

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

## *“The Tie that Binds”*

### **March 2020**

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, 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](mailto:pastor@firstcongcadillac.org) (231) 775-7632

Office email: [office@firstcongcadillac.org](mailto:office@firstcongcadillac.org)

Web Site: [www.firstcongcadillac.org](http://www.firstcongcadillac.org)



## **SOME THOUGHTS THAT WERE SHARED DURING ADVENT**



### **"Shepherding"**

When lighting the Shepherds' Candle during Advent, I spoke from the heart about the idea of shepherding in our daily lives as Christians, as family members, and as citizens of a community and a country. I began by acknowledging that Jesus referred to himself a "the good shepherd," an image that has always been present in my spiritual life. The idea of Jesus standing nearby, in case I stray near a precipice, momentarily weak in my resolve to live according to his example, or encounter any of life's sudden traumas, has remained in my brain since childhood Sunday School. I asked the congregation that day to think about their personal shepherding--in family, in community, and in our country.

Life has a way of opening doors to shepherding when a child goes astray, when someone loses hope, or when we are called upon to respond to "the last, the lost, the least, or the lonely" in our extended families, in our communities, and in our country. I've been the recipient of gentle shepherding in situations myself, so I know the value of a conscientious shepherd in this world. We are faced with reports of needy people locally and in the wider world. How will we respond as family members, as members of a community, and as citizens of a country?

Since watching my dad carry grocery bags of fruits and nuts to shut-ins during my childhood, I've felt a calling to help shepherd the old, the weak, the hopeless. Since a childhood delivery with my mom's mother to take groceries to a poor home, that image has been ingrained. Since Jr. High Civics, I've been proud of my country for its unselfish welcoming "huddled masses, yearning to breathe free."

I invite you to think about shepherding intentionally in all of these ways (I'm sure that, in some way, you already are). This congregation has chosen to give spiritual and material succor to "the last, the lost, the least, the lonely, (which each of us has been at some point during our lives). That's why I'm glad to be a member here!

-Ted Parkhurst

Thank you all for embracing me on my journey to the UCC. You were patient and persistent in letting me know that I am welcome here.

- Nancy Liebau

# HAPPENING IN March:

**Celtic Themed Service March 15 10:30am**

**Judy Coffey**



Once again, I have the privilege of being with you on Sunday, March 15 for worship. The message that morning will be based on the Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother from Luke 15 and will be set in Celtic Liturgy.

Here are some Celtic Christian emphases:

*They emphasized the Bible, the cross and redemption.*

*Their prayers stressed the Trinity far more than the later Roman liturgies.*

*They also exulted in God's creation.* Although, like St Francis of Assisi, they might poetically use the terms "our brother the sun", "our sister water"; "our mother the earth"; they certainly did not believe in the Earth as a living being. Rather they were affirming their closeness to creation. Celtic Christian prayers tend to be beautifully poetic, meditating on the wonder of Creation.

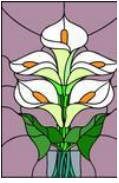
*They stressed the immanence (closeness) of God more than Roman Christianity.*

The whole of life was sacred to the Celtic Christians. They said blessings over lighting the fire, milking the cow and all the ordinary activities of life. They prayed often for the protection of the Lord. The hymn "St Patrick's Breastplate" is a good example of this Celtic, Trinitarian prayer for protection. Celtic prayers can emphasize a proper mysticism: a sense of awe and mystery at the majesty of God.

So Celtic Christianity stresses Biblical emphases some of which for centuries have been soft-pedaled by our Western Roman Christianity. As Protestants we are reformed Romans, still very much influenced by Roman thinking.

As we explore Celtic Christian spirituality, some of it will surprise us, or may even puzzle us, but it is good to be open to new approaches. I pray you will enjoy this time of worship ~ listen for the distinct emphasis of the Celtic liturgy ~ the Trinity, Creation, Musical Meter with 16<sup>th</sup> notes and we will have gold rings for all.

## **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 March 29, 2020.**

### **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 \$\_\_\_\_\_.

## ***LOOKING AHEAD:***

### **SOME DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:**

Maundy Thursday service on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 4pm

Easter Day April 12<sup>th</sup>

Movies for the Mind – Sunday April 26

UCC Women of Michigan Event: “The Gathering” - June 12, 13 14 2020

# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING:

## A NOTE FROM JAN JUENGEL:

Receiving that card with all your sweet notes on it was such a blessing to me! I love & miss you all and will come back to you when the time is right. Now I need to keep things the same so I can get through this. Bill loved you all too! My peace is that he suffers no more.

Love Jan Juengel

## BILL JUENGEL'S FUNERAL LUNCHEON FEB 5

Many of us in the congregation have fond memories of the time when Bill and Jan Juengel were active members of the church. Jan was in the choir and provided music on many occasions, and Bill was a member of the Board of Trustees. In recent years they have worshipped at a church closer to their home in Luther. Bill passed away on Saturday, February 1st. When we learned that the funeral was to take place at Peterson's Funeral Home, we were happy to arrange for a luncheon at the church. Jan had warned me that with extended families and many friends and co-workers on both sides of their family, there would likely be one hundred people at the luncheon.

Putting such a luncheon together is definitely a team effort. First of all, we have to thank the Jazzercise class for setting up all twelve tables, plus many chairs. They even hung our quilt on the wall, which we really appreciate. I did the shopping, and when I arrived at the church Wednesday morning, I had food for 100 stuffed into my vintage Subaru. That's when Jack Purkiss appeared and unloaded all the goodies. Then he proceeded to scrub all the tables. Meanwhile, the rest of the team arrived and began preparing vegetables, cutting up fruit, dishing up desserts, and arranging platters. The team included Vickie Purkiss, Laura Jacobson-Pentces, and Karen Anderson. We worked steadily until folks began to arrive from the funeral home, and then we worked even faster to re-fill and freshen bowls and platters. Jan's estimate was correct, and Fellowship Hall was full.

It's an honor to serve our members and friends in this way, and we thank everyone who helped in the effort.

-Penny Phelps

**\*\*And a big THANK YOU to Penny Phelps for coordinating all aspects of the luncheon!!\*\***

## INTRODUCTIONS TO SOME OF OUR RECENT NEW MEMBERS

Ted Parkurst



A Marion native, Ted Parkhurst lived his adult life in Little Rock, Arkansas, and has now returned to live his post-adult life in Michigan. A book publisher for 40 years, he now publishes ten to 14 books per year through Parkhurst Brothers Publishers ([www.parkhurstbrothers.com](http://www.parkhurstbrothers.com)). Ted lives with his wife Linda, an equestrian and landscape artist, in a storefront building on Main Street, Marion, where the publishing office and an art studio keep the couple busy. Ted is the father of two daughters, Dawn Blake of Jackson, TN, and Lucy Rose Baehr of Little Rock, Arkansas. A Methodist before joining us, Ted has been an active Red Cross blood donor. He reads for pleasure, illustrates correspondence to his granddaughters, and is Chair of the Marion Public Library board.



Nancy Liebau

After raising a family of five with Don, and a “mostly” successful 42 year career in Education - 30 in Catholic and 12 in public- I retired from that field. In all, no matter where I taught, my motivating force for “teaching” and for “living” has been: What Would Jesus Do?

At this time in my life, the UCC has become “the” Community where “I” can be enriched and encouraged in that path.



## **Lifestyle Medicine Class: Sprouting**

**Sandy Gaunt**

Sprouts are not only economical to grow, one pound of seeds equals 10 pounds of food, but also some of the healthiest food on the planet. They are 10-30X more nutritious than their adult counterparts. Remember- Most Americans are over fed and undernourished, so eat sprouts!

I have had a request to do a raw food preparation class, so that will be on the agenda when we return in the spring.



# **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Board of Trustees met for their regular monthly meeting on Feb. 17, 2020. The following is a summary of items discussed:.

1) Sunday School: The board has received some suggestions about ways to re-establish Sunday School as a part of worship. These suggestions included:

- a. Parents take turns teaching Sunday School
- b. Scheduling Sunday School at some other time and not during service
- c. Paying for a Sunday School teacher(s)
- d. Having adult Sunday School (Bible Study)

Ted Parkhurst volunteered to head up an exploratory committee that will give suggestions and recommendations to the board regarding Sunday School.

2) The Board also discussed ways to further its youth outreach. It was mentioned that the Luther UMC does a “Monday School.” Kids get off the school bus at the church and participate in lessons, followed by a craft and supper. The board would like to pursue this idea.

3) The board is reviewing some of the safety policies and working with the Safety Committee as there have been significant and ongoing concerns from those serving as Sextons.

4) At the Annual Meeting –

Penny Phelps introduced the idea of a Lenten Project, a local service and outreach project. After Sara Keinath’s book discussion Evicted by Matthew Desmond, many have been interested in providing help locally for those issues identified in the book. Even in our small community, housing is a critical issue for too many and often, through no fault of their own, children are caught without adequate clothing, food and sanitary needs. Penny contacted the elementary school closest to our church, Franklin Elementary, and we will partner with them to provide necessary and needed items that have been identified by their staff. Look for more information on this project soon as well as ways that you can want help. Church Cancellation Policy. As a reminder, as we head into late winter/early spring, here is a review of the church cancellation policy. In the case of inclement weather, a committee consisting of the church administrator, the Board of Trustees Chairperson, two Trustees and the Pastor will evaluate the conditions and make the determination if church services are to be canceled. This decision will be made by 7:30 am and you will be notified by 8 AM, by a phone call or text. Please make sure that the office has your most recent contact information. Notices of church cancellation will also be posted on our website and Facebook pages. The board also encourages you to contact the church, church administrator or any board member if you are wondering if there is service.

## **The Board of Trustees approves the “Franklin School Project”**

You may remember that at the Annual Meeting a proposal was made to create a Lenten Project to enable us to do some special outreach in the community. At its regular meeting on Monday, February 17th, the board supported the project.

Based on discussions with the counselor at Franklin, we propose to supply the school with socks, mittens, hats, underwear, high-protein bars, cheese sticks, lice kits, comfort items (fleece blankets, stuffed animals), silly putty, and even small appreciation tokens for stressed teachers.

We are gathering more specific information about sizes and ages, which we will distribute in church and by email after Ash Wednesday, which is next week.

If you have a particular interest in helping with this project, please contact me.

Penny Phelps



## **Community event - Lenten breakfasts**

### **Cadillac Area Lenten Breakfasts**

***Sponsored by the Cadillac Area Ministerial Association***

**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, February 26.

The time together

will include breakfast, singing and a meditation beginning at 7:00 a.m. & 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!

### **2020 Breakfast Schedule**

February 26 ~ First Baptist Church - Host: Pastor Chad Zaucha

Speaker: Pastor Troy Baxter ✝ Testimony: Paul Cousino

March 4 - First Christian Church - Host: Judy Hull

Speaker: Chaplain Ed Gilbert ✝ Testimony: Jim Baird

March 11 - Zion Lutheran Church - Host: Pastor Scott Torkko

Speaker: Chaplain Dave Bassett

March 18 - St. Ann Church - Host: Fr. Michael Jankowski

Speaker: Pastor Brian Farmer

March 25 - First Presbyterian Church - Host: Pastor Mike Horlocker

Speaker: Pastor John Martek

April 1 - United Methodist Church - Host: Pastor Tom Ball

Speaker: Pastor Scott Torkko

April 8 - Cadillac Revival Center - Host: Pastor Will Markham

Speaker: Pastor Mike Horlocker

### **2020 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: Stehouwer Free Clinic, Sept.: Feeding America, Oct.: Neighbors in Need, Nov.: Salvation Army, Dec.: Christmas Fund

## MARCH SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hr	Sexton	Preacher
1	Sandie & Brie Post	Ted Parkhurst	Penny Phelps	Carol Nilsson	John Doud
8	George Davis & Leif Williams	Catherine Doud	Anna Hradel	George Davis	John Doud
15	Diane and Tom Jobson	Cindy Morley	Leif, George, Amber	Marie Linn	Judy Coffey
22	Ann Lockwood & Amber Davis	Karen Anderson	Laura Porter	Dan Lakin	John Doud
29	Joyce Oatley & Marie Linn	Laura Porter	Angie Brugger	Laura J-Pentces	John Doud

## MARCH 2020 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>1</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am: Communion (pew)	<u>2</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> Office 12-2pm Choir 7pm	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <b>CLOCKS GO FORWARD!</b>
<u>8</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am:	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> Office 12-2pm Choir 7pm	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>15</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am:Celtic themed service	<u>16</u> 10am Board of Trustees Office 12-2pm	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> Office 12-2pm Choir 7pm	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>22</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am	<u>23</u> Office 12-2pm <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</b>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>29</u> Worship 10:30am <b>LILY FORMS DUE</b>	<u>30</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>31</u>	<b>MARCH Mission: One Great Hour of Sharing (UCC)</b>			

### NON-CHURCH ACTIVITIES THAT TAKE PLACE IN THE CHURCH BUILDING:

**Jazzercise:** 8:30am: Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat; 5:30pm: Mon, Wed; 4:30: Wed.

**[Yoga]** (Sandy Gaunt): Wednesdays 10am – on hiatus till April]