

JANUARY 2015

The Tie That Binds

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Cadillac, Michigan



A MESSAGE FROM PENNY PHELPS

Happy New Year!

Wow – doesn't it seem as if we have been galloping full tilt all year? A year ago we were working with Rev. Forrest Hoppe as our interim, preparing for Christmas, looking expectantly ahead to a new year, worrying about the budget, remaining optimistic. Of course we had no idea what the year had in store. There was Forrest's circulation "hiccup" which gave him – and us – pause to think about our needs and our roles. Then the kitchen sewer line froze and we spent many weeks lugging dish water up to the landing to dump in the toilet. Then Richard Harvey, ever vigilant, noticed that the sanctuary ceiling was sagging in the southeast corner. For awhile the corner was decorated with scaffolding, until a temporary fix made the scaffolding unnecessary. Repeated water damage on the west wall of Fellowship Hall had us all concerned about leaks coming through missing mortar, until we had the mortar repaired and discovered that the leaks were coming from radiator pipes in the sanctuary! Just as we were preparing for our annual Harvest Feast, our kitchen sewer problem returned, but that has been fixed – for the time being.

In May, our devoted organist, Marge Glander retired – although she has graciously returned several times when needed. At the end of June, Forrest and Shari decided that it was time to be really retired, and we bid them farewell. It was hard to believe that he had been leading us for almost a year and a half. Suddenly, Pat Porter Ponczek raised her hand and said, "Here am I," and agreed to be our "Summer Pastor" for July, August, September, and October – what a gift! Then, with help from our friend Bill Lyons in Grand Rapids, we found Barbara Huitema, who has generously and ably filled our pulpit for November and December.

All this time, the choir has inspired us with song, Rachel Whiteman and Margie Annis have moved tirelessly from piano to organ and back, and Pat McCurdy and Karen Anderson have created imaginative activities for an ever-changing array of children. Most of all, the Search Committee has met, reviewed forty-plus profiles, held Skype interviews, and more – all to find us a new pastor who will find us to be the church family whose passions and energy and efforts to be a real open and affirming presence in this community is exactly what he or she is looking for!

For now, Dani Veenstra, whose background and training are very similar to Barbara's, will begin filling our pulpit on the first Sunday in January, and January will also see us shifting worship down to Fellowship Hall while work begins on the sanctuary ceiling.

We certainly had no idea what 2014 had in store for us, and the same is true for 2015. What we do know is that with faith and prayer, we will meet whatever lies ahead on the journey.

Penny Phelps

EVENTS

The Annual Meeting will be held on January 25th after the service.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE UCC EVENTS

UCC Women of Michigan proudly presents

The Gathering



"Dance in the Spirit"

-Psalm 150:4 "Praise God with tambourines and dancing, strings and flute"

June 12, 13, 14, 2015

Kettunen Center, Tustin, Michigan

www.kettunencenter.org

The keynote speaker this weekend is Rev. Ginny Titus, current pastor at the Atlanta, MI Congregational UCC. Rev. Ginny has a distinguished career that includes many areas of interest. She was a dance instructor for live theater, has taught liturgical dance, authored 2 cookbooks and leads a variety of classes and workshops. Along with her husband Rev. Keith Titus, Ginny was co-founder of Re-Member, an outreach program to the Oglala Lakota people on the Pine Ridge Reservation in S. Dakota.

The weekend's 15 workshops include Bible study, craft projects, exercise, LGBTQ discussion, Biblical belly dancing, as well as time alone with God, and many others. Friday and Saturday programs will end with vesper services and Sunday morning offers a very meaningful worship service.

This is a weekend of retreat, renewal, relaxation and recharging. It is a time to, greet old friends and make new ones. It's your weekend. So mark the date on your calendar now and look for the registration brochure with complete details just after the first of the year. Hope to see you there☺!

For more info contact Sallie Anderson 989 732-9001 rodnsal@charter.net or
Mona Viviano 989 732-4668 manuka27@yahoo.com

Join us for a spirited, spiritual and fun filled weekend!

Michigan Conference United Church of Christ 2015 Vitality Day!

"Conflict Transformation"
Speaker: Thomas K. Chu, Esq.

When

Saturday March 7, 2015 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM EST

Where

Woodside Church
1509 E. Court St.
Flint, MI 48503



COMMUNITY

Laughter Coming!

Chase away the winter blues -
come laugh with us when the Cadillac Footlites present
the Victorian farce...



JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayer List

Please hold these members, friends, and family in prayer:, Brian Belleville, Margaret Leemon, Jenny Freese, Ruth Pitts, Aaron Eckert, Bill Bryan, Bill Allinder, Miguel Monge, Terry Oss, Jim & Sharon Thompson, Marge Mattison, Vicki Rice, Samantha Wilton

Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Usher/Greeters	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour		Sexton	Preacher	
JAN 4	Laura Jacobson & Sam Pentces	Joyce Oatley	<i>Birth-day Sunday</i>	Karma Chapo	Tom Jobson	Dani Veenstra	
JAN 11	Robin & Lowell Corbin	Penny Phelps	Diane Jobson		Bob LeVand	Dani Veenstra	Mission Moment
JAN 18	Diane & Tom Jobson	Karen Anderson	Virgil & Joan Butler		Laura Jacobson-Pentces	Dani Veenstra	
JAN 25	Carol & Jerry Nilsson	Tom Jobson	ANN. MTG (Sandy G & Vickie P)		Linda Baynes	Dani Veenstra	

JANUARY 2015 *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.8:30 am	<u>3</u> *Jazz.8:30 am
<u>4</u> Worship 10:30 am	<u>5</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>6</u> *Jazz.8:30 am *Seed Savers Club 7-9pm	<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
<u>11</u> Worship 10:30 am	<u>12</u> *Jazz.5:45 pm *Symphony Board 7pm	<u>13</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>14</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm Choir 7pm	<u>15</u> *Jazz.8:30 am 5:45 pm BoT 6:30 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 Newsletter items due	<u>22</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am 5:45 pm	<u>23</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>24</u> *Jazz.8:30 am
<u>25</u> Worship 10 :30 am Noisy offering ANNUAL MEETING	<u>26</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>27</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>28</u> *Jazz.5:45 pm Choir 7pm	<u>29</u> Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>30</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>31</u> Jazz.8:30 am