

**September
2017**

Still Speaking

Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Alpena

Board of Directors:

- **Dennis Artley, treasurer**
- **Blair Diamond**
- **Kathy Dempsey**
- **Ann Gerow, vice chair**
- **Dottie Haase**
- **Vicky Lindsay**
- **Mike Mack**
- **Jim McNeil, chair**
- **Beth Petty**

Thanks to all who helped with our August 13th Heifer Fair and to all who helped purchase animals!



September 2017 Dates to Remember

- 4**
Labor Day
(Office Closed)
- 4**
Friendship Room
- 8**
Ladies Luncheon
- 10**
"30 Days of Peace"
begins
- 11**
Board of Directors
- 13**
"No Frills" Book Club
- 16**
Infinity Church Retreat
"Enneagram & Mystics"
- 20**
Choir rehearsals
resume
- 27**
Wacky Wednesday
Kids' Fun Club
resumes

A special thanks to the Borke family for providing animals for our children (of all ages!) to enjoy. In total we have sent **\$1,500** to Heifer International to help end poverty and hunger



Here's the list of animals we are providing:

- 2 Hives of Bees (\$60)
- 6 Flocks of Chicks (\$120)
- 1 Flock of Ducks and Geese (\$20)
- 2 Schools of Fish Fingerlings (\$200)
- 1 Goat (\$120)
- 3/10 of a Heifer (\$150)
- 1/3 of a Llama (\$50)
- 2/3 of a Pig (\$80)
- 3 Rabbits (\$60)
- 1 Sheep (\$120)
- 1/3 of a package of Tree Seedlings (\$20) and 2 Water Buffalo (\$500)



Celebrating the Birthdays of September

9/4	Lloyd Aikens	9/20	Lois Gibbs-Kibbe
9/6	Nancy Wedge	9/20	David Veasy
9/6	Tom Grubaugh	9/21	Laura Caplis
9/7	Bill Clegg	9/27	Cheryl Mack
9/8	Penny Anderson	9/28	Claire Caplis
9/14	Blair Diamond	9/28	Michael McDonald
9/15	Connor Caplis	9/28	Nicole Petty



Celebrating the Anniversaries of September



Sharon Stewart & Hal Hoover	September 5	6 years
Thomas and Bonnie Watkins	September 12	64 years

Human Trafficking:

Living life together, bringing hope, and healing hurts

Sat., October 21, from 9:30 a.m. to Noon in our Fellowship Hall

Jo (McLain) Getzinger and **Cheryl Knight**, authors of *The Divine Design: God's Plan for Restoration in a Community Setting*, will lead a discussion seminar.

Human trafficking, which includes both coerced labor and forced prostitution, is happening around us and leaves lives devastated. It is not easy for children and women to escape a human trafficking situation, and when they do, it takes a caring community to assist that recovery.

Jo Getzinger (who grew up here at First Congregational UCC where her mother, Joyce McLain, is still a member) and **Cheryl Knight** are both counselors in the field of mental health and they run **C.A.R.E., Inc.** in Baldwin, Michigan. In their work, they encountered some of the most devastating problems of horrific proportions endured by human beings – childhood sexual abuse, ritualistic abuse, and human trafficking. Recovery from such trauma takes more than traditional counseling, and they will share their insights with us. Two trafficking survivors, Julie and Christine, will also tell their personal stories.

Open to the Public. No Charge. Please Come!

Enneagram and Mystics

An “Infinity Church” Retreat

Saturday, **September 16**, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

@ First Congregational UCC, 201 S. Second Ave., Alpena, Michigan 49707

with Rev. Kayle Rice and Nancy Irish

For more information contact Kim Nunneley @ 989-590-3862

AM Session

“Meet the Mystics”: An Exploration of the Inner Life.

In a small group format, we will explore three individuals: Rumi, Sufi mystic; Teresa of Avila, Christian mystic; and Cynthia Bourgeault, modern day contemplative mystic who have centered their lives on the Divine. We'll take a brief look at their lives and work, share and meditate upon pieces of their writings, and then share personal insights and stories.

Kayle Rice is a retired Unitarian Universalist minister and a part-time hospice chaplain and textile artist. She and her husband Brian Leekley, live in Kalamazoo with their three cats.

PM Session

The “Enneagram” is a system for understanding the patterns of personality humans develop in response to our genetic makeup and childhood experiences, and for finding our way back to our truest nature.

With deep enthusiasm and a dash of vulnerability, I will officially begin my emerging practice as a teacher of the Enneagram with those of you who will be joining me for these hours. For about the first half of our time together I will attempt to convey to you the power of the Enneagram’s wisdom by telling you my intimate story about how it has helped me in profoundly transformational ways. Then I will open the conversation up to whatever flows from the storytelling, depending on the interests of those attending.

I will provide resources to guide those who are interested in learning more or discovering through which Enneagram filter (or “type”) you tend to view the world. (It would be a disservice to attempt to determine the Enneagram types of individuals in this context.) P.S. I hope we can do some laughing along with the Deep Serious Stuff.

Nancy Irish has worn numerous hats, which she enjoys changing with the seasons. The not-for-profit organization, Enneagram Studies in the Narrative Tradition, certified her as an Enneagram Teacher in 2012. For about 30 years, she has nestled with her evolving family circle in a little piece of Paradise five miles south of Lake Superior, where she loves offering radical hospitality for the work of mending wounds and building bridges, especially through Nature, food, the arts, and the Enneagram.

UCC Neighbors in Need

Kathy Dempsey for the Mission Committee

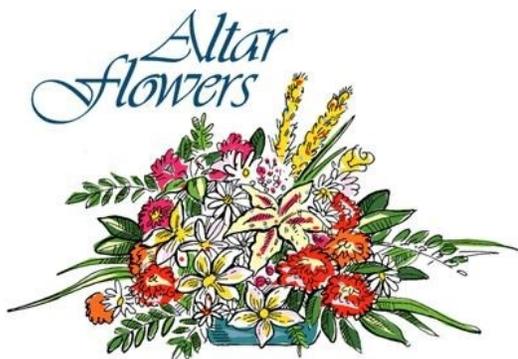
THE UCC Neighbors in Need collection will take place in our church on Sunday, Oct. 1

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. This year, we will focus on two issues: child hunger and clean water. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the Neighbors in Need all-church special offering. We are the UCC and these are our ideals. (From the UCC Website)

Please prayerfully consider your contribution to Neighbors in Need on Sunday, Oct 1, 2017



There are a number of openings to provide Altar Flowers over the next few months. Stop by the bulletin board outside the office and sign up to provide Sunday flowers in honor or memory of family, friends, or special events of your life.



After signing up, it takes just a quick phone call to the florist of your choice to place your order.

Thank you.

Feed A Family

Bill Haase

We received the following list of needed items from the **Salvation Army Food Pantry** :

Tuna Helper, Canned Potatoes, Pork & Beans, Hamburger Helper, Spaghetti Noodles, Cereal, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, and Juices (Apple, Orange, or Grape)

Please bring your donations to the church by the end of the month.

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT



Ladies Luncheon

Dolly Zeller and Jan Snell

The weather is getting cooler, the kids are going back to school, the leaves will be turning colors... wait a minute, whatever happened to summer?

Anyway, the Ladies Luncheons will begin again on Friday, September 8th at 11:30 at The Alpena Golf Course. There is a sign-up sheet on the Care Letter Podium.

Hope to see you there.

Dolly & Jan



Thank You from the Alpena City Band

Diana Standen, Alpena City Band Board Member

Many thanks from Alpena City Band for the sponsorship donation enabling us to have a beautiful UCC sign displayed at our weekly band concerts at the Bayview Park Band Shell. In addition, a special thanks goes to Jere Standen for tirelessly scooping ice cream donated by Neimann's and to Peggy DiNegro for face painting at our Children's Concert.

Many high school students came out to play in the band this year, which contributed to our fuller sections. We were in the 4th of July parade and performed a traditional patriotic concert that evening. The Brown Trout Festival asked us to play at a special program in the Big Tent honoring military veterans.

Most importantly, thanks to all of you who came out to support us and donate that spare change jingling in your pockets. (We couldn't have done it without you.) Dennis Artley on Tuba, Paul Lance on Trombone, and myself on clarinet hope to see you next season for the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Alpena City Band.



Board of Directors August 2017 Meeting Highlights

Gerrie La Cross, Secretary

- ◆ Comment from the Congregation: Would like Rev. Lance to address Charlottesville, VA, incident. It will be addressed next Sunday (Aug. 20) since Heifer International was this week's focus. (See the article on the front page.) It raised \$1,500. Thank you to Boris, Edith, & Clare Gerber.
- ◆ Financial report was accepted as reported.
- ◆ Fellowship Hall and upstairs carpets will be cleaned by Boilore's Carpet cleaning. Some of the cost will be assumed by The AA District as they use the hall once a month for an Open Meeting.
- ◆ In-house Comstock grants were approved by the board and will be sent to the Comstock Committee for their approval.
- ◆ Jeffery Mindock will be having meaningful activities for children and youth on Sunday mornings beginning September 17th. In time, a new Pilgrim Fellowship will also be formed under the direction of Jeffery Mindock, for grades 6 through 12. He and his wife Paige lead our "Wacky Wednesday" Kids' Fun Club at 4:30 pm, resuming on Sept. 27. Please introduce yourself to him.
- ◆ Worship committee reports that a formal prayer card will be used on Sunday along with the microphone being passed around. Sept. 10, "30 days of Peace" begin. Nov. 12th will be the church Thanksgiving potluck, hosted by the Lindsay's. Sanctuary Christmas decorating will take place the week leading up to Sunday, Dec. 3.
- ◆ The 2018 Congregational Annual Meeting date was set for January 28, 2018. We will host a "Town Hall" meeting on Sunday, Jan 7th, 2018, to discuss the proposed Endowment Fund development.
- ◆ Marilyn Kettler has agreed to replace Dodi Lance on the Nominating Committee.

“Wacky Week Monday: Take Me Out to the Ball Game”

BATTERS UP!

In the photo to the right, Beth Petty, Laura, Rev. Lance, Sylvie, and Jeffrey Mindock get ready to “play ball!” on the first day of “Wacky Week” in our Lower Level All-Purpose Room.

(photo by Shari Davis)



In the Craft Room, Ashton, Sylvie, Ayla, Jeffrey, Beth, and Laura make personal team pennants.

Our snack was “peanuts ... and **Cracker Jacks**”.



It was fun, but due to the small attendance, we called off the remainder of the week. Jeffery Mindock will resume “Wacky Wednesdays” on Sept. 27 and he will start a Sunday morning children’s Christian Education class on Sept. 17. He will introduce himself that morning during the worship service. We are lucky to have him on our First Church “team”.

A word from our Minister: “Where I’ll be in September...”

On Tuesday, Aug. 29, Patty and I fly to Zurich, Switzerland, for one week vacation with Swiss friends in a village (Pany) high in the Alps. The next week, we will rent a car and drive to visit friends in Germany, where we will lodge on a dairy farm near Stuttgart, and then also visit my brother Ralph and his family in Murnau, Bavaria. Patty will fly home on Sept. 15, but I will fly to Berlin to begin ten-days of study-leave in Greifswald and Tiessow (Pomerania, on the Baltic Sea). I’ll be back on Sept. 27.



Avery Aten shows Amy Truth and her grandchildren how to use an Indian Drum during “Infinity Church” in our Fellowship Hall on Sunday, August 20.

Dr. Aten also shared photos and statistics of the Lakota Sioux Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, where Rev. Ginny & Rev. Keith Titus founded “Re-Member”. He told of mission trips and work projects that he and our church members have done in the past and encouraged us to plan one for 2018. Rev. Lance also showed a video of the Lakota Creation Story and led us in a Navajo blessing.

There will be no Sunday evening “Underground Church”, nor “Infinity Church” services in September while Rev. Lance is away. **Infinity Church** will resume at 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 1, led by Karen Bacon & Kim Nunneley. **Underground Church** will resume on Sunday, Oct. 8, at 5:00 p.m. in our Lower Level All-Purpose Room.

Another word from our Minister: “Thank you to all helpers!”

When Gerrie LaCross is out of the office having her second knee replacement surgery (Aug. 29) and for the next four weeks of recovery (returning to work on Oct. 2), the following people will be holding office hours, answering the phone, and sorting the mail:

Gordon Nethercut, Lynne Stewart, Dottie Haase, Joan Chrzan, Janet Artley, Boris Gerber, Ann Gerow, and Shari Davis.

Gerrie and I thank each of these volunteers for their service, as well as our two guest ministers: **Rev. Gene Bacon** (Sept. 3) and **Rev. Bob Case** (all the rest of September). I know we are in good hands in our month-long absence.

Thank you, too, to **Kat** on Sunday mornings, and to all the Coffee Fellowship hosts, Ushers, Greeters, and Lay Readers, who will keep things running smoothly.

