



MARCH 2015

The Tie That Binds

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Cadillac, Michigan

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPPLY PASTOR

Dani Veenstra

Isaiah 58:11b-12 "You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. ¹²Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings." (NIV)

As we enter the Lenten Season we are called to reflect on our individual need for resurrection in our lives and our community. We are supposed to journey with the Disciples following Jesus on the road to the cross. But I struggle between my desire to find a dramatic action to take like overturning the tables in the temple and wanting to sit quietly and learn to be more holy and Christlike.

Resurrection comes from the Greek word *anastasis* which means "to stand up or to stand again". I have been wondering how we can find new ways to stand up in our world today.

This week has yet again reports full of overwhelming and horrific news with the Cease Fire not holding in Ukraine and the death toll rising above 5,000. 21 Coptic Christians brutally murdered, suicide bombers were able to penetrate a police station in Afghanistan and people here in my own community can't find jobs or a safe place to live and in some Michigan cities the water that comes from the tap is not fit to drink. How in a world so filled with crushing events can we "Stand Up" and be resurrected and perhaps bring healing in our broken world?

From a Facebook group I belong to here are 47 words, one for each day of Lent plus the Sundays (which technically are not counted as part of the 40 days) to use for personal meditation and renewal.

I believe collective prayer changes things, I believe we can together bring resurrection and "rebuild ruins and repair broken walls and restore streets" as the writer of Isaiah said.

Begin the season by emptying yourself, you may be surprised by what moves in to fill the void. Let's walk together in prayer and meditation toward the cross, toward Resurrection, toward Standing up for those unable to stand for themselves.

Blessings,
Pastor Dani

47 Words for Lent

For a daily Lenten practice use these words to inspire prayer and meditation. If you make or create a photo, an image, a poem or a meditation share it on our facebook page, instagram or twitter using:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 17-Feb Empty | 8-Mar Play |
| 18-Feb Margins | 9-Mar Center |
| 19-Feb Earthdust | 10-Mar Relax |
| 20-Feb Process | 11-Mar Light |
| 21-Feb Wonder | 12-Mar Dust |
| 22-Feb Closeness | 13-Feb Incandescence |
| 23-Feb Path | 14-Mar Rooted |
| 24-Feb God | 15-Mar Open |
| 25-Feb Claiming | 16-Mar Translucence |
| 26-Feb Temporary | 17-Mar Crack |
| 27-Feb Kindness | 18-Mar Horizon |
| 28-Feb Try | 19-Mar Crestfallen |
| 1-Mar Harmony | 20-Mar Bloom |
| 2-Mar Release | 21-Mar Scattered |
| 3-Mar End | 22-Mar Stardust |
| 4-Mar Balance | 23-Mar Persistence |
| 5-Mar Beginning | 24-Mar Turn |
| 6-Mar Persistence | 25-Mar Falling |
| 7-Mar Circle | 26-Mar Help |
| | 27-Mar Rising |
| | 28-Mar Breath |
| | 29-Mar Rhythm |
| | 30-Mar Marked |
| | 31-Mar Scorched |
| | 1-Apr Heart |
| | 2-Apr Wander |
| | 3-Apr Shadow |
| | 4-Apr Gleam |

CEILING REINFORCEMENT WORK



Worship services are now being held back in in the sanctuary, after the reinforcement and repainting of the ceiling. The wood floor under the pews has been beautifully restored.

The picture on the right shows how the sanctuary looks now.



SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our Search Committee is proud to announce that we have found pastoral candidate for our church. Our candidate, Pastor John, is an ordained minister who hails from southern Michigan and has over 30 years' experience as a Congregational pastor. He is married and has two grown children. The Search Committee feels we have found a candidate who is a perfect fit for our church. His liberal theology, gentleness, openness to others and sense of humor have endeared him to us. We are convinced you will love him too.

Please save the date **March 21st and 22nd** for our Home Pulpit Weekend, which will include an opportunity to meet and greet the candidate and his family. There will be a luncheon hosted by the Search Committee after worship service on March 22nd.

EVENTS



breakfast

Lenten Breakfasts

Each **Wednesday** in Lent the Cadillac Area Ministerial Association sponsors a Lenten Breakfast. All are welcome!

These begin at **7:00 a.m.** and end by **7:50 a.m.**

These include a meal, a time of singing, a meditation, and a brief devotional.

February 18 - First Covenant Church, 415 E Pine St
Speaker Chaplain Ed Gilbert

February 25 - ***First Congregational Church***, 200 E. Harris St
Speaker Chaplain Dave Bassett

March 4 - First Christian Church, 3564 U.S. 131
Speaker Pastor John Martek

March 11 - First Presbyterian Church, 221 E. Harris Street
Speaker Pastor Scott Torkko

March 18 - Zion Lutheran Church, 350 Pearl St
Speaker Pastor Dave McMahon

March 25 - United Methodist Church, 1020 East Division Street
Speaker Pastor Greg DuBois

April 1 - Cadillac Revival Center, 984 Plett Rd
Speaker Pastor Paul Tomlinson

Movie Club



At **7pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month, January through May 2015**, a movie will be shown. There will be light refreshments, and a discussion afterwards in Fellowship Hall.

The next movie showings will be on

Friday February 27th - St Vincent (Please note change of date for February) and Tuesday March 24th - Key Largo .

\$5 donation goes towards church building repairs.

Suggestions welcome for subsequent movie showings.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

Kevin Butler at the After 26 Depot

Dave Gaunt

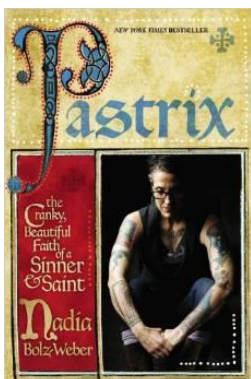


Our staff works so well with our Project Workers. From how to interact with customers, to paying attention to Health Department safety and sanitation issues, and more. They encourage them, they teach them, and maybe most importantly, they befriend them.

Here our Chefs Kodi and JoAnn are teaching PW Kevin some of the techniques to a properly prepared Vegetarian Lasagna. Maybe Chef Kevin some day?



BOOK STUDY, ANYONE?

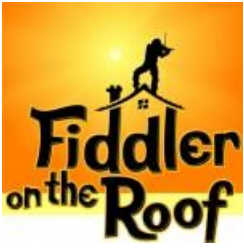


Is anyone interested in a book study in arch about the book "Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint" by Reverend Nadia Bolz-Weber, the founding pastor of House for All Sinners and Saints in Denver, Colorado?

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 or add your name to the sign-up sheet. Dates will be set up to suit those who are interested.

COMMUNITY



Cadillac High School presents the musical "Fiddler on The Roof", directed by Margie Annis.
March 19th 7pm
March 20th 7pm
March 21st 3pm and 7:30pm

MISSIONS

Our Mission Target For March: Love INC



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Our local Love In the Name of Christ began serving the Cadillac area in 1991. At that time, it consisted of seven churches willing to join each other to aid local needy-residents. Now, Love INC has grown to 52 churches serving Wexford and Osceola counties.

Love INC makes four thousand referrals a year, screens applicants for Wexford County's Project Christmas and Osceola's Gifts for Kids, coordinates the Higher Ground life-skills learning program, and operates two INC Spot re-sale stores. The re-sale shops generate additional monies for Love INC operations, but they also provide low-cost (or free) items to many needy Love clients.

When a Love INC intake-worker receives a request for help, churches don't automatically get involved, however. Workers don't ask churches to help if other agencies or organizations can do it. Other times, the client will be referred to a variety of other church related options: a local pantry, a work force made up of church volunteers, an individual volunteer, an individual church to purchase a needed item, or sometimes several churches may be called upon and asked to combine their resources to provide whatever is needed. Later on, after clients are referred to the most appropriate resource, a Love INC follow-up-worker will call the client to be sure the request was filled.

Gifts to the Mission Fund, this month, will make it possible to help many of those people who'd otherwise "fall through the cracks". Your donation will make a real difference in the life of someone in our community. Anything you can contribute will be appreciated.

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, Sperry Claypool, Ellen Anderson, Steven Jackson, Linda Baynes**

Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Usher/Greeters	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
MAR 1	Joyce & Mike Oatley	Ann Lockwood	<i>Birth-day Sunday</i> Troy Knight	Sara Keinath	Dani Veenstra
MAR 8	Gert & Sperry Claypool	Joyce Oatley	Kelly McCann	Sperry Claypool	Dani Veenstra Mission Moment Tom Jobson
MAR 15	Laura Jacobson & Sam Pentces	Penny Phelps	Penny Phelps	Tom Jobson	Dani Veenstra
MAR 22	Robin & Lowell Corbin	Laura Porter	Search Committee	Bob LeVand	Home Pulpit Pastor John
MAR 29	Diane & Tom Jobson	Karma Chapo	Richard Harvey	Laura Jacobson-Pentces	Dani Veenstra

MARCH 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.8:30 am	<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.8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>13</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>14</u> *Jazz.8:30 am
<u>15</u> CHOIR 9:30 Worship 10:30	<u>16</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>17</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am	<u>18</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm CHOIR 7pm	<u>19</u> *Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm BoT 6:30 pm	<u>20</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>21</u> *Jazz.8:30 am
<u>22</u> CHOIR 9:30 Worship 10 :30 am	<u>23</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>24</u> *Jazz.8:30 am MOVIE CLUB 7pm "Key Largo"	<u>25</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	<u>26</u> Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>27</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>28</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>29</u> Worship 10 :30 am	<u>30</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>31</u> *Jazz.8:30 am				