



1st Congregational UCC

Opening the Doors of Possibility

An Open & Affirming Church



Sunday, August 31, 2025

(July/August Reaching Out Focus: Immigration, Migration & the Displaced)



"None of the believers claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but instead they shared everything they had...so there were no needy persons among them."

~ Acts 4:32-34

Welcome to our church family!

Gathering Music - *Featuring Ralph Herndon*

Tolling of the Bell - our reminder to quiet ourselves inside *and* out for worship

Welcome

Opening Hymn - #512 “We Shall Overcome”

1st Scripture Readings - Isaiah 2:1-4 & 8:18-22, *offered by Ellen Zeinert*

Music for Reflection

2nd Scripture Reading - Acts 4:32-35, *offered by Ellen Zeinert*

Morning Message - “The Problem with an Overly Personal Jesus”
(Christianity as a Collective Endeavor)
Offered by Toby Jones

Message Hymn - #603 “In Christ There is No East or West”

Offering

Offering Music - *Offered by Ralph Herndon*

Doxology

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Her above ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost, Amen*

A Prayer of Sending - *Offered Bill Wadland*
“An Irish Blessing,” *offered by The Choir*

Closing Hymn - #581 “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” (v. 1-3)

Benediction

Choral Postlude - Umoja Tunaimba (United We Sing),” *by Victor C. Johnson*

Guest Musician: Ralph Herndon



Ralph Herndon is regarded as a premiere Gospel Music talent. As a pianist, vocalist, composer, and arranger, Mr. Herndon has performed with such gospel greats as the late Rev. Dr. James Cleveland, Tramaine Hawkins, Walter Hawkins, and Dorothy Norwood. He has also worked with several pop artists such as Patti LaBelle, Joan Baez, Billy Preston, and Richard Penniman, who is more commonly known as “Little Richard.”

As the founder of The Ralph Herndon Singers and vocalist-accompanist for the BL&S Singers, his concert tours have taken him extensively throughout Europe. His performances have included multiple cities in France, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Spain, Belgium, and Denmark. Nicknamed “The Maestro” by his colleagues, Ralph Herndon has maintained long term relationships with several churches in the metropolitan D.C. area. Mr. Herndon is a member of the Washington Performing

Arts Society, Performing Artists Under the Lord (PAUL), and performs on request with The Choral Arts Society of Washington, D.C.

Help us welcome Ralph back to our Church!



Join Us!!!

Learn about the highly successful Northwest Michigan Habitat for Humanity firsthand.

In the near future we may have a Habitat development in Charlevoix, and we can help!


We will be touring the Meadowlands Development in Alanson on Thursday, September 18.

For the tour, meet at church @ 8:00 am to carpool or drive yourself to the “Meadowlands” development in Alanson.

You can depart after the tour at 12:00 pm or stay for a Work Bee (please bring your own brown bag lunch and drink).

For those that stay for lunch and Work Bee, we will do inside cleanup or outdoor landscaping (no heavy lifting will be done), depending on what the weather is like. We will depart by 3:00 pm.

There will be a representative of NW MI Habitat for Humanity in Ransom Hall during Coffee Hour to sign people up to attend. All sign-ups end September 14th. Please contact the Office at (231) 547-9122 for more information, and Stacey can sign you up before the 14th as well!

Sunday 8/31	Mon 9/1	Tues 9/2	Wed 9/3	Thurs 9/4	Fri 9/5	Sat 9/6	Sunday 9/7
<p>10:30a In-Person & Live-Streamed Worship</p> <p>11:30a Coffee Hour Hosted by Ron & Linda Moore</p>	<p>NO Personal Pantry</p> 	<p>10a Scripture Discussion Group</p> <p>11a-1p CMA Hours By Appt Only</p>	<p>6p Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>9a Reaching In Mtg</p> <p>11a-2p CMA Hours By Appt Only</p> <p>5:15p Centering Prayer</p> <p>6:30a Choir Rehearsal</p>			<p><i>Guest Pastor: Rev. Sid Hall</i></p> <p>10:30a In-Person & Live-Streamed Worship</p> <p>11:30a Coffee Hour Hosted by Dave & Darlene Heine</p>

Flowers in Honor of The Moore’s 60th Anniversary

**Prayer Requests/
Celebrations:** To submit a
Prayer Request
please visit our website at
chxuuc.org or call the office
at 231-547-9122

Please be sure to get
permission from the person
needing prayers.

Please pray for Toby as he begins his sabbatical journey, focusing on his physical health as he travels. Also pray for Eloise as she begins her senior year without her dad around.

Please continue to pray for Bill Mosher and family after the loss of his son in a fire.

Please continue to pray for Kathy Krueger in hospice care.



Hosted by:
Ron & Linda Moore

An Open & Affirming Church

*Toby Jones, Pastor * Shelley Fisher, Music Minister
Stacey Luoma, Office Manager * Larry Minch, Custodian
Lynette Webb, Childcare Supervisor*

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