

# February 2016 *The Tie That Binds*

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Cadillac, Michigan

## Musings from the organist

Rachel Whiteman



My husband Pete, daughter Lucy, and I have Transatlantic lives. In case you haven't noticed our funny accents, I should mention that we are British. We spent Christmas in England, visiting parents/grandparents, siblings/aunts and uncles, nephews and nieces/cousins etc. and old friends. As I was watching "Carols from Kings College Cambridge" on Christmas Eve at my parents' house, I remembered that it is also aired on NPR, so you may have heard this same traditional British service from this side of the Atlantic. This month's Movie Club film "Across the Universe" has a Transatlantic theme. This love story, with a backdrop of Beatles music, is a favorite of Pastor John's, and it promises to be a great evening, for tweens/ teens and adults alike.

Last September, my father suffered a stroke, which continues to affect his speech and language skills. My parents live in a small town called Much Wenlock, in the English county of Shropshire. It is a place with a strong sense of community, much as we have here in this small town in Michigan. Neighbors, friends and family have been rallying round my parents, with offers of help and support, sending cards, or simply offering a friendly word. Friends have been bringing vegetables from Dad's allotment, going out to buy their daily newspaper from a local shop and dropping it through the letterbox in the door every morning, and helping with trips to the hospital. And the visits! Mum has been serving up many, many cups of tea with mince pies or slices of home-made cake, and interacting with people is great therapy for my Dad, helping to improve his language-recall and speech skills. So many offers of help, that most are never taken up, but offers of help are always worth their weight in gold, even if not needed at that time. The good wishes and prayers have come not only from friends and family in the UK, but also from across the Pond. Cards and kind words have come from my friends here at First Congregational UCC, from up the road at St Mary's Episcopal Church and also from Mackinaw Trail 6th Grade Choir. First Congregational Church is my "other family", and many generous offers of help and support were given to me here on this side of the Atlantic, when I had a stay in hospital in 2014.

When we fly back to Michigan, the contrast is palpable, as we emerge from the lush green British countryside with hedgerows and sheep on the hillsides, into a monochrome world of snow and ice. It makes us truly appreciate the intense beauty of the twinkling winter landscape here. Contrary to popular perceptions, UK land use is 93% rural. Yes, there are the vast conurbations in the likes of Greater London and Manchester, but still England is largely a "green and pleasant land". Now we are back here, I am feeling my usual hankering again for British TV, chocolate, old country pubs, and a lack of bears in the woods! Equally, when we are in England, we miss the vast swathes of woodland, beautiful lakes, and easy parking. I have a sense of belonging, and yet am somehow "other" from both England and Michigan.

On another Transatlantic note, I feel sadness at the news from Canterbury of the Church of England's sanctions recently imposed against the U. S. Episcopal Church, because of their stance on gay marriage. I was contemplating this on Martin Luther King Day, a day that brings into perspective how attitudes and the legal framework for inclusiveness has changed, and yet there is still a long way to go for equality. I am proud to be a member of a church where social justice is high on the agenda.

## Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds

Sperry Claypool

*This piece was published in the bulletin of First Presbyterian Church, Cadillac:*

We extend a warm welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, dirt poor and knuckleheads. We extend a welcome, too, to those who are crying newborns, skinny as a rail or could afford to lose a few pounds.

We welcome you if you can sing like Beyonce or like our pastor who can't carry a note in a bucket. You're

welcome here if you're "just browsing", just woke up or just got out of jail. We don't care if you've been sprinkled, dunked or if you're afraid to wade in the water. We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome single moms, distant dads, starving artists, tree-hugger, latte-sippers, vegetarians, and junk food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still using addicts. We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion", we've all been there.

If you blew all your offering money at the casino, you're welcome here. We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, or are here because grandma conscripted you to come. We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now. We welcome tourists, seekers, doubters, bleeding hearts.....and you!

## FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

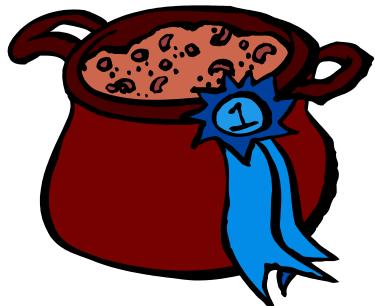
### ANNUAL MEETING

A meal will be served after church on **Sunday February 7th**, and the Annual Meeting will follow.

### CHILI COOK-OFF AND A MOVIE

This month's Movie Club will be on **Tuesday February 16<sup>th</sup>**,

In the Pastor's Pick "Across The Universe", the songs of the Beatles provide the sonic framework for this musical tale of romance, war and peace.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL FAMILY BOWLING EVENT



**There will be a Sunday School bowling event on February 21<sup>st</sup>**, after Fellowship Hour at The Pines Sports Bar and Bowling Center on M-55. Please sign up on the list on the back table, so we know how many lanes to book.

*All are welcome!*

## ORGAN REPAIRS



At the semi-annual meeting in the fall, one of the things we discussed was the organ. It needed a couple of major repairs: the pre-set stops didn't always work, making it hard for someone playing the organ to get the proper sound. Also, the bellows that provide air to the pipes are made, in part, with leather, and over time leather dries out and wears out from use. The leathers need to be replaced.

It is a great pleasure to report that the pre-set stops have been replaced with new ones that are sealed in such a way that the wires won't corrode over time. Someone sitting down at the organ can launch into a piece of music without worrying if he or she will produce the sounds intended. This was done with a memorial gift. Someone else has agreed to underwrite the repairs to the leathers, and that will be done as soon as we can arrange for the repair expert to fit us into his schedule. When that is complete, we hope to have a concert to celebrate and honor those who have made it possible.

## 2016 LENTEN BREAKFASTS



Cadillac Area Lenten Breakfasts  
7:00 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. each Wednesday  
Sponsored by the Cadillac Area Ministerial Association

You are cordially invited to breakfast each Wednesday during Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday, February 10. The time together will include breakfast, singing, a testimony and a brief meditation beginning at 7:00 a.m. and ending promptly at 7:50 a.m. so you may be to work on time or on to other business of the day. A freewill offering is received to help offset the cost of the breakfast. The entire community is invited to attend. Invite a friend to come; it could be life changing!!!

February 10 ~ Zion Lutheran Church  
Speaker: Paul Tomlinson

February 17 ~ Cherry Grove Church of the Nazarene  
Speaker: Tom Ball

March 24 ~ First Presbyterian Church  
Speaker: Scott Torkko

March 2 ~ First Covenant Church  
Speaker: Dave McMahon

**March 9 ~ First Congregational Church**  
**Speaker: Mike Tuch**

March 16 ~ United Methodist Church  
Speaker: Brian Farmer

March 23 ~ Revival Center of Cadillac  
Speaker: John Martek

## DECEMBER PHOTOS

Right: Penny at the church table at the Handmade Holiday Sale

Middle: Lighting the Menorah at Hanukkah

Bottom: Sunday School Children's presentation – saving the Arctic environment and animals



Right: Learning the Dreidel song with Connie Zolynsky at Children's Time.

Middle: Virgil Davies at the Candelight Christmas Eve service.

Bottom: Christmas Eve Candlelight service.



## COMMUNITY

### AFTER 26 DEPOT EVENTS

The Footlitters will be presenting a play by local playwright Ami Peltier on **Saturday February 13 at 6pm** at the After 26 Depot. The cast includes our very own Ralph Annis!

**AFTER 26  
DEPOT**  
CAFE & UNIQUE GIFTS  
127 W. Cass St., Cadillac  
(231) 468-3526

**CADILLAC  
FOOTLITTERS**

**Saturday  
Feb. 13, 2016  
6:00pm**

**Dinner and Theater  
combination right at  
the Depot!**

**Play with your Food**

**A production from local  
playwright Ami Peltier!**

**"Where There's a Will"**  
By Ami Peltier

**\$25.00 ticket includes the performance and a choice among  
four exceptional entrees (exclusive of tax, tip & beverage.)**  
Advance ticket sales only, available at the Depot, or by calling  
(231) 468-3526 with a credit card to reserve your *will call* tickets.

**Ticket sales close Tuesday, Feb. 9, 2016.**

On **Sunday February 28<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a "lunch and horse-drawn carriage ride" event at After 26. The carriage can accommodate 12 adults, and can seat a total of 15 people if smaller children are in the mix.

**AFTER 26  
DEPOT**  
CAFE & UNIQUE GIFTS  
127 W. Cass St., Cadillac  
(231) 468-3526

**Lunch and Carriage Ride  
in Downtown Cadillac**

**Sunday, February 28, 2016**

**Tickets MUST be purchased in advance by Feb. 23.**

**Ticket includes Lunch and Carriage ride.**  
Lunch includes spaghetti with or without meatballs (adult or children's portion,) crisp tossed salad, garlic bread, dessert (hot fudge brownie cake,) and hot beverage enjoyed with meal or to take on the ride.

**Tickets available at the After 26 Depot Cafe,  
or by calling (231) 468-3526 with a credit card.**

**Adults: \$20.00 / Children 10 and under: \$10.00 / Children 2 and under: Free**

**Carriage ride timeslots: 1pm / 1:30pm / 2pm / 2:30pm**  
(Timeslot subject to cancellation based upon ridership)

**Meal served 45 minutes prior to your carriage departure.**

## Precious Gems Home for Women Annual Charity Event

*We have been asked to publicize an event in aid of a local homeless shelter. Here are the details:*

Precious Gems will be hosting an Annual Charity Dinner on Saturday, March 5, 2016 at Rehoboth Reformed Church in Lucas. This is a fun night of dinner and entertainment! Bring your spouse and your friends. There is NO COST to attend, so come on out! The theme for the event this year is "Home," our meal will be "Home on the Range." Our entertainment this year will be Free Shrugs Improv, a Christian comedy group, you won't want to miss it!

Each table will be decorated with a different aspect of the "Home" theme. Consider hosting a table for the event, it is a lot of fun for you and your friends!

As a host or hostess, you decorate your table and invite 7 friends to join you for the night! You can also be involved by donating an item or basket for our Silent Auction. These items can be anything from homemade sweets, clothing, a quilt, or anything you can think of! If you would like to host a table please contact Michelle Jenema at 231-826-3512. If you would like to donate an auction item or reserve seats to attend please contact us at 231-468-2053 or email [preciousgemshome@gmail.com](mailto:preciousgemshome@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you there!!



*Precious Gems Home is a home for homeless young women in Cadillac – see [www.preciousgemshome.org](http://www.preciousgemshome.org) for more information*

# MISSIONS

## Mission of the month: After 26

Dave Gaunt

### Update on the After 26 Depot Café

*If you did not get a chance to see After 26 featured on Destination Michigan on PBS Television this past Monday, it is now available here:*

<http://video.wcmu.org/video/2365651868/>

As I have indicated in the past, the restaurant business is a tough business, especially in northern Michigan where winters are harsh and patronage suffers. We especially appreciate the attention and support of First Congregational Church UCC of Cadillac who have chosen to make the After 26 Project the Mission focus during February, one of our MOST difficult months.

The After 26 Depot Café generates roughly 80% of our expenses. That sounds good until one realizes that we have about a \$300,000.00 annual budget. Generating nearly a quarter of a million dollars per year is incredible, but it still leaves us 50k – 60k short. That difference is made up through the generous donations of many, the philanthropy of grant organizations, and various fundraisers. The First Congregational Church has been a very significant partner in supporting the Depot Mission. We hope to reach our third anniversary in June 2016, and are pleased to still be alive in a very tough environment. We try to live our slogan - Relax at the After 26 Depot Café where the food is great, the service is friendly, the atmosphere is classy, and the Mission is vital.

Great exposure through our website at [www.after26project.org](http://www.after26project.org), the media, Facebook, PBS's Under the Radar program, a recent Northern Express article, and the January 25, 2016 edition of another PBS program, Destination Michigan, keeps our message current. In addition to working diligently to secure our existence in northern Michigan, we also speak with groups from many other communities continually about starting a similar project in their communities. From across Michigan to other Midwest states, many have visited recently. We are working quite closely with volunteers from Grand Rapids, MI who have made great strides in opening a similar venue there.

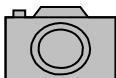
Whether you support the After 26 Project by donation, patronizing the café, volunteering in varied capacities, or attending our various fundraisers, please know that we appreciate everything you do to make a difference in the lives of those who would have few opportunities without this support.

### JOYS AND CONCERNs

**Prayer List:** Please hold these members, friends, and family in prayer:

**Terry Oss, Marge Mattison, Donna Debney, Marjorie Wicks, Jenny Freese, Edward Hradel, Janet Raymond, MacKale McGuire, Dorla Vander Jagt, Diane Barfield, Ann Winter, Vicki Rice, Mike Oatley, Linda Turner**

*Donna Debney wishes to express her thanks and appreciation for all of the expressions of concern and thoughts and prayers.*



**Thanks to photographers Linda Baynes and Robin Corbin, for taking and sending the photos used in this issue**

## Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Greeter/ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
FEB 7	TBA	Robin Corbin	Birthday Sunday, Annual Meeting Sandy Gaunt, Vickie Purkiss	Laura Jacobson-Pentces	John Doud
FEB 14	Marie Linn, Karen Smeltzer	Laura Porter	TBA	Tom Jobson	John Doud
FEB 21	TBA	Charlotte Barfield	TBA	Sara Keinath	John Doud
FEB 28	TBA	Ralph Annis	TBA	Bob LeVand	John Doud

FEBRUARY 2016 *Non-Church activities that occur in the church.						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 *Jazz 5:45 pm *Symphony Board 7pm	2 *Jazz 8:30am	3*Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm <b>Choir 7pm</b>	4 *Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	5*Jazz.8:30am	6*Jazz.8:30 am
<b>7 Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am ANNUAL MEETING</b>	<b>8 * Jazz 5:45 pm</b>	<b>9* Jazz.8:30am</b>	<b>10 *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm Choir 7pm</b>	<b>11 Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm</b>	<b>12 Jazz.8:30 am</b>	<b>13 Jazz.8:30 am</b>
<b>14 Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am</b>	<b>15 * Jazz 5:45 pm Board Meeting 6:30 pm</b>	<b>16 * Jazz.8:30 am 6pm Chili Cook-off and Movie “Across the Universe”</b>	<b>17 *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm Choir 7pm</b>	<b>18 Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm</b>	<b>19 Jazz.8:30 am</b>	<b>20 Jazz.8:30 am</b>
<b>21 Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am, Sunday School bowling at the Pines after Fellowship Hour</b>	<b>22 *Jazz 5:45 pm</b>	<b>23 *Jazz.8:30 am</b>	<b>24 *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm Newsletter items due</b>	<b>25 Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm</b>	<b>26 Jazz.8:30 am</b>	<b>27 Jazz.8:30 am</b>
<b>28 Worship 10:30am</b>						

Looking ahead: March 9<sup>th</sup> 7am Lenten breakfast at First Congregational