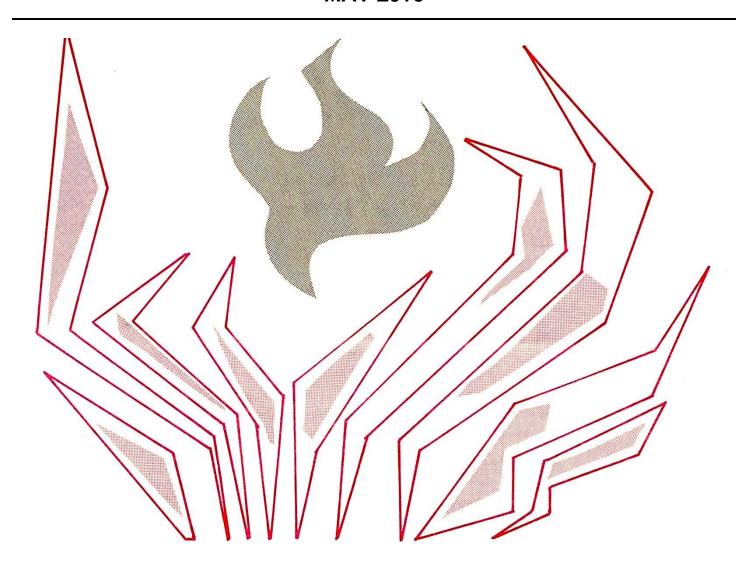


CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church MAY 2016



WHEN THE DAY OF PENTECOST HAD COME,
THEY WERE ALL TOGETHER IN ONE PLACE.

ACTS 2:1

Fuller Life is the newsletter of the Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church

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Barb Straatsma, editor Connie Scheurwater, member in focus articles Freda Rufli, collating, circulation and mailing.

April Council Report

By Barb Straatsma, Clerk

The finance report on our receipts for Fuller Ministries Offering Fund for the month of March is approximately \$26,000, budgeted is approximately \$37,000, so there is a *shortfall of approximately \$11,000*. Year to date – there is *approximately a \$32,000 shortfall*. This shortfall trend has been occurring since the beginning of the year.

Regarding our nomination process for the reconstitution of Council – the Nomination Review Committee met with the members who declined their nomination. The Council approved the list of recommended nominees for the reconstitution of Council. 14 members accepted their call to serve as elder or deacon of this church. Thank you to those members for letting your name stand. On May 1 the congregation will vote by ballot on these names, affirming that you feel these

members have the gifts and qualifications to serve as elder or deacon. On May 8 – the names of all who received a majority vote will be placed in a bag and names will be drawn to serve as elders and deacons. On May 22 – these newly elected office bearers will be installed. Another change in the process this year – if in agreement, a husband and wife are allowed to serve together if both names are drawn from the "draw" basket.

Vocalists (most likely 2) will be used in our worship services to aid in singing participation and to help with new songs.

The Kids Hope USA bowling event was a success. Sunday lunches will be held in the Fellowship Room instead of member homes. Volunteers will be asked to host them. If you wish to volunteer please contact Kate Miller or Marilyn Braman. NOC is looking at ways to promote hunger awareness. They are looking into ways to contact neighbors with news of Fuller. Nate and Susie will submit a grant proposal to FAMAS for a subscription to the social media tool, Causely and for funds to pay for 4 flyer distributions. FAMAS approved a grant for \$600 to pay a Food Safety Supervisor. So far the committee has not received any applications for this positon. Dan and Kate are leaving the committee in June so a new chair is needed.

Dale Rietberg drafted two agreements for the church. The first is a parking space agreement between Fuller and Hall Street Partners, LLC to protect the church against liability. The second agreement is a facility usage agreement between Fuller and Brian DeJong to provide piano lessons to students and occasionally for recitals.

The Technology Committee received 3 bids to replace the projection system. The committee will examine these bids and submit their recommendation to the Administration Committee soon. Donors are paying for this new projection system.

The Council is meeting with candidate, Barbara Bjelland, on April 24. The Faith Formation Search Team recommended her for the position of Director of Faith Formation.

Pastor Nate had a busy March with Easter and pastoral visits. He hosted a guys night out at Dave and Busters. He participated in the hiring process of Barbara Bjelland. He assembled our Next Steps Team. This team will examine helpful processes that other churches have used to discover God's vision for their church and they will recommend a process for our church. He began his 2-year self-evaluation. He concluded his Kingdom of God series.

Pastor Morris made several visits to 4 members of our congregation plus many other visits. He led 2 services at Fuller and 1 at Raybrook.

Church members delivered approximately 70 Buckets of Love to Cadets, Bakers, and homes in the Fuller area. Susie gathered good feedback for the next time. The spring craft night was originally intended as an outreach event but became a fun time for church members to bond. Dance and Devo was extended from 2 week nights to 3 week nights because it was a hit! She will plan more of these in the future. She created and mailed out postcards advertising Relationship Daggers. She is looking into other avenues to advertise events and delivering flyers throughout our neighborhood. Planning for our Tuesday Family Night is in process.

The Council Handbook is in the process of being condensed and revised.

The Administration
Committee met with our
Classis Church Visitor, Doug
McCloud. The purpose of the
Church Visiting team is to
meet every two years with the
leaders of each established
member church to encourage
and support them in their
congregational and missional
health. Classis church
visitation has changed in the
last 3 years. It is a pilot
project with an emphasis on

encouragement. There are 3 steps: 1 – a 10-question online survey given to church leaders, 2 – interviews by the Church Visiting team of our 4 ministry staff, and 3 – report. Doug McCloud will meet with the Council at its May meeting.



In Memory of Jean Masselink 1913-2016

By Connie Scheurwater with the assistance of Sheryl Renken, Jean's daughter

Jean Masselink was born on April 23, 1913, and entered the glory of her Savior in Heaven on March 30, 2016. The Lord granted her an earthly life of 102 years, 11 months, and 7 days. She was the oldest member of Fuller Avenue Church. We thank God for her many years of life and her involvement in the life of the church.

Jean was the daughter of George and Anna Brander, who were members of Oakdale Park Christian Reformed Church, and later

became charter members of Fuller Avenue Church. George was a member of the first Council of the church and served a total of five Council terms. He was a builder, and he helped build the present church building. George remained a member of Fuller Avenue Church for the rest of his life, and was 108 years old when he died in 1990. Jean had three siblings, Raymond, Gertrude, and Marge, all of whom are now deceased. Gertrude was married to Simon Jolman, and was a lifetime member of Fuller Avenue Church.

Jean grew up in Grand Rapids and graduated from Grand Rapids Christian High School. She made profession of faith at Fuller Avenue Church. She loved to play the piano, and enjoyed singing Christian hymns, especially her favorite, Jesus Loves Me. She worked as a manager of Van's Bakery for many years, and during this time met Frank Masselink on a blind date arranged by his aunt. Jean was attracted to his good looks, and romance began to bloom! Frank lived in Minnesota, so their courtship was carried on totally by mail. Since Jean was approaching 30 years of age, and unmarried, she did not want this young man, five years her junior, to get away. Jean was always young looking and full of energy, so the age difference was never a problem.

Jean and Frank were united in marriage on February 14, 1942. They lived in Leota, Minnesota for a number of years. The Lord blessed them with 58 years of marriage and two children, Ron and Sheryl. Eventually the family moved to Grand Rapids, where they first lived in the northwest side of the city and later moved to Dickinson Street on the southeast side. After this move they became members of Fuller Avenue Church. Frank Masselink died on November 3, 2000.

Jean is survived by her children, Ron and Nancy Masselink of Byron Center and Sheryl and Bill Renken of Fort Myers, Florida. She also leaves three grandchildren, Kurt and Michelle Masselink, Troy and Angie Renken, and Tracy Renken, and seven great-grandchildren. Another granddaughter, Kelly Zambella, passed away at the age of 50 years.

Jean spent her last years at American House, where she was well cared for. Her eyesight gradually diminished, but her hearing was excellent. She enjoyed visitors, especially those from her church. Weekly phone calls from family were always filled with love, and her conversations ended with kisses sent via the phone and her favorite words: "Watch for the Corners." At her funeral service on April 4, Pastor Stephen Otto gave a

meditation on Luke 18:41-43, the story of the blind man whose sight was restored by Jesus because of his faith. He stressed that Jean, although she had been unable to see for some time, "Saw God's Blessings...During her life and for life!"



New Pentecost Banner

By John Knight

I have often wondered what it must have been like when new believers inaugurated God's worldwide church in Jerusalem. They had come together to observe the fiftieth day after Passover, bringing the first fruits of their crops, a smorgasbord of goodies, with no clue about what was in

store for them. All of a sudden, violent winds rocked the place where they had assembled, followed by what seemed to be tongues of fire.

It must have felt something like our Fourth of July celebrations, except much better.

In Acts 2 vs.3 we read that these flaming tongues separated and rested on EACH of them. Talk about multiplying divine power! Three thousand men, women and children were forever touched by the Spirit.

When I first worked on Fuller's commission to create a new Pentecost banner last winter, the challenge of how to portray big flames and little flames kept surfacing. My sketch served as a guide for a painting to be done with liquid acrylics which, thanks to digital imagery, could easily be transferred to banner material.

Below the dove symbol, as background for the flames of fire, bands of color and gold portray the sweep of divine wind that still blows to build God's worldwide body of believers.



Members in Focus – Bill and Kathy Gritter

By Bill Gritter and Connie Scheurwater

On January 31, 2016, Bill and Kathy Gritter observed their 64th wedding anniversary. For 50 of those years they have been members of Fuller Avenue Church, and for most of those years they lived in the neighborhood of the church on Underwood Avenue. Through the years, they were active in the church in a number of ways. Kathy served for a time as Calvinette leader and Bill served as Elder. In 2005 they moved to an apartment at Holland Home/Raybrook Estates III. After living there for seven years, it became necessary to move Kathy into the Raybrook Nursing Unit. Bill continues to live in the apartment, and they are very thankful to God that his health remains strong and that he can spend each day with Kathy in her room, where they continue to support each other. In 2003 Bill gave an Adult Education presentation at Fuller Avenue Church, which was a testimony of how they have experienced God's blessings in their lives through good times and challenging times.

Following is their story in Bill's words:

The life history of Kathy and me runs parallel from our births until the present. I was born on May 19, 1931, and Kathy (as Kathleen Doezema) on July 16, 1931. In fact we were born within a mile of each other and for a short time, before the age of five, we lived within one block of each other — on Dickinson Street SE between Kalamazoo and Giddings.

We were children born during the Great Depression and in a decade that included Presidents Herbert Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt, the great boxer Joe Louis, Adolph Hitler, the gathering war clouds of World War II, the adoption of Social Security, and that wonderful race horse, Seabiscuit. But these persons and events did not interest or distract us since we were young, and growing up in families that were stable and shielded us from what surely was a stressful time for our parents. However, I do remember my father listening to the shrill speeches of Hitler broadcast on the radio and being upset by what he heard. Also during the war years of 1941 to 1945, while students at Oakdale Christian School, our teachers would share with us the latest casualties of war of those related to families of the school. For example, we remember very clearly the announcement that Bill

Vanden Berg, brother of John, was missing in action and later the announcement that he was a prisoner of war.

Both of us began school at Oakdale Christian School in 1936 and both had Dena Korfker as our kindergarten teacher. We entered Grand Rapids Christian High in 1946, and Calvin College in 1949. Kathy spent 1 ½ years at Calvin before entering nurses training and I completed my four years in 1953 with a degree in education.

When I was a senior at Christian High I finally took serious notice of this Kathy Doezema with whom I had spent 13 years of education. This notice led to her agreeing to begin dating, and our courtship continued until our marriage on January 31, 1952. At the time I was a junior at Calvin. I think it is interesting to note that, except for World War II veterans, there were very few married students attending college. Kathy attended the Protestant Reformed Church, and this generated some concern on the part of our parents. But it was resolved when she agreed to join my church, Boston Square Christian Reformed. The concern was that we have this issue resolved before we were married so that it would not be a point of conflict as we began married life together. We were married in that church and Rev. (Uncle)

George Gritter, then pastor at Fuller Avenue Church, officiated at our wedding. The organist was Edna Casemier Venlet, who was friend and classmate at Christian High and already a very fine organist. At this time in the relationship of the Christian Reformed and Protestant Reformed churches there were still some lingering suspicions between the two denominations. When Kathy had her membership transferred from her church to Boston Square, the consistory would not accept her membership until the pastor, Rev. Alexander De Jong, met with us and Kathy assured him that she would not cause trouble in the congregation. At that time we lived on Dickinson Street, and in 1965 moved to Underwood Avenue where we continue to live. In 1966 we joined Fuller Avenue Church. Our move to this church was motivated because of its close relationship to our home and the fact that our children began attending Oakdale Christian School and many of their classmates attended this church.

Upon graduating from Calvin in 1953, I accepted a position in DeMotte, Indiana, serving as principal and teaching grades seven and eight. This was a very interesting experience for us because DeMotte was a small town and most of the 240 students in the school came from farm families. We learned much

about farming and the many inter-family connections and tensions that likely exist in any small community. For example, during the two years that we were there, the church had to decide whether to renovate the church building or build a new facility. It was an emotional issue, and naturally the Walstras and Kammengas were on one side of the issue and the Hamstras and DeVries' on the other side. We were wise to stay out of the controversy. In 1955 we moved back to Grand Rapids when I accepted a teaching position at Oakdale Christian School and remained there for ten years until 1965. This was a wonderful teaching experience, since Oakdale was not only a very supportive and appreciative community, but also I had the opportunity to be a colleague with such excellent teachers as Bert Bratt, Nelle Vander Ark, Dorothy Westra, Marty Dekker, Gene Hage, Merle Mustert, and others. There were many fine students and a few who are members of this church including Jeff Bolthouse, Ken Bratt, Ron Calsbeek, Terry Idema, Tom Ippel, Mary Speyer, Ruth Ter Haar, George Ter Horst, Dennis Vander Meer, Ruth Van Stee, Pat Van Vels, and Daryl Vriesenga. In September of 1965 I moved to Calvin Christian High in Grandville and taught for one year. The next year, due to the illness of the principal, I was appointed principal and

served in that position for six years. During that time a consolidation of the Calvin, Southwest, and Godwin Christian Schools took place, and in 1972 I assumed the position of Superintendent. I served in that position for five years. Those were enjoyable years, serving a community that was very excited and supportive of its schools and very generous in their support and appreciation of the total staff. In 1977 I accepted the appointment as Superintendent of the Grand Rapids Christian Schools and remained in that position for sixteen years until my retirement in 1993. Again, I can thank the Lord for a very challenging but satisfying time of service. Not only did I have the opportunity to work with so many excellent staff members, both teachers and administrators, but also so many outstanding persons who served on the Boards and in other leadership roles. Following retirement I have served as a member of the Board of the Michigan Association of Nonpublic Schools. This organization is composed of about 530 Catholic, Lutheran, and Christian Schools in Michigan. Serving as a Board member has given me the opportunity to serve the interest of these schools at the State level. For 50 years I have been given wonderful opportunities to serve our Christian schools and nonpublic schools in Michigan. It has been a

joyous service for which I am very grateful to God. But during all these years of serving our Christian schools, I was blessed with a very supportive and loving wife – and anyone serving in a position that requires dealing with considerable pressure and numerous meetings, knows how important that is. And she had not only me to love and support but also the four children that were born to us during the first seven years of our marriage. In fact, there were times when it seemed that I was at work more than at home, and most of the rearing of the children fell to her. At the time I did not appreciate enough what a tremendous responsibility she carried and how important that was, not only to me, but also to the physical, emotional, and spiritual growth of our children. She was both a wonderful wife and mother and for that I am most grateful to God. During those years Kathy was very involved in church and school activities and contributed greatly both in leadership and serving roles.

We were both interested in traveling and, after reading a series in the Grand Rapids Press by Marianne Radius about their camping experiences, we bought out first tent. This led to an annual camping trip during the summer and resulted in our visiting many of our national parks and most of the mainland states. These were

very precious times for us as a family and today most of our children enjoy camping.
Kathy and I continued to take camping trips after our children had left home and I'm sure that if she were well we would have continued to do so.

As we look back at our almost fifty two years of marriage, there have been many challenges and joys in our life together. I will mention a few of them.

The year 1972 was a year that changed our life as a family. In August of that year, at the age of 19 and after being married for one year, our daughter, Kim, was critically injured in an accident with her husband at the corner of Kalamazoo Avenue and Burton Street. She suffered a closed head injury, and for three months was in a coma. She spent about six weeks at Blodgett Hospital and almost nine months in Kent Community Hospital where she received long-term therapy. This was a very challenging time for her husband Thom and for all the members of the family – especially Kathy. Kim's progress in the hospital was slow but steady, and in June of 1973 she was released to go home. Although through the years she continued to make progress, the brain injury left her with speech and physical disabilities that continue to this day. At times we all

struggled with the "Why" for such an accident, with anger and hurt that such a beautiful young woman would have to live a life made difficult by an accident and resulting disabilities. And we must admit that occasionally we still experience those feelings, but they are only momentary. The accident occurred 32 years ago and we can now look back and acknowledge God's love, faithfulness, and grace throughout these years. The Christian love and support received from family, friends, this congregation, and so many others in this community has been so essential in helping us to deal with the challenges of these 32 years. As an example, when Kim returned home from the hospital, Ron Calsbeek volunteered many hours of his time working with her to assist in her physical and cognitive development. Also the faithfulness, love, and devotion of Kim's husband Thom has been a tremendous testimony and model of the vows made by a husband and wife at the marriage ceremony. He loves her dearly and cares for her with such devotion. And Kim displays an uncomplicated and childlike faith that demonstrates a very lovely relationship with God that is wonderful to observe and experience. Her situation continues to be challenging, but through it all we have also grown in our relationship to God and our understanding

and appreciation of his promise to be with us in every situation of life and in each day of our life.

The year 1982 is another year that brought great change into our lives. That was the year that Kathy, at the age of 52, became unwell. For the past 21 years she has suffered physical problems that have required her to deal with pain and physical disabilities that make it difficult to sit or be on her feet but for very brief periods of time. The result has been spending most of her time in bed and being very limited in what she is able to do. Also the plans we had for the years when we became empty nesters and when I retired have had to change. But through it all our life together has grown stronger and richer and there are many things for which we can be very thankful to God. Kathy's strong faith and wonderful spirit, my continued good health making it possible to provide care, and, just as in the case of Kim's accident, the continued love and support of family, friends, this congregation, and so many in the community have been essential in making our life together very satisfying and fulfilling. As an example, I have an architect friend. Bill Van Wienen, who designed and put together the bed we have in the back of our van that has made it possible to get out. We would be less than honest to say that there are never moments when

resentment or discouragement are experienced. But those feelings soon pass and we have so much for which to be thankful.

A reason for joy is that Kathy and I have experienced a strong, happy, and long marriage and we have been blessed with two daughters, two sons, two sons-in-law, one daughter-in-law, and five grandchildren. We love them all very dearly and each has helped make our family a cohesive and supportive unit for which we give thanks to God. We all get along very well together and our family times are truly joyous and precious moments. As a family we lived through the pain and suffering of divorce experienced by our one son. But he is a very involved member of the family and all the family members have supported him and enjoy him very much.

Finally, we have reason for joy for the family we have here at Fuller Avenue Church. The ministry of this church to us over the 37 years that we have been members has been critical for our spiritual wellbeing. This congregation has not grown weary in ministering to our needs and we have been amazed at the constancy of the love and support received. And as members of this congregation, who live close to the church, it has been very gratifying to observe the neighborhood

involvement under the leadership of Pastor George and the total staff, and the support they have received from the congregation. It is this congregation that has truly demonstrated the love of Christ in our lives and we continually thank God that we are part of that body of Christ located here in this church.



Jeri and her mentee, Shakaya

In Memory of Jeri Lynn Hoek 1952-2016

By Kiel Hoek and Connie Scheurwater

Jeri Hoek passed away unexpectedly on March 5, 2016, following a tragic automobile accident in which her husband Doug was severely injured. As a long-time member of Fuller Avenue Church, Jeri was very active in the church; her church activities included serving as Sunday School teacher, Kids Hope mentor, TRIP coordinator, and Meals At Home administrator. Besides her husband, Jeri is survived

by her children, Kiel and Elizabeth Hoek and Leslie Hoek, one grandson Jack, her father, and two siblings and their spouses. We thank God for Jeri's life of service, and pray for Doug's recovery from his injuries. At her memorial service, held at Fuller Avenue Church on April 9, Kiel Hoek spoke the following words in memory of his mother.

How would you want to be remembered? It is a question, that if we are being honest, we have all asked at one point or another in our lives. How do you want to be remembered when your time on earth has come to an end? As I have had time to sit and reflect on the events of the last five weeks, I have been able to come up with my own answer to this question as it pertains to my mom.

My mom was loving. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, and friend. As many of you know, my parents were not able to have kids of their own; and I know that I can speak for both Leslie and myself when I say that I cannot imagine my life with anyone else as my mother. The Lord blessed me with being placed in this family and gave me the best parents in the world.

My mom was caring. Whether taking care of an ailing parent, a family member, or someone from the church or community, my mom was always willing to stand alongside those people and lend a hand in whatever way possible.

My mom was passionate. She was passionate about so many things in her life, from her family and faith, to Christian education, knitting, cleaning and politics. My mom was a passionate person. She put her whole self into whatever she was doing and always did a flawless job.

My mom was truly a servant of the Lord. Whether it was teaching Sunday school, tutoring through Kids Hope Ministry, working at the TRIP office, caring for a family member, or simply hosting people at her home, she did it without complaint and never asked for anything in return. My mom truly exemplified what it meant to be a servant of the Lord.

Lastly, my mom was loved. The outpouring of love and support for our family through this whole ordeal has really opened up my eyes to just how deep the love for my mom runs. While this has been the most difficult of times for our family, the love and support you have all shown us has been instrumental in helping my family grieve and cope with the loss of my mom. So from the bottom of my heart I say thank you to all of you.

My mom was an amazing woman. I know that I can

only hope to live my life with as much grace, humility and love as she did. She always used to sign her email with the salutation, "In God I Trust." She trusted in God's plan for her life. And while it is hard for us to see and understand that this is what God's plan was for my mom, we must continue to put our trust in God as she did and know that we will see her again when we are reunited in heaven.

The deadline for the June issue of the Fuller Life is Sunday, May 22, 2016. This will be the graduation issue so if you have a child graduating from middle school or high school or college, please send me the information on what school he or she is graduating from, where they are going next fall, if college - what they hope to study and any other pertinent information. Thank you. Send to straatsmab@gmail.com

MAY - BIRDS

If you could be a bird, what kind and color would you like to be? How many types of birds do you know? Make a list. For younger children, give them a hint by saying: what type of bird says "Cock-a-doodle-do", "Hoo Hoo", and "Quack Quack". "What birds live on the North Pole, are black and white and make their home on ice?"

Read bird books like *Cock-A-Doodle Dance* by Christina Tricarico, *Seven Hungry Babies* by Candace Fleming, *Hatch!* by Roxie Munro, *Nothing Like a Puffin* by Sue Soltis, or *Cheep! Cheep!* by Julie Stiegemeyer

Stand up and stretch out your arms. Imagine your arms are wings covered with feathers. Fly! Flap those wings and fly around. Look at the ground. Do you see a nice juicy worm for dinner? Fly to the ground and pull that worm out of the ground with your beak. It's spring - you need to build a nest for your family. Gather twigs, grasses and the like to build your nest.

Take a walk outside. Look around. How many different types of birds do you see? Count the different types you see over several days and write them down and make a bar graph for each day.

May 1 - MAY DAY! Make a crown and draw flowers on it. Celebrate May!

May 8 – MOTHER'S DAY! Make your Mother a Mother's Day card. Draw birds on it that she will love.

May 30 – MEMORIAL DAY! Talk about people you will always remember.

FUN BIRD IDEAS

- 1. *Make a bird*. Draw a body. Cut feathers from colored construction paper and glue onto your bird body.
- 2. Make a bird collage. Cut out bird pictures from old magazines. Glue to a sheet of paper and decorate.
- 3. *Paper Bag Owl*. Stuff a brown lunch bag and tie at the bottom. Cut out round eyes, triangle ears, a nose, mouth and feet from construction paper. Glue to your brown bag body.
- 4. Lie on a blanket outside and listen for birds.
- 5. The robin is the state bird of Michigan. Go to http://www.thecolor.com/category/coloring/bird.aspx.



MAY						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 am: Faith Promise & Baxter Food Offering 6 pm: Care Group Meetings	2	3 6:45 pm: Relationship Daggers	7:30 am: Men's Bible Study 9:30 am: Women's Bible Study 7:30 pm: Choir	5 7 pm: Council	6	7
8 6 pm: Prayer Service	9	10 1:30 pm: Staff 6:45 pm: Relationship Daggers	11 12 pm: FAST @ Plymouth Heights 7:30 pm: Choir	12	13	14 7 pm: Pinochle
15	16	17	7:30 am: Men's Bible Study 7:30 pm: Choir	19	20	21
22 6 pm: Lessons & Songs Service	23	24 1:30 pm: Staff	25	PAST: Tour of ICCF 3 pm: Admin Committee	27	28
29 6 pm: Combined Worship @ Fuller	Memorial Day	31				

FROM

Fuller Avenue Christian Reformed Church 1239 Fuller Avenue, S. E. Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506-3248

TO