

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

“The Tie that Binds”

September 2019

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

Rachel Whiteman, Newsletter Editor

Laura Jacobson-Pentces, Chairperson 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

Office email: office@firstcongcadillac.org

Web Site: www.firstcongcadillac.org

A number of folks in the congregation have requested a copy of the sermon recently presented by Ginny Donley on Youth Sunday (July 14th). We are honored to provide you with a copy of her sermon, “Failure”



What is failure? The dictionary tells us it is a “lack of success,” which begs us to then ask, “What is success?” The dictionary tells us that success is the “attainment of wealth, goals, position, honor, etc.” These definitions lead us to the conclusion that these two terms are opposites – but does that make them mutually exclusive? I would argue it does not, and I put to you that failure is in and of itself a success, and vice versa. Failure is not the end of the world, but merely an end to a chapter of one’s life, leading to the next chapter.

Someone once told me, “When you put all of your eggs in one basket, and you drop the basket, what do you do? Whatever the hell you want to!” But I don’t think necessarily dropping the eggs is failure...or even deciding to move on from those eggs by filling the basket with avocados. It’s only really failure if you just stand there staring at your broken eggs for the rest of your life.

When Moses came down and broke the Ten Commandments out of anger, when he failed to keep his emotions in check and obtain his goal of delivering the tablets, he didn’t give up. He walked back up the mountain to try again. And the fact that he failed the first time, that his people failed to listen to him, is important. It showed how dedicated he was, how dedicated the people were, by going to the effort of trying again and switching gears.

One of my favorite fairy tales is about a young boy who is a complete idiot and buffoon. This boy falls in love with a princess whose father says he can only marry her if he brings in a magic feather. Of course, the boy’s magic animal companion knows exactly how to get the feather by giving him specific instructions. The boy, being a fool, forgets the instructions and gets caught, and now he has to steal another magical item to trade for the feather to trade for the princess. This happens three times. But the boy never gives up. Despite being a fool – or maybe because he is a fool – he never stops trying and eventually he succeeds.

Nothing ever goes as planned, which is the reason I make three or four plans. If we’re not failing, if everything comes easy and perfect, then we are doing something wrong. Failure is how we know we really need something.

Failure is an awful, terrible, and scary thing, but it’s healthy and important, like giving my cat his antibiotics. Sometimes nothing is going to work out and that’s O.K. It’s O.K. to pick up a new basket of eggs or avocados or give up baskets for a wheelbarrow...as long as we don’t just stand there!

GINNY DONLEY



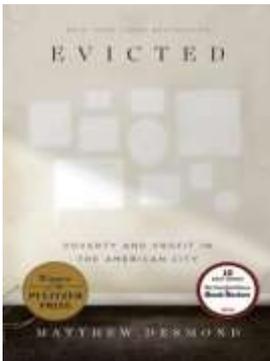
UPCOMING EVENTS

WILL YOU JOIN THE CHOIR?

We would love to have more people come and join the choir! If you or someone you know would like to sing, either on a regular basis or just occasionally, feel free to come along to choir practice on Wednesdays at 7pm or on a Sunday morning at 9:30am. We will start practices on **Wednesday September 4th**. (No rehearsal on the Wednesday before the last Sunday of the month)

The choir sings every Sunday except for the last Sunday of the month, and will be starting the 2019/2020 season on September 15th.

BOOK STUDY GROUP



Sara Keinath, our General Synod delegate, will be leading a book study group about the book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. The group will meet on **Monday September 16 at 6pm**

Links for further information:

<https://www.uccfiles.com/synod/2019/Evicted-Faith-Based-Discussion-Guide.pdf>

<https://live.eventtia.com/en/uccsynod2019/Synod-Keynote-Speaker>

BUDDHIST MEDITATION

Ann Lockwood and Shelley Youngman have decided on a date for the Buddhist Meditation event...it will take place in the afternoon on **Sunday, October 27th**. Further details to follow

UNITED NORTHERN ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING

The Fall meeting of the United Northern Association of the UCC Michigan Conference will take place on Saturday, September 21st at the First Congregational Church of Alpena. Former historian of the United Church of Christ, Barbara Brown Zikmund, will be the speaker. Donna Debney, Penny Phelps, and John Doud will be attending the meeting as your delegates. If you are interested in attending this meeting and receiving an education on the history and polity of the United Church of Christ, please call the church office or speak with one of our delegates.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST MICHIGAN CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ will take place from Friday, October 11th through Saturday, October 12th at the First Congregational Church of Kalamazoo. Our keynote speaker will be the Reverend Dr. Starsky Wilson, and he will focus on the theme: "How Are the Children?" Donna Debney, and John Doud will be attending the meeting as your delegates. If you are interested in attending, please call the church office or speak with Donna or John.



Movies for the Mind



"Restriction of free thought and free speech is the most dangerous 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, Sept. 8, 2019 - 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.

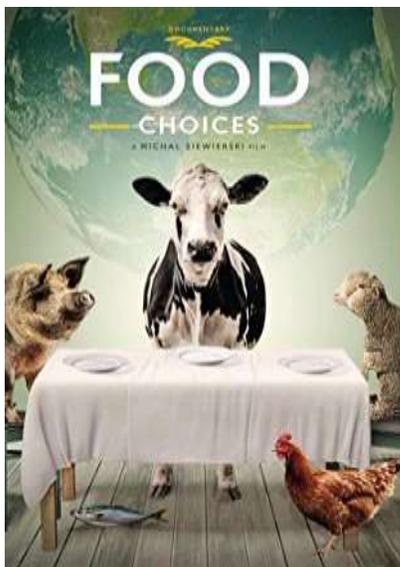
Film snacks: Bring your own beverage, and any additional movie snacks you would like. Non-GMO popcorn will be available for purchase.

What to bring: If you want to be really comfortable, bring your own seating (lawn chair, pillow, blanket, etc.) Some folding chairs 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.

Feature Film

Food Choices



Our first film of the 2019-2020 season examines a topic that covers a wide range of concerns we often discuss. Too many friends and acquaintances are dealing with serious health issues, whether it's heart disease, cancer, or a plethora of other conditions. Is there anything we can do for ourselves and others? What kind of planet are we leaving to future generations? Will global warming be the undoing of humanity? Can we address it, even in a small way? Are these disparate issues, or are they connected in some significant way?

Food Choices is a different kind of film. It takes a broad look and explores the impact that our food choices have not only on our own health, but also on the health of our planet as well as on the lives of other living species on earth and shows how everything is intrinsically interconnected. This film features interviews with renowned doctors, nutritionists, environmental experts, holistic health practitioners, athletes, musicians, celebrities, authors, bloggers as well as people that shared their amazing stories of how they changed their lives; including those who conquered disease or simply lost weight by implementing a plant-based diet in their lives.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING:

YOUTH SUNDAY (July 14th)

Thank you Ginny Donley, Lucy Daveridge and Kendra Day!



DANI and DAVID VEENSTRA

Dani was our interim minister here at First Congregational Church UCC, Cadillac in 2015, and is now minister at St Paul's UCC in Watervliet. We welcomed Dani as our visiting preacher on August 4, and David shared with us a song that he had written

BOARD OF TRUSTEES – JULY MEETING

The board met for their usual monthly meeting.

The July agenda for the board was light. The topics discussed included items for the Semi-Annual Meeting (July 28), and the finalization of the Herrick Foundation Grant application.

- **Laura Jacobson-Pentces**

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2019 SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING **JULY 28, 2019**

Pastor John Doud led an Early Christian Service that included a potluck and discussion time.

At 11:47 AM, Moderator Sara Keinath called the Semi Annual Meeting to order. Items discussed included:

- A snapshot of the church's current finances. Treasurer Patrick Delaney stated that \$38,816 of the \$69,080 General Fund Pledges has been collected for the year. This is a little more than half of the general fund pledges. He reiterated that this amount reflects only what congregants pledged (via pledge cards). In comparison to last year's finances at this time, the church's financial health is marginally better.
- There were some questions about those who designate pledges for specific budget line items. These questions will be addressed resolved after the board meets in August to refine and streamline the pledge cards. The congregation will be a part of this discussion.
- Laura Jacobson Pentces gave an update on the grant request to the Herrick Foundation. The grant was submitted in July for an amount of \$61,700 to be used for needed updates for compliance with current ADA requirements and to address safety issues. The Herrick Foundation should notify the board sometime before November if this grant is approved.
- Richard Harvey gave an update regarding the exit signs. The current signs do not meet code. Richard is working with a local electrician to address this issue.
- Judy Coffey will be the main source of pulpit supply for those Sundays when Pastor John Doud is not in the pulpit. As Pastor John is $\frac{2}{3}$ time - there are a number of Sundays that the church is in need of pulpit supply. Money from Movies for the Mind has been designated to go for this.
- The congregation brainstormed different ideas for updating the current sign. Ideas included an "electronic" sign as well as just updating or redesigning the current sign. Troy Knight stated that he would investigate the costs of an electronic sign.
- Pat McCurdy stated her concern that on those Sundays when Pastor John is not in the pulpit, that there is a mechanism in place for noting visitors and those that should be on the prayer list and those that need/desire visitation. The board will discuss this at their August meeting.
- The board suggested that there be an upcoming number of "discussion" coffee hours. The first of these will concern finances and stewardship, led by Penny Phelps, Patrick Delaney and board members.
- Bob LeVand suggested a new ministry to consider - a laundry ministry. Those present acknowledged that this would be a good idea. The board will discuss at their August meeting and hammer out some of the details.
- Joyce Oatley talked about changes in the Stewardship drive calendar. Look for more about this in future newsletters.

- **Laura Jacobson-Pentces**

CHURCH PICNIC

Thank you to Jack and Vickie Purkiss for organizing the all church picnic at Chippewa Landing in Manton on **Sunday, August 11th**. A good time was had by all!



THANK YOU FROM NEW HOPE CENTER

Dear Friends at First Congregational United Church of Christ:

New Hope Center would like to thank you for your generous and faithful contribution of \$1,030 to our ministry. Your gift will help further our ability to offer the love and hope of Christ through temporary emergency housing to those in our community who are in desperate circumstances.

Currently, our family centers are full, and the people staying at the women's and men's center can change daily.

Again, thank you for partnering with us in this vital service that we provide. We pray that God will richly bless you.

Michael Davis, Director
New Hope Center

2019 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: Stehouwer Free Clinic, Sept.: Feeding America, Oct.: Neighbors in Need, Nov.: Salvation Army, Dec.: Christmas Fund

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

Jazzercise: 8:30am: Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat; 5:45pm: Mon, Wed, Thu; 4:30: Wed.

Yoga (Sandy Gaunt): Wednesdays 10am (men and women). Recommences September 4 after Summer break.

SEPTEMBER SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hr	Sexton	Preacher
1	Steve & Laura Jacobson Pentces	Catherine Doud	Pat McCurdy, Penny Phelps	Patrick Delaney	John Doud
8	Steve & Laura Jacobson Pentces	Laura Porter	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Richard Harvey	John Doud
15	Sandie & Brie Post	Joyce Oatley	Angie Brugger	Angie Brugger	John Doud
22	Linda Baynes & Penny Phelps	Karen Rowley	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Joyce Oatley	John Doud
29	Marie Linn & Donna Debney	Tom Jobson	Patrick Delaney	Laura Jacobson	John Doud

SEPTEMBER 2019 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>1</u> BAPTISM SUNDAY Worship 10:30am Communion (in pews)	<u>2</u> LABOR DAY	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> Office 12-2pm Choir 7pm	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>8</u> RALLY SUNDAY Worship 10:30am 5:00 pm for 5:30: Movies for the Mind: "Food Choices"	<u>9</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u> Office 12-2pm Choir 7pm	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>15</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am	<u>16</u> Office 12-2pm 10am Board of Trustees 6pm Book Study	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> Office 12-2pm Choir 7pm	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> United Northern Association Meeting: First Congregational Church in Alpena
<u>22</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am	<u>23</u> Office 12-2pm NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>29</u> STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY Worship 10:30am	<u>30</u> Office 12-2pm			SEPTEMBER Mission: Feeding America		