

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

“The Tie that Binds”

January-February 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

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

PASTOR'S CORNER

“You Are the One Who You Have Been Waiting For”

My mother and father were always active in Wisconsin art and therefore viewed the world and those who inhabit it as anything that cannot be quantified. Beside regular attendance at the Milwaukee Art Center, culture was infused into the characters of the three Doud children through season tickets to the Milwaukee symphony, which we were forced to attend monthly during the 1960s. Today, this music sings my soul into being; but back then, my desire was to be any place other than the concert hall. My friends were at the Riverside Theater enjoying a Cinerama presentation of “Ben Hur” and I was listening to Beethoven and Mozart.



The only month of symphony music I enjoyed was in December since one could regularly expect the grand choral piece of Handel, “Messiah”. This was something I understood because I had heard the Hebrew word “Messiah” in church, and it had something to do with Jewish people waiting for some sort of mystical human form of God who would save the people. At the time, I was not sure what the people were being saved from or to, but rumor had it they were being saved for all time to come. In the covenant class at the Congregational church I attended, my teacher informed us the Hebrew word “Messiah” and the Koine Greek word “Christ” were synonymous (translated from *mashiah* meaning “the anointed”), and that for many Jews who lived in the early part of the first century in Palestine, the waiting was over. These “Christians” had found a savior in a man named Jesus, who was from Nazareth in Galilee, and whose birth and life and death and resurrection proved that he was indeed this longed-for Messiah or Christ or God-man who would save the people. That is why Christians celebrate his birthday every Christmas and sing “Silent Night” on the eve of his birth and “Joy to the World” on the morning of his birth. Christians honor his death and resurrection singing hymns like “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” on the Friday of his death, and “Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” on the morning of his resurrection. In the meantime, while they wait for their own deaths (after which they will be resurrected with Jesus) Christians do righteous deeds to honor the life of their Messiah, their Christ: Jesus of Nazareth.

Just prior to the Holocaust in the late 1930s, the Jewish scholar, Max Kadushin, coined an odd term to describe the Rabbis of the Talmud and Midrash. He called them “Normal Mystics.” Kadushin explained that we all have potential in becoming normal mystics, “whose lives radiate goodness, decency, learning, and who recognize blessing in every manner of things: a beautiful sight in nature, a teacher, kindness from a stranger, a child’s smile, a meal shared with loved ones.”

Rabbi Harold Kushner, the author of When Bad Things Happen to Good People, has written about his struggles while waiting for the coming of the Messiah and what the whole thing means. He uses a term to describe every human being who strives for holiness and goodness. He calls them “little messiahs.” For those of us who honestly struggle with Messiah and Christ jargon, for those of us who cannot possibly believe that Jesus was God, but that he was born a human being and died a human being just like all of us must do eventually, I suggest that we are the ones we have been waiting for. In other words, you and I are God’s normal mystics and little messiahs, encouraged to live in the example of Jesus, challenged to live in the example of others whose lives, throughout all of history, have reflected the divine nature of love and forgiveness in this world we share, and in this world that shares us.

With these thoughts in mind, I wish you a Merry Christmas, a Holy Hanukkah, an adorable Ashura, a captivating Kwanzaa, an exhilarating Eid, and for those who have no religious faith at all: happy holidays.

~ John Doud

UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL MEETING

DATE CHANGE! The Annual Meeting has been changed to SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4. It will still be held after the 10:30 morning worship service. A meal will be provided.

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

NOTES & THANK YOUs

From the Comment Box: “I was very moved by the O.N.A.’s remembrance of Transgender issues. Rabbi Arnie was wonderful! I hope we can have him again!

To the Nurture & Care Committee: Our members’ lives have been enlightened and comforted with your visits, calls and prayers. You, also, are in our prayers for thanks and appreciation for your time, love and nurturing care for those who have been ill, recovering or just needing a listening ear. You are a blessing to all of us. Thank you!

To the Jazzercise group:

Our church is very grateful for the continued support you give us behind the scenes with donations of paper products. We have enjoyed our partnership with you and hope it can continue for many years to come.

MOVIES FOR THE MIND

There will be a movie on Sunday, January 14 at 5:00 p.m. Popcorn will be served. This has been an excellent series and enjoyed by everyone. Thank you to Dave Gaunt for sharing these wonderful films.

MONTHLY MISSIONS

The Stewardship Committee has reported that monthly missions will remain the same in 2018 as they occurred in 2017. Please watch the monthly calendar for each month’s mission organization.

AED (Defibrillator) Training

For those who want to get a head start on learning to use the new Defibrillator, check out these YouTube videos for training (click on each link):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=13FhocqHR1g> (12 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z1cyRNgyrQ> (38 minutes)

Or see Robin Corbin to borrow a thumb drive to view on your computer, or she can email the link to you. There is also a laptop in the fellowship hall with these videos loaded to view while at church.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT December 2017

A member of the State Police met with the Board and had a discussion regarding building safety. After a tour inside and around the outside of the building, some suggestions were offered. The Board is considering a training on safety measures, and to include other area churches.

The Annual Meeting date was changed to February 4 so that there was more time to prepare the Annual Report, all accounts and the new budget updated. A proposal that the first Sunday in February be the standard annual meeting date in the future. This will be presented at the February 4 annual meeting.

Names for new Board members were presented as well as conference representatives.

There was discussion about building use fees, progress of the pledge drive and other budget items.

An update on memorial bricks as a fundraiser was called for. This will be presented at the annual meeting.

There was an update on kitchen licensing from the Health Department guidelines. Specific wording in advertising may help allow us to have food offered at certain functions. This will be presented to committees involved.



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John F. Doud, Minister

200 E. Harris Street, Cadillac, Michigan - 49601

P.O. Box 892

231-775-7632

December 11, 2017

Dear Members and Friends of First Congregational Church of Cadillac,

As the year and our pledge drive draw to a close, we would like to offer a heartfelt thanks to those who submitted pledge cards for 2018. Your support is vital to our mission of helping to serve the spiritual needs of our community. As John Doud has mentioned more than once in recent weeks, we are all little messiahs! It is up to us to share our light and our warm welcome to our neighbors.

If you haven't submitted a pledge card yet, it is not too late. Just fill out a pledge card and submit it as soon as possible so that the Board of Trustees can finalize a budget for 2018. There are cards available on the back table in the sanctuary or we can send you one; just let us know!

Wishing you peace and blessings in the new year!


The Stewardship Committee,

Karma Chapo
Sperry Claypool
Joyce Oatley
Tom Jobson
John Doud

Below are moments from “Hanging of the Ornaments” at the December 10 morning service:



JANUARY 2018 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<u>1</u> 	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> Office 10:30-1:00	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>7</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am Communion Jeri Hector, preaching	<u>8</u> Office 10:30-1:00	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> Office 10:30-1:00 Choir 7:00pm	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>14</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am Movies for the Mind 5pm	<u>15</u> Office 10:30-1:00 Board of Trustees 6:30pm	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> Office 10:30-1:00 Choir 7:00pm	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>21</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am	<u>22</u> Office 10:30-1:00	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> Office 10:30-1:00 Choir 7:00pm	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>28</u> Worship 10:30am	<u>29</u> Office 10:30-1:00	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u> Office 10:30-1:00	January Mission: Our Church's Wider Mission		

FEBRUARY 2018 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
4 Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am Communion ANNUAL MEETING (a meal will be provided)	5 Office 10:30-1:00	6	7 Office 10:30-1:00 Choir 7:00pm	8	9	10
11 Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am Kelly McCann, preaching	12 Office 10:30-1:00	13	14 Office 10:30-1:00 Choir 7:00pm 	15	16	17
18 Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am	19 Office 10:30-1:00 Board of Trustees 6:30pm	20	21 Office 10:30-1:00 Choir 7:00pm	22	23	24
25 Worship 10:30am	26 Office 10:30-1:00	27	28 Office 10:30-1:00	February Mission: After 26 Project		

018 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

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