

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

“The Tie that Binds”

November 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 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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A REPORT ABOUT THE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE

by our delegate, Jeri Hector



I was asked to share a few of my impressions of the Michigan Conference of the UCC. I shared these with the congregation on Sunday, October 21, but for those of you who were not there, here is a synopsis.

I rode down to Charlotte with John Doud and the trip seemed to fly by as we both love to converse. The wind generators between Mt. Pleasant and Lansing have grown into quite a sight. I love them; I think they are beautiful.

The Rev. Doctor Alice Hunt was the keynote speaker and spoke in both the Friday and Saturday services. The theme of the conference was "Have No Fear" from Isaiah. She is eloquent and I was moved by both sermons. If you wish for transcripts or more information about the conference, I believe you can get them at the UCC website or John would know.

I attended the budget meeting with John where I had the thrill of meeting a pastor from Grand Rapids who attended the same seminary as I did called Emmanuel School of Religion in Northeastern Tennessee. I also renewed my friendships with people I had met at last year's conference, like Phiwa Langeni, who led the workshop on transgender issues. I also attended a workshop on the history of the UCC led by a lady known as B.B.Z. (Barbara Brown Zikmund) who is the recognized expert.

The most moving experience for me was the choir from Olivet College singing at Saturday's service. I have chills just writing about it.

Also, I have an announcement to make: I am leaving on November 9 to spend three months in Costa Rica, and from there my plans are unknown. I am also asking anyone who is willing to help me clean out my apartment to get in touch. I hope to see you at least one of the next two week's services.

~ Jeri



UCC Michigan Conference 2018 Annual Meeting

By Donna Debney

I have been asked to give an overview for you of our United Church of Christ Michigan Conference Annual Meeting, which took place on October 12th and 13th at the First Congregational Church of Charlotte. I have been attending these meetings since the mid-1980s, having moved north from Garden City, Michigan, in 1974 as a Presbyterian. Our pastor at that time told us to look for a Congregational Church. Finding a Presbyterian Church in Cadillac, I said, “There is no way we are driving that far to church” – famous last words, because here I am!

I attended my first national meeting, the synod, at Dallas/Ft. Worth, in 1989. This Annual Meeting in Charlotte had a different feel to me, as our keynoter, the Reverend Dr. Alice Hunt, immediate past President of the Chicago Theological Seminary, chose a very timely subject dealing with the whole issue of being a woman in a still very patriarchal society. Some churches still will not consider calling a woman to serve them. She chose as her Bible text Isaiah 40:9, telling us to “Be Not Afraid”, to preach the Good News, whoever and wherever we are. There was a good deal of discussion on both Friday, for the educational time, and Saturday, when more of our members were there.

Our host church was large enough to handle our main meeting, plus an annex for the workshops and budget/constitutional sessions. They provided lunch; however, the Friday banquet, recognizing new clergy to Michigan, plus those retiring and those who had passed away was held at a conference facility a few blocks away. The highlight of that evening for me was the honoring of Stan and Betsy Dole, who have been active in the Michigan United Church of Christ for over 50 years. I am blessed to call both of them my friends.

Our workshops covered everything from church growth, UCC History, Youth Issues, as well as issues of: Transgender; inclusive language; walking a labyrinth (which the Charlotte church has in their garden area); “Be Not Afraid to Sing, Sing, Sing” led by Marque Smith joining us from Canada. I attended his session just to listen, and he had a group of about 35 singing harmony well enough that they sang for the whole conference on Saturday. We were privileged to have the Olivet Gospel Choir sing for us during worship. That performance had many on their feet joining in.

There were displays from various groups – plus my UCC women with their Twocan Project and, of course, we had the business of passing a budget – voting on amending the Constitution of the National Church – our Michigan resolutions – election of new officers and board members – and hearing from our youth about their regional youth event.

All in all, the Annual Meeting was a productive, busy, energizing, though tiring, two day event. Besides getting the business finished, we got to see old friends and make new ones.

I have found that I learn something new each year even though I have been around for some time. I always feel after this meeting that I am proud to be a part of the United Church of Christ. Another year, come join with us.

LOOKING AHEAD

ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT SALE CANCELLED

Due to a conflict in scheduling, the Annual Craft Sale has been cancelled for this year. We are planning to get together in January to discuss the format of the sale for next year. There are many talented crafts people in our congregation, and we'd like to get more of them involved in the sale. We hope to enlarge it to something like our old Holiday Bazaars. Anyone with ideas and a willingness to participate is welcome to attend the first meeting. Date and time will be announced later.

FALL CHURCH CLEAN-UP

Grab your gloves, wear your jeans and come to church on **Saturday, October 27 for church clean-up**. Plan to meet at **10:00 a.m.** Stay as long as you can, but we will wrap it up at 1:00 p.m. Donuts and coffee will be provided.

Day 2 (if needed) – Sunday, October 28 after church.

Pray for good weather. Thank you in advance for all those who come out to work together.



ECUMENICAL EVENT



We have been invited to participate in the worship experience at Temple Beth El in Traverse City on **Friday, November 2, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.** The temple is located at 311 Park Street, Traverse City.

There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the church for you to indicate if you'd like to drive or want to ride with someone.

HARVEST FEAST



Sunday, November 11th, we will celebrate our Annual Harvest Feast. Sign-up sheets will be at the back of the sanctuary, both for attendance and for what folks plan to bring. As usual, those who are interested can contribute money for a turkey. Please see Penny Phelps. We usually get five turkeys and a ham. We will also need a couple of people to make stuffing (in the large steam tray pans) and mashed potatoes (same pans). Ask Penny about getting a large pan to take home. The sign-up sheet will list other categories of side dishes and desserts.

Be sure to join us for this special gathering.

PROJECT CHRISTMAS

Mark your calendars – Project Christmas will take place on Saturday, December 8 from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Set-up takes place Thursday and Friday prior to the distribution date. In 2017, Project Christmas served 2938 people representing nearly 900 households (including Seniors).

Helpers are always needed. A box will be available in the church entrance as the date gets closer.



Needs include: Pajamas for children through age 9, hats and mittens, food items.

ANOTHER “MOVIES FOR THE MIND”

Dave Gaunt has let us know that he’s planning to show one more “Movies for the Mind” possibly to be held December 2. Watch for more details as the date gets closer.

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please Note: The deadline for December church newsletter articles is Monday, November 19. There is always a lot of information about events, etc. for December and Christmas so don’t miss the date to submit your article.

WHAT’S BEEN HAPPENING

THANK YOU’S

We are grateful to several members for their contribution to our church life.

- Penny Phelps for her long hours and research compiling information to get the application ready for the 501(c)3 status in preparation for our grant submission.
- Dave & Sandy Gaunt for providing the “Movies for the Mind” series this fall. More movies are planned for next spring.
- Richard Harvey for the many projects he oversees and works on to keep our church in good condition.

WE REPRESENT

At the September 29 United Northern Association of the UCC Michigan Conference meeting in Manistee, our church received the Best Attendance Award. Donna Debney, John Doud, Jeri Hector, and Penny Phelps were our delegates. We appreciate the time and love that our representatives bring to these meetings, and the information they bring back to the congregation.

Congratulations and thank you!



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE OCTOBER MEETING October 15, 2018

The Board of Trustees set the date for Fall Clean-up Day as Saturday, October 27 at 10:00 a.m. and Sunday, October 28th (if needed) after church.

The Pastor's Report was given. A few of the points of his report were:

- John Wolff's Buddhist presentation during morning service was well received and stimulated discussion regarding the differences in beliefs.
- Our delegates to the Michigan Conference of the UCC (Donna Debney, John Doud, and Jeri Hector) will share their experiences during the October 21 church service.
- Our church received the Best Attendance Award during the September 29 United Northern Assn. meeting.
- The Stewardship Campaign is ongoing and concludes with our Harvest Feast on Sunday, November 11. Members of the committee will speak during morning services.
- We have 3 persons who are interested in joining the church.

Penny Phelps delivered the 501(c)3 application for final review.

The final proposed form and cost of the all-inclusive sign was presented. The Board approved taking donations to pay for the sign.

The Board is working on obtaining building insurance quotes in an effort to have sufficient coverage and save on premium costs.

Thank you to Bill Cinco for working with the city to get the tipped sidewalk block at the side of the church repaired. Thank you to Richard Harvey for his work on this and many other projects. This project resulted in no cost to the church.

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held November 19 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Karen M. Rowley
for Marie Linn, Clerk



Proposed all-inclusive sign for the church yard.

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
Nov 4	Charlotte Barfield and Sue Wachowski	Sue Wachowski	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	John Smith	John Doud
11	Mike and Joyce Oatley	Catherine Doud	Harvest Feast	Linda Baynes	John Doud
18	Gert and Sperry Claypool	Robin Corbin	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Sperry Claypool	John Doud
25	Carol and Jerry Nilsson	Cindy Morley	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Carol Nilsson	Pat McCurdy

November 2018 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>November Mission: Salvation Army</i>				<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> 6:30 Visit to Temple Beth El, Traverse City	<u>3</u>
<u>4</u> 9:30am Choir Worship 10:30 am Pew Communion	<u>5</u> Office 11:00-1:00	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> Office 11:00-1:00 7pm Choir	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>11</u> 9:30am Choir Worship 10:30 am Harvest Feast 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hall	<u>12</u> Office 11:00-1:00	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> Office 11:00-1:00 7pm Choir	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>18</u> 9:30am Choir Worship 10:30 am	<u>19</u> Office 11:00-1:00 Board of Trustees 5:00 pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> Office Closed NO CHOIR PRACTICE	<u>22</u> THANKSGIVING	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>25</u> Worship 10:30 am	<u>26</u> Office 11:00-1:00	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u> 7pm Choir	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	

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.
(The Symphony Board no longer meets at the church)

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