

FCC Descriptions of 2019 Committees we use to Serve God

Communications/Publicity: Chair--- _____ **(speak with Sarah Herwick, our office administrator, who is on the committee) 475-1844**

administrator@chelseafcc.com

Each faith community has its own unique role to play in a community. Here at First Congregational we strive to present a face to the community that reflects our unique heritage as the congregation that was leading in shaping the earliest understanding of Chelsea, MI. In the 1800s, the city planning meetings happened here at our church because we were one of the first buildings with indoor plumbing and the very first streetlamp built at our front door!

For that reason, this committee meets monthly to determine what in the life of the church needs to be shared with the wider community. The UCC is a cutting-edge Christian denomination. We push social justice and inclusion as a direct result of how we interpret the message of Jesus. Therefore, we:

---create opportunities in the community to promote our mission. In other words, it's the job of communications and publicity to get people in the door. Be it newspaper advertising, web promotion, event signage, promotional materials and more, the end goal is to let people know we're here and invite them to join us.

---communicate information about events and support weekly correspondence with the congregation. They oversee our social media, website, refrigerator page, welcome board, connection cards, quarterly newsletter, etc. They ensure everything is on-brand and cohesive.

This is a great committee for people who know marketing or sales, who are creative, but also who understand the congregation and willing to meet the needs of future and current members. No one has to possess all of these aspects because diverse feedback is what makes a strong communications and publicity team.

Facilities Management: Chair---Arly Spink 475-6968 arlyspink@aol.com

Our faith community has been here since 1844, and the maintaining of this historic building in our city requires an appreciation of both the architecture and history we honor, as well as the functional needs of why we use this space. In recent years this congregation decided to use funds to renovate a large portion of the building that was becoming non-functional due to age, and we now have two bathrooms upstairs, a play space, and a conference room! This committee handles everything from odd jobs like painting a new office to meeting with the pastors and architects to consider a functional “facelift” to the fellowship and coffee area. Therefore, we:

- meet monthly to look at changes and needs in the building’s integrity to research and plan how to best resolve our needs
- contract local skilled tradespeople for advice and work
- attend to internal signage in building to facilitate good communication
- bring our own tools in to assist with tasks that we have the knowledge to repair and build in-house

Member Caring: chair---Anne Colone 810.599.7921 annecolone@gmail.com

The community of God is constantly in flux: people being born and people dying, moving in and moving away, graduating, being laid off, becoming ill and finding healing and wholeness. In God’s great care for us, we seek to intentionally live with the grace God gives to each of us, to be the very compassion of God in the world for one another.

Pastor LeAnn will do a brief training for the members of this team in February to orient everyone to this caregiving ministry. We will practice active listening skills, healthy boundaries, and navigating confidentiality. This is great fun to share together!

Therefore, we:

- with the direction of Pastors LeAnn and Joe each week, we reach out to congregation members for cooking help when a few meals need to be made

for an ill member, or with the office administrator's knowledge of the congregation we may call to locate someone to assist with a ride to physical therapy after surgery, etc.

--when a death occurs, the remaining spouse or parents or children of the deceased receive regular follow-up from the pastor, as well as receive 4 regular booklets in the mail supporting them in the first year of grief. These books need to be put in an envelope, addressed, and mailed according to the schedule.

--on Sundays, there are people who will need to be informally checked in on. *How did your surgery go? Have you seen your new great-granddaughter yet? How did you feel about that interview last week?* The list of just a few folks each week to check in with will be generated by both LeAnn and Joe weekly, and so regular phone or email contact between the clergy and this team will be important.

--this year we will have an attendance-keeping for Sunday mornings kept by the ushers and pastors, using the list of active congregation members. The office administrator will enter the names of those attending each week into our existing computer software. If we don't see someone who attends regularly for more than a few Sundays, the Member Caring Team will contact the family to make sure all is well. If there is illness or stress present, this information will be passed on to the pastors.

Missions: chair---_____ (speak with Pastor Joe about this committee, as we have a lot happening with an upcoming Mission Trip and members organizing there) 475-1844 pastorjoe@chelseafcc.com

It is so pivotal to a church that they have outlets to share God's resources of Love in tangible forms with the wider world. Otherwise, it becomes dead just protecting its own personal interests. Missions may be the very most important aspect of the church, to be honest. We exist to share love. Period. We gather to worship and that includes sacraments, and we educate ourselves all for the sole purpose of getting our small self-interests out of the way in order to do one thing: MISSIONS.

--check out on-line resources of different mission opportunities in the local community as well as the global community, using resources like those on the UCC webpage.

--make suggestions to the council and congregation for different opportunities to share God's resources with the wider world

--challenge the congregation to think differently about service by creating both small and large ways to participate regularly

Mission trips...

This committee will be created *ad hoc* whenever we have a trip that needs to be planned and coordinated. We currently have a down payment for 15 of us to travel to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota for a week to learn and serve beside 35 others who wish to learn from the Oglala Lakota people who live there in the poorest county in the country.

If you are interested in joining Pastor Joe on a road trip leaving August 15, please talk with him right away to reserve your spot with just a small fee. He needs a handful of people who can serve in communicating trip details with others who also wish to attend, helping to obtain and pack the necessary gear for the trip, and people who can help tell about their experience to the congregation upon the group's return.

Stewardship: chair---_____ **(speak with Pastor LeAnn if you would like more information) 475.1844 marginsmatter@chelseafcc.com**

In the book of Genesis, God invites us to be stewards of all that we've been given. This is a great privilege to share what we have in time, money, talent, and prayers with all of creation, and with FCC as a faith community.

Stewardship requires an orientation to the spiritual gift of generosity that is much larger than just dollars. Generosity is an attitude that some of the poorest among us have the most of. Therefore, the stewardship team,

--chooses with Pastor LeAnn a book to read this year on how to think about God's economy differently than the world's economy; meets regularly with her to discuss and learn together. Exciting stuff!

--decides which ideas from their reading to share with the congregation in the quarterly newsletter and on Sunday mornings of ways to think about their regular support of our planet and our congregation

--implements program for the pledge campaign in the fall; a weekly moment on 4 Sunday mornings helps to educate the congregation to what their dollars support, why their prayers are needed, and how much we have already done this year because of their commitment and participation

Worship: chair—Julie Nelson 517.522.4639 julinels@umich.edu

Each week we gather to focus our minds and hearts on the Holy One. This gives us the encouragement we need to walk through difficult stretches in our lives, the challenge we need to keep growing beyond our comfort zones, and the perspective we need to learn to love more deeply. We need the patient, hard work of navigating relationships in community to see the fullness of God expressed more completely in our lives. There are many aspects to making our worship services function smoothly so they can be life-giving. Therefore, we:

--work with Joseph Kemper, another member of this team, to discuss music ideas for the choir and congregation at the 9:30am service

--organize the signup for coffee hour hosting, flowers on the altar, ushers and communion assistance

--hang the colored cloths (paraments) in the worship space according to the liturgical year, along with the large cloth banner in the front

--help decorate the church for Christmas and Easter

--assist with weddings and funerals, as available and interested

--work with Pastor Joe, another member of this team, to discuss ideas for skits, new prayers or congregational themes, preaching ideas, etc.

Dear people of God,

May you view this description of our committees as a love letter to you. You are Christ's body in the world; God knows no age or cognitive limitation when it comes to seeing us as servants of Love. We invite you to prayerfully consider where you are being nudged to say YES to God in a new way this day, be it tiny or tremendous in your mind. To God, it will be enough if it is given with even a portion of love.

We are so glad to have you in our midst!

With love,

Your pastors and church council