

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
PO Box 892
Cadillac, MI 49601

“The Tie that Binds”

APRIL 2014

Newsletter of the First Congregational UCC
Cadillac, MI

Rev. Dr. G. Forrest Hoppe, Interim Pastor

Margie Annis, Music Director

Penny Phelps, Church Treasurer

Rachel Whiteman, Church Clerk

Church service is Sunday morning 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School and childcare available.

The church is open on **Wednesdays** from 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

The pastor is available then and other times by appointment.

Church phone: (231) 775-7632. Rev Hoppe's Cell: 614-746-4998

Pastor email: pastor@firstcongcadillac.org

Office email: office@firstcongcadillac.org

Web Site: www.firstcongcadillac.org



APRIL 2014

The Tie That Binds



First Congregational United Church of Christ
Cadillac, Michigan

A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

We are more than half way through the Lenten season and rapidly approaching Easter. I have not talked with anyone in the past couple of weeks who is not eagerly anticipating the coming of spring weather and not just a date on the calendar. This has been an unusual Lent with our worshiping on Sunday in the Fellowship Hall rather than the Sanctuary because of the issues with the ceiling. We do not know how much longer we will be on the lower level, it is very possible that we will celebrate Easter down there.

To some of us this may be a time of disappointment or even discouragement. We are anxious about not knowing when we are going to get back into the sanctuary, how much the repair might cost and if it seems too costly, how will the congregation ever pay for it?

As we approach Easter, I think it is a good time to be dealing with these challenges.

I had been the pastor of the church I served in Princeton, Minnesota less than a year when we had a fire in the church building on Tuesday afternoon of Holy Week. The Fire burned a hole in the roof and through the front wall of the sanctuary, caused major water damage to the sanctuary and basement and filled the entire building with thick smoke. We obviously would not be worshipping there for a while. People immediately began to wonder what was the future of the church? Could it survive?

The church was in a fragile financial condition. I was the first full time pastor in over 10 years. The congregation and I each had taken a major leap of faith when I was called. Now we were going to be out of the building for an undetermined amount of time and facing significant repair costs. Some wondered if the church could survive. Was this a "sign" that the church should close?

We held our Easter morning service in the sanctuary of the United Methodist Church, squeezed in between their two services. I remember preaching about how the disciples who were so discouraged on Good Friday that they abandoned Jesus but were transformed and energized after Easter morning. I said we had the possibility of having this be a "good fire" if we lived our faith as an Easter people. That congregation is still engaged in ministry 40 years after that Holy Week fire.

So let us not lose hope. We do not know the future but we know who holds the future. We have the resources of our faith as an Easter people as we deal with the challenges that our building is presenting to us.

Shalom,
Forrest

Holy Week Services

April 17 we will have a special **Maundy Thursday service** around the tables in the fellowship hall at **6:30 p.m.** We will celebrate the last supper, using some elements of the celebration of Passover. The service will close with a service of Tenebrae (shadows) to remember the betrayal, desertion and arrest of Jesus on the eve of his crucifixion.

Good Friday Cross Walk

The Cadillac Area Ministerial Association is again sponsoring a Good Friday Cross Walk on **April 18th**. The Cross Walk begins at the **Rotary Pavilion** at **6:00 p.m.** and will walk to the United Methodist Church arriving at 7:00 p.m. for an hour of worship inside the sanctuary. The Stations of the Cross will be the focus of the Walk and worship.

Penny's Surprise 75th Birthday Party



Many thanks to Karen Anderson and Pat McCurdy for covertly organizing a surprise party to celebrate Penny Phelps' amazing contribution to this community and church. The theme of the party was Penny's bucket list dream to go to Bermuda. Everybody enjoyed themselves with fun and food and ukuleles and island atmosphere.



Spring is here!

Well, maybe not meteorological "spring," but at least UNA spring... The **Spring 2014 Association Council meeting** will take place **on Saturday, April 26th** at the **Charlevoix First Congregational Church**.

The program will focus on a series of spiritual explorations referred to as "Faith Practices," and include such topics as "Blessing and Letting Go," "Giving and Receiving Hospitality," and "Working for Justice."

Our UNA representatives are Sara Keinath and Al Snyder, but we hope others will want to attend. The registration fee is \$15, which includes lunch.

If we're lucky, by April 26th the snow may be gone and signs of spring may be evident along the road to Charlevoix – please join us for this important meeting. For more information, check with Penny Phelps.

Heads Up!

If you've been thinking about getting all your important papers together and having a serious talk with your family, you definitely want to mark your calendars for **May 10th**. That Saturday the church is sponsoring an **End of Life Workshop**. All the separate pieces of organizing and sharing your wishes with others will be brought together at one time. Leading the various discussions will be estate lawyer Ed Van Alst, funeral directors Ross and Megan Vanderwal, pastor Forrest Hoppe, Pat Ponczek (Porter), and Kelly McCann. Lunch will be served.

More details will be available in a few weeks.

About those lilies...

The annual form for ordering Easter lilies was included in the March newsletter and is included here as well. In the meantime, we have hastily moved our worship services to Fellowship Hall because of the sagging ceiling in the sanctuary. The board is working on obtaining repair estimates and an "OK" from an engineer before we move upstairs, and at this point it's clear that the problem cannot be fixed before Easter. Under the circumstances it doesn't seem sensible to order forty to fifty lilies, so we have a new plan: if you wish to honor or memorialize loved ones, please send in a lily order as usual. When we get closer to Easter, we will order one spectacular plant to represent all the wishes of the congregation and include the names of all the contributors in the bulletin, but the funds contributed will all go to the ceiling fund to help pay for the restoration.



Church Tee Shirt Sale

Inspired by Pat McCurdy's church-themed St. Patrick's Day tee shirt, prepaid orders are being taken this month for silkscreened "1st Church" tee shirts! Short sleeve tees are \$10, long sleeve \$15 (There is an extra \$2 for 2XL and \$3 for 3XL). Shirts are available in light gray, pale blue, or "sight" green for high visibility while biking or jogging.

Small navy letters in three lines are used on the left chest to say: Cadillac 1st Congregational Church.

Written across the back, in much larger letters, is U. C. C. (in bold letters), then a space followed by two lines reading: Rainbow Friendly, F U N LOVING.

For more information contact Diane Jobson at [231-775-7367](tel:231-775-7367). Orders and money for tee shirts will not be accepted after April 30th. If you can't make it to church before the end of the month, however, orders & checks can be mailed to Diane at her home address: 555 Bramblewood Dr. Cadillac, MI 49601. Checks should be made out to 1st Congregational UCC Church, Cadillac.

Michigan Conference UCC Vitality Day

Seven representative of our congregation attended the Vitality Day workshop on "Tools for Transition" in Grand Rapids in March. Pictured with our group is Rev Dr William Lyons, the keynote speaker for the day.



EVENTS

Easter Sunrise



The smell of Lilies is in the air again – must be time for the First Congregational's **3rd Annual "Easter Sunrise Breakfast" (Sunday April 20th)**. All of the activities will begin at **9:00am** in fellowship hall. We'll start with a breakfast spread, all of your favorites! Again this year we invite everyone to participate in the fashion event of the year - our Easter Bonnet contest. There will be a prize for each of the largest, the most colorful, and the most traditional. New this year, to encourage those guys too shy to wear a bonnet, we will include an Easter Boutonniere contest. Also for the kids an Easter egg hunt and other games. The Easter church service will begin at its regularly scheduled time - 10:30am. So plan on coming and joining your congregational family members for a hearty breakfast, warm friendship, and moments of inspiration. (There will be no fellowship hour after church service on April 20th.)

Pancake Breakfast

Because of the still-frozen sewer pipe going from the kitchen, the pancake brunch has been postponed till after it thaws.....



CAMA Lenten Breakfasts



breakfast

The Cadillac Area Ministerial Association is again hosting Wednesday morning Lenten Breakfasts. The breakfasts start at 7:00 am and include singing, prayer and a brief meditation. They end by 7:50 am so you can get to work or onto your other business for the day. A freewill offering is received for the meal. The remaining schedule of locations and speakers is:

| | | |
|----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| April 2 | First Christian Church | Will Markham, Speaker |
| April 9 | United Methodist Church | Scott Torkko, Speaker |
| April 16 | Cadillac Revival Center | Judy Coffey, Speaker |

"The Gathering" UCC Women of Michigan

SING A NEW SONG!



UCC WOMEN OF MICHIGAN

Cordially invite you to:

THE GATHERING
JUNE 6, 7, 8 2014

KETTUNEN CENTER
TUSTIN, MICHIGAN

For details speak to Donna Debney, or see flyers in Fellowship Hall.



COMMUNITY

Transition Cadillac



This year's Earth Day Event will be held at the Rotary Pavilion on **April 27th 2-5pm**. Come and enjoy music by Seth Bernard and the Earthwork musicians. This year's garden registrations are in association with Senior Green – Grow a Row for seniors in the community, and a new scheme called "Garden Match" where budding gardeners who have extra garden space are matched with people who can come and grow produce and share it with the land owner in return.

LoveINC

Love INC welcomes a new side door ministry and we need your help. Rollins Christian Fellowship Church Women's Ministry is hoping to provide formal wear and special occasion dresses to girls ages 13-18 years of age, from low to moderate income families in Wexford County who could not otherwise afford to purchase them. This will be accomplished by direct contact through Love INC referrals to *Rollins Dress Boutique Ministry*. All dresses will be on a loan basis and free of charge. *The Dress Boutique Ministry* is now accepting donations for dresses size 0-32 in order to build stock before opening their doors. If you have a gently used, clean dress or accessories you would be willing to donate, please call the Love INC office at 779-1888 for drop off location and time.

MISSIONS

Diane Jobson

Our Mission Targets for April: Love INC & Higher Ground

Hundreds of locally needy people are helped every year by Love In the Name of Christ— primarily by making referrals. The referrals are made to a wide variety of governmental agencies, local charitable organizations, to local churches, church pantries, or by calling on church volunteers to provide a service. Some of the services provided by church volunteers may include minor home repairs, a ride to a medical appointment, a friendly visit to a shut-in, or perhaps construction of a ramp for someone who is handicapped. Love INC offers its church volunteers a wide variety of ways to actively demonstrate Christ's love to people who are less fortunate.

Love Inc, and the federal Department of Human Services, have created the Higher Ground Life-Skills Program. This is our church's second target this month. Higher Ground is designed to teach important skills like nutrition, parenting, etc. to some of the clients shared by both agencies. When the program was first offered, it was a only a six week program in Wexford County offered one night a week at a local church. The program was so well received, however, that now the are classes offered twice a year in three separate locations. This month, the mission committee is asking that you consider making two donations:
A monetary donation to Love INC's ministry
A donation of toilet paper for the Higher Ground program. There will be a marked laundry basket downstairs for your donation. An explanation regarding this request will be given during the mission moment on Sunday April 6th.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Beth England

Summary of March 19, 2014 Meeting -

- There was a meeting on March 9th with new members. There were questions regarding their selection of this church. Pastor feels it went well.
- Our Missions Committee is on track through the summer.
- ONA will be attending Gay Pride parade in Grand Rapids - Saturday June 14th.
- The Search Committee has completed one interview via Skype and has another scheduled for April 9th.
- Free Breakfast for the Stehouwer Free Clinic will be rescheduled.

Next meeting Wednesday April 17, 2014 @ 6:30 PM

Treasurer's Report

Summary Financial Report as of 2/28/14

Penny Phelps

| | |
|---|----------|
| 2014 Budget | \$99,550 |
| Portion of Budget to come from Reserve | 10,000 |
| Portion of Budget to come from General Fund | 89,500 |
| Average Monthly Expenses (\$89,500/12) | 7,462 |

| Month | Income | Expenses | Balance | Accum. Deficit |
|-------|---------|----------|----------|----------------|
| Jan. | \$2,406 | \$10,185 | -\$7,779 | \$7,779 |
| Feb. | 7,877 | 5,268 | + 2,609 | 5,170 |

As you can see from these figures, the budget took quite a hit in January, mostly because there was no worship service on the last Sunday of the month. Most folks have made up for that in February. Knowing that we are facing some expensive repairs to the sanctuary ceiling, I hope members and friends will think seriously about how we can both support the budget and provide for this extraordinary expense.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

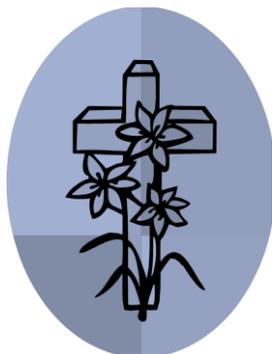
Prayer List

Please hold these members, friends, and family in prayer: **Dorothy Campbell, Brian Belleville, Margaret Leemon, Ruth Pitts, Adam Keinath, Aaron Eckert, Ruth & John Wimpler, Miguel Monge, Terry Oss, Jim & Sharon Thompson, Dorothy Kunkel, Bill Bryan, Lewiston Congregational UCC**

PASTORAL CARE

- Rev. Forrest Hoppe is normally in Cadillac on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. But pastoral emergencies are not limited to these days. The Rev. Paul Tomlinson, pastor at the Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Ed Gilbert, chaplain at Mercy Hospital, have agreed to respond to pastoral emergencies when Forrest is not available. If you have a pastoral emergency on days when Forrest is not in town, please call Diane Jobson (**775-7367 or 920-8764**), chair of the Care and Nurture committee. If you are unable to contact Diane, call Penny Phelps (775-4069). Diane or Penny will contact a pastor.

Due to HIPAA privacy rules, hospitals do not notify pastors when parishioners are hospitalized. When in doubt, please assume the pastor is unaware of a hospitalization and pass the word along.



Spring is here...

So it must be Easter Lily Time!

Nothing is more appealing than to see the cross filled with white Easter lilies. If you wish to contribute one or more plants, please fill in the form below and either bring it to church or mail it to the church at P. O. Box 892. Deadline **April 13th**.

Easter Lily Order

I/We _____ (name)

wish to order _____ (number) Easter Lilies at \$8 each.

In memory/honor (circle one) of _____.

Enclosed is my/our payment of \$_____.

Sunday Morning Schedule for April 2014

| Date | Usher/ Greeters | Liturgist | Fellowship Hour | | Sexton | Preacher |
|--------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|---|
| APR 6 | Karma Chapo & Donna Debney | Tom Jobson | <i>Birth-day Sunday</i> | Al Snyder & Steve Jackson | Linda Baynes | Pastor Forrest |
| APR 13 | Linda Baynes & Penny Phelps | Robin Corbin | Joyce Oatley & Troy Knight | | Penny Phelpps | Pastor Forrest Mission Moment Diane Jobson |
| APR 20 | Sandy & Dave Gaunt | Laura Porter | Easter – NO FELLOWSHIP HOUR | | Dave Gaunt | Pastor Forrest |
| APR 27 | TBA | Charlotte Barfield | Claypools & C. Barfield | | Robin Corbin | Pastor Forrest |

Fellowship Hour – Looking Ahead

| | | | |
|--------|------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| MAY 4 | Karen Anderson & Milinda Cuddeback | JUN 1 | Karma Chapo & Linda Baynes |
| MAY 11 | Sara Keinath & Linda Johnson | JUN 8 | Laura Porter & Kelly McCann |
| MAY 18 | Diane Jobson & Richard Harvey | | |
| MAY 25 | Pat McCurdy & Penny Phelps | | |

APRIL 2013 *Non-Church activities that occur in the church.

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|--|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|
| | | <u>1</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am | <u>2</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm 5pm Book Study | <u>3</u> *Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm | <u>4</u> *Jazz. 8:30am | <u>5</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am |
| <u>6</u> Worship 10:30 am Communion | <u>7</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm *7pm Symphony Board | <u>8</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am GALLEY 7pm | <u>9</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm 5pm Book Study | <u>10</u> *Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm | <u>11</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am | <u>12</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am *Transition 1-3pm |
| <u>13</u> Worship 10:30 am | <u>14</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm | <u>15</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am | <u>16</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm 5pm Book Study BoT 6:30pm | <u>17</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am 5:45 pm | <u>18</u> *Jazz. 8:30am 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Service | <u>19</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am |
| <u>20</u> Worship 10:30 am EASTER SONRISE | <u>21</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm | <u>22</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am GALLEY 7pm | <u>23</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm Newsletter items due | <u>24</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am 5:45 pm | <u>25</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am | <u>26</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am |
| <u>27</u> Worship 10 :30 am NOISY OFFERING | <u>28</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm | <u>29</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am | <u>30</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm | | | |