



MAY 2014

The Tie That Binds

**First Congregational United Church of Christ
Cadillac, Michigan**



A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Last month I shared some of the experience of the Holy Week fire at the First Congregational UCC of Princeton MN. This month, in the spirit of Paul Harvey, I want to "tell the rest of the story." An active member of the church served as the "general contractor" and much of the work was done by members of the church. There were some initial rough spots with Cliff, the general contractor, because he wanted to make some decisions without the authorization/consent of the congregation. After a difficult session when I had to remind him that we had a congregational polity and that the major decisions needed to be approved by the membership, we worked together well. He had a strong incentive to get the work completed quickly as his son was scheduled to have his wedding in September and he wanted the restoration of the sanctuary completed so the service could be held in the church.

The congregation came together in remarkable ways. Many, many volunteer hours in clean up, demolition and reconstruction were contributed. I especially remember one hot Saturday in June when we had to tear out the wood basement floor which had been ruined by the water sitting on it. It was hot dirty work and it was the first time in any member's memory that the pastor provided beer in the basement. Because of all the hours given and the generous financial support, we were able to complete the remodeling and restoration in time to hold the September wedding in the sanctuary. The building was greatly improved from what it had been before the fire, new furnace and electrical system, better insulation, new paint all over and two very nice offices.

All this was exciting. The major downside was that the congregation spent so much physical and emotional energy, as well as financial resources, in the re construction, that they lost focus and forgot the purpose of the church in the community. The building became the primary concern and they had no energy left for the ministry the building could host and the mission beyond the four walls.

I share this long story as a caution to our congregation. We have some major challenges with our historic building and will be facing difficult choices when we have all the cost estimates for the necessary fixes. My concern is that you do not spend so much of your energy and resources on the building that you forget that the church is not the building, but the people. Our purpose is not to maintain a building, as beautiful and historic as ours is, but to worship God, work to share the Good News with as many people as possible so lives are transformed and to help usher in the reign of God.

You are a vital yet fragile community of faith. I pray that the issues with the building do not cause you to forget the purposes to which the church is called.

Shalom,
Forrest

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Jan and Bill Juengel have transferred their membership to the Luther Church of Christ. The Luther church is a member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) which is an ecumenical partner of the United Church of Christ.

Christine Barton has reunited with the Roman Catholic Church and is worshipping at St Anne's. The Roman Catholic Church was her first spiritual home as a child. This decision by Christine means her Ordained Ministerial Standing in the United Church of Christ is dropped and she is no longer an Authorized Minister in the UCC.

We wish Bill, Jan and Christine well in their new churches and pray these decisions will be a blessing to them and their new faith communities.

SOCIAL NETWORKING

Did you know that we have a Facebook page? Click on the "Like" button to get updates about what's happening at First Congregational Church!

Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/firstcongcadillac>

EVENTS

Marge Glander's Retirement

Sunday, May 4 we will celebrate Marge Glander's retirement as our organist. Marge will be playing during the worship service and there will be a special meal following worship to recognize Marge's many contributions to the worship life and fellowship of our church. Please plan to be in worship on May 4 and remain for a meal to recognize and give thanks to Marge for her 10 years of service to our church.



End of Life Workshop

Saturday May 10 our church is sponsoring an **End of Life Workshop** from **9:00 am to 2:00 pm**. 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.

The workshop is open to members of the community.

NAVIGATING THE JOURNEY: End of Life Workshop

Saturday May 10th 9am-2pm

**First Congregational Church
200 Harris Street, Cadillac**



- Estate planning
- Funeral arrangements
- Hospice information
- Creating a "notebook" of key documents
- Facing the first week
- Planning a service

Luncheon will be served. Suggested donation \$7.
For more information call Penny Phelps on 775-4069.



Pancake Breakfast

The next pancake brunch will be held on **June 21st**.

The Gathering

UCC Women of Michigan flock to The Kettunen Center again this year on June 6th, 7th and 8th. This is a great opportunity to network, learn, craft, pray and sing together in a fabulous woodland/lakeside setting. Come to the whole weekend or just part of it as you are able.

Application forms are available in Fellowship Hall, or request by email at office@firstcongcadillac.org. Please note that applications after May 20th will incur a late fee.

SING A NEW SONG!



UCC WOMEN OF MICHIGAN

Cordially invite you to:

THE GATHERING

JUNE 6, 7, 8 2014

KETTUNEN CENTER
TUSTIN, MICHIGAN

COMMUNITY

Rotary Auction

What: Cadillac Rotary Auction
When: April 26, 2014
Where: Cherry Grove Event Center
located at 5676 E. M-55 Cadillac, MI



The Rotary Auction will be held on **Saturday April 26, 2014 from 7:00PM to 10:00PM** for the Cadillac Rotary Auction - Cotillion for the Pavilion, Act II. This event will be held at the new Cherry Grove Event Center located at 5676 E. M-55, Cadillac, Michigan. The evening will feature both live and silent auctions along with special door prizes to be awarded throughout the evening.

Tickets are \$50.00 each. These tickets will also enter you for a chance to win various door prizes to be given away throughout the evening of the auction.

New Hope Shelter Banquet

New Hope Shelter will hold its spring banquet to **Saturday, May 3rd** at the Cadillac Christian Reformed Church. The times are also changed: punch bowl will begin at **5pm**, dinner - a delicious pasta buffet - will be served at 5:30, and the program will begin at 6:00 and wrap up around 7:00. Tickets are \$20/person. Please contact Brenda Wright at [231-468-2022](tel:231-468-2022) to purchase tickets or if you have any questions.

Golf Outing

Love In the Name of Christ (Love INC) will hold their 5th Annual Golf Outing on **Friday, May 16** at the Cadillac Country Club. Registration begins at **12 noon** and the shot gun start is 1:00 pm. The cost is \$75.00 per person/ \$300.00 per team. Please call 231-779-1888 to register. Love INC is one of the local ministries that we support.



Inter-Church Golf League

Would you like to golf regularly this summer with a great group of people from your community? Then please join the *Community Inter-Church Golf League* which plays at the Eldorado Golf Course on Thursdays each week. Cost is \$35 for dues and \$13.00 for nine holes walking and cart for \$5.00. Men, women and youth are all welcome! Contact Ken Nydam @ kjnydam@gmail.com or [231-942-8455](tel:231-942-8455) ASAP. Start date is **May 8**

Transition Cadillac Earth Day Celebration April 27th



EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

FREE Kick-off Event for "Grow A Row" and "Garden Match"

Sunday April 27
2-5 PM

Cadillac Rotary Pavilion*

FREE Garden Sign with Registration



Live Music with *Seth Bernard and Earthwork Collective*

Garden Demonstrations, Local Vendors, Activities for All Ages

*In case of inclement weather event will be held at the Cadillac Senior Center.

For more information : www.transitioncadillac.org



UPDATE about Grow a Row:

Some people have asked about registering their garden for Grow a Row if they live outside of Cadillac. **YES, of course you CAN!!!** You can drop produce from your ROW off at your local Senior Center, Food Pantry, or other willing recipient.

Note that eventually, the vision for the Senior Green Project is to have distributions sights in several more communities. Right now the hub is in Cadillac at the Senior Center. If you live in Cadillac, you can drop off your produce for Senior Green at the Senior Center on Lake Cadillac. If you live outside of Cadillac, you can commit to drop of your produce at an appropriate sight in your local area.

If you can, in some way, be instrumental in establishing a distribution sight in your area, **PLEASE** let us know at transitioncadillac.org!! Please see our website for updates regarding when more Senior Green distribution sights are established. Also, see our website for upcoming events, workshops and the fall harvest gathering date.

Register online now or at our Earth Day Celebration. DON'T FORGET TO PICK UP YOUR SIGN that day!!!

8th Annual Art Walk



Art Walk & Meet the Artist - **May 1-16, 2014** in Downtown Cadillac. Various Cadillac Area Artists are showcasing their talents in Downtown Cadillac Businesses. 'Meet the Artist' **on May 9th, (Mother's Day Weekend) from 3pm - 8pm**

MISSIONS

Strengthen The Church

This special mission offering of the United Church of Christ supports programs

- Funding [new church starts](#) and invigorating existing congregations
- Nurturing lay and pastoral leadership
- Building [youth and young adult ministries](#)
- Supporting the [God is Stillspeaking Ministry](#) and its extravagant welcome for all within the United Church of Christ.

Members of the United Church of Christ are encouraged to give to this offering through local UCC congregations

Karma Chapo



Invest IN THE **Vision**
STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Beth England

Summary of April Meeting:

- Pastor will be gone May 18th and 19th.
- Treasurers Report shows we are on track with our budget.
- Children will be receiving a snack each week during Sunday school.
- The Search Committee has received 2 more applications.

Next Meeting May 21st 6:30pm

TREASURER'S REPORT

Penny Phelps

Summary Financial Report as of 3/31/14

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

<u>Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Accum. Deficit</u>
Jan.	\$2,406	\$10,185	-\$7,779	\$7,779
Feb.	7,877	5,268	+ 2,609	5,170
Mar.	6,364	12,445	- 6,081	11,251

Once again in March, our expenses far exceeded our income. Each quarter we can anticipate higher expenses for insurance and the pastor's health insurance, plus the extended bitter winter has resulted in higher than average gas bills. Consequently, the accumulated deficit is building.

At this point, the board of trustees is still working on gathering information about how to proceed with the ceiling repair. We are consulting with an engineer as to the best way to fix the sagging corner and secure the whole ceiling for the future. When we get his approval for a specific plan, we will then seek bids for the work involved. You can be sure that we will keep everyone apprised of the costs and any proposals for raising the necessary funds.

In the meantime, please make every effort to keep up your pledges, and above all, remember what we are about as a church. Pastor Forrest has reminded us of that in his article this month.

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 Wimmler, Miguel Monge, Terry Oss, Jim & Sharon Thompson, Dorothy Kunkel, Bill Bryan, First Congregational UCC Manistee**

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 chair of the Care and Nurture committee. If you are unable to contact Diane, call Penny). 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.

Sunday Morning Schedule for May 2014

Date	Usher/ Greeters	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour		Sexton	Preacher
MAY 4	Al Snyder & Steve Jackson	Todd Elkins	<i>Birth-day Sunday</i>	Karen Anderson & Milinda Cuddeback	Carol Nilsson	Pastor Forrest
MAY 11	Carol & Jerry Nilsson	Ann Lockwood	Sara Keinath & Linda Johnson		Sara Keinath	Pastor Forrest Mission Moment Karma
MAY 18	Laura Jacobson & Sam Pentces	Sue Wachowski	Diane Jobson & Richard Harvey		Sue Wachowski	TBA
MAY 25	Gert & Sperry Claypool	Joyce Oatley	Pat McCurdy & Penny Phelps		Sperry Claypool	Pastor Forrest

Fellowship Hour – Looking Ahead

JUNE 1	Karma Chapo & Linda Baynes
JUNE 8	Laura Porter & Kelly McCann

MAY 2013 *Non-Church activities that occur in the church.						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<u>1</u> *Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>2</u> *Jazz. 8:30am	<u>3</u> *Jazz.8:30 am
<u>4</u> Worship 10:30 am Communion	<u>5</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm *7pm Symphony Board	<u>6</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>7</u> *Jazz.5:45 pm Choir 7pm	<u>8</u> *Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>9</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>10</u> *Jazz.8:30 am 10am-2pm End of Life Workshop
<u>11</u> Worship 10:30 am	<u>12</u> *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>13</u> *Jazz.8:30 am GALLEY 7pm	<u>14</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm Choir 7pm	<u>15</u> *Jazz.8:30 am 5:45 pm	<u>16</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>17</u> *Jazz.8:30 am
<u>18</u> Worship 10:30 am	<u>19</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>20</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am	<u>21</u> *Jazz.5:45 pm BoT 6:30 pm Newsletter items due Choir 7pm	<u>22</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am 5:45 pm	<u>23</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>24</u> *Jazz.8:30 am
<u>25</u> Worship 10 :30 am Noisy offering	<u>26</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>27</u> *Jazz.8:30 am GALLEY 7pm	<u>28</u> *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>29</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am 5:45 pm	<u>30</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>31</u> *Jazz.8:30 am