



THE OPEN DOOR

1st Congregational UCC- Charlevoix Newsletter

— October 2026 —



Together in Service

FAITH • PEOPLE • PURPOSE

A Stronger Tomorrow, Together

October is the month when we vote on a slate of leaders from our nominating team who will lead our church and its various ministry teams for the next couple years. In a congregation our size with only one pastor, the strength and productivity of our community is almost entirely dependent on those participants who step up to serve.

From my perspective, we were blessed with terrific lay leadership in 2026, and the best news is that the vast majority of our team members from Reaching In, Reaching Out, Trustees, and Council, along with several of their chairs, will be back in 2027.

But there are always some terrific volunteers who have to step aside either because they have “termed out” (served the maximum number of years/terms allowed in our bylaws) or because their personal and/or professional lives make it impossible to continue on.

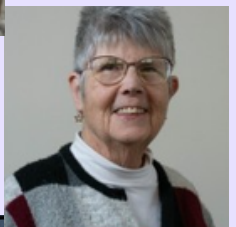
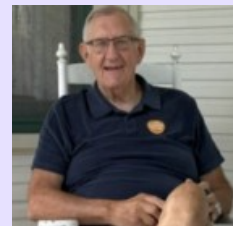
I want to begin by giving my thanks to these out-going folks for their outstanding service, in the hope that the rest of you – and I mean ALL the rest of you – will convey your heartfelt thanks to the folks listed below:



Denise Cruz – Reaching In
Julie Geyer – Reaching Out
Joyce Herbert - Nominating
Carolyn Klender – Nominating
Chas Lyons – Trustees
Lani Ochs – Reaching Out
Tim Watts – Personnel

Without their hard work and dedication, we simply couldn't have accomplished all that we did in the last few years.

Grateful People • Stronger Together



Looking Ahead to 2027

FAITHFUL PEOPLE. BRIGHT TOMORROWS.

Together in Ministry

As we look forward to another great year in ministry together, we are grateful to Joyce Herbert and the Nominating Team for the thoughtful work they have done in bringing us this terrific slate of officers and team members to lead our church in 2027 and beyond.

Serving in leadership at our church is both a responsibility and a gift. These are the people who step forward to help guide our congregation, care for our building and resources, strengthen our ministries, reach out to our community, and help make sure that the work of the church continues to move forward.

I'm not sure how many of you are in the habit of reaching out directly to our volunteer team members and leaders to offer your thanks and your support. But if you want to help this church run as positively and efficiently as possible, I can think of no better place to start than with your consistent gestures of support and gratitude to the folks on the slate to the right.

I have mentioned time and time again how much I love this church and being your pastor. Much of that love has grown out of the participants who have stepped up to work closely with me in the "engine room" of this church, which is where our four standing ministry teams meet to serve this congregation. I am blessed and so are you to have such competent, generous, and dedicated people volunteering to serve year in and year out.

Thank you! 
- Toby

2027 SLATE OF OFFICERS & TEAM MEMBERS

Faith in Action Through Shared Leadership

CHURCH COUNCIL 2-Year Term

Five elected participants

- 2027:** Darlene Heine,
Diane Lyons, Max Carthew,
Denise Fate#
- 2028:** Wanda Stopher#

TRUSTEES 3-Year Term

Five elected participants

- 2027:** Greg Kitson#
- 2028:** Richard Hodgson
- 2029:** Joel Lathrop#,
Bill Trubilowicz#,
Janet Van Alsten#

REACHING OUT 2-Year Term

Three to five elected participants

- 2027:** Lisa Copass
- 2028:** Hagen Manker#,
Suzanne Balter# (Chair),
Marty Richardson,
John Campbell

REACHING IN 2-Year Term

Four to six elected participants

- 2027:** Judy Siebert,
Susan Warner
- 2028:** Emily Beynon#,
Bill Wadland#

PERSONNEL 2-Year Term

Three to five elected participants

- 2027:** Bruce Herbert,
Hugh Hansen
- 2028:** Ellen Zeinert,
Charlotte Koger,
Jeff Kloiber#

NOMINATING 2-Year Term

Two to four elected participants

- 2027:** Mary Ann Chew
- 2028:** Jim Fritz#,
Melinda McTaggart-Stone
(Chair)

#

A # indicates someone who has served two terms and will be termed out at the end of that year and will not be eligible to serve another term. Anyone who has served one term is eligible to serve a second term, but must be contacted to confirm that they are willing.

Many Hands. One Beloved Community.

PEOPLE + PURPOSE + POSSIBILITIES



Feliz Día de los Muertos

(Happy Day of the Dead)

on **October 25th**

will be a celebration of friends and relatives who have passed away.

The Reaching In Team invites you to bring photos and stories to share around the table. Consider bringing the favorite food of those whose stories you'll share as this celebration coincides with our monthly

Potluck Collaboration!

Remembrance
Connection
Stories
Love
Always with Us

Coffee and Conversation

Friends and loved ones live on in our stories.



Join Us for a 1-Day LUNCH & LEARN EVENT

on "Supporting the Incarcerated"

Wednesday, October 14
Noon to 1 pm | Ransom Hall

Your Reaching Out Team is sponsoring a terrific opportunity for you to learn more about some of the issues facing our imprisoned brothers and sisters and how we can support them both in and after their period of incarceration.



FEATURED SPEAKER

Alice Diebel

Alice Diebel is a pastor in the Unitarian Universalist tradition. She pursued the ministry after receiving a "calling" from the voices of people deeply involved in criminal justice reform. She knew she could no longer turn away from this ache in our society.

This ministry is outside the walls of any congregation – working to reform our systems of mass incarceration and reaching out with compassion to people who have been affected by incarceration.

Diebel has served as a chaplain in the Dayton Correction Institution for women and is an active volunteer for the Montgomery County Office of Reentry.

Her talk will focus on what she has learned about inmate support over the years, with a focus on helping these folks transition back into society upon their release.

People
Are More
Than Their
Mistakes.

COMPASSION
UNDERSTANDING
SUPPORT
SECOND CHANCES
STRONGER
COMMUNITIES



Lunch and beverages will be provided,

so all you have to do is show up to Ransom Hall just a little before noon for this timely opportunity.

All Are Welcome!

Thank you for saving the date and joining us for this important Lunch & Learn gathering.



A Great Night of Dancing and Giving Thanks!

Grateful
People
Build
Brighter
Tomorrows

Community ♥ Gratitude ♥ Generosity ♥ Hope



Last Saturday night was one of the most enjoyable and memorable nights I've had since coming to this church over 6 years ago. Our "Dancing in the Garden of Gratitude" picnic was a celebration of everything I love about this amazing family of faith. We remembered Lois Lewis, Joan Robinson, and Marty Trubilowicz, in whose honor we renovated the garden area where we gathered. We remembered all the participants in this 144-year-old congregation. We celebrated the many accomplishments we achieved in 2026 across all of our ministry areas, and we looked forward to what we hope to achieve in 2027. And, of course, thanks to your generosity, we raised over 2/3rds of the funds we need to make 2027 a year of even greater impact both in Charlevoix and beyond.



Your pledges totaled over \$211,000 that evening, and in the week since, that number has risen to \$220,000. We are well on our way to our goal of \$308,000. If the folks who weren't in town for this incredible picnic and those who have not yet pledged come through for us, I am confident we can get there. So far just over 60 individuals and family units have pledged. As you all know, we have right around 100 regular participants. The closer we can get to 100% pledging participation for the 2027 ministry year, the better we'll be positioned to soar into the coming year. Thank you so much to those who have already given and to those of you who are yet to give.



Many People ♥ One Faith ♥ A Brighter Tomorrow

THINGS THAT GO ★ BUMP IN THE NIGHT

..... 🦇

*Every family has a story
no one forgets.*

.....



OCTOBER 16, 2026

Just in time for Halloween!

— ★ —
1st Congregational, UCC
101 State Street, Charlevoix

Charlevoices: *True Stories Told Live*
brings people together to share true, personal
stories that entertain, inspire, and connect us.
From heartfelt to hair-raising, each story
reminds us we're not alone.

..... ♥

Proceeds from our events support
local organizations that strengthen
and enrich our community.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE

charlevoices.org



Serve With Us!



TOGETHER
WE MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

Many hands make
light work.

Thank you for sharing
your time and talents!



*Each of you
should use
whatever gift
you have received
to serve others.*

1 PETER 4:10



Lay Reader



Oct 4	–	OPEN
Oct 11	–	Suzanne Balter
Oct 18	–	OPEN
Oct 25	–	OPEN



Coffee Hosts



Oct 4	–	Dave & Darlene Heine
Oct 11	–	OPEN
Oct 18	–	OPEN
Oct 25	–	Potluck Collaboration



Greeters



Oct 4	–	OPEN
Oct 11	–	OPEN
Oct 18	–	OPEN
Oct 25	–	OPEN

If you are interested in serving one of these vital ministries,
please sign up on the board across from the office,
or call the church office at **(231) 547-9122** to be added.



ALL ARE WELCOME • ALL ARE NEEDED • ALL ARE LOVED





Team Meetings

— OCTOBER 2026 —

FAITH PEOPLE COMMUNITY PURPOSE

Connect + Plan + Serve + Together

All Are Welcome!

	Reaching In 10/1 @ 9a	Reaching In meets the 1st Thursday of each month.
	Reaching Out 10/14 @ 9a	Reaching Out meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month.
	Church Council 10/18 @ 11:45a	Church Council meets the 3rd Sunday of each month.
	Board of Trustees 10/25 @ 11:45a	Board of Trustees meets the 4th Sunday of each month.

Together We Make a Difference



OCTOBER 2026

Worship • Meetings & Groups • Office Closures • Special Events

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 • Stacey Out of Office • 9:00am Reaching In Mtg • 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	2 • Church Offices Closed	3
4 • In-Person & Virtual Worship • 10:30am Communion	5 • Main Church Office Closed	6 • 10:00am Prayer Group	7	8 • 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	9 • Church Offices Closed • 12:30pm COA Grief Support	10
11 • In-Person & Virtual Worship	12 • Main Church Office Closed	13 • 10:00am Prayer Group	14 • 9:00am Reaching Out Mtg 12:00pm Special Lunch & Learn: Alice Diebel	15 • 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	16 • Church Offices Closed • 7 pm CharleVOICES: Bump in the Night; in the Sanctuary	17
18 • In-Person & Virtual Worship • 11:45am Church Council	19 • Main Church Office Closed	20 • 10:00am Prayer Group	21	22 • 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	23 • Church Offices Closed	24
25 • In-Person & Virtual Worship 11:30 Congregational Meeting • 11:45am Trustee Meeting	26 • Main Church Office Closed	27 • 10:00am Prayer Group	28	29 • 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal	30 • Church Offices Closed	31 Halloween 

Love Without Boundaries



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