

After 26” Stories from Dave Gaunt



I mentioned in my presentation on Sunday, Feb. 11, that telling the stories that really matter are just too emotional for me to get through. I tried it a couple years back in church, and it was just too difficult. So, this past Sunday I shared the nuts and bolts of the After 26 Project, but not the real reason we exist. I indicated I would follow up with more Depot information. Here's the real reason we exist.

We employ 24 Project Workers. All are either developmentally or cognitively challenged, some more severely than others, but all with capabilities for meaningful lives. Some are autistic, others with Down Syndrome. They are all over the age of 26.

I could tell you literally hundreds of stories about things that happen at the Depot. Funny stories, sometimes sad stories, learning that is taking place, victories that occur, teachable moments when lessons are being learned about responsibility – work ethic – honesty – integrity, touching-the-heart tales.

Kevin Butler, a member of this church, and a young man so many of you know, has not been to church in a while. That is because the family moved to a more remote area of the county, and the only transportation possible is the CWTA bus, but it doesn't run on Sunday. It does run during the week, so Kevin is able to work at the Depot, and remain connected to a life outside his family. He is thrilled whenever he sees a friend from church come into the Depot. You can be guaranteed a hug!

Project Workers (our name for special needs employees) whom you may not know include Kevin, who lives in a group home and tells us that working at the Depot is the best thing that has ever happened to him. Denny is shy and quiet, but he is a rock start on the dishwasher. He feels pride in working at the Depot and contributing to something meaningful. Lidia loves to be around people and talk about many things, including sports. She knows more about the world of sports than most people I know. Which coach was just hired? Who does MSU play next? What is Michigan's record? Did the Lions make the playoffs? When do the Tigers start Spring Training? Lidia knows it all. Just ask her.

And then there's Donald. Since he began work at the Depot 4 1/2 years ago, he lived with his mom off of Sunnyside Drive. She was a caring person, and did her best to be sure Donald was making good choices. Coming to work at the Depot was a good choice, and he rode his bike to get to work. Donald is often found at the Depot after hours and on days when not scheduled to work, because he feels comfortable there. Only a few months ago Donald's mother passed away. He was alone. His guardian has found him a home to live in. not far from the hospital, and he can still get to work on his bike. The Depot family is all that Donald has. I cannot imagine his life without that connection.

I can simply tell you that The Depot is changing the lives of the special needs adults who work there, it has changed the lives of their families, and maybe even more importantly, it is changing the lives of people in this community who visit the Depot and witness what people can do when we focus on their capabilities, and not on their limitations.

Never minimize the difference that your patronage at the Depot makes, or the donation that you make, or the hand you lend. Being connected to the After 26 Project is one of the most meaningful things in my life, and I appreciate that all of you are connected to that journey as well. First Congregational Church of Cadillac has been among our most ardent supporters. Thank you.

Thank you to Dave Gaunt for telling us some more about the people of the "After 26 Project", which was our Mission for February.

HAPPENINGS IN MARCH



MAUNDY THURSDAY

There will be a Maundy Thursday service at **7pm on Thursday March 29.**



breakfast

LENTEN BREAKFAST

The Cadillac Area Ministerial Association Lenten Breakfast series continues at **7am on Wednesday March 7th** with worship and breakfast here at First Congregational.

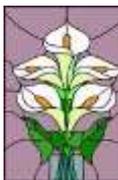
All are welcome.

CHOIR

The Choir will meet **Wed March 21st at 7pm,** and sing on **Palm Sunday March 25.**
There will be no choir on **March 18th**



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 18, 2018.**

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 \$_____.

LOOKING AHEAD:



EASTER BREAKFAST

There will be an Easter Breakfast on **Sunday April 1 at 9am**, followed by an Easter egg hunt for the children.

Our Nurture and Care Committee would like donations of Easter candy and healthy snack bags (by March 25). These will be used both for the kids' Easter egg hunt on April 1st, and to make up baskets for those who are unable to get to church. The Easter candy basket will be available beginning March 18



PANCAKE BRUNCHES

There will be two fundraiser pancake brunches this year: Spring and Fall.

The next one is on **Saturday April 14th** from **10am- noon.**

As usual, all donations go to the Stehouwer Free Clinic here in Cadillac – see P7 for their thank you note.



SPRING CLEANUP

It will be time again to wield brooms and dusters on **Saturday April 21 10:00am-1:00pm!**

MOVIES FOR THE MIND

*Please note that there will be **no MftM in March.***



The next Movies for the Mind event in **April** will be on **Sunday the 22nd**, Earth Day. Doors open **5pm**. Movie at **5:30pm**.

The movie “An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power” will be shown. It is the Al Gore climate change follow-up to his original “An Inconvenient Truth” movie.

There have 3 movie showing in this series which started in December, which have been well attended, with great discussions afterwards, and a \$440 profit for church funds.

Dave usually does an intro to the movie, providing a little background. Then when the film concludes, we have a very robust discussion about how it affected everyone. He says that the discussion is what makes Movies for the Mind so valuable: varied perspectives and knowledge of the subjects, which really enriches the whole experience

UCC Women of Michigan – The Gathering June 8-10 at Kettunen Center, Tustin

This year’s keynote speaker is Rev Denise Griebler, a Detroit based pastor, human rights and social justice activist, retreat leader and potter. The theme of the retreat is “Worth of a Woman”.

Workshop topics include: women in the bible, “constant and never ending improvement”, a nature hike and an exercise class. Open to all women from Michigan UCC congregations.

Registration forms now available in Fellowship Hall, and will be available soon on the MICHUCC.ORG website.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting was held on Sunday February 4th .

The budget was approved as proposed, the amendment to the bylaws was passed, and Laura Jacobson-Pentces and Joyce Oatley were elected for their first term on the Board.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING FEB 19 – notes from Marie Linn

There will be a Maundy Thursday service on March 29 at 7pm

Lenten Breakfast here March 7 7am

Spring Cleanup Day April 21 10am-1pm

Treasurer's Report: We have started the year on a positive note.

Pancake Breakfast Sat April 14th 10am-noon

The Board is looking for fund raising ideas. Remember we have a goal of \$5,000 this year. Please turn your ideas into the wooden box in the Narthex.

Movies for the Mind has made \$440 so far.

Easter "Sonrise" Breakfast Sunday April 1 9am. ***We are in need of someone to head up the food preparation for this event.***

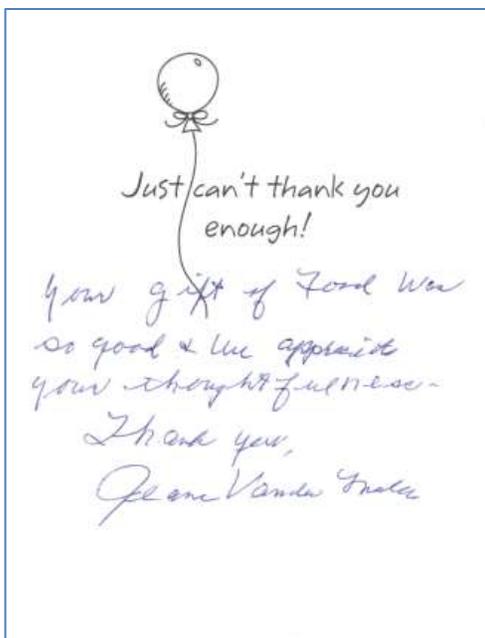
THANK YOU!

VALENTINES GIFTS

Thank you to everyone who baked brownies for our friends who are not able to make it to church. It was much appreciated. Thanks to Pat McCurdy and Charlotte Barfield for delivering the brownies and visiting these folks.

Quote from grateful recipient: "I know I am not forgotten".

8 boxes went out. Valentines cards were signed by people at Fellowship hour.



THANKS FROM THE STEHOUWER FREE CLINIC.

A heartfelt thanks to all of you who help with and attend the pancake brunch fund raisers. The Stehouwer Clinic does great work in our community for those in need.



2018 Missions – - Jan.: Our Church’s Wider Mission, Feb.: After 26 Project, March: One Great Hour of Sharing, April: Love, INC, May: Strengthen the Church, June: New Hope Shelter, July: Back Pack Program, August: Shepherd’s Table, Sept.: Feeding America, Oct.: Neighbors in Need, Nov.: Salvation Army, Dec.: Christmas Fund

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
4	Gert and Sperry Claypool	Joyce Oatley	Penny Phelps, Marie Linn	Linda Baynes	John Doud
11	Bill and Sue Cinco	Laura Porter	Patrick Delaney	Sperry Claypool	John Doud
18	Laura Jacobson & Sam Pentces	Karen Anderson		Bob LeVand	John Doud
25	George Davis & Leif Williams	Karen Smeltzer- Rowley		Patrick Delaney	John Doud

MARCH 2018 CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> This month's MISSION: One Great Hour of Sharing </div>				<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>
4 Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am Communion (circle)	5 Office 10:30-1:00	6	7 7am LENTEN BREAKFAST Office 10:30- 1:00 Choir 7:00pm	8	9	10 <u>CLOCKS</u> <u>CHANGE:</u> <u>SPRING</u> <u>FORWARD!!</u>
11 Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am	12 Office 10:30-1:00	13	14 Office 10:30- 1:00 Choir 7:00pm	15	16	17
18 (No Choir) Worship 10:30am <u>LILY ORDERS</u> <u>DUE</u>	19 Office 10:30-1:00 Board of Trustees 6:30pm	20	21 Office 10:30- 1:00 Choir 7:00pm	22	23	24
25 Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am PALM SUNDAY	Office 10:30-1:00	27	28 Office 10:30- 1:00 Choir 7:00pm	29 7pm MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE	30	31

NON-CHURCH ACTIVITIES THAT TAKE PLACE IN THE CHURCH BUILDING:

Jazzercise: 8:30am: Tue, Thu, Fri, Sat; 5:45pm: Mon, Wed, Thu; 4:30: Wed.

Symphony Board: 7pm first Monday of the month