

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

“The Tie that Binds”

DECEMBER 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.

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From the Pastor



I'm writing this message over a two-day period: a Friday when our weather in Cadillac reached 70 degrees, and the next day on Saturday, when our weather dropped about 45 degrees. With these extremes in temperature, I suppose this means that here in our grand and beautiful northern Michigan city we will have a winter Thanksgiving and a summer Christmas.

Thanksgiving and Christmas weave each other together in another way.

While here in late 2016, the season of Thanksgiving concludes the Western Church liturgical year, the first Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 27th, is also the first Sunday in Advent, beginning the Western liturgical year. The term Advent originates in a Latin word meaning "coming." In the Western tradition churches celebrate Advent as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas.

It is of interest that we begin again in winter since for many earth cultures and religions, this is the season of death. Earth cultures are typically cyclical while other cultures are linear. The cyclical view moves in a circle; we take root in spring, are nurtured throughout summer, ripen in Fall, rot in winter, and eventually the seeds from our composted fruit reside in the earth to begin the cycle all over again. The linear view moves from one point to another: we are born, we live, and we die.

Ask yourselves...are you a line or a circle?

It is often suggested the religious view must be linear rather than cyclical, since individuals are moving in one direction towards God. While our language seems to protest cyclical time – "I just can't get anything done because I feel as if I'm always moving in circles!" – the truth is that often we come back to the place where we started but see things differently. Anyone who has moved away from Cadillac or any home town and returned twenty or thirty years later will understand the meaning of this. We often move in more of an ellipse: trying something new in a job or skill or in our religious faith, but soon after moving quickly back to the safe zone before beginning again. The point here is that when the linear meets the cyclical, there is a gift on the other side.

Are you a line or a circle or an ellipse?

In life, we are in the midst of death. Manilius wrote, "Even in birth, we die; the end is there from the start." This theme, explored in the poetry of T. S. Eliot in his work, *Little Gidding*, has to do with beginnings and endings. Eliot said: "What we call the beginning is often the end. And to make an end is to make a beginning. The end is where we start from." We end this week with Thanksgiving and begin next week with Advent. The harvest month of November represents thanks giving and December represents gift giving. While Advent begins in late November and Christmas celebrates the birth of the Christ child, eventually this will lead us through Lent, to death, and to new life. Our calendar year ends in December and begins all over again in January. The cycle begins next year with Advent. It is odd how calendars calculate our living.

Are you a line or a circle or an ellipse or something else?

For me, I suppose, the ellipse is a wonderful image as I continue to move in and out of the comfortably numb zone to one of service and concern for the world and for one another, reflecting the being God created me to be. As one of our members, Don Lakin, pointed out, we only have to add an "o" to God and the "good" enters into us as we become God's active agents of goodness on this earth.

I'll conclude (or begin again???) with these verses from T.S. Eliot: "We must be still and still moving; into another intensity; for a further union, a deeper communion...In my end is my beginning."

~ *John Doud*

CHURCH EVENTS IN DECEMBER

HOLIDAY BAZAAR & LUNCHEON

The Handmade Holiday Sale will be held *Saturday, December 3, from 10:30-3:00 at our church in the Fellowship Hall.*

- Shop a variety of local artists and crafters for your high-quality hand crafted items and this holiday season. Local products and baked goods will also be available.
- A soup lunch will be available for a small fee.
- For more information or if you want to be a vendor, please contact Shari Spoelman

Handmade Holiday Sale

December 3, 2016, 10:30 – 3:00 pm

Cadillac Congregational Church
200 E. Harris St., Cadillac, MI



Shop a variety of Local Artists and Crafters for your High Quality, Handcrafted items for this Holiday Season



The Church will have lunch available for a small fee

Keeping it Local



CELEBRATION OF ANGELS CHRISTMAS SERVICE AND MEMORIAL TREE

During morning worship service on December 4th. (no Sunday School; there will be nursery care.)

HANGING OF THE TREE ORNAMENTS – The congregation and children will again hang ornaments on the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary during morning worship service on December 11th. The children are invited to stay in the sanctuary and participate in this service (no Sunday School; there will be nursery care.) **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Christmas Eve service will be held at 7:00 p.m., December 24 in the sanctuary. Gather as we celebrate and await the coming of our Lord. (There will be no childcare during this service.)



The Board still needs Volunteers for AfterGlow Refreshments. If no one volunteers to provide refreshments, there will be none.

(Note: see Penny if you need funds to provide refreshments. There is a kitchen fund.)

Please note: There will be no nursery care or Sunday School on December 25th.

PROJECT CHRISTMAS - BOXES & ENVELOPES



There are two boxes located at the entrance of the sanctuary – one for non-perishable food items and one for gift items. Please remember to bring in your items (unwrapped).

Also, there are envelopes hanging on the smaller tree just inside the sanctuary entrance. Checks may be enclosed (made out to **Project Christmas**). Envelopes should be placed in the offertory plates or church office. Thank you for your generous giving during the Christmas season.

DOUD FAMILY CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, December 18th, 2:30 – 5:00 pm



Join us for holiday cheer at the home of:
Catherine and John Doud



TEEN GROUP NEWS



DECEMBER 10 PROJECT CHRISTMAS WORKERS 1-3pm

We will **meet at the church at 12:30 pm** and then drive to the Cadillac Civic Arena. We have been asked to work as human shopping charts (help shoppers carry their gifts) during the **PROJECT CHRISTMAS** event.

Hope you can join the group for this exciting volunteer opportunity. We will be back to the church by 3:30 pm.



MYTHOLOGY AND RELIGION CLASS CONTINUES



The last session of the study group will be held on Monday, December 12th at 7pm

MOVIE NIGHT

Join us for Movie Night on Tuesday, December 20th at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The feature will be “Kind Hearts & Coronations” with Alec Guinness. Snacks will be available during the movie; hosted by Ann Lockwood and Ginny Donley. There is a \$5 donation for the movie.



POINSETTIAS

It's time to order poinsettias for the sanctuary!

If you wish to join in this time-honored tradition of purchasing a plant to create a blaze of color at the front of the sanctuary, please fill in the form below and either bring it to church or mail it in.

The order deadline is Sunday, December 11th.



Poinsettia Order

I/We _____ wish to order
(Name)

_____ poinsettias at \$8 each in memory / honor of: (circle one)

_____.

Enclosed is payment of \$_____.



LIFE IN THE CHURCH

HARVEST FEAST

★ The annual Harvest Feast was enjoyed after the November 13th worship service. Thank you to Penny Phelps and the many helpers in the kitchen for making this happen. Turkey, Ham, and many wonderful side dishes were offered.

Thank you to everyone who provided the delicious side dishes! It was attended by about 80 people and a lot of

visiting was enjoyed. ★ Thank you to Robin Corbin for taking family pictures during this time also.



VETERANS MEMORIAL SERVICE

★ Thank You note received from Marie Linn:

“Thank you so much for sharing your sanctuary with us. It was a perfect venue for our program to honor our veterans.

Sincerely, Marie Linn, Marie Therese Cadillac Chapter of the DAR”

★ Thank you, Marie, for putting together such a heartfelt service honoring the veterans in this area. Below are pictures of the service by the DAR Marie Therese Cadillac Chapter. Three DAR members are from our church: Marie Linn, Karen Smeltzer and Ann Lockwood, who is also a Military Veteran. ★ Thank you to Jack Purkiss and his group for performing the music for this service. This service was a memorial of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War; 20 Vietnam Veterans received a recognition pin. A memorial flag honoring the Vietnam War was displayed along with the POW-MIA flag at the Missing Man table.



Jack Purkiss and his group performed the National Anthem and a Medley of Military songs.



Missing Man table



Marie Linn read dedications and a history of foreign wars.



The 50th Anniversary Pin

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

There were three new members welcomed on November 6th.

(L to R)

Ed Burley, Brittany Isaacs,
David Doud



BABY SHOWER

The church also celebrated the birth of Katelyn Isaacs with a baby shower for mama Brittany Isaacs during Fellowship Hour.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

From the November meeting:

- “Call to the Wall” gift cards are being purchased. Funds were given by a 22-church coalition to do “Good” for the unchurched persons in our area. This is an outreach program to share God’s blessings to those in need.
- Treasurer’s Report - Water bill was high this month. Toilets were found to be running continuously. This has been fixed. Please be sure that toilet water stops running when flushed.
- 2017 Conference dates were announced: Spring UNA April 29 in Onekama; Fall UNA September 30, location TBA; Michigan Conference at St. Stevenson Community Church in Lansing, October 13-14.
- Boiler repair needed - \$3,375. Board approved.
- Bylaws review discussion will be during Fellowship Hour, December 18. A proxy vote provision has been added.
- Annual Meeting after church, February 5, 2017. This will be a potluck event.
- Semi-annual meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2017; also a potluck event.
- Please turn in Pledge Cards so the 2017 Budget can be worked out.
- Christmas Eve AfterGlow will NOT take place at this time. If someone would like to take over this event, please let the church office know. Another opportunity is the Easter Brunch. Bob and Troy are handing over the reins for these events.
- Update on Fellowship Hour: Board decision that if no one signs up for Fellowship Hour, there will not be a fellowship hour. Refreshments need to be kept simple – cookies and coffee – makes it easier for everyone to participate.
- Help needed: typing up church policies and procedures. Please contact Penny if able to do this.
- New Potluck Committee – Steve Jackson will chair. Contact him if interested in being on this committee.
- Please turn in blue membership cards to Marie or contact her if you need one. Membership rolls are being updated.
- We are growing. We are attracting young families. Remember Rev. Doud’s Challenge – Bring a friend to church.

Board of Trustees members: Carol Nilsson, Chair * Patrick Delaney, Treasurer * Bill Cinco, Sperry Claypool Richard Harvey * Bob LeVand * Pat McCurdy * Sara Keinath, Moderator * Marie Linn, Clerk John Doud, Pastor

LOOKING AHEAD



WINTER CONTACT INFORMATION – Please be sure to give the office your Winter contact information, such as mailing address and/or email address so we can keep you informed about things such as By-laws updates and newsletters.



****Please note: If you haven't had your picture taken for the church directory, please see Robin right away, especially the snowbirds before you leave.****

Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Greeter/ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
DEC 4	Charlotte Barfield, Marie Linn	Laura Porter	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	Linda Baynes	John Doud
DEC 11	Gert and Sperry Claypool	Charlotte Barfield	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	Sperry Claypool	John Doud
DEC 18	Sue Wachowski, Karen Anderson	Sue Wachowski	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	Robin Corbin	John Doud
DEC 24	Various	Various	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	TBA	Various
DEC 25	TBA	Ralph Annis	<i>Need Volunteer</i>	TBA	John Doud



DECEMBER 2016 CALENDAR

* denotes non-church activities that occur in the church.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>Please be sure to have all articles for the January Newsletter into the office <u>No Later Than December 19th.</u> Thank You 😊</p>				1 Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	2 Jazz.8:30 am	3 Jazz.8:30 am 10:30-3 HANDMADE HOLIDAY SALE - church
4 9:30am Choir Worship 10:30am COMMUNION (Circle) <u>CELEBRATION OF ANGELS CHRISTMAS AND MEMORIAL ORNAMENTS</u> <i>(no Sunday School)</i> 	5 *Jazz 5:45 pm *Symphony Board 7pm	6 *Jazz.8:30 am	7 *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm 7pm Choir practice	8 Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	9 Jazz.8:30 am	10 Jazz.8:30 am 12:30-3:30 TEENS HELP PROJECT CHRISTMAS <i>(meet at church)</i>
11 9:30am Choir Worship 10:30am, <u>HANGING OF THE TREE ORNAMENTS WITH KIDS</u> <i>(no Sunday School)</i> 	12 *Jazz 5:45 pm 7pm FALL STUDY GROUP	13 *Jazz.8:30 am	14 *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm 7pm Choir practice	15 Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	16 Jazz.8:30 am	17 Jazz.8:30 am
18 9:30 Choir Worship 10:30am NOISY OFFERING <i>(there WILL be Sunday School)</i> 11:30 Bylaws Discussion <i>* Doud Open House in Traverse City 2:30-5:00 pm</i>	19 *Jazz 5:45 pm Board Meeting 6:30 pm <u>Newsletter items due</u>	20 *Jazz.8:30 am 7 pm Movie <i>(snacks) \$5 at Church</i>	21 *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm	22 Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	23 Jazz.8:30 am	24 Jazz.8:30 am 7PM CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE refreshments ?? <i>(no childcare)</i>
25 Worship 10:30am <u>CHRISTMAS DAY</u> <i>(no nursery care or Sunday School)</i>	26 *Jazz 5:45 pm	27 *Jazz.8:30 am	28 *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm 7pm Choir practice	29 Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	30 Jazz.8:30 am	31 Jazz.8:30 am

2016 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: Shepherd's Table, Sept.: Feeding America, Oct.: Neighbors in Need, Nov.: Salvation Army, Dec.: Christmas Fund



Wishing everyone a very blessed Merry Christmas and safe, prosperous New Year.

*Rev. John Doud * Rachel Whiteman, church secretary
 Margie Annis, music director * Karen Smeltzer, newsletter editor*