

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

“The Tie that Binds”

December 2018

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

Karen Rowley, Newsletter Editor

Laura Jacobson-Pentces, Chair 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 (231) 775-7632

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A letter to the UCC Family of Faith: We can't let evil prevail

This call to action comes from the Conference Minister of the Penn Northeast Conference UCC, with the affirmation of the denomination's National Officers and the Rev. David Ackerman, Conference Minister of the Penn West Conference UCC.



The news over the past weeks has revealed an undercurrent of hate within our culture and our country. Between the assumption that immigrants walking nearly 2,000 miles seeking asylum are seen as a threat to our security; the pipe bombs mailed to those who oppose our current political administration; the massacre of 11 Jewish citizens during services at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh; and the shooting of an African American man and woman in a grocery store after a failed attempt to enter a church of Black worshippers, it is hard to find cause for hope in our nation.

The rhetoric of hate and divisiveness calls for a response from the faith community. While we should not advocate for candidates or political parties, we must advocate for justice, humanitarian treatment of our neighbors, and for safety in our places of worship. We are a diverse nation and until recently that diversity has been seen as a strength. We, in the Church, must stand as moral authorities proclaiming peace and hope, compassion and justice.

Wherever and whenever you have the opportunity to provide wisdom and comfort, inspiration and compassion, I urge you to do so. To be silent is to let evil prevail and we, as people of faith, cannot do that, any more than Jesus could do it in his time and culture. Find a way to bring peace and hope to your faith communities, your communities, our state and our nations.

Today we are asking our members to write prayer notes or notes of compassion to our siblings at Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh. Mail them from your local church to them at 5898 Wilkins Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15217.

Participate in a vigil or a peaceful worship process in any one of your communities and if there isn't one, please plan one.

If you are able, this would be a wonderful way to demonstrate solidarity with our Jewish siblings.

By all means pray but above all do not fail to speak out or to act. As Martin Niemöller wrote: "First they came for the Jews and I did not speak out because I was not a Jew. Then they came for the Communists and I did not speak out because I was not a Communist. Then they came for the trade unionists and I did not speak out because I was not a trade unionist. Then they came for me and there was no one left to speak out for me." [1]

We are called to be people of prayer, but we are also called to remember that "The Spirit of the LORD is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free (Luke 4:18). May we each and all do our part to make our communities, state and nation places of hope and peace.

Faithfully,
The Rev. Bonnie Bates, Conference Minister
Penn. Northeast Conference United Church of Christ

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Our Church celebrated the lives of member Bill Glander, and member Marie Linn's father, Dr. George Wagoner in November with memorial services in the sanctuary.

We lost another member this year – Bill Vander Molen.

The families have sent thank yous to the Church family for their support, meals, cards and well wishes.

Our prayers go out to the families for strength, love and faith in their time of grief.



Altar at Bill Glander's memorial service.

The November 11 Harvest Feast, coordinated by Penny Phelps and her team, was a great success. There was a wonderful selection of food from the families in attendance.

Thank you, Penny & Team!!

Rev. John Doud and the church staff wish all of you
a very Happy Thanksgiving.



DECEMBER

The Advent season begins Sunday, December 2. There will be special readings and candles lit during the 10:30 worship service each Sunday during Advent.



A Cadillac First Congregational UCC tradition will continue with the hanging of the Christmas greens and Tree decorating during the December 9 worship service.

This is fun for ALL ages!!!



The Christmas Eve service will be held Monday, December 24 at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary. This is a beautiful candle-lit service; no better way to await the birth of Christ.

We hope your family will be able to come together here that evening and share in the music and mystery of His birth.



Our church will be the host for the Messiah Singalong this year, to be held on Sunday, December 30 at 3:00 p.m.

The chorus will be accompanied by an orchestra comprised of local musicians.

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 deadline is Sunday, December 16th.

Poinsettia Order

I/We _____ wish to order
(Name)

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

Enclosed is my/our payment of \$_____.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, November 19, 2018

Items Discussed:

- The Church Building Ins. and Workmen's Compensation policies
- Office phone issues
- Pulpit assignments for 2019
- Pastor evaluation process

- Our church showed support for Temple Beth El by attending their memorial service on November 2 in Traverse City. Rabbi Arnie and John are planning a dialogue in 2019.
- Finances seem to be on track with the 27 pledges that have been returned. A second appeal letter will be sent out, which is the usual process.
- The Board and congregation thank Penny Phelps and her team for coordinating the Harvest Feast on November 11.

Committee Reports:

- Safety Committee - A Church door monitoring system was discussed and still under review
- Nurture & Care Committee – we have lost 2 members in the last two weeks: Bill Vander Molen and Bill Glander. Two memorial receptions were held in the church. The families send thanks for all the church support, meals, cards, etc.
- Project Christmas boxes are at the entrance of the church for gifts and/or non-perishable food items. We will be accepting items in the boxes through Thursday, December 6.
- Decorating the NEW Christmas tree in the sanctuary will be held on Sunday, December 9 during the service.
- Poinsettia orders are being taken. An order form will be in the newsletter as well as available at the back of the church. Deadline to turn in orders is Sunday, December 16.

Upcoming Christmas Events:

- The Cadillac Philharmonic Chorus will hold their Christmas concert at the United Methodist Church on Monday, December 3 at 1:00 p.m.
- The Christmas Eve service will be on December 24 at 7:00 p.m.
- The Messiah Singalong is being held in our church on Sunday, December 30 at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted (for Marie Linn, Clerk),
Laura Jacobson-Pentces, Board Chair



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, December 2, 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)

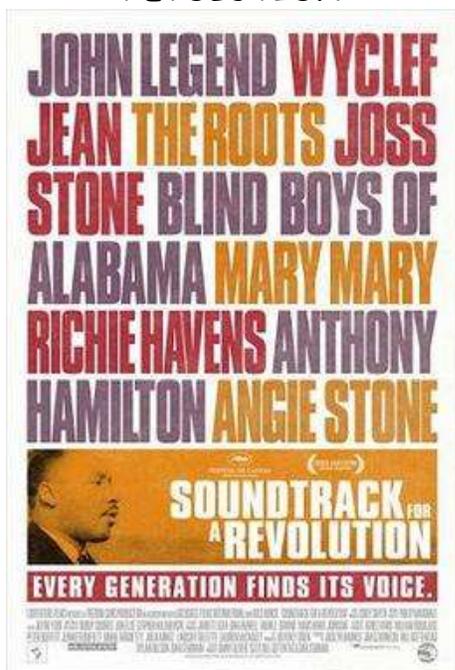
Cost: Donation.

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.

SOUNDTRACK FOR A REVOLUTION



Feature Film

Soundtrack for a Revolution is a stirring, powerful documentary that traces the essential role that music played in the civil rights movement in unifying protestors as they fought for equal rights. The film combines powerful footage from the era with modern-day interviews with the men and women who fought to change the country, highlighting the empowering songs sung by these protestors. Featuring music from top contemporary artists including John Legend, Wyclef Jean, Richie Havens, and more. *Soundtrack for a Revolution* had its international premiere at the Cannes Film Festival and its North American premiere at the Tribeca Film Festival and was a film-goer favorite at the 5th Annual Traverse City Film Festival.

At a time in our nation when the rise of White Nationalism seems apparent, remembering the struggle for Civil Rights is essential. Disenfranchisement of any segment of society is unacceptable, whether it's the plight of people of a particular race, sexual orientation, religion, gender, or any element that distinguishes us as uniquely human. Music can speak the people's truth and encourage us to stand in support of ALL people, and this film embraces that concept.

THINKING AHEAD

(Article submitted by Laura Jacobson-Pentces. Unsure of the publication date, The Cadillac News)

Our current church building (meeting house) was erected in 1923 and dedicated in 1924. The Centennial celebration is being planned for 2023. The following is an interesting history of how we got here. I'm sure this will elicit "I remember when" conversations in the coming years. Watch for details about plans to celebrate our 100th anniversary.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IS ORGANIZED LOCALLY IN 1882

The Congregational church takes its stand among the older churches of the community having organized almost seventy years ago.

It was one Sunday during the spring of 1882 that several of the town's Congregationalists heard a sermon in the Methodist Episcopal church delivered by the late Dr. Charles Hallock Beal sent here by the superintendent of the Congregational churches of Michigan.

He was so well liked by those who heard him that the following morning he was summoned to the office of Jacob Cummer. Mr. Cummer, N.L. Gerrish, John G. Mosser, C.W. Higgins, E.F. Sawyer and Wellington W. Cummer discussed with Dr. Beal the possibilities of establishing a Congregational church in Cadillac.

Each of these men offered to donate what they could for the expense of the services and Mosser, at that time manager of the Cadillac Opera House on the lake shore, offered that building for meeting place, free of expense.

With these arrangements, Dr. Beal moved from Manistee to Cadillac and began preaching in the old Opera House.

A church association was formed in the fall of 1882, but it was not until the following year the Congregational church was officially organized. The Confession of Faith was written by Dr. Beal and has remained unchanged to this day.

The first church building was completed and dedicated on the present site in December, 1883. The dwelling house formerly on the property had been moved to the south end of the lot and was used as a parsonage until 1893. At that time it was removed to make room for an enlarged frame church structure.

The new church, on the site of the former one, was erected in 1923-24 and was dedicated April 27, 1924, during the pastorate of Rev. Jonathan Turner.

At present, the church membership numbers more than 300. Some of its organizations are: Congregators, Men's club, Pilgrim Fellowship, and Woman's Fellowship.

Pastors after Dr. Beal who served from 1882 to 1886, have been: A. O. Downs, 1886-1887; J. L. Mitchell, 1887-1890; W. A. Colledge, 1890-1896; N.S. Bradley, 1896-1902; H. C. McComas, 1903-1907; E. J. Millington, 1908-1911; A.S. Donat, 1912-1914; Jonathon Turner, 1914-1924; Percy Dawe, 1925-1935; Fosberg Hughes, 1935-1939; Paul Mallory, 1940-1942; Lewis Tillson, 1943-1947; and F. Ervin Hyde, 1947---

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE – BEGINNING OF ADVENT

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
December 2	Ed Goldman & Tim Florinki	Karma Chapo	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Patrick Delaney	John Doud
December 9	Marie Linn & Pat McCurdy	Joyce Oatley	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Richard Harvey	John Doud
December 16	Linda Baynes & Penny Phelps	Penny Phelps	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Sara Keinath	John Doud
December 23	Bill and Sue Cinco	Laura Porter	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Bob LeVand	John Doud
December 24	Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm	various	<i>Volunteers needed</i>		
December 30	TBA	Karen Anderson	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Marie Linn	Penny Phelps

December 2018 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<i>December Mission: Christmas Fund</i>					<u>1</u>
<u>2</u> 9:30am Choir Worship 10:30 am Circle Communion <i>Advent Starts</i> 5 PM MOVIES FOR THE MIND	<u>3</u> Office 12:00-2:00	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> Office 12:00-2:00 7pm Choir	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>9</u> 9:30am Choir Worship 10:30 am Mission Moment <i>Sanctuary Tree Decorating</i>	<u>10</u> Office 12:00-2:00	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> Office 12:00-2:00 7pm Choir	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>16</u> 9:30am Choir Worship 10:30 am	<u>17</u> Office 12:00-2:00 Board of Trustees 5 pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u> Office 12:00-2:00 7pm Choir	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>
<u>23</u> Worship 10:30 am	<u>24</u> Office 12:00-2:00 7pm Christmas Eve Service	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> Office closed	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>
<u>30</u> Worship 10:30 am 3 PM MESSIAH SONGALONG	<u>31</u> Office 12:00-2:00					

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.