

## **First Union Church in Cedarville, Michigan**

Cedarville is a small resort town in Michigan's Eastern Upper Peninsula. Cedarville and the neighboring town of Hessel make up the Les Cheneaux (Lay Shen o') area.

The 36 Les Cheneaux Islands stretch along 17 unique, pristine miles of the north shore of Lake Huron. The islands, channels, bays, and sheltered harbors have made the area a desirable boating destination enjoyed by seasonal and year-round residents for generations.

The year-round population of Clark Township (Cedarville and Hessel) is listed at 2200. This number more than doubles during the summer season. Boating, swimming, and fishing are popular summer activities. Snowmobiling, hunting, and ice-fishing are enjoyed in winter. Birding, hiking, and cycling draw enthusiasts as well.

This vibrant community includes people with diverse interests and backgrounds. Descendants of Native Americans and French voyageurs from the 1700s inhabit the area along with those drawn by the area's beauty and a slower pace of life.

The Antique Wooden Boat Show and Festival of Arts annually draws 10,000 people to the area. Resident and tourist support of this event benefit the Les Cheneaux Historical and Maritime Museums. Accredited degrees are offered through the Great Lakes Boat Building School and Les Cheneaux Culinary School. Les Cheneaux Community Library and the Hessel School House provide meeting space and educational opportunities to the extended area. Les Cheneaux Community Schools (K-12 school) has long been recognized for academic, arts, and sports excellence. Les Cheneaux Arts Council and Les Cheneaux Area Artisan Cooperative represent the large number of artisans.

Our youngest children are served by a local preschool. Many of our senior citizens find a comfortable home in Cedar Cove Assisted Living, which offers independent living, memory care services, and respite and short-term care. The Cedar Post Thrift Shop, operated by local churches, provides emergency food and goods for citizens in need.

The Les Cheneaux Area Chamber of Commerce lists 125 businesses (<http://www.lescheneaux.net/directory>). The area has a town-owned public use airport, two public marinas and multiple private marinas, as well as public docking, several parks and nature preserves, two golf courses, a public beach, and multiple resort cottages.

Numerous nonprofit organizations serve the area, such as the Les Cheneaux Community Foundation, Lions Club, Snowmobile Club, Beautification Committee, Watershed Council, Little Traverse Conservancy, Islands Wildlife Association and Islands Association.

First Union Church has been a beacon at the center of it all for 125 years.