



The Open Door



1st Congregational UCC

Opening the Doors of Possibility

An Open & Affirming Church



June
2025

FROM THE PASTOR...

As we wrap up our 8-week series on Jesus's parables, I find myself overwhelmed with gratitude for what a gentle and wise teacher our Rabbi Jesus is. The parable - as a teaching method - lines up perfectly with Jesus's compassionate, creative, and patient demeanor. He never forced himself or his message on anyone. He didn't even engage in persuasion nor any other form of salesmanship. He believed in and totally trusted in the inherent power of the seeds God provided for him to sow. As the parables themselves emphasize, some of those seeds will take root and some won't. Some will spring forth from the ground readily, while others may take months or even years. But Jesus wasn't bothered by any this. When you trust that much, you've got all the time in the world to be patient, to wait upon the Lord, and to let nature take its course.

in the Father's seeds and His providence I think that we in the church, particularly when it comes to our kids and grandkids, are constantly freaking out because they don't seem to be 'getting it' where Jesus and Christian faith are concerned. They won't come to church with us and certainly aren't interested in finding a faith community of their own. They don't seem to want to engage with us in conversations about the Bible or the latest Toby's Take podcast. We become edgy. We push a little harder. We resort to new forms of persuasion or manipulation.

But what we don't do is trust. What we don't do is what Jesus did time and time again, which was to simply plant one seed and then leave the rest to God. We don't believe that God has got this where our kids are concerned. We don't exude that Christ-like patience, that unconditional love and support that isn't tied to whether they get on board with our religious program.

Dallas Willard called Jesus "one of the most absolutely relaxed people who ever lived on this earth." (The Scandal of the Kingdom, p. 67) That chill vibe Jesus had was a direct result of the profound confidence Jesus had in the seed of the Word that his Father had provided. Jesus didn't have to see results to know that the seed was doing what seeds do - underground, invisibly, and over time.

(Cont'd on next page)



From the Pastor (cont'd)

Do you remember that story of the Rich Young Ruler in Luke 18? That young prince asked, “What must I do to enter the kingdom of God?” After Jesus answered his question, that man walked away from Jesus. He didn’t follow Jesus, didn’t join the movement, and didn’t seem to want to change how he was living. We have to notice that Jesus didn’t try to convince him otherwise. Jesus didn’t run after him, saying, “Hey, wait a minute...let’s talk about this a little further.” Jesus just let the man walk away. He knew he had planted a seed, and he knew that it was the Father’s business – not his – to help that seed take root, germinate, and start growing. Jesus also knew that this process would happen in God’s time, not in His. Luke didn’t give us the end of the rich man’s story. But I have a strong hunch that he came back around in God’s time. And so, our Rabbi Jesus was relaxed, filled with peace. Oh, that we might learn to go and do likewise. Amen.

Got Any Questions? Next Q&A Sunday is June 22!

Toby is gearing up for the next Q&A Worship on June 22. Do you have any theological or biblical questions that you've always wondered about? Email them to Toby at toby@chxuucc.org by June 5 if possible, and he'll do his best to include them on that Sunday!

Some Exciting News!



The Haz-Binz are Back and Better than Ever!

Toby’s classic rock band – The Haz-Binz – has expanded. Formerly a trio, this amazing collection of trained musicians is now a 5-piece outfit, with the addition of Owen James, lead guitarist extraordinaire, and Andy Ellison, a Berklee School of Music trained drummer. Three of the five members trained at Berklee school of music – Andy, Owen, and long-time keyboardist Ken Hall.

The expansion of the band’s personnel has brought with it a massive broadening of the band’s playlist. Tunes like “Draggin’ the Line” by Tommy James and the Shondells, “Green Onions” by Booker T. and the MG’s, and “Hold Your Head Up” by Argent would have been unthinkable just a year ago. Much to Toby’s delight – and relief – both Owen and Andy also sing, meaning that he doesn’t have go it alone on the vocals. And, of course, Eloise Jones will join us at our summer gigs, singing Fleetwood Mac, Carole King, and The Cranberries.

The new configuration Haz-Binz has an upcoming gig at **Pond Hill Farm**, just north of Harbor Springs on M-119, on **Friday, June 20 from 5-8 pm**. Pond Hill is a beautiful farm that brews beer and has its own vintner as well. It is a super family-friendly place, so bring your kids and grandkids. There are animals to pet, chickens to feed, and farm-to-table meal options, along with their famous wood-fired pizzas.

The band will also be performing at Bay View’s 150-year celebration gala on **Sunday, July 6** in the late afternoon/early evening right **on the campus of Bay View**. (The exact time is to be determined.) This will be a ticketed event, while the Pond Hill gig is free.

Hope you’ll come out to support Toby in his primary avocation. Spread the word. It’s going to be an amazing summer of music!

From the Reaching In Team...

"A New View: The Blessing of Changing your Vantage Point"

Happy Spring from your Reaching In team. It is wonderful to see all the Snowbirds back in worship as well as all our new participants! It's as if our church is experiencing a Spring like awakening. What a gift!!

With all this new life going on around us, Reaching In is asking you to think about your Sunday morning worship rituals. Do you sit with the same people every Sunday? Do you sit in the same pew? Have you noticed that everyone does the very same thing? How about we change that up?

For many of us, the seat we choose on Sunday morning feels like home. It's comfortable... familiar. We know the people around us. We know what to expect. But what happens when we step out of that comfort zone—even just a few rows forward, backward, or across the sanctuary?



Something powerful can happen when we sit in a new place with new people. We begin to see the sanctuary—and the congregation—with fresh eyes. That family we've only seen from afar suddenly becomes a group of individuals with names, stories, and faith journeys of their own. That quiet corner of the room we've never paid attention to may be filled with vibrant participants whose prayers and praises can inspire us in unexpected ways.

The church is a body, made up of many parts (1 Corinthians 12:12–27.) Each person brings something unique, and sitting in a new seat can be a simple but profound way to experience the beauty of the whole body of Christ. It reminds us that the Church is not about personal routine or preference—but about community, connection, and growing in love.

So, next Sunday, consider trying something new: sit somewhere different. Greet someone you've never greeted. Worship with a different view. You may be surprised how God meets you there—in a new seat, with new people, and with new perspective.

After all, sometimes a small change in where we sit can lead to a big change in how we see.

Happy June Birthday

to these fellow participants

Charles Gaputis 6/1 * Sylvia Burns 6/5 * Ron Moore 6/6

John Dixon 6/6 * Murphy Watts 6/8 * Colin Morris 6/8

Kathie Libert 6/10 * Wanda Stopher 6/12 * Meg Kitson 6/12

Marty Merz 6/17 * Jack MacKenzie 6/22 * Dave Robinson 6/22

Liz Mielke 6/25 * Pat Chamberlain 6/26

Best wishes for a Sunny Year ahead!

JUNE

MEETING TIMES:

Reaching In Team,
6/5 @ 9a, Ransom Hall

Reaching Out Team,
6/11 @ 9a

Church Council,
No Meeting In June

Board of Trustees,
6/22 @ 11:45a

Reaching In Team meets on
the 1st Tuesday at 4:30p

Reaching Out Team meets on
the 2nd Wednesday at 9a

Church Council meets on
the 3rd Sunday at 11:45a

Board of Trustees meet on
the 4th Sunday at 11:45a

THOUGHT FOR THIS MONTH

**“Fathering is not
something perfect
men do, but
something that
perfects the man.”**

FRANK PITTMAN



Just a Reminder...



**Toby will be out of the
Office on June 6-17.**

**Stacey will be out of the
office a 1/2 day on June
4th, and all of June 5th
& 10th. Lynette Webb
will be covering the of-
fice for her while she is
on vacation.**

From the Reaching Out Team...



Northwest Michigan
Habitat
for Humanity®

On **Thursday, June 12th**, the Reaching Out Team will be touring the Meadowlands, near Alanson. This is a property development that is a Northwest Michigan Habitat for Humanity project. You are welcome to sign up and join us on that day. We will carpool and leave the church at 8a, and return to the church by 3p.

We will also participate in a “Work Bee” at a new house. Depending on the weather, we will either be inside cleaning up after construction or outside doing landscaping around the new house. There will be no heavy lifting. You should wear work clothes, bring a bag lunch, and plenty of water. We will be there about 4 hours and we will carpool.

We will see first-hand the work Habitat does. Northwest Michigan Habitat for Humanity will be doing a development closer to Charlevoix, hopefully soon.

Join us in doing some good work! You can call the church office at (231) 547-9122 to sign-up.

Next Issue!

Things to keep an eye out for coming in July...

- ***Updates from our Teams***
- ***Muffin Sale information***



JUNE VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS

June 1 **OPEN**
June 8 ... **OPEN**
June 15 ... **The Herberts**
June 22 ... **OPEN**
June 29 ... **OPEN**

COFFEE & CONVERSATION HOSTS

June 1 **Bud & Teri Stout**
June 8 ... **Joppa House**
June 15 ... **Ellen Zeinert**
June 22 ... **The Herberts**
June 29 ... **The Beynons & Grandsons**

LAY READERS

June 1 **Suzanne Balter**
June 8 ... **Alice Pletz-Miller**
June 15 ... **Denise Fate**
June 22 ... **OPEN**
June 29 ... **OPEN**

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!

Please contact the office or sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby if you would like to volunteer for any of the openings above.

CMA INFORMATION:

**CMA Hours:
Tues. & Thurs, 11a-2p
Appointments are**

Save the Date...

Sunday, August 10 – Come Sow Seeds of Hope!

On Sunday, August 10, during and after worship, we'll be attempting to raise our entire budget for 2026 at our ***Seeds of Hope*** gathering. In worship that day, we'll be dedicating our pledges for the 2026 ministry year of our church with the purple doors. Right after worship, our potluck picnic will begin, featuring amazing food and live music from The Haz-Binz.

Between now and the big day, you'll be hearing from the various ministry teams about the seeds of hope they plan to sow in 2026 and how you can help them succeed. But for now, just ink-in this important all-church event on your calendar and start praying for God's direction and blessing, as we endeavor to sow seeds of hope throughout and beyond our community in the year to come.



Outdoor Summer Service Info...



Outdoor services will begin Fathers' Day - June 15 - and will continue every Sunday through Labor Day weekend - except when it's raining. It is crucial for the congregation to know the following:

We meet outdoors every Sunday because the Tech team that runs all the sound and streaming for the services has a much easier time staying in one location. It is very difficult to move all the required equipment back and forth from Sunday to Sunday. However, they will have to move it indoors on the Sundays when it rains, of course.

For those who are concerned that meeting outdoors may be uncomfortable for you, please remember the following:

- This summer we will have a much larger tent/sail covering the vast majority of the lawn, so no one will need to be exposed to the sun unless they want to be.
- We have a completely covered and raised porch that is fully handicapped accessible by means of our elevator and entrance through Ransom Hall.
- That raised porch always has our most comfortable, stuffed living room chairs on it, so no one has to navigate uneven ground nor sit in fold up chairs unless they want to.

All our summer services will be streamed as usual, so you need not miss anything if you are unable to make it in person.

Please be sure to give a huge thanks to our Sound Tech Team of Bill Trubilowicz, John & Ellen Hess, Meg Kitson, and Don Smith who go way beyond the call of duty to make it possible for us to meet outside so comfortably. A huge thank you to Trip Beynon as well for providing our new and improved sail cover to keep us out of the sun.

We always welcome volunteers to help set up, so please visit the sign-up sheet on the board across from the office to add your name to the list of our other hardworking volunteers.

June 2025*

SUN Jun 1	MON 2	TUE 3	WED 4	THU 5	FRI 6	SAT 7
In-Person & Virtual Worship • 10:30am COMMUNION	Main Church Office Closed • 6pm Products Pantry	• 10am Scripture Discuss • 11am 11a-2p CMA Hours • 4:30pm Reaching In Mt	Stacey Half-Day • 5pm Centering Prayer C • 6:30pm Choir Rehearsa	Stacey Out of Office • 9am Reaching In Team • 11am 11a-2p CMA Hours	Toby Out of Office Church Offices Closed	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Toby Out of Office						
In-Person & Virtual Worship	Main Church Office Closed • 6pm Products Pantry	Stacey Out of Office 2 more	• 9am Reaching Out Mee 2 more	• 8am Habitat for Human • 11am 11a-2p CMA Hours	Church Offices Closed	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Toby Out of Office		• 10am NO Scripture Disc	• 5pm Centering Prayer C	• 11am 11a-2p CMA Hours	Church Offices Closed	
In-Person & Virtual Worship	Main Church Office Closed • 6pm Products Pantry	• 11am 11a-2p CMA Hours	• 6:30pm Choir Rehearsa			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
In-Person & Virtual Worship • 11:45am Trustee Meetin	Main Church Office Closed • 6pm Products Pantry	• 10am Scripture Discuss • 11am 11a-2p CMA Hours	• 5pm Centering Prayer C • 6:30pm Choir Rehearsa	• 11am 11a-2p CMA Hours	Church Offices Closed	
29	30	<p>*for more details, please go to the Calendar page on our website, www.CHXUCC.org</p>				
In-Person & Virtual Worship	Main Church Office Closed • 6pm Products Pantry					

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE,
OR WHERE YOU ARE ON
LIFE'S JOURNEY, ✨
YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!



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Opening the Doors of Possibility

An Open & Affirming Church



Toby Jones, Pastor

Stacey Luoma, Office Manager

Shelley Fisher, Music Minister

Larry Minch, Custodian

Lynette Webb, Childcare Supervisor

101 State Street, Charlevoix, MI 49720

(231) 547-9122 (office)

www.CHXUCC.com

Our Covenant

*"Our church community seeks to embody God's Spirit and live the teachings of Jesus. We offer a sense of belonging to each other and to all our neighbors, as we build a just and sustainable world for **all**."*