



Still Speaking

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
Charlotte, Michigan

October 2023
Volume 1
Issue 10

Never place a
period where God
has placed a comma

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***Still Speaking** is the monthly newsletter distributed to members and friends of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Charlotte. We welcome inside and outside comments, creative writing, illustrative photos/art, and articles. We appreciate feedback; please send comments to the Editor @ Editor@uccCharlotte.org*

***Editor:** Editor@ucccharlotte.org **Still Speaking** article deadline is the 25th of each month. Queries are due by the 18th.*

***About the cover:** Photographer, Caryn Hansen, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the ground breaking to build our church on the corner of Lawrence and Bostwick.*



Odds and Ends

From the Communication Desk

- October 6, 5:30 pm**, Friday, Homecoming Picnic - Bring a dish to pass and a friend
- October 7, 9:15**, Covenant Association Meeting via Zoom! (see article on page 16)
- October 8, 10 am**, Sunday, Celebrate 150 Years since we broke ground on our current building!
- October 10, No Tuesday night class**
- October 14, 10 am - 4 pm**, Saturday, The Christmas Shoppe opens at Eaton Community Palliative Care (Festival of Trees is coming!!)
- NO HARVEST FEAST THIS YEAR**, Watch for an evening meal at the Holiday Bazaar in November!
- October 20, 5 pm**,
Installation of 10th General Minister and President, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson,
LIVE Zoom, Hors d'Oeuvres will be served, sanctuary at the church
- October 23, 5 pm to 7 pm**, Almost Midnight Madness, hand out juice boxes at the Church
- October 27, 6 pm**, Friday,
Baking with Amy Slot
- October 28, 9 am to 3 pm**,
Michigan Conference
United Church of Christ
Annual Meeting,
Plymouth United Church
of Christ in Grand Rapids
- November 10, 11, 12**,
Holiday Bazaar
(see article on page 12, 13)
- November 10, 9:30 am**,
Conversation Cafe^(New!)
- November 10, 6:30 pm**,
Bazaar Dinner ^(New!)
- November 17, 7 pm**,
Olivet Gospel Choir Concert
- November 19 to 22**,
Set up trees
- November 24 to 26**,
Festival of Trees!



"Annual Meeting of the Michigan Conference UCC will be held on Saturday, October 28 2023 at Plymouth United Church of Christ in Grand Rapids, Michigan. It will be a perfect venue for us to connect in person and celebrate the covenant that makes us stronger together."

Call to Meeting Letter
2023 Meeting Documents

Register for Annual Meeting

October 28, 2023
9:00am - 3:00pm

We are so excited to join together for our 2023 Annual Meeting in-person!

Looking forward to seeing you as we come together for worship, fellowship, and our keynote speaker **Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg**, who will be sharing her insights on how vitality is linked to the life of our congregations. Lunch is included in registration and is being catered by **40 Acres Soul Kitchen**.

Overnight Accommodations
Need lodging Friday evening October 27?
Contact The Drury Inn & Suites, Grand Rapids
616-942-8511

Register for Annual Meeting

[https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/
eventReg?
oeidk=a07ejusbaky9d53cec4&oseq=&c=&ch=](https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07ejusbaky9d53cec4&oseq=&c=&ch=)





The 1819 Treaty of Saginaw

Submitted by Dennis Cates, Social and Environmental Justice
excerpted from a Central Michigan University blog entry by John Fierst

In the 1819 treaty, the U.S. laid claim to over four million acres of land, approximately a third of Michigan's lower peninsula. The Saginaw Chippewa reserved for themselves sections of land within the cession and certain rights to continue living on the ceded territory.

It took thirteen days to negotiate the treaty. The U.S. commissioner, Lewis Cass, governor of Michigan Territory, at the opening council, on September 12th, made it clear that his government wanted considerable cessions of land from the Chippewa. Ogimagegetoo, a forceful young spokesman of the Chippewa, challenged Cass, informing him that they had assembled to sign a peace agreement and not to surrender land. A second meeting, held several days later, nearly ended in violence.

That the negotiations did not fall apart at this point is attributed, by those who have written about the treaty, to the intercession of the traders who were present at the treaty, in particular to Jacob Smith, who had strong ties to the Chippewa. Smith's actions behind the scenes are not recorded in great detail but hint at the complexity of the negotiations. Smith's motives were self-serving, at least in part. Considerable ink has been spilled writing about the alleged fraud that occurred during the negotiations when small reserves were set aside at the Grand Traverse (Flint) for Smith's white children. The intense negotiations at times left tribal leaders divided. Only after the Chippewa had agreed on what lands they would reserve for themselves did the negotiations move forward.

Not enough has been written about the circumstances that led up to the treaty. The political situation at the close of the War of 1812 favored the expansionist ambitions of the United States and accelerated the popular drive of its citizens to occupy land in the west, extending and securing the boundaries of a rising American empire. The Treaty of Ghent, which ended the War of 1812, eliminated the greatest obstacle to U.S. expansionism. In the treaty, Great Britain accepted the borders of the U.S. and withdrew support for an Indian border state lying between Canada and the United States. Native Americans in Michigan were left to come to terms with the United States on their own. They were destitute, exhausted by the war, and abandoned by their British ally. Violent resistance would only lead to more destruction. They could resist U.S. encroachments violently, or they could try to come to an agreement through which they could hope to preserve their way of life.

The 1819 Treaty of Saginaw marked a low point in the history of the Saginaw Chippewa people and the beginning of decades of hardship. The cultural resurgence that has occurred among the Great Lakes Anishinabeg in the last half-century could not even have been contemplated at that time. That resurgence is built on remembering, not forgetting, the past. Remembering the past is not the same as celebrating the past. September 24, 1819, the day the treaty was signed, is not celebrated, but it is remembered.



The Quiet Horror You Didn't Know About

Ramona Kime, Social and Environmental Justice Chair

Did you know that Indigenous women and girls are being kidnapped and murdered at an alarming rate? Most of these murders are by non-Native people on Native-owned land, and the lack of communication combined with jurisdictional issues between state, local, federal, and tribal law enforcement make it nearly impossible to begin the investigative process.

Here are some astounding and horrifying statistics:

- ⇒ Indigenous Women are murdered at the rate of 10 times higher than all other ethnicities.
- ⇒ Murder is the 3rd leading cause of death for Indigenous Women (Centers for Disease Control).
- ⇒ More than 4 out of 5 Indigenous Women have experienced violence (84.3%) (National Institute of Justice Report).
- ⇒ More than half of all Indigenous Women experience sexual violence (56.1%).
- ⇒ The murder rate of Indigenous Women is 3 times higher than that of Anglo-American women.

While this epidemic isn't widely known, the U.S. government is slowly creating initiatives to identify the issues. On May 5th, 2019, the White House officially designated that day as a National Day of Awareness of Missing or Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. A task force was also created to address concerns of the Indigenous communities in the U.S. In 2021, Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) announced the formation of the Missing and Murdered Unit that will focus on analyzing and solving the cases of missing and murdered Indigenous peoples.

The REDress Project, an on-going public art installation, was started in 2010 by artist Jaime Black to draw attention to the missing and murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW) epidemic in both Canada and the United States. This project commemorates these missing women by hanging red dresses in public places, mostly outside where they interact with nature. The empty dresses evoke the missing women who would have worn them.

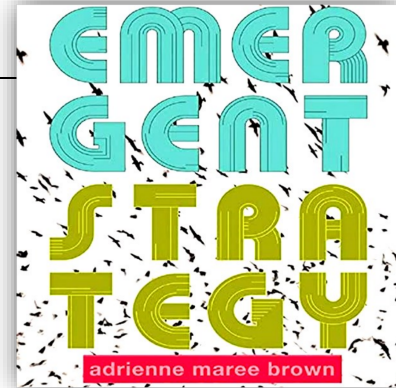
To date, over 400 dresses have been donated, including many from families of the missing or murdered women. Since 2010, the installation has been exhibited in more than 31 locations around Canada. 2019 marked the first installation in the U.S. at the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, with 35 dresses hanging outside the building.

Red was chosen because various tribes believe that red is the only color that spirits can see. Red calls back the spirits of these women and gives them a voice again. And as the "No More Stolen Sisters" project states: May our women and children prosper and be safe.



Pastor's Corner

Jody Betten, Interim Minister



The Principles of Emergent Strategy (from her book Emergent Strategy) by Adrienne Maree Brown are powerful suggestions for what is effective in the world of change making. (I see a sermon series here.)

- Small is good, small is all. (The large is a reflection of the small.)
- Change is constant. (Be like water.)
- There is always enough time for the right work.
- There is a conversation in the room that only these people at this moment can have. Find it.
- Never a failure, always a lesson.
- Trust the People. (If you trust the people, they become trustworthy.)
- Move at the speed of trust. Focus on critical connections more than critical mass — build the resilience by building the relationships.
- Less prep, more presence.
- What you pay attention to grows.

I want to focus on the principle “move at the speed of trust” for this Pastor’s Corner because I think it’s a good reminder of the value of community.

Webster defines trust as reliance on the character, ability, strength or truth of someone or something. When we are able to rely on one another’s character, abilities, and strengths in serving our common mission and vision, we have a good basis for moving forward.

Your mission “God is love. We are love in action” is a grounding statement. It connects you. When we trust that we are all focused on this mission, much can happen. You are proof of that. You trust that being “love in action” can create avenues for people to know God’s love. Many are coming. They see your love.

When trust is broken, it’s difficult to be effective in your mission and vision. When you aren’t “love in action” for one another, how can you be “love in action” beyond your walls?

Trust is broken when we talk poorly about one another, disrespect one another’s abilities and

contributions, subvert processes put in place to foster cooperation, and so on. A person who feels threatened, out of the loop, or is losing power, for instance, can stir things up for the sake of their own needs and undermine trust.

When this happens, it is difficult to move forward until trust is reestablished. Adrienne Maree Brown in her principles suggests another “Trust the People. (If you trust the people, they become trustworthy.)” Calling someone “in” who is behaving badly may involved simply going to them and saying, “we love you, we respect what you offer to this community, and we trust you to serve the mission

and vision of this organization the way we all do. We trust you to be “God’s love in action” to all who belong here. Your behavior does not appear loving. Please help us to trust you.”

Sometimes a kind word of affirmation is all it takes for a person to find a new way of being loving. Sometimes a person cannot abide in the community for this time on their faith journey and will find a new community where they can be more blessed.

Those critical connections that you experience, those folks who demonstrate commitment to the mission and vision, those who are finding ways to be “love in action” are the relationships you want to nurture. Nurturing love within those relationships will make it possible to build trustworthy relationships with those who come to you seeking God’s love.

Brown: “Move at the speed of trust.” That's one of the principles that has been articulated many times. If you don't move at the speed of trust when you can, when you're at the size in which you can, then it all falls apart when it gets bigger. Because it's like, this isn't based on relationships of trust.

See Something, Say Something



We have a large complex of buildings, i.e. spaces to keep clean, that get used on a regular basis. If you see something that appears to not have been cleaned for awhile, please email Office@uccCharlotte.org. We will make sure that the information gets to Rex, our custodian (Minister of Maintenance). He will put it on his “to do” list ASAP! Thanks for your help with keeping our facility sparkling!



Mission Moment

Mary Normand, Missions Team Chair

As we near the end of the year, we find we're getting busier with Mission projects. I will try and keep you informed as we move along.

Stuff the Truck: We held this during August. We divided/delivered 40-45 bags of personal care items and non-perishable food to Helping Hands and SIREN/Eaton. Thank you to everyone who donated to this project.

Giving Tree: October begins our Winter Coat project. Bill and Carol Yerkes will head this up again. Donations of coats and or money can be given directly to them or you can give through the church office and Sher will see that they get it. New or gently used coats are acceptable. Watch for sales.

October is also Neighbors in Need. You may donate anytime during the month of October. Place your donation in an envelope marked for NIN or give through your offering indicating NIN.

November is Homeless Awareness month so we are putting together Health Kits to give to Helping Hands, Eaton Clothing and Furniture Center, and Mid-Michigan Housing Services. This is being funded by the Mission Board. We also will be collecting adult socks for the homeless. Heavier socks are preferred for winter.

Peace Lutheran church has a program called Loads of Love. Once a quarter they go to the Quality Dairy Laundromat for 4 hours on a Saturday morning and pay for anyone who comes in to do laundry. They are looking for additional churches to do this and approached us. We are looking at picking a Saturday in January. We are applying for a mini grant however if anyone is so moved, donations would be welcome. We have several books left over from our Summer Reading Program so we're going to give a book to every child who comes in.

Recently, I received information from Back Bay Missions. They are part of the UCC. They are located in Mississippi. They provide housing recovery programs, food pantry, and support for the unhoused. If anyone is interested in championing a mission project through Back Bay Missions or want more information about it please see me-Mary Normand.

In A World Where You Can Be Anything, BE KIND.

Stay tuned



Don't Take My Word For It

Curt Scott, Facilitator



Growing up, the smartest girl in my world lived a mile across the river. Still a sophomore in high school, I nonetheless believed Jeannine could be persuaded to one day lend me her great brain for life. I could tell by the way she did a biology term paper that there was no reason for me to prepare for a life in any science. I wasn't, shall we say, made for such things. Let scientists explain science is what life and my wife taught me.

Jeannine married me then became a molecular biologist thus I forward all science questions. I became an over-educated musician and history teacher. I feel competent covering BA-level theology, history, art history, linguistics and religion. It's what I know. Still, during Tuesday's, Bible Study for Adults, I let more knowledgeable people do the actual teaching.

Instructors range from historian of American racism, Carol Anderson, to multiple Yale, UNC Chapel Hill and Berkley professors, to authors, activists and educators who behave like Jesus now, such as Bryan Stevenson. We discuss biblical topics ranging from what the bible is and is not, literally, literarily and historically, to Genesis as Astronomy and Archeology, to Who Sounds Like Jesus Now? We cover what happened to Christianity in the 1980s as deeply as what happened in the 380s: with the best documentation available, by semester. This semester we look for light in the so-called Dark Ages.

The Adult contention is this. A century of archeology in the Middle and Near East and North Africa has yielded more accurate information about Jesus. The new information, more accurate than any Sunday school teacher ever taught, is available everywhere, except churches. The sands of the Sinai suggest that what we thought was the point of Christianity—Protestant or Catholic, Evangelical or Orthodox—wasn't, certainly not Jesus.' Lovers of actual Jesus know this.

So what were Jesus' intentions? Who, through time and tides kept those intentions alive? In the current Bible Study for Adults semester—Jesus in the Middle Ages—we began as the Huns, Vandals and Visigoths marked the end of the first 500 years of Christianity. The Franks rise as effective conquerors then quickly realize someone has to know things, like how to build a palace, and how education and philosophy work. By 800, Charlemagne has the lights on and the Irish "saving civilization" by resurrecting Jesus, (again).

From the dust of marauding Goths though the birth of the Jesuit Order, we will learn who spoke for the intentions of Jesus during the Holy Roman Empire. Meet the monks who resurrected Jesus as The Church, ironically, resurrected Empire.

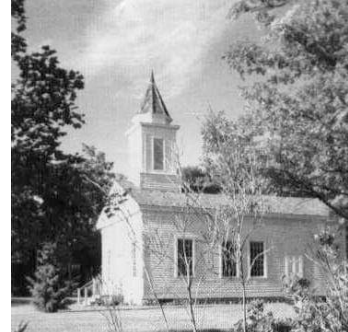


Historical Notes:

First Congregational United Church of Christ of Charlotte

Pam Rinckey, Care Community Chair

This congregation was founded in 1851 with 7 members in attendance in Carmel Township. In 1953, they moved to the city of Charlotte and became First Congregational Church. The first meetings were held in the courthouse with the Methodists and Congregationalists alternating by taking turns holding their services with one month in the morning and the next month as evening meetings. To better envision this, keep in mind that although the courthouse they were meeting in was located on what is still known as Courthouse Square, the actual county courthouse is the one that has been moved to the east side of Bennett Park.



The Eaton County Courthouse where the congregation held services before we had our own church building.

Back then, Charlotte was a prairie town. There were no brick buildings on Main Street and no hard-surfaced roads - not even brick covered. In fact, the state road to Lansing had just recently been completed. There were only 52 buildings in town, twelve to fifteen were houses and of the remaining, none were churches.



Rev. Walcott B. Williams

Our first Minister, Walcott B. Williams began his pastorate here in 1854, fresh out of Oberlin College. His first order of business was to raise funds to build a church to accommodate the growing congregation. Completion of the "Basswood" church was in 1855 and the congregation was saddled with the "enormous" debt of \$313. The church was located at what is now 201 West Seminary Street. The "Basswood" church received its moniker because it was constructed entirely of basswood, a light, soft, and low-density wood often used by craftsman for carving. Today, basswood is considered suitable for interior applications but not normally for exterior purposes because it rots too easily.

Reverend Williams was concerned with the location of the church at the end of Bostwick because it was "far from the main street and street lights and there was not enough travel on Bostwick Street to break the turf."

By this time, the congregation of 100 had already adapted a resolution renouncing slavery,

well before John Brown's assault at Harper's Ferry.

As the congregation continued to grow, plans were put in place to purchase land and acquire subscriptions for the building of a new church. When the plans were drawn up this church would be one of the largest in the state. The lots at the corner of Bostwick and Lawrence were purchased in the 1870s. In an 1873 article in the local newspaper, it states that crews had begun the brickwork for the back section of the church and were expected to lay 5000 bricks per week. Work was delayed a bit for the setting of the roof timbers, but in May of 1875, the timbers of the self-supporting roof and ceiling joists were in place. After many delays and shortages, the dedication for the "back" of the church was held in April 1876. This is where our Lounge is located now and where the choir practices on Wednesday evenings.



The lecture room on the first floor was to be divided into two classrooms and the upper floor contained five rooms designed for the church parlor, pastor's study, and Sabbath School classrooms. The Membership at the time was 250.

As pledges were received and monies became available, work was completed on the church auditorium, what we now call the Sanctuary. A dedication was conducted on June 22, 1880.

In the 172 years of this congregation's existence, we have had only twenty-four fulltime (settled) pastors and 6 interim pastors.

If you want to hear more, join us for our morning service on October 8 when we will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the ground breaking of our brick building located at the corner of Bostwick and Lawrence, known then as First Congregational Church, known today as First Congregational United Church of Christ of Charlotte, Michigan.



The congregation gathered for a picture in 2001 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the church itself.



All Church Bazaar 2023 **87th year!**

Amy Krizek and Mary Normand, Co-Chairs

Sponsored by the Bazaar & Women’s Fellowship Steering Committee

Together we serve ...

Friday, November 10, 9:00 am – 4:30 pm

Saturday, November 11, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

NEW!! Conversation Cafe Friday, 9:30 am – 1 pm*

NEW!! Bazaar Family DINNER: Friday, 4:30 pm – 7:00 pm*

There are LOTS of opportunities to get involved! Below is a list of the different parts of the Bazaar that all come together for a fun-fellowship-filled two days.

CRAFT Lounge

Chair: Judy Johnson 517-543-7768

- **Crafts:** Bazaar sells crafts created by individuals who donate their special handmade/homemade items. Beginning Sunday, November 3 after Church, bring anything you are willing to donate for our sale. Pricing these items by YOU is very important and appreciated.

Hospitality

Co-Chairs: Judi Cates 517-667-6659 and Pam Rinckey 517-543-2901

- **Cashiers/Baggers:** Friday, November 10, 9 am-4:30 pm, Saturday 9 am - 2 pm

Craft Sessions

Chair: Dyna Lehman 517-983-8825

- **Crafting:** Ongoing craft workshops continue on Thursday mornings 9:30am. Watch your program inserts and emails for details. Please join us for these crafting sessions.

Jewelry Shop

Co-Chairs: Lola Wilson 517-543-0049 & Sharon Oatman 517-402-3297

- **Jewelry Donations:** Vintage jewelry of all kinds is “repurposed” on this very popular Jewelry Shop. Please try to get your “gems” to Lola by the end of October for pricing.

Country Kitchen

Chair: Chris Reist 517-719-8889

- **Home Made Edible Deliciousness:** Country Kitchen sells home grown and home-baked products. Especially good are breads, pies, jams, garden produce & herbs. Bake ahead and freeze!! Members and friends drop off labeled donations in the Lounge starting Sunday, October 27.
- **COOKIES, COOKIES, Cookies!** Homemade holiday style cookies are needed! Drop off in the Annex after 3:00pm on Tuesday.

* **Conversation Cafe** Friday 9:30 am-1 pm

Chair: Jenny Bohms 517-481-0256

- Enjoy FREE coffee and relaxed conversation with other Bazaar customers and friends in the Church Lounge. Cinnamon Rolls or Turkey Croissants as a cash purchase can be enjoyed in this venue, too.

* **Bazaar Family DINNER** Friday 4:30 pm - 7 pm

Co-Chairs: Amy Krizek 517-652-1579, Mary Normand 517-543-9487

This will be our FIRST Bazaar Family dinner held in the Bess Fulton Room, Dine in or Carry out. Dinner includes choice of Entrée (Hot Chicken Salad or Signature Beef & Noodles), beverage and two sides. Add a slice of one of our seven signature homemade pies!

- **Meat Prep:** Tuesday, November 7, 1:00 pm. Workers needed to chop cooked beef/chicken.
- **Veggie Prep:** Thursday, November 9, starting at 8am, Workers needed to peel apples
- **Servers/Cashiers:** Friday, November 10, 10:30 am. (See Treasurer: Pam Rinckey 517-543-2901)

Pie Baking

Co-Chairs Mary Kohmuench 973-897-9471 and Pam Rinckey 517-543-2901

- **Pie Assembling/Baking:** Thursday, November 9, 10 am
- **Donations:** Workers and donations for pie fruit ingredients needed

Dining Room

Chair: Bill Oatman 517-543-5178

- **Set up:** Thursday, November 9. Help is needed to keep our guests served during the luncheon
- **Pie Cutting:** Friday, November 10, 3pm
- **Pour coffee; Greet friends; Serve meals:** Friday, November 10, 4:30 pm -7 pm (shifts may vary)

Dishwashing Brigade

- **Prep Crew:** Thursday November 9, 9 am - Noon
- **Dishwashers and pot scrubbers:** Friday, November 10, 4-8 pm

Publicity

Co-Chairs: Dyna Lehman 517-543-1292 & Amy Krizek 517-652-1579

- **Publicity Distribution:** Help with distribution of publicity information and menus to local businesses and organizations

Questions? Call Amy Krizek 517-652-1579 or Mary Normand 517-231-6647

Note: Funds raised from the Bazaar will be distributed primarily to local charitable organizations. Determination will be made by discussion and vote at the Annual Women's Fellowship Meeting on January 7, 11 am. The entire church is invited to attend and participate in the process.



All Church Book Read - November

Building Up a New World: Congregational Organizing for Transformative Impact

November 2, Thursday, 6 pm, Section I

November 14, Tuesday, 5 pm, Section II

November 29, Wednesday, 5 pm, Section III

Community Organizing from the Pews

The church is an organizing body. No matter how big or small the membership roll, no matter a rural or urban location, churches around the world and across generations organize people:

- to educate in Sunday school or at public lectures;
- to feed at potluck luncheons and soup kitchens;
- to comfort through funerals, visitation, and refugee resettlement;
- to uplift with worship, public witness, and policy advocacy.

There's not a congregation that doesn't organize!

But *how* to organize—effectively and justly for the transformation of the world—remains a frequently asked question. Audre Lorde wrote, "The master's tools will never dismantle the master's house," therefore community-organizing tools from diverse and marginalized groups are essential for the work of liberation.

Congregations will be invaluablely equipped through the stories, practical wisdom, and diverse perspectives of *Building Up a New World*, with chapters such as:

- Organizing Congregations for Impact
- Building a Just Economy
- Resisting White Nationalism
- From Potluck to Policy Reform
- and many more.

Praise for *Building Up a New World*

"If we really want to build a new world, this book is a map through which we will ... journey toward transformational justice for the new world we must embrace." — Patricia E. de Jong, Chair, Board of Directors, Church World Service

"Invitation, instigation, and inspiration are beautifully woven together ... to engage congregations in a movement that will settle for nothing less than a radically transformed world." —Joshua Baird, Team Leader for Global H.O.P.E.

“Building Up a New World offers the best thinking of proven movement builders who have forged new tools to build without the crucible of pain.”

—Traci Blackmon, Associate General Minister, United Church of Christ

About the Editors/Writers

Anne Dunlap is the Faith Organizing Coordinator for Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ), a UCC minister, and the founder of FierceRev Remedies.

Vahisha Hasan, the Executive Director of Movement in Faith, is deeply invested in ways activist and faith communities further healing and collective liberation.

Contributors include: Brittany Caine-Conley, Margaret Ernst, Cathy Carrillo, Noel Anderson, Nichola Torbett, Logan Rimel, Chris Davies, Tracy Howe, Sandra Summers, Teresa Mateus, Vahisha Hasan, Sekinah Hamlin, Sky Roosevelt Mooris, Jade Perry, Erica Williams, Ayanna Johnson Watkins, Lucy Waechter Webb, Marilyn Pagán-Banks, and Anne Dunlap. Foreword by Velda Love.

Early Holiday Cooking Class

Matt Slot, Organizer



Friday, October 27, 6 pm

Cost: \$25 (to cover the cost of supplies)

Partner up, bring a child or grandchild, or come as a singleton. We'll be making cookies with Amy Slot. Enjoy the Argentine treat known as Alfajores, which is a shortbread sandwich filled with dulce de leche. We will also make Ginger Jump-Ups, a sweet cookie with molasses, muscovado brown sugar, and crystallized ginger. One of these is bound to be your new favorite.

If that's not enough culinary excitement, we are planning additional classes after the holidays.

See you in the kitchen!





Fall Meeting - Zoom Only!

Covenant, Eastern, and United Northern Associations of the Michigan Conference

October 7, 2023, 9:30** to 11:30 am

Theme: Dismantling Racism Through the Lens of White Supremacy
Reverend Michael Young, Pastor, Leslie Congregational UCC, will share the sermon: "I'm Not Done Dreaming" based on John 17:21 "That They May All Be One."



Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwsf--trTkjHtQg4uzy5iXfG7id1Z3zJaxW>

**Gathering Time is 9:15 am

The Covenant Association, to which we belong, is one of 6 associations within the Michigan United Church of Christ Conference. It covers the center of the lower peninsula below Clare and above Indiana.

To help build understanding of our association, here are some pieces of knowledge:

Moderator: Rev. Dawn Christenson

Vice Moderator: Diane Thompson

Secretary: Rev. Pamela Koebel

Treasurer: Rev. Keith Koebel

Registrar: Pastor Pj Anderson

Committee on Ministry Chair: Rev. Deborah Grazier

Christian Education and Youth Ministry Advocates:

Sasha Graves-Gaskin and Rev. Eric Stricklin

Higher Education Advocate: Marian Brooks-Bryant

Stewardship Advocate: Rev. Michael Young

Justice Ministries Advocate: Marcia Johnson Chartrand

Liaison to Conference Board of Directors: Rev. Shawnthea Monroe

Covenant Association Scholarship Funding (a part of the business that will be covered)

Christian Education and Youth Ministry Grant – to support Christian education and youth ministry endeavors of local churches.

Justice Ministry & Mission Grant – to support justice ministry and mission endeavors of local churches.

MID (Member In Discernment) Scholarship – to provide financial support to Covenant Association MIDs.

N.O.W. (Need, Opportunity & Witness) Grant – to support the needs, gospel Witness and ministry opportunities of Covenant churches.

Vogel Fund – to support and promote lay ministry and lay leadership.

Congregations in our Association

Albion, Salem UCC (ONA)	Leslie, Congregational (ONA)
Ann Arbor, Bethlehem UCC (ONA)	Manchester, BethelManchester, Emanuel
Ann Arbor, Church of the Good Shepherd (ONA)	Midland, UCC (ONA)
Bay City, First UCC	Olivet, Congregational
Charlotte, First Congregational (ONA)	Ovid, United Church (ONA)
Chelsea, First Congregational (ONA)	Owosso, First Congregational
Chelsea, St. John's UCC Roger's Corners	Church (ONA)
Chelsea, St. Paul UCC (ONA)	Owosso, St. John's UCC (ONA)
Clinton, United Church of Christ	Pinckney, Community Congregational
Dexter, St. Andrews	(ONA)
Dexter, Webster UCC (ONA)	Saginaw, Countryside Trinity
East Lansing, Edgewood United (ONA)	Saginaw, First Congregational (ONA)
East Lansing, People's	Saginaw, Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran
Flint, Woodside (ONA)	Saline, St. James UCC
Grand Blanc, First Congregational UCC	Saline, St. Paul
Grand Ledge, First Congregational (ONA)	Ypsilanti, First Congregational (ONA)
Grass Lake, Federated Church of Grass Lake	
Grass Lake, St. John's UCC of Francisco	<u>Schedule II Churches:</u>
Haslett, Haslett Community Church UCC (ONA)	Ann Arbor, First Congregational
Jackson, First Congregational UCC (ONA)	
Jackson, St. John's (ONA)	<u>New Church Starts:</u>
Lansing, Pilgrim Congregational UCC (ONA)	Lansing, Space For Grace UCC
	Mt. Pleasant, The Gathering UCC

The 6 conferences in Michigan are:

Covenant Association (ours)

Detroit Metropolitan Association - The southeast section of the lower peninsula

Eastern Association - The thumb section of the lower peninsula

Grand West Association - The central section of the western lower peninsula

Southwest Association - The Southwest section of the lower peninsula, from I69 to Lake Michigan

United Northern Association - From where the great woods begin in Clare and north

For more information, including a list of churches in each association, please check out www.michucc.org.

When We Come Together . . .

Sunday Worship, 10 am In Person and on Facebook, @ucc48813 and website: ucccharlotte.org

Learning Opportunities	Meeting Times	Contact Person
Words and Tangents	Sun, 8 am, Annex/Library	Jan Shall, JanShall00@gmail.com
Godly Play	Sunday, 10:10 am	Sarah Cook, scook@uolivet.edu
Prayer Group	1st & 3rd Thur, 10:30 am Small Prayer Room	Sandra Field yourstrulycollection@hotmail.com
Pub Theology	2nd & 4th Thurs. 7 pm	Adam Droscha adam.droscha@gmail.com
Tuesday Night Study	Tues, 6:30 pm, Annex LMR	Curt Scott, CurtisJScott@hotmail.com
Music		
Choir Practice	Wednesdays, 7 pm (eff. 8/30)	Ramona Kime, Ramona.Kime@gmail.com
Committees & Groups		
Art Committee	2nd & 4th Tuesday, 11 am	Sandra Field, yourstrulycollection@hotmail.com
Blanche Moyer	2nd Monday, 6:30 pm	Judi Cates, JudithCates68@gmail.com
Commons Committee	Times Vary	Matt Slot, MattSlot@gmail.com
Communications	3rd Mon, Annex SMR	Curt Scott, CurtisJScott@hotmail.com
Prayer Shawl	1st & 3rd Sat, 9:30 am, Lounge	Amy Krizek, Mom_Krizek@hotmail.com
Social & Environmental		
Justice Committee	2nd Sun, 11:30 am, Annex LRM	Ramona Kime, RamonaKime@gmail.com
Women's Fellowship	As Needed	Mary Normand, DavidNormand@att.net



Still speaking

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
106 South Bostwick - Charlotte, MI 48813
office@uccCharlotte.org www.ucccharlotte.org

Office Hours
Tues - Wed & Fri 9am - 2pm
517 543 1310
Worship Service 10 am

Find us on
Facebook



Instagram



Full calendar details can be found
at uccCharlotte.org

October 2023

Changes to the calendar should be
submitted to office@uccCharlotte.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 6:00 All Church Book Read, Annex	4 10 am Care Community 7 pm Choir Practice	5 9 am Crafting for Bazaar 10:30 Prayer Group	6 5:00 pm Homecoming Picnic, Commons	7 9 am Prayer Shawl 9:15 am Covenant Fall-Meeting. Zoom
8 10:00 150 Year Celebration of Church Ground Breaking 11:30 Social/ Environ. Justice	9	10 11 am Art Team Meeting	11 7 pm Choir Practice	12 9 am Crafting for Bazaar 7 pm Pub Theology	13	14
15 11:30 Mission team Meeting	16	17 All Day: Bazaar Prep - Squash 6:30 Tuesday Bible/History Class	18 7 pm Choir Practice	19 9 am Crafting for Bazaar 10:30 Prayer Group 6 pm Council	20 5:00 pm Installation Ceremony for Rev. Dr. Karen Thompson, Sanctuary	21 9 am Prayer Shawl 4 pm I'll Be Your Rock Party
22 11:30 Worship Team Meeting	23 1 pm, Blanche Moyer, Chris Reist-Rush's home 5-7 pm Almost Midnight Madness	24 11 am Art Team Meeting 6:30 Tuesday Bible/History Class	25 7 pm Choir Practice	26 9 am Crafting for Bazaar 7 pm Pub Theology	27 6:00 pm Cooking Class: Amy Slot teaching	28 9 am - 3 pm, Michigan Conference Annual Fall Meeting, Plymouth UCC in Grand Rapids
29	30 6:30 Communications Meeting, Annex	31 6:30 Tuesday Bible/History Class				