



APRIL 2015

The Tie That Binds

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Cadillac, Michigan

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPPLY PASTOR

Dani Veenstra

From *To Dance With God* by Gertrud Meuller Nelson " The making of ritual is a creative act fundamental in human life. Genesis tells us the first purpose of such creative action is to give form to what is formless. 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was a formless waste, there was darkness over the deep, and God's Spirit hovered over the water'. Then God proceeded to create world of order with space, matter, time life, and humans. Through ritual and ceremonies we people in turn make order out of chaos."

I don't know about you but I am a ritual, ceremonial creature. I change my house décor to go with the changing seasons; I have cookie jars that rotate with the changing seasons; a rabbit for spring, a cheery toaster for summer, a fall pumpkin and a snowman in the winter. In March I hang a martenitsa in anticipation of the first robin sighting. This ritual comes from a trip David and I took to Bulgaria for a friend's wedding in March of 1999. Red and white yarn Martenitsas (small knotted or braided ornaments) are worn on the lapel until the storks return to nest on the rooftops, then the yarn item is hung in a tree with sincere wishes for good health in the coming year. The wedding guests were given a martenitsa and we hung them in the trees once we spied the storks in their huge nests atop the church. Fifteen years later I still watch for robins (no storks in my neighborhood). And my martenitsa gets placed with my wishes for yet another year.

Ritual shapes our lives, your morning coffee in the same mug each day, a special meal to celebrate an anniversary or important day in your life, lilies in the sanctuary on Easter. We mark time and our space in the universe with sameness and ritual. I think it is one way we attempt to capture the transcendent or sacred and anchor ourselves.

After Easter we will enter the time in the church year know as Ordinary time, "Ordinary" comes from the same root as our word "ordinal", and in this sense means "the counted weeks". We will be in Ordinary time until Advent rolls around again, but I know this church family has rituals that are observed throughout the year. We will participate in Gay Pride day in Grand Rapids and then celebrate with a special worship service, summer picnics and events will fill our days as we count the time until your Settled Pastor arrives. Let us make this summer anything but ordinary with our worship and our work Re- creating with the Divine time and space and events that change us each day into followers of the way of Jesus, anything but ordinary.

Pastor Dani

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Kelly McCann



It is hard to express how overjoyed and proud our committee is for the extraordinary welcome our congregation gave to our pastoral candidate during the Home Pulpit weekend. The event began on Saturday March 21st with a tour of Cadillac, then a meeting between the candidate and the Board of Trustees. In the afternoon our candidate met with members of our congregation at the After 26 Depot. Over 40 people attended that event. On Sunday we had 67 people in attendance for the service, which Laura Porter facilitated. We had many comments about how meaningful the service was. At the luncheon the pastor and his partner answered questions with grace and good humor. Our congregation voted 43 to 1 to affirm our

candidate as pastor of our church. Our committee looks forward to updating you in the coming months as we all prepare for the arrival of our new pastor.

Editor's note: *Many thanks to the Search Committee for all their hard work and diligence for the past year and a half. The search process requires maintaining confidentiality. We respect our candidate's need to inform his current congregation in his own time. More details in the May newsletter.*



Many thanks to Troy Knight for the photos.

EVENTS

Easter Sunrise Breakfast

On **Sunday April 5th** at **9am** we will be holding First Congregational's **4th Annual "Easter Sunrise Breakfast"** with an Easter hat/bonnet competition, and a mystery egg challenge.



The activities will begin at **9:00am** in fellowship hall. We'll start with a breakfast spread, all of your favorites! There will be a prize for each of the largest, the most colorful, and the most traditional bonnets/hats. Also for the kids an Easter egg hunt and other games. The Easter church service will begin at its regularly scheduled time - 10:30am. So plan on coming and joining your congregational family members for a hearty breakfast, warm friendship, and moments of inspiration. (There will be no fellowship hour after church service on April 5th.)



April 11th – Clean-Up Day



Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 11th** – that's the day we will gather at the church to tackle the outside and the inside. We will work **from 10 a.m. until noon**, then enjoy a hearty lunch. There is some yard work to do that we didn't get to in the fall, and there is always a list of chores that need doing inside. Join the fun and fellowship!

UNA Spring Meeting

Penny Phelps



We will be hosting the United Northern Association on **Saturday, April 25th**. Folks from UCC churches from Clare to Alpena to Charlevoix will gather to participate in workshops and enjoy a great lunch. The morning workshop will be led by Rev. Dr. Adam Webber from Clare. He is a gifted musician and composer and will discuss how our ideas about God are reflected in the ways we choose and use music in worship. There will be lots of opportunities to participate in singing songs old and new. The afternoon workshop will be led by Vaughn Peterson, the new pastor at the Harrison church. His "Hymnology Seminar" will help us review options when planning music for worship and explain how we can find a better tune when we like the words but not the melody.

Everyone is invited to attend. Registration will begin **at 8:30 a.m.**, followed by worship at **9 a.m.** The meeting will end at **2:30**. If you want more information and a registration form, please see Penny Phelps.

*Note: we will need help preparing and serving lunch; if you are interested, please contact Penny.

Movie Club



The next movie night will be **Tuesday April 28th at 7pm.** There will be light refreshments, and a discussion afterwards in Fellowship Hall.



The Movie "Key Largo" shown in March inspired these lovely ladies to dress up in '40s style!

Tai Chi Class Starting on Saturdays

Catherine Cline

Starting on **April 4th 2015**, Catherine (Casey) Cline will be teaching Tai Chi classes **on Saturdays from 3 to 4:30 p.m.** Cost is 5 \$ per class. All the class fees will be donated to the 1st Congregational Church Water available. (or bring your own water) Please wear comfortable stretchable warm clothing (so you can relax) with athletic shoes(wood floor) Come in the back entrance please.

Tai Chi is helpful for stress reduction, better sleep, to balance emotions & improve overall health & fitness. Catherine is presently also teaching at the landing dance studios once a week, and has many years of experience and training.

"The Gathering" – a weekend retreat for UCC Women of Michigan

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

"The Gathering" will be held at the Kettunen Center on **June 12, 13, 14 2015**. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other women of the UCC, and have a weekend of spiritual renewal in a beautiful lakeside setting; and the food is always amazing! We are very fortunate to have this event just a short drive from Cadillac, so come and join the fun, ladies!

Go to <https://files.ctctcdn.com/5ba9229e001/f30ab3fe-5d77-4d22-a726-f9bfbf5b0c56.pdf> for a form.

COMMUNITY



Directed by Richard Kraemer
Assisted by Shanna Grimes

Underwritten by SUBWAYS of Cadillac.
Performances

7:00 - March 27, 28, April 3 & 4 2:00

matinee - April 4 Cadillac High School Auditorium

Tickets: \$10 in advance from
Brinks Art & Frame Shop, Peebles,
The UPS Store, After 26 café and Majestic Hair
design of Lake City. (\$12 at the door)



This classic comedy introduces the cantankerous novelist Charles Condomine who has recently re-married but is haunted (literally) by the ghost of his late first wife, who has been called up by Madame Arcati, a visiting medium.

MISSIONS

Sperry Claypool

Our Mission Target For April: One Great Hour of Sharing

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the refugee, relief and development offering of the United Church of Christ. With this offering, the UCC is able to work with international partners to provide sources of clean water and food, education and health care, small business micro credit, emergency relief and resettlement for refugees. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. All told, OGHS helps to transform lives and provide hope to people in need in 138 countries.

Please give generously to support One Great Hour of Sharing. All told, OGHS provides hope and helps to transform the lives of people in need in 138 countries.

Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Usher/Greeters	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher	
APR 5	Karma Chapo & Donna Debney	Tom Jobson	EASTER BREAKFAST	Linda Baynes	Dani Veenstra	
APR 12	Carol & Jerry Nilsson	Robin Corbin	<i>Birth-day Sunday</i> Karen Anderson	Penny Phelps	Dani Veenstra	Mission Moment Sperry
APR 19	Sandy & Dave Gaunt	Laura Porter	Karma Chapo	Dave Gaunt	Dani Veenstra	
APR 26	Linda Baynes, Penny Phelps	Charlotte Barfield	Diane Jobson	Robin Corbin	Dani Veenstra	

APRIL 2015 *Non-Church activities that occur in the church.						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<u>1</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm CHOIR 7pm	<u>2</u> *Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>3</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>4</u> *Jazz.8:30 am Tai Chi 3pm
<u>5</u> EASTER SONRISE BREAKFAST 9am CHOIR 9:30 Worship 10:30	<u>6</u> *Jazz.5:45 pm *Symphony Board 7pm	<u>7</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>8</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm CHOIR 7pm	<u>9</u> *Jazz.8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>10</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>11</u> *Jazz.8:30 am Tai Chi 3pm CLEAN UP DAY 10am-12 noon
<u>12</u> CHOIR 9:30 Worship 10:30	<u>13</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>14</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am	<u>15</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm CHOIR 7pm	<u>16</u> *Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm BoT 6:30 pm	<u>17</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>18</u> *Jazz.8:30 am Tai Chi 3pm
<u>19</u> CHOIR 9:30 Worship 10 :30 am	<u>20</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>21</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>22</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	<u>23</u> Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>24</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>25</u> Jazz.8:30 am UNA SPRING MEETING 8:30am -2:30pm Tai Chi 3pm
<u>26</u> Worship 10 :30 am	<u>27</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>28</u> *Jazz.8:30 am MOVIE CLUB 7pm				