



JULY 2026

From the Pastor...

Jumping Into July...

How did this happen? It's almost July 4th with another Venetian Fest right around the corner. Time has a way of racing by us, especially in the summertime here in Charlevoix.

To make the most of this precious and always-too-short season, we'll be worshipping outdoors from Sunday, July 5 through Sunday, September 20, weather permitting, of course. Thanks to the generous memorial funds collected in honor of Lois Lewis, Joan Robinson, and Marty Trubilowicz, along with the largesse of several other participants, we have a beautiful, redesigned space in which to host not only worship, but other outdoor gatherings as well. Once we get our bench installed along the back hedge, we're hoping passersby will linger there as Theo did. Thank you to everyone who had a hand in this exciting new garden space. And thanks in advance to Trip Beynon for providing us with the shade of the sail tent that he faithfully sets up and takes down each and every week. Outdoor worship takes a lot of hands to pull off every Sunday, so please consider showing up by 9:45 if you're willing to lend a hand.

Perhaps our first opportunity to welcome the larger community into the garden will be on July 19 - both during and after worship. We'll have a fascinating worship experience, as Toby welcomes his friend and mentor the Rev. Dr. Tom Dickelman for an interview-based sermon. Tom will be nearing the midpoint of his odyssey around Lake Michigan in his 12-foot Waverunner. He's attempting to raise awareness and sow seeds of hope even in the wake of one of the most tragic and pernicious forms of cancer – Glioblastoma - which took his sister's life. After worship, we'll transition into picnic mode, as the Haz-Binz will play their amazing Yacht Rock with a classic twist in attempt to entice Venetian traffic into our tented garden area. This will be your opportunity to invite neighbors and friends to join us for the picnic, where we all can help them experience who our church is and just how much fun we have working on a good cause. Go to www.GLIO1000.org to see more information. I am hoping we can make Charlevoix Tom's favorite stop of the 14 he'll make as he circumnavigates our Great Lake.



From the Pastor (contd.)

All of Toby's sermons in July will be stand-alone reflections, so that any of your houseguests, family, or friends who visit us will feel right at home. And speaking of guests and visitors, have you noticed how many new folks have been checking us out lately? The word is definitely getting out that something unique and wonderful is going on here.

I can't emphasize enough how critically important it is that each and every person who enters our church or garden is greeted warmly by several of us, invited to sit down beside us, and personally invited to linger for coffee and conversation as the service concludes. It's also a good practice to point out for them our website (www.chxucc.org), which is always printed on the bottom of the back page of the bulletin, in case they'd like to learn a little more about us. Thanks for doing your part to make us a church that truly welcomes EVERYONE – no exceptions.

Important Info...



Save the Date -

Important Congregational Meeting –

Sunday, July 12 11:30 am

This will be a very brief meeting to approve an unexpected expense for building maintenance that the Trustees would like to pay for through our endowment funds.

An Important Reminder for All Our Ministry Teams...

July is the month when Reaching In, Reaching Out, Council, Trustees, and Personnel all prepare their budget needs and desires for the 2027 ministry year. If you lead or serve on any of these amazing teams, please come to July's meeting prepared to spend a significant chunk of time making important budget decisions.

Thank you for your constant faithfulness!

Annual Church Budget



1st CONGREGATIONAL
UCC
CHARLEVOIX

Presents

"The Haz-Binz"

A Very Special Sunday Morning!

Sunday, July 19 10:30 service

11:30 music & picnic



Joining us for the service and the picnic will be 70-year-old retired minister Tom Dickelman, who will be at the midpoint of GLiO 1000 - a solo, 26-day 1,000-mile circumnavigation of Lake Michigan on a 12' WaveRunner. What's behind the adventure? A desire to support research battling glioblastoma/brain cancer and to lead conversations about the importance of hope in our lives. It's going to be a memorable time – join us & bring your friends!

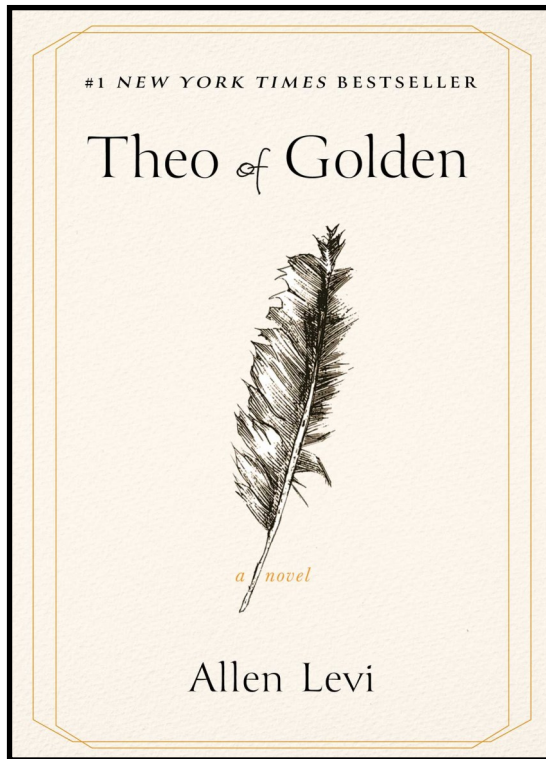


www.glio1000.org



**** The Haz-Binz and Eloise will also be playing a similar fundraiser the day before ours down in Elk Rapids at the Dam Sho from 3p—5p on Saturday, July 18th. If you want, stop in to that too!**

Theo of Golden Takeaways



Wrapping Up Our Amazing Journey Through Theo of Golden...

As a way of celebrating June's sermon series on *Theo of Golden*, your Reaching In team thought you might enjoy hearing from 3 of our book group participants, as they share just what this book meant to them...

"The cashier at the grocery stor. The plumber fixing your sink. The ticket agent airport counter. The custodian cleaning your church. The homeless mother panhandling on the street in Traverse City. The police officer who stopped you for speeding. The girl behind the counter at Culvers. The guy tailgating you on highway 31. Whoever it is, whether you noticed or not, is created in God's image. Because each person is created in God's image... my relationship with them, whether across a counter, on the street, in a store, at my door, in their home... across the chasm of political difference or indifference... anytime I encounter them, my relationship becomes an act of worship... It is as though I stand before the face of God... I enter the divine presence and it becomes worship.

Imagine that! When all relationships become acts of worship... how much would our lives and the world we live in be changed for the better? Imagine treating every person as though they were a blessing to us... making our relationships spontaneously worshipful... accepting people for who they are, where they are no matter the differences, or the similarities. This is what I learned from Theo and his journey in Theo of Golden.

When we look into the faces of those we encounter... we are looking into the face of God."
— Tom Cook

For the past two years, I have been visiting with homeless people living on or near Bell Road, in Phoenix, Arizona. Like Theo, I consider it an incredible privilege to be able to hear the sad, unique, and fascinating, stories of homeless individuals living on the streets. Like Theo, my intent is to help these discouraged souls realize how loved and important each person is to me and, most importantly, to God.

I am now moved to become more intentional in applying Theo's quiet principles of kindness to not only the Bell Road homeless community, but with my lifetime accumulation of family and friends!

Because of Theo, I now ask myself, "how can I find my "Inner Theo" and recognize opportunities to uplift specific individuals that I have known for years? Here are a few ideas that have spun off from Theo of Golden -type thinking that I am excited about trying:

1. Calling a lost friend from the past to share a pleasant memory that will make us both laugh and feel remembered.
2. Purchasing fun picture postcards and sending them to my grandchildren (and others) with handwritten notes of encouragement .
3. Sharing a homemade dessert with my elderly neighbor while I encourage him to chat about his childhood memories and faith journey.
4. Offering an afternoon boat ride, picnic, and swim to a young family who struggles to make ends meet.
5. Treating a friend to his/her favorite ice cream cone and eating it while listening to his/her favorite song.
6. Encourage friends to join me in meeting and serving God's homeless individuals living on the streets in North Phoenix.
7. Recognizing and expressing to family and friends the wonderful qualities that help to make them so unique, special, and loved

Like Theo, I believe that we are all capable of being a beacon of quiet kindness, being non-judgmental, and making others feel special and seen. So as the Nike ad encourages - Just Do It!

- Donn Start

"My second reading of *Theo of Golden* came about as I participated in the book study led by Toby. When I read it alone the first time it touched me. When I dove deeper into it, along with others in the study my eyes were open. The visual connections that Theo had with art and those he gifted the portraits to was a reminder of how lives are shared, woven together in God's love for us, no matter what our circumstances have been or are.

With this opportunity to express my thoughts and listen to other's perspectives, I've noticed a change in how I relate to the world. I notice the sound of birds more. I feel the breezes more and I am more open to a kinder encounter with the people I meet throughout the day. The study was a reconnection for me in the world which sometimes feels unsafe. Lingering and interacting rather than reacting is my new priority. I've even written a few notes. Thank you to all the participants in the study and thank you, Toby, for your guiding hand. Can't wait for the next study."

- Emily Beynon

Charlevoix Cty Jail Partnership Update

Beth from the Charlevoix County Jail thanked us for donating a book cart recently and included pictures of the enlarged library they set up as a result of our help with book donations. Inmates now have access to a lot of inspirational reading material.

Our RO team partnered with the County Jail last year and arranged for suitable used books to be donated from our wonderful Public Library. This has in turn spurred others to donate inspirational books.



Tickets On Sale Now!



Featuring...



**Hugh Hansen as
Marcellus**

**July 10 & 11
@ 8:00 pm**



**Toby Jones as
Mayor Shinn**

Get your tickets at:

www.onthestage.tickets/show/bay-view-association

Active Assailant Presentation Info



Active Assailant Preparedness Information Session Provides Valuable Awareness

Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Active Assailant Preparedness Information Session led by Charlevoix Police Chief Jill McDonnell. The session was well attended and provided helpful information about awareness, preparedness, and ways we can continue to care for one another as a faith community.

One important takeaway from the discussion was the reminder: **“See or Hear Something? Say Something!”** Paying attention to our surroundings and sharing concerns can help prevent problems before they happen. The group also reviewed what to do in the event of an active situation: **Run, Hide, Fight**. Knowing these simple steps ahead of time can help us respond more effectively during an emergency.

One suggestion that came from the presentation was to consider locking all church doors shortly before the service begins, while keeping the **Park Avenue entrance available**. This would help limit access during worship while also providing a clear, visible entrance for those arriving afterward.

Thank you to Chief McDonnell for sharing her expertise and to everyone who participated in this important conversation about safety, preparedness, and caring for our church community.



JULY VOLUNTEERS

GREETERS

July 5 **Janet VanAlsten & Bob Dion**
July 12 ... **OPEN**
July 19 ... **OPEN**
July 26 ... **OPEN**

COFFEE & CONVERSATION HOSTS

July 5 **The Schairbaums**
July 12 ... **The Lyons & The Herberts**
July 19 ... **Glioblastoma Fundraiser**
July 26 ... **Potluck Collaboration**

LAY READERS

July 5 **Suzanne Balter**
July 12 ... **Ellen Zienert**
July 19 ... **Chuck Gaputis**
July 26 ... **OPEN**



Next Issue!

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

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

Happy July Birthday!

WISHING A GREAT BIRTHDAY TO THE
FOLLOWING PARTICIPANTS:

Dave Bowen 7/7 * Don Smith 7/7

John Campbell 7/12 * Ellen Zienert 7/12

Trip Beynon 7/14 * Teri Stout 7/15

Lynette Webb 7/17 * Gerry Morris 7/17

Darlene Heine 7/22

Celebrating You This Sunny July!



JULY MEETING TIMES:

Reaching In Team, 7/2 @ 9a

Reaching Out Team, 7/8 @ 9a

Church Council, 7/19 @ 11:45a

Board of Trustees, 7/26 @ 9a

Reaching In Team meets on the 1st Thursday at 9a

Reaching Out Team meets on the 2nd Wednesday at 9a

Church Council meets on the 3rd Sunday at 11:45a

Board of Trustees meet on the 4th Sunday at 9a

Just a Reminder...

Stacey will be working from home on Thursday, July 23rd due to the Venetian Festival. She will be available by email or phone during that time.



July 2026

				WED 1	THU 2	FRI 3	SAT 4
					9am Reaching In Mtg 6:30pm Choir Rehearsa	Church Offices Closed	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
In-Person & Virtual Worship • 10:30am COMMUNION	Main Church Office Closed • 6pm Products Pantry	• 10am Prayer Group	• 9am Reaching Out Tear	• 6:30pm Choir Rehearsa	Church Offices Closed • 12:30pm COA Grief Sup		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
In-Person & Virtual Worship	Main Church Office Closed • 6pm Products Pantry	• 10am Prayer Group		• 6:30pm Choir Rehearsa	Church Offices Closed		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
Glioblastoma Fundraising In-Person & Virtual Worship • 11:45am Church Council	Main Church Office Closed • 6pm Products Pantry	• 10am Prayer Group		• 6:30pm Choir Rehearsa	Church Offices Closed		
26	27	28	29	30	31		
In-Person & Virtual Worship • 9am Trustee Meeting	Main Church Office Closed • 6pm Products Pantry	• 10am Prayer Group		• 6:30pm Choir Rehearsa	Church Offices Closed		



*No Matter Who You Are,
or Where You Are on
Life's Journey*

You are Welcome Here!

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