

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

“The Tie that Binds”

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

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, Chairperson of Trustees

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

Childcare available.

The church is open on **Mondays and Wednesdays** from Noon-2:00 p.m.

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

Office email: office@firstcongcadillac.org

Web Site: www.firstcongcadillac.org

Thoughts – Bill Morris

(Onekama UCC)



Music is a big part of church and worship. Not that that's unusual, but we simply want to celebrate with you, and for us that takes music seriously. We want to put our best foot forward and we are proud of our music.

About thirty years ago, Robert Fulghum wrote, All I really Need to Know I learned in Kindergarten. He took simple and common experiences from early life, and with great story telling skills, insightful humor, and a comfortable folksy philosophy, simplified human values to some very basic lessons.

It dawned on me that I could use his idea of value-learning as seen through the prism of church music, and especially through my group music experiences. I offer this notion: "All I Really Need to Know About Church Life, I Learned in Choir!"

So, let me share with you a few insights from my fairly ordinary experiences. The first thing I learned was that CHOIR is different than singing a solo. Solos are good in themselves, but if you're looking for a comparison for church life, the choir seems more appropriate to me. I have sung many solos – as a kid and more recently. I can carry a tune, I can generally sing okay, but I think I have what would be called a "choir voice." My voice is better suited to be support than it is to be alone – better for blending than going solo.

In all my years I've witnessed too many people (lay and ordained) that tend to only do solo work. Some leaders I've known mistake solo work as leadership. And in the choir of church life, I've heard many folks sing their part so loud, that they attempt to make their one-part a solo – if it was meant to be or not!

How is being in the choir different than solo work? In solo work, the accompanist tries to follow you; in choral work, you must listen to each other – match your volume to theirs, and make sure you are hitting the same or a harmonious note. And a choir member should watch the director – in choirs, the director is in charge; NOT the individual.

Choir taught me to blend in and to be considerate to what other parts are singing, and submit to my Director. Choir also reminds us that we are to have active roles in the life of the church. We are followers, not spectators; we are servants, not the waited upon.

Good choir members owe it to the others to be ready, at their best, and to be prepared. Choirs also don't just sing together; they help each other grow and become more. A good choir cultivates positive development and inspires maturity. Now, due to choir, I've learned to always take my music home and practice for every coming performance because I need to be a responsible member and that means being ready and primed.

There was a man who was going to sing his first solo in church, but seemed to have gotten out on the wrong side of the musical bed. He stood up in front of the church and heard his pianist's introduction and tried to begin his solo opening, but didn't hit the right note, and for the life of him couldn't find it. He struggled with getting the words at the right time. He sounded more like a sick calf mewling in distress than a tenor singing in praise. He was getting frustrated and embarrassed and lost his volume...and his place in the song.

Suddenly a tenor in the choir began to sing with him, not too loud but trying to coax the poor man toward the right notes. The man started to find some of the notes. By the second verse, more of the choir began to sing along and the man began to remember the tune and was finding a little confidence. By the third verse the choir and the poor guy were singing with full volume. On the fourth verse, the choir stopped singing and the man

sung the best solo of his life – strong, in tune, and beautiful. The choir teaches the church to support and encourage other individuals so they may sing their parts to the best of their ability.

One last lesson we can learn from choir: are you in, or have been in a church choir? What does it feel like, especially if you are of a humble-sized church, what does it feel like when you hear: “Hey, I hear Sam Smith or Mary Jones is going to join the choir”? Few things have such an emotional response of surprise, excitement, hope, gratitude, and optimism...as a new member!

It reminds me a bit like being informed that someone wants to be baptized or someone is going to make a profession of faith and join us! Joining the choir, the church, the association is an amazing gift to all involved; it always acts as a tremendous, encouraging, and inspiring witness as our faith is reaffirmed by those who join in and join us in God’s mission. And THAT is worthy of celebration and great joy! It’s a time to “Sing and make music from our hearts to God!” I learned this in choir!!



JANUARY & FEBRUARY



ANNUAL MEETING will be held Sunday, February 3 at 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall following the morning worship service. A meal will be provided. It’s important that everyone try to attend to hear the latest business updates from the Board of Trustees, Committee Reports and other news about our church and congregation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS DUE for Annual Meeting

Committee Chairs – Please turn in your annual committee reports to Penny Phelps no later than January 13 so they can be compiled and prepared for the congregation to read during the Annual Meeting. Thank you!





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?

Movies 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.

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. Some items 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 set up, but moving to more comfortable arrangements is recommended.

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. Subject-matter experts have confirmed their attendance to enhance our discussion.

Feature Film



When: Sunday, January 6, 2019 - doors open at 5:00pm. Movie begins at 5:30pm.

GMO OMG director and concerned father, Jeremy Seifert, is in search of answers about the food he is feeding his children, his wife, and himself. In attempting to maintain healthy choices for his family he did a little research and stumbled upon the concept of *GMO's*, but had no idea what that really meant. Follow Jeremy on his journey of discovery.

How do **Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's)** affect our children, the health of our planet, and our freedom of choice? And perhaps the most important question of all: is it even possible to reject the food system currently in place?

These and other questions take Seifert on a journey from his family's table to Haiti, Paris, Norway, and the lobby of agra-giant Monsanto, from which he is unceremoniously ejected. Along the way we gain insight into a question that is of growing concern to citizens the world over: **what's on your plate?**

Do you Trust this Computer? **When:** Sunday, February 10, 2019 - doors open at 5:00pm. Movie begins at 5:30pm.



Feature Film

Science fiction has long anticipated the rise of machine intelligence. Today, a new generation of self-learning computers is reshaping every aspect of our lives. Will AI usher in an age of unprecedented potential, or prove to be our final invention?

Do You Trust This Computer? is a 2018 American documentary film that outlines the benefits, and especially the dangers, of artificial intelligence. It features interviews with a range of prominent individuals relevant to AI, such as Ray Kurzweil, Elon Musk and Jonathan Nolan.

The documentary is dedicated to Stephen Hawking, who warned that humanity may be jeopardized by its pursuit of a super intelligent artificial intelligence.



HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?

A table cloth is missing. It's blue and yellow in a "plate" design. It's particularly useful because it's non-seasonal, plus there are matching table circles. If you took it home to wash it, and it landed in the bottom of the laundry basket, please bring it back! Thank you so much ☺

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Happy Birthday!!

Several people from the congregation and family members gathered in December at After 26 Depot to celebrate Charlotte Barfield's 95th birthday. It's always a joy to visit with Charlotte!



Remembrances

In 2018 some of our members passed away: Bill VanderMolen, Hank VanderJagt, Bill Glander, and Al Snyder, as well as George Wagoner, father to our Marie Linn.

Pat McCurdy, Nurture & Care Committee, shared her thoughts about Al.

“I was caught in Lansing in an ice fog last Sunday and missed Al Snyder’s remembrance lunch. So, I ask you to indulge me in my short tribute to my dear friend. He was a loyal and wise confidant to me. I loved his sense of humor and would smile at his corny puns. He was strong and resilient in his struggle with his health problems. He was always kind to his caregivers. His faith grew stronger still as his body failed. He shared with me that he was at peace in the arms of his Savior. It was a great privilege to know you, Big Al. You had a big life. Love, Pat McCurdy.”

THE TOUCAN SAYS – Thank you to all who have contributed to this ministry of UCC Women of Michigan to help Church World Service with shipping costs as they send much needed supplies all over the world and in the USA after floods, fires and other disasters. Our church members have stepped up to help so many groups both local and far away. Adding the funds you receive when you return your deposit cans and bottles has added up for this project. Toucan will be away for the winter, but will come back in April. *THANK YOU!*

SAVE THE DATE: June 7th – 9th are the dates for the 2019 GATHERING at Kettunen Center, Tustin, MI. Brochures will be available soon. This is a great time for all the women in the church. Theme this year is “Strength of a Woman” Proverbs 31:25.

~ Donna Debney

Getting Ready for Christmas



Merry Christmas!



Sandie Post reads as Steve Jackson lights the third Advent Candle

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes from November 19, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chair, Laura Pentces-Jacobson. Rev. Doud shared a reflection and review of church business from the previous month.

- “Movies for the Mind” is doing well and has raised almost \$1,000 this year. Thank you to Dave and Sandy Gaunt for providing these programs.
- Previous month’s minutes were read and approved.
- The financial report was read and accepted. The church houses the Jazzercise program and their monetary contribution each year is a great help to the overall budget.
- Committee Reports:
 - Building and Maintenance – the glass blocks that were damaged cannot be replaced partially. Therefore, new windows similar to those on the west side of the basement will be the replacements. Estimates are being obtained. A new contract for Temperature Control has been put into place; this will amount to significant savings to the church for heating expenses.
 - Stewardship – 28 pledges have been turned in as of mid-November.
 - Missions – Boxes for Project Christmas are in the church for accepting donations. These will be picked up in December.
 - Safety – The Safety Committee will meet to discuss guidelines for church/congregation safety and usher/greeter/sexton duties.
- Security for the offices during business hours and the workability of the church phone system was discussed. More discussion to follow; quotes and equipment are being explored.
- Insurance for the church building, liability and workmen’s comp policies are being explored. Quotes from several companies have been obtained. A new company will be secured which will be a savings to the church while maintaining proper coverages.
- The role of the PRC committee, Pastoral Review process and scheduling Pulpit Stand-ins during Rev. Doud’s off Sundays was reviewed. More conversation to follow next month.

Minutes from December 17, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Chair Laura Pentces-Jacobson. Rev. Doud shared review of church business from the prior month.

- Minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and accepted.
- The financial report was read and accepted.
- Committee Reports:
 - Communications – advertising for the January and February “Movies for the Mind” has been sent to the Cadillac News. It was recommended to contact the newspaper to see what it would cost for a weekly ad with the other churches.
 - Stewardship – a revised pledge card was reviewed. Comments had been received to changed some of the designated giving categories; wording was changed to “Building Improvement”.
- Discussion about possible sources for 6 ministerial guest speakers during the year. Contacts will be made.

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
January 6	TBA	TBA	TBA	Board of Trustees	Penny Phelps
January 13	TBA	TBA	TBA	Board of Trustees	John Doud
January 20	TBA	TBA	TBA	Board of Trustees	John Doud
January 27	TBA	TBA	TBA	Board of Trustees	John Doud

JANUARY 2019 CHURCH CALENDAR

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

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
February 3	TBA	TBA	Annual Meeting - Potluck	Board of Trustees	John Doud
February 10	TBA	TBA	TBA	Board of Trustees	Guest Minister
February 17	TBA	TBA	TBA	Board of Trustees	John Doud
February 24	TBA	TBA	TBA	Board of Trustees	John Doud

FEBRUARY 2019 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		February Mission: After 26 Project			<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>3</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Communion (pews) ANNUAL MEETING – 11:30 & Meal provided	<u>4</u> Office 12:00-2:30	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> Office 12:00-2:30 Choir 7:00 pm	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>10</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30 am Movies for the Mind 5 pm	<u>11</u> Office 12:00-2:30	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> Office 12:00-2:30 Choir 7:00 pm	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>17</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30 am	<u>18</u> Office 12:00-2:30 Board of Trustees 5:00 pm	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> Office 12:00-2:30 Choir 7:00 pm	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>24</u> Worship 10:30 am	<u>25</u> Office 12:00-2:30	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> Office 12:00-2:30	<u>28</u>		

2019 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.