

Understanding the Kingdom

Matthew 13:1-23



FROM THE DEACONS

Thank You to the congregation for the gifts received Aug 21-Sep 10:

Received for general ministries:	\$ 7,881.76
Received for Christian Education:	\$ 616.94
Community Offering: Harbor House	\$ 20.51
Starlight Ministries	\$ 27.51

Community Offerings

TODAY: Access

The mission of Access is to connect the faith-based community to issues of justice and stewardship within their benevolence outreach by providing casework services at no cost. The shared goal is that a relationship can be built between congregations and their neighbors.

Sep 24: Mission India

Oct 1: Rehoboth Chr. Schools

Oct 8: Love Your Neighbor

THIS WEEK

Monday, Sep 18

Tuesday, Sep 19

9:15am Small Group
12pm Faith Practices Group
(Room 9,10)
6pm Life Skills

Wednesday, Sep 20

7pm Worship Team Practice

Thursday, Sep 21

Friday, Sep 22

Saturday, Sep 23

Sunday, Sep 24

9:30am Worship
10:45am Church School
10:45am Adult Bible Study

COMING UP

Sep 25 Elders
Deacons

Oct 1 Youth Group

Oct 9 Exec

Oct 11 Gathering Event

Oct 15 Youth Group

STAFF

Tom Vanderploeg (Pastor)

Barb Sanders (Care Ministry)

Andrew Lenhart (Worship)

Barb Van Ryn (Youth Ministry)

Laura Williams (Admin Assistant)

Katherine Sneller (Custodian)

September 17, 2023



Welcome!

We are glad you are here!

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME in our service

Also available during worship:

Nursery for infants & toddlers;

"Busy Bags" with kid's bulletin & activities;

Puzzle & sermon notes written by Pastor Tom for students Grades 3 & up
(found by weekly bulletins)

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS & SONGSHEETS are available at the sound booth

TODAY: Kingdom — Jesus describes the kingdom of heaven as something which starts in our world right now and is available to everyone; how do you see the kingdom in your own backyard?

4375 Ivanrest SW, Grandville MI 49418. 616-532-2350

www.fellowshipcrc.com

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Call to Worship

*The Praise Is Yours
This Is Amazing Grace*

Apostles' Creed

Cornerstone

Prayers of the People

Scripture *Matthew 13:1-23*

v. 1-9

The Parable of the Sower

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear."

v. 18-23

¹⁸"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²²The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

Message "Understanding the Kingdom"

Speak O Lord

God's Parting Blessing

CHURCH LIFE

ADULT BIBLE STUDY There is no class today, September 17. Next week, September 24, we will conclude our summer series. On October 1, we will begin a new study on 1 Corinthians. The class is in Room 10, and it will begin around 15 minutes after the end worship and will end 45 minutes later. All are welcome to attend. Questions? Contact **Mike Philo** (LMPHILO@aol.com) or **Dave Cook** (dcook0104@gmail.com).

YOUTH GROUP The Youth Group is competing in Grandville's annual FallFest Scarecrow contest (Sep 30). We will be working on this on Saturday, Sep 23 and would appreciate donations of **plastic bags**, stuffing straw, or hay bales. If you would like to donate, or know where to get them, please contact **Barb Van Ryn** (616.644.8619, bvanryn@fellowshipcrc.com) by Friday, Sep 22. Thank You!

OCTOBER GATHERING EVENT Mark your calendars for Wednesday, October 11, for the first Gathering Event of the year. We will be meeting at church at 10am to tour Guiding Light Mission. We will have the opportunity to learn about the impact that Guiding Light has on the homeless community and we will be served lunch. On the way home there will be an optional stop at Marge's Donuts for dessert for those that are interested.

If you would like to come, sign up on the M&CC bulletin board or email **Diane Ronda** (dianeronda@gmail.com) to reserve a spot.

***Note:** All ages are welcome to attend The Gathering events. This year we are meeting on the 2nd WEDNESDAY of the month.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY Congratulations to **Gary and Pam Meengs** who will celebrate their 51st wedding anniversary on September 21!

Congratulations to **Randy and Cathy Kraker** who will celebrate their 52nd wedding anniversary on September 25!

We give thanks for their lives and marriage. May they continue to know God's faithful presence with them.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Happy Birthday to **Bonnie Houtstra**, who will celebrate her birthday on September 23. We give thanks for her life and may she know God's faithful presence with each new day.

★Keep up to date with all the activity of the Church Renewal Lab at www.fellowshipcrc.com/crl.

PRAYER FOCUS

- Continue to pray for those with ongoing health needs and concerns: Bob Aardema, Rick Aardema, Jayne Barnhill (**Sandy Campo's** sister), Ellie Klifman, (**Sheryl Offringa's** mother), Kim Mulder (family of **Bonnie Houtstra** and **Tamie DeWitte**), **Lois Oom, Jo Postema**, Katherine Sneller, **Rachel Tjoelker**, Barb Voskuil (**Carole Dykstra's** sister), Susan (**Sharon Walcott's** daughter-in-law).
- For **Access** as they build relationships between congregations and their community.
- For the **LOVE Food Pantry** and the families that receive support through this ministry.

TODAY

9:30am Worship

10:45am Church School

4:30pm Youth Group-Middle School

6pm Youth Group-High School

MISSIONS AND COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

FOOD PANTRY The food Pantry are once again accepting donations.

Food items needed are: canned chicken, chunky beef soups, taco shells, salsa, mustard, ketchup, salad dressings, mayonnaise, maple syrup, instant mashed potatoes, hamburger/tuna helper, fruit cups, Nutri-grain bars, crackers, paper towels, facial tissue, laundry soap, dish soap, shampoo, bar soap, and hand soap

Thanks for supporting the Fellowship Food Pantry!

BACKPACK BUDDIES It's a new year for our partnership with Central Elementary School in Grandville. We started with 20 returning children and we have added 15 more for a current total of 35 children.

We are collecting the following food items for weekend food bags: Snacks: granola bars, pretzels, fruit snacks etc; Fruit: applesauce and/or fruit cups; Canned chunky soups, Canned Chicken, Canned pasta, Nutri-grain bars, cash donations can be made through the deacons

Please place your donations in the wooden box in the narthex.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sandy Campo