

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

“The Tie that Binds”

JULY & AUGUST 2016

Newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC
Cadillac, MI

Margie Annis, Music Director

Patrick Delaney, Treasurer

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Marie Linn, Clerk

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Church service is Sunday morning 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School and childcare available.

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July/August 2016 *The Tie That Binds*

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Cadillac, Michigan



FEAR AND TREMBLING

At a clergy meeting years ago in North Carolina, a colleague (who at the time was encouraging me to become a military chaplain) shared experiences in the army during the Viet Nam War. A protestant chaplain influenced him to enter the ministry following his tour of duty, and he enrolled at Duke Divinity School, eventually becoming a United Methodist minister. One story he told about his war time experience involved a rotation of walking in front of the rest of the platoon and therefore being first in line to get shot by an enemy sniper or blown up by a land mine. He said that all of his sensibilities were on alert when it was his turn to lead his platoon since he would probably be the first casualty. After returning home to North Carolina, his fear of danger around every corner remained. He simply could not shake the feeling that a terrible disaster would happen at any moment. Through years of therapy and by entering the ministry, he gradually came to trust people and the world around him. He said something like this: "Human beings were not created to regard all other human beings as potential enemies. We need one another and we must be able to trust others. Constant vigilance and suspicion poison the soul and damage mental health. Fear annihilates abundant living."

Fears can range from mild ("Did I remember to lock my home?") to major ("Where is my child...she was just with me a moment ago!!!"). Fears can include worry about our health or the environment. We can do everything right, but there are some things beyond our control: a distracted driver runs a red light and kills pedestrians; people board an early plane in Boston or arrive at the New York City World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, and die in an act of terrorism; an armed gunman enters a church bible study in Atlanta and kills those bowed down in prayer; another armed gunman enters "The Pulse" nightclub in Orlando, Florida, and murders 49 people and wounds 50 more; an earthquake destroys a crowded bridge during rush hour. We can be careful about what we eat and how much we exercise and still fall victim to ancestral genes within our DNA. We can work hard in our professions only to experience a layoff. We can build a retirement account for many years only to have world events eliminate our savings.

Fifteen years ago, soon after the 9-11 attacks, there were rumors that terrorists planned to bomb a major sports stadium in the United States. Of course, I had a ticket to a University of Michigan football game for the weekend, and even at the game I kept eyeing everyone with suspicion. After all, the stadium – called "The Big House" – would not be absolutely protected. Some evil person, foreign or domestic, could have made his or her way through the gates and security with an explosive device or automatic weapon. Was this fear realistic or unrealistic? Was I intoxicated by broadcasts on the radio, television, and internet recycling every murder, political scandal, or Zika virus incident?

Here at the Cadillac First Congregational Church, we are taught that life is not all about fear or looking out for number one. Instead, taking a cue from the Christian Bible, we are taught to stand strong in the face of fear, recalling the words of the Johannine Christian tradition, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear" (I John 4:18). Jesus repeatedly encourages his disciples not to be afraid. Why? People who constantly live in fear will not be community minded or compassionate. Fear pollutes the soul, hardens the heart, and prevents us from reflecting God's love and forgiveness. In a word, fear anesthetizes all of life, and isn't this the ultimate goal of terrorism?

I should add, like stress, the ancient human fear instinct naturally planted within will keep us alert and alive to legitimate dangers. Therefore, the total absence of fear should not be adopted. We can be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. However, like distress, overwhelming fear will keep us paralyzed and traumatized. We can work towards recognizing true fears and dismissing false ones that block meaningful life. The Beatitudes of Jesus include these traits which signify a life of meaning: integrity over dishonesty; righteousness over falsehood; generosity over greed; mercy over judgment; humility over power; kindness over cruelty; and peacefulness over violence. It all comes down to challenging fear with love while believing the best about people rather than suspecting everyone is out to get us. As we move forward from this mass shooting in Orlando, within this open, affirming, inclusive, and caring community, our challenge is not to deny fear, but instead to refuse to let fear keep us from abundant living.

John F. Douđ

JULY EVENTS



LOVE TO SING?

Come to “un-choir practice” on the four
Wednesdays in July. 6:00 – 7:00 PM.
We’ll explore voice training and music reading. Just for fun. Honest!

- Margie Annis

SUNDAY, JULY 10th 10:30 AM

“Music celebration with world renowned celebrated artist Elliot Wimbush” – a quote from Rev. John Doud. Elliot is much admired by Pastor John, and we are delighted that he will be joining us to jointly take the service on July 10th

SUNDAY, JULY 17th 10:30 AM

EARLY CHRISTIAN WORSHIP AND POTLUCK IN FELLOWSHIP HALL. Each church family is invited to bring a favorite breakfast or lunch dish to share. We will also discuss a scripture reading and participate in worship similar to that of the Christian community in the first century.



July's Mission:

Cadillac Area Backpack Program

AUGUST EVENTS



Bob LeVand

"6th Annual A.S. & S. S. F. " Pool Party Sunday August 7th 2016

No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey – COME ON DOWN – to ye old swimming hole! It's time again to grab one pieces, two pieces, floaties, sun screen and kids and come on down to the cement pond for the 6th ANNUAL SPLASH & SYNCHRONIZED SWIM FESTIVAL! The First Congregational Synchronized Swim Team proudly present their 6th annual, Ester William's school certified, one day only, show of shows. Like last year, from high in the sky all will be captured on film for posterity (of course we all want to remember these fabulous performances). I'm sure that the team has spared no expense on costumes this year. Unfortunately he back drop remains the same – wet and wild. Members of the team, who need additional rehearsal time, may contact Bob or Troy about pool time availability to hone their craft (actually that's why the A.S. & S.S.F. is a little later this year – a little more time to practice . . . it makes perfect don't ya know).

*Please bring: a dish to pass (suitable for 10 people), folding lawn chair, and swimming togs.

*We'll provide: hamburgers/hot dogs & fixins, as well as soda/H₂O. (The "mixology" machine and its "smoothie" pal are looking forward to renewing old acquaintances)

*Time: directly following church service – till? Feasting will begin at **1:00pm** – listen for the dinner bell.
(For those movie aficionados – perhaps a "dive-in "movie at dusk?)

*Place: Twin Falls Resort of Cadillac (Bob & Troy's)
128 E. Pine St. (775-0586).



A "Sunday Funday" production.



PANCAKE BRUNCH

The next Pancake Brunch will be held on Saturday **August 20th**
from 10am-12pm.

All donations go to the Stehouwer Free Clinic



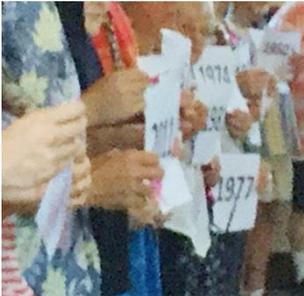
**August's mission:
The Shepherd's Table**

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Pride Service

Thank you to the ONA ("Open and Affirming") Committee and members of the congregation, for presenting an excellent overview of milestones in the history of LGBTQ issues, on June 19th, in what proved to be a very timely and poignant Pride Service.

A copy of the readings and the audio recording can be found on our website: www.firstcongcadillac.org.



Native American Ceremony

Karen Anderson



Deep in the woods, on the property of Joe Elenbaas, the traditions of Native American culture were shared by Ruthann French, Steven Jackson and Joe Elenbaas. Those in attendance were humbled by the ceremony aptly called "Honoring the Directions" (North, East, South, and West), the beautiful cedar flute music, drumming and storytelling.

We all had the opportunity to step inside a Lakota tee-pee and feel the presence of a way of life focused on nature and family. Thank you Jo, Steve and Ruthann for creating this sacred experience.



Building Maintenance: Tuckpointing

Richard Harvey

Have you noticed? We are now cleaned and tuckpointed on our back side. Karr Tuckpointing, our contractor, first gently power-washed the church to remove surface dirt from both the stone and brick on the church. This washing exposed the defective joints so the masons could grind out the old mortar and "point" new mortar into the joints (called tuckpointing). Some caulking, apparently used in the past to repair missing mortar, was also removed and properly tuckpointed.

Why did have this work done? First and foremost, the new mortar will make the building more water-resistant and help keep it standing for another hundred years. The tuckpointing also improved the appearance of the church – now the old and new mortar more closely matches in color and the lighter caulking has been removed.

Karr also removed mortar from movement cracks, installed caulk (useful for this application), and pressed sand into the caulk so it would match existing mortar. Caulk was also used on joints in the water table stone that were not deflecting water away from the bricks below as they were designed to do.

Our chimneys were also on the repair list. A lot of the chimney bricks needed to be removed and re-laid to keep them from falling and damaging the roof.

This tuckpointing job has turned out to be a longer job than we thought and will probably take another year or two to complete.

Stay tuned – the east and north sides will be next.

"The Gathering"

Catherine Doud



"The Gathering" of UCC Women of Michigan was held June 10-12 at the Kettunen Center in Tustin. The theme was "Laughter and Joy in the Spirit", and what a *joyful*, colorful weekend it was! As a first-time attendee, I was immediately made to feel very welcome at a special orientation on Friday afternoon. After a rousing opening and an inspiringly humorous presentation by our keynote speaker, Rev. Meg Wilson, and a hilarious fashion-show with participants dressed as women of the Bible, we first-timers formed a candlelit pathway to our evening vespers.

Saturday continued with more devotions, another keynote address, and a wide selection of workshops. We all enjoyed the beautiful natural surroundings of the Kettunen Center and Center Lake, as well as the plentiful and *delicious* food! Plenty of opportunities for fellowship and fund were available, including puzzles, storytime, crafts and nature hikes. There was a used book sale, a Christmas sale, plus a very fun and successful silent auction to raise money for UCC courses.

Sunday worship and communion were meaningful and beautiful, and all departed after lunch with joy in our hearts after making friends and fond memories.

I am very grateful to have experienced The Gathering this year, and I urge all UCC women and friends to attend next year!

Thank you to Robin Corbin, Sara Keinath and Pat Ponczek for your service leading services in June.



Dani Veenstra

Cheryl Burke, Associate Conference Minister of the UCC Michigan Conference, will be taking the communion service on August 7th.

Dani Veenstra, who served as our pulpit supply minister during 2015, will be returning to help us with the rest of the August services.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Notes from the June Meeting

Marie Linn

- Noisy Offering will continue through the summer.
- Outdoor children's activities are scheduled for the last Sundays of each month.
- July 3 Pat Ponczek will be in the pulpit instead of Kelly McCann. There WILL be a special communion.
- July 10 Elliot Wimbush will be a guest minister in the pulpit with Pastor John.
- July 17 We will have an Early Christian Worship service at 10:30 am in Fellowship Hall. There will be a special communion. A POTLUCK will follow the service. Stay and share your favorite dish.
- Major Building repairs and estimates were discussed.
- The board is developing building use guidelines and policies.

JULY

Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Greeter/ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
JULY 3	Virgil & Joan Butler	Laura Porter	<i>Birthday Sunday</i> Diane and Tom Jobson	Robin Corbin	Pat Ponczek
JULY 10	Dave and Sandy Gaunt	Charlotte Barfield	Karen Anderson, Sue W	Dave Gaunt	Elliot Wimbush/John Doud
JULY 17	Carol and Jerry Nilsson	Cindy Morley	POTLUCK	Richard Harvey	John Doud
JULY 24	Tom and Diane Jobson	Karma Chapo	Virgil and Joan Butler	Tom Jobson	John Doud
JULY 31	Karma Chapo & Donna Debney	Ralph Annis	Karen Schmeltzer, Kevin Butler	Sara Keinath	John Doud

JULY 2016 *Non-Church activities that occur in the church.						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<u>1</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>2</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>3</u> Worship 10:30am COMMUNION	<u>4</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm *Symphony Board 7pm	<u>5</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>6</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm 6pm "Not-Choir!"	<u>7</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>8</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>9</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>10</u> Worship 10:30am	<u>11</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm	<u>12</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>13</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm 6pm "Not-Choir!"	<u>14</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>15</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>16</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>17</u> Worship 10:30am, COMMUNION IN FELLOWSHIP HALL: POTLUCK	<u>18</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm	<u>19</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>20</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm 6pm "Not-Choir!"	<u>21</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>22</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>23</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>24</u> Worship 10:30am	<u>25</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm	<u>26</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>27</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm 6pm "Not-Choir!"	<u>28</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>29</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>30</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>31</u> Worship 10:30am NOISY OFFERING						

AUGUST

Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Greeter/ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
AUG 7	Linda Baynes & Penny Phelps	Sue Wachowski	<i>Birthday Sunday</i> POTLUCK/POOL PARTY	Bob Levand	Cheryl Burke
AUG 14	Bill and Sue Cinco	Joyce Oatley	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Marie Linn	Dani Veenstra
AUG 21	Laura Jacobson & Sam Pentces	Penny Phelps	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Carol Nilsson	Dani Veenstra
AUG 28	Sue Wachowski & Karen Anderson	Karen Anderson	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Penny Phelps	Dani Veenstra

AUGUST 2016 *Non-Church activities that occur in the church.						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<u>1</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm *Symphony Board 7pm	<u>2</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>3</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>4</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>5</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>6</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>7</u> Worship 10:30am COMMUNION, POOL PARTY AND POTLUCK after church	<u>8</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm	<u>9</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>10</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>11</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>12</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>13</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>14</u> Worship 10:30am	<u>15</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm Board Meeting 6:30 pm	<u>16</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>17</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>18</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>19</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>20</u> Jazz.8:30 am 10am-12pm PANCAKE BRUNCH
<u>21</u> Worship 10:30am,	<u>22</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm	<u>23</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>24</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm Newsletter items due	<u>25</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>26</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>27</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>28</u> Worship 10:30am NOISY OFFERING	<u>29</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm	<u>30</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>31</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm			

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