

**February 2012**  
*The Tie That Binds*  
**First Congregational United Church of Christ**  
**Cadillac, Michigan**

**PASTOR REYNOLDS' RAP**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God every time I remember you...  
(Philippians 1:2-3a, NRSV)

Dear Friends,

How can I adequately express my gratitude and appreciation for your care and concern during this difficult season in my family's and my own life? Your flowers, cards, kind notes, words, and voicemails have comforted and sustained us as we've begun to come to grips with the loss of my father. So many of you have stepped in to keep the church running smoothly, enabling me to stay on in Maine for a few extra weeks in order to plan and attend Dad's memorial service, recover from a bout with bronchitis, and help Mom transition into what for her is an entirely new life after 49 years of marriage. These--your generous gifts of grace and compassion--have been nothing short of priceless. As a result of your kindnesses, I return to Cadillac this week healthier, more grounded, and confident that I've left my mother well situated. For all of this, I cannot thank you enough. Words alone do not suffice.

Although I was very much a daughter, sister, and aunt while at home in New England, I couldn't help but observe and reflect a bit through my pastoral lenses. The abundant love and care my family received from my parents' congregations reminded me of the ways in which this church family has so lovingly embraced its own dying members and their families. I would venture to say that it is one of this church's greatest gifts and one of the things I most admire about our community. And now, having been on the receiving end myself, I can attest firsthand to just how important a ministry this is. Yes, attending to the physical and emotional needs of caregivers and grieving families is clearly important from a health and well being standpoint. It was incredibly difficult for my mom, sister, and me to cook for ourselves, first while we were spending long, draining days in the ICU and then in the initial throes of grief. What a relief it was to have hot, home cooked meals brought right to our door at dinnertime! This alone was incredibly valuable. But what most struck me about this care giving was the sense it conveyed of our being tenderly held by the Body of Christ. It was in that holding that I personally experienced the love, grace, and presence of God in the midst of my fear, fatigue, and finally grief. Such priceless, unforgettable gifts! They continue to feed and sustain me even now, in the remembering.

And so I would like to affirm you for your care of me, your pastor, for your care of the family of Toby Stadden, your former interim pastor; and for your care of one another, the members and friends of this church. Know that your gifts make a difference. Know that your light shines brightly. Know that that light makes Christ manifest right here in Cadillac and far beyond.

Namasté,

**Pastor Carol**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2012**

February 5	Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
February 12	Psalm 30, Mark 1:40-45
February 19	2 Corinthians 4:3-6, Mark 9:2-9

Sustaining Ministry  
Healing Presence  
Thin Places

## PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Mondays and Tuesdays are Pastor Carol's Sabbath days, during which emergency calls can be directed to her cell phone

## PASTORAL CARE

Due to HIPAA privacy rules, hospitals no longer notify pastors when parishioners are hospitalized. Therefore, when in doubt, please assume the pastor is unaware that an FCC member or friend is in the hospital and kindly pass the word along to her. Thank you!

## NURTURE AND CARE TEAM

Please contact our Nurture and Care Team Coordinator **Diane** if you need a ride to church or a doctor's appointment, or if you are recuperating from surgery, an illness, an injury, a death or other family emergency and would like the congregation to bring some home-cooked meals to your home.

## WORSHIP

### Ash Wednesday

Please join us at **7:00 pm** on **February 22** as we mark the beginning of our 40-day journey through Lent with a contemplative Ash Wednesday service. Ashes will be available for those who wish to be marked on the hand or forehead.

## OPEN AND AFFIRMING (ONA)

### Education

No matter who you are, what your perspective, or whether or not you were able to attend our first class in January; you're encouraged to participate in FCC's ONA exploration and education process. Our second class will begin halfway through coffee hour on Sunday, **February 26**. **Sara** and **Penny** will lead this session, which covers attitudes toward sexual orientation and gender identity. Questions may be submitted to the box at the back of the sanctuary or to **Karen, Margie, Linda, Jen, Karma, Catherine, Troy, Bob, Ann, Penny**, or **Pastor Carol**--Task Force Members.

### A Gathering of Open and Affirming Churches

From **9:00 am** to **1:00 pm** on **Saturday, February 11**, **Edgewood United Church UCC in Lansing** invites churches considering becoming Open and Affirming to meet with **Andy Lang**, Executive Director of the **UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns**, Acting Michigan Conference Minister **Rev. Cheryl Burke**, and churches that have already formally declared themselves ONA to explore topics like defining ONA and being ONA in the current political climate. This forum will be hosted by the. For additional information, please contact **Rev. Dr. Julie Kilmer** at [jkilmer@etseminary.edu](mailto:jkilmer@etseminary.edu) or 517-803-9685. See Pastor Carol if you'd like to carpool to Lansing with a group from the church.

## MISSIONS

### Mission Target for February: OASIS & the New Hope Shelter

"We don't have any homeless people in our community!" If you've ever been to a large city and seen people huddled in doorways, a flattened cardboard box for a mattress and some makeshift blankets their only protection from the cold, it's easy to come back to Cadillac and say "we have no homeless people." But you'd be wrong. The fact that so many families wait in line for food distribution and that

so many must rely on the Stehouwer Clinic for health care are clear indicators that individuals and families in our town are slipping through the cracks. Lost jobs, foreclosed houses—perhaps they're "camping out" with extended family or friends, but the truth is, they're homeless.

Desperation wears away at our dignity and humanity; a once loving relationship becomes abusive. Over the past few years the number of women and children who've turned to OASIS for shelter and protection has risen dramatically. The number of men seeking shelter at New Hope has likewise increased. Both agencies offer help to families, not just individuals. We may not be in a position to take families into our own homes, but we can help these agencies extend a hand.

### **The After 26 Project: Buy a Brick**

As you know, the After 26 Project has partnered with the American Veterans Post 110 to open a café, gift shop, and banquet center; which will employ approximately 30 special needs adults on a part-time basis. Proceeds from the "Buy a Brick" program will be used to renovate the AMVET building and to purchase equipment and furnishings.

Before June 1 a 4" x 8" brick will be \$95\* and an 8" x 8" brick \$190\*\* with no additional charge for clipart. Bricks will be installed by the front entrance some time after our grand opening. That date depends upon fund raising and construction timelines.

For more information, please e-mail [after26project@gmail.com](mailto:after26project@gmail.com) or call Kathy Bloomfield at 231-775-4516.

\*Without clip art, a 4x8 brick holds up to 3 lines of text and 20 characters per line (including spaces and punctuation). With clip art, 3 lines of text and 12 characters per line can be accommodated.

\*\*Without clip art, an 8x8 brick holds up to 6 lines of text and 20 characters per line. With clip art, the limits are 4 lines of text with 20 characters per line

### **Stehouwer Free Clinic**

The Clinic is getting ready to celebrate its 10 Year Anniversary with a **Mardi Gras Event** at the **Fox Hill Event Center** on **Saturday, February 18**. Doors open at **6 pm**.

The **Cadillac High School Dixie Land Band** kicks off the event, followed by a presentation about the Clinic. **Jack Purkiss, Jan** and **Bill Juengel**, and **A Pair of Jacks** band will play jazz and blues music for the rest of the night. A variety of delicious Cajun food will be served. A cash bar and hurricanes will also be available. General admission tickets may be purchased for \$50 each by calling the Clinic at **231-876-6150**.

Thank you for making a generous donation of \$441 received on 1/3/12.

Please know that your generous contribution will help the Clinic to meet our mission of "providing area residents who are uninsured with limited medical diagnostic and treatment services." Our vision is that "all area residents with limited or no health insurance receive primary health care." Area residents include those from Wexford, Missaukee, and Osceola Counties and, as resources allow, those from surrounding areas.

Sincerely, Dave Van Houten, Treasurer

\*Our next 3 pancake brunches are from **10 am-12 pm** on **February 11, April 14, and June 9**.\*

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

#### **Summary of 1/12 Meeting**

Items Discussed:

-Need to create a Sexton Team to supplement the Board of Trustees.

- Penny Phelps is resigning from the Stewardship and Mission teams and will no longer be responsible for Mission Moments or newsletter articles.
- Discussed possibility of partnering with Sunday school program at St. Mary's Episcopal Church.
- An anonymous donor is sponsoring an advertisement for the church in the Community supplement to the Cadillac News.
- Feedback forms will be made available at the Annual Meeting.

## FUN!

### February Sunday Fun-Day Redux

**Sandy**

Let's try this again with snow on the ground! Please come to **Tom & Diane's** home on **February 19** for a potluck and afternoon of winter fun. There will be something for everyone: cross country skiing and snow shoeing in the woods, pool in the game room, and board games upstairs. The Jobsons will provide chili and hot chocolate. If you like, you may bring a snack, a dish, or a beverage to share.

If you have ideas for future Fun-Days, please speak to **Sandy**

## UNITED NORTHERN ASSOCIATION

Our UNA **sister church** for February is **Atlanta Congregational UCC**. Please lift up the congregation and its pastors, **Revs. Keith and Ginny Titus**, in prayer during the coming month.

## COMMUNITY

### Movies for the Mind

**Dave Gaunt**

The next Movies for the Mind film screening will be on **Sunday, February 26** at **6:00 pm** at the **Old Phartz** across Mitchell Street from the Blue Heron. The film has not yet been selected.

### Cadillac Footliters'

See our own **Ralph Annis** in the Footliters' performance of Ernest Thompson's play "**On Golden Pond**" at the Cadillac High School Auditorium at 7:30 pm on **February 3,4,10, 11** and at 2:00 pm on February 11. Tickets are **\$10** at the door or **\$8** in advance at Peebles, Brinks Custom Framing, and the UPS Store. [www.cadillacfootliters.com](http://www.cadillacfootliters.com)

### Coalition for Poverty Reduction of Wexford and Missaukee Counties

#### "Pathways for a Better Life" Conference –2

Held at Baker College on **Friday, Feb 10, 10 AM- 3 PM**, this event is for people seeking to overcome the stress of poverty. It is a day to help people take steps toward building a life that moves them out of poverty and beyond.

There are 3 great parts to this conference which will help participants accomplish that goal:

1. A time to listen and be inspired by people who have found pathways out of poverty.
2. A delicious lunch and some helpful door prizes
3. Building relationships and problem solving with community people (navigators) who can help with specific areas of concern.

Please see **Pastor Carol** for a registration form or contact **Ken Nydam** at 231-876-3280 or 989-390-2953.

**Transition Cadillac Area**

**Shelley Youngman**

Transition Cadillac Area is launching a program called The 100 YARDen Dash, where landscapes in Lake City, McBain, Manton, Mesick, Tustin, Luther, LeRoy, and the entire Cadillac area will be transformed into bountiful foodscapes. The ultimate goal of this project is to develop a vital local food system.

We are encouraging people to grow more food, and to register their garden with the 100 YARDen Dash to help our community reach the goal of 100 new or expanded gardens in 2012. Food gardens may be as simple as growing pots of tomatoes and herbs on your back deck, or as big as a community garden (each membership counts as one garden); expanding an existing garden, planting fruit trees, adding a hoop house or green house, or any other form of a foodscape. We will have a community celebration on **Earth Day** to recognize people who are part of the garden challenge program.

We are looking for "worker bees" to help plan and implement this valuable and fun project. We meet twice a month. The **1st Thursday** is a time to plan together, hear updates about the progress of the project and to find out how you can jump in and help with specific tasks. The **3rd Thursday** is reserved to learn more about gardening.

Our next speaker, on **February 16**, is **Craig Schaaf** from The Good News Farm in Kalkaska. Craig began his first small garden 10 years ago; now it provides beyond his family's financial needs. With only the heat of the sun, Craig has produced vine-ripe tomatoes by the end of April. His farm also raises beets, carrots, parsnips, parsley, and other vegetables for a local restaurant. Craig has recently built community greenhouses and is part of a local group interested in regional seed-saving. Craig is a sought after speaker and consultant for local farmers and gardeners. You are sure to love his presentation! His topic on February 16 is **Building a Living Soil**. It is approximately a 2-hour presentation starting at **7 pm**. Generous donations are appreciated for Craig and for the use of the Fellowship Hall.

For more information on Transition Cadillac Area, please go to [www.transitioncadillac.org](http://www.transitioncadillac.org). You can also search for Transition Cadillac on Facebook. You may also want to join the 100 YARDen Dash group on Facebook, where you will find a wealth of information about gardening.

## FEBRUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 *Jazz. 5:45 pm  <b>Choir 7:00 pm</b>	2 *Jazz. 8:30am 5:00pm <b>BOT 6:30 pm</b>	3 *Jazz. 8:30am	4 *Jazz. 8:30 am
5 <b>Worship 10:30 am Communion Sunday  Annual Meeting Noon</b>	6 *Jazz. 4:30 pm 5:45 pm	7 *Jazz. 8:30 am	8 *Jazz. 5:45 pm  <b>Choir 7:00 pm</b>	9 *Jazz. 8:30am 5:00pm *Miracles 10:00 am	10 *Jazz. 8:30am	11 *Jazz. 8:30am  <b>Pancake Brunch 10:00 am</b>
12 <b>Worship 10:30 am</b>	13 *Jazz. 4:30 pm 5:45 pm	14 *Jazz. 8:30 am  *Audubon 7 pm	15 *Jazz. 5:45 pm <b>Choir 7:00 pm</b>	16 *Jazz. 8:30 am 5:45 pm	17 *Jazz. 8:30am	18 *Jazz. 8:30 am
19 <b>Worship 10:30 am Sunday Funday 2 pm</b>	20 *Jazz. 4:30 pm 5:45 pm  <b>Items for News- letter Due!</b>	21 *Jazz. 8:30 am	22 *Jazz. 5:45 pm Taize Worship 1st Presb Church 7 pm	23 *Jazz. 8:30 am 5:45 pm *Miracles 10:00 am	24 *Jazz. 8:30am	25 *Jazz. 8:30 am
26 <b>Worship 10:30 am ONA Study Session noon  Movies for the Mind 6 pm</b>	27 *Jazz. 4:30 pm 5:45 pm	28 *Jazz. 8:30 am	29 *Jazz. 5:45 pm <b>Choir 7:00 pm</b>			

\*Non-Church activities that occur in the church.