

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

“The Tie that Binds”

October 2018

Newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC
Cadillac, MI

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

Childcare available.

The church is open on **Mondays and Wednesdays** from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

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ROOM VERSUS SPACE

A message from the Reverend Patty Higgins
Minister of the First Congregational UCC of Benzonia, Michigan



I would like to share a reflection that I wrote after attending General Synod 31 this past summer.

In Traci Blackmon's candidate sermon, she spoke of the balconies that were built in churches, space to accommodate more people. As time went on, it was the marginalized that were placed up in the balconies, placing those on the edges, primarily the people of color and the poor. As she continued, Traci made a connection between the words space and room. The churches had made space, but had they made room? Had they made room for the people that would fill up that space?

This question struck me then and has followed me these three weeks since Synod. I went to Synod as a visitor with the Maine Delegation, as a Member in Discernment. I was encouraged to be part of all delegation caucuses and discussions. I enjoyed meals with the delegation. The differences were that I had a white name badge denoting me as a visitor, not a blue one for a delegate. I was not part of any committee discussing resolutions; I did not vote. I was at every plenary in the gallery watching the proceedings. I was in the balcony.

After a day or so of plenaries, I heard one of my fellow Maine travelers saying that some chocolate would be good on the delegation table as debates and amendments were at hand. During a break, I bought some chocolate. As the plenary was being called back to order, I headed for the Maine delegation table. I was met at the railing that separates the delegates from the gallery by a volunteer checking name badges. As mine was white and not blue, I was not allowed on the floor. Shocked, I said that I was merely placing chocolate on the table for my friends. "Sorry, can't let you through" was the reply. Thankfully, Rich was beside me and he carried on with said chocolate in hand.

Long story short, this incident, combined with Rev. Blackmon's comments, hit me right between the eyes. How does all of this play out in our churches? Do we provide space but no room? Do we invite people in and then not include them? How freely do we share information? Who is allowed where within our lives, mission work, and call to do the work we are called to do?

Room versus Space.

May there always be more room and not enough space.

ADDED THOUGHT:

We had the opportunity last year to sponsor the neutral pulpit where Patty gave her sermon to our congregation.

~ John

UPCOMING EVENTS

GUEST SPEAKER: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Seeking the Ox: A Zen Tale (10:30 am)

Potluck (11:30 am)

(Bring a dish to share & your own table service)

Program on Buddhism (12:00 Noon)



John Wolff, a Buddhist Teacher and Zen practitioner, will join us to share his personal journey into Buddhism during worship on Sunday, September 30th at 10:30 a.m. After worship, we will gather in Fellowship Hall to enjoy a potluck meal (please bring a dish to share and your own table service). Following the potluck, John will present a program on Buddhism, and there will be time afterwards for questions. We are excited to have John Wolff with us for this very special event. Please join us and extend John and

his wife a very warm welcome!

John Gendo Wolff, Sensei, has been a Zen practitioner for over 30 years and serves as Guiding Teacher of Great Wave Zen Sangha in Ludington, Michigan. He received Jukai (lay ordination) from Dennis Genpo Merzel, Roshi, on August 1, 1992. On July 15, 2006, he was ordained as a priest in the White Plum lineage by his teacher Susan Myoyu Andersen, Roshi, and in the summer of 2008 was Shusso (head priest) of the Great Plains Zen Center at Myoshinji–Subtle Mind Temple. In June 2012, he received Dharma Transmission (Shiho) from Myoyu Roshi and is now the resident teacher at Great Wave Zen Sangha in northern Michigan.

Gendo Sensei is also a writer with numerous publications of poetry in a variety of magazines and in the anthology Beneath a Single Moon: The Legacy of Buddhism in American Poetry. He is the author of the book, The Driftwood Shrine, a collection of Dharma talks based on the work of several Buddhist-influenced American poets. He currently works as a Professor of Humanities at West Shore Community College in Ludington, Michigan, is married, and is a father of three.

CHOIR

Please note that choir rehearsals will revert to Wednesdays at 7pm starting Wednesday October 3.



Movies for the Mind



"Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous of all subversions." - William O. Douglas, Supreme Court Justice

Won't you join the conversation?

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, October 21, 2018 - 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)

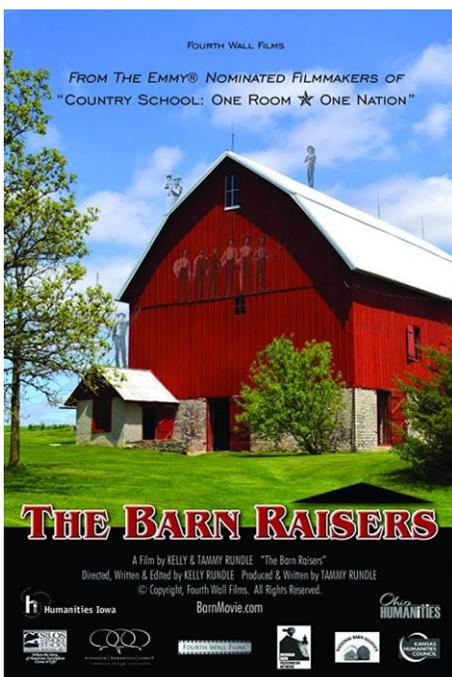
Cost: Donation.

Film snacks: Bring your own beverage, and any additional movie snacks you would like. Popcorn 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.

THE BARN RAISERS



Feature Film

Our second film of the 2018-2019 season will be free of controversy and concern. Relax and learn with us as *The Barn Raisers* historical documentary feature film tells the story of barns in the Midwest by examining them through the lens of architecture.

What do barn settings, styles, methods and materials tell us about the people who built them, the life they lived, and the role these vanishing country cathedrals played in the settling and building of a growing nation?

The Barn Raisers paints a cinematic portrait of barns and builders, and reminds us that these remnants from America's rural past are still here to be appreciated and experienced. Stephen Stier, preservation builder, barnwright and Vice-President of Michigan Barn Preservation Network, who appears in the film, will actually be in attendance at MftM to share his perspective, and answer questions.

LOOKING AHEAD



ECUMENICAL EVENT

We have been invited to participate in the worship experience at Temple Beth El in Traverse City on **Friday, November 2, 2018 at 6:30 pm** (rescheduled from May). If you'd like to carpool to Traverse City for this service, please contact Rev. John Doud.

HARVEST FEAST

Our annual Harvest Feast will be held **Sunday, November 11** after church. This is always a wonderful gathering of family and friends to signify the end of the harvest, autumn, and work well done for the year. There will be a sign-up sheet to coordinate who is bringing what food.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

The 53rd Annual Meeting of the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ will be held at the First Congregational Church of Charlotte, Michigan on October 12 and 13, 2018. This year Jeri Hector, Donna Debney, and John Doud will represent our congregation at the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Conference in Charlotte.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

MOVIES FOR THE MIND – SEPTEMBER

September's Movies for the Mind, "Every Three Seconds", was viewed by 33 persons. Thank you to Dave and Sandy Gaunt for providing this movie focusing on poverty in America and around the world. And thank you to Dave for leading the question and answer period afterwards.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of the church entrance area continues with securing the hand railings. Please be careful entering the church as the weather changes.



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

Laura Jacobson- Pentces, Chairperson

September 17, 2018

The board met on Monday, September 17 for their regular monthly meeting. Highlights and things of special notice included:

1. A discussion about ways to increase diversity and inclusion. The board commented that the Open and Affirming (ONA) designation that the church received a few years ago, has been a terrific way to highlight First Congregational UCC Cadillac's, "you are welcome here." The board discussed ways to increase visibility of our commitment to diversity and inclusion.
2. The board discussed the vandalism of the east side basement windows. On Sunday, September 9. One of the boys, with his mother, came after church to apologize. Laura, John and Joyce talked to him and told him that the board would meet on September 17 and make a decision regarding reparation. The board asked for congregational input and after discussion, decided not to prosecute. Bill and John went to the city police the next day to tell Officer Hicks of the decision. The board is in conversation with the boys and their parents, and the boys will be contributing to the cost of replacing and repairing the windows.
3. It was noted that there have been some Sundays that no one has signed up for coffee hour. Joyce suggested, in the spirit of hospitality, that coffee (and tea) be available, regardless. The sexton, or ushers, or one of the board members will coordinate this.

The next board meeting will be Monday, October 15 at 5:00 pm.



SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
Oct 7	Karma Chapo & Donna Debney	Karma Chapo	Karma Chapo & Donna Debney	Marie Linn	John Doud
14	Don and Nancy Liebau	Karen Rowley	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Penny Phelps	John Doud
21	Richard and Karen Rowley	Ralph Annis	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Sue Wachowski	John Doud
28	Tom & Diane Jobson	Tom Jobson	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Tom Jobson	Robin Corbin

October 2018 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<u>1</u> Office 11:00-1:00	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> Office 11:00-1:00 7pm Choir	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>7</u> 9:30am Choir Worship 10:30 am WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY (circle)	<u>8</u> Office 11:00-1:00	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u> Office 11:00-1:00 7pm Choir	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Michigan Conference in Charlotte, MI</div>
<u>14</u> 9:30am Choir Worship 10:30 am	<u>15</u> Office 11:00-1:00 Board of Trustees 5:00 pm	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> Office 11:00-1:00 7pm Choir	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>21</u> 9:30am Choir Worship 10:30 am 5 pm "Movies for the Mind" (starts at 5:30)	<u>22</u> Office 11:00-1:00 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> Office 11:00-1:00 NO CHOIR PRACTICE	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>28</u> Worship 10:30 am	<u>29</u> Office 11:00-1:00	<u>30</u>	<u>30</u> Office 11:00-1:00 7pm Choir	October Mission: Neighbors in Need		

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

Jazzercise: Mon: 5:45pm; Tue: 8:30am; Wed 4:30& 5:45; Thu 8:30 & 5:45; Fri & Sat: 8:30am.
(The Symphony Board no longer meets at the church)

2018 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