



FEBRUARY 2015

The Tie That Binds

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Cadillac, Michigan

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPPLY PASTOR

Dani Veenstra

Jeremiah 29: 11 I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out - plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for. *From The Message Bible*

It may seem right now like any plans God has for our church and family are unclear and hidden. Some of the plans are shrouded in plastic as the work on the sanctuary ceiling repair continues, but progress is being made. Community continues to be a strong gift of this church. I have been blessed by the worship we are creating together in the Fellowship space as many of you share your abilities and talents, your voices raised in song, reading of the scripture and passing of the peace are all important parts of Sunday service. The communal seating at tables is contributing to a sense of fellowship during service and I am loving your proximity to the "preaching" space.



Dani Veenstra and her husband David

I know that many of you are basking in the sunny regions of our country and we miss your presence so let me introduce myself, in case we haven't met. My name is Pastor Dani Veenstra; I am completing my studies for Licensed Ministry in the UCC through our denomination's education program STEM. Yippee, I am almost done after 4 and ½ years of classes. I have been asked to serve as Pulpit Supply minister and I am here at Cadillac for as long as you need me to be. I have focused my studies on small church ministry and part-time pastoring so serving Cadillac UCC is a good experience and dovetails with my education and sense of call in ministry.

I live near Lakeview with my husband David and a very spoiled cat named Gracie. I love to read when I can find the time. A few favorite authors are Barbara Brown Taylor, Marcus Borg and for fiction, Barbara Kingsolver. I sew and garden and love to cook and bake for others. David works from home as a financial advisor with a focus on socially responsible investing (ask him about it if this is a new concept to you). He plays guitar and sings and is enjoying singing with the choir. We have two adult children and three grandchildren, who of course, are practically perfect.

David and I want to thank all of you for your loving welcome into the church family; you have a gift for hospitality that needs to be shown like a beacon on a hill to the surrounding area. Maybe together we can figure out some new ways to shout about the Progressive Christian voice and heart that is so evident in this worship community.

Indeed God has plans and my prayer is that faithfully this church can listen for God's guidance and step boldly into the future.

Blessings,
Pastor Dani

BILL BRYAN

Bill Bryan, who had been a member of the church since 1987, sadly passed away on January 14th 2015, at the age of 94. He spent the last several years of his life devoted to taking care of his wife Clarice, who died in February 2014. Bill enjoyed church life, and was very generous to First Congregational Church, including a large contribution towards the ceiling restoration project.

According to his wishes, a cremation has taken place, and a celebration picnic will be held in the Spring. Thanks to Tom and Diane Jobson, and others, for their devotion to transporting Bill to church from Curry House.

EVENTS

Pancake Brunch

The next pancake brunch will be held on **Saturday February 21st 10am-12pm**. Donations go to the Stehouwer Free Clinic.

Movie Club



NEW! At **7pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month, January through May 2015**, a movie will be shown. Light refreshments, and a discussion afterwards in Fellowship Hall. The first showing will be on **January 27th**, *The One Hundred Foot Journey*, starring Helen Mirren.

\$5 donation goes towards church building repairs.

Suggestions welcome for subsequent movie showings.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Romans 8:28

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

CEILING REINFORCEMENT WORK

Work on the sanctuary ceiling is progressing, and will hopefully be finished by Easter.

Work completed so far:

The pews have been taken out, and the floor covered with plastic and OSB.

The choir loft and organ have been protected from the dust with plastic sheeting

A rolling 16'x16' scaffolding platform has been constructed.

Screws have been put into the ceiling joists to raise and secure it.

A gridwork of 3/4 " plywood batons have been put in place, which is now being covered with another layer of fiberboard and trim pieces.

Forthcoming work:

The cracks will be repaired by a drywaller before the painting work begins.

Then of course after that the scaffolding will be taken down, the floors uncovered, and the pews put back in place.

Many thanks to Richard Harvey for all his hard work on this important project, which is vital for the preservation our historic building.

Richard Harvey





CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICE

Close to 100 people attended the Christmas Eve service and festivities. Thanks to all who contributed time and talents to music, decorations and festive food!



UGLY SWEATER COMPETITION

Here is Pat in her (now official!) ugliest sweater. The amazing hat was the prize...



BOOK STUDY, ANYONE?

Is anyone interested in a book study in February or March about the book "Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint" by Reverend Nadia Bolz-Weber, the founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, Colorado?

She was keynote speaker at the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Conference United Church of Christ, who is a deeply engaging pastor who just happens to have sleeves of tattoos.

If you are interested, please talk to Pat McCurdy or Troy Knight so that copies of the book can be ordered.

PHOTOS

Thanks to Troy, Dani and Pat for the photographs included in this edition.

Photos are always welcome, so please send your great snaps to office@firstcongcadillac.org.

COMMUNITY

North American Snow Festival

Annual NASF Antique Snowmobile Show

Mark your calendars **for February 5-8, 2015** - NEW location Cherry Grove Event Center.



The Annual North American Snow Festival celebrated its' 30th Anniversary in 2014.

It is always the first weekend of February, starting Thursday evening with the famous Chili Cook-off, Miss NASF Pageant and Snow Sculpture awards, Friday Snowmobile Fun Run and Speed Fishing Contest, and Saturday Snowmobile Lake Races & Grudge Races (Lk Cadillac), Kiddie Lake Races, Fishing Tournament, Polar Dip, Antique Snowmobile Show, and every night at host facility there are contests, food, beverages, and entertainment by either live bands or DJ.

MISSIONS

Joyce Oatley

February Mission: OASIS and New Hope Shelter

Every day, OASIS/Family Resource Center (OASIS/FRC) houses woman and children escaping violent homes, advocates on behalf of survivors and provides counseling to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse. Last year, OASIS/FRC sheltered 268 women and children, counseled 892 survivors, helped 481 children and responded to 1,230 crisis calls.

New Hope currently operates 5 shelters for the homeless in our community---one for men, one for women and children and three for families. These shelters provide a very vital service, particularly during the winter months, for those individuals and families who have fallen on hard times and have nowhere else to turn.

Please give generously to these two entities so that we can continue to be a community that takes care of our neighbors, safeguards our children and helps those who are less fortunate.

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 Allinder, Terry Oss, Jim & Sharon Thompson, Marge Mattison, Samantha Wilton, Bill Bryan's family and friends, Sperry Claypool, Ellen Anderson**

Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Usher/Greeters	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour		Sexton	Preacher
FEB 1	Ann Lockwood & Ginny Donley	Robin Corbin	<i>Birth-day Sunday</i>	Pat McCurdy	Penny Phelps	Dani Veenstra
FEB 8	TBA	Laura Porter	Linda Baynes		TBA	Dani Veenstra Mission Moment
FEB 15	Linda Baynes, Penny Phelps	Charlotte Barfield	Sara Keinath		Robin Corbin	Dani Veenstra
FEB 22	Charlotte Barfield, Marie Linn	Todd Elkins	POT LUCK		Carol Nilsson	Dani Veenstra

FEBRUARY 2015 *Non-Church activities that occur in the church.						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<u>1</u> CHOIR 9:30 Worship 10:30 BIRTHDAY SUNDAY	<u>2</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm *Symphony Board 7pm	<u>3</u> *Jazz.8:30 am *Seed Savers Club 7pm	<u>4</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm CHOIR 7pm	<u>5</u> *Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>6</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>7</u> *Jazz.8:30 am
<u>8</u> CHOIR 9:30 Worship 10:30	<u>9</u> *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>10</u> *Jazz.8:30 am *Seed Savers Club 7pm	<u>11</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm CHOIR 7pm	<u>12</u> *Jazz.8:30 am 5:45 pm	<u>13</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>14</u> *Jazz.8:30 am
<u>15</u> CHOIR 9:30 Worship10:30	<u>16</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>17</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am	<u>18</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	<u>19</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am 5:45 pm BoT 6:30 pm	<u>20</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>21</u> *Jazz.8:30 am PANCAKE BRUNCH 10am-12pm
<u>22</u> Worship 10 :30 am NOISY OFFERING	<u>23</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>24</u> *Jazz.8:30 am MOVIE CLUB 7pm	<u>25</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm CHOIR 7pm	<u>26</u> Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>27</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>28</u> Jazz.8:30 am