



# 1st Congregational UCC

Opening the Doors of Possibility

An Open & Affirming Church



Sunday, September 14, 2025

*(Sept/Oct Reaching Out Focus: Emergency Preparedness)*



“Nothing great comes into being all at once, for that is not the case even with a bunch of grapes or a fig... Let the fig tree first come into blossom and then bring forth its fruit, and then let the fruit grow to ripeness”

Epictetus - Stoic Philosopher

# Welcome to our church family!

**Gathering Music** - *Offered by Theda Williams*

**Tolling of the Bell** - our reminder to quiet ourselves inside *and* out for worship

**Welcome**

**Opening Hymn** - #647 “We Have Come to Join in Worship”

**1st Scripture Readings** - Mark 11:12-14 AND Mark 11:20-24  
*Offered by Denise Fate*

**Music for Reflection** - *Offered by Theda Williams*

**2nd Scripture Reading** -Matthew 21:18-22 AND Luke 13:6-9  
*Offered by Denise Fate*

**Morning Message** - “The Three Little Figs” -  
*Offered by George Davis-Williams*

**Message Hymn** - #515, “Hymn of Promise”

**Offering**

**Offering Music**—*Offered by Theda Williams*

**Doxology**

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Him all creatures here below,  
Praise Her above ye heavenly host,  
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost, Amen*

**Closing Hymn**—# 717 Go Now in Peace”

**Benediction** - Try To “Fig”ure It All Out  
*Offered by George Davis-Williams*

**Postlude** - *Offered by Theda Williams*

## ***Guest Pastor: Rev. George Davis-Williams***



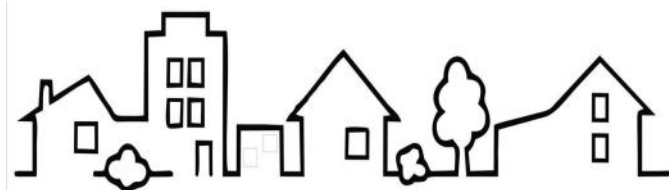
**Rev. George Davis-Williams** lives in Lake City, Michigan with his husband, Leif—a high school chemistry teacher—and their 5th-grade son, Matthew. Together, they are a family on the move, enjoying camping, hunting, raising chickens, mountain biking, and making maple syrup. If they're not at home, chances are they're out in the woods with their Australian Shepherd, Simon.

George earned his Master of Divinity from United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities and was ordained in May 2025 into the United Church of Christ. He currently serves part-time as the Outreach Minister at First Congregational Church (UCC) in Cadillac, Michigan, while working full-time as a school nurse for the local health department.

His educational background also includes a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Saginaw Valley State University (2009) and an Associate of Applied Science in Mortuary Science from Amarillo College (2010). After over a decade working in both nursing and funeral services, George felt called to seminary. His goal: to support small congregations that may not be able to afford a full-time pastor by embracing bi-vocational ministry.

One of George's guiding quotes comes from *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss:

**"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."** With Christ by our side, let's work together toward a better world.



### **Join Us!!!**

Learn about the highly successful Northwest Michigan Habitat for Humanity first hand.

In the near future we may have a Habitat development in Charlevoix, and we can help!

We will be touring the Meadowlands Development in Alanson on Thursday, September 18 at 10:00 am.

For the tour, meet at church @ 9:00 am to carpool or drive yourself to the "Meadowlands" development in Alanson.

At 11:30 am, we will have lunch at Bob's in Alanson and learn more about Habitat.

We will be back in Charlevoix at 1:30 pm

Sunday 9/14	Mon 9/15	Tues 9/16	Wed 9/17	Thurs 9/18	Fri 9/19	Sat 9/20	Sunday 9/21
<p><i>Guest Pastor: Rev. George Davis-Williams</i></p> <p>10:30a In-Person &amp; Live-Streamed Worship</p> <p>11:30a Coffee Hour <i>Hosted by Kendra Gates, assisted by Larry &amp; Carrie Minch</i></p>	<p>6p Personal Pantry</p>	<p>10a Scripture Discussion Group</p> <p>11a-11:30a CMA Hours <i>By Appt Only</i></p>		<p>9a Reaching In Mtg</p> <p>11a-2p CMA Hours <i>By Appt Only</i></p> <p>5:15p Centering Prayer</p>			<p><i>Guest Pastor: Rev. George Davis-Williams</i></p> <p>10:30a In-Person &amp; Live-Streamed Worship</p> <p>11:30a Coffee Hour <i>Hosted by Jim &amp; Julie Fritz</i></p>

**Prayer Requests/  
Celebrations:** To submit a  
Prayer Request  
please visit our website at  
[chxuucc.org](http://chxuucc.org) or call the office  
at 231-547-9122

Please be sure to get  
permission from the person  
needing prayers.

Please continue to pray for Marcia Newkirk as she faces serious health concerns in Traverse City.

Please continue to pray for Toby as he begins his sabbatical journey, focusing on his physical health as he travels. Also pray for Eloise as she begins her senior year without her dad around.

Please continue to pray for Kathy Krueger in hospice care.

Please continue to pray for Dolores Cain in hospice care.



*Hosted by:*

***Kendra Gates, assisted by  
Larry & Carrie Minch***



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*Toby Jones, Pastor \* Shelley Fisher, Music Minister  
Stacey Luoma, Office Manager \* Larry Minch, Custodian  
Lynette Webb, Childcare Supervisor*

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