

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

“The Tie that Binds”

MAY 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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Jim Morley, Director of the Chapel in the Pines located in Three Lakes, Wisconsin, has been John Doud's friend for several years. Jim wrote this beautiful piece the day after Notre Dame burned. It is the perfect article for the resurrection/post Easter season:

Our Loss And Hoped For Future

The Cathedral Notre-Dame de Paris went up in flames last night. Nearly 900 years of European and human history were scarred as well. This icon of civilization was consumed by flames as fire hoses were no match for the *furiosité* of the fire. For the many millions who have visited Notre-Dame, we won't ever experience its full beauty, its architectural and artistic splendor, again. To those who haven't yet experienced Notre-Dame situated on its Île de la Cité residence on the Seine River in the heart of Paris, you will visit a new, evolving chapter in its storied history.

It was on a snow covered Christmas Day, nearly fifty years ago, when I was there for the first time. I remember walking around the city late the night before with several inches of snow blanketing the city. I also recall witnessing from a distance a person who lived on the streets, passed out, asleep in the snow in his layers of old clothes and jackets. There, on an old narrow street a few blocks from the Seine River on the Left Bank, I can still see that man lying on his left side on the sidewalk, temporarily unconscious of the falling snow. What circumstances led him to this point in his life? I suspected that he was drunk and had passed out there. What story would he have added about the nearby Our Lady of Paris? He, among many millions of other unique stories, forms a part of its history, its enormous reach.

That next day, December 25, 1970, I spent a portion of my day in Notre-Dame. I participated in the Catholic mass celebrating the birth of Jesus. There, alone, yet among many worshippers, I had a religious experience. Amidst the grandeur of the enormous cathedral and surrounded in its long history, I listened to the service as communicated in French. The language barrier for me was irrelevant to what overcame me personally. I was moved in a spiritual way unlike anything I had experienced in my 22 years of living. Though more elusive than my recall of a man asleep in the snow from many years ago, I know that what I experienced on Christmas Day at the Notre-Dame was real. It was more than being in a special place on a special day. It was greater than that. It was positive, uplifting. I had been spoken to in a spiritual, yet wordless way and I knew it, without a doubt. Hallelujah. Thanks be to God for this spiritual sign in my early life.

Just under two and a half years later, I returned to Notre-Dame, accompanied. There on our honeymoon, Vicki and I toured the cathedral. There in Paris, we also went to the U.S. embassy and had her passport changed from Moore to Morley. Now after just having celebrated our 46th wedding anniversary we witness from Florida with the world the sorrowful destruction of The Notre-Dame. As this has occurred during Holy Week, we immediately connect with the darkness that annually awaits us on Good Friday, marking the day Jesus was crucified. We lament that, and now our sorrow extends to the burning of the cathedral, too. Yet, we know what awaits us and hopefully awaits Notre-Dame, Easter. Just as He is Risen, may she, the grand old lady, rise up again from the ashes we witness today.

April 16, 2019

Board of Trustees Meeting

April 22, 2019

- The Board approved the replacement of Ed Goldman with Mark Morley on the Bequests and Gifts Committee.
- The Board reviewed the Safety Committee's submission of an updated list of Sexton's duties. The Board approved these, and those on the Sexton list will be receiving these soon.
- The Board continues to grapple with the issue of church safety as worldwide aggressions and events against places of worship escalate.
- Laura Jacobson-Pentces relayed a report from Penny Phelps regarding the status of the church's 501(c)3 application. Because of a backlog, due to the government shutdown, there is a considerable delay to the processing of these applications. The board is waiting for this approval before it can submit a grant to increase accessibility and safety.

Highlights of the Safety Committee meeting - April 9

The Safety Committee reviewed the current Sexton's duties and tasks and made several recommendations that were presented to the Board of Trustees at their April 22 meeting. These included:

- Shifting of some of the tasks formerly assigned to the Sexton to the usher/greeters
- Updating the current sexton tasks and including a checklist to aid those who have sexton duty.
- Richard Harvey will conduct sexton orientation during coffee hours on several Sundays (to be announced) to help sextons better understand their duties and also to show them where things are, like the thermostats and light switches.
- Sextons will be asked to be at the front door from 10:15 to the conclusion of service.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

New Member Sunday

On March 31st, we welcomed new member Amber Davis. Here she is with George, Leif and Matthew and Pastor John Doud.



I ♥
MY
CHURCH

April 14, 2019 - Palm Sunday



BAPTISM
Matthew Davis-Williams



April 21, 2019 - Easter



Before-service coffee, provided by the Board of Trustees

Ginny Donley performed during the service





**COVENANT OF
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
CADILLAC, MICHIGAN**

On our spiritual journey...

We, the faith family of the Cadillac First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, gather as a Christian church *to learn* from the teachings of Jesus; *to encourage* a consciousness of our relationship with God; *to inspire* truth and passion for enthusiastic service; and *to give* generously and willingly to the congregation and beyond.

We walk in fellowship *to express* God's spirit of hospitality, *to pray*, and *to work* for unity. With heartfelt inclusiveness, *our doors are open*. We actively build a community of unwavering compassion and courageous hope, where all are seen and known, and the God of Extravagant Love is revealed...

God is still speaking...

LOOKING AHEAD

COMING THIS WEEKEND!



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.



MAY EVENTS

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.



THE WIDER UCC

THE GATHERING

June 7, 8, 9, 2019
Kettunen Center, Tustin, Michigan

UCC Women of Michigan “Strength of a Woman”



If you have questions, please contact Registrar Janet Frank via email at jfrank39@aol.com or phone at (248) 200-8149

Registration forms available on MichUCC.org

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



SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
May 5	Dick & Karen Rowley	Karen Anderson		Richard Harvey	Judy Coffey
May 12	Donna Debney & Penny Phelps	Robin Corbin		John Smith	John Doud
May 19	Sandie & Brie Post	Tom Jobson		Tom Jobson	John Doud
May 26	George Davis & Leif Williams	Cindy Morley		Dan Lakin	John Doud

MAY 2019 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May Mission: Strengthen the Church			<u>1</u> Office 12:00-2:00 Choir 7:00pm	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>5</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am, Communion (circle) SPRING CLEANUP 11:30 AM	<u>6</u> Office 12:00-2:00	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> Office 12:00-2:00 Choir 7:00pm	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>12</u> MOTHERS' DAY Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am	<u>13</u> Office 12:00-2:00	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> Office 12:00-2:00 Bequest Committee Meeting 2:00 at church Choir 7:00pm	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>19</u> Choir 9:30 am Musical Worship service 10:30 am	<u>20</u> Office 12:00-2:00 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<u>21</u> Board of Trustees 6:30 pm	<u>22</u> Office 12:00-2:00	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>26</u> Worship 10:30am Memorial Sunday	<u>27</u> Office Closed MEMORIAL DAY	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u> Office 12:00-2:00 Choir 7:00pm	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	

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: TBA, 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): Wednesdays Men's class: 9:00-10:00, Gentle class: 10:30-12:00