

December 2015

The Tie That Binds

First Congregational United Church of Christ
Cadillac, Michigan



Installment Plan



Expanding on words shared with you on a bulletin insert designed for the November 8th John Foster Doud Service of Installation, "A BIG THANK YOU" to all of you at the First Congregational Church UCC of Cadillac, Michigan. I appreciate those who participated in worship, those who organized worship, those who worked diligently to prepare the church edifice and grounds, those who donated food and cooked for the Fellowship Hall reception and cleaned up afterwards, and everyone who attended the service.

It should be added that individuals attending the Service of Installation from the executive offices of the Michigan Conference (United Church of Christ – UCC) and the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches – NACCC), the United Northern Association of the Michigan Conference (UCC), the Central Michigan Association of Congregational Christian Churches and Ministers (NACCC), Arbor Grove Congregational Church, Olivet College, Cadillac Area Ministerial Association, various churches, as well as some of my family and friends were given the red carpet treatment by all of you, and for that I will always be grateful.

While this entire experience was called a "Service of Installation" – though other Congregational adherents will call it a "Service of Recognition" due to the authority of the local congregation – personally I prefer calling this whole enterprise an **Installment Plan**. As most of us know, when we purchase a home or car, we do so in cooperation with a financial institution, and therefore sign a document involving several successive payments in settlement of the debt. "Installment Plans" are not one time occasions, but chapters presented serially over a period of time.

In other words, our partnership in ministry is not set in stone through a one time event – it is fluid and flowing, flexible and capable of modification. This means for me that in every worship service and through every act of benevolence and kindness, opportunities are presented to celebrate and "install" ourselves all over again! While the "Installment Plan" we sign up for in this church signifies the debt we owe to God for our life together, it also involves what we owe to each other: a covenant. A covenant differs from a creed in that it is not a belief statement, established and fixed forever. It is an action plan, an agreement to work together as a congregation in all the varieties of faith in worship, in fellowship, and in service to others. It is evolving and adapting and movable to meet the needs of active and changing human beings. As one chapter of our lives ends, another begins: an end involves a beginning...and vice versa.

A discussion I had recently with a church family focused on the spirit of joy, cooperation, and enthusiasm experienced over this past year here in Cadillac. Please be reminded that you are the ones who repeat this sounding joy in your words and actions – you live the words you preach. You may be small in number but, believe me, you are big of heart...and that, as far as I'm concerned, makes all the difference. This is a "holiday" season extending from Thanksgiving to Christmas. Indeed, these are "Holy-days" celebrating God's holy image within us urging justice, humility, outreach and service. In the meantime – which is not a MEAN TIME at all – I offer my humble thanks for what you have given to me and my family. –John F. Doud

TRANSCRIPT OF THE ANTOINE LEIRIS LETTER SHARED BY JOHN DOUD AT THE CONCLUSION OF HIS NOVEMBER 22ND SERMON:

Antoine Leiris, whose wife Helene was one of the 130 murdered by ISIS in Paris on Friday, November 13th, issues powerful message of forgiveness:

“On Friday night you stole away the life of an exceptional human being: the love of my life and the mother of my son. But you will not have my hatred. I do not know who you are and I don’t want to know. If the God for whom you kill so blindly made us in his image, each bullet in my wife’s body would have been a wound in his heart.

“Therefore, I will not give you the gift of hating you. You have obviously sought it, but responding with hatred and anger would be to give in to the same ignorance that has made you what you are. You want me to be afraid...to cast a mistrustful eye on my fellow citizens...to sacrifice my freedom for security? You lost: same player, same game.

“I saw her this morning, finally, after nights and days of waiting. She was just as beautiful as she was when she left home Friday evening...as beautiful as when I fell madly in love with her more than 12 years ago.

“Of course I’m devastated with grief. I will give you that tiny victory. But this will be a short term grief. I know that she will join us every day and that we will find each other again in the paradise of free souls....We are only two, my son and I, but we are more powerful than all the world’s armies.

“In any case, I have no more time to waste on you. I need to get back to Melvil, who is waking up from his afternoon nap. He’s just 17-months-old. He’ll eat his snack like he does each day and then we’re going to play like we do each day. And every day of his life this little boy will insult you with his happiness and freedom because you don’t have his hatred either.”

Penny Phelps’ Installation Prayer

Most Holy One—

As this church and this pastor form a new covenant, grant them your support and protection and love. Such a covenant is far-reaching, going beyond these walls to this community, to the wider church, and to the world. Such a covenant will challenge all the participants to be steadfast in faith and devotion to your expectations of us: reaching out to all the people facing hunger and despair and fear and isolation. Grant that your Holy Spirit may sustain all those in need – with the heartfelt aid and constant effort of the members and friends of First Congregational United Church of Christ of Cadillac, as well as all the churches of the United Northern Association, and other churches and denominations represented here today as witnesses.

Most particularly, we ask You to bless Rev. Dr. John F. Doud, who is now committed to providing care and leadership to this congregation. May this new partnership be fruitful and courageous, facing the risks and rewards of our ever-changing lives together, creating links for all those seeking your love.

All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Here are some pictures of the Installation Service on November 8th 2015.





HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Handmade Holiday Sale

December 5, 2015, 10:30 – 3:00 pm

Cadillac Congregational Church

200 E. Harris St., Cadillac, MI



Shop a variety of Local Artists
and Crafters for your
High Quality, Handcrafted items
for this Holiday Season



*The Church will have lunch
available for a small fee*

Keeping it Local 



Movie Club

This month's Movie Night will be on **Tuesday December 8th at 7pm**

Caroling

Caroling: **Saturday December 12th**. Anyone who would like to come along and sing, please meet at the church at **10:30am**. Finishing around **2pm** for *hot* chili and snacks, *hot* cider and *hot* cocoa!

Worship on December 13th

A Special Children's Presentation with original music will happen in Fellowship Hall on December 13th, after a service of Christmas music.

An Invitation!

John and Catherine Doud would like to invite the entire Cadillac First Congregational Church family for snacks and beverages, as well as holiday cheer and fellowship at our home in Traverse City (4257 Stone Ridge Drive)

on
Sunday, December 20th
from 3:00 PM until 5:00 PM.

Blessings to all of you!
-John and Catherine Doud



Christmas Eve Service

This year's Christmas Eve service will be held on Thursday December 24th at 7pm. A candlelight service of music and ministry - a First Congregational tradition!

Messiah singalong

On **December 27th 2015**, there will be a community "singalong Messiah", held at First Congregational. Times to be announced



LOOKING AHEAD

Dinner & A Documentary

As part of our ongoing ONA mission we are presenting another ONA documentary. A truly inspiring story of a lesbian couple that decides to travel the world to meet the leaders of the Gay Rights movement in 15 different countries. They leave behind their successful careers and life in San Francisco to embark on a year-long journey find, meet, and interview these international leaders. Their poignant personal story is reflected in the global issues they encounter on their journey. This global perspective helps us better understand our own country's standing in the world as it relates to LGBT issues. To add a little fun to this event, instead of snacks, we will be offering a meal – not just any meal, but items that you would find to eat from some of the various countries that the couple visits. When is this fun event you might be asking . . . well: Tue., Jan. 12th, at 6pm in fellowship hall. Who said the fun ended when the holidays were over?

When: **Tuesday, January 12th**

Time: **6:00pm**

Where: First Congregational Church, UCC of Cadillac – Fellowship Hall

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

New Members

We welcomed 11 new members during the service on October 25th. Here are their names (apologies for the omission in last month's newsletter):

Joan Elaine Butler, Kevin Virgil Butler, Virgil Donald Butler
William Hugh Cinco, Susan Jeanne Cinco
Patrick Michael Delaney
Catherine Ellen Doud, John Foster Doud
Cameron Andrew Gines, Gillian Suzanne Gines
Emily Elizabeth Trowbridge



Some photos from "Hanging of The Greens" and Lighting of the Advent Candle November 29th



COMMUNITY

Philharmonic Christmas Tea December 7th



59th Annual
**HOLIDAY
TEA**

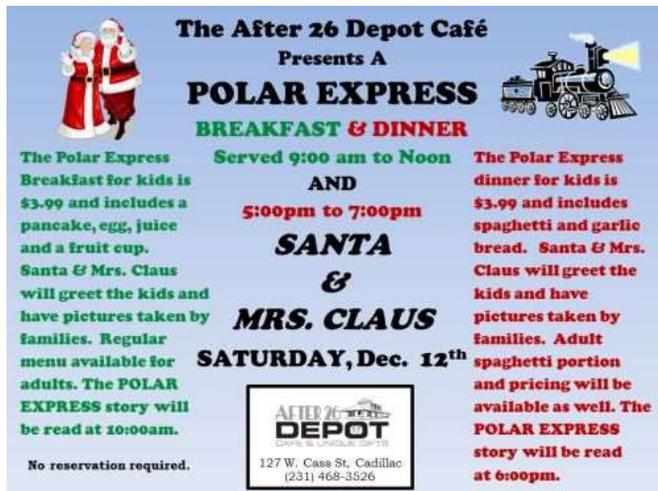
Monday, December 7, 2015
Cadillac United Methodist Church
1020 East Division

12:45 pm - Organ Prelude
1:00 pm - Philharmonic Singers
Concert
2:00 pm - Tea and Cookies

Free to Public
(Freewill offering taken to support
Club Youth Programs)

Presented in Cooperation by:
Cadillac Woman's Club

After 26 Depot



The After 26 Depot Café
Presents A
POLAR EXPRESS
BREAKFAST & DINNER

Served 9:00 am to Noon
AND
5:00pm to 7:00pm

**SANTA
&
MRS. CLAUS**

SATURDAY, Dec. 12th

The Polar Express
Breakfast for kids is \$3.99 and includes a pancake, egg, juice and a fruit cup. Santa & Mrs. Claus will greet the kids and have pictures taken by families. Regular menu available for adults. The POLAR EXPRESS story will be read at 10:00am.

The Polar Express
dinner for kids is \$3.99 and includes spaghetti and garlic bread. Santa & Mrs. Claus will greet the kids and have pictures taken by families. Adult spaghetti portion and pricing will be available as well. The POLAR EXPRESS story will be read at 6:00pm.

After 26 Depot
127 W. Cass St. Cadillac
(231) 468-3526

No reservation required.



Depot Dinner Concert

Featuring the Northern Winds Quintet

December 19, 2015
6pm- 8pm

Enjoy a charming night of music from the talented Northern Winds Quintet. These professional musicians will delight you with the sounds of the season and more, while you dine on an elegant meal in a festive historic setting. Don't miss this incredible Depot Dinner Concert.

\$20.00 ticket (available at the Depot or by calling to reserve with credit card.) Includes elegant plated holiday meal (exclusive of tax, tip & beverage.)

Menu viewable on website at www.after26project.org.

Cash bar will be available

After 26 Depot
127 W. Cass St. Cadillac
(231) 468-3526

MISSIONS

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

December: Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund offering (sometimes called Veterans of the Cross offering) is an expression of appreciation and caring to those who served as clergy (and certain lay employees) who are now retired or disabled and financially strained. During this holy time of year, the offering is a profound gift. It helps provide pension supplements, health premium subsidies, emergency assistance to active or retired clergy families, and Christmas gift checks to hundreds of retirees and to those who are disabled.

In these times of economic stress, our retired clergy may be experiencing financial emergencies with few avenues of help. Your contributions to the Christmas Fund could provide some relief to those who have served the church. Please consider giving a special donation to the Christmas Fund.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayer List

Please hold these members, friends, and family in prayer: *Brian Belleville, Terry Oss, Jim & Sharon Thompson, Marge Mattison, Donna Debney, Roger Whiteman, Patrick Delaney, Marjorie Wicks, Jim Cooper, The people of France, MacKale McGuire and family, Jenny Freese, Janet Raymond, Edward Hradel*

Thank You

The Reverend Robert Heigel says thank you for a wonderful job on hospitality during John's installation service.*

Sherry and Mike Messner were given materials to help build a wheelchair ramp through Love INC, and would like to thank the church for their contribution*

**See the thank you cards posted on the Bulletin Board downstairs*

A Note from Rachel Whiteman

I would like to thank the congregation for their prayers and heartfelt messages to my father, who is recovering from a recent stroke. My Dad was delighted when he opened the card.

A note from Dave Gaunt:

I wish to thank the First Congregational Church for the nice message, and gift card, for my service on the Pastoral Search Committee. Please know that it was a privilege and an honor to serve with this group of people, and we took the task very seriously. We felt our choice of the right minister was essential in solidifying the future of our church. We are confident that Pastor John Doud fills that role, and believe our true reward will be in watching the church grow and thrive under his leadership.

The gift was not necessary, but certainly a nice gesture. I will plan to put an extra donation in the church coffers to return the monetary gift. Thank you so much,
Dave

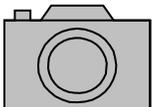


Photo contributions are always welcome! Please email yours to office@firstcongcadillac.org

Thanks to all the photo contributors to this issue.

POINSETTIAS

It's time to order poinsettias for the sanctuary!

If you wish to join in this time-honored tradition of purchasing a plant to create a blaze of color at the front of the sanctuary, please fill in the form below and either bring it to church or mail it in.

The deadline is Sunday, December 13th.



Poinsettia Order

I/We _____ wish to order
(Name)

_____ poinsettias at \$8 each in memory / honor (circle one) of:

_____.

Enclosed is my/our payment of \$_____.

Next newsletter in February!

Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Usher/Greeters	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher	
DEC 6	Sandy & Dave Gaunt	Laura Porter	<i>Birthday Sunday Karma Chapo</i>	Dave Gaunt	John Doud	
DEC 13	Sue Wachowski & Karen Anderson	Charlotte Barfield	Sue Wachowski	Robin Corbin	John Doud	Mission Moment Joyce
DEC 20	Linda Baynes, Penny Phelps	Casey Cline	Phyllis Burns	Carol Nilsson	John Doud	
DEC 24	(Christmas Eve)	various	TBA	TBA	John Doud	
DEC 27	Diane & Tom Jobson	John Doud	Kelly McCann	Sara Keinath	Penny Phelps	

DECEMBER 2015 *Non-Church activities that occur in the church.						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<u>1</u> *Jazz 8:30am	<u>2</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm Choir 7pm	<u>3</u> *Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>4</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>5</u> *Jazz.8:30 am HANDMADE HOLIDAY SALE 10:30am-3pm
<u>6</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am	<u>7</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm *Symphony Board 7pm	<u>8</u> *Jazz 8:30am Movie Club Cinderella 7pm	<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 10:30amChrist- mas Caroling
<u>13</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am	<u>14</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm	<u>15</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<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
<u>20</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am 3pm reception at Douds' home	<u>21</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm Board Meeting 6:30 pm	<u>22</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>23</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>24</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7pm	<u>25</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>26</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>27</u> Worship 10:30am	<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	<u>31</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm		

Looking Ahead: Tuesday January 12th 6pm Movie and Dinner