

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
PO Box 892
Cadillac, MI 49601

“The Tie that Binds”

MAY 2015

Newsletter of First Congregational Church UCC
Cadillac, MI

Margie Annis, Music Director
Penny Phelps, Church Treasurer
Rachel Whiteman, Church Clerk

Church service is Sunday morning 10:30 a.m.

The church is open on **Wednesdays** from 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Supply Pastor Dani Veenstra

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May 2015
The Tie That Binds

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Cadillac, Michigan

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPPLY PASTOR

Dani Veenstra

Psalm 98 The Message (MSG)

¹ Sing to GOD a brand-new song.

He's made a world of wonders!

He rolled up his sleeves,

He set things right.

² GOD made history with salvation,

He showed the world what he could do.

³ He remembered to love us, a bonus

To his dear family, Israel—indefatigable love.

⁷ Let the sea and its fish give a round of applause,

With everything living on earth joining in.

⁸ Let ocean breakers call out, "Encore!"

And mountains harmonize the finale—

⁹ A tribute to GOD when he comes,

When he comes to set the earth right.

He'll straighten out the whole world,

He'll put the world right, and everyone in it.

As I sit here on Earth Day watching it snow, yes snow in late April I am feeling a great joy. Reading this Psalm reminds me that I am not the Creator of the world but that it is a wonder to behold and I should rejoice. This Psalm also brings to mind that if things are to be "put right" in the world I'd better get busy. The end of the Psalm says God will put things right but I think that means **through us**, things will be put right. We need to continue to find new ways to conserve earthly resources, be the voice of justice for those who are voiceless and show compassion to all we encounter.

As the weather warms and we interact more frequently with our neighbors let's also find ways to share who we are as the United Church of Christ with an 'Extravagant Welcome' for all. From the ucc.org website Who we are:

Our faith is 2,000 years old. Our thinking is not.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Never place a period where God has placed a comma.

There is additional information about these statements on the website. I suggest you take a look and become familiar and comfortable with language about the UCC. We have what I think a lot of people are looking for in a church; let's help them know they can find peace, joy and acceptance with Cadillac First Congregational United Church of Christ.

Blessings each day,

Pastor Dani

Please note that Dani Veenstra will soon have office hours available and will begin pastoral visiting. Hours are being worked out and will be announced from the pulpit and in the bulletin. We are happy and grateful that Dani is able to continue serving us as supply pastor until John is able to be with us.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



John Doud with members of the Search Committee (minus Sara) at the After 26 Depot in March

In late March our congregation voted to call Rev. John Doud as the minister of our church. The Search Committee and Board of Trustees have negotiated with John throughout April to develop terms of our agreement. Rev. John will be working with us at 2/3rd time status, which is 40 weeks per year. The Search Committee has recommended that a group be recruited and trained to serve as worship leaders during those times when John will not be in the pulpit. This is also an excellent way to learn more about our church. Pastor John has given four months' notice to his current congregation and will be joining us **August 18th, 2015**. We are all looking forward to having John with us to begin a new era in our church. Over the coming months, some members of the search committee will be transitioning to be part of the **Pastoral Relations Committee**. This committee will assist Rev. John and his wife Catherine in the transition to Cadillac and to our church. If you are interested in being on this committee, we are looking for one or two people to be on it with Mike, Pat and Troy. Please let one of them know if you are interested.

We encourage you to share any ideas you have for creating a smooth transition that is fun and welcoming.

Thank you,

Search Committee
– Kelly, Pat, Mike, Troy, Laura, David, Sara
(4-21-2015)

**Catherine Doud, pictured right,
at the Home Pulpit event**



EASTER

Pat McCurdy



The Easter Sunrise breakfast and service were wonderful. The breakfast was delicious. A big thank you to chef Troy and Bob, and lots of extra kitchen helpers – you know who you are

The Easter bonnets were gorgeous and creative, but added cuteness won the day! The children had a good Easter egg hunt, and we all cracked a smile, and a few eggs, at the mystery egg challenge. The service by Pastor Dani reminded us of the empty tomb, and the beauty of lilies on the cross and the altar reminded me of the risen Savior.

Many thanks to Troy Knight for capturing the spirit of the "Easter Sunrise" breakfast in these lovely photos.



CLEAN UP DAY

Penny Phelps

Thanks to all the workers!

On Saturday, April 11th, the worker bees gathered at the church and did a lot of tidying up, inside and out. The outside crew raked the whole yard and even tackled accumulated debris in the alley on the east side. The inside crew cleaned the pastor's office, the library and every nook and cranny downstairs. When all was said and done, we sat down to a hearty lunch.

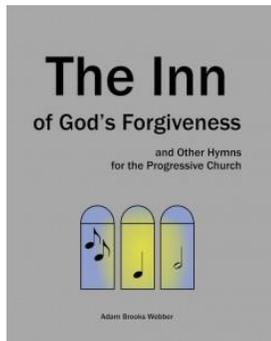
Those who participated were Joan and Virgil Butler, as well as their grandchildren, Isabel and Andrew, Richard Harvey, Tom Jobson, Bob LeVand, Marie Linn, Kelly McCann, Penny Phelps, John Smith, and Dani and David Veenstra.

Perhaps you've gotten so accustomed to cracked and falling plaster on the west wall of Fellowship Hall that you haven't noticed that it's all repaired and painted! A special thanks to Richard Harvey for all his hard work and attention to detail. No longer do we have to figure out how to cover it up.

UNA MEETING

Rachel Whiteman

The regional meeting for UCC churches in our area, called the United Northern Association, was hosted by First Congregational UCC, Cadillac on April 25th. Ann Lockwood was our delegate, and several other people attended from our congregation. The day comprised a worship service and two workshops about church music. Dr Adam Brookes Webber, pastor of Clare Congregational United Church of Christ, introduced us to several of his compositions, and mused about how we might relate to newer music and music expressing a more progressive theology, alongside old favorites that may speak to people in different ways. His website is <http://adambrookswebber.com/> where he shares his music at no charge. He has published a book of words and music called *The Inn of God's Forgiveness and Other Hymns for the Progressive Church*.



Penny and her team produced a nutritious and delicious lunch, which was followed by a talk by Vaughn Peterson, the new pastor of the Harrison Congregational Church, who expanded on the theme by presenting some different options for planning music in worship.



NOISY OFFERING

Save your change! We are taking a short break from "noisy offering".

NURSERY

Karly Tufford, our nursery helper, has left to have a baby. She has done a good job. We are currently looking for a replacement. Though our need for a nursery worker is sporadic, we do feel the need to have a nursery helper available to support young families.

EVENTS

Movie Club

Pat McCurdy



We have been enjoying our Movie Club: a good crowd of people, the laughs, and the yummy refreshments and entertaining movies.

Comfortable seating (the seat pads have been found!) the movie on **Tuesday April 28th at 7pm** is "The Theory of Everything". Come join us!

The last movie night will be held in May – date yet to be determined.

Mothers' Day - Sunday May 10th

Bring your special teacups on Mothers' Day for a special teacup service by Pastor Dani.

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



"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!

After 26 Depot



Below is a link to see the After 26 Depot Café highlighted on the PBS Show "Under the Radar". If you just want to see the part on the Depot, fast forward to 4.57. The section on the Depot only lasts about 5 minutes. Enjoy!!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVnuuuLtlYw>

TREASURER’S REPORT

Penny Phelps

The 2015 budget that was approved at the Annual Meeting totals \$102,050, of which \$10,000 is to come from the church’s Reserve Fund. The remaining \$92,050 must come from the General Fund, which is made up of pledges, non-pledges, rent, and other minor sources. Here are the figures through the first three months of 2015:

Month	Income	Expenses	Balance	Accumulated Deficit
Jan.	\$6,787	\$4,442	+\$2,345	
Feb.	4,109	6,953	- 2,844	\$ 499.
Mar.	6,853	8,148	- 1,295	1,794.

Compared to previous years, we are in pretty good shape, and we’re now past the heavy utility bills months. However, we must keep in mind that our current position is due to many months of low pastoral salaries. We have to remember that Pat Ponczek, Barbara Huitema, and Dani Veenstra have shared their gifts with us for either no or very modest compensation. As we look forward to welcoming Rev. John Doud into our pulpit, we have to recognize that we are committed to paying him a fairer salary. Please keep up with your pledges and gifts as we strive to “Be the Church” and to support our leadership.

MISSIONS

Our Mission Target For May:

Strengthen the Church Special Offering: Invest in the Vision



Strengthen The Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

As God calls our congregations to be the "church" in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. STC funds will also be used to award grants to help congregations communicate the "God is still speaking," message.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Bill Allinder

Bill Allinder sadly passed away on Friday April 3rd 2015. A memorial service will be held on Saturday May 30th 11am at Park Congregational Church, 10 E. Park Place, Grand Rapids. Bill was pastor of this church from 1964 through 1972, and was an avid hunter, fisher and scratch golfer. He was a great sports enthusiast. Many long-time members have fond memories of him.

A Note from Rev Dr Forrest Hoppe

Thank you for the all the prayers, thoughts and cards when I had the procedure on my prostate. I am doing well in recovery and slowly regaining my stamina. I have no discomfort and my physicians are very optimistic that I soon will be cancer free

Shalom, Forrest

Prayer List

Please hold these members, friends, and family in prayer: **Brian Belleville, Margaret Leemon, Jenny Freese and Linda Baynes, Ruth Pitts, Aaron Eckert, the family and friends of Bill Allinder, Terry Oss, Jim & Sharon Thompson, Marge Mattison, Samantha Wilton, Ellen Anderson, Janet Raymond, James Cooper, the family of James Teasdale, Christine Barton**

Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Usher/Greeters	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
MAY 3	Charlotte Barfield, Marie Linn	Todd Elkins	<i>Birth-day Sunday</i> Diane Jobson	Carol Nilsson	Dani Veenstra
MAY 10	Joyce & Mike Oatley	Ann Lockwood	Penny Phelps	Sara Keinath	Dani Veenstra Mission Moment Jerry
MAY 17	Laura Jacobson & Sam Pentces	Sue Wachowski	Sara Keinath	Sue Wachowski	Dani Veenstra
MAY 24	Gert & Sperry Claypool	Joyce Oatley	Kelly McCann	Sperry Claypool	Dani Veenstra
MAY 31	Diane & Tom Jobson	Penny Phelps	Picnic/Pot Luck	Tom Jobson	Dani Veenstra

MAY 2015 *Non-Church activities that occur in the church.						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<u>1</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>2</u> *Jazz.8:30 am Tai Chi 3pm
<u>3</u> CHOIR 9:30 Worship 10:30 COMMUNION Birthday Sunday	<u>4</u> *Jazz.5:45 pm *Symphony Board 7pm	<u>5</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>6</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm CHOIR 7pm	<u>7</u> *Jazz.8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>8</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>9</u> *Jazz.8:30 am Tai Chi 3pm
<u>10</u> CHOIR 9:30 Worship10:30	<u>11</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>12</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am	<u>13</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm CHOIR 7pm	<u>14</u> *Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>15</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>16</u> *Jazz.8:30 am Tai Chi 3pm
<u>17</u> CHOIR 9:30 Worship 10 :30	<u>18</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>19</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>20</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	<u>21</u> Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm BoT 6:30 pm	<u>22</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>23</u> Jazz.8:30 am Tai Chi 3pm
<u>24</u> Worship10 :30	<u>25</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm MEMORIAL DAY	<u>26</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>27</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm CHOIR 7pm	<u>28</u> Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>29</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>30</u> Jazz.8:30 am Tai Chi 3pm
<u>31</u> CHOIR 9:30 Worship 10 :30						