

**August
2017**

Still Speaking

Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Alpena

A Word from our Minister: Becoming Aware of Human Trafficking

Rev. Dr. Paul A Lance III

If you read the wrap-around back-cover of this Newsletter, you know that we will be hosting a Saturday afternoon (1:00–2:30 p.m.) seminar on Aug .19 on the topic of “Human Trafficking” open to the general public.

Human trafficking is on the rise in Michigan and it happens even in the best of neighborhoods & schools as well as down-state inner-city environments. Before the start of another school year, parents and teenagers, teachers and clergy, are invited to an hour-&-a-half presentation about these crimes.

Carrie Wood, founder of “Pearls of Great Price Coalition” – which has been fighting human trafficking in Southeast Michigan for three years through awareness, education, and action steps – will present information for an hour, followed by 30-minutes of questions & responses with participants.

Human trafficking includes such debasing offenses as prostitution, under-age pornography, sweatshop labor, near-slavery conditions, and violence against women and children. Retired Pastor Carrie Wood’s grass-roots Christian-based coalition believes that churches and schools should be leaders in thwarting and preventing these heinous crimes in our society.

Educators, parents, grandparents, churches, and other organizations are urged to attend this **free** presentation. Mature 7th and 8th grade students, as well as high school students, may attend if accompanied by a parent or guardian. The content will be inappropriate for younger children.

Everyone should realize that **sex trafficking** and **labor abuse** is happening perhaps more than we tend to think. We all need to be aware of, and educated about, these crimes happening in our own backyards. Pastor Wood says that “men especially should be outraged about the devaluing of, and violence against, women and children. It could very well be someone that you love who is enticed into this life.”

Come and learn how to help prevent it in your family and in our community. We are grateful to Patrick Labadie and June Perry for inviting Carrie Wood from Livonia to Alpena to do this for us.

Board of Directors:

- **Dennis Artley**, *treasurer/ Secretary*
- **Blair Diamond**
- **Kathy Dempsey**
- **Ann Gerow**, *Vice chair*
- **Dottie Haase**
- **Vicky Lindsay**
- **Mike Mack**
- **Jim Mc Neil**, *chair*
- **Beth Petty**

Dates to Remember

7

Friendship Room

11

Ladies Lunch at
Hunan Chinese
Restaurant

13

No “Underground
Church” today due to
Ecclesiastical Council
for Toby Jones in
Charlevoix

14

Worship Committee
and
Board of Directors

16

“No Frills” Book Club

19

Human Trafficking
Seminar

21—25

“Wacky Week”
Kids’ Fun Club

30

Wacky Wednesday
resumes

Ladies Lunch

Peggy DiNegro

The Ladies of First Congregational United Church of Christ met at the Hunan Chinese Family Restaurant on July 14th for an afternoon of fellowship. Please join us there again on August 11th . We would love to see you there. All women are welcome and bring along a friend.



Alpena County Fair

The Alpena County Fair will take place Sunday, July 31st, through Saturday, Aug. 5th. The Borke Family, who sit on the Fair Board, ask for your prayers for a successful year. Please keep them in prayer and come join in the festivities at the Alpena County Fair Grounds.



Celebrating Marriage Anniversaries this month



August 2:	Kristin and Nathan Barden	14 Years
August 14:	Ron & Lynn Borke	24 Years
August 16:	Gordon & Vernie Nethercut	64 Years
August 19:	Bill & Dottie Haase	57 Years
August 21:	Brian & Miranda Plume	24 Years
August 27:	Bob & Diana Kelly	57 Years
August 30:	Dan Kibbe & Lois Gibbs-Kibbe	31 Years



Celebrating the Birthdays of August

August 1 Mary Davison

August 1 James Stewart

August 4 Carmen Grubaugh

August 6 Ashley Wedge

August 12 David Zeller

August 14 Dixie Julian

August 15 Sarah McLaren

August 19 Priscilla Homola

August 20 Nicholas McLaren



Board of Directors July 2017 Meeting Highlights

Gerrie La Cross, Secretary

As the 2017 Comstock Fund mid-year reports are returning, we have received many thank you notes from Comstock grant recipients. The community outreach from this ministry is greatly appreciated.

All is in order with the finances of the church. The “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering increased this year by over \$1000. It has been a good year.

Janet Artley and Joan Chrzan were given permission to purchase 36 more chairs for the Fellowship Hall to bring the total to 100. The old folding chairs will be for overflow events and outside activities.

A joint meeting of the Investment and Comstock Committees discussed starting an endowment fund. Next step will be in October: a town hall meeting to inform the congregation and get members’ input .

“In house” Comstock grant requests will be presented at the August board meeting since Rev. Lance will be gone for the month of September.

The Michigan Conference requested \$100 per delegate from our congregation to help offset the cost of the General Synod. Board approved donating \$200 for Rev. Lance and Patricia Leahy.

Need a replacement on the Nominating Committee for the unexpired term of Dodi Lance.

Rev. Lance suggested that the Stewardship Committee consider holding the annual campaign in October this year (rather than in Sept.) due to Rev. Lance’s absence from the pulpit in September.

Rev. Lance requested we apply for our own 501c3 status rather than fall under the umbrella of the National UCC “group exemption”. Dennis did the research before the meeting and pointed out that we already have our own tax exempt status. (#38-1421320) No action need be taken.

There were some real gems in this Synod, but there was also some frustration for Rev. Lance due to paperless “on-line only” materials, random scheduling of committees and hearings, and some apparent obfuscation of language where major changes were proposed. He will report out on this.

Charter Spectrum had proposed a price for internet and phone services. We would pay a penalty if we were to change from our current carrier, Frontier. Also the Spectrum price would increase in one year to be the same as we are now paying. The Board decided to stay with current carrier.

July 30th seminar with John Nethercut (2:00—4:00 pm) will address legal issues with homelessness and wage theft. Light refreshments will be served.

Boris Gerber and Max Lindsay have both agreed to join the Personnel Committee.

Feed a Family

Bill Haase, Coordinator

Items needed: Spaghetti sauce, rice a roni / noodle roni (mixes in a pouch), tuna helper, canned fruit, Jell-o and pudding cups, ramen noodles, cereal and juice. Thank you for all you do to help feed the hungry in our community. Let’s keep up the good work.



Heifer Animal Fair – Sunday, August 13

Immediately following the Sunday worship service,
together with fellowship hour, on our church lawn.

Come see a few animals from the Borke family!

Fun for adults, children & grandchildren!



Here's a bit of the Heifer International Story...

Almost 73 years ago, Dan West herded 17 heifers onto a boat in Mobile, Alabama, and shipped them to Puerto Rico, where they were given to families whose children had never before tasted milk. This was the beginning of Heifer International, a relief organization that from the beginning has been about giving the world's rural poor what is necessary for them to support themselves rather than making them dependent upon short-term relief. Heifers are young cows that haven't yet given birth, with a long life ahead of them to supply their owners with milk and calves. When



Heifer International gives a family a heifer, it comes with the obligation on that family to make a gift of the first female calf to another family. Since 1944, when the first boatload of heifers were shipped, more than 12 million families in 125 countries have received livestock through the network of giving that Heifer International has built up.

And it is more than cows. Heifer International gives poor rural families in the developing world pigs, goats, sheep, geese, llamas, water buffaloes, chickens, rabbits, and beehives, all with the requirement that the first offspring of these animals be donated to neighbors. And if the know-how to care for these animals is lacking, Heifer International ensures that the families are trained and provided with the necessary equipment to raise and make use of the animals it gives.



Help Heifer International
end poverty and hunger.



An Ecclesiastical Council will be held Sunday afternoon, Aug. 13, in Charlevoix to consider whether or not to grant “Privilege of call” to the Rev. Toby Jones.

Many of you met **Rev. Toby Jones** in May when he and his combo performed “**an evening of story and song**” in our sanctuary, and then Toby led a discussion about “challenges facing Christian churches in the 21st Century” on Saturday, May 20.

Toby serves as the Minister of the **Gaylord** Congregational Church (UCC). I personally hold him in high regard. Toby has been a gift to our United Northern Association (UNA) for more than a year. However, he does not hold “ministerial standing” in the UCC! Toby was ordained (and served) as a Presbyterian Pastor in the past.

An “Ecclesiastical Council” is our UCC way of interviewing prospective clergy who want to serve congregations within our Association here in Northern Michigan. Toby has met with the UNA Church & Ministry Committee and fulfilled the required “polity” classes in addition to his Masters of Divinity degree from Princeton. He has written an “ordination paper” to express his understanding of ministry.

Now the local churches in our United Northern Association (UNA) are asked to send their clergy plus a lay-delegate to listen to Toby tell us about his call to ministry. We may ask any questions we like, and enter into conversation with Toby Jones, prior to voting whether or not to grant him “privilege of call” in the United Church of Christ.

Toby Jones’s Ecclesiastical Council will take place at the First Congregational Church (UCC) in Charlevoix, located at 101 State Street, beginning at 4:00 pm. Rev. Lance and Pat Leahy will both be present to represent our Alpena church, but others of you who are interested in this process are welcome to attend as well. (There will be no Underground Church on Aug. 13 due to attending this event in Charlevoix.)

A “Wacky Week” of FUN FOR KIDS

When: Monday thru Friday, August 21-25, from 10:00 am to NOON

**Where: Lower level of First Congregational (United Church of Christ)
201 S. Second Ave., Downtown Alpena**

**Who: All children, ages Kindergarten through Grade 5
*Free... and open to the public!***

*Songs...Stories...Snacks...Crafts... And **FUN** !!*

For more information, call 356-1795

Led by Jeffrey Mindock (Thunder Bay Theatre) & Rev. Paul Lance

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Email: officeuccalp@frontier.com
Office Hours: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Monday – Thursday

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship: 11:00 a.m.

Underground Church 5:00 p.m.

Minister: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Lance III

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case

Choir Director & Music: Kat Tomaszewski

Treasurer: Denise Fusina

Secretary: Gerrie La Cross

Custodian: Mike LaMarre

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EVERY YEAR
IN THE UNITED STATES
THOUSANDS
OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING
CASES ARE REPORTED, BUT
**MANY MORE
GO UNNOTICED**

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING
IS A HIDDEN CRIME**
VICTIMS MIGHT BE AFRAID TO COME FORWARD,
OR WE MAY NOT RECOGNIZE THE SIGNS,
**EVEN IF IT IS
HAPPENING RIGHT IN
FRONT OF US.**
WE NEED TO BRING THIS CRIME
OUT OF THE SHADOWS

Come to the Saturday Seminar to learn more:
August 19th, 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall