

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

“The Tie that Binds”

MARCH 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

An Open Letter to the United Methodist Church

From UCC.org February 26, 2019

The United Church of Christ, an Open and Affirming Communion of the Body of Christ, practices a belief in both a still-speaking God and an extravagant welcome. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, through the faithful renderings of our sacred texts, and standing in a long line of reformers who have come before us we proclaim with great fervor that no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome.

We hold in prayer those whose past wounds have been reopened by the recent debates of the governing body gathered in St. Louis. The Body of Christ has, throughout its long history, not always been kind and loving to those who live outside its established norms and conformities. We confess to our own history and complicity with racism, misogyny, transphobia, and homophobia. Our hope is that we can and will continue to struggle with our closed hearts and minds as we seek to live more fully into the vision of God's shalom for all.

We hold in prayer the entire Body of Christ around the world. It is living through a time of division and separation as it struggles to wrestle with what have become irreconcilable differences. There are countless wounded on all sides of these divisions, and as a uniting communion called to find the common ground in support of a hoped for vision of unity within diversity we suffer alongside our United Methodist kindred who today feel the deep pain of a new brokenness.

Know that we stand ready to serve all who are in need of healing and all who seek simply to know the power of the risen Christ fully articulated in the expression of a love that knows no bounds.

We understand that it is with great sadness and a good deal of grief that many will have been left to feel unwelcome in a spiritual home that gave you hope, sustenance, and nurturance. Many of us have felt the sting of that same rejection – and know full well the grief that attaches to it.

We hold the entire United Methodist Church in prayer as it seeks to heal and to express its faith in light of their understandings of scripture and the gospel.

In solidarity with all who call on Jesus, we remain humbly servants of the gospel in search of a more full articulation of love,

Faithfully,



The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President



The Rev. Traci Blackmon
Associate General Minister
Justice and Local Church
Ministries



The Rev. James Moos
Associate General Minister of
Global Engagement and Operations

MARCH EVENTS

CHOIR

Wednesday Choir practices are recommencing as of March 13 at 7pm.

Margie Annis would love to see anyone who is able to attend on Wednesdays. Of course those of you who are only able to be at the 9:30am rehearsal on Sundays are equally welcome. We understand that not all of our singers are available every week, so please do consider coming along when you can!

LENTEN BREAKFASTS



The Cadillac Area Ministerial Association is an ecumenical group of ministers which meets typically once a month. During Lent, a weekly breakfast is held at various churches in our community, and the first one, on Ash Wednesday, was hosted by First Congregational UCC. Many thanks to Penny Phelps, Angie Brugger, Laura Jacobson-Pentces Diane Jobson and Pat McCurdy for the delicious breakfast fare and an extravagant welcome to the community. The helpers had a VERY early start! Lenten breakfasts are open to everyone. Below is the flyer information:

7:00 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. each Wednesday

You are cordially invited to breakfast each Wednesday during Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 6. The time together will include breakfast, singing and a meditation beginning at 7:00 a.m. and ending promptly at 7:50 a.m. so you may be to work on time or on to other business of the day. A freewill offering is received. The *entire* community is invited to attend. Invite a friend to come – it could be life changing!

2019 Lenten Breakfast Schedule

March 6 - First Congregational Church ~ Host: Dr. John Doud
Speaker: Pastor Peggy Casteel-Huston

March 13 - First Presbyterian Church ~ Host: Pastor Peggy Huston
Speaker: Pastor Jeff Kroondyk

March 20 - First Baptist Church ~ Host: Pastor Chad Zaucha
Speaker: Pastor Scott Torkko

March 27 - United Methodist Church ~ Host: Pastor Tom Ball
Speaker: Pastor John Martek

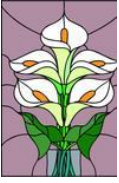
April 3 - Zion Lutheran Church ~ Host: Pastor Scott Torkko
Speaker: Chaplain Ed Gilbert

April 10 - Cherry Grove Church of the Nazarene ~ Host: Pastor Brian Farmer
Speaker: Chaplain Dave Bassett

April 17 - Cadillac Revival Center ~ Host: Pastor Will Markham
Speaker: Pastor Brian Farmer

LOOKING AHEAD

SPRING IS HERE...SO IT MUST BE EASTER LILY TIME!



Nothing is more appealing than to see the cross filled with white Easter lilies. If you wish to contribute one or more plants, please fill in the form below and either bring it to church or mail it to the church at P. O. Box 892. Deadline **Sunday April 14, 2018.**

Easter Lily Order

I/We _____ (name)

wish to order _____ (number) Easter Lilies at \$8 each.

In memory/honor (circle one) of

_____.

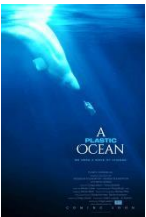
Enclosed is my/our payment of \$_____.

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE



A Maundy Service of Tenebrae and Communion will be held at **7pm on Thursday April 18th**. Tenebrae means Shadows/Darkness. This is an ancient service of scriptures and candles marking Christ's time between the Passover Supper leading into Good Friday.

MOVIES FOR THE MIND



A message from Dave Gaunt:

Please put **Sunday, April 28, 2019** on your calendar for the final Movies for the Mind film of the season (we'll start again in the Fall.) *A Plastic Ocean* will be shown in honor of Earth Day (which occurs Monday, April 22,).

Doors open at 5pm, movie starts at 5:30.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR/ CRAFT SALE



The holiday bazaar is being restarted this year, so all of you crafty types are invited to get creating things to sell for church funds. There will be other activities, and some tables to rent also, but the emphasis is for this to be a fundraising event.

Date: **Saturday December 7th, 2019. Time TBC.**

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING



REMEMBERING LOWELL CORBIN

Memories and music were shared after worship on January 6 in honor of our dear friend Lowell who passed away in December. Thanks to all who contributed to this poignant event.

THE SAFETY COMMITTEE met on Monday, March 4.

Present: Bill Cinco, Angie Brugger, John Doud, Tom Jobson, Richard Harvey, Laura Jacobson-Pentces, and Carol Nilsson.

Below is a synopsis of their meeting:

1. The committee and the Board of Trustees want to reassure everyone that the back door of the church is locked during service but the front doors remain unlocked. This is in accordance to the August of 2018 vote of the Congregation.
2. The Safety Committee recommended to the Board of Trustees at the February board meeting, that someone be at the front door on Sundays, beginning at 10:00 AM and remaining there until 10 minutes after the conclusion of the service.
3. The Committee presented its research to the Board regarding the safety policies of area churches. Nearly all of those asked replied that they had some sort of policy in effect - and those included posting armed guards, locking doors, having someone posted at doors that were locked (allowing entry), and having someone posted at doors to sound an alert.
4. The board spent much time discussing these - and all agreed based on a many factors, that having an armed guard was not an option of our church.
5. The committee suggested posting someone at the front door beginning at 10 AM until 10 minutes after the conclusion of the service. The board accepted this recommendation with the acknowledgment that additional information and training for these volunteers would be necessary, and with the additional caveat that those volunteering, would be fully aware of the responsibilities/duties required.
6. The committee also suggested the use of an air horn as an alarm. The board also accepted this recommendation.
7. The committee suggested that the sanctuary doors be closed by the usher(s) at the beginning of service. The board accepted this recommendation.
8. The committee acknowledged that these suggestions were intended to be an deterrent, and to allow for the possibility of alerting those in the sanctuary. The board concurred but also acknowledged they felt strongly some sort of protocol was necessary.
9. The Safety Committee will meet on March 12 at 2 PM with representatives from JML to discuss the possibility of installing a safety system.

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.

- Penny Phelps

JANUARY 22, 2019 BOARD OF TRUSTEES HIGHLIGHTS

The Board spent considerable time reviewing those items that were to be included in the Annual Meeting. These Included:

- Review of the proposed 2019 Budget
- Movies for the Mind raised nearly \$1200. The board approved spending this money on outside guest speakers to cover the Sundays that Rev. John Doud will be gone (as per his contract).
- Bequests and Gifts Committee made suggestions about changing some of the benefactors - as some of those listed were also part of the monthly missions. Those included Healing Private Wounds and the Stehouwer Clinic. Those suggestions are under review.
- The Safety Committee reported that they had met and were currently looking at developing a written policy. They emphasized the need for on-going training for both the committee members, the Board members and the congregation, as well. The Safety Committee is planning on making a presentation at the Annual Meeting to update the congregation.
- As stipulated in his contract, Rev. Doud will participate in an evaluation, by members of the Board of Trustees. His last evaluation was in 2016. Rev. Doud and the evaluation committee members agreed upon an evaluation tool and that evaluation is scheduled to be completed before the Annual Meeting.

FEBRUARY. 3 2019 ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY

The Annual Meeting was held on a snowy, nasty day which made the soups provided by Vickie Purkiss and Sandy Gaunt all the more appreciated. Those that were not able to attend may request a copy of the report, which encapsulates the finances, the activities of the various committees and work of the church.

Highlights included:

- The safety committee briefed the congregation on its efforts to develop a written policy that would encompass all aspects of safety and security. It also noted that it is in the beginning stages of exploring the possibility of a security system - that would streamline and provide more security. The committee agreed to keep the congregation informed of its progress by providing a synopsis of its meetings in the monthly newsletter. In addition, there was discussion about signage and the inadequacies of the current sign.
- Return of the First Congregational UCC Holiday Bazaar. Penny Phelps and her team met to discuss a re-vamping/restructuring of the Holiday Bazaar. We look forward to hearing more about this!
- Signage woes: The inadequacies of the current sign (outside the church, on the corner) was discussed. The board and the grounds committee will continue to investigate possible solutions and present them to the congregation at a later (warmer) date.
- UCC Logo. The UCC is encouraging its churches to use the new comma logo. Look for it to appear on future First Cong. UCC Cadillac materials!

FEBRUARY 18 2019 BOARD OF TRUSTEES HIGHLIGHTS

The board discussed:

- Helping Pastor Doud find guest speakers to cover when he is on vacation.
- The feasibility of running a weekly ad in the Cadillac News.
- The necessity of reviewing and monitoring our presence on social media and the website - as part of the safety committee responsibilities.
- The on-going efforts of the Safety committee.
- Incentives from Consumer's Energy that might apply to First Cong. UCC Cadillac.

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
March 3	Marie Linn, Pat McCurdy	Catherine Doud	Penny Phelps, Marie Linn	Don Liebau	John Doud
March 10	Don & Nancy Liebau	Robin Corbin	Laura Porter & Karl	Linda Baynes	Penny Phelps
March 17	Steve & Laura Jacobson Pentces	Laura Porter	Patrick Delaney	Marie Linn	John Doud
March 24	Linda Baynes & Penny Phelps	Karen Rowley	Margie & Ralph Annis	Carol Nilsson	John Doud
March 31	Carol & Jerry Nilsson	Penny Phelps	Vickie Purkiss	Patrick Delaney	John Doud

MARCH 2019 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
March Mission: One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC)						<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>3</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am Communion (circle)	<u>4</u> Office 12:00-2:00	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> LENTEN BREAKFAST Office 12:00-2:00 <u>ASH WEDNESDAY</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	
<u>10</u> <u>CLOCKS GO FORWARD!</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am	<u>11</u> Office 12:00-2:00	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> Office 12:00-2:00 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 12:00-2:00 Board of Trustees 4:00 pm	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> Office 12:00-2:00 Choir 7:00pm	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>	
<u>24</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am	<u>25</u> Office 12:00-2:00	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> Office 12:00-2:00	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>	
<u>31</u> Worship 10:30am							

2019 Missions -- Jan.: Our Church's Wider Mission (UCC), Feb.: After 26 Project, March: One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC), April: Love, INC, May: Strengthen the Church (UCC), June: New Hope Shelter, July: Back Pack Program, August: Shepherd's Table, Sept.: Feeding America, Oct.: Neighbors in Need (UCC), Nov.: Salvation Army, Dec.: Christmas Fund (UCC)

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.

Yoga (Sandy Gaunt): Restarting in April. Wednesdays Men's class: 9:00-10:00, Gentle class: 10:30-12:00