

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

“The Tie that Binds”

October 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

“Faith and Doud”



We gave it our best shot, however, as they say, close, but no cigar. [Why would anyone want a cigar in the first, or even the last, place? And someone, please, explain what this expression means!]

Here are a few of the details: on September 10th our Board of Trustees received a reply from the Herrick Foundation regarding our grant request:

“This letter will acknowledge receipt of your recent letter requesting financial assistance from the Herrick Foundation.... Even if the Trustees of the Herrick Foundation were disposed to do so, it could not honor all such requests because of limited financial resources. Inevitably, worthy purposes must be declined.... It is with regret that we are compelled to advise you that the request for financial assistance contained in your recent letter falls in that category.”

In other words, close, but no cigar.

Behind the scenes, Penny Phelps has spent hours, days, months, and years preparing legal documents for the IRS to approve our 501(C)3 status as a non-profit organization. Eventually, we received the treasured document, which is necessary for our church to apply for any future grant. For her persistence and due diligence, all of us should personally express our appreciation to Penny.

Further, our remarkable Board of Trustees obtained bids and drafted a letter to the Herrick Foundation, with assistance and direction from grant writer, Liz Raduazo. To update the congregation, we were requesting funds to mainly solve issues involving replacing our old front doors and crumbling front ramp and walk ways to provide accessibility for people with disabilities. After spending so many hours organizing a very worthy project, hoping for a positive response for financial assistance from the Herrick Foundation...

...close, but no cigar.

Nonetheless, we now have our official IRS non-profit letter, which we will need to apply for all future grants. So it's back to the drawing board, a return to square one, and meeting again for the first time. We must never give up on what the future has in store for us!! As T.S. Eliot reminds us: “Our end is our beginning.”

-John Doud

OCTOBER EVENTS



Movies for the Mind



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.

When: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2019 - doors open 5:00pm. Movie begins at 5:30pm.

Where: First Congregational Church Fellowship Hall - 200 E. Harris St

Cost: Donation to include food (in keeping with the film's theme) and movie.

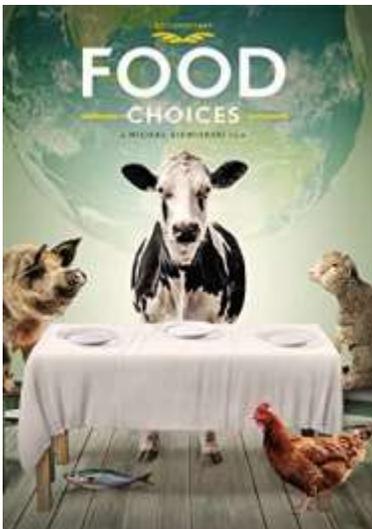
Dinner: Bring your own beverage. Meal will be served starting at 5:00pm.

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.

October's Feature Film

Food Choices



Our second 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.

INTRODUCTION TO ZEN MEDITATION– Ann Lockwood



I am very excited to tell you that on October 27 the church will be hosting Gendo John Wolff Roshi for an afternoon to learn about and practice Zen Meditation. As you may remember, the Roshi was a speaker at our church last Spring. Several of us attended a 4 week training session in Grand Rapids in June. I particularly wanted to share this with the congregation because Zen meditation helped me at a particularly difficult time of my life, and I hope that it may prove helpful to others as well.

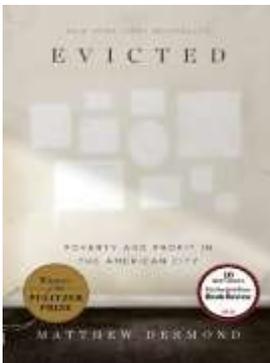
There will be instruction on meditation in the Zen tradition as well as several short sessions of practice (i.e. meditation, both walking and seated), a conversation on the role of the teacher in Zen Buddhism, question and answer, and an opportunity to meet one on one with the Roshi to ask any questions that you might not want to share with the group. We will also have refreshment breaks and some social time to share impressions with each other.

The Zen Meditation gathering will be from **1-5 PM ON SUNDAY, 27 OCTOBER**. There will be a small registration fee of \$10 to cover the cost of materials and expenses. You can call the office to sign up or send an email to office@firstcongcadillac.org. There will also be an online registration form at greatwave.org and you can pay at the door, in advance at the church, or on the registration page through PayPal.

I really hope that you will take this opportunity to learn more about Zen Buddhism. I know it will be educational and enjoyable.

With love,
Ann Lockwood

BOOK STUDY GROUP



Sara Keinath, our General Synod delegate, led a book study group in September about the book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. The group will meet again on **MONDAY OCTOBER 21 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>

FALL CLEAN UP DAY:



The fall cleanup day this year will be **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26th 10:00am – NOON** for anyone who is able to help. Lunch will be provided

LOOKING AHEAD

2019 HARVEST FEAST



This year's Harvest Feast will be held on **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH** at **11:30 am** . Bring a dish to pass.

MOVIES FOR THE MIND



Note that there will be no movie in November. The next one will be on **Sunday, December 8th.**

2019 HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND CRAFT SALE



We are moving along with our plans for a fabulous Holiday Bazaar! Various folks are working hard on major projects that will be raffled off.

We have had numerous meetings on the scope and format. With our limited space, every square foot has to be carefully plotted. And with our small numbers we have to recruit everyone who is willing and able to pitch in.

- Can you help with the luncheon?
- Can you help set up or clean up?
- Can you sell raffle tickets?
- Can you help with publicity?



By the end of October, we hope to have the raffle items on display.

Our goal for the proceeds from all this hard work and dedication is to set up a fund for a new and better sign for the church!

DATE OF THE HOLIDAY BAZAAR AND CRAFT SALE: **DECEMBER 7, 2019**

The next organizational meeting will be **TUESDAY, OCT. 8TH AT 5 P.M.** in the library.

For additional information, please contact Penny Phelps



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING:

BAPTISM – RILEY & LIAM KEINATH



A THANK YOU FROM THE AFTER 26 DEPOT:

Dear Members and Friends of First Congregational Church:

The Board, staff, and project workers of the After 26 Project would like to thank you for your generous donation of \$877.43, and continuing support of our mission. You all are so very kind!

Hope to see you at the Depot for a meal, or at one of our upcoming events. Thanks again for making us your mission.

Gratefully, Kathy Bloomfield, Board Member

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- Laura Jacobson-Pentces

The Board of Trustees met in August and September. Below is a summary of these meetings:

Items/Business discussed at the August meeting:

- Recommendations for the upcoming Budget Committee meeting.
The Budget Committee is meeting to develop a proposed budget for 2020. This proposed budget will be presented to the Board at their September meeting.
- Pulpit Supply for those dates when Rev. John Doud is not in the pulpit in 2020.
Because by contract, Rev. Doud has 14 Sundays when he is not in the pulpit, the Board approved Rev. Deb Johnson and Judy Coffey to fill in for Rev. Doud.
- Joyce Oatley outlined the revised timeline for the Stewardship Committee's fall kick off and stewardship drive.

Items/Business discussed at the September meeting:

- Grant request from the Herrick Foundation.
The Board received a letter from the Herrick Foundation that the grant request was not approved. The Board is actively looking for other funding sources and will update the congregation as we go forward.
 - Board changes for 2020 (dependent upon Congregational approval at the Annual Meeting in January of 2020).
Patrick Delaney will step down from his position as Treasurer. Mark Morley agreed to be Treasurer for Patrick's remaining term.
Karen Smeltzer's first three years as Trustee will end in January and she will not seek another three years. Patrick Delaney agreed to finish her three years.
Linda Baynes informed the Board that she will not be able to represent First Cong. UCC Cadillac at the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Conference to be held in Kalamazoo in October. Donna Debney and John Doud will attend as delegates from our church
Stewardship Kick Off begins on September 29.
Harvest Feast will take place on November 17.
Fall Cleanup scheduled for Saturday, October 26th from 10:00 am until Noon (lunch provided)
- Maintenance Items:
Richard Harvey noted that the water softener will need to be replaced at a cost of \$1,775
New Exit signs are being installed
Window repair of the basement windows (which were vandalized) will cost \$3,300

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.

OCTOBER SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hr	Sexton	Preacher
6	Gert & Sperry Claypool	George Davis	Karma Chapo	George Davis	John Doud
13	Tom & Diane Jobson	Penny Phelps	Ann & Jane Lockwood	Tom Jobson	Ann Lockwood
20	Joyce & Mike Oatley	Don Liebau	Troy Knight	Don Liebau	John Doud
27	Don & Nancy Liebau	Karen Anderson	Anna Hradel	Carol Nilsson	John Doud

OCTOBER 2019 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Office 12-2pm Choir 7pm	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>6</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am: Communion (circle) 5:00 pm: Dinner 5:30 pm: MOVIES FOR THE MIND: "Food Choices"	<u>7</u> Office 12-2pm 10am – 3pm Board of Trustees Fall Retreat	<u>8</u> 5pm BAZAAR MEETING	<u>9</u> Office 12-2pm Choir 7pm	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>13</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am	<u>14</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>15</u>	<u>16</u> Office 12-2pm Choir 7pm	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>
<u>20</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am	<u>21</u> 10am Board of Trustees Office 12-2pm 6pm BOOK STUDY: Evicted	<u>22</u> <i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</i>	<u>23</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> 10am –12pm FALL CLEAN-UP 4PM RECITAL: Becca Myers
<u>27</u> Worship 10:30am 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm BUDDHIST MEDITATION	<u>28</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u> Office 12-2pm Choir 7pm	<u>31</u>	OCTOBER Mission: Neighbors in Need (UCC)	