



September 2015

The Tie That Binds

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Cadillac, Michigan



Our New Minister Reverend John Doud and his wife Catherine arrived on August 18th 2015!

Rev. John Doud is an ordained Congregationalist pastor from southern Michigan. He and his wife, Catherine, have been married for 39 years and love to travel. They enjoy spending time with their children and grandbaby. John received his BA from Albion College and a Masters of Divinity from Duke University. John has two Doctor of Ministry degrees. His first degree is from Drew University, where his dissertation subject was the revitalization of church

deacons. He earned his second from McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. His doctoral thesis received the Hunt Award, the highest university merit award. The subject of his thesis focused on increasing church accessibility to people with disabilities. John has been a pastor since he was 22 years old. In his current position, he has been pastor for 34 years. He brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and humor to the life of our church. While John has long relationship with the Congregational Churches, he said he is looking forward to developing cooperative and productive relationships within the UCC. We look forward to a happy and productive relationship with our new friends John and Catherine Doud.

Rev. John's Statement of Ministry

My ministry focuses on relationships. Though I am the "Ordained Professional" in this organization, I refuse to be set apart from the rest of the people in the church engaging in ministry as some sort of spiritual specialist. Ministry should be a partnership where the work is cooperative and where minister and people call each other to account. Rather than being set apart, we ought to be set together for a common vocation, sharing power as partners in the Congregational Way of Life.

It is essential for me to render the gift of my life's experiences in worship and in service as minister, friend and co-worker. I believe in being there with the people, participating directly in life's tragedies and contradictions. The aim of my ministry is not to convert everybody to my framework of Christianity- as if my way were the only way-but to encourage people to think for themselves in their own religious or secular settings. Through the influences of gratefulness and unconditional love, individuals can be called back to their better selves.

All of this is to say-whether we are Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, Pagan or of no religion at all-it is in the best interest of our world if we continue to search for a greater understanding of others which leads to unity. This is not a unity of belief, culture or tradition but a unity of love and respect which promotes education and communication with other religious and secular traditions. By humbling ourselves to our limitations, while simultaneously performing anonymous acts of service, fostering cooperation and concern for all living beings in this planet Earth, we can become a genuine community of faith, hope and peace celebrating the Holy Name through acts of kindness and love.

John and Catherine express their gratitude for the welcome extended to them on Sunday 23rd, and for the 39th wedding Anniversary cake.

"We enjoyed ice-cream and cupcakes, music, and danced to the tune of "Always" by Ella Fitzgerald. We are so thankful for your generosity, your hospitality, and your love."

- John and Catherine



A Message from Pastor Dani:

3 John 1:2 " I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well."



Dear Cadillac Friends,

Thank you for the lovely and heart felt send off. Thank you for all the cards and letters, they touched my heart and will be kept as treasures from our time together. David and I will remember our time together and look back fondly with gratitude for your acceptance, wisdom and grace bestowed freely and often upon us.

Your generous gift was a surprise, thank you! I will use the money to help defray the cost of Clinical Pastoral Education, an education program I am starting late in September.

Blessings for your future. Share who you are with everyone you encounter, you are a gift to the world and I was blessed to serve God with all of you.

Thank you, dear friends,

Dani Veenstra

Pool Party

The pool party on July 26th was a splashing success!

Thanks Troy and Bob for sharing their home with the congregation. It was a fun afternoon, with delicious food, great fellowship and a sensational synchronized swimming!



Wedding

The first gay wedding at First Congregational Church UCC, Cadillac, was held on August 15th. Forrest Hoppe and John Doud officiated.

George Davis and Leif Williams will share their happiness with us on August 30th with a celebration in Fellowship Hall after church.



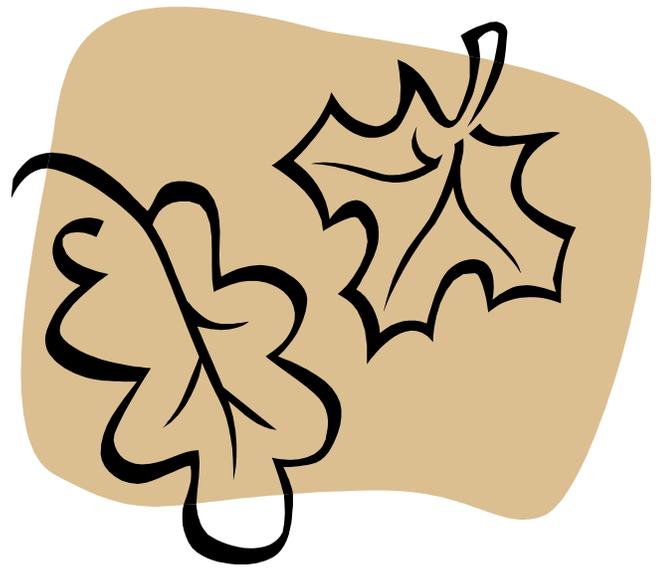
- ***Thanks to Pat McCurdy and Troy Knight for the photos!***

Fall Happenings!

Choir Practices Start September 9th

Welcome all singers! Practices are Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00, and Sundays, 9:30-10:15.

The choir's first Sunday of this season will be on Sunday September 19th.



Semi-Annual Meeting

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

Pancake Brunch

The next fundraiser Pancake brunch will be held on **Saturday October 10th from 10 am - 12 noon**.

Fall Clean Up

Fall clean up date - **October 11 (Sunday)** after worship. Dress casually ready for the clean-up! This will be a "jeans day"!

UNA Fall Meeting: Exploring the World's Great Religions

The United Northern Association's Fall Meeting at Benzonia UCC on **September 26th** will provide an opportunity for us to take a closer look at the great religions that have developed throughout the world and to develop a greater understanding and appreciation of that "common ground."

Rev. Toby Jones will present our workshop, *Our Common Core: What Christianity Shares with Other Religions*. As he is passionate about creating ties of understanding that move us beyond mere tolerance when it comes to the world's great religions, we can anticipate a day that may transform how we view neighbors of different faiths. He will also explore what it is in both Christianity and Islam that has put these two faiths at odds with one another.

Toby Jones is a graduate of DePauw University and Princeton Theological Seminary. An ordained Presbyterian minister, he is known for his creative ministries, and has founded Living Vision, an alternative spiritual community here in Northern Michigan. Toby is also an adjunct professor of Religion at North Central Michigan College, teaching their World Religions offerings. As of September 1, he will be serving as Designated Pastor for the Gaylord UCC church.

Toby is the author of two books, *The Gospel According to Rock* (2007), and *The Way of Jesus: Reforming Spiritual Communities in a Post-church Age*. (2010) Both books will be available for purchase at our meeting in Benzonia.

The Building Bridges project from Alpena UCC will also have a display table of books that serve as resources for learning even more about the major world religions. They will also share ideas for service projects that can change our minds and hearts.

For more information, or to register for the UNA Fall Meeting, please contact your church office or call UNA Registrar, Penny Phelps, at (231)775-4069. We look forward to seeing you on September 26th in Benzonia!

- Pat Leahy, UNA Coordinator

COMMUNITY



"Have a Razzle Dazzle Moment" with the Cadillac Community Chorus on
September 26th at 7:30 pm. OR September 27th at 3:00 pm

At the Cadillac High School Auditorium.

Advance tickets \$8, at the door \$10 (from Horizon Books, Brinks, and Chorus Members)

After 26 Fundraiser



A message from the organizers:

Thank you to everyone who volunteered or patronized the Depot Music Fest in August! The event was a tremendous success. . We far exceeded our goal of \$10,000!

On behalf of the project workers, staff, and Board of Directors, we give our sincere thanks and gratitude.

Surplus Produce Needed! - Senior Green



Fresh Produce At No Cost To Low Income Seniors!

Please bring your spare produce (apples, zucchinis, tomatoes, ANYTHING YOU HAVE TO SPARE!) to Cadillac Senior Center on Chestnut Street

Food Drop off: **Monday- Wednesday by 10am**

Senior Shopping: **Every Wednesday 10am - 12pm**

The Footlitters' 52nd Season:

Beer for Breakfast by Sean Grennan Oct. 1-4

Disney's Alice in Wonderland Jr. Book - David Simpatico Music - Bryan Louiselle Nov. 13, 14, 15, 20

The Nerd by Larry Shue Jan. 15, 16, 22, 23

Deathtrap by Ira Levin March 18, 19, 25, 26

TBA June 17, 18, 24, 25

See cadillacfootlitters.com for more info.

Report from the Treasurer

Penny Phelps

Summary Financial Report as of 7/31/15

2015 Budget	\$102,050
Portion of budget to come from Reserve	10,000
Portion of budget to come from General Fund	92,050
Average Monthly Expenses (\$92,050/12)	7,671

<u>Month</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Accum. Deficit</u>
Jan.	\$6,787	\$4,442		\$2,345
Feb.	4,109	6,953	- 2,844	\$ 499.
Mar.	6,853	8,148	- 1,295	1,794.
April	5,480	3,918	+ 1,562	232.
May	5,525	6,493	- 968	1,200.
June	4,982	7,992	- 3,010	4,210.
July	4,562	4,337	+ 225	3,985.

You can see from these figures that the church budget is running a deficit, although not as big a deficit as we have experienced in the past. Keep in mind a couple of things:

- In 2014 our budget got a big boost when Pat Ponczek served as our preacher for four months without compensation. She was followed by Barbara Huitema, who accepted only a modest compensation. For the past eight months, Dani Veenstra also was compensated very moderately.
- As of the middle of August, we have accepted the obligation to pay Rev. Doud at a much higher rate, one that takes into account his education and his years of experience. Presently we are not receiving total monthly offerings that will cover his compensation, much less the total expenses of the church.

At the top of the report, you will notice that \$10,000 is allocated to the budget from the church's Reserve Account, and we will be drawing on that soon. However, that alone will not make up the difference between what we are receiving each month and what we will need each month for the remainder of the year. Please do what you can to make sure your pledge is up to date, and if possible, dig deep and give a little more.

MISSIONS

Sperry Claypool

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.

Our Mission for September is Feeding America

Feeding America donations make possible the West Michigan Food Bank. This food bank services a full half of lower Michigan and all of upper Michigan. They work with volunteers, farmers, grocery stores, many food producers and all fellow non-profits to provide to one half a million of our neighbors in need each year. This is a wonderful way to stretch the dollars we give to the one in seven people who struggle to feed their family each and every day. Each dollar we donate provides four meals for hungry children and their families. If you get a chance to pull up the Feeding America West Michigan website, you will be amazed at the size of this program. I was.

October: Neighbors in Need, November: Salvation Army December: Christmas Fund

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayer List

Please hold these members, friends, and family in prayer: **Brian Belleville, Margaret Leemon, Jenny Freese, Ruth Pitts, Aaron Eckert, Terry Oss, Jim & Sharon Thompson, Marge Mattison, Christine Barton, Bill Vander Molen, Karl Thompson, Janet Raymond**

Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Usher/ Greeters	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
SEP 6	Karma Chapo & Donna Debney	Tom Jobson	<i>Birthday Sunday Gillian and Cam Gines</i>	Linda Baynes	John Doud
SEP 13	Linda Baynes, Penny Phelps	Robin Corbin	Virgil and Kevin Butler	Penny Phelps	John Doud
SEP 20	Sandy & Dave Gaunt	Laura Porter	Steven Jackson	Dave Gaunt	John Doud
SEP 27	Carol & Jerry Nilsson	Charlotte Barfield	Potluck	Robin Corbin	John Doud

SEPTEMBER 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> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>3</u> *Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>4</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>5</u> *Jazz.8:30 am
<u>6</u> Worship 10:30 COMMUNION Birthday Sunday Tai Chi 3pm by the lake	<u>7</u> *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>8</u> *Jazz. 8:30 am	<u>9</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm Choir 7pm	<u>10</u> *Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>11</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>12</u> *Jazz.8:30 am
<u>13</u> Worship 10:30 ANNUAL MEETING Tai Chi 3pm by the lake	<u>14</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm *Symphony Board 7pm	<u>15</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>16</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm Choir 7pm	<u>17</u> Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>18</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>19</u> Jazz.8:30 am Wedding
<u>20</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30 Tai Chi 3pm by the lake	<u>21</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm BoT 6:30 pm	<u>22</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>23</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	<u>24</u> Jazz. 8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>25</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>26</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>27</u> Worship 10:30 Tai Chi 3pm by the lake	<u>28</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>29</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>30</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm Choir 7pm			

***Looking ahead:** Pancake Brunch October 10th, Fall Clean-Up October 11th, Harvest Feast –October 25th, John's Installment 11/8, Holiday Bazaar December 5th*