

**JUNE 2014**

## *The Tie That Binds*

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



### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR**

This will be the last Pastor's article I write for the Tie that Binds. My time as your interim pastor is quickly coming to an end. My final Sunday in the pulpit will be June 29<sup>th</sup>. The last 16 months have been a wonderful time for me, both professionally and personally. After 17 years as an Association Minister it has been a great way to "complete the circle" of my active, ordained ministry by being back serving as the pastor of a Local Church. Your support, encouragement and friendship are greatly appreciated. You have welcomed me and Shari (and also Charlie the "church dog") into your lives. We have experienced the extravagant welcome and radical hospitality of the church in many profound ways. Thank you!

As I complete my interim ministry with you, the primary tasks that the Board of Trustees and I identified in January 2013 have been addressed. I believe the congregation has a very different perspective and climate then it did when I first arrived. I said in my "State of Church" sermon on the Sunday of the Annual Meeting of the congregation, that I believed the church to be healthy, vital and fragile. I continue to use these descriptors for your common life together.

I continue to see signs of vitality in the life of the church. The new raised beds going in on the west side of entrance ramp are symbolic of the vitality of the church. They say to all, both church members and the greater community, in a very real and visible way, that this church is about growth and service. A church with no vitality or vision for the future would not be putting in raised beds on the church lawn or thoughtfully considering how to best repair a damaged sanctuary ceiling.

The last couple of months have been challenging with the cracked and sagging ceiling in the sanctuary. We discovered we can worship in the lower level and not be too distracted by a "stairway to heaven" in the front corner of the sanctuary. The ceiling issues have reminded us some of the strengths of the congregation – flexibility and resiliency.

The church continues to be fragile. The financial challenges are real. The deficit in the general operating fund and the still unknown costs of repairing the sanctuary ceiling are very significant issues that must be addressed now.

In an ideal world, you would be planning to welcome a new called pastor soon after I leave the end of June. That is not going to happen. Instead you will be welcoming another supply or interim pastor. Please do not be disappointed in the way this is playing out. You have selected an effective and faithful search committee that is working very diligently to recommend the best possible person to be your next called pastor. And I believe they will accomplish their goal. Please keep the members of the search committee in your thoughts and prayers and express your appreciation for their service.

Again thank you for the opportunity to share ministry with you as your interim pastor. May God's richest blessings be upon you.

Shalom, Forrest

### **Multi-generational "Peace Garden"**

We are looking for volunteers to tend the vegetable garden this Summer. Thanks to the Noisy Offering funds, we have purchased a multi-level raised bed system, which has now been put together with lots of rich dirt! For those who have a green thumb, (or maybe don't!), you may sign up on the sheet at the back of the church. We will share the produce with local seniors, and use some for salads for Fellowship Hour.



## Sunday School

The last day of Sunday school will be Memorial Weekend. At the beginning of the service on **May 25<sup>th</sup>**, we will have awards for the children, and then they will leave to go outside for games, so *please find parking other than in the parking lot beside the church.*

After this week, we won't be meeting again till September. Nursery will be available for children aged 5 and under during the summer months, and older children will be expected to remain in the sanctuary for the whole service. During Fellowship Hour till 12.30pm, the Sunday School room will be available for kids to hang out together.



## Rev. Harold Hodgson's 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party



Rev. Harold Hodgson's 99<sup>th</sup> birthday party was held at Curry House. Family and friends gathered to give tribute to a man who has accomplished so much in a lifetime. Harold wrote a short article for the Cadillac News about how life has changed over the last 99 years – see link [here](#).



## Remembering Clarice Bryan

On **Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>, at 11:30am, in Fellowship Hall**, there will be a time of sharing memories of Clarice Bryan, who was such an important part of our church for so many years. Clarice's family, including her brother John, who is coming from Australia, will gather to visit, tell stories, and enjoy a luncheon. Please come and be part of the community that has such fond memories of Clarice.

## Ruth Wimmler

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Ruth Wimmler a long-time member of the church, on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May,. Condolences to her family, including her son, John Wimmler, who has been bringing Ruth to church services here over recent years.

There will be a service of remembrance on **Wednesday May 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm**, with a luncheon afterwards. Visitation at the church from 11am.

## EVENTS

### Pancake Breakfast

The next pancake brunch, in aid of the Stehouwer free clinic, will be held on **June 21<sup>st</sup> from 10am -12 noon**. This event is open to the community, so bring your friends!

### Marge Glander's Retirement

#### The Party is on!

In May we had to postpone our celebration of Marge Glander's ten years as our organist because Bill Glander developed pneumonia. Well, Bill has recovered and it's time to celebrate. Please join us for a special dinner on **Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, following worship**. It will be a fine time to greet Marge and express our thanks and appreciation for her wonderful musicianship. Don't miss it!



## Pancake Brunch

June 21st 2014

10:00am to noon

This brunch is to support the  
**Stehouwer Free Clinic.**

All proceeds go to the clinic.  
Please donate generously.



At **First Congregational Church**, 200 Harris Street, Cadillac  
(Across from the Post Office)



## Open and Affirming

Wednesday night, **May 28**, we will be hosting a community meeting for those who are interested in supporting a non-discrimination ordinance for the city of Cadillac that would include sexual orientation and gender identity. Please invite your friends and neighbors to these meeting as we begin to develop support for a non-discrimination ordinance. The meeting will begin at **7:00 pm**

Gay Pride weekend is **June 14 and 15**. The First Congregational Church UCC of Cadillac will be participating in the Grand Rapids Pride Parade on the Saturday. We will be joining with St. John's United Church of Christ in Grand Rapids. We will also share a table with St. John's UCC on Calder Plaza.

If would like to be a part of the First Congregational contingent, meet at the church at 8:45 am to car pool to Grand Rapids. The plan is to leave promptly at **9:00 am**. The parade begins at noon and is less than a mile in length.

Sunday morning, **June 15<sup>th</sup>**, we will have Pride worship service. The service will feature participants from the LGBT community and remind us and the community that we are an Open and Affirming Church that extends an extravagant welcome to all of God's children.

## COMMUNITY

### Electronics Recycling Event

On Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup>, old electronics equipment can be dropped off for recycling, at Cadillac Christian Reformed Church, 1110 E Division St.

### Footliters



Music and lyrics by Dolly Parton

Book by Patricia Resnick

Based on the 20th Century Fox Picture originally produced on Broadway by Robert Greenblatt, April 2009

Performances

**7:30 p.m. - June 6, 7, 13, 14**

**2:00 p.m. - June 14**

Cadillac High School Auditorium

Tickets

\$12 in advance from Brinks Art & Frame, Peebles and the UPS Store/\$15 at the door

## Search Committee Update

This past weekend our search committee conducted its first Neutral Pulpit. A Neutral Pulpit is part of the search process in which a committee brings a vetted, potential candidate to the community to visit the church and the prospective city in which they may be called for ministry. It includes doing further discussion, interviews and a sermon in a non-local pulpit. A Neutral Pulpit Weekend gives both the committee and the pastor an opportunity to get to know each other on a one-to-one basis, so that each can make a more informed decision.

Our committee spent three days with our candidate and spouse. We toured the church and various places in Cadillac. We shared meals together and engaged in very in-depth dialogue. Our committee found many wonderful skills, mature experience and other gifts in this candidate, all which had the potential to work well with our congregation. However, the pulpit sermon and several discussions revealed to our committee concerns that weighed against a decision to call this candidate as our pastor. This was a very difficult decision for our committee, since we had all hoped very much this person would be our pastor. It was also difficult because the more we invest in a candidate, the harder it becomes to say: "We can't bring this person." Truly, the decision was very hard to do.

As a committee, chosen by you to represent your interests, we have invested a great deal of loving energy into discerning and fulfilling the expressed needs for our Church. You have said to us: "We want a friend on our journey", one who cares for us and maintains a healthy, flexible relationship between professionalism and intimacy. We have found this quality in some candidates, but it has not been a universal characteristic of the candidates we have vetted. Our congregation has also expressed concern for the future, for growth and vitality in our communal ministry. This requires a pastor who is dynamic and will feed our future. This requires someone energetic and adaptable in worship. We have also found this potential, though in fewer candidates. We believe, as a committee, that we should not choose a candidate because they meet the needs of our congregation in a minimal or partial manner. We also acknowledge, accept and work with the fact that no given pastor meets all of the needs of any given congregation.

In our last update, we were sad to report that our candidate for the second scheduled neutral pulpit had accepted a full time position with another church. Our candidates for neutral pulpit have considered our part-time position based on the strength of our ad expressing the personality and identity of our church. However, we need to emphasize that the financial constraints to a part-time position are difficult for pastoral candidates, especially those with a family or financial obligations to support. This is a financial dilemma that many smaller congregations face when searching for a pastor. To give you a feel for the difficulty of this constraint, the cost of health insurance for a family of four costs between \$12,000 and \$16,000 per year at its lower parameters. Health insurance is but one element of several elements in the UCC recommended benefits package for a pastor. At this point in the search process, the financial issues alone have not been the 'deal breaker' for us or the majority of our candidates. However, it is an issue of serious concern and we wanted you to be aware that it does influence who chooses to look at our church and what we, as a search committee, can do.

Our committee has been working very hard to meet a deadline to 'fit' with the departure of our interim Pastor Forrest. We realize now, after our neutral pulpit weekend, that this will not happen. Although this is disappointing, it is not a cause to be disheartened by the process. We are recommending to the Board of Trustees that they search and hire another interim pastor or supply pulpit pastor while we continue our search process.

Our committee has been working since August of this past year, which is just ten months. To date, we have reviewed 24 Candidate Profiles, listened to 9 Sermons, performed 16 telephone reference checks, interviewed 4 candidates and completed one neutral pulpit weekend. Currently, we have 3 new profiles that are in the early stage of review. Our next step is to review our UCC ad and church profile to fine tune some details and refresh our approach. We as a committee have been elated and frustrated, had our hopes and fears, have been excited then disappointed. Yet, we all agree, we are still genuinely committed to continue our search.

We submit this report to the congregation with great respect and encourage open dialogue between us.

Laura, Troy, Sara, Pat, Mike, David and Kelly

# MISSIONS

Dave Gaunt

## Mission for June: After 26 Project

Although I believe most are aware, let me explain the Mission of the After 26 Project. In the State of Michigan, developmentally disabled and cognitively impaired young adults are no longer eligible for education services after the age of 26. Prior to age 26, the Intermediate School Districts provide education to special needs persons, and as they reach their late teens and early twenties they are coached in job settings where they learn workplace skills and behaviors. The goal of the After 26 Project was to open a café/unique gift shop in our community, staffed by many individuals, including the After 26 members of the community. That goal has been achieved. We opened in June of 2013.

Our ongoing goal is to build a sustainable business, so that this mission can continue well into the future, but our broader mission is much larger in scope! When we reach the point that our revenues exceed our expenses, that "profit" will be placed in a Foundation account. The After 26 Foundation will then provide seed money to other communities dedicated to providing similar opportunities in locations across the state and nation.

The Depot renovation exceeded half a million dollars, and it was grants, contributions, donated and reduced-cost materials and labor, and continual encouragement, that made it possible. *First Congregational UCC was instrumental with all of those components.* Embracing this project from the very beginning, this congregation has provided immeasurable financial, physical and emotional support.

To remain viable, we must have continued support, now primarily in donations and patronage. Simply eating at the Depot will ensure that we can continue to provide opportunities to those most vulnerable in society. We call it "Dining with a Purpose". We thank you for supporting our very important mission.

## 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, Trinity Church UCC Northport**

## 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.

# Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Usher/ Greeters	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
JUN 1	Sue Wachowski & Karen Anderson	Penny Phelps	<i>Birth-day Sunday</i> Beth England & Linda Baynes	Tom Jobson	Pastor Forrest
JUN 8	Ann Lockwood & Ginny Donley	Karen Anderson	Party Dinner Team	Bob LeVand	Pastor Forrest Mission Moment Joyce/ Dave G
JUN 15	Robin & Lowell Corbin	Karma Chapo	Laura Porter & Kelly McCann	Laura Jacobson-Pentces	Pastor Forrest
JUN 22	Joyce & Mike Oatley	Tom Jobson	TBA	Linda Baynes	Pastor Forrest
JUN 29	Karma Chapo & Donna Debney	Robin Corbin	TBA	Penny Phelps	Pastor Forrest

<b>JUNE 2013</b> *Non-Church activities that occur in the church.						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> Worship 10:30 am Communion	<b>2</b> *Jazz. 5:45 pm *5:30pm Symphony Board	<b>3</b> *Jazz.8:30 am	<b>4</b> *Jazz.5:45 pm	<b>5</b> *Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<b>6</b> *Jazz. 8:30am	<b>7</b> *Jazz.8:30 am
<b>8</b> Worship 10:30 am Marjorie Glander's retirement party	<b>9</b> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<b>10</b> *Jazz.8:30 am	<b>11</b> *Jazz.5:45 pm	<b>12</b> *Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<b>13</b> *Jazz.8:30 am	<b>14</b> *Jazz.8:30 am
<b>15</b> Worship 10:30 am Pride Service Fathers' Day	<b>16</b> *Jazz.5:45 pm	<b>17</b> *Jazz.8:30 am	<b>18</b> *Jazz 5:45 pm BoT 6:30 pm	<b>19</b> *Jazz.8:30 am 5:45 pm 11:30am Remembering Clarice Bryan	<b>20</b> *Jazz.8:30am	<b>21</b> *Jazz.8:30 am 10am -12pm PANCAKE BRUNCH
<b>22</b> Worship 10:30 am Noisy offering	<b>23</b> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<b>24</b> *Jazz. 8:30 am	<b>25</b> *Jazz.5:45 pm Newsletter items due	<b>26</b> *Jazz. 8:30 am 5:45 pm	<b>27</b> *Jazz.8:30 am	<b>28</b> *Jazz.8:30 am
<b>29</b> Worship 10 :30 am	<b>30</b> *Jazz. 5:45 pm					