

First Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ  
PO Box 892  
Cadillac, MI 49601

## *“The Tie that Binds”*

### **JUNE 2016**

Newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC  
Cadillac, MI

Margie Annis, Music Director  
Penny Phelps, Church Treasurer  
Rachel Whiteman, Church Clerk

Church service is Sunday morning 10:30 a.m.  
Sunday School and childcare available.  
The church is open on **Mondays and Wednesdays** from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
Pastor: John Doud [pastor@firstcongcadillac.org](mailto:pastor@firstcongcadillac.org) 231 775-7632  
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# June 2016 *The Tie That Binds*

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Cadillac, Michigan



I was reading through some old annual reports while cleaning up old files and came across this piece from 1972 written by our beloved former minister, the late Reverend William Allinder. As our church is in the midst of change and hopeful revival, I found his words of wisdom to be appropriate today. May God bless our church family.

- Marie Linn, Clerk of the Board of Trustees

You may recall the story of two grade school boys deep in conversation during recess. The first one asked his friend, "Do you think a thermonuclear missile will ever enter the stratosphere from a galaxy in outer space and demolish the earth?" His friend replied, "No, because its terminal velocity would preclude it from ever penetrating the Earth's atmospheric shield." Just then the school bell rings calling them back to class. "Darn it, now we have to go back to stringing beads!"

There is so much truth in this tale that it hurts. Much of what the Church, our country and the world believe to be so important in the long look will prove to be little more than stringing beads! In a time when change (read Toffler's Future Shock) has totally snowballed beyond comprehension, the Church continues to ring the bell and call its people back to "stringing beads."

In the January issue of the "United Church Herald" (a magazine well worth every member family's investment), Marshall McLuhan is interviewed by Robert Fulford. McLuhan, professor of English at St. Michael's University at Toronto, has become the most famous and influential intellectual Canada has ever produced. He writes:

The electron culture of our time is making a new world and a new man. Mass communications are drawing together humankind in a universal embrace! Privacy is dying, and with it the private person (B.F. Skinner says the same thing in Beyond Freedom and Dignity). After centuries of individualism we are retribalizing, becoming a unified global family. Protestant Man is on the brink of extinction!

Some of us will surely claim McLuhan an extremist. In a symbolic sense he's speaking of "thermonuclear missiles from outer space destroying the earth" - while the institutional church as we have known it rings its bells and prepares its people by "stringing beads."

For the classical image of "Protestant Man" is one of the "Private Person" highly individualized, seated alone with his Bible, reverently but critically reading, marking, and being conditioned by his Paper Pope. His faith is anchored to print, which is rooted in the past, and only through super effort does it point its guiding hand to the future. The Protestant Man is becoming a "rear-view mirror person" too terrified by the emerging new world forcing itself to be born to honestly look ahead!

And yet, in spite of all the pain and misfortune of our times, what a challenging moment to be alive! Together we have seen changes that others never dreamed possible! Together with the strength, courage, and insight that we have had, we have been God's people in this place! Could anyone ask for more? Neither preacher in the pulpit or parishioner in the pew have all of the answers - but we have the Answer adequate enough to cope! Somehow, in spite of the slings and arrows of outraged critics, of disillusioned "dippers and dabblers" in the Faith, God's Truth prevails. Somehow, the divinity of the Church is revealed in that She has, for so many centuries, been able to withstand her so called friends.

But the Church must change. And you and I are the Church - we are "the only gospel the careless world will read, we are the sinner's gospel, we are the scoffers creed." Thus we who have worshipped comfortably for generations must become challenged to find "new wineskins" into which to put God's wine! Not one of us privately would think of driving "ol' Dobbin" to work when we have the convenience of an auto; nor would we scorn travelling at Mach 2 in a super 747 in favor of an old piston prop plane. Or who would rather chop wood when solar heat and circular homes are just around the corner? The Church must change - it can no longer be content to "string beads" on Sunday morning when we are confronted by thermonuclear annihilation on Monday! We have already lost too many people because we have lost touch with the new generation; we have already driven people into the streets of reverent agnosticism because we have refused to let loose of our traditional dogmatism.

We must change the vehicle - not the Message. In a world spinning too fast to get off, people need the dependability of at least One Absolute that will not disappoint. That Absolute is the Only Absolute; it is God's Love. No matter how we constrict it or describe it or deny it, somehow life has been galvanized with Love. To deny this is to deny ourselves - more people are beginning to understand that fundamental fact.

There are those who believe a more united witness will proclaim a less adulterated Love. Unions and mergers and consolidations are a necessity - even though they are achieved only with great difficulty. Churches must never lose sight of The Church. There are those who believe building a stronger Church will come with streamlining it: contemporary worship, Mass in jazz, liturgical reforms, but especially the significant involvement of laity in both worship and service. There are those who are convinced the Church will only become a viable force in our time when people are confronted - all sorts and kinds of people, wherever they may be - with a sense of individual responsibility to God, neighbor, and themselves. In every instance where the Church was found wanting, a renewal of one's own awareness of God's Love has and will always heal a multitude of wounds!

The Church changes only when people change. People are the vehicles which incarnate Truth. "Doing the Truth" is the crucial test of Christian integrity. The question is simply, "are we willing to string beads?" Are we willing to allow privacy, our private priorities, hamstringing the collective Enterprise called the Church? Are we willing to be called "rearview mirror" people terrified of the future so we look and live in the past. Are we unwilling to change?

The very questions I ask you I have asked myself scores of times. And the resolve I find burning within me again, - at the beginning of 1972 - and I trust it will not dissolve with time, or trouble or temerity - is to take the opportunity of a New Year, the fresh start, the clean slate, and "though I have time but for a line, may it be sublime, for low aim, not failure, is the crime!"

I believe that 1971 was a good year, a fine vintage. It had its rich moments, its empty places, its gnawing problems. But more of the same will not suffice for 1972. We must change as a church if we are to catch "Christians" for tomorrow. We must grow as a congregation together into a family of God bound by His Love. Our task together is to truly become vehicles of God's grace for one another and for ourselves.

Let us resolve to be God's people in this place called Cadillac to all people for all time.

In His Name,

William F. Allinder

Minister

# JUNE EVENTS

## **PHILHARMONIC CLUB AT FIRST CONGREGATIONAL JUNE 6<sup>th</sup> 12:30pm**



Shannon Gilmore and Karen Anderson will be performing at the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting of Cadillac Philharmonic Club, which will be held at First Congregational UCC, at 12:30pm. All are welcome. Meal at 12:30 (\$13), music following at 1pm.



## **JUNE 12<sup>th</sup> 5pm -8pm Native American Ceremony**

### **Honoring the \*Anishinaabe: An afternoon of celebrating sacred ritual and tradition of our regional Native people.**

*A note from Joe Elenbaas:*

You are invited to spend time observing and enacting some of the core rituals of our Native brothers and sisters on **Sunday afternoon, June 12th, from 5-8pm**. The celebration will take place on my 75 acres just east of Cadillac. We will gather around the council fire and there will be singing of Native songs, music of drums and flutes, story-telling of Native myths, an opportunity to see and enter Sioux tipis, ceremonial passing of fruit, and feasting. The food will be a light soup traditional native American meal later in the evening, at around 7:30pm.

There will be an opportunity for a short walk afterwards through the trails on the land for those who are interested and we will have time for fellowship and discussion. We invite you to use this time as connecting with Spirit, Mother Earth, and Father Sky.

**What to bring: a lawn or camp chair, your own beverage, bug repellent, and remember to dress appropriately according to your own needs. Please note:** The only bathroom facility is a clean, but simple outhouse.

**Please meet at my home by 5:00 pm sharp** and we will carpool back into the land together as a group.

**\*Odawa, Ojibwa, Potawatomi and other Algonquin indigenous peoples**



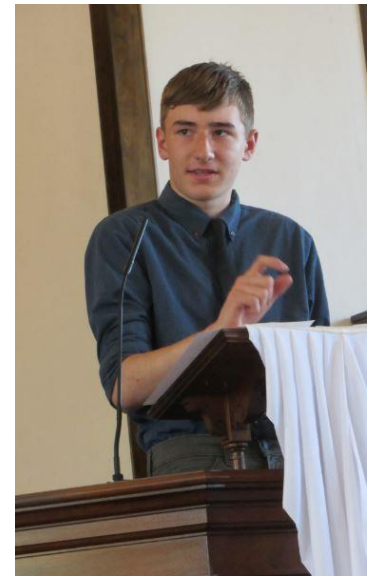
**June's mission is New Hope Shelter, Cadillac**

[\(facebook.com/New-Hope-Shelter-162526213848819/\)](https://facebook.com/New-Hope-Shelter-162526213848819/)

# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY

Thank you to Sam Pentces for serving in the pulpit, as well as all our children and young adults who led and participated in the Youth and Children's Sunday service on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. A big thank you to our wonderful Sunday School leadership team for their continued devotion to our youth and children throughout the church year. Karen Anderson and Pat McCurdy: bless your hearts!!!



# PANCAKE BRUNCH



Thank you to Troy Knight, Laura Jacobson, Mike Oatley, Tom Jobson and Penny Phelps for leading our recent Pancake Brunch fundraiser on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. The successful event raised \$275 for the Cadillac Stehouwer Free Clinic. The next Pancake Brunch fundraiser will take place on Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING May 2016

- Rev John Doud has passed boundary training.
- Native American event planned for June 12 at Joe Elenbaas's.
- The Board worked on developing Building Use Policy.

### From the Clerk

In an effort to clean up our membership files more efficiently I have a couple of requests. First, I would like to know how you prefer to receive church communications. Second, I would like to encourage you to complete and turn in your blue information cards. Please fill out the form below or complete it at church on Sunday. Thank you for your support.

Keeping the Faith,  
Marie E Linn, FCCUCC Clerk

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive church communications via:

\_\_\_\_\_e-mail      e-mail address\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_phone      phone number\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_text      Cell phone number\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_snail mail      Address\_\_\_\_\_

I prefer to receive emergency church messages via:

\_\_\_\_\_ phone    \_\_\_\_\_text    \_\_\_\_\_email    \_\_\_\_\_Facebook posting

## LOOKING AHEAD:

*Here is an enigmatic message from Bob LeVand!:*

### HEAR YE . . .HEAR YE

**The:  
6th A.S. & S.S.F.  
is coming  
August 7th**

(save the date, mark your calendar)

If you don't know how, start your swim lessons NOW.

### The Centennial Group:

The Board of Trustees has authorized the formation of the "Centennial Group". As some of you may know, our Church building is approaching a 100 years of service for use. With this in mind the Trustees believe it is never too early to begin planning for such an occasion. The Centennial Group will have three (3) objectives:

1.0) To explore the possibility of having our building obtain a historical status on either the State or National level. What the pros and cons are and then making a recommendation to the Board of Trustees. Also to see if there is any way to form a tie to the Wexford Historical Museum.

2.0) Identify and prioritize areas of our building that need a face lift/renovation for its Centennial Celebration. Some areas, potentially, may require a multi-year fund raising effort to complete a face lift. Recommendations will be submitted to the Trustees.

3.0) Plan and execute a 100 year Celebration.

We are hoping to get 6-8 members who have a passion for our Church building and putting together a really good party.

If you are interested in being part of this Group, please contact Bob LeVand, Please provide a working phone number and email address in order to communicate within the Group. We will plan our first meeting either the 2nd or 3rd week of June. Announcement of date to follow, after conferring with members of the Group.



*Thanks to the photographers who sent us the photos used in this issue.  
We welcome photographs for inclusion in the newsletter or elsewhere – please email  
to [office@firstcongcadillac.org](mailto:office@firstcongcadillac.org)*

## Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Greeter/ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
<b>JUNE 5</b>	<b>Sue Wachowski, Karen Anderson</b>	<b>Karen Anderson</b>	<i>Birthday Sunday Volunteers needed</i>	<b>Penny Phelps</b>	<b>Robin Corbin</b>
<b>JUNE 12</b>	<b>Charlotte Barfield, Marie Linn</b>	<b>Karma Chapo</b>	<b>Sue Wachowski</b>	<b>Sue Wachowski</b>	<b>John Doud</b>
<b>JUNE 19</b>	<b>Mary Shaw, Diane Larson</b>	<b>Tom Jobson</b>	<b>Ann Lockwood</b>	<b>Linda Baynes</b>	<b>John Doud</b>
<b>JUNE 26</b>	<b>Gert and Sperry Claypool</b>	<b>Robin Corbin</b>	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	<b>Sperry Claypool</b>	<b>Pat Ponczek</b>

### Looking ahead: Pool Party Aug 7<sup>th</sup>, Pancake Brunch Aug 20<sup>th</sup>

Missions: June: New Hope Shelter; July: Back Pack Program; August: Shepherd's Table; September: Feeding America; October: Neighbor's In Need; November: Salvation Army; December: Christmas Fund

<b>JUNE 2016</b> *Non-Church activities that occur in the church.						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<u>1</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>2</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm Footliters 7pm	<u>3</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>4</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>5</u> <b>Worship 10:30am</b>  Footliters 2pm	<u>6</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm <b>Philharmonic Club 12:30pm</b> *Symphony Board 7pm	<u>7</u> *Jazz.8:30am Footliters 7pm	<u>8</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>9</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm Footliters 7pm	<u>10</u> Jazz.8:30 am Fri-Sun Women's Retreat at Kettunen Center "The Gathering"	<u>11</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>12</u> <b>Worship 10:30am (Mission Moment)</b> Footliters 2pm <b>5-8pm Native American Ceremony</b>	<u>13</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm	<u>14</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>15</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>16</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>17</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>18</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>19</u> <b>Worship 10:30am, GAY PRIDE DAY &amp; Fathers' Day</b>	<u>20</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm <b>Board Meeting 6:30 pm</b>	<u>21</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>22</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm  <b>Newsletter items due (July/August)</b>	<u>23</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>24</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>25</u> Jazz.8:30 am <b>Gay Pride Parade in Traverse City</b>
<u>26</u> <b>Worship 10:30am NOISY OFFERING</b>	<u>27</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm	<u>28</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>29</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>30</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm		