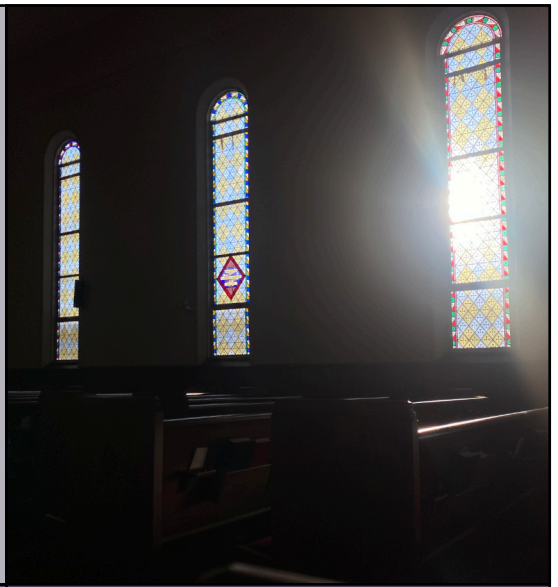




**First Congregational
United Church of Christ**
Charlotte, Michigan

October 2026
Volume 10
Issue 3

Never place a
period where God
has placed a comma



Still Speaking



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Leaders and Staff of the Church

Council President	Bren Wood	BrnWdMI@gmail.com
Vice President	Stephanie Tighe	StephanieTighe@gmail.com
Buildings and Grounds	David Frost	Black_ice@att.net
Business Team	Bill Oatman	Oatman701@att.net
Care Community	Pam Rinckey	Rinckey1@hotmail.com
Church Clerk	Barbara Anderson	BarbaraF5543@icloud.com
Church Life	Amy Frost	FrostAmy58@gmail.com
Endowment Team	Mike Fulton	Mjfulton@sbcglobal.net
Education Team	Diane Hudson	DianeKHudson@sbcglobal.net
Financial Secretary	Don Johnson	DonJohnson106@mac.com
Outreach	Mary Normand	DavidNormand@att.net
Soc. & and Env. Justice Team	Mary Kohmuench	Mtheoharis@gmail.com
Treasurer	Kathie Cook	CrkfcCook@hotmail.com
Worship Team	Jeannine Scott	Scottj21@msu.edu
*Church Council	3rd Thurs. 6:30 pm	Annex Large Meeting Room

Staff

Minister	Pastor Adam Droscha	Pastor@uccCharlotte.org
Director of Music	Ramona Kime	Ramona.Kime@gmail.com
Communications	Kaleigh Slot	Editor@uccCharlotte.org
Bookkeeper	Sandy Lopez	Office@uccCharlotte.org
Custodian	Rex Todd	Office@uccCharlotte.org

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 at Editor@uccCharlotte.org. Submissions deadline is the 15th of each month.

About the cover: September 13, 2026. Congregants Amy Krizek and Stephanie Tighe chat at the Crafts from the Congregation table during Rally Sunday. Read more about Rally Sunday 2026 on page 5.

PASTOR'S POST

Pastor Adam Droscha

Rallying our Resources

Friends, I love autumn.

It's not a secret, or any embarrassing confession. I love autumn and everything about it: the beauty of the trees changing, the trips to orchards, the crisp air, seasonal baked goods, wearing sweaters, last bonfires of the year, you get the picture. And there's a particular spirit of generosity in autumn. We Midwesterners gather around the harvest, sharing our pumpkins, and apples, newly canned goods, and freshly baked treats. We recognize this is a time to share part of our abundance from the year. All of it is beautiful to me.

And so we come to the topic of our stewardship campaign.

As a church we gather and rally around so many topics, causes, projects, activities, and events. First of all, we gather around faith and our common life in the Spirit of Christ; we believe that we are called by these stories and these teachings and this Christ to a love and life bigger than ourselves. We gather for the sake of one another, to be in community in a time and culture in which people are increasingly isolated, lonely, and lacking a wider network of supportive relationships. We rally around causes both global and local because we recognize that we owe love, dignity, and solidarity with all our neighbors, near and far. We rally around projects that address those causes and needs because follow-through and work are how we are going to create the change we want to see in the world. And we rally around activities and events that bring us together and nurture comradery and affection between us.

Our stewardship campaign is one way we rally as a congregation. It's not the only way, and truthfully I don't think it's the most important way. But in the spirit of autumn and its abundant generosity, our stewardship campaign is a lot like what we do with harvest, and baked and canned goods, and gathering to share of our abundance. Following up on pledge commitments, committing pledges for the coming fiscal year, and bringing together our tithes and offerings is one way we rally so that we have the means and resources to

continue gathering and rallying around the work we believe is important. It's one way we rally so that we may continue doing what is good, and right, and beautiful.

This month we are going to send out stewardship letters, pledge statements, and pledge cards to encourage this autumnal spirit of generosity. As we hope you know, your tithes and offerings go beyond merely keeping the church's lights on and staff paid. They go to outreach and service projects in our community, to support nonprofits and charities doing work that aligns with our values, and more. Whatever your financial circumstances may be in this season, we hope as a member of this congregation and sacred common life that you will consider this opportunity to rally our resources so that we may continue the good work Christ has called us to and the Spirit moves us toward.

FESTIVAL OF TREES

Amy Frost

Festival of Trees returns Thanksgiving weekend. This annual event raises money for Eaton Clothing and Furniture Center's Boots for Kids.

We are accepting donations of themed Christmas trees, wall hangings, wreaths, quilts and fabric art. If you would like to donate an item for auction please contact Amy Frost at FrostAmy58@gmail.com. It is never too early to enter. If you are ready, we are set to take your information.

Set up times this year will be:

Sunday (11/22) from 11:30-5 (this is our favorite time for set up)

Monday (11/23) from 8:30-7

Tuesday (11/24) from 5-7

Wednesday (11/25) from 8:30-7 *All set up must be completed by this time.

As always we will be open in person Friday evening, November 27th, and Saturday, Nov. 28th so you can enjoy the holiday beauty in person. The online auction will be open from Thursday at noon to Sunday at noon.

Questions? Contact Amy Frost or Jeannine Scott.

RALLY SUNDAY RECAP

Kaleigh Slot, Communications Editor

September 13, 2026

There is a lot of work that goes into exemplifying our mission to "Be The Church", but it is made possible by our members and our teams, committees, and organizations. Last month we gathered after morning service for our fifth annual Rally Sunday. Rallying provides us a chance to learn about or reacquaint ourselves with the work the different groups and ministries of our church are doing and how to get involved.



If you were unable to rally with us and you still would like to join a team or find other ways to involved check out our Meeting Times and team leaders on Page 11 or view our full calendar online at: <https://ucccharlotte.org/office-calendar/>



OUTREACH MOMENT

Mary Normand, chair

Giving Tree

August: We delivered 512 rolls of toilet paper and 6 rolls of paper towels to Helping Hands

October: This is the start of our winter coat project. We welcome new or gently used winter coats. We also accept financial donations. These can be given to Bill or Carol Yerkes or put in the offering plate making sure the donation is marked for Winter Coats. Coats are donated to ECFC and SIREN/Eaton. We generally collect donations through December.

Eaton Clothing and Furniture Center (ECFC) indicated they are always short of queen size sheets. Outreach voted to use some of our restricted funds to purchase sheets for them. Meijer had a good sale going on and we were able to purchase 42 sets of queen size sheets. They also indicated they are short of towel sets. We will use our unused "sheet" money to purchase towel sets. These items are free to their members. If you ever see a good sale or if you are a garage sale person, like me, and see these items in good shape, they can always use them.

Neighbors in Need (NIN): We will be collecting for this during the month of October. The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. There will be a jar up in front of the church or you can put your donation in the offering plate. Please indicate it is for NIN.

Loads of Love: We have our planning meeting October 8 at 1 pm at St. Mary's. We will be setting the schedule for next year.

Remember: *Do all the good you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.* - John Wesley

Stay tuned
Mary Normand, chair



CRAFTS FROM THE CONGREGATION

Amy Krizek

Friday, November 6th

9:00 am — 5:30 pm

Saturday, November 7th

9:00 am — 1:00 pm

Sponsored by the Bazaar & Women's Fellowship

Family Dinner: Friday, 4:00 pm – 6:30 pm

90th year!

CRAFT Lounge

Co-Chairs: Stephanie Tighe 517-667-8448 and **Jan Shall** 269-832-5114

Bazaar sells crafts created by individuals who donate their special handmade/homemade items. Beginning Sunday, Nov. 2nd after Church, bring any item you are willing to donate for our sale to the Annex. Pricing these items by YOU is very important and appreciated.

Craft Sessions

Chairs: Stephanie Tighe 517-667-8448, **Dyna Lehman** 517-983-8825, **Judi Cates**

We hope you are working on your homemade items at home. Group craft workshops happen on most Thursday mornings at 9 am. Watch your bulletin and emails for details. Ideas are welcome! Join us for these crafting sessions.

Jewelry Shop

Chair: Sharon Oatman 517-402-3297

Vintage jewelry of all kinds is "repurposed" for this very popular Jewelry Shop. Please try to get your "gems" dropped off in specially marked boxes at church by Oct. 18th for pricing.

Country Kitchen

Chair: Audrey Keppler 216-402-0500

Country Kitchen sells home grown and home-baked products. Especially good are breads, pies, jams, garden produce & herbs. Bake ahead and freeze!! Members and friends drop off labeled donations in the Annex starting Sunday, Nov. 1st.

COOKIES, COOKIES, Cookies! Homemade holiday-style cookies are needed! They may be dropped off in the Annex from Tuesday, Nov. 3rd to Thursday the 5th at 10 am. Help with packaging is needed.

Attic Treasurers

Chair: Fred and Kathy Fuhr 517-543-9460

A historic favorite where Treasurers of all kinds are “upcycled”. Please try to get your CLEAN, gently used, saleable items dropped off on the stage in the Bess Fulton Room or the old youth room by Oct. 18th for pricing. No clothing, please.

Hospitality

Co-Chairs: Judi Cates 517-667-6659 & **Pam Rinckey** 517-543-2901

Cashiers/Baggers: Friday, Nov. 6th, 9 am–5:30 pm, Saturday, Nov. 7th, 9am–1pm.

Conversation Cafe Friday 9:30 am –1 pm

Chair: Jenny Bohms 517-481-0256

Enjoy FREE beverages and relaxed conversation with other Bazaar customers and friends in the Church Lounge. For Sale: Cinnamon Rolls, Gluten free muffins, Turkey or Egg Salad Croissants as a cash purchase or your Country Kitchen purchases can be enjoyed here.

Pie Baking

Co-Chairs Mary Kohmuench 973-897-9471 & **Pam Rinckey** 543-2901

Thursday, Nov. 5th, 10am. Workers and donations for pie fruit ingredients needed. Pies are sold at the Luncheon by the slice and large and small size pie during Bazaar.

Bazaar Family DINNER Friday 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Co-Chairs: Amy Krizek 517-652-1579, **Mary Normand** 517-231-6647

Our Bazaar Family dinner is held in the Bess Fulton Room, Dine in or carry out. Dinner includes choice of Entrée (Hot Chicken Salad, Vegetable Quiche or specialty Beef & Noodles), beverage, and two sides. Add a slice of one of our signature homemade pies!

Meat Prep: Wednesday, Nov. 4th, at 1:00 pm. Workers will help chop cooked

beef & chicken.

Veggie Prep: Thursday, Nov. 5th, starting at 9 am. Workers needed to peel apples, celery.

Servers: Friday, Nov. 6th, 3:30 pm.

Dining Room

Chair: *Bill Oatman* 517-543-5178

Set up is Thursday, Nov. 5th. Help is needed Friday Nov. 6th, 4 pm– 6 pm to keep our guests served during the dinner. If you can pour coffee, greet friends, serve meals, contact Bill.

Pie Cutting and Carry-out pre-packing: Friday, Nov 6, 3 pm.

Dishwashing Brigade

Co Chairs: *Bren Wood* 973-879-1028 & *Anna Mitchel* 517-652-9957

Thursday, Nov. 5th, 11am– 4pm prep & pie crew; Friday, Nov. 6th, 4–8 pm. Earth-friendly china plates are being used and we need dishwashers and pot scrubbers.

Publicity

Co-Chairs: *Dyna Lehman* 517-543-1292 & *Amy Krizek* 517-652-1579

Help with the distribution of publicity information and menus to local businesses and organizations. Starting the week of October 18.

Questions? Call Amy Krizek 517-652-1579 or **Mary Normand** 517-231-6647

There are LOTS of opportunities to get involved! Here is a list of the different parts of the Bazaar that all come together for a fun-fellowship-filled two days.



When We Come Together...

Sunday Worship, 10 am in person, on Facebook @ucc48813, and online at ucccharlotte.org

The Evening Liturgy, our contemporary worship service, 6 pm in person and online

Learning Opportunities	Meeting Times	Contact Person
Words and Tangents	Sun, 8 am, Annex/Library	Jan Shall, JanShall00@gmail.com
Godly Play	Sundays, 10:20 am	Lexi Konietzko, akonietzko129@gmail.com
Devotional Bible Study	Mondays, 10 am and 4 pm	Pastor Adam, pastor@uccCharlotte.org
Prayer Group	1st /3rd Thurs, 10:30 am	Sandra Field, yourstrulycollection@hotmail.com
Pub Theology	2nd/4th Thurs, Acapulco	Pastor Adam, pastor@uccCharlotte.org
Adult Bible Study	Tuesdays, 6:30 pm, Annex LMR	Curt Scott, CurtisJScott@hotmail.com
Coffee Hour with a Pastor	Evelyn Bay, Tuesday, 10 am	Pastor Adam, pastor@uccCharlotte.org

Music

Bell Choir Rehearsal	Resumes 10/14, 4 pm, Sanctuary	Jenny Bohms, rijbohms@yahoo.com
Choir Rehearsal	Wednesdays, 7 pm, Lounge	Ramona Kime, Ramona.Kime@gmail.com

Committees & Groups

Art Ministry	2nd, 4th Tues, 11 am, Art Rm	Sandra Field, yourstrulycollection@hotmail.com
Blanche Moyer	2nd Monday, 5:15 pm, LMR	Judi Cates, JudithCates68@gmail.com
Church Life	1st Monday 6:30, Annex SMR	Amy Frost, FrostAmy58@gmail.com
Communications	3rd Monday, 6:30 pm, SMR	Matt Slot, MattSlot@gmail.com
Prayer Shawl	1st & 3rd Sat, 9 am, Lounge	Diane Hudson, DianeHudson@sbcglobal.net
Social & Environmental Justice	2nd Sun, 11:30 am, LMR	Mary Kohmuench, mtheoharis@gmail.com
Women's Fellowship	As Needed	Mary Normand, DavidNormand@att.net
Men's Group	2nd & 4th Sat, 10 am, SMR	Larry Taylor, TaylorLT1752@att.net



Office Hours

Monday to Thursday 10a - 2p
517 543 1310

Sunday Worship Service 10 am
In Person, Facebook, YouTube

Still Speaking

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

106 South Bostwick - Charlotte, MI 48813

office@uccCharlotte.org www.ucccharlotte.org



Find us on
Facebook &



Calendar Highlights

- Oct 4** Banned Book Read-In, 11:30 am, East Lawn
- Oct 5** Church Life, 6:30 pm, Annex Small Meeting Room
- Oct 6** Bible Study for Adults, 6:30 pm, Annex Large Meeting Room
- Oct 7** Care Community, 10 am, Annex Library
- Oct 8** Crafting for Bazaar, 10 am, Annex Large Meeting Room
- Oct 8** Pub Theology, 7 pm, Acapulco Mexican Grill
- Oct 10** Men's Group, 10 am, Annex Small Meeting Room
- Oct 11** Social & Environmental Justice Team, 11:30 am, Annex LMR
- Oct 11** The Evening Liturgy, 6 pm, Sanctuary
- Oct 12** Blanche Moyer Circle, 5:15 pm, Bess Fulton Room
- Oct 13** Art Team, 11 am, Art Room
- Oct 13** Bible Study for Adults, 6:30 pm, Annex Large Meeting Room
- Oct 14** Buildings and Grounds, 6 pm, Annex Large Meeting Room
- Oct 15** **Newsletter Submissions Deadline**
- Oct 15** Crafting for Bazaar, 10 am, Annex Large Meeting Room
- Oct 15** Prayer Group, 10:30 am, Small Prayer Room
- Oct 15** Council Meeting, 6:30 pm, Annex Large Meeting Room
- Oct 17** Prayer Shawl Group, 9 am, Lounge
- Oct 17** Cozy Congregational Creators, 10 am, Art Room
- Oct 18** Outreach Team, 11:30 am, Annex Library
- Oct 19** Communications, 6:30 pm, Annex Small Meeting Room
- Oct 20** Bible Study for Adults, 6:30 pm, Annex Large Meeting Room
- Oct 22** Crafting for Bazaar, 10 am, Annex Large Meeting Room
- Oct 22** Safe Church, 4:30 pm, Annex Large Meeting Room
- Oct 22** Pub Theology, 7 pm, Acapulco Mexican Grill
- Oct 24** Men's Group, 10 am, Annex Small Meeting Room
- Oct 25** Worship Team, 11:30 am, Annex Small Meeting Room
- Oct 25** The Evening Liturgy, 6 pm, Sanctuary
- Oct 27** Art Team, 11 am, Art Room
- Oct 27** Bible Study for Adults, 6:30 pm, Annex Large Meeting Room
- Oct 29** Crafting for Bazaar, 10 am, Annex Large Meeting Room

A full calendar of events can be found at www.uccCharlotte.org/calendar