

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

“The Tie that Binds”

September 2017

Newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC
Cadillac, MI

Margie Annis, Music Director

Patrick Delaney, Treasurer

Penny Phelps, Administrator

Marie Linn, Clerk

Rachel Whiteman, Secretary/Organist

Karen Smeltzer, Newsletter Editor

Carol Nilsson, Chair of Trustees

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.

Minister: John Doud pastor@firstcongcadillac.org (231) 775-7632

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Message from Our Delegate, Ann Lockwood

2017 Vitality Day!



On the 29th of April of this year, we had a surprise when it came to the United Northern Association spring meeting. Instead of being the usual sorting through administrative details with a brief program of discussion and an inspiring speaker, we were pleased to be able to attend the Michigan Conference Vitality Day at the Edgewood United Church of Christ (UCC) church in East Lansing (as a combination of both events). We were well represented, as John Doud, Penny Phelps, Donna Debney, Troy Knight, Bob LeVand, Sara Keinath, and myself were able to attend. The General Minister and President of the UCC, John Dorhauer, was there as the special guest for the day. Dr. Dorhauer also gave a talk the evening before on his new book, *Beyond Resistance*.

Dr. Dorhauer is a dynamic speaker and presented a very interesting discussion of his book on Friday night. We examined the main premise that the church needs to move beyond the traditional methods of “having church” to a new atmosphere and way of looking at things. He described the church as being 2.0 in a 3.0 world, and introduced concepts of how to change with the times, sorting through what is absolutely needed and what can be changed. He also had some young new pastors of new types of churches come up and describe how they are making these changes, moving their practice of Christianity forward into the new technological world.

On Saturday morning we started with a clever skit by the youth ministry of Detroit on bringing people together, a new song from Adam Webber (pastor at Clare), and a very motivating presentation from Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg who wrote “Transforming Conflict in Courageous Conversations”. Topics included in the presentation addressed such things as:

- Turn negative energy into positive change.
- Curiosity is more important than certainty.
- Expect conflict – Listen – avoid but: it shuts off discussion – avoid sarcasm and shame-based words.
- It is clear that “church” has gone through a broad-based transformation that is still continuing.
- How can we hang on to the essentials of our faith and still remain relevant in today’s world?
- Relationships are more important than goals or deadlines or profits.

After a very enjoyable lunch from the Edgewood congregation, we broke out into different meetings. I attended Dr. Dorhauer’s presentation on mission, talking about: “Does your church have and know its purpose - - this purpose should be the core mission.” This was an open discussion that I found very inspiring. I also attended a second break-out session led by Lawrence Richardson, a pastor from Minneapolis, on how to use social media to stay connected with the people of your church and to bring more people into your mission. I am now following Lawrence on Twitter, and continue to have enlightening encounters with him in 140 characters or less!

All in all, Vitality Day was a great experience for me as a first time attendee, and I’m planning to go again! Thank you for allowing me to represent our church at this function. I hope some of you who have not been able to attend in the past will consider going in the future.

With love, Ann Lockwood

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

THANK YOU

From Jeri Hector:

To everyone whose name I do not have to send an individual Thank You. Thank you for helping me to see again – for changing my life. For your kindness and support.

From Jim Smith, Up North Arts, Inc.:

Thanks so much for your kind donation of a metal desk for our new office space. We should be moving in very soon.

From Carol Dolan, Executive Director, Love, INC:

On behalf of everyone in the Love INC ministry, accept our thanks for your selection of Love INC for your monthly mission endowment for April. Your contribution of \$699.78 is truly appreciated. With supportive contributions such as yours, we are able to reach out to those in need on a daily basis. With our thanks comes a prayer that God will bless you as you have blessed us. Thank you so much! We are honored to be part of your monthly mission offering.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LISA ANDERSON

The annual ceremony recognizing sterling achievements of Albion College alumni is one of a college's most revered traditions. With a bit of pomp and lots of looking back, it reinforces a lifetime bond between individual and alma mater. Yet, with some current students usually in attendance, the occasion also serves as a bridge between those whose time as undergraduates may be decades apart but who, simply through attending the same school., share much in common.

Within the framework of this celebrated ritual, Albion has established a new tradition. At an April 21 dinner in Upper Baldwin, the College, for the third straight year, combined its Distinguished Alumni Awards and Young Alumni Awards into one powerful night of purple-and-gold pride. Congratulations to MIT biochemistry researcher, **Lisa Anderson**, '09 (third from left), as one of the 2017 Young Alumni honorees during the evening's program.



CHURCH GARDEN

I know our little garden is not much to behold, but I believe it to be "God's Little Acre", and it has truly blessed me. I have been thrilled to share the wealth of the red strawberries, green beans and herbs with all of you. I think if it comes from our church garden it tastes better.

With construction coming next year, we probably won't have a garden. It has been fun working with our expert gardeners Karen Anderson and Charlotte Barfield, with special mention of Linda Johnson for sharing her watering can, and for those who might have watered on those dry days. Onions and beets are still to be harvested. ~ Greetings, from Farmer Pat!



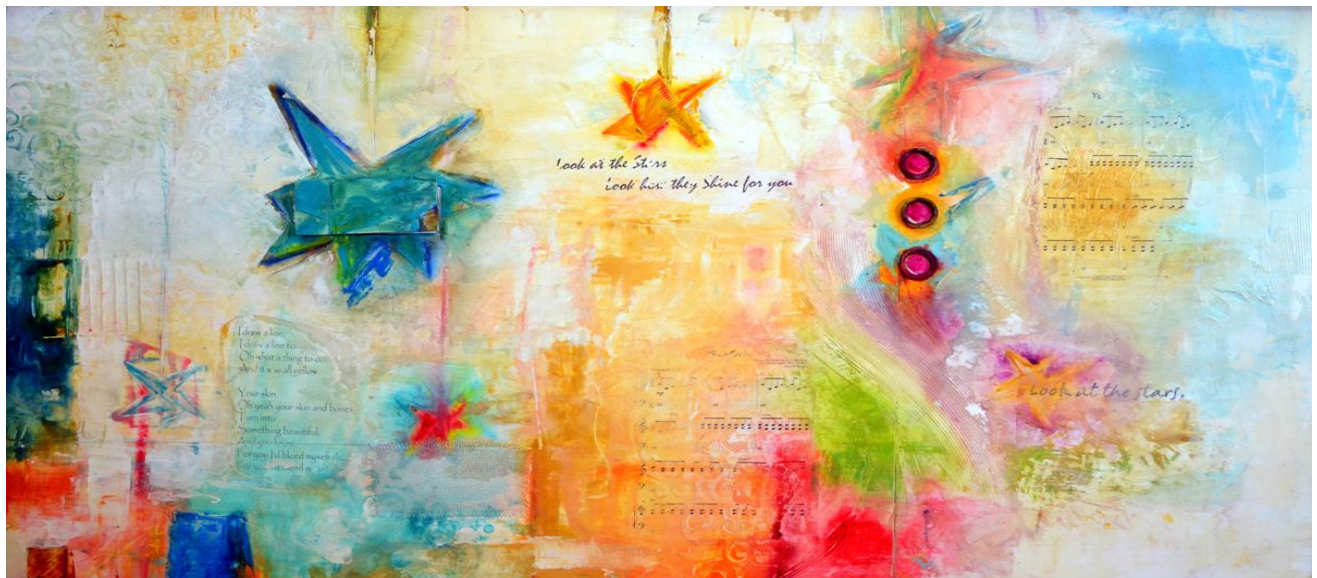
Pat McCurdy & Charlotte Barfield

UCC Women of Michigan's "The Gathering"

We had a wonderful women's retreat last June at the Kettenen Center. Several women of our church went this year. We attended enriching workshops. Linda Johnson enjoyed her workshop on the "Miracle Morning", a jump-start to her day. Charlotte Barfield had an informative knitting class, and Catherine Doud made use of the beautiful surroundings for quiet time. Donna Debney, our fearless leader, was awesome, and has a great history with the group. I enjoyed the keynote speaker, Marian Plant, just getting to know her at mealtimes and her great book list.

So, come and join us next year, on June 8, 9 and 10, for moments of inspiration, information, quiet times in a beautiful setting, and most of all, the opportunity to gather with dynamic spiritual women.

~ Pat McCurdy



Minutes from July 2017:

The Board is looking at providing an AED for the church. Thank you Angie Brugger for finding a grant.

New Fundraiser: Gary Knapp, friend of the church, has volunteered his time and talent to provide a travelogue of his adventures. The first one is scheduled for Sunday, September 17, from 3:00 – 4:30.

The next Pancake Brunch is scheduled for Saturday October 21, from 10-12.

Two new committees have been created.

Hospitality Committee

Public Relations Committee (PR)

In addition, we are in need of a Spiritual Education Committee.

If you are interested in becoming a member of any of these committees, please contact Marie Linn, clerk..

From the Clerk's Office

Please turn in your blue information cards as well as your white emergency contact card. Thank you.

Fundraiser:

Please keep saving your Family Fare, and other Spartan store receipts. We are making progress. In a short time, we have saved \$40. We have a long way to go but this is a fundraiser and we can all help with this by doing nothing more than saving a receipt and turning it in. Thank you.

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

TRAVELOGUE SERIES



Gary Knapp, friend of the church, has volunteered his time and talent to provide a travelogue of his adventures. The first one is scheduled for Sunday, September 17, from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. in the church Fellowship Hall.

Cost per person is: Freewill Offering

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS NEEDED

With the “retirement” of Karen Anderson and Pat McCurdy from the Sunday School program, we are in need of individuals who will volunteer monthly (or weekly) to lead our children in Sunday School. There is a sign- up sheet at the back of the church. If you’d like to ask questions about the role of a Sunday School leader or programming, you may talk with Rev. Doud, Pat McCurdy or Karen Anderson for guidance.



Our Sunday School program starts September 10 at 10:30 a.m. Thank you to those who give of their time to our church.

CHURCH CHOIR

Calling all singers and wannabe singers. Our first rehearsal will be September 6th, 7-8 p.m. at the church. Our debut will be September 17th during the 10:30 worship service. Rehearsals will be Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. and Sundays 9:30-10:15 a.m. (You may attend either or both rehearsals)
You are welcome and wanted!



NEW MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY

On Sunday, October 1 we will have several people joining our church. If you also are interested in joining or have questions, please contact Rev. John Doud at 231-313-6053.

Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Greeter/ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
Sept 3	George Davis & Leif Williams	Cindy / Mark Morley	<i>Birthday Sunday Volunteers Needed</i>	Richard Harvey	John Doud
Sept 10	Tom & Diane Jobson	Karen Smeltzer	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	Sara Keinath	John Doud
Sept 17	Mike & Joyce Oatley	Tom Jobson	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	Tom Jobson	Robin Corbin
Sept 24	Linda Baynes & Penny Phelps	Laura Porter	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	Bob LeVand	John Doud

September 2017 CHURCH CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<i>Mission: Feeding America</i>					<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>3</u> Worship 10:30 am COMMUNION (circle)	<u>4</u> Office Closed - Holiday	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> Office open 10:30-1:00	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>10</u> Worship 10:30am (Sunday School & Nursery available) Rally Day	<u>11</u> Office open 10:30-1:00	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> Office open 10:30-1:00	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>17</u> Worship 10:30am (Robin Corbin) (Sunday School & Nursery available) Travelogue 3:00 in Fellowship Hall	<u>18</u> Office open 10:30-1:00 Board Meeting 6:30 pm	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> Office open 10:30-1:00	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> United Northern Assn. meeting in Clare
<u>24</u> Worship 10:30 am (Sunday School & Nursery available)	<u>25</u> Office open 10:30-1:00	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> Office open 10:30-1:00	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>

Non-church activities that take place in the church building:

Jazzercise: 8:30am: Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat; 5:45pm: Mon, Wed, Thu; 4:30: Wed. Symphony Board: 7pm first Monday of the month

2017 Missions - Jan.: Our Church's Wider Mission, Feb.: After 26 Project, March: One Great Hour of Sharing, April: Love, INC, May: Strengthen the Church, June: New Hope Shelter, July: Back Pack Program, August: Shepherd's Table, Sept.: Feeding America, Oct.: Neighbors in Need, Nov.: Salvation Army, Dec.: Christmas Fund