



First Congregational

- *United Church of Christ* -

Newsletter for October 16, 2021

I want to begin this newsletter with a word of thanks for all those who reached out with cards and calls to wish me a happy 60th birthday. It was so nice to be able to celebrate this milestone with my church family.

Speaking of milestones, we as a church family will be celebrating a truly significant one this Wednesday evening at 6 pm in Ransom Hall. Our 140th year of ministry here in Charlevoix is about to kick off. To commemorate this remarkable accomplishment, we're gathering for the biggest party this church has had in a long, long time. Owen James, Northern Michigan's finest Jazz & Classical guitarist will be here, and we're having succulent hors d'oeuvres compliments of the catering crew at Scovie's. Wine, beer, and a variety of soft drinks will be served as well. We sure hope that you remembered to RSVP and are planning to attend this Gala event. The historical displays and archival material alone will be worth the price of admission.

Wait a minute...there is no price of admission! All you have to do is bring your pledge card. Some of you will fill yours out in advance, while others of you may choose to complete yours at the Gala. We will also have blank cards available at the event if you need one. However you do it, know that your confidentiality will be protected. We just want to be sure that all of the pledges for 2022 are turned in at or before the Gala. Thank you for your generous participation!

If you are in need of a ride to this event, please call the office right away so we can be sure to get you here. We have plenty of willing drivers!

All Saints Day Approaches...

One of our meaningful annual traditions involves remembering those whom we have lost in the past year. During our November 7 worship service, we will include in our bulletin a list of the loved ones anyone in our church family has lost since Nov 1, 2020. There will also be a special prayer of remembrance. If you have someone whom you'd like honored or remembered, please let Linda know in the office before October 24. Thank you. (Email at office@chxucc.org or 231-547-9122) or return the form below.

All Saint's Day – November 7, 2021
Remembrance deceased loved ones in the past year.

Name _____ Date passed _____

Name _____ Date passed _____

Connection to church _____

A Look at November Worship... "How to Read the Bible in the 21st Century"

As October and our series on "Outdoing Jesus" wraps up, here's a look at our worship focus for November. Have you ever wondered how to make sense of the Bible? Have you ever struggled with what to do with the many passages that seem to call for the slaughter of some for the benefit of others? How can a book written thousands of years before the Scientific Age have any relevance at all in the 21st Century?

During the month of November, Toby will be sharing 5 principles he uses when reading and interpreting the scriptures, principles that don't require him to turn off his brain nor to disregard the many important advancements in science and technology. These principles will stay with and serve you for the rest of your Bible-reading years, so don't miss this series!

- As always, the worship themes and passages for the week will also be those discussed at our Tuesday morning discussion group at 10:00 AM each and every Tuesday. All are welcome to this more in-depth, interactive look at Sunday's passages and theme. This group experience is always available both in person AND via Zoom. Just let Linda in the office know if you'd like to receive the Zoom link each week.

Anybody Interested in a November Book Group?

Recently I read a book that really affected me, and now I'm thinking about sharing it with many of you in the form of a November Book Group as a part of our Reaching In endeavors. My friend and CMA colleague Chip Sauer from the Charlevoix Reformed Church recommended "Who Stole My Church?" to me, and I only wish someone had steered me to it a couple of decades ago. This gem is written by a New England pastor by the name of Gordon MacDonald, who has 47 years of pastoral experience in five different churches. His incredible book, written in the form of a novel, explores the difficulty of change in a local church. Here's how MacDonald explains what he was trying to do:

"Many are the books on church change. Usually, they are written from the standpoint and the instruction of the change agent, the leader, the person with the responsibility to bring about something new. In this book, however, I decided to deal with the subject from the perspective of some of the people who are powerfully affected by the change – the dear people in the pews who have to live with, and even support, the new ways... I decided to create an imaginary New England church in which there was a small collection of average people who were bumping up against change issues and resisting them."

Please let me know if you'd be interested in a 4-session book group on the first four Tuesday nights in November – the 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd – from 7-8:30 pm. We would probably conduct this group via Zoom, so that anyone could participate from the comfort of his/her own home without having to venture out in the November darkness. If you think you might be interested in participating, please email me at toby@chxucc.org. I look forward to sharing the deep and profound wisdom of this book and its wonderful characters with you.

Official Notice: Congregational Meeting on Sunday, October 31 at 11:30 AM

On Halloween Sunday, we will have a brief but important meeting of our congregation for the purpose of approving the slate of officers and committees for the 2022 ministry year. Our Nominating Team led by Pam Smith and Marty Trubilowicz has worked hard to put together this proposed line-up, and on October 31st at 11:30 AM, the rest of us can do our part. See you then! (We will try to make provision for those who can't be present to vote remotely.)

From the KITCHEN.....We need people to sign up on the kiosk to host Coffee Hour. This does not have to be elaborate; we just need a person or two to put on the coffee pot, put out the cups and perhaps bring a simple snack. A package or two of store-bought cookies is just fine! Often there are already cookies or muffins in the freezer that can simply be brought out. We always have ingredients in the fridge/pantry for punch. Coffee Hour is a time for fellowship and catching up with our church family. It is a valuable tradition that many of us look forward to on Sundays. Thank you!



Please stay after worship and help us get all of the tables and chairs out of Ransom Hall. The carpet is being cleaned on Monday, October 18th. Thank you.