

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

“The Tie that Binds”

December 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.

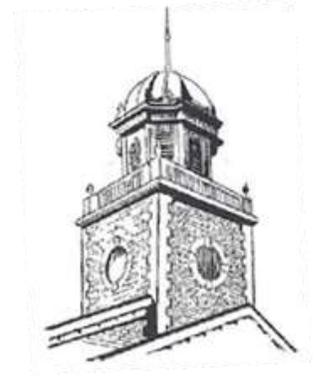
The church is open on **Mondays and Wednesdays** from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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

Office email: office@firstcongcadillac.org

Web Site: www.firstcongcadillac.org

THOUGHTS from JERI HECTOR



For me, it actually began with the Regional Conference in Clare. The state conference that was held at St. Stephen's UCC in Lansing, Michigan, was so much more meaningful because I saw people there who I had already met and liked. I have been asked to write this because a number of people missed the service the day after the conference where the delegates spoke about the conference. Each church elects / appoints two delegates (Linda Baynes and Sara Keinath) who are allowed to vote. Our pastor, John, is also allowed to vote. The non-voting delegates from our church were myself, Donna Debney and Ann Lockwood. We were allowed to participate, but not vote.

The theme of the conference was "Rejoice: Living Your Passion", and the keynote speaker was the Rev. Dr. Frank Thomas. Upon arriving Saturday morning, we had time for coffee and chit chat before the two committee meetings, which each addressed two issues before the conference. The first resolution was named "The Poor People's Campaign", and is briefly based on the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - that the UCC should do more to fight poverty.

The second resolution was entitled "Upholding Voting Rights and Opposing Attempts at Voter Suppression and Discrimination in Michigan". This resolution is inspired by the 2013 Supreme Court's gutting of the 1965 Voting Rights act.

The third resolution was "To Establish (a) Voluntary Fund For Legal Support For Non-Violent Arrestees". I believe this is self-explanatory.

The fourth resolution was the one I felt most deeply about: "A Resolution of Witness: Stewardship of Exhibit Space as a Resource for a Mission of Justice". Basically the haters want to be free to have booths at the conference to disseminate anti-LGBTQ propaganda.

All four resolutions were passed.

I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the fellowship, and was intrigued by the process of parliamentary procedure. I plan on going next year if I am able, and being involved in standing for what is right - for what Jesus of Nazareth taught, what Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. taught.

Namaste and Shalom

~Jeri



THANK YOU's

From Feeding America:

I can't begin to thank you enough for your generous gift to Feeding American West Michigan. One in 8 people in West Michigan struggles with food insecurity, and your donation puts food directly into the hands of our hungry neighbors. For that, we are sincerely grateful.

As we head into the holiday season, we reflect on the things that matter to us and the things in our lives that we are grateful for. Rest assured donors like you are on the top of that list for us. Without you, we would not be able to continue our mission to help those struggling with hunger and food-insecurity in our communities. We are so grateful for your generous compassion in action.

Thank you for partnering with us. Your generosity of spirit and willingness to help a neighbor in need keeps us going day after day, and we believe that together, we are making a difference.

Sincerely,
Kenneth R. Estelle
Chief Executive Officer



From After 26 Depot:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of The After 26 Project, I would like to thank you for your donation of \$768.80 made in support of our café/gift shop. Your support and kindness is very much appreciated!

Sincerely,
Karen Petterson



LIFE IN THE CHURCH



WE LOVE THE YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY

Sunday, November 12 our local youth performed during the church service. They gave us a snapshot of a couple of tunes from an upcoming Footlighters Jr. Play, "Elf". They were fantastic and are so talented! This will be a very cute play; we hope to see you there. Performances will be November 24 & 25; December 1 & 2. Tickets are available at *After 26 Depot, Brinks Frames* or from *Laura Porter*.



HARVEST FEAST SUNDAY

Sunday, November 12 was Harvest Feast Sunday after the morning church service. It was well attended and once again, our great cooks in church provided many delicious side dishes. Ham and Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy were also prepared by an expert group of members. It was lovely visiting with everyone over the meal. Thank you to everyone who worked in the kitchen and with set up/clean up. Our Penny Phelps was in cute work gear – love you Penny!





UPCOMING EVENTS



Movies for the Mind



"Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions." - William O. Douglas, Supreme Court Justice

Won't you join the conversation?

Movie for the Mind offers thought-provoking and honest documentaries touching on issues of the body, mind, and spirit. From socially-conscious themes to environmental and political matters, MftM presents films from a wide variety of sources, including independent filmmakers, with messages that matter. Films presented have won major awards at festivals ranging from Sundance to Berlin.

When: Sunday, December 3 - 5:00pm

Where: First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall - 200 E. Harris St
(Across from the Cadillac Post Office)

Cost: Free will offering.

Pre-film dinner: A red chili and a white chili will be served prior to the film. Bring your own beverage, and any additional movie snacks you would like.

What to bring: If you want to be really comfortable, bring your own seating (lawn chair, pillow, blanket, etc.) Folding chairs and tables will be set up for eating, but moving to more comfortable arrangements is always possible.

What to expect: A film that often entertains, and certainly makes you think. When the film concludes we have an opportunity for people to share their perspectives and reflections on the movie.

Feature Film

PEACE THROUGH MUSIC



Mark Johnson & Jonathan Walls •• 84 minutes •• Playing for Change: Peace Through Music, is a story of hope, struggle, perseverance, and joy. The Directors, along with the Playing for Change team, traveled the globe with a single-minded passion to connect the world through music. Their ambitious journey took them from post-apartheid South Africa, through the ancient sites of the Middle East, to the remote beauty of the Himalayas and beyond. Using innovative mobile technology, they filmed and recorded more than 100 musicians, largely outdoors in parks, plazas, and promenades, in doorways, on cobblestone streets, and amid hilly pueblos. Each captured performance creates a new mix in which essentially the artists are all performing together, albeit hundreds or thousands of miles apart. Playing for Change: Peace Through Music, is the story of this unparalleled international musical collaboration and the remarkable power of music.

Handmade Holiday Sale

Saturday December 9, 2017, 10:30-3:00pm

First Congregational Church
200 E Harris St., Cadillac, MI



Shop a variety of Local
Artists and Crafters for
your High Quality,
Handcrafted items for
this Holiday Season



Keeping it Local



Soup lunch available for a donation!



TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS & BEYOND!



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Christmas Eve falls on Sunday this year. We will have the usual morning service at 10:30 a.m. (no morning coffee hour), and there will be the traditional Christmas Eve service of music, carols and candles at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 24th. If you'd like to provide refreshments after the evening service, please let the office know.

PROJECT CHRISTMAS DONATION BOX

Each year our congregation helps others in the community by donating toys and food. There will be boxes available in the sanctuary at the back table to place donated items starting **November 6 – December 3**. The Project Christmas event takes place on Saturday, December 9th, 8am-6pm at The Wex.



HANGING OF THE ORNAMENTS

Fun for everyone – Hanging of the Ornaments on the Christmas Tree in the Sanctuary will be held during the 10:30 morning service on Sunday, December 10. This is a fun family event during the service.



ANNUAL MEETING

Please turn in committee reports to Penny Phelps for the ANNUAL MEETING, which is scheduled for Sunday, January 21st at 11:30 a.m.



POINSETTIAS



It's time to order poinsettias for the sanctuary!
If you wish to join in this time-honored tradition of purchasing a plant to create a blaze of color at the front of the sanctuary, please fill in the form below and either bring it to church or mail it in. The deadline is Sunday, December 10th.

Poinsettia Order

I/We _____ wish to order
(Name)

_____ poinsettias at \$8 each in memory / honor (circle one) of:
_____.

Enclosed is my/our payment of \$_____.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees met on November 18.

Rev. Doud presented his report –

- The Ministerial calendar for 2018 was reviewed, with discussion of holidays and special events in 2018, as well as review of December church activities.
- Committee reports are due to Penny by December 31 so they can be incorporated into the Annual Report for January.
- Names of potential new members were shared.
- A second letter requesting pledges will be sent out after Thanksgiving.
- Our church has the best representation at conference and association meetings of the 140 member churches.

The Treasurer's report indicated October donations were good and expenses were down a little.

Committee reports were presented –

- Nurture & Care - Names of congregants who recently have had surgery were shared and asked for prayers.
- ONA will meet again after the holidays.
- The Hospitality Team did a great job with the recent brunch during Rabbi Arnie's visit.
- Building committee has done some repairs to the louvers in the bell tower to reduce leakage.

Other Business -

- Cleaning services are being reviewed for the church to ensure quality and best pricing.
- Fundraiser ideas were reviewed; more information will follow.
- We are asking for volunteer(s) to host the Social Time after the 7:30 Christmas Eve service.
- A meeting for the Budget committee was set for December 18th at 1:30 p.m. at the church.
- Safety in the church was discussed. It was suggested that the back door be locked during morning worship service. The Sexton should ensure that it is locked. Jazzercise class should keep the back door locked during classes also.

Meeting was adjourned.

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
Dec 3	Richard Rowley & Karen Smeltzer	Catherine Doud		Sara Keinath	John Doud
10	Mike & Joyce Oatley	Cindy/Mark Morley		Bob LeVand	John Doud
17	Linda Baynes & Penny Phelps	Karen Smeltzer		Marie Linn	John Doud
24 - 10:30a.m.	Al Snyder & Steve Jackson	Various		Tom Jobson	John Doud
24 - 7p.m.					John Doud
31	Laura Jacobson & Sam Pentces	Laura Porter		Carol Nilsson	Penny Phelps

DECEMBER 2017 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>3</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am Communion (in pews) 5:00 "Movies for the Mind" in Fellowship Hall	<u>4</u> Office 12:00-2:30	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> Office 10:30-1:00 Choir 7:00pm	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> HANDMADE HOLIDAY SALE 10:30am-3pm
<u>10</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am; HANGING OF THE ORNAMENTS <i>POINSETTIA FORMS DUE</i>	<u>11</u> Office 10:30-1:00	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> Office 10:30-1:00 Choir 7:00pm	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>17</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am	<u>18</u> Office 10:30-1:00 Board of Trustees 6:30pm	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> Office 10:30-1:00 Choir 7:00pm	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>24</u> CHRISTMAS EVE Worship 10:30 am (no coffee hour) and 7 pm (social hour afterwards)	<u>25</u> CHRISTMAS DAY	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> Office 10:30-1:00	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>31</u> Worship 10:30am					<i>Mission – Christmas Fund</i>	

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