



July 2015

The Tie That Binds

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Cadillac, Michigan

Supply Pastor's Ramblings

Dani Veenstra

"Be Still and Know that I am God" Psalm 46:10

How often this verse runs through my head, always while I am busy doing something I think is vitally important; house cleaning, gardening, sweeping the deck, checking Facebook one more time. Each of these activities are solitary and relatively quiet, but none of them really involve being still in a way that opens my inner being to the presence of the Divine. I am still thinking about the task at hand, the results, the latest Instant Message or Meme. The book of Psalms covers the range of emotions and thoughts we humans experience in our daily lives, joy, sorrow, anger, loneliness, fear, frustration with a God who doesn't show up at our bidding. Perhaps this verse or at least the first two words of this verse gives us a clue to tapping into a larger awareness of Holiness in the every day. "Be still" tough for a lot of us, we are too busy, too important, too tired to simply BE.

I challenge each of you to find three minutes each day to just BE, no expectations, no agenda, no task at hand, just BE. Sit, in stillness and simply listen to your own breath, feel it moving down into your lungs and surging back out again to join with the breath of every other human that lives on this earth. Just BE for a few minutes, and just maybe God will show up so you can get to know the God who sees you as beloved just as you are, just as you BE.

Pastor Dani

A MESSAGE FROM OUR FUTURE PASTOR, Rev John Doud

To my new Cadillac Congregational Family:

Catherine and I acknowledge great appreciation for your warm and enthusiastic welcome and luncheon in late March, as well as the music program and dinner in late April during the United Northern Association spring meeting. Now that we have signed our Covenant Agreement, Pat McCurdy thought it appropriate for me to provide you with a dissertation regarding the John Doud vision of ministry at the First Congregational Church of Cadillac. Due to recent cataract issues, my vision is blurred, so it appears as if I'm going to need every single one of you as partners in ministry to help see my way through.

In our several meetings at church and at the After 26 Café, it has become quite apparent to me that this marvelous congregation is populated by shepherds rather than sheep. Therefore, as shepherd leaders, we will: write our own covenant; brainstorm regarding building a community of faith with educational programs for children, youth, and adults; continue to expand the marvelous music program, directed by the versatile talents of Rachel Whiteman and Margie Annis; and persist in providing uplifting Sunday worship led by all the ministers of First Congregational, Cadillac. Above all, and probably of greatest significance, we will follow Jesus by establishing ourselves as a caring congregation, bringing joy and acceptance and embrace not only to those who enter the doors of our building, but also to those outside of our physical structure through various outreach ministries (Love, INC; After 26 Café; OASIS; Church World Service; New Hope; Feeding America; Neighbors In Need; Project Christmas; Salvation Army; Stehouwer Free Clinic; Shepherd's Table; and One Great Hour of Sharing). This means we will walk together through both the valley of shadows and the hills of

delight, knowing loved ones surround us, God is always there beside us, and strength resides within us to help us meet any challenge that comes our way.

After the two year pastoral search, I am very grateful and humbled for the many hours of work conducted by your Pastoral Search Committee, and to eventually have been selected by you, the congregation of the First Congregational Church of Cadillac, Michigan. It will indeed be a privilege serving under your leadership over the next year and years. Thank you for being a concerned and caring, welcoming and inclusive congregation. In the meantime, the words of Rabindranath Tagore anticipate our life journey together: "To you, my friends, love, light, and laughter!"

- John

Pastor John will be joining us here on Tuesday August 18th. Until then, Supply Pastor Dani Veenstra will continue in her much appreciated service to this congregation.

5th Annual A.S. & S.S.F.POOL PARTY Sunday July 26th 2015



COME ONE ... COME ALL!! It's time again to grab your floaties, rubber duckies, flip flops and kids and come on down to the cement pound for the 5th ANNUAL SPLASH & SYNCHRONIZED SWIM FESTIVAL!

The First Congregational Synchronized Swim Team will proudly present their 5th annual, wildly anticipated, standing room only, just back from the Ester William's school of choreography encore of encores. *Be on your best behavior this year, as from high in the sky all will be captured on film for posterity!* Members of the team who need some additional rehearsal time may contact Bob or Troy about pool time availability to hone their

craft (practice makes perfect – don't ya know)

*Please bring a dish to pass (suitable for 10 people) and a folding lawn chair.

*We'll provide hamburgers/hot dogs & fixins, as well as soda/water. (Rumor has it that the "mixology" machine, and its "smoothie" pal, have been longing for their old friends to return)

*Time: Directly following church service – till? Feasting will begin at 1:00pm – listen for the dinner bell. (Perhaps an outdoor dive-in movie at dusk?)

*Place: Twin Falls Resort of Cadillac (Bob & Troy's



A "Sunday Funday" production.

MEMORIAL for Bill Bryan

There will be a special memorial acknowledgement of Bill Bryan's good works during the **July 12th** service.

CHURCH DIRECTORY LIST

The church directory list will be out on the back table during July. Please have a look and make sure we have your details correct. Thanks!

BANNER

THANK YOU !!!!

Our new banner "Be the Church" is installed and flags are flying.

Thanks Penny for ordering the banner.

A Rainbow flag and an Equality flag grace the front pillars,

Thanks Bob and Troy for purchasing and installing the new flags.

The entrance looks great!



PRIDE SUNDAY

With the church was decked out in rainbow banners, we had a myriad of magical music at the Pride Service on Sunday 21st from Shannon Gilmore, Al Snyder and Sue Wachowski. The rainbow candles were lit as we re-affirmed the Open and Affirming (ONA) Statement.

WALKING GROUP

Pat McCurdy

Still looking for walking buddies! Let me know if you would like to have a short walk after church, or at some other time.

Tai Chi Class

The Tai Chi will continue through the summer on **Sundays at 3pm**, by the lake opposite the football field. \$5 donation to church funds. Instructor Catherine (Casey) Cline.

Semi-Annual Meeting

Will be held on **Sunday September 13th**. Mark your calendar!

COMMUNITY

Annual Festival of the Arts & Phyllis Olson Art Fair (juried)

is held annually in the Cadillac City Park, on the shoreline of Lake Cadillac. Starts Friday with the exhibit opening mid-day, the 'Taste of Cadillac' kicks off the evening with live music playing in the Park Pavilion. Saturday's events include Kids crafts and the String Petting Zoo, where Kids can try out various stringed instruments. The Park Pavilion hosts live entertainment and the art exhibits continue throughout the weekend. Friday 1-7 p.m., Saturday 10-5 p.m. For more information on this event, call (231) 394-1549. Website: www.cadillacartists.org/

After 26 Depot Summer Fundraiser

Will be held on August 1st from 1pm-10pm at the Rotary Art Pavilion.

The poster features a pink background with a white border. At the top left is the 'ALICE'S DEPOT' logo with the address '127 W. Case St., Cadillac, MI 49830' and phone number '(231) 468-3526'. The main title is 'Friends of the Depot Music Festival' in bold black text, followed by the date 'August 1, 2015' and time '1pm - 10pm'. Below this is the location 'Rotary Performing Arts Pavilion & City Park' with a musical staff graphic. A list of activities includes 'Continual line-up of outstanding musicians', 'Raffles for great prizes', 'Commemorative Merchandise', 'Kid's games & activity area', 'Artisan and crafter booths', 'Fantastic food choices', and 'Beer Tent'. The headliner is 'Roosevelt Diggs' with the website 'www.rooseveltdiggs.com'. At the bottom, it says 'Bring a lawn chair or blanket and settle in for the day!' with small icons of a lawn chair and a blanket.

MISSIONS

Backpack Program – Tom Jobson

In the Cadillac Area Public schools there are close to four hundred students who qualify, by state guidelines, for free or reduced-price lunches. Many of these students have a difficult time receiving proper nutrition when they are not in school. The Back Pack Program is designed to help meet the weekend food needs for these students.

Students who qualify for the program receive food the last day of the educational week—usually on Fridays. The children are given a bag filled with a variety of canned or dry food to be eaten over the weekend. This small bag of food will constitute most of the child's food intake— and sometimes for other members of the child's family— during the days the child won't be participating in the free lunch program.

This program is sponsored, and managed, by Cadillac's First Baptist Church and staffed by a variety of community volunteer workers. Feeding America Food Bank helps First Baptist acquire the food at a minimal cost, but even so it is an enormous burden for just one church to bear. Additional donated funds are needed to continue this program week after week. Any contribution you can make this month, to this mission target for July, will be greatly appreciated.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayer List

Please hold these members, friends, and family in prayer: **Brian Belleville, Margaret Leemon, Jenny Freese and Linda Baynes, Ruth Pitts, Aaron Eckert, Terry Oss, Jim & Sharon Thompson, Marge Mattison, Christine Barton, the family and friends of Tim Vollmar, the family of Ann Marie Seidel, Karl Thompson**

Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Usher/Greeters	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
JUL 5	Sandy & Dave Gaunt	Laura Porter	<i>Birthday Sunday</i> P Phelps	Dave Gaunt	Dani Veenstra
JUL 12	Linda Baynes, Penny Phelps	Charlotte Barfield	Kelly McCann	Robin Corbin	Dani Veenstra Mission Moment Tom
JUL 19	Laura Jacobson & Sam Pentces	Todd Elkins	Butler family	Carol Nilsson	Dani Veenstra
JUL 26	TBA	TBA	Pool Party Potluck	Sara Keinath	Dani Veenstra

JULY 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	<u>2</u> *Jazz.8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>3</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>4</u> *Jazz.8:30 am
<u>5</u> Worship 10:30 COMMUNION Tai Chi 3pm by the lake	<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	<u>9</u> *Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>10</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>11</u> *Jazz.8:30 am
<u>12</u> Worship 10:30 Tai Chi 3pm by the lake	<u>13</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>14</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>15</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>16</u> Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>17</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>18</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>19</u> Worship 10:30 Tai Chi 3pm by the lake	<u>20</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm BoT 6:30 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
<u>26</u> Worship 10:30 POOL PARTY AND POTLUCK 1pm Tai Chi 3pm by the lake	<u>27</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>28</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>29</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>30</u> Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>31</u> Jazz.8:30 am	