

# March 2016 *The Tie That Binds*

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Cadillac, Michigan



## **"You Are Welcome"**

Pat Ponczek shared a book with Penny Phelps and John Doud which she considered significant for our church: [Beyond Resistance](#). It was written by John Dorhauer, who is the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. In the book, Dorhauer asks us what is our business? Is our business to get new members and therefore to get more money so that we can keep this building open and running, as well as to pay the salaries of our staff? Dorhauer argues that while new members and money are important in terms of keeping the church running smoothly, the business of the church is always mission. And what do you think is typically the first thing most churches do when the pledge campaign doesn't bring in enough money for the operating budget? Churches cut the missions budget. Dorhauer says that indeed it is a daunting challenge to fund staff and property. However, without mission, the church is useless because the business of the church is always mission. And I must say that while I love the inclusiveness and welcoming attitude of this congregation, what definitely attracted me to be one of the ministers of this church is your emphasis on mission.

As a beloved community focusing on mission, I have a question for us to consider: What would the Cadillac community be without this building you all of you? Where would you go to church? Would you have to leave town to find another place to worship? Emily Doud, (our daughter) could not find another place to worship in all of Traverse City, and has now joined this church. David (our son) lives in Grand Rapids, and says that he would immediately join this church if it were closer. The only other worship possibility for him in Grand Rapids is a church called Fountain Street. It sounds like we're a miniature "Fountain Street Church" because we welcome all people here: people of all sexual orientations; people of color; people who are wealthy and poor; people with mental and physical disabilities; people who are Christian and people who are not Christian; people who do believe in God and people who do not believe in God; people who are Democrats, Republicans, and Independents; and people who are addicts, homeless, and diseased...as well as people who help people out of addictions and people who have homes and people who are healthy.

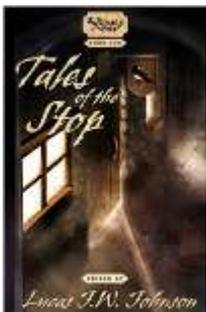
Taking into consideration faith and belief, are there other religious communities in Cadillac welcoming and affirming Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, Jews, secular and religious humanists, agnostics, and atheists including all people in leadership roles? If you're not a Christian, wouldn't most other churches at least attempt to make you into one? Not here. If you're not a Christian, we are here to learn more about your faith journey. You become the teacher. We are students in your classroom. Our bulletin says it so eloquently: "Wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here just as you are."

The last line in Sir Walter Scott's diary was never finished, "Tomorrow we shall...." it read. Scott was always looking to the future. For me personally, I envision that tomorrow we will walk as those marriage vows articulate, in sorrow and in joy, in the shadows of the dark and in the varieties of the light; in poverty and in plenty; in sickness and in health. Through all of it we will remain a loving, forgiving, inclusive, accepting, and above all unconditionally welcoming community of totally mixed up servant leaders.

- John F. Doud

## **ABOUT GINNY'S SHORT STORY**

As some of you might be aware, Ginny Donley, a CHS junior, recently had a short story accepted for publication. After working with the editor, located in Vancouver BC, the book came out in September 2015. It is titled "Tales of the Stop", edited by Lucas Johnson. Ginny's story is published under the name "Virginia Madeline" (her first and middle names) and the title is "Facing Secrets". The companion book is by Lucas Johnson, titled "Azriel's Stop". Both books are available on Amazon.com, Kindle, and



Bookstop.com, and most book outlets. Cost is about \$5 for each. The collection of short stories is based on the novel, so it is helpful but not necessary to read both.

## **THREE BREAKFAST EVENTS IN MARCH!!:**

### **PANCAKE BRUNCH SATURDAY MARCH 19<sup>TH</sup> 10AM-12PM**



The next Pancake Brunch will be held on Saturday March 19<sup>th</sup>. Donations go to the Stehouwer Free Clinic

### **EASTER BREAKFAST MARCH 27**

On **Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup>** at **9am** we will be holding First Congregational's **5<sup>th</sup> Annual "Easter Sunrise Breakfast"** with an Easter hat/bonnet competition.

The activities will begin at **9:00am** in fellowship hall. We'll start with a breakfast spread, all of your favorites! There will be a prize for each of the largest, the most colorful, and the most traditional bonnets/hats. Also for the kids an Easter egg hunt and other games. The Easter church service will begin at its regularly scheduled time - 10:30am. So plan on coming and joining your church family for a hearty breakfast, warm friendship, and moments of inspiration. (There will be no fellowship hour after the church service.)



### **2016 LENTEN BREAKFASTS**



The Cadillac Area Lenten Breakfasts, Sponsored by the Cadillac Area Ministerial Association, are held at 7:00 a.m. to 7:50 a.m. each Wednesday in Lent. On March 9<sup>th</sup> it will be hosted here at First Congregational UCC, Cadillac.

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

## **MORE EVENTS IN MARCH!:**

### **MOVIE - TUESDAY MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>**



**Movie Night  
Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
"Spy"  
with Melissa McCarthy.**

***Sloppy Joes  
at 6pm.  
\$5 donation.***

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE MARCH 24<sup>TH</sup> 7PM**



**A Maundy Thursday  
Communion Service of  
Tenebrae**

**will be held on**

**March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

## **LOOKING AHEAD:**

### **UCC WOMEN OF MICHIGAN'S "THE GATHERING" - JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> -12<sup>TH</sup> AT KETTUNEN CENTER**

UCC Women of Michigan invite you to join us at

## **The Gathering**

**"Laughter and Joy in the Spirit"**

Psalm 126: 2 "Our mouths were filled with laughter, our  
tongues with songs of joy"

**June 10, 11, 12 2016**

**Kettunen Center, Tustin, Michigan**

[www.kettunencenter.org](http://www.kettunencenter.org)



## FEBRUARY'S PHOTOS

### CHILI COOK-OFF AND MOVIE



**Congratulations** to Cam Gines for winning the Chili Cook-off at the chili cook-off and movie event! Our **honorary** chili contributors were Sue Cinco, Rachel Whiteman and Steve Jackson. Thanks to all others, for bringing desserts and snacks. The movie kept us singing long after we saw it.

### VALENTINE'S DAY FELLOWSHIP



We had a surprise unraffle full of tickets  
Thanks for the many great ideas on the back  
of the tickets.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL BOWLING EVENT



There were 16 bowlers and four cheerleaders, and plenty of pizza and fun for everyone! We played 32 games!!!



*Thanks to photographers Marie Linn, Pete Daveridge and Brittany Isaacs for taking and sending the photos used in this issue.*

*We welcome photographs for inclusion in the newsletter or elsewhere – please email to [office@firstcongcadillac.org](mailto:office@firstcongcadillac.org)*

# **SUNDAY SCHOOL – LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING!**

March - During the month of March we will continue to "Dive into the Sea". On March 13th Karen will share a Discovery Channel Video called "Sharks of the Shadowlands" featuring family friend, Jenny Oliver who is an aquatic biologist in New Zealand. And not to missed, our annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 27.

April – "Our Living Rain Forest" is the theme for April. We will celebrate Earth Day on April 24th with a special day of music and games.

May – May is "In Michigan Month". We will learn about all the wonderful wildlife to be found in Michigan with the help of some very fun church members.

The last day of Sunday School is May 22nd.

## **NEWS FROM THE CLERK**

**Marie Linn**

In an effort to update our membership files I am asking that each one of you fill out a blue membership file card as completely as possible. The blue card is a good source for historical data. The church is a good starting point for a genealogical search. Please use the back of the of the card to list your interest, passions, and talents. Thank you for taking the time to update your file. Your time is greatly appreciated. God gave each one of us a gift. The Congregational Church is unique in that we have the opportunity to govern ourselves. If we utilize all our gifts, sharing the load, we can BE THE CHURCH and bring Glory to God as we fulfill our mission.

- Marie E. Linn, Clerk

## **New Suggestion Box**

In an effort to better serve our Congregation, a wooden suggestion box has been placed on the back table of the sanctuary. Simply write your suggestions and/or opinions down and place them in the box. The board will review and prioritize them for action. We are working very hard to grow our church and better meet the needs of the community and nurture "we the church." YOUR OPINIONS AND SUGGESTIONS ARE VALUED.

## **Bulletin Board**

Our bulletin board in currently a work in progress. Check it out. We will be utilizing the bulletin board as a means of communication to keep everyone abreast of the happenings of the church and community. If you choose to place something on the board for the good of all, please place it under the appropriate heading and stamp a posting date. (The stamp and push pins are stored in the wooden pocket to the bottom left of the bulletin board.)

## **CHANGES TO SUNDAY SERVICE**

In an effort to streamline our worship service, the following changes are in the works. Effective February 28, 2016 greeting time and passing of the peace will be from 10:15 to 10:30am. This will help us to prepare our hearts for the worship portion of our service. Thank you for being willing to embrace this change. Look forward to seeing you early next Sunday Passing of the Peace/ Greeting will be eliminated from the service itself. The worship service will begin promptly at 10:30 am.

Also, beginning February 28, announcements will be printed and included with the bulletin. If you wish to share an announcement please write it up and turn into the office by Wednesday each week.

Thank you.

- Your Board of Trustees.

## SUMMARY OF ANNUAL MEETING February 7<sup>th</sup> 2016:

1. Pastor John Doud's focus for the year – to write our own Covenant, pursue grant writing, increase outreach, and membership
2. Building and Maintenance – the back of the building is scheduled to be tuck-pointed this Spring. Striving to preserve the historical look of the building, while making the building accessible to all. There are several radiator leaks, and Richard Harvey is liaising with the boiler maintenance company to take care of them promptly. Looking at grants to help with the building.
3. ONA – continue to improve the areas of communication and education for a stronger presence in the community
- 4 Choir – Margie is encouraging people to join the choir to continue the "magic".
- 5 Sunday School and Nursery. Yay! We have kids who are enjoying Sunday School and nursery with Brittany Isaacs. The current curriculum is about saving the environment.
- 6 The congregation was invited to join the new committees that are being created. A ballot was passed out, and our new Board members are Richard Harvey and Bill Cinco, and Patrick Delaney is the new Treasurer. Thanks to our past Board members: Penny Phelps, Linda Baynes and Laura Jacobson-Pentces.
- 7 John Doud's proposal to reduce the number of communion services was opened up for ongoing discussion.



Celebrating Rev John F Doud's birthday as "King of the Mardi Gras" prior to the Annual Meeting

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING February 15<sup>th</sup> 2016

1. Ideas to shorten the length of the service: It was agreed to try, as of February 28<sup>th</sup>, greetings and passing of the peace from 10:15-10:30am. Announcements will be typed up and put in the bulletin for people to take home.
2. Cheryl Burke to preach in April or June
3. A committee is forming to write a church covenant – Carol Nilsson, Marie Linn and John Doud, and others are invited to volunteer to join.
4. Treasurer's Report was presented by Penny Phelps and Patrick Delaney. We have a healthy balance. Penny, Patrick and the accountant are working together to streamline the budget.
5. Committee Reports: It was agreed that a new back door would be purchased. Richard is currently working on sealing the upstairs windows, and is looking at the heating system efficiency as a whole. We are looking for people to work on the bylaws.

## MISSIONS

**Joyce Oatley**

### Mission of the month: One Great Hour of Sharing



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is the refugee, relief and development offering of the United Church of Christ. With this offering, the UCC is able to work with international partners to provide education and health care, sources of clean water and food, small business micro credit, emergency relief and resettlement for refugees. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response. All told, OGHS helps to transform lives and provides hope to people in 138 countries, so please give generously to support this very important mission.

# JOYS AND CONCERNS

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

*Terry Oss, Marjorie Wicks, Jenny Freese, Edward Hradel, Janet Raymond, MacKale McGuire, Diane Barfield, Ann Winter, Karen Smeltzer, Gary VanHouten, Bill Cinco, Linda Baynes, Drake Boyke, Seraphim and Michael Bieri (family of Margaret Leemon, family of Vicki Rice*

## BIRTHS AND DEATHS:



Congratulations to Joe Elenbaas and Elizabeth McDowell on the birth of their baby, Susannah Elizabeth Elenbaas, who was born on December 29<sup>th</sup> 2015, at 8lb 11 oz, 21".

It is with sadness that we report that Marge Mattison passed away on February 9<sup>th</sup> at Keelean Adult Foster Care Home. She was 94.

Margaret Leemon passed away on February 14<sup>th</sup> after a short illness.



## Spring is here...

## So it must be Easter Lily Time!

Nothing is more appealing than to see the cross filled with white Easter lilies. If you wish to contribute one or more plants, please fill in the form below and either bring it to church or mail it to the church at P. O. Box 892. Deadline **March 20<sup>th</sup>**.

## Easter Lily Order

I/We \_\_\_\_\_ (name)

wish to order \_\_\_\_\_ (number) Easter Lilies at \$8 each.

In memory/honor (circle one) of \_\_\_\_\_.

Enclosed is my/our payment of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

## COMMUNITY

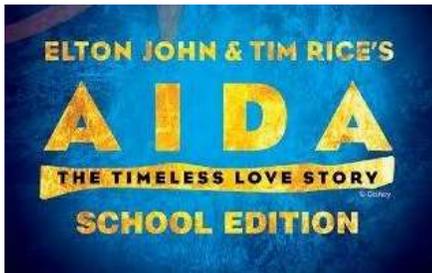
### FRIENDS OF CADILLAC LIBRARY



A Shakespeare and "Great Michigan Read" event will be held at First Congregational on Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> at 1pm, presented by Friends of Cadillac Library

For more details, see [friendsofthecadillaclibrary.com](http://friendsofthecadillaclibrary.com)

### CADILLAC HIGH SCHOOL



CHS Music Department Presents AIDA  
Directed by Margie Annis  
Cadillac High School Auditorium  
March 10th 11th, 12th 7pm. And 2pm March 12th

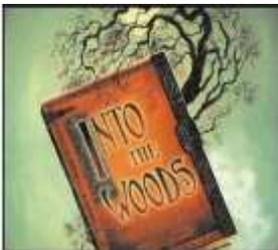
### GOPHERWOOD



Sat. March 19th, 8:00 pm,  
"Made in Michigan Fundraiser"  
At The Elks Club,  
122 S. Mitchell St

This is a fun evening of music which helps to fund other concerts through the year.  
For further details, see [www.gopherwoodconcerts.org](http://www.gopherwoodconcerts.org)

### FOOTLITERS



Auditions for the June performance of "Into The Woods" will be held on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>.

Singers needed! For more information see [www.cadillacfootliters.com](http://www.cadillacfootliters.com)

# Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Greeter/ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
MAR 6	Virgil & Joan Butler	Joyce Oatley	<b>Birthday Sunday</b> <i>Need volunteers</i>	Carol Nilsson	John Doud
MAR 13	Mary Shaw & Diane Larson	Penny Phelps	<b>Butlers</b>	Marie Linn	John Doud
MAR 20	Charlotte Barfield & Marie Linn	Cindy or Mark Morley	<i>Need volunteers</i>	Penny Phelps	John Doud
MAR 27	Al Snyder & Steve Jackson	Karen Anderson	<i>Need volunteers</i>	Linda Baynes	John Doud

<b>MARCH 2016</b> *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 <b>Choir 7pm</b>	<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> <b>Choir 9:30am</b> <b>Worship 10:30am</b>	<u>7</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm *Symphony Board 7pm	<u>8</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>9</u> <b>Lenten</b> <b>Breakfast 7am</b> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm <b>Choir 7pm</b>	<u>10</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>11</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>12</u> Jazz.8:30 am 1pm Friends of Cadillac Library Shakespeare/ Station Eleven event
<u>13</u> <b>Choir 9:30am</b> <b>Worship 10:30am</b>	<u>14</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm	<u>15</u> *Jazz.8:30 am <b>Movie Club</b> 7pm	<u>16</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm <b>Choir 7pm</b>	<u>17</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>18</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>19</u> Jazz.8:30 am <b>PANCAKE</b> <b>BRUNCH 10-12</b>
<u>20</u> <b>Choir 9:30am</b> <b>Worship 10:30am,</b>	<u>21</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm <b>Board Meeting</b> <b>6:30 pm</b>	<u>22</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>23</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm <b>Newsletter items</b> <b>due</b>	<u>24</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm <b>MAUNDY</b> <b>THURSDAY</b> <b>SERVICE 7pm</b>	<u>25</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>26</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>27</u> <b>Worship 10:30am</b>	<u>28</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm	<u>29</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>30</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm <b>Choir 7pm</b>			