



October 2015

The Tie That Binds

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Cadillac, Michigan

Pyramid Scheme

Before I talk like an Egyptian, there ought to be a few words of recognition in this October essay of this "The Tie That Binds" newsletter. Dani Veenstra (and her husband, David) have provided outstanding servant leadership continuing the prior interim leadership of Forrest Hoppe, Pat Ponczek, Barbara Huitema, and a stream of vital volunteers within this remarkable congregation. While this marvelous mix of ministry may have seemed unsettling in your search for a settled pastor, something else could have been brewing within the congregation. You may have realized over the past two and a half years that the worship and service of this community of faith likely matches that of the early Christian house churches: autonomous transforming leadership reinventing the church not from without but from within. Though not by your own choosing, and certainly during times of trial and tribulation, you have been practicing the presence of God by apprenticing for lay ministry and therefore standing on each other's shoulders.

An image comes to mind regarding my niece, Caroline Quinn, who is currently involved in a competition for a national championship in water skiing acrobatics. In her earlier days as an Aqua Devil, she had the distinguished honor of being selected as the point person at the top of a human pyramid racing around the cold waters on a chain of lakes in northern Wisconsin. Eight young muscular water skiers formed the foundation, while six stood on their shoulders creating the next layer, with four more at the third level, then two above the four, and eventually there at the very top of the pyramid was little Caroline. One can only imagine the weighty responsibility of every single water skiing acrobat since it would only take one person to collapse the structure. Incidentally, through the years, I have witnessed several of these faulty towers.

Now here we are together with a weighty responsibility, building our Congregational pyramid in a different time, on a new day, standing on the shoulders of those who have been there before us, while beginning a new chapter in the life of this dynamic and inclusive, open and affirming, loving and forgiving fellowship. What will the future hold for us? What will be the legacy we pass on to future generations? How will we – to a lesser degree – make a difference in the Cadillac community and beyond?

Every single member and friend of this family of faith has an important role to play in the structure of First Congregational Church UCC of Cadillac, whether you bear a particularly heavy burden at the bottom, or balance precariously at the top. One thing is certain: what we have here is not a typical pyramid scheme where those who invested early receive a greater portion of the profits. Here we gather together in this risky business called the church, as equal partners and servant leaders. Whether we arrive early, late, or on time, everyone can contribute something and likewise all share in the benefits as images of God.

Thank you for welcoming John and the Doud Family into the life of your dynamic and joy-filled congregation. Now let's build our pyramid!

- John

OCTOBER EVENTS

Sunday School

Sunday School will start on **October 4th**. Please register your child(ren) of age 6-14 in advance with Pat McCurdy.



- *Some photos of recent Children's time*

Pancake Brunch

The next fundraiser Pancake brunch will be held on **Saturday October 10th from 10 am - 12 noon**. Donations to the Stehouwer Free Clinic.



Movie club



Movie Club starts up again on **Tuesday October 13th at 7pm**. This month's movie is a Halloween romp "Hocus Pocus". \$5 donation is requested for church funds. Snacks will be provided. Costumes are optional!

Fall Clean Up

Fall clean up date - **October 18 (Sunday)** after worship. Dress casually ready for the clean-up! This will be a "jeans day"! **PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**

Now that the bushes have been cleared from in front of the main entrance, where will the church snake be hiding?!



Harvest Feast

This year's Harvest Feast will be held after worship on **Sunday October 25th**.

New Members

If anyone is interested in joining the church as a member on **October 25th** please let Pastor John Doud know. So far 5 new members are scheduled to join the church on that date



LOOKING AHEAD

John's Installation

John Doud's installation service will be held on Sunday **November 8th** with a **4pm** service, with dinner and reception following in Fellowship Hall. Many guest ministers are expected. This is a service that confirms and celebrates the covenant between a church and a newly called pastor.

Holiday Bazaar

This year's holiday Bazaar will be held on **Saturday December 5th**.

Organ Restoration

Thanks to some generous donors, restoration work will be performed on our pipe organ during October and November. New contacts on the console will be resistant to corrosion, so that the notes sound reliably, and leathers on the bellows will be replaced, so that they will give us many years of service into the future.



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

WEDDING



Congratulations to David and Jessica Brugger who married on September 19th here at First Congregational.

UNA Fall Meeting in Benzonia



The UNA Fall meeting in Benzonia featured an excellent workshop about Christianity and its relationship to, and similarity with other World faiths (Buddhism, Judaism, Islam, hinduism, led by Toby Jones, pastor of Gaylord UCC. Cadillac was well represented – Penny, Rachel, Bob, John and Catherine attended.

COMMUNITY

Philharmonic Club

Cadillac Philharmonic Club invites you to "Make Friends with Music"! Come and hear our 2015 Music Award winners perform. Meet and greet them at our tea party (free for guests) On Monday October 12th 2015 from 4-6pm. Performance at 4pm, refreshments at 5pm

Philharmonic Chorus:

Philharmonic Chorus rehearsals start on October 5th. (Brought to you by Cadillac Philharmonic Club – see our facebook page for more information, and some great pics of Shannon Gilmore who performed for the club in June.)

SINGERS WANTED

You are hereby invited to join the "Cadillac Philharmonic Chorus" directed by Mrs. Judy Nichols. The Chorus is primarily SSA and the prerequisites are:

- 1) You have had prior choir experience (general)
- 2) You can commit to 9 rehearsals and 1 performance (their annual afternoon "Christmas Tea")

Rehearsals are every Monday 9:30-11:30 starts Oct. 5
Rehearsals will be held at Temple Hill Baptist Church
1601 West Division Street Cadillac, Mi.
SORRY>>>NO CHILD CARE PROVIDED

PRACTICES START OCT. 5 9:30-11:30 QUESTIONS?? CALL JUDY 878-7748

Practices are at Temple Hill Baptist Church
1601 West Division St.
Cadillac Michigan

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 Footliters' 52nd Season:

Welcome to the Footliters junior Players, who are currently rehearsing in Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7pm-9pm, and Sundays from 3pm-5pm

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 cadillacfootliters.com for more info.

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.

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, Janet Raymond, Donna Debney, Roger Whiteman, Family of John Gilmore, Ralph Annis, Patrick Delaney**

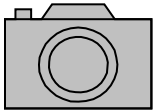


Photo contributions are always welcome! Please email yours to office@firstcongcadillac.org

Thanks to all the photo contributors to this issue: Linda Baynes, Jill Gines, Karen Anderson, Rachel Whiteman and Laura Porter

Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Usher/Greeters	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher	
OCT 4	Charlotte Barfield, Marie Linn	John Doud	<i>Birthday Sunday</i> <i>Karma Chapo</i>	Carol Nilsson	Barry Szymanski & John Doud	
OCT 11	Laura Jacobson & Sam Pentces	Ann Lockwood	Gert & Sperry Claypool	Sara Keinath	John Doud	Mission Moment Jerry
OCT 18	Sue Wachowski & Karen Anderson	Sue Wachowski	Troy Knight	Sue Wachowski	John Doud	
OCT 25	Gert & Sperry Claypool	Joyce Oatley	Harvest Feast	Sperry Claypool	John Doud	

OCTOBER 2015 *Non-Church activities that occur in the church.						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				<u>1</u> *Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>2</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>3</u> *Jazz.8:30 am
<u>4</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am COMMUNION Birthday Sunday Footliters 3pm	<u>5</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm *Symphony Board 7pm	<u>6</u> *Jazz 8:30am Footliters 7pm	<u>7</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm Choir 7pm	<u>8</u> *Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm Footliters 7pm	<u>9</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>10</u> *Jazz.8:30 am 10am-12pm Pancake Brunch
<u>11</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am Footliters 3pm	<u>12</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm	<u>13</u> *Jazz.8:30am Footliters 7pm Movie Club 7pm	<u>14</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm Choir 7pm	<u>15</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm Footliters 7pm	<u>16</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>17</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>18</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am FALL CLEAN-UP Footliters 3pm	<u>19</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm Board Meeting 6:30 pm	<u>20</u> *Jazz.8:30 am Footliters 7pm	<u>21</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm NEWSLETTER ITEMS DUE	<u>22</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm Footliters 7pm	<u>23</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>24</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>25</u> Worship 10:30am Potential new members meeting HARVEST FEAST Footliters 3pm	<u>26</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm	<u>27</u> *Jazz.8:30 am Footliters 7pm	<u>28</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm Choir 7pm	<u>29</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm Footliters 7pm	<u>30</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>31</u> Jazz.8:30 am

Looking ahead: John's Installment 11/8, Holiday Bazaar December 5th