

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

"The Tie that Binds"

October 2021

Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ
Cadillac, Michigan

Margie Annis, Music Director and Organist
Mark Morley, Treasurer
Penny Phelps, Administrator
Marie Linn, Clerk
Kelly McCann, Administrative Assistant/ Newsletter Editor
Laura Jacobson-Pentces, Chairperson of Trustees

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

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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Web Site: www.firstcongcadillac.org



MONTHLY MUSINGS

It has been one and a half years since the beginning of the pandemic. We keep hearing about the “new normal” and how we must learn to live side by side with COVID-19. The following article by Hillary Barnes Martinez should be helpful on this journey, even though gardening may not be a particularly enjoyable hobby. It does not matter if we’re interested in landscaping; this essay, “The Thrill of Wonder,” can provide much needed support:

“In March of 2020, as it became clear that we would be spending more time cloistered in our homes than ever before, I took up gardening. In the midst of chaos, digging in the dirt felt right. I would participate in a human experience that went back for millennia, in times of crisis and in times of peace. It felt universal.

“However, for me, gardening was almost entirely foreign. I grew up in the arid landscape of southern California, and until moving north, the only plants I tended to were succulents which required a few drops of water a month. But as I listened to the radio and read the headlines last spring, I knew that succulents weren’t going to be enough. I wanted to experience the small thrill of growing something edible from a tiny seed, the everyday joy of watching a shoot rise out of the dirt and blossom.

“The Buddhist concept of *shoshin*, often translated as ‘the beginner’s mind,’ refers to the practice of approaching a subject with a spirit of freshness, curiosity, and even wonder. In the midst of a traumatic event like a global pandemic, pursuing wonder can feel simultaneously frivolous and daunting. Nevertheless, over this past year and a half, on days when it felt like my world was spinning out of control, discovering a tiny fringe of sprouts that might someday become a handful of carrots felt exhilarating, bordering on miraculous.

“My new undertaking was not without its challenges. As I pored over directions on the back of seed packets, my fear of failure threw me into a tailspin of worry. How should I take into account the appropriate row spacing for the tomatoes I was planting in a cylindrical container? What was the proper method for thinning zucchini? What if I watered the seedlings too much or too little and nothing grew?

“Each time these concerns that my hobby garden might fall short of perfection cropped up, I tried to stop and breathe. ‘If I plant my radishes six inches apart instead of ten, the world won’t come crashing down. If I miss a day of watering, my backyard won’t become a barren wasteland.’ Of course, in some instances my fears of failure came to fruition. Earlier this year, a basil plant that was ‘100% guaranteed’ to grow, never sprouted from its windowsill pot, leaving me slouching off to the garden center for another packet of seeds. Most of the time, plants do what they’ve always done: they find a way to grow. And though my ragtag collection of raised beds won’t be featured on the cover of ‘Better Homes & Gardens’ magazine anytime soon, this ordinary hobby is deepening my understanding of the beginner’s mind. I’m reminding myself that it’s okay to not have the answers. It’s okay to be mediocre. It’s okay to fail.

“When I strive to cultivate a beginner’s mind, I’m better able to face challenge and uncertainty in my work, my relationships, and in my own heart. If my offhand remark hurts a friend’s feelings, my apology comes more readily. I don’t hesitate as long before admitting that I don’t have the answer to a student’s question. Perhaps most important, as I learn to embody the beginner’s mind, I hold fast to the liberating truth that I don’t need to get things right the first time. If I return to a familiar situation with curiosity, less bound by my own preconceptions, with more space for nuance and marvel, I might have an entirely new experience.

“The COVID-19 pandemic continues, and I can still be found in my garden. As I undertake haphazard weeding and celebrate the harvest of a handful of anemic tomatoes, I’ll also try to celebrate the joys of mediocrity, of failure, of trying again with a happy heart. And someday, with my knees on the ground and my hands in the dirt, in a state of openness and wonder, I might find freedom.”

Let us all strive for the beginner’s mind, embracing all new things life brings our way. We are pilgrims on a journey infused with sorrow and joy, failure and success, despair and hope. No matter what comes our way, let us pursue wonder and do what plants have always done: find a way to grow.

-John F. Doud

Stewardship Campaign 2022

Dear friends and members of First Congregational UCC of Cadillac:

As we move into a new fiscal year in our church, it is time for each of us to ponder two things. First of all, why are we part of this institution? What draws us here? The second question is, how can we support the mission of the church?

In a recent service we participated in the call to worship by responding to questions that began: “If this is not where...” with an answering question, “Then where do I go?” If this is not where we go to ask questions, share tears and laughter, be accepted as we are, learn and grow, then where will we go? These questions can serve to remind us of how much this church means to us. Hopefully we can all find it in our hearts to give generously to keep our church viable.

In the continued strangeness created by Covid-19 concerns, we all have struggled to stay connected. Even though we can now gather in our church building we still can't sing, or hug, or sit close to one another; and yet, we continue to reach out to each other and to our community as best we can with our unique talents and gifts.

In gratitude for all we have established here, let us continue to support First Congregational UCC of Cadillac with our time, talent and treasure as we are able. Enclosed is a pledge card for you to fill out and to share what you can to keep the bills paid and the doors open to all.

The 2022 Pledge Form can be deposited in the collection plate at church or mailed to:

**First Congregational UCC of Cadillac
PO Box 892
Cadillac, MI 49601**

Peace and Blessings,

The Stewardship Committee

Karma Chapo, Sperry Claypool, Tom Jobson, Jerry Nilsson, and Joyce Oatley



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

First Congregational UCC Church of Cadillac, Michigan

2022 Pledge Card

Name(s): _____

Address: _____
(Street)

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Contact information:

Email: _____ Phone: _____

I (we) would like to give _____ to the ***general fund.***
(amount)

(check one): ___ Weekly ___ Monthly ___ Other (specify)

I (we) would like to give _____ to the ***monthly mission*.***
(amount)

(check one): ___ Weekly ___ Monthly ___ Other (specify)

**Monthly mission donations will be given to the mission designated for that month.*

The Cadillac First Congregational Church is excited to welcome everyone back to our church building! **Live-streaming of services is provided for those wishing to worship remotely. If you wish to receive the streaming link, please contact the office via email: office@firstcongcadillac.org**

Our coming back together physically has been eagerly anticipated by all. The Board of Trustees and the Safety Committee, jointly, have developed the following policy, based on the suggested guidelines and protocols of our local District 10 Health Department and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Please take a few moments to read over this policy and become familiar with the protocols.

MASK AND SOCIAL DISTANCING PROTOCOLS

MASKS: Those who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear masks. Those who are not fully vaccinated should wear masks. The Board of Trustees and the Safety Committee urge those who are fully vaccinated, but vulnerable, to wear a mask.

SOCIAL DISTANCING: Please respect the personal space of others and maintain a social distance of 3 feet or greater.

LIVE STREAM OPTION FOR THOSE WISHING TO WORSHIP REMOTELY

The resumption of sanctuary worship will change the “Zoom” church experience. Remote congregants will sign in as they have in the past, but worship will be a “live stream” of the service as it is occurring within the sanctuary. Remote users will be muted during the course of the service and there will be no interaction between sanctuary congregants and those joining remotely. The worship experience will be “one way,” from the sanctuary to your computer/phone. If you wish to be on the invite Zoom list, please let Kelly in the office know: office@firstcongcadillac.org

WHAT TO EXPECT - THE RETURN OF SANCTUARY WORSHIP

- You will be greeted at the outside door, and asked to give contact information which will be used in the event of a confirmed COVID case. This will be voluntary.
- Upon entering the church, you will be greeted by sextons and ushers.
- Nursery will not be offered during worship but those with small children are encouraged to make use of the upstairs “crying room,” where crayons, coloring books, etc. will be available. Unaccompanied children are not allowed upstairs. Children must be supervised by an adult.
- We are asking that the coat closet not be used.
- Collection plates will be placed at the long table behind the pews - please leave your donation in the collection plates upon entering or leaving the sanctuary.
- There will be no singing by the congregation.
- There will be no fellowship/coffee hour after the service.
- There will be no communion
- Hand Sanitizer will be located in various places throughout the sanctuary and narthex.

We appreciate your patience as we progress back to the full worship experience.

Board of Trustees

Here are highlights from the monthly Board meeting on September 12, 2021, held at the After 26 Depot.

Reflection: “The sermon today on unexpected detours is a reminder for the days when we don’t feel so nice. It is a reminder that we should try to represent who we are, not how we feel in the day or moment. We can look at a detour or the unexpected as an opportunity rather than an annoyance. It is important to look at no risk vs reducing risk, as to what is useful to move forward. It is a reminder to be kind and accepting of where people are in this process, because we are all at different places with COVID-19.” –Laura Jacobson Pentecost



FALL CLEAN UP DAY

Please Come Help Clean Our Church

Tasks Big or Small, Inside or Out

SATURDAY OCTOBER 23rd

10 am – 12 NOON

Building

The repairs to the Ladies Restroom bathroom are ongoing and required the removal of some brickwork. Richard Harvey looked into the source of a small leak in the sanctuary ceiling. The roof needs to be replaced. He will get quotes for its replacement.

JOB POSTING

We need someone to clean our church building on a regular basis.

Approximately 2-3 hours/week

If you are interested, please contact the church office at:

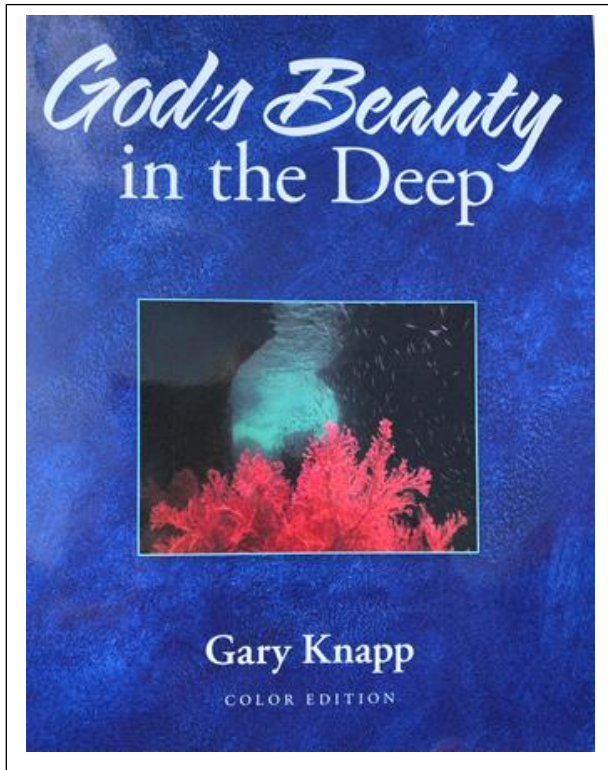
office@firstcongcadillac.org

Date of Next Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, October 18, 2021 at 7pm (ZOOM)



**Do you still have too many
Pandemic Paper Goods? Bring
some in; we can use them!**



Gary Knapp has a new book for sale about his diving experiences and relationship to God.

He has offered to sell his book for \$20, and he will generously donate \$10 of the sale to our church as a fundraiser for us.

If you are interested in purchasing copies of the book, please call the church office or you can talk to Bill Cinco.

Sunday October 10th
Technology Committee Appreciation Day

Join us in our heartfelt thank you to our Tech Team:

David Doud, Robin Corbin, Margie Annis, Mark Morley, Bill Cinco, and Troy Knight. We appreciate all their help maintaining virtual church service during this pandemic

UCC Virtual Conference

Michigan Conference UCC 2021 Virtual Annual Gathering

October 15 and 16th, 2021

Email our office for the link

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

October 2021 Mission: Neighbors in Need

The 2021 UCC (United Church of Christ) Neighbors in Need **Unfailing Love Offering** is focused on supporting organizations and projects serving our homeless and immigrant neighbors and communities. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

2021 Missions

January.: Our Church's Wider Mission (United Church of Christ General Fund)

February.: After 26 Project

March: One Great Hour of Sharing (United Church of Christ Disaster Relief)

April: Love, INC

May: Strengthen the Church (United Church of Christ – Various Projects)

June: New Hope Shelter

July: Back Pack Program

August: Stehouwer Free Health Clinic

September.: Feeding America

October.: Neighbors in Need (United Church of Christ – Justice Ministries)

November.: Salvation Army

December.: Christmas Fund (United Church of Christ – Assistance for Retired Clergy)

OCTOBER SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship	Sexton	Preacher
3	Ann Lockwood & Amber Davis	Robin Corbin	Outside Gathering	Dave Gaunt	John Doud
10	Joyce Oatley & Marie Linn	Penny Phelps	Outside Gathering	Joyce Oatley	John Doud
17	Carol & Jerry Nilsson	Jack Purkiss	Outside Gathering	Angie Brugger	John Doud
24	Steve & Laura Jacobson-Pentces	George Davis	Outside Gathering	Patrick Delaney	John Doud
31	Don & Nancy Liebau	Ted Parkhurst	Outside Gathering	Tom Jobson	Deb Johnson

October

Happy Birthday

Laura Jacobson-Pentces 12th, David Doud 13th, Lisa Anderson 14th, Kelsi Gaunt 15th, Tim Brugger 15th, George Davis 17th, Jane Lockwood 23rd, Jill Gines 23rd, Lynda Johnson 26th, Sperry Claypool 27th, Pat Ponczek 29th, Willa Brintnall 30th

Happy Anniversary

Does anyone have an Anniversary in October they would like to add? –See Kelly

October 2021 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>3</u> Worship 10:30am	<u>4</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>10</u> Worship 10:30am Tech Committee Appreciation Day	<u>11</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>14</u>	<u>15</u> Zoom Michigan Conference Annual Meeting	<u>16</u> Zoom Michigan Conference UCC Annual Meting
<u>17</u> Worship 10:30am	<u>18</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>24</u> Worship 10:30am	<u>25</u> Office 12-2pm NEWSLETTER ITEMS DEADLINE	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>28</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>31</u> Worship 10:30am Minister: <u>Deb Johnson</u>						