

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

“The Tie that Binds”

October 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 Pastor

BACK TO NATURE



Catherine and I have lived in parsonages owned by the churches I have served since we were married in 1976. In the Michigan Congregational churches I served in, Lake Odessa and Jackson, the parsonages were located adjacent to the churches. In 2015, and at ages many adults would be either retired or considering retirement, as most of you know, Cath and I moved into our starting home, our mid-life crisis home, and our retirement home, all in one! As we now realize, there are stresses and strains and pains which we avoided for the thirty-nine years of parsonage life, including mortgage, interest, property taxes, utility costs, lawn/garden maintenance, interior upkeep, and so forth.

Let me explain. The purpose of the parsonage is to make sure minister and family are provided for so the minister can focus more time on ministerial responsibilities. In Jackson, most ministers did not seem to live in parsonages, though it is of interest that years ago when the Temple Beth Israel rabbi resided in Jackson, he lived in a parsonage, which was located directly across the street from the parsonage—or manse—of the priest of Queen of the Miraculous Medal Catholic Church. Indeed, Jackson was a very ecumenical community. Now here we are in our own home, and periodically I am nostalgic for the good old easy-going days of parsonage life—things were so simple back then!

Speaking of simplicity, the Buddhist scriptures tell us there are eight objections to living in a house: “It is a lot of trouble to build; it must be kept in repair; some nobleman might seize it; too many people may want to live in or visit; it makes the body tender; it provides concealment for committing evil deeds; it causes pride of ownership; and it harbors lice and bugs.” There are ten advantages, on the other hand, in residing under a tree: “It can be found with ease; it can be found in any locality; the sight of falling leaves is a reminder of the impermanence of life; a tree arouses no covetous thoughts; it affords no opportunity for evil deeds; it is not received from any person; it is inhabited by good spirits; it needs no fence; it promotes health; it does not involve worldly attachments” (Pujimaliya).

Why do so many people build self-esteem by acquiring more and more housing and land and stuff? It’s almost like a sport. Does having a big home or a fancy car make for a better human being? I think not. Of course, it’s easy for me to talk like this since I drive a 1997 automobile. And yet, how can I be judgmental when I know perfectly well that this old car is less fuel efficient and pollutes the world more than a new one. As soon as I point fingers at others regarding tending our precious earth, I find how my actions undermine the words I speak— makes me a hypocrite! As a family, we do our best to recycle while we also leave a giant carbon footprint. We turn off the lights and turn down the heat, but the energy bill doesn’t seem to budge. Does any of it make a difference?

Once again, this year our earth continues to experience extreme climate change. In the western United States, we hear of temperatures reaching all-time highs and more frequent forest fires raging as compared to previous years. Hurricanes, floods, and high winds have devastated Houston, Florida, and the Islands of the Caribbean. The dried-up land, polluted air, melting polar ice caps and rising water levels are clear evidence of what we are doing to our beloved planet: we are abusing it instead of tending it. We have been operating as those entitled to everything and anything, as if God has given us the rights of ownership. And yet listen to some verses from Psalm 24: “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.”

As Fall begins and as nature calls us back to the earth and the wind and the water, let us take the time to sit by a lake, under a tree, listening to the earth, tasting the air, observing the soul. In that time of reflection, may we consider the many blessings we have freely received (including the gift of life) from our family and friends and community and the earth itself, and possibly find a way to give back.

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

SUNDAY SCHOOL LEADERS NEEDED

We need 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 duties as a Sunday School leader or programming materials available, you may talk with Rev. Doud, Pat McCurdy or Karen Anderson for guidance.

Children's Sunday School



Thank you to those who give of their time to our church.



CHURCH CHOIR

There's still time to join the church choir. 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!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes from September 21, 2017:

Gary Knapp Travelogue "Fiji" will be shown on October 15, 2017 at 3:00 pm.

World Communion Day/New Member Sunday is October 1, 2017. Communion will be served in the Pews.

There will a Board Retreat at Angie Brugger's house on October 18 from 9 am – 4 pm.

Pancake Brunch for the Stehouwer Free Clinic will be held Saturday, October 21, 2017 from 10 am-12 pm.

Church Clean Up Day is Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 10am-1pm. Coffee, drinks, and donut holes will be served. There will be NO LUNCH served.

Ecumenical Weekend Begins Friday, November 17, 2017 at Temple BethShalom in Traverse City at 7:00 pm with Rabbi Arnie Sleutelberg. The weekend ends on Sunday, November 19, 2017 at First Congregational Church United Church of Christ in Cadillac at 10:30 am. Reverend John F. Doud and Rabbi Arnie Sleutelberg will lead the service.

FROM THE CHURCH CLERK

Member Information Forms are still needed from some members of the congregation. Even if you've been a member for many years, please fill out and return the forms below to Marie Linn, Church Clerk. This will ensure that we can contact you or your loved ones in the event of an emergency or upcoming church function. Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP PROFILE – FOR CHURCH CLERK

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

City-State-Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Birthdate & Place of Birth: _____

Baptism Date & Place: _____

Parents' Names: _____

Previous Church Relationship: _____

Spouse & Date Married: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

(Name and phone) _____

CHILDREN: Name – Birthdate – Baptism Date – Current Address: (use back for additional information)

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

Profession: _____

Passions: _____

Interests: _____

Special Talents: _____

Are you willing to serve in a leadership capacity in the church? Where would you like to serve?

Are you interested in serving on a committee? If so, which one(s)?

OFFICE USE ONLY

Membership Date: _____

Transfer of Letter: _____

Reaffirm. Of Faith: _____

Confession of Faith: _____

Confirmation: _____

Friend: _____

Date removed/reason: _____

PLEASE TURN THIS IN TO THE CHURCH CLERK

NAME: _____

I prefer to receive church communications via:

___ email email address: _____

___ phone phone number: _____

___ text cell phone number: _____

___ snail mail address: _____

I prefer to receive EMERGENCY church messages via:

___ email ___ phone ___ text ___ Facebook messenger

HANDCRAFTED AFGHANS

Al Snyder is donating many beautiful handcrafted afghans. These afghans are of various colors and styles, some for children, and can be viewed in Fellowship Hall any time. If you'd like to purchase one (or more) of these afghans, there is a donation box nearby to place your donation. Proceeds go to the church. Thank you!



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

YOUTH GROUP EVENT

COOKOUT: at Anderson's homestead

WHEN: Sunday, October 1 noon-2:30pm

STUFF TO DO: roast hamburgers, make gourmet s'mores, play volleyball, cornhole, ladder toss or walk the woods...



If you need a ride to and from the church, call KarenAnderson.

And you may bring a friend.



NEW MEMBERSHIP SUNDAY

New members will be welcomed into our church on Sunday, October 1. If you also are interested in joining or have questions, please contact Rev. John Doud at 231-313-6053.



TRAVELOGUE SERIES

Gary Knapp's second travelogue of his adventures is scheduled for Sunday, October 15th at 3 pm in the church Fellowship Hall. Don't miss these travelogues and sharing his exciting experiences.

The presentation this time will be on Fiji.

Cost per person: Freewill Offering

PANCAKE BRUNCH

SATURDAY October 21st 2017

10AM-12PM

**First Congregational Church UCC
200 Harris Street, Cadillac, MI**

Donations go to the Stehouwer Free Clinic



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,

Sunday Morning Schedule					
Date	Greeter/ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
Oct 1	Al Snyder & Steve Jackson	Sue Wachowski	<i>Birthday Sunday Volunteers Needed</i>	Carol Nilsson	John Doud
Oct 7	Laura Jacobson & Sam Pentces	Karma Chapo	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	Marie Linn	John Doud
Oct 15	George Davis & Leif Williams	Ralph Annis	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	Tom Jobson	John Doud
Oct 22	Bill & Sue Cinco	Charlotte Barfield	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	John Smith	John Doud
Oct 29	Karma Chapo & Donna Debney	Penny Phelps	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	Sue Wachowski	John Doud

October 2017 CHURCH CALENDAR						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30 am COMMUNION (pews) <i>NEW MEMBER SUNDAY</i> Youth Cookout at Anderson's after church-2:30 pm	2 Office open 10:30-1:00	3	4 Office open 10:30-1:00 Choir 7pm	5	6	7
8 Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am	9 Office open 10:30-1:00	10	11 Office open 10:30-1:00 Choir 7pm	12	13 14 October 13 & 14 UCC Michigan Conference in Lansing	
15 Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am Travelogue Part II 3:00 in Fellowship Hall	16 Office open 10:30-1:00	17	18 Board Retreat 9am-4pm Office open 10:30-1:00 Choir 7pm	19	20	21 10-12 PANCAKE BRUNCH
22 Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30 am	23 Office open 10:30-1:00	24	25 Office open 10:30-1:00	26	27	28
29 Worship 10:30 am	30 Office open 10:30-1:00	31	Mission: Neighbors in Need			

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