



AUG. 2026

From the Pastor...

What a summer it has been so far! Hasn't it been wonderful gathering in our renovated garden area? If you haven't already done so, please offer your personal thanks to Teri Stout for spearheading this incredible effort to honor the memory of our three MVG's – Most Valuable Gardeners – Lois Lewis, Joan Robinson, and Marty Trubilowicz. I continue to be so grateful to Trip Beynon and his entire family for keeping us in the lovely shade of the sail tent he had made in Ken Biddick's honor. Getting that enormous sun buffer up and down every Sunday is no small feat! We've also gotten some terrific help from Bill Trubilowicz, Meg Kitson, and John Howard with all the sound and streaming required to bring our services to both our streamers and to us. Finally, I want to acknowledge the weekly efforts of Lynette Webb, Linda Weller, along with Dave and Darlene Heine who come early to set up the entire garden and welcome areas.

In terms of our August worship theme, we'll be exploring the question of Identity. "Who am I? How do I understand what it is that gives me value as a person? How much has American culture influenced my sense of self-worth? What role do Jesus and his indwelling Spirit have in how I define myself?" I used to think that these questions of identity were only really at play in adolescents and young adults, but the truth is they become even more important as we age. Our chief guide for this vital exploration will be Mark Nepo, whose daily devotion book *The Book of Awakening* works beautifully alongside the scripture to steer us back to our truest selves.



Finally, please be sure that you have Saturday, Sept 19 from 5-8 pm blocked off on your calendar. That is when we will have our annual celebration picnic to recognize our many accomplishments in 2026 and look forward to our goals for the 2027 ministry year. We'll have great food, live entertainment, some terrific activities, and a special dedication of our financial pledges for 2027. If by some chance the weather is bad that Saturday, we'll have the picnic Sunday morning right after worship. This is a celebration of EVERYONE who participates in this incredible church family. It won't be complete without you! And don't forget that an event like this is the perfect time to invite a friend or neighbor, so they can see and experience just how awesome it is to be a part of 1st Congregational UCC.

Keep up the GREAT work, everybody! I have never been a part of a more generous, loving, and fun church!

Glio1000 Picnic



Wow! What an incredible time we had on Sunday, July 19, when we welcomed Tom Dickelman to our garden for a day of celebration and support. The story of his odyssey around Lake Michigan – or at least halfway around it – was inspiring to us all. Our congregation raised just under \$2500 for his cause of fighting Glioblastoma through research at the Malnati Brain Institute at Northwestern University. Tom reports that he did reach his goal of \$100,000, and that our enthusiastic and generous support went a long way to make his difficult journey a huge success! Special thanks to Lani Ochs and the Reaching Out Team for making this terrific and fun day possible!



Bay View
MUSIC FESTIVAL



1st
CONGREGATIONAL
UCC
CHARLEVOIX

PRESENT

American Spirituals *Intensive* 2026



THURSDAY,
AUGUST 6TH
at 7:30PM

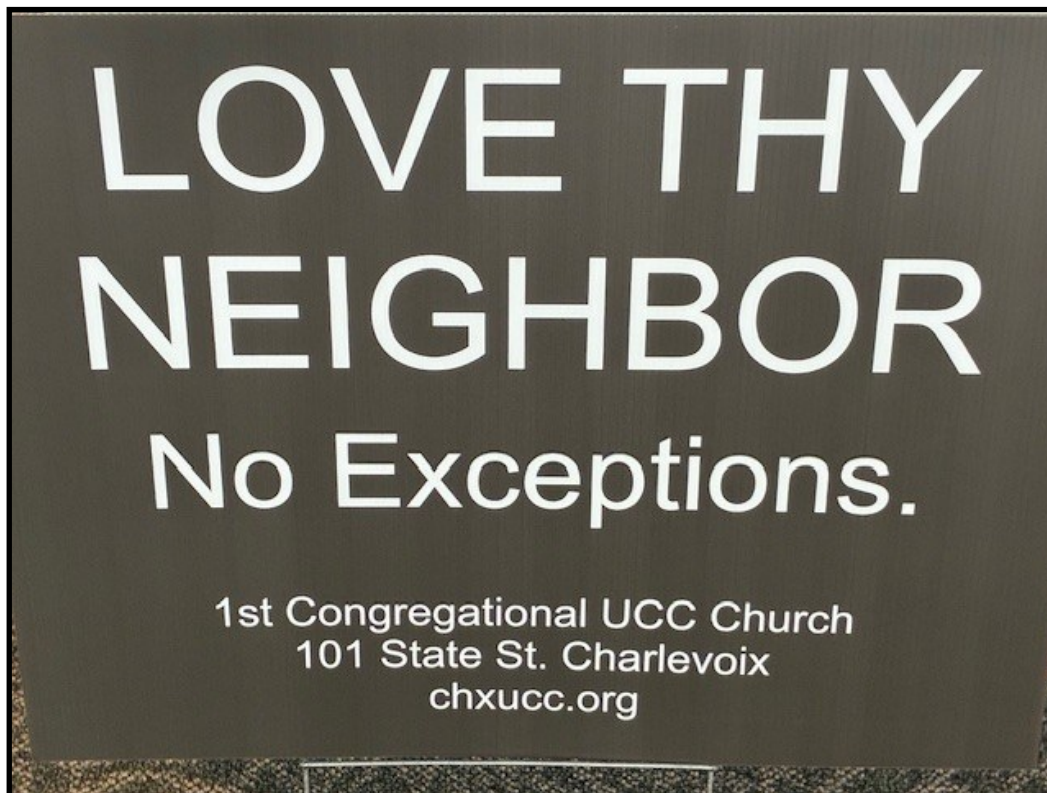


The *only* event of its kind in the world,
you'll be wrapped in the creativity,
hope and comfort these songs of faith
produced out of one of the darkest
moments in American history.



101 State St, Charlevoix, MI 49720

A BIG "THANK YOU!"



During his late fall visit while filling in for Toby's sabbatical, Pastor George Davis-Williams from 1st Congregational UCC in Cadillac introduced us to a yard sign his church has been sharing in the community: "Love Thy Neighbor – No Exceptions." The message resonated with Janet VanAlsten, who brought the idea to our church. With Pastor George's permission, we've put our own touch on the sign to reflect our congregation. Even the last week of July we had a visitor from Petoskey who had seen our signs in her town, and visited to make a donation and grabbed a few signs for her yard. She was very impressed that our church was doing this, and she was excited to help spread the word!

Thanks to the generosity of Janet VanAlsten and Bob Dion, who donated the cost of printing, these signs are completely free. Please take one — or a few! Share them with neighbors and friends and help us spread the message.

MUFFIN Sale!

♥ 1st Congregational UCC ♥

August 8th
starting at 9a
East Park Bandshell



\$2
Muffins

\$1
OJ, Water,
Coffee



♥ Please join us! ♥

Crop Walk News



Thank You for Supporting the CROP Hunger Walk!!

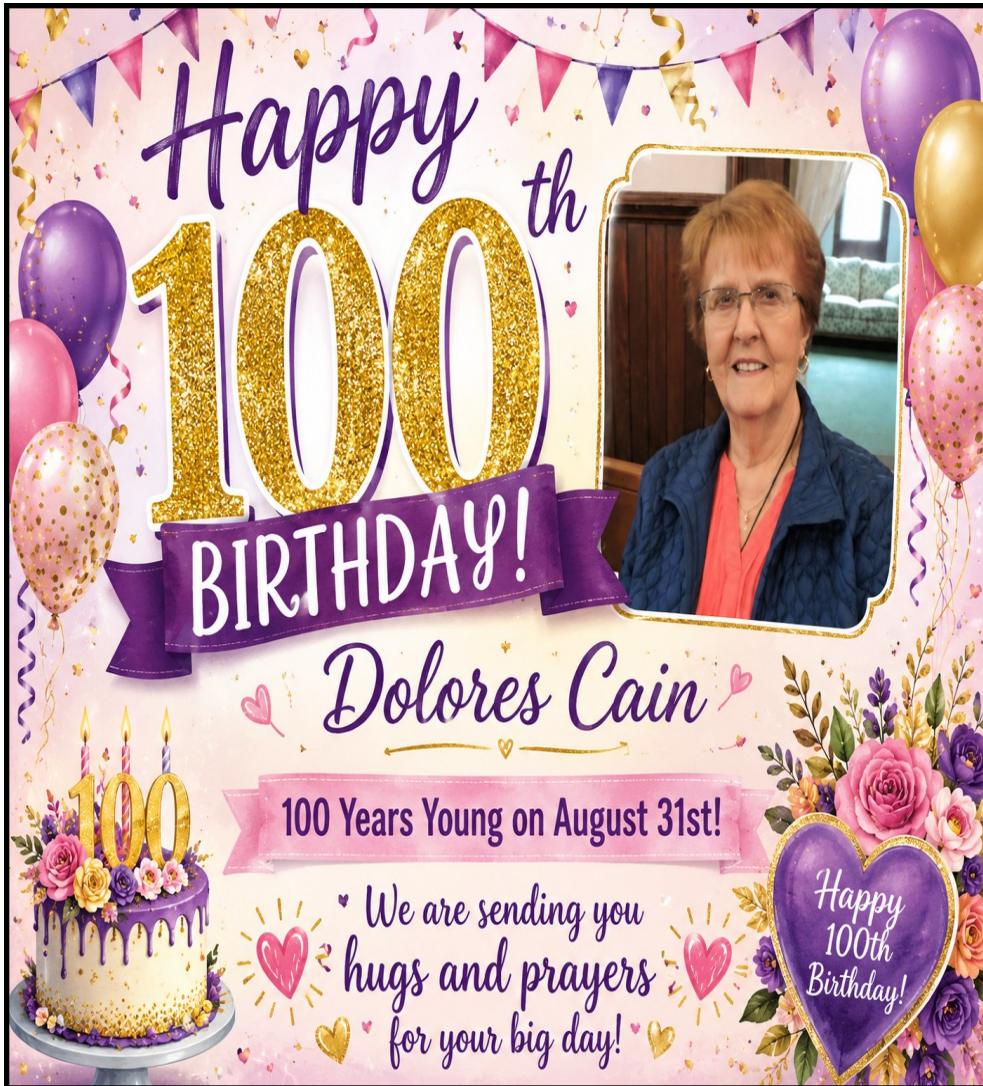
Thank you to everyone who supported this year's CROP Hunger Walk! We are grateful to the **14 walkers and rockers** who participated on the day of the event and to everyone who donated or encouraged our team. Together, we raised **\$2,750** to help fight hunger both locally and around the world.

The organizers of the Little Traverse CROP Hunger Walk expressed their sincere appreciation for our church's enthusiastic participation and generous support. As a reminder, funds raised through the CROP Hunger Walk are distributed in two important ways. **Twenty-five percent of the money raised stays in our local community** to support organizations working to address food insecurity, while the remaining funds support the work of **Church World Service**, providing emergency food assistance, disaster relief, sustainable agriculture, clean water, and refugee assistance in communities around the world.

Stay tuned! This November and December, the Reaching Out Team will be focusing on **food insecurity**. We'll be highlighting ways to get involved and support organizations that serve our neighbors.



Happy 100th Birthday!!!



Next Issue!

Things to keep an eye out for coming in Sept...

- ***Pledge Picnic Details***
- ***Building Renovation Updates***



AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS

Aug 2 **OPEN**
Aug 9 ... **OPEN**
Aug 16 ... **OPEN**
Aug 23 ... **OPEN**
Aug 30 ... **OPEN**

COFFEE & CONVERSATION HOSTS

Aug 2 **OPEN**
Aug 9 ... **OPEN**
Aug 16 ... **OPEN**
Aug 23 ... **OPEN**
Aug 30 ... **POTLUCK COLLABORATION**

LAY READERS

Aug 2 **Hugh Hansen**
Aug 9 ... **Chuck Gaputis**
Aug 16 ... **Chuck Gaputis**
Aug 23 ... **Chuck Gaputis**
Aug 30 ... **Suzanne Balter**





August Birthdays!

Lucy Witthoeft	8/3
Kris Jones	8/5
Kendra Gates	8/6
Sue Fowler	8/6
Bill Trubilowicz	8/8
Marilyn King	8/14
Bob Dominic	8/14
Beverly Rudolph	8/14
Chris Gengle	8/18
Shelley Fisher	8/19
John Borths	8/24
Susan Morris	8/26
Michelle Babcock	8/29
Dolores Cain	8/31 <i>100 Years Old!!!</i>

Wishing you a month filled with sunshine, joy and celebration! ♥

AUGUST MEETING TIMES:

Reaching In Team, 8/6 @ 9a
 Reaching Out Team, NO MTG IN AUGUST
 Church Council, 8/23 @ 11:45a
 Board of Trustees, 9/30 @ 11:45a
 Reaching In Team meets on the 1st Thursday at 9a
 Reaching Out Team meets on the 2nd Wednesday at 9a
 (except this month)
 Church Council meets on the 3rd Sunday at 11:45a
 Board of Trustees meet on the 4th Sunday at 11:45a

Just a Reminder...



Toby will be out of the office on Aug. 25 & 26 helping Eloise with her move to Ann Arbor where she will start college at the University of Michigan. Let's all wish Eloise luck, and GO BLUE!!

August 2026

SAT
Aug 1

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
In-Person & Virtual Worship • 10:30am COMMUNION	Main Church Office Closed	• 10am Prayer Group	• 1pm Leadership Meeting	• 9am Reaching In Mtg • 3pm Butterfly Release - • 8pm BVMF Presents: Ar	Church Offices Closed	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
In-Person & Virtual Worship	Main Church Office Closed	• 10am Prayer Group		• 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	Church Offices Closed • 12:30pm COA Grief Sup	
No Coffee & Convo Hour						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
In-Person & Virtual Worship • 11:45am Church Council	Main Church Office Closed	• 10am Prayer Group			Church Offices Closed	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
In-Person & Virtual Worship • 11:45am Trustee Meeting	Main Church Office Closed	• 10am Prayer Group		• 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	Church Offices Closed	
		Toby Out of Office— Eloise College Move In Day				
30	31	**for more information on events listed, go to our website at www.CHXUCC.org, click on Participant Resources>Church Calendar				
In-Person & Virtual Worship	Main Church Office Closed					



No Matter Who You Are,
or Where You Are on
Life's Journey,
You are Welcome Here!



1st CONGREGATIONAL
UCC
CHARLEVOIX

1st Congregational UCC of Charlevoix

101 State Street, Charlevoix, MI 49720

(231) 547-9122 (office)

www.CHXUCC.com

Our Covenant

"Our church community seeks to embody God's Spirit and live the teachings of Jesus. We offer a sense of belonging to each other and to all our neighbors, as we build a just and sustainable world for all."

Toby Jones, Pastor

Shelley Fisher, Music Minister

Stacey Luoma, Office Manager

Lynette Webb, Childcare Supervisor