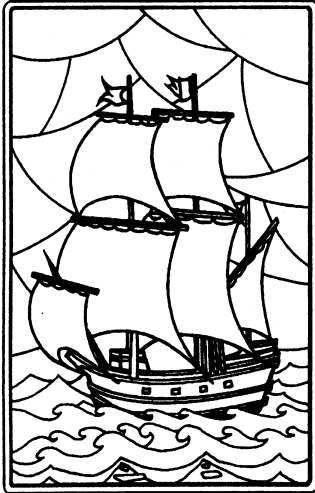


# THE PILGRIM VISITOR

First Congregational Church of Royal Oak  
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**MAY**

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|---------------|--|
| <b>May 1</b>  | <b>Holy Hilarity Sunday-Potluck after the worship service</b>  |
| <b>May 8</b>  | <b>Music Sunday</b>  |
| <b>May 15</b> | <b>Boy Scouts serving Pancake Breakfast after the worship service</b><br><b>Southeast Michigan Association Annual Meeting in Novi at Meadowbrook</b> |
| <b>May 22</b> | <b>Covenant Class Received</b>   |



**Senior  
Minister's  
Minute by  
John  
Miller**

Holy Week is upon us.

For me it is not a Holy Week because it is any more sacred than any other days, but rather because of the story we share during this time.

This is the core of our story.

I love Advent and its reflection.  
I love Christmas and the images and traditions.  
I love New Year and Epiphany and anticipation.  
I love Lent and poignant confession.

Pentecost speaks to us of power and hope.  
'Ordinary Time' helps us fill in the blanks through the lens of the early church.

But Easter is the connection.

Easter links all those together, and Easter provides the contexts for our understandings of it all.

I am an Easter person.

So this Holy Week guides us to the Easter story along the tough path that Jesus sought for us.

Palm Sunday tweaks our temptation to see Jesus as mere friend, benevolent ruler, enthusiastic life-coach or familiar celebrity. We can watch the crowds cheer while seeing the humble figure who loves us with clear eyes.

We know. We know that this path will take him into the temple, into the upper room, into a series of trials, into a torture chamber and up to Golgotha.

We know. We know that he will be carried down from Golgotha and entombed. We know the darkness and the quiet of the night.

We know that some will hide, and that others will cautiously journey out, perhaps through duty, perhaps through anxious curiosity.

We walk along the whole path of this Holy Week because it is the foundation of our Way, this Congregational Way we walk together.

We walk along this whole path as our quest for understanding calls us forward.

We walk with eyes and ears wide open to soak it all in, mindful of the meditations of our hearts and how we respond.

Will we simply cheer with the crowds?

Will we embrace or reject our discomfort as first Judas, then Peter, then all the disciples fall away?

Will we watch the pain of Good Friday?

Will we go to the tomb to see?

Will we be Easter people?

Our Annual Meeting will come in the midst of this year's Holy Week. Will the Easter story guide our shared reflections and plans?

Maundy Thursday will bring us in to break bread, wash feet, sing a hymn and go out into the garden. Will we stay awake to see it all?

Good Friday our community will gather here and let Matthew tell us the story of that dark day. Terry Jones will attempt to sabotage that day by demonstrating in Dearborn at a mosque. Will we keep our eyes on the cross and the Christ or be lulled away by a sensationalist? (I have found [www.detroitinterfaithcouncil.com](http://www.detroitinterfaithcouncil.com) and [www.readthespirit.com](http://www.readthespirit.com) helpful to me in thinking about this)

As the weekend unfolds, will we risk engaging this Good News again? Will we run from the empty tomb to share what we have seen and know?

Will we be Easter people?



**Impressions  
from ...  
The Director of  
Family Ministries**

Songs from the past often come to mind when I am planning activities for Sunday school. Some of those musical memories, such as "Let There Be Peace on Earth," are part of worship at FCC. Others become part of our chapel time upstairs. Hopefully, the lyrics and tunes will be positive reminders of their Christian education for our students later in life.

Students in grades 1-8 will be learning the story of "Jesus Visits Zacchaeus" in May. The lyrics of the song many people remember emphasize how short Zacchaeus was instead of helping us understand how his life was changed by meeting Jesus. (We won't be using that song as part of our rotation!) Yes, he was the guy who climbed the tree in order to see who Jesus was, but it is also likely that he was hoping the tree would hide him from the crowd and from Jesus. Because he was a tax collector who probably got rich by demanding inflated amounts of money and keeping the surplus for himself, he was despised by many people.

As most of us know, hiding from God is really not an option. Jesus not only saw the "bad" man in the tree, he called out to him and shocked everyone by telling Zacchaeus he was planning to go to his house that very day. That remarkable public gesture of acceptance led the tax collector to declare that he would give half of his possessions to the poor and repay people he had cheated. Meeting Jesus completely changed the way Zacchaeus treated other people.

This story tells us that people who have made huge mistakes need acceptance and can make a new start! As the key verse (Luke 19:10) says, "The Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost." No matter what errors are in our past, we can change our lives when we follow the teachings of Jesus. We can become the people God wants us to be!

*Dianne Kruzman*



**From the Director  
of Pastoral Care  
Ministries**

**MAY BIRTHDAYS (80+)...**

- 3—Sara McNaughton
- 4—Muriel Newman
- 5—Arden White
- 13—Alice Mae Cawker
- 16—Leonard Mapes
- 18—Josephine Warner
- 25—Nancy Stratton
- 26—Prudence ("Pat") Woodward

**ON THE MEND...**

Megan Grimm and Joanne Sibille  
Jayne Mann is in rehab at Woodward Hills

**AT WIT'S END...**

"There will be no nursing home in my future. When I get old, I am going to get on a Princess cruise ship. The average cost for a nursing home is \$200 a day. I have checked on reservations at Princess and I can get a long term discount and senior discount price of \$135 per day. Not only is that a \$65 a day savings, I can have as many as 10 meals a day and even room service, which means breakfast in bed every day. There are 3 swimming pools, a workout room, free washers and dryers and shows every night. Toothpaste, razors, soap and shampoo are free. I will be treated like a customer, not a patient and will get to meet new people every 7 to 14 days. If the TV is broken, a light bulb needs changing or a mattress replaced, they will fix everything and apologize for the inconvenience. And all the above doesn't compare to the fact that I'll be traveling to exotic places like Tahiti, Australia, Asia, and South America! So, don't look for me in a nursing home, just call shore to ship." (author unknown)

*Barb Deiss*

### Women's Circles

Since 1909 we have a long and rich history at FCC of organized groups of women under the broad title of Women's Fellowship. Many circles are named after women in the Bible, including retired circles of the past: Queen Esther, Rachel, Abigail, Naomi, Ruth and Dorcas. Current circles include Harmony, Rebekah, Miriam, and Lydia. Women are welcome to join any circle, but generally circles are clustered around ages and the accompanying stages of life.

The April 5, 2011 Women's Fellowship Board Meeting was the scene of two significant events in the history of Women's Fellowship. The Mary Martha Circle, in existence for over 65 years, announced that they would be disbanding. The deaths of many members and the fragile health of many of the few that remained had made it difficult for them to meet and do the church work that they were so used to doing. As a final act of generosity, they distributed their treasury of \$1700.00 earned through labors of love at church, to eight different groups and organizations. Our deepest thanks goes to this group of marvelous women, past and present, for all they have done for our church. The current active retiring Mary Martha's are Lee Ahrens (chairwoman), Norma Briggs, Grace Chase, Phyllis DeWitt, Norma Gormly, Florence Huebner, Helen (Hunt) Skrentner, Corrine Sundell and Dorothy Willson.

The second significant event was the announcement of the "birth" of a new circle-Elisabeth. This group was started by a group of seven young women who have seen the value of a circle modeled by their mothers and grandmothers. We welcome them!

The events of April 5 remind us of a familiar Biblical passage in the third chapter of Ecclesiastes: For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;...a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together. Too, the events of April 5 bring to mind the words

of a cherished hymn: "Forward through the ages in unbroken line, move the faithful spirits at the call divine; gifts in differing measure, hearts of one accord, manifold the service, one the sure reward; forward through the ages, in unbroken line, move the faithful spirits at the call divine." The women of First Congregational Church have, and will continue, to collectively epitomize the name of another retired circle-Pilgrim Daughters.

-Kathy Howell

### KIVA Update

Another loan has been repaid since last month, and the \$100 has been re-lent to a business woman in Senegal. Here is her profile:



A loan of \$775 helps Fatou B. Biteye to purchase thioub fabrics and aliments to sell breakfast. FATOU B. BITEYE is a 46 year-old woman. She is married and a mother of four children. She is a member of the village branch of SINTH MALEME DENTAL group since June 17, 2009. She has benefited from three previous loans and has always repaid them punctually.

She has a small business of thioub fabrics. She also sells breakfast.

With her new credit, she is going to buy "thioub" fabrics to retail, and purchase a supply of milk, butter, eggs, etc. to sell breakfast.

Her objective is to strengthen her activity and to increase her benefits to provide for her personal needs and take part in the support of her family.

-Board of Christian Outreach

## PARISH REGISTER

### Baptisms

Lucy Beth Wulff, daughter of Jason & Kristen (Grimm) Wulff-March 20, 2011

Marnie Katherine Perreca, daughter of Brandon & Stacey (Reik) Perreca-March 27, 2011

### Death

William (Mac) MacNamara-April 4, 2011

### Theater Organ Concert

Melissa Ambrose-Eidson is doing a theater organ concert at the Flint institute of Music on May 21st at 7 pm. The location is MacArthur Recital Hall 1025 E. Kearsley, in Flint. Special guests include Luis Resto, Phil Chen and Tatum Eidson. For more information call 810-653-4976.



The Southeastern Michigan Association's Annual Meeting is May 15 at Meadowbrook Church in Novi. Please register to attend by May 9th so that they can plan for enough meals. Registration forms are in our church office or you can register by phone 248-348-7757 or email: nryder@mbccc.org.



With Spring right around the corner, it is time to revisit your FCC Library. There have been 147 new books added:

"The Right Words at the Right Time" -Marlo Thomas  
 "A New Earth Awakening to Your Life's Purpose" - Tolle Eckhart  
 "Hidden Places" and "Fire by Night"- Lynn Austin  
 "The Children's Illustrated Bible"- Selina Hasting  
 "Ryan and Jimmy" -Herb Shoveller  
 "The Diary of a Wimpy Kid" -Jeff Kinney  
 "The Meanest Doll in the World" -Ann Martin  
 "The Ugly Duckling" -Hans C Anderson  
 "Madeline's Rescue"-Ludwig Bemeimans  
 "The Shadow of Your Smile" -Mary Higgins Clark  
 "The Miracle at Speedy Motors" -Alexander McCall Smith

The Library has several over due books. In doing your spring cleaning would you look for the following Children's Books:

"Moving Day" J. Carruther  
 "Click, Clack, Moo" D. Cronin  
 "Lucy's Picture" N. Moon  
 "A Fish Out of Water" H.Palmer  
 "The Napping House" A. Wood  
 "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" M. Twain

The Library is also accepting gently used hard back books, both for children and adults.

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