gmail.com
Prayer Shawl	1st & 3rd Sat, 9:30 am, Lounge	Amy Krizek, Mom_Krizek@hotmail.com
Social & Environmental Justice Committee	2nd Sun, 11:30 am, Annex LMR	Ramona Kime, Ramona.Kime@gmail.com
Women's Fellowship	As Needed	Mary Normand, DavidNormand@att.net
Men's Group	1st & 3rd Sat, 10 am, Annex SMR	Larry Taylor, TaylorLT1752@att.net



## Still Speaking

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
106 South Bostwick - Charlotte, MI 48813  
office@uccCharlotte.org [www.ucccharlotte.org](http://www.ucccharlotte.org)

### Office Hours

Tues - Wed & Fri 9am - 2pm  
517 543 1310

Worship Service 10 am  
Sunday In Person,  
Facebook & YouTube



### Newsletter Deadlines:

The 18th of the month to notify the editor of story intentions. The 25th of each month is the deadline for articles to be submitted.

### Bulletin/Program Deadline:

Weekly, Thursday 9 am

**Contact:** Editor@uccCharlotte.org

# September 2024

Full calendar details can be found at [uccCharlotte.org](http://uccCharlotte.org)  
Changes should be submitted to  
Editor@uccCharlotte.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 5:30 pm Soul Sisters Support	3 10 am COFFEE with a Pastor, Evelyn Bay's	4 10am CareCommunity 11:30 Bible Study 4 pm Bell Choir 6 pm Soul Sisters 7 pm Choir Practice	5 9 am Bazaar Crafting 10:30 Prayer Group 3:30 Building & Grounds, Endowment, Business 6 pm Endowment Mtg	6 Office Closed	7 9 am Prayer Shawl
8 11:30 Social and Environmental Justice Meeting	9 5:30 pm Soul Sisters Support	10 10 am COFFEE with a Pastor, Evelyn Bay's 6:30 Bible Study LMR	11 10am CareCommunity 11:30 Bible Study 4 pm Bell Choir 6 pm Soul Sisters 7 pm Choir Practice	12 9 am Bazaar Crafting 7 pm Pub Theology, Riedy's Tavern and Pizza	13 Office Closed	14 10 am Men's Group
15 11:30 RALLY SUNDAY!!!	16 1 pm Devotional Group 4 pm Devotional Group 5:30 pm Soul Sisters 6 pm Eaton County Tax Proposal Discussion	17 10 am COFFEE with a Pastor, Evelyn Bay's 6:30 Bible Study LMR	18 10am CareCommunity 11:30 Bible Study 4 pm Bell Choir 6 pm Soul Sisters	19 9 am Bazaar Crafting 10:30 Prayer Group	20 Office Closed	21 9 am Prayer Shawl 10 am Book Study 3 pm Summer Concert Series
22 11:30 Missions Team Meeting	23 1 pm Devotional Group 4 pm Devotional Group 5:30 pm Soul Sisters 6:30 pm Communications	24 10 am COFFEE with a Pastor, Evelyn Bay's 6:30 Bible Study LMR	25 10am CareCommunity 11:30 Bible Study 4 pm Bell Choir 6 pm Soul Sisters 7 pm Choir Practice	26 9 am Bazaar Crafting 7 pm Pub Theology, Riedy's Tavern and Pizza	27 Office Closed	28 10 am Men's Group
29 11:30 Worship Team Meeting	30 1 pm Devotional Group 4 pm Devotional Group 5:30 pm Soul Sisters					