



August 2015
The Tie That Binds

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Cadillac, Michigan

Ramblings from the Pastor's Desk

The time has flown by, January is a distant memory and August is here. Your new chapter begins and I am so excited for all of you. I have learned much from my time here as your pastor and friend. You have helped me find my strengths and joys in ministry and places I need to grow going forward.

In January, when I arrived, the ceiling was propped in place and soon was replaced by scaffolding and yards of plastic sheeting to keep the dust in and us out. Worship in the fellowship hall was intimate and gave me a chance to get to know you quickly; for your open hearts I am grateful!

Extreme cold cancelled church in February, March arrived without spring, but our hearts knew the worst of winter was over. In April I began visiting and connecting with those unable to attend worship and I found this to be a rewarding experience. The wisdom and wit of our elders cheered me with each conversation.

Each month we have celebrated birthdays, ended the month with a potluck and enjoyed being back in the sanctuary with the beautiful new ceiling. We've said the final goodbye to beloved friends and members of the church and hello to new families and people.

Together we have been church for one another. You are good at blessing new people and making them feel welcome and comfortable in your midst. This is a unique gift you have as a congregation; keep at it and work on extending that welcome beyond the walls of this beautiful building.

Each of you plays a part in making church happen week after week. There are probably things each one of you do that I am not aware of; things you may think don't count as answering the call to "Be the Church"; but as I read recently in Barbara Brown Taylor's book *An Alter in the World* "No work is too small to play a part in the work of creation. At Cirque de Soleil, the person who replaces the light bulbs is vitally important to the high wire artist, who must see where to put her foot."

Each of you have played a vital role in making church happen this year, from the first day back in January when I walked in to a big smile I have watched you "Be Church" for each other.

You have ushered, shared your gift of music, baked, cut up cheese, watered the garden, placed flags and banners out front, provided oversight for the ceiling project, researched and been involved in our missions, greeted one another with kindness, counted the money, recorded the services, called on those who needed to hear a friendly voice, bought communion bread and held the communion plate, printed bulletins, dusted, opened and closed windows, shook hands with strangers and in general answered God's call to do the work of the church.

You all have blessed David and me in many ways; for that we thank you. Goodbye is difficult when we are having such a wonderful time. We know John will bless this body with his humor, experience and heart for God.

As I have said many Sundays in the Benediction "Go in peace and serve the Lord". This is the work David and I will be doing in the future. We are better equipped for that task thanks to all we have learned in the time we have had with you.

Peace to you,

Pastor Dani

Hear ye, Hear ye!

Supply Pastor Dani Veenstra's last service will be on **August 16th**. Many thanks to Pastor Dani for her hard work and dedication for the last 8 months.

Reverend John Doud will start his ministry at First Congregational Church on **Tuesday August 18th**, with his first service **on August 23rd**. The Welcoming Committee (some former members of the Search Committee) will host an ice-cream and cake reception after church on August 23rd.

Please note that there will be no potluck Fellowship Hour in August

Nursery

We are looking for someone with a background in child education. Please see Penny or Pat if you have any suggestions.

Semi-Annual Meeting

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

Dedication Service

Congratulations to Amelia, whose dedication service (an alternative to baptism) was held on June 28th. Here she is with parents Jill and Cam after the service.

An Invitation

George and Leif would like to extend an invitation to all members of the congregation to join them for their wedding ceremony on **August 15, 2015**. The ceremony will be held at 1 pm in the sanctuary. George and Leif will host fellowship hour following church service on **August 30th** to celebrate with the church family and extend their gratitude for the congregation's support.



COMMUNITY



Surplus Produce Needed! - Senior Green

Fresh Produce At No Cost To Low Income Seniors!

Please bring your spare produce to Cadillac Senior Center on Chestnut Street

Food Drop off: Monday- Wednesday by 10am
Senior Shopping: Every Wednesday 10am - 12pm

Footliters Summer Camp



JUNIOR PLAYERS DRAMA CAMP

"Down the Rabbit Hole"

August 3 - August 7, 2015

10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Lake City High School Auditorium
251 E Russell Street
Lake City, MI 49651

Enroll by **07/27/2015**

See cadillacfootliters.com for details.

MISSIONS

The monthly Missions collection is now being collected in baskets on the **3rd Sunday**, after the main offering. If you miss the 3rd Sunday and want to give to the month's mission, please use the designated envelopes.

August: Shepherd's Table

September: Feeding America

October: Neighbors in Need

November: Salvation Army

December: Christmas Fund

After 26 Depot Summer Fundraiser

A musical fundraiser will be held on **Saturday August 1st from 1pm-10pm** at the Rotary Art Pavilion, featuring music from the Patriot Choir, Cambio, Playdate, Bob Rushing, Jack Purkiss, Lake Effect, Adam Joynt, Zak Bunce, Samantha Crawford, Brian Nolf and Roosevelt Diggs.

After 26 DEPOT
127 W. Case St., Cadillac
(231) 468-3526

Friends of the Depot Music Festival
August 1, 2015 1pm - 10pm

Rotary Performing Arts Pavilion & City Park

Continual line-up of outstanding musicians

Raffles for great prizes Commemorative Merchandise
Kid's games & activity area Artisan and crafter booths
Fantastic food choices Beer Tent

Headliner: Roosevelt Diggs www.rooseveltdiggs.com

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and settle in for the day!

See details at after26project.org

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, Karl Thompson**

Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Usher/ Greeters	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
AUG 2	Charlotte Barfield, Marie Linn	Sue Wachowski	<i>Birthday Sunday Karma Chapo</i>	Sue Wachowski	Dani Veenstra
AUG 9	Gert & Sperry Claypool	Joyce Oatley	Phyllis Burns	Sperry Claypool	Dani Veenstra Mission Moment Tom
AUG 16	Sue Wachowski & Karen Anderson	Penny Phelps	Penny Phelps	Tom Jobson	Dani Veenstra
AUG 23	Diane & Tom Jobson	Karen Anderson	Welcome Committee	Bob LeVand	John Doud
AUG 30	TBA	Karma Chapo	George and Leif	Laura Jacobson- Pentces	Sara Keinath

AUGUST 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> Worship 10:30 COMMUNION Birthday Sunday Tai Chi 3pm by the lake	<u>3</u> *Jazz.5:45 pm *Symphony Board 7pm	<u>4</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am	<u>5</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>6</u> *Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>7</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>8</u> *Jazz.8:30 am
<u>9</u> Worship 10:30 Tai Chi 3pm by the lake	<u>10</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>11</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>12</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>13</u> Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>14</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>15</u> Jazz.8:30 am 1pm George and Leif's Wedding
<u>16</u> Worship 10:30 Tai Chi 3pm by the lake	<u>17</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm BoT 6:30 pm	<u>18</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>19</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>20</u> Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>21</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>22</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>23</u> Worship 10:30 - John Doud's first service Tai Chi 3pm by the lake	<u>24</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>25</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>26</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	<u>27</u> Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>28</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>29</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>30</u> Worship 10:30 Tai Chi 3pm by the lake	<u>31</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm					

Looking ahead: *Semi-Annual Meeting - 9/13, Harvest Feast - 10/25, Holiday Bazaar - 12/5*