

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

“The Tie that Binds”

APRIL 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.

Child care is available.

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

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

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SERVANT TO ALL



(A Lent Meditation by the Reverend Jerry Turner,
John Doud's ministerial colleague and friend)

In the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and John, Jesus tells his disciples, "Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant," and "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all."

I've read these scriptures many times through the years and never gave them much thought. [However, now these verses have prominence in my life,] maybe because I'm getting older and spend more time evaluating what I read, or possibly because I've come to better understand what Jesus was saying.

If we stop and think about our lives and the many ways we have served others, it could be a surprise. Parents serve their children in many ways: teaching them, helping them understand why they need to do certain things; and demonstrating how people act, respond, and interact with one another, to name a few. We may serve our parents as they age and are not able to do some things they used to do. We serve our partners by sharing in the household chores and striving to express our love for them. Many jobs certainly are serving others, such as first responders, medical workers, automotive technicians, teachers, people working in the food industry, those who pick up our trash – and the list could go on and on. Every job is intertwined with other aspects of everyone's life in some way. We certainly can't perform everything by ourselves, and need to rely on others to do them. So we are served by others and we serve others.... We serve those who are in need, those unable to do certain tasks due to age, physical restraints, or other reasons. We also need to allow others to serve us, which means recognizing our limitations, or simply because it could boost the other person's self-esteem to be able to help and serve us.

When I worked at Consumer's Energy, my job as a technology support person involved serving many people. There were times the job was rewarding, but most of the time it was simply a job. It never compared to the rewards of serving in volunteer jobs I have held as a driver for the Jackson County Meals Service, for the Personal Care Ministry, and as a Chaplain at the hospital. Thinking of the County Meals Service, many drivers expressed their sadness and how they would miss delivering meals [when their clients passed away]. We looked forward to seeing our clients one or more times each week. No financial reward – just the reward of serving others. The same with the Jackson Personal Care Ministry: it is gratifying just knowing the people this ministry serves. When supplies are delivered to this ministry, we allow the clients to help. Those who are physically able, carry these supplies upstairs to the storage area, and they are glad to be able to help in any way.

Our status in society does not limit how we serve others. Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter swings a hammer helping with Habitat for Humanity projects. Other political and corporate leaders serve those in need through community projects and activities.

As I reflect on how we serve others and how others serve us, I have come to better understand those words Jesus spoke to his disciples, and is speaking to us today. It is not about being the greatest or the first. It is helping or serving those in need and being kind and loving to one another. We are not in a race someone wins. We are in a relationship with all God's creation; and if we share and care for that, we all win.

APRIL EVENTS

CELEBRATING MARGE GLANDER



Marge Glander will be moving away soon, so we will be honoring her time and service as organist at First Congregational Church UCC, Cadillac during the worship service on **Sunday April 7.**

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE



A Maundy Service of Tenebrae and Communion will be held at **6:00 pm 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.

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.

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

The time together includes breakfast, singing and a meditation beginning at 7:00 a.m. and ending promptly at 7:50 a.m. so you may be 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 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

MOVIES FOR THE MIND



"Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions." - William O. Douglas, Supreme Court Justice



Please join this conversation in honor of Earth Day?

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.

When: Sunday, April 28, 2019 - doors open at 5:00pm. Movie begins at 5:30pm.

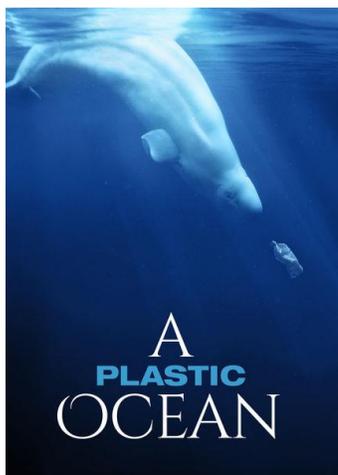
Where: First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall - 200 E. Harris St
(Across from the Cadillac Post Office)

Cost: Donation.

Film snacks: Bring your own beverage, and any additional movie snacks you would like. 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.



Feature Film

A *PLASTIC OCEAN* begins when journalist Craig Leeson, searching for the elusive blue whale, discovers plastic waste in what should be pristine ocean. In this documentary, Craig teams up with an ocean diver and an international team of scientists and researchers, and they travel to twenty locations around the world over the next four years to explore the fragile state of our oceans and uncover alarming truths about plastic pollution. While it can be an unsettling view of the oceans, the film reveals working solutions that can be put into immediate effect and offers actions each of us can take to contribute to our planet's health.

Good Friday Journey

A journey following Christ from the Upper Room to the grave

Friday, April 19

Walking outside paths: 6:00 p.m.

Seated inside sanctuary: 7:00 p.m.

Please join us at Cadillac Christian Reformed Church, 1110 E. Division



Sponsored by Cadillac Area Ministerial Association (CAMA)

LOOKING AHEAD

SPRING CLEANUP



It's time again to wield the brooms and dusters! Join us on **Sunday, May 5th, immediately after the worship service!!!** Come dressed to do some work as well as to get to know other church members and friends. Join in the fun of cleaning the inside of our church and the outside church grounds.

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**

THE WIDER UCC

UNITED NORTHERN ASSOCIATION SPRING MEETING



Experiencing Medical Missions In India & Haiti

This year the Spring UNA gathering is scheduled for Saturday April 27 2019, at First Congregational Church, UCC, Benzonia, 900 Barber St., Benzonia, MI 49619, 231-882-4922.

The Executive Committee of the UNA is excited to invite you and any of your membership to join us. Our program for the day will begin at 9 am with worship, registration opens at 8:30.

The day will continue with a program from two Medical Missionaries. One is Dr. Ruth Catton, MD, from our Benzonia church, a missionary to India, and the second is Kathryn (Kathy) Gray BSN, MSN, FNP, GNP, a missionary to Haiti. Their topic is "Experiencing Medical Missions in India and Haiti". They will be talking about their experiences and the importance of Medical Missions in today's world.

Come prepared to open your heart to all that God offers and learn what being a missionary is.

Registration begins at 8:30 am, and the day will be over by 3 pm. Cost for the day is \$15.00, and includes lunch. Watch for your meeting packet of information for you to print before you come.

Please send reservations by Tuesday April 23.

Registration forms are available on the back table of the sanctuary or ask Rachel to email a copy to you

UCC MICHIGAN CONFERENCE EVENT: FESTIVAL OF FAITH

A Day of Service - Gospel in Action
Saturday April 13, 2019

DETROIT ~ GRAND RAPIDS
THOMPSONVILLE & TRAVERSE CITY

8:30 (check-in) - 2:00 (at the latest)

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ have a unique partnership of faith, fellowship and service. On April 13, we will put that partnership into action by working and witnessing together on behalf of our neighbors in need. Choose one of the three service settings and prepare to joyfully serve together!

Sign up for one of these sites:

- 1) Detroit – Rippling Hope
Supervised painting and general home maintenance/repair
- 2) Grand Rapids – United Church Outreach Ministries (UCOM), Habitat HQ, Family Promise, Pilgrim Manor
Supervised home maintenance, food sorting, general cleaning, garden work
- 3) Thompsonville & Traverse City – Crystal Mountain – ARC, New Waves UCC
Raking, trail maintenance, general cleaning, garden work

The event is FREE!

Regardless of your volunteer site: Bring work gloves, a bag lunch, bottle of water and \$ for free will donation.

Register no later than April 5th:

Email lisa@michucc.org with your site choice!



THE GATHERING

June 7, 8, 9 2019

Kettunen Center, Tustin, Michigan

UCC Women of Michigan

“Strength of a Woman”



Registration forms available on MichUCC.org

The Keynote Speaker for this weekend is our own Rev. Dr. Diane Baker



Regarding our Shepherd's Table Mission:

Please note that The Shepherd's Table Ministry, which has been in operation serving our community for the last 29 years, served its last meals on March 28, 2019. The ministry is taking a break to reassess how best to meet the needs of the community. See firstbaptistcadillac.org for further information.

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 \$ _____.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Summary of Board of Trustees Meeting - March 18, 2019 -Laura Jacobson-Pentces

The following are the highlights of the Board's meeting:

- Spring Cleanup - May 5 (Sunday) - After church.
- Church Cancellation Policy: In light of the February cancellation of church due to the blizzard, the board agreed that there is a need for a cancellation policy. We will work with the church administrator (Penny Phelps) to develop a written church cancellation policy, but the board did want it understood that when there is a blizzard warning - church will be cancelled. When there is inclement weather that may make it unsafe to hold church, the chairperson of the Board of Trustees, the pastor and the church Administrator will work together to determine if church should be cancelled, and a call list will be used to notify that church is cancelled. Hopefully, we won't have to deal with this until next winter!
- The Trustees voted and approved to change the timing of the Budget Committee meeting to allow for the proposed budget to accompany the stewardship letter (pledge letter) that goes out in early fall. The Budget Committee will meet in September, before the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees and develop a proposed budget for the upcoming year. The Trustees will vote on whether to approve the proposed budget so that it can be presented to the congregation/members. The proposed budget will still be approved at the Annual Meeting. The rationale of the Trustees and Stewardship Committee is that by doing this, members will have more information about the needs and budgetary demands of the church, when they are deciding on their pledges.
- Easter Service. Easter Sunday is April 21. The Trustees will host coffee hour before Easter Sunday Service. Coffee hour will start at 9:30 AM. There will also be a children's activity from 9:30 - 10:00. Please note: There will be no coffee hour following Easter Sunday service.
- The Safety Committee will meet April 9 at 2 PM to discuss the duties and responsibilities of the ushers and sextons.

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE					
Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
7	Joyce & Mike Oatley	Karma Chapo	Diane Jobson	Karma Chapo	John Doud
14	Steve & Laura Jacobson Pentces	Don Liebau	Troy Knight	Joyce Oatley	John Doud
21	Karma Chapo & Marie Linn	Joyce Oatley	Board of Trustees: rolls and coffee at 9:30am	Laura Jacobson	John Doud
28	Sandy & Dave Gaunt	George Davis	Ralph & Maergie Annis	Dave Gaunt	John Doud

APRIL 2019 CHURCH CALENDAR						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<u>1</u> Office 12:00-2:00	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> Office 12:00-2:00 Choir 7:00pm	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>7</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am, Celebrating Marge Glander Communion (pew)	<u>8</u> Office 12:00-2:00	<u>9</u> Safety Committee 2:00 pm	<u>10</u> Office 12:00-2:00 Choir 7:00pm	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> UCC Conference "Festival of Faith" Crystal Mountain 8:30 am – 2:00 pm
<u>14</u> PALM SUNDAY Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am	<u>15</u> Office 12:00-2:00	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> Office 12:00-2:00 Choir 7:00pm	<u>18</u> MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 6:00 pm	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>21</u> EASTER SUNDAY Choir 9:30 am Coffee & Rolls 9:30 am Easter Basket Hunt 9:30 am – 10:00 am Worship 10:30 am	<u>22</u> Office 12:00-2:00 Board of Trustees 4:00 pm	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> Office 12:00-2:00	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> UNA Spring Meeting: Benzonia Congregational 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
<u>28</u> Worship 10:30am Pastoral Relations 12pm Movies for the Mind "A Plastic Ocean" 5:00pm	<u>29</u> Office 12:00-2:00	<u>30</u>	April Mission: Love INC			

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 mid April. Wednesdays Men's class: 9:00-10:00, Gentle class: 10:30-12:00