

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

“The Tie that Binds”

May 2018

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 Rowley, Newsletter Editor
Laura Jacobson-Pentces, Chair of Trustees

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

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

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ORIGINAL INTENTIONS



This year in May, our Mother's Day will be transformed into a Mother's Weekend since Rabbi Arnie Sleutelberg and the Reverend John Doud will once again celebrate an ecumenical exchange (Friday, May 11th, 6:30 pm, Sabbath service at Temple Beth El in Traverse City.....and Sunday, May 13th, 10:30 am, service at First Congregational in Cadillac). And you will never in your wildest imaginations guess what subject matter we have chosen: OUR MOTHERS!!!!

This topic on mothers inspired me to conduct some research for our May newsletter in preparation for our weekend together. Let's begin with the legalization of the pill, which took place on May 9, 1960. Though many may not buy the argument that the pill and Mother's Day have something in common, there is an actual correlation. While it is true that the pill may have encouraged the "sexual revolution" – though at the time it was legalized, only married women could obtain a prescription – the original intention had more to do with freedom through birth control, not only for mothers with more children than they could handle, but also for women seeking higher education and for women working outside the home who otherwise would have been fired from their jobs as a result of pregnancies. The pill proclaimed liberty for the rights of women, Therefore, its legalization is something for us, especially in churches and synagogues and mosques, to celebrate on Mother's Day.

Further, the original intent of Mother's Day had nothing whatsoever to do with giving mom flowers, balloons, candies, cards, or taking her out to dinner. It was a day established by a famous Congregationalist named Julia Ward Howe who, following the terrible losses of the American Civil War, anticipated United States involvement in the Franco-Prussian war in Europe, and she demanded a day for mothers grieving the losses of their sons. Author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," Julia Howe was an abolitionist and crusader for peace. On June 2, 1870, she designated the first Mother's Day with this proclamation:

"We shall not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy, and patience. We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs... The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."

Her objective was not to put mothers on a pedestal. Her original intention in establishing Mother's Day was to protect children from war. Connecting the dots between motherhood and women's rights, Julia Howe said: "On this Mother's Day, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace." We should recall that Julia Ward Howe's original intention was to set in motion a day to challenge everyone to respect and preserve life, as well as to instill a sense of cooperation and understanding with people who think differently than we do, for the cause of world peace.

And how does this have a religious connection? Consider the biblical story about the woman with a menstrual flow, whom Jesus healed. A woman living with what was considered then to be a shameful sinful condition, ritually unclean, she had the chutzpah to push her way through a crowd, disobeying every Jewish blood prohibition law, in order to touch the cloak of Jesus. He healed not only her physical hemorrhage, but also her emotional shame, a result of many years of community exclusion. The original intention of these verses cannot be solely in the healing of the woman. There are, after all, surprising ways in which we discover in our beloved community of faith what it means to be loved, accepted, and included. As we bring others to life through our inclusion, our acceptance, and our compassion – subtly, imperceptibly, often without our knowing it – they are likewise breathing air into our lungs, pumping blood through our veins, renewing within us a sacred original intention of how we, as God's divine creation, should live together in prosperity, in harmony, and in love.

Pills...Peace...Inclusion for all. So, I ask you, my concerned but enlightened readers: What better way would you suggest we celebrate Mother's Day?

-John F. Doud

HAPPENINGS IN MAY

ECUMENICAL WEEKEND

Our interfaith dialogue exchange will start on **Friday May 11 at 6:30pm** with the Temple Beth Shalom congregation at Temple Beth El (311 Beth El Way) in Traverse City. On **Sunday May 13**, Rabbi Arnie and some of his congregation will be here at First Congregational's 10:30am service.



May seems a better time to do this exchange than November, when the evenings can be dark and inclement.

*Please meet outside church at **5 pm on Friday, May 11** if you would like to carpool.*

Here are some photos from last November's Ecumenical weekend:



CHOIR

Please note that choir practices will be on Thursdays during May and June, at the usual time of **7 pm: May 3, 10, 17, 31, June 7.**



YOUTH SUNDAY

Sunday, May 20 - Youth Sunday.

Sam Pentces will be preaching, and there will be a children's sermon by John Doud. Special music by Lucy Daveridge, Grace Cederberg, and Rudy Myers.

This is also Graduation Sunday when graduating seniors will be recognized.

EVERYONE IS INVITED





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, May 20, 2018 - doors open at 5:00pm. Movie begins at 5:30pm.

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

Cost: Donation.

Film snacks: Bring your own beverage, and any additional movie snacks you would like. Popcorn will be available for purchase.

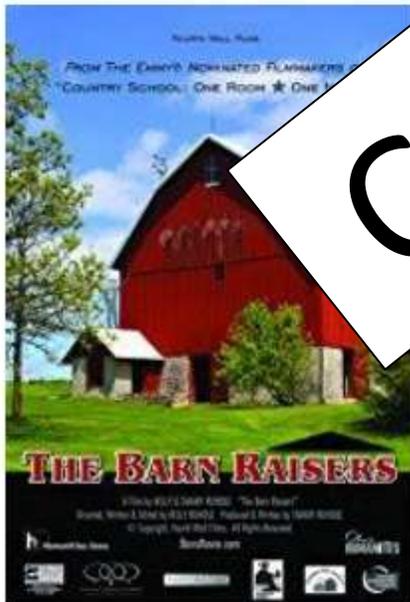
What to bring: If you want to be really comfortable, bring your own seating (lawn chair, pillow, blanket, etc.) Some folding chairs and tables will be provided. Moving to more comfortable arrangements is recommended.

What to expect: A film that often entertains as well as informs. When the film concludes we have an opportunity for audience members to share their perspectives and reflections on the movie.

CANCELLED

THE BARN RAISERS.

the Film



The 2017-2018 season will be free of concern. Relax and learn with us as "The Barn Raisers" historical documentary feature film tells the story of barns in the Midwest by examining them through the lens of their architecture.

What do barn settings, styles, methods and materials tell us about the people who built them, the life they lived, and the role these vanishing country cathedrals played in the settling and building of a growing nation?

"The Barn Raisers" paints a cinematic portrait of barns and builders, and reminds us that these remnants from America's rural past are still here to be appreciated and experienced.

LOOKING AHEAD

Please mark your calendars for upcoming special Sunday programs!

Sunday, June 10 - There will be a **Pancake Brunch** held after church downstairs in the Fellowship Room. Donations will go to the Stehouwer Clinic project. This Pancake Brunch will take the place of the Saturday brunch.

Sunday, June 24 - Pride Sunday. The ONA Committee is putting together the morning worship service.

Sunday, July 15 – Blessing of the Pets will be conducted during the morning worship service.

Sunday, July 29 – Church Semi-Annual meeting and Potluck.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

On Sunday April 8th, Robert Crowe (pictured below) led worship and shared a program on Transgender Awareness.



Robert and Arnie

Here is the blessing that was used at the end of the service “The Mystery of Pink and Blue”:

“They said pink or blue as if that were the end of the mystery. I know now that it was just the beginning. Blessed is God, whose creativity pushes the limits of human understanding, and blessed are those who bravely show the richness of that varied palette. May the eternal watch over and protect you. May we all be blessed with the courage to confront our own fear and prejudice, and in doing so, truly witness creation.

AMEN!”

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

On April 22nd, we welcomed new members Kendra Day, Beth Lakin, Brie Post, Sandie Post and Dick Rowley, Jr.



Our moderator, Sara Keinath extending the Right Hand of Fellowship to our new members.

April's "Movies for the Mind" was attended by nearly 50 people on Earth Day, April 22nd; \$266 was collected. Thank you to Dave and Sandy Gaunt for bringing us this event. The next one will be at 5:30 pm on Sunday, May 20.

There will be more movies in September and October.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to Penny Phelps and Marie Linn for preparing morning treats for New Member Sunday.



Thanks to everyone who helped with the Spring cleanup!



NEW BABIES! CONGRATULATIONS!

Baby Cyrus, 7lb 13 oz, 21in long, was born on April 2nd at 10:19 pm to proud parents Wade and Alexandra



Mom Alexandra with Cyrus



Dad Wade with baby



Grandma Shelley



Grandpa Frank

Mitchell was born on April 3 in West Chester, Pennsylvania. Proud parents are Matthew and Bethany; proud big sister is Izzy (Isabelle)



Grandpa Mark with Mitchell



Grandma Cindy with Mitchell

And welcome to more babies born in April.

Great-Grandchildren to:

Ruth Rounds – baby girls Camilla Christine and Violet Isabella

Charlotte Barfield – baby girl Lilliana Clare

Willa Brintnall – baby boy Milo

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

April Minutes

Penny Phelps presented a grant update to the Board. The completed grant will be sent to the IRS for processing this week. Thank you, Penny and Ed Goldman.

On Sunday, July 15, 2018 First Congregational Church will be Blessing the Animals during our regular worship service.

Movies of the Mind has been successful. The next movie will be Sunday May 20, 2018 at 5:00pm. Come out and enjoy Historical Barns.

Ed Goldman has been appointed to the Bequests and Gifts Committee by the Board. He will replace Joyce Oatley who has stepped down from the position after many years of service. Thank you, Joyce for your dedication to the church.

A special thanks is given to Carol Nilsson for her outstanding service as chairwoman of the Board of Trustees.

~ Marie Linn, Church Clerk

Update on the Grant Proposal

Last summer (2017), after a number of meetings to determine the church's needs, we applied for a grant to install a handicap-accessible front door and to repair the railings on the front steps as well as the ramp. This grant application went to the Herrick Foundation. After a period of time, we received word from the foundation that they could not consider our application unless we had a 501(c)3 certificate guaranteeing our tax-exempt status.

We then launched into the process of applying for a 501(c)3 certificate, which involves a 26-page application intended to weed out the faint-of-heart. We consulted a lawyer; we consulted our accountant. Finally, thanks to Ed Goldman's research, we discovered that there are businesses that do nothing but fill out these applications. Ed and I decided to engage BizCentralUSA and began providing them with the required information.

In the meantime, the Board of Trustees, eager to move forward on this project, inquired about the delay in getting the grant. They have been advised as to where we stand on the process. We have completed our end of the deal and sent all the necessary information. We just received word from BizCentralUSA that they have completed the 501(c)3 application and it is in the mail to me. I expect that it will arrive by the end of this week at the latest.

If there are no problems with the application and we are able to forward it to the IRS soon, we can anticipate a waiting period of three to six months before we hear from the IRS. If all goes well, at that point we can re-apply to the foundation for a grant (they review grant applications every three months).

~ Penny Phelps

SPRING IS FINALLY HERE!



SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
May 6	Richard and Karen Smeltzer-Rowley	Robin Corbin	<i>Birthday Sunday Volunteers needed</i>	Penny Phelps	John Doud
13	Marie Linn & Pat McCurdy	Catherine Doud	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	John Smith	John Doud
20	Linda Baynes & Penny Phelps	YOUTH	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Sue Wachowski	Sam Pentces
27	Ed Goldman & Tim Florinki	Jeri Hector	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Linda Baynes	John Doud

MAY 2018 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>May's Mission: Strengthen the Church</i>		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Office 10:30-1:00	<u>3</u> Choir 7:00pm	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>6</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am (Communion)	<u>7</u> Office 10:30- 1:00	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u> Office 10:30-1:00	<u>10</u> Choir 7:00pm	<u>11</u> ECUMENICAL WEEKEND: 6:30 Temple Beth El, Traverse City	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u> MOTHERS' DAY Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am ECUMENICAL WEEKEND	<u>14</u> Office 10:30- 1:00	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> Office 10:30-1:00 Board of Trustees 2:00 pm	<u>17</u> Choir 7:00pm	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>20</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am YOUTH SUNDAY Movies for the Mind-5:30 pm	<u>21</u> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Office 10:30- 1:00	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u> Office 10:30-1:00	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>27</u> Worship 10:30am Memorial Sunday	<u>28</u> Office 10:30- 1:00	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> Office 10:30-1:00	<u>31</u> Choir 7:00pm		

NON-CHURCH ACTIVITIES THAT TAKE PLACE IN THE CHURCH BUILDING:

Jazzercise: Mon: 5:45pm; Tue: 8:30am; Wed 4:30& 5:45; Thu 8:30 & 5:45; Fri & Sat : 8:30am .

Symphony Board: 7pm first Monday of the month.

2018 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