

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

"The Tie that Binds"

September 2021

Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ
Cadillac, Michigan

Margie Annis, Music Director and Organist

Mark Morley, Treasurer

Penny Phelps, Administrator

Marie Linn, Clerk

Kelly McCann, Administrative Assistant/ Newsletter Editor

Laura Jacobson-Pentces, Chairperson of Trustees

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

Child care 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



MONTHLY MUSINGS

In an edition of "Faith for Thought" (the newsletter of the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ), I found an article about initiating a new church year. Written by John Dorhauer, General Minister and President of the national United Church of Christ, the essay focuses on how we might be most effective in our treatment of one another as we begin the slow and steady process of moving through – and eventually emerging from -- a traumatic and lengthy pandemic. Whatever our circumstances, each one of us may be able to appreciate one or more of these commandments for the new church year:

Commandments to Change the World for the Common Good

(1) More Love: I wanted this to be first because it grounds all other commandments. We need more love: more stories about love and more actions that emanate from love.

(2) More Family: I have a family that doesn't see me as much as they should. Time with them restores my soul. Unfortunately, my job so often gets in the way. This church year there will be more time for family.

(3) More Care for the Earth: Our mother is sick. We are the cause. Only we can heal her, and by doing so we will heal ourselves. Without this commitment to change, we will continue to witness disaster after disaster, destruction after destruction.

(4) More Smiles: Tikh Nhat Han once wrote: "Sometimes my joy is the source of my smile. At other times, my smile is the source of my joy." Choose joy. Cultivate it. Smile more often. Let that be the greeting you offer those around you. It makes a difference.

(5) More Quiet Time: We all need more time in silence. We also need to remove noise, distractions, and wandering thoughts about impending anxiety. We need soul time, silent time, and a quieting of mind, body, and spirit that refreshes us.

Since, biblically speaking, we are used to ten commandments, I'll add five "John Doud" commandments which may help us during this church year in our efforts to become the change for the common good::

(6) More Forgiveness: If we match love with forgiveness, what a wonderful world this could be. There is a saying that goes: "The inability to forgive is a poison we drink hoping it will kill someone else."

(7) More Community: No one is an island. When we are isolated and quarantined and separated from one another, we become lost in our spaces. Let us take the initiative and reach out to our genetic family, our church family, our friends, our neighbors, and our community for uplift and restoration. Though the pandemic continues to limit our interactions, we can make phone calls, write letters, and connect through social media.

(8) More Exercise: This is not limited to physical exercise. We are challenged to exercise our bodies and our brains. While physical exercises may range from weight lifting to Jazzercise to Yoga, we are invited to stretch our brains by attending book clubs, podcasts, as well as working on jigsaw and crossword puzzles.

(9) More Compassion: On Sunday, August 29th, my sermon focused on empathy, compassion, and sympathy. The danger of empathy is to "completely feel and insert oneself into the inner life of another person," and therefore to become overly involved in that other person's despair. On the other extreme, sympathy aligns with pity and may become too detached from the other person's grief. However, with compassion we are present to walk with the person through the valley of shadows as a guide and comforter, as a lighthouse, and not as one who joins in the wreck and goes down with the sinking ship. Compassion is the care, the kindness, the action, reaching out as a companion with the other suffering human being.

(10) More Church: I had to finish on this one! Now that we also have a virtual option for our weekly worship experience, those who otherwise could not physically attend because of various conflicts – out-of-town, sickness, sleeping in, sleeping out – now have an opportunity to experience Sunday morning services. Remember: we need one another ... and others are in need of us!

-John F. Doud

Thank you Rachel for your devoted service to our Church Safe Travels Home!



Stewardship Campaign 2022

The Stewardship Committee is announcing the kickoff for the 2022 Stewardship Campaign, which will begin on Sunday, September 26th. Look for an upcoming letter during the week of September 27th, which will contain a copy of the 2022 Proposed Budget along with a pledge card. If you do not receive this letter, please contact the church office so that we can get this information to you.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of the needs of our church and our wider community.

**Sincerely,
The Stewardship Committee**

The Cadillac First Congregational Church is excited to welcome everyone back to our church building! **Live-streaming of services is provided for those wishing to worship remotely. If you wish to receive the streaming link, please contact the office.**

Our coming back together has been eagerly anticipated by all. The Board of Trustees and the Safety Committee, jointly, have developed the following policy, based on the suggested guidelines and protocols of our local District 10 Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). We are hoping that this policy will help ease concerns and make for a smooth transition as we move towards resumption of in-person services. Please take a few moments to read over this policy and become familiar with the protocols.

MASK AND SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOLS

MASKS: Those who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear masks. Those who are not fully vaccinated should wear masks. The Board of Trustees and the Safety Committee urge those who are fully vaccinated, but vulnerable, to wear a mask.

SOCIAL DISTANCING: Please respect the personal space of others and maintain a social distance of 3 feet or greater.

LIVE STREAM OPTION FOR THOSE WISHING TO WORSHIP REMOTELY

The resumption of sanctuary worship will change the “Zoom” church experience. Remote congregants will sign in as they have in the past, but worship will be a “live stream” of the service as it is occurring within the sanctuary. Remote users will be muted during the course of the service and there will be no interaction between sanctuary congregants and those joining remotely. The worship experience will be “one way,” from the sanctuary to your computer/phone. If you wish to be on the invite Zoom list, please let Kelly in the office know: office@firstcongcadillac.org

WHAT TO EXPECT - THE RETURN OF SANCTUARY WORSHIP

- You will be greeted at the outside door, and asked to give contact information that will be used in the event of a confirmed COVID case. This will be voluntary.
- Upon entering the church, you will be greeted by sextons and ushers.
- Nursery will not be offered during worship but those with small children are encouraged to make use of the upstairs “crying room,” where crayons, coloring books, etc. will be available. Unaccompanied children are not allowed upstairs. Children must be supervised by an adult.
- We are asking that the coat closet not be used.
- Collection plates will be placed at the long table behind the pews - please leave your donation in the collection plates upon entering or leaving the sanctuary.
- There will be no singing by the congregation.
- There will be no fellowship/coffee hour after the service.
- There will be no communion
- Hand Sanitizer will be located in various places throughout the sanctuary and narthex.

We appreciate your patience as we progress back to the full worship experience.

Board of Trustees

Here is a summary of the monthly Board meeting on August 15, 2021:

Cleaning

The Board has hired Jenny Engle to clean the church for 10 hours per month.

Resumption of In-Person worship

In-person services started back on July 18, with a Zoom streaming option. All feel the service is going well with a post-service outdoor fellowship when possible. Concern was expressed about the rise of the Delta variant of Covid-19. If possible we encourage people to wear masks indoors and maintain social distancing. Cooperation with these safety measures is appreciated.

Building

The repairs to the Ladies Restroom bathroom are ongoing and required the removal of some brickwork. Richard is looking into the source of a small leak in the sanctuary ceiling.

New Business:

A scholarship was approved for **George Davis** who is attending Seminary.

Acknowledgement and Thank You Gift for David Doud.

The Board is collecting a Gift Fund for David who tirelessly set-up and maintained our Zoom interactive worship during the pandemic. His indispensable hard work is greatly appreciated by all. If you would like to contribute to his gift, please do so by Sunday, September 12th. You may leave your gift in a labeled offering envelope or mail it to the office (First Congregational Church of Cadillac UCC, PO Box 892, Cadillac, MI 49601). Please be sure to note that the gift is for David Doud



Date of Next Board of Trustee Meeting

Sunday, September 12, 2021. The meeting will convene after Church Service

September 2021 Mission: Feeding America

Millions of children and families living in America face hunger and food insecurity every day.

- Due to the effects of the coronavirus pandemic, more than 42 million people may experience food insecurity, including a potential 13 million children.
- The pandemic has most impacted families that were already facing hunger or are living one paycheck away from facing hunger.
- According to the USDA's latest *Household Food Insecurity in the United States* report, more than 35 million people in the United States experienced hunger in 2019.
- Households with children are more likely to experience food insecurity. Before the coronavirus pandemic, more than 10 million children live in food-insecure households.
- Every community in the country is home to families who face hunger, including rural and suburban communities.
- Many households experiencing food insecurity do not qualify for federal nutrition programs, and therefore these families visit their local food banks and other food programs for extra support.
- The rates of food insecurity are much higher for African American, Latino, and Native American families because of systemic racial injustice. To achieve a hunger-free America, we must address the root causes of hunger, including structural and systemic inequities.

2021 Missions

January.: Our Church's Wider Mission (United Church of Christ General Fund)

February.: After 26 Project

March: One Great Hour of Sharing (United Church of Christ Disaster Relief)

April: Love, INC

May: Strengthen the Church (United Church of Christ – Various Projects)

June: New Hope Shelter

July: Back Pack Program

August: Stehouwer Free Clinic

September.: Feeding America

October.: Neighbors in Need (United Church of Christ – Various Projects)

November.: Salvation Army

December.: Christmas Fund (United Church of Christ – Assistance for Retired Clergy)

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hr	Sexton	Preacher
5	Linda Baynes	Karen Anderson	Outside Gathering	Dan Lakin	John Doud
12	Sandie Post & Brie Post	Laura Porter	Outside Gathering	Laura Jacobson-Pentces	John Doud
19	George Davis & Leif Williams	Don Liebau	Outside Gathering	Richard Harvey	Shawn Lewis-Lakin
26	Tom & Diane Jobson	Karma Capo	Outside Gathering	Patrick Delaney	John Doud

Happy Birthday

Troy Knight 2nd, Alice Gines 6th, Jeanne VanderMolen 7th, Leif Davis-Williams 8th, Jakob Burns 9th, Wesley Trowbridge 15th, Robin Corbin 18th, Theodore Trowbridge 20th, Joyce Oatley 20th, Sam Pentces 21st, Rachel Whiteman 22nd, David Lindamood 23rd, Ruthann French 26th, Katelyn Isaacs 27th, Linda Johnson 30th

Happy Anniversary

Angie and Tim Brugger 9/10/82, Gary VanHouten & Shari Spoelman 09/15/95,
Sperry & Gert Claypool 9/4/1954

September 2021 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<u>1</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>5</u> Worship 10:30am	<u>6</u> Office Closed: Labor Day	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>12</u> Rally Day Worship 10:30am Deadline for contributions to David Doud Gift Fund for his help with Zoom during the pandemic. Trustees 11:30 am	<u>13</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>19</u> Worship 10:30am Minister: Shawn Lewis-Lakin	<u>20</u> Office 12-2pm NEWSLETTER ITEMS DEADLINE	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>
<u>26</u> Worship 10:30am Stewardship Sunday	<u>27</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>30</u>		