

October  
2016

# Still Speaking

Newsletter of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Alpena

## Board of Directors:

- Dennis Artley, treasurer
- Ann Diamond, chair
- Kathy Dempsey
- Ann Gerow
- Dottie Haase
- Vicky Lindsay
- Mike Mack
- Jim Mc Neil, vice chair
- Beth Petty

## Board of Directors Meeting Highlights from September 2016

Gerrie La Cross, Secretary

- ♦ Church has received many thank you cards and notes from church members and community organizations. Rev. Lance has received great comments from his Sunday sermons.
- ♦ The Memorial Garden has had some landscape upgrades by Jake Reebel.
- ♦ Financial report: Natural gas use was down from last year. The Neighbors in Need special offering was \$730. Mission collection was better this year than in the past.
- ♦ Property: New flooring has been installed in the elevator entrance.
- ♦ Local Mission Fund and Human Needs Fund have some funds left, but should use them by the end of the year.
- ♦ Worship: Continue with prayer request cards; will place them in the pews later. We have begun using four offertory plates. Need to inventory pew Bibles. There will be a training for altar/communion volunteers, since both are in need of new volunteers.
- ♦ Stewardship: Envelopes have been sent in the mail. Theme: "Roots & Leaves"
- ♦ Personnel: The reception for Kat went well. She will begin taking organ lessons in the near future after we make arrangements with Joel Gary in Grand Rapids.
- ♦ Quarterly audit went well. All is in order in our financial processes and bookkeeping.
- ♦ Board reviewed "in house" Comstock grant requests. 14 out of 15 were approved to be sent forward to the Comstock Fund Committee.
- ♦ Jim McNeil will form an "ad hoc" group to help organize a Fellowship Committee.
- ♦ Paul Mocerri hopes to take classes through STEM, a five year study program in the UCC. As a part of this program, he will be asked to preach occasionally and lead Bible studies. Rev. Lance's upcoming sermons will relate to our "roots & leaves" stewardship theme. A new group, "Bright Outcomes", will be using the church's Youth Room for court-ordered education for people with alcohol or drug offenses.

## October 2016 Dates to Remember

- 3  
Friendship Room
- 10  
Board of Directors
- 14  
Ladies Luncheon
- 14-15  
MI Conference of  
UCC in Flint, MI
- 20  
"Saving Jesus" DVD  
discussion begins
- 23  
Apple Fest on the  
Front Lawn
- 23  
Underground Church  
resumes @ 5 pm
- 28-29  
SERRV Bazaar

**STEWARDSHIP 'PLEDGE DRIVE' UP-DATE:** You will see by the many names on the leaves on the macramé tree on the hallway bulletin board that "pledges" have been coming in since we launched our campaign on Sept. 18. To date, we have \$74,116 toward our goal of \$143,000. All of our members (and regularly-attending friends) received a pledge-card form in the mail with a return envelope. The letter explained how **a pledge to the "General Fund"** will help underwrite our operational budget (Rev. Lance's salary, Gerrie & Kat & Mike, utilities, programs, supplies, etc.) while **a pledge to the "Mission Fund"** supports "Our Church's Wider Mission" through the UCC Michigan Conference & national offices. **Prayerfully consider how much financial support we can count on from you next year (2017) and fill out the form.** Mail it (or bring it on Sunday) to the church, and then look for **your name** on one of the leaves on the tree in the hall.

## Celebrating the Birthdays of October

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 10/1 Paul Lance        | 10/6 Doris Lance     |
| 10/1 Mike Boes         | 10/9 Thelma McDonald |
| 10/2 Rick Parr         | 10/9 Sharyl Davis    |
| 10/2 Sarah Becks       | 10/18 Bonnie Bartz   |
| 10/3 Sarah Zeller      | 10/21 Bobbi Zubi     |
| 10/3 Linda Clegg       | 10/27 Marcia Aten    |
| 10/4 Linda Christiaens | 10/28 Nathan Barden  |
| 10/5 Tom Cook          |                      |



### Anniversaries in October

- Lloyd & Bev Aikens 10/14 64 Years  
 Bill & Linda Clegg 10/21 53 Years  
 Jay & Marilyn Kettler 10/23 44 Years

*Happy Anniversary*

### Ladies Luncheon

*Dolly Zeller and Jan Snell*

The Ladies met for lunch at the Alpena Golf Course on Friday September 9th. A good time was had by all. We will be meeting on Friday, October 14th again at the Alpena Golf Course. Please come join us for fun and fellowship.



### Altar Flowers

If you look at the bulletin board outside the office you will find there are still ten opportunities for you to provide flowers for the altar at our Sunday Sanctuary Worship before the end of the year.



### Pew Rack Arrangers

The ministry of pew rack arrangers is in need of a few more volunteers for the coming year. If you could help with this ministry, please contact Lynne Stewart at 471-2323. Lynne creates the list for the year and would be happy to talk with you about what the job includes.

Many hands  
make light work !



## SERRV Bazaar

Ann Gerow

### 42nd ANNUAL “SERRV” BAZAAR

**FRIDAY, October 28th, 2-6pm & SATURDAY, October 29th, 10am-2pm**

**Jewelry, textiles, baskets, and more!**

**Musical instruments! Toys and books! Fair Trade coffee!**

**Tea, food items, and, the ever popular, Divine Chocolate!**



The SERRV Bazaar has been held at First Congregational UCC of Alpena every year since 1974! Please continue to support the tradition of helping to improve the lives of artisans and their families by shopping for **high-quality crafts from around the world** and from underprivileged areas in the U.S. ... as well as volunteering behind the scenes with set-up, sales, or clean-up.

Spread the word, invite your friends and neighbors to attend, or volunteer to help out. Watch for volunteer sign-up sheets on the care letter podium and for bulletin announcements in October.

The SERRV website describes their philosophy so well.....

We can create a sustainable world through  
authentic connections with artisans and farmers.

This is what we believe here at SERRV. We believe artisans and farmers around the world should have the opportunity to break the cycle of poverty and support their families through fair payments and respectful relationships. Every basket, every tablecloth, every necklace we offer has a story behind it – of an empowered artisan or farmer who works in a safe environment, can send his or her children to school, and can save for the future with the reliable income he or she earns through fair trade. Please visit [serrv.org](http://serrv.org) for more information.

## Marcia Aten, for “Building Bridges To Understanding”

On September 22, the *Interfaith Amigos* - a Rabbi, an Imam, and a UCC Minister - made their Alpena appearance as the main event for the “30 Days of Peace.” I represented our group on the planning committee as best I could, and the response was terrific! Attendance at each of two daytime workshops was over 100 people, and we estimate around 300 people attended the evening session at Alpena High School. Members of *the WISDOM women*, an interfaith group from metro Detroit, and *Eide Alawan*, our gracious host at the Islamic Center of America in Dearborn, traveled to Alpena for the event to offer their support. Special thanks to my fellow cookie providers: Vernie Nethercut, Dottie Haase, and Lois Gibbs-Kibbe. DVDs of the presentations will be available in our lending library soon, along with a copy of one or more of their books.

“*Building Bridges to Understanding*” has not resumed regular meetings this fall.

My proposal to the group is that we schedule book/topic studies and events as someone identifies a topic or opportunity of interest. The Religions Study group at St. Paul would welcome a representative from our church on their planning group, and they have scheduled monthly public meetings for the coming year which we are all welcome to attend. If you have an interest in learning more about inter-faith dialog and other faith traditions, please talk to me or Rev. Lance.

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Office Hours: 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Monday – Thursday

**Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.**

**Fellowship Time: 11:00 a.m.**

**Underground Church: 5:00 p.m.**

**Minister: Rev. Dr. Paul A. Lance III**

**Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. H. Robert Case**

**Organist/Choir Director: Kat Tomaszewski**

**Treasurer: Denise Fusina**

**Secretary: Gerrie La Cross**

## *Still Speaking*

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**MI Conference of UCC** will hold it's annual meeting on Friday & Saturday, October 14 & 15, in Flint, MI.

Come join us for fellowship on Sunday, October 23 as we celebrate **Apple Fest** with Tom Cook. He will bring his cider press and home-grown apples for us!

**Underground Church** will resume on Sunday, October 23rd at 5:00 p.m. in the Lower Level All-Purpose Room. A mellow, musical, reflective time of worship.

**SERVV Sale** is Friday October 28th and Saturday October 29th. Come see what the world market has to offer you.