

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

“The Tie that Binds”

November 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



“FREEDOM FROM” AND “FREEDOM TO”

In a recent issue of my divinity school magazine, Deanna Elstrom, founder of Somi Insights, wrote an interesting article on the subject of freedom. A graduate of Duke University, she lives with her family in Tokyo, and has observed the contrast between the United States and Japan, using the pandemic as an example:

“I watched the COVID-19 pandemic unfurl from Tokyo, where my family lives. In Japan, a strong cultural imperative compels individuals to be sensitive to the needs of others. This requires complying with rules that can be inconvenient, and even nonsensical, but are understood to be for the common good. This understanding manifested itself through COVID. Nearly everyone on the streets donned masks (though not legally required). In the first months, people uncomplainingly followed government requests to limit travel and stay home. Playgrounds were taped off and public institutions were closed. Though the experience has been just as disappointing and challenging as elsewhere, a sense of mutual cooperation continues to prevail. This demonstrates a fundamental difference between American and Japanese ideas of freedom.

“Japanese culture is rooted in a collectivist orientation, as are cultures in most countries with rice farming pasts. Rice farming requires the sharing of water resources. In this context, the greatest value is placed on maintaining harmonious relationships. If you act selfishly and upset your neighbors, your water supply and your livelihood can be quickly cut off. Japanese preschools and kindergartens teach the importance of cooperation and to not cause bother to others. Children learn to clean up after themselves and each other, cleaning schools, and helping serve and clean up after lunch. The value of being useful to others is nurtured. Every meal (even when eaten alone) starts with the phrase *itadakimasu*, or “I am receiving.” This is not to present Japan as a utopian fantasy. Japanese society has problems, tensions, and inequalities. Yet, daily life in Japan offers freedoms that can only be found in a society that places a high importance on the group as well as the individual. It is the ‘freedom from’: the fear of being taken advantage of, of random hostility in the checkout line, of danger when walking alone at night or in an unfamiliar neighborhood. In the context of COVID, that foundational ‘freedom from’ results in the ‘freedom to’ relax and feel secure, knowing that others are wearing their masks properly and showing consideration towards others as well as self.

“Ongoing since the earliest days of the republic has been a continuous balancing of individual rights and collective rights. In times of collective crises, like the Great Depression or World War II, collective rights have sometimes taken precedence, if only temporarily. In a nation where rugged individualism is venerated, however, individual rights eventually take precedence. This passion for individual rights shows up in debates over gun control, education, conservation, and health care. The pandemic has made this issue even more relevant and urgent. In nearly every other country, citizens understood that masking and staying home were public-health necessities. Yet across much of the United States, individuals refused to comply, claiming to be standing up against government ‘tyranny’ in the name of individual freedom. But freedom is not absolute. It is an abstract concept whose meaning depends on circumstance and cultural context. As Graham Mooney writes, ‘Freedom, after all, is a flexible concept, and Americans’ freedoms surely include the opportunity to minimize the collective risk of random viral death.’

“To function effectively within Japanese society, one must be sensitive to what others want, need, and feel, so one is required to pick up on nonverbal cues, creating an orientation toward the other that underpins Japanese social relationships. Those who get along well with others are adept at ‘reading the air.’ Individuals are encouraged to practice self-restraint and avoid imposing on others. In the extraordinary level of service at restaurants, hotels, and even convenience stores, we can see this hypersensitivity to the needs and feelings of others. If each of us places the rights of others on par with our own freedom as individuals, we all benefit.”

November is a month of Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims, our Congregational ancestors, sailed to America on the Mayflower in 1620. They celebrated the first Thanksgiving in the Fall of 1621. The Pilgrims left England with a “freedom from” mentality, escaping the religious tyranny of King and Queen. Settling in New England, the Pilgrims adapted a “freedom to” mentality, cooperating with and accepting help from local Native American tribes. It seems that in times of crises – economic upheaval; world wars; nuclear arms build-up; climate change; pandemics -- we ought to abide by collective guidelines. And while cooperation and concern ought to be the way we behave in all circumstances, we should never lose sight of individual freedom. In fact, as Deanna Elstrom advises, when each of us balances the rights of others with individual freedom, we all benefit.

–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 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



VIRTUAL HARVEST FEAST

Instead of preparing our normal Harvest Feast, Penny Phelps has suggested we take whatever we normally would have spent on food for the feast and donate that to our monthly mission. Our Mission for November is the **Salvation Army. If you would like to do this, please see Penny for details.**



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 October 18, 2021

Richard Harvey is still looking into repair service for the roof. The roof needs to be replaced, but roofing companies are busy and not returning phone calls. The repairs will probably not happen until 2022. Board approved Afghan Refugee Project led by David and Sandy Gaunt. Board approved Virtual Harvest Feast led by Penny Phelps.

Date of Next Board of Trustees Meeting: NOVEMBER 15th at 7pm via Zoom

**We are in need of a cleaning person for the Church.
If you know someone who might want to do this, please let the Office or
Board of Trustees Know. Thank You**

Afghan Refugee Assistance Project



Only about 7,000 Afghans have been resettled across the United States while around 53,000 remain in military bases in five different states. About 15,000 Afghans are being vetted in foreign countries hoping to make their way to the U.S.

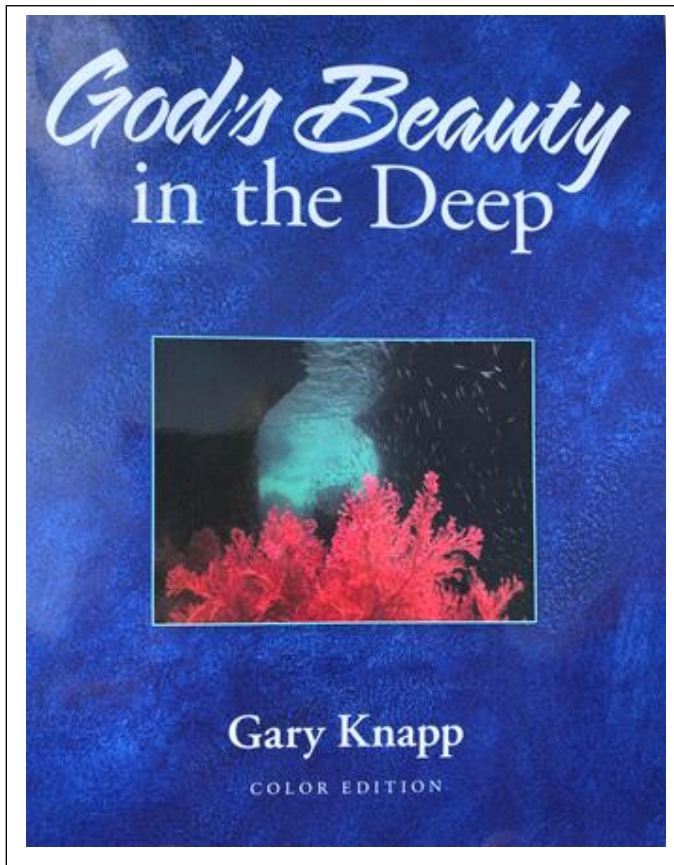
Now that the Afghans who have arrived have received refugee status through an Act of Congress, they qualify for some temporary financial, medical, job and personal support, until they are fully integrated into a community. Bethany Christian Services in Grand Rapids has received a trickle of refugees that they have been able to resettle in Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Holland and Kalamazoo. The trickle is likely to ramp up, but my Grand Rapids contact seems hopeful they can resettle most, if not all, in close proximity to those four communities.

So, how can we help?

Katie Carpenter, my Bethany contact in Grand Rapids, indicated the critical immediate need is for winter items such as waterproof gloves, boots, hats, coats, scarves, etc. Sandy and I purchased about \$130.00 worth of these items at Goodwill which were in new, or almost new, condition. We were able to get a lot of items for little cost. More is available there and at Second Chance and other similar outlets. Or, possibly some people have personal items they would like to donate. Thanks for your interest in this effort, and any help you can provide.

Dave Gaunt

First Congregational Church collected items in October. Sandy and David Gaunt took the items to Grand Rapids. **If you would still like to donate you can visit Bethany.org/Afghanistan for more information or you can speak with Dave.**



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

Gary Knapp owned a local radio station for many years, then a TV station. Once he sold the station, he became a certified master diver and created a DVD travel series. This book is Gary's latest project and hopes you will enjoy it.

**He has offered to sell 300 copies of his book for \$20, and he will generously donate \$10 of the sale to our church as a fundraiser for us. Checks can be made to:
Gary Knapp**

To our helpers on the Fall Clean-Up Day Saturday October 23, 2021

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Crew Leader Richard Harvey

Bill Cinco

Mark Morley

Joyce Oatley

Ted Parkhurst

Penny Phelps

Jack Purkiss

November 2021 Mission: SALVATION ARMY

The Salvation Army helps overcome poverty through:

Social Services - Monday - Friday Office open 10am - 3pm

Food Pantry - Monday - Friday 1pm - 3pm - eligible once per 90 days, ask if extenuating circumstances

Energy/Utility Assistance - by appointment, call for an appointment

Pathway of Hope - call for an appointment

To set up an appointment, donate, or to see if you qualify, please call
(231)-775-7131.

Salvation Army's Pathway of Hope

The Salvation Army's Pathway of Hope initiative provides individualized services to families with children who desire to take action to break the cycle of crisis and vulnerability that repeats generation after generation. It seeks to address the root causes of poverty in addition to The Army's history of compassionate serving. By helping families overcome challenges like unemployment, unstable housing, and lack of education, we can lead families down a path toward increased stability and, ultimately, self-sufficiency

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)

November Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship	Sexton	Preacher
7	Linda Baynes & Penny Phelps	Tom Jobson	Outside Gathering	Carol Nilsson	John Doud
14	Need Volunteer Please	Catherine Doud	Outside Gathering	George Davis	John Doud
21	George Davis & Leif Williams	Cindy Morley	Outside Gathering	Richard Harvey	John Doud
28	Diane & Tom Jobson	Karen Anderson	Outside Gathering	Dan Lakin	George Davis

November

Happy Birthday

Donna Debney 10th, Leslie Saari 14th, Kevin Butler 15th, Don Liebau 20th, Juniper Jean Lakin 21st, Bob Levand 24th, Connie Zolynsky 24th, Dorothy Kunkel 24th, Sandy Gaunt 28th, Brie Post 30th, Mary Ann Thurston 30th

Happy Anniversary

Laura & Steve Jacobson-Pentces 11/5/94, Sue & Bill Cinco 11/22/69, Carol & Jerry Nilsson 11/25/97

NOVEMBER 2021 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<u>1</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
7 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS: FALL BACK! Worship 10:30am Stewardship: Laura Jacobson-Pentces	<u>8</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>9</u> Gifts & Bequests 2:00pm	<u>10</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>14</u> Worship 10:30am	<u>15</u> Office 12-2pm Trustees 7pm (Zoom Meeting)	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>21</u> Worship 10:30am THANKSGIVING SUNDAY	<u>22</u> Office 12-2pm NEWSLETTER ITEMS DEADLINE	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>25</u> Thanksgiving	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>28</u> Worship 10:30am Minister: George Davis	<u>29</u> Office 12-2pm	<u>30</u>				