

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

“The Tie that Binds”

OCTOBER 2016

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

Carol Nilsson, Chair of Trustees

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

Sunday School and childcare available.

The church is open on **Mondays and Wednesdays** from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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

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OCTOBER 2016 *The Tie That Binds*

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Cadillac, Michigan



MISSION STATEMENT, COVENANT, AND CREED

At the Semi-Annual Meeting on Sunday, September 25th, our congregation was presented with a Proposed Covenant as a possible addition to our Bylaws by vote of the congregation at our 2017 January Annual Meeting. Due to local church autonomy and the variety of beliefs of members in the United Church of Christ, each congregation is encouraged to formulate a mission statement and/or covenant to meet the needs of the local fellowship. Our congregation already has a mission statement listed in Article II of our Bylaws:

The avowed mission of the church shall be to worship God, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to celebrate the sacraments as a Congregational Church; to realize Christian fellowship and unity within this church and the Church universal; to render loving service toward humankind; and to strive for righteousness, justice, and peace.

While this mission statement resides in our bylaws, my guess is that very few members of our church even know that it exists. As a “mission statement” it is a one liner, short, and to the point. It is useful for organizations concerning whether present practices will lead to positive growth for the church, service organization, or company. Therefore, we ask ourselves whether what we are doing today is compatible with our mission statement. If not, then why are we spending so much of our energy and money and time doing it? For our church, the mission statement helps us focus on what is most important so that we can be about the business of making a difference in our community and world.

Many organizations also have “Values Statements” which are basically covenants. These are presented periodically to the membership in order to remind them that they, as participants in that non-profit or profit organization, should pledge to work as a team and be accountable, respectful, trustworthy, and compassionate. Likewise, these members will often read in unison these “covenants” to lift up the values of their particular organization.

Most of us are aware of the ancient biblical “covenant” language in Genesis, where God paints the rainbow after the flood as a reminder that God will not harm creation again. This becomes God’s covenant and bond with every single human being never to do harm...only to love. As in the covenant of marriage between two people, it is a promise to spend life together in abundance or in poverty, in health or in sickness, for better or for worse. Therefore, in terms of our fellowship, a covenant is an agreement and a commitment to gather together as a congregation to act on the challenge embedded in our mission statement: “to render loving service toward humankind and to strive for righteousness, justice, and peace.”

Contrast this with a creed. A creed is a belief statement that all must agree to or membership in the community is denied. Historical Christian creeds include the Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed, which begin with the words: “I believe....” Groucho Marx once remarked, “I would not dream of belonging to a club that is willing to have me for a member.” This is one way out! Do we have creeds/belief statements as a requirement to join the Cadillac First Congregational United Church of Christ? No. If this were so, our membership would quickly be depleted! Does one have to be a Christian? No. If this were so, Buddhists and non-theists would be excluded from our fellowship. Is there a creed about what age one must be to take communion or to be baptized? No. All ages as well as all members, friends, and anyone attending our church for the first time are included. Is there anything in our Bylaws stating that certain people are not allowed to lead

us in communion or fill the pulpit or lead various religious ceremonies like baptisms, weddings, funerals, or memorials? No. If so, this rule has been broken many times over.

Indeed, if we were all of the same belief, wouldn't it be boring? We are a collection of oddballs which, of course, makes life so interesting! We come to this church from so many different places with a variety of life styles and experiences, which can be shared with others, even as we listen and learn and discover new ways of being human. In the Christian Bible, Jesus doesn't focus on belief; he is more concerned with action. If one desires a great example of what Jesus has to say about "doing" as opposed to "believing" then carefully read the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5, 6, and 7, and try to unearth any "creed/belief" statement. Jesus concludes the sermon by encouraging the listeners to not only "hear" his words but to "do" them.

Well...I better stop filling up space in this October newsletter, or we'll lose our new volunteer newsletter editor, Karen Smeltzer; which makes me want to add a big "Thank You" to Karen for taking on the job of assembling our "Tie That Binds" newsletter month after month. We appreciate you, Karen, for making this your covenant and commitment to our church!

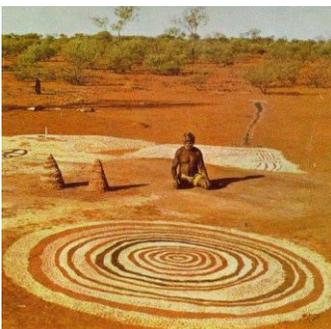
Before I sign off, it might be helpful for those who were unable to attend the Semi-Annual meeting on September 25th to read the Proposed Covenant, and therefore suggest any changes prior to next year's Annual Meeting vote:

We, the faith family of the Cadillac First Congregational United Church of Christ, on our spiritual journey, gather as a Christian church to learn from the teachings of Jesus as proclaimed in the scriptures; to encourage a consciousness of our relationship with God; to inspire truth, a 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 the realization of God's kingdom. 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...

-John F. Doud

CHURCH EVENTS IN OCTOBER



MYTHOLOGY AND RELIGION CLASS - Our first meeting was September 26 at the church. You can still sign up for the class. Initially, we will be using Joseph Campbell's *Thou Art That: Transforming Religious Metaphor*, as our guide into our discussion of Myth and Religion. Contact Joe Elenbaas, if you would like to attend or have questions.

The course will be held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month, 7-8:30 pm, through Dec. 12th (Sept 26, Oct 10, Oct 24, Nov 14, Nov 28, Dec 12).



UNITED NORTHERN ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING
Saturday, October 1, 2016
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
First Congregational UCC, 218 W. Second Street, Gaylord, MI 49735

Program will be presented by Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson; the topic will be "*Living Spiritually in a Multi-Religious World.*"

Contact Penny Phelps if you still need to register to attend or have questions.



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY – October 2. Mark your calendars.



FALL CLEAN UP – Sunday, **October 9** after church. Wear your "grubbies" to church, tasks will be assigned. Lunch will be provided. Clean up supplies will be provided.
Teen Group meets after church.



TEEN GROUP meets **October 9** at 11:30 at church.
(see article on following page)



2016 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE MICHIGAN CONFERENCE
Friday, October 14 & Saturday, October 15, 2016
Woodside Church, Flint, MI

Theme: A New Covenant

Registration deadline: October 7. See Penny Phelps [Click here for more information](#)



MOVIE NIGHT

Tuesday, October 18 – Family movie will be “Young Frankenstein” featuring the late Gene Wilder. Costumes welcome.
Chili at 6:00 p.m.; movie follows at 7:00 in the church Fellowship Hall. Voting for the chili you like the best.
Donation appreciated: \$5 for just movie / \$7 movie & meal.





PANCAKE BRUNCH – Saturday, October 22, 10-12; all donations go to the Stehouwer Free Clinic. To be held in the church Fellowship Hall.

LIFE IN THE CHURCH

ORGAN DEDICATION SUNDAY



Our refurbished organ was dedicated in memory of the late Rev. Dr. William Allinder last Sunday, September 18 with guest organist Sandy Bode. The Choir opened the service with an introit from the back of the sanctuary that filled the room and our hearts to prepare for this special event. The main part of the morning service was a mini-concert with arrangements of favorite hymns; it was magnificent. Our sincere thanks to Joan Allinder and Al Snyder for donating funds so our organ could be returned to its original potential of full melodic sounds. Our most recent organists were recognized for their years of service and sharing of talent with our congregation. Everyone was invited to look behind the wall to see the workings of the organ after the service.

IT'S HAPPENING IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

TEEN GROUP START-UP

We're starting a *Teen Group* (7th Grade and up). Our first activity will be a campfire at Tom & Karen Anderson's on **October 9th, 11:30 -2:30**; meet at church. Hot dogs and s'mores provided.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY

The Sunday School celebrated Rally Day September 11 with flags, marching and tambourines. It was a very bright start to the service as children of all ages participated marching up and down the aisles. They bring such joy to us all! We are looking forward to guest speakers and interactive programs.





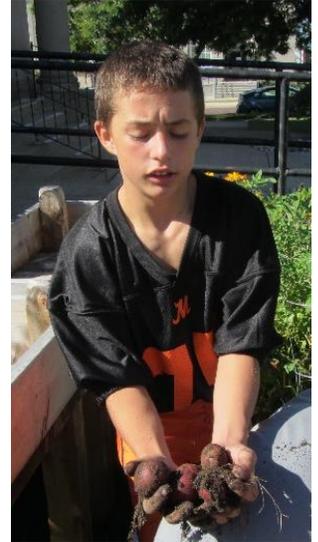
NOISY OFFERING

Please note: Sunday School's Noisy Offering will now be collected on the Third Sunday each month.

CHURCH GARDEN



We have obtained 2 new wooden raised bed garden troughs that will be planted next year. The Sunday School kids have been very active taking care of our garden this year. We hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy a sampling of the vegetables that have been grown during this season. Volunteers are welcome to help in next year's garden planting. See Karen Anderson if interested in helping.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

From the September Meeting –

- The Boiler system will be renovated on Monday October 3.
- Ideas for the Barrier Free Access Grant will be discussed October 9. Looking for people to be on this committee.
- Looking for Fundraising ideas – see Marie Linn
- Looking for Ushers and Greeters. Call the church office if you'd like to help.
- National Transgender Remembrance Sunday, November 20

LOOKING AHEAD



Reminder: Discussion about the Church By-laws will be held after church on **October 23** in the Fellowship Hall.



NEW MEMBERS SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 6

Interested in joining the Cadillac First Congregational United Church of Christ church family? See Rev. John Doud or contact him at pastor@firstcongcadillac.org or call him at (231) 775-7632 or (231) 313-6053.



BABY SHOWER FOR BRITTANY – Sunday, November 6 after church in the Fellowship Hall. Pat will have the Moses Basket on the stage for collection of gifts and cards.



FALL HARVEST FEAST – Thanksgiving/Veterans/Harvest Feast will be Sunday, November 13, after church in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a sign-up sheet in the back of the church.



HOLIDAY BAZAAR & LUNCHEON – Saturday, December 3, in church Fellowship Hall. If you have some crafts you wish to sell, please see Shari Spoelman. Watch next month's Newsletter for more details.



Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Greeter/ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
OCT 2	Virgil & Joan Butler	Casey Cline	<i>Birthday Sunday Volunteers Needed</i>	Robin Corbin	John Doud
OCT 9	Carol and Jerry Nilsson	Cindy Morley	Lunch during Fall Cleanup	Richard Harvey	John Doud
OCT 16	Tom & Diane Jobson	Sue Wachowski	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	Tom Jobson	John Doud
OCT 23	Karma Chapo, Donna Debney	Joyce Oatley	<i>Volunteers Needed</i>	Sara Keinath	John Doud
OCT 30	Mike & Joyce Oatley	Robin Corbin	Potluck	Marie Linn	John Doud

OCTOBER 2016 CALENDAR * denotes non-church activities that occur in the church.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<i>Articles for the November Newsletter are due <u>No Later Than Oct. 17</u> to the Church Office. Thank You ☺</i>					<u>1</u> Jazz.8:30 am NORTHERN ASSN. MEETING-GAYLORD
<u>2</u> 9:30am Choir Worship 10:30am WORLD COMMUNION (Circle)	<u>3</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm *Symphony Board 7pm	<u>4</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>5</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm 7pm Choir practice	<u>6</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>7</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>8</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>9</u> 9:30am Choir Worship 10:30am, STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY-FALL CLEANUP <i>11:30 Teen Group</i>	<u>10</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm 7pm FALL STUDY GROUP	<u>11</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>12</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm 7pm Choir practice	<u>13</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>14</u> Jazz.8:30 am ANNUAL MEETING - FLINT	<u>15</u> Jazz.8:30 am ANNUAL MEETING - FLINT
<u>16</u> 9:30 Choir Worship 10:30am Sermon: <i>Conference Report (Rev. John Doud, Sara Keinath, Linda Baynes)</i> NOISY OFFERING	<u>17</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm Board Meeting 6:30 pm <u>Newsletter items due</u>	<u>18</u> *Jazz.8:30 am Movie Night / CHILI - "Young Frankenstein", Costumes welcome	<u>19</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm 7pm Choir practice	<u>20</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>21</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>22</u> Jazz.8:30 am <u>STEHOUWER PANCAKE BRUNCH 10-12</u>
<u>23</u> 9:30am Choir Worship 10:30am 11:30 Discussion of By-laws	<u>24</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm 7pm FALL STUDY GROUP	<u>25</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>26</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>27</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>28</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>29</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>30</u> Worship 10:30am	<u>31</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm					

Missions: October: Neighbors In Need; November: Salvation Army; December: Christmas Fund