

January 2011
The Tie That Binds
First Congregational United Church of Christ
Cadillac, Michigan

PASTOR REYNOLDS' RAP

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:4-9, New Revised Standard Version)

Dear Friends,

As I ponder our shared journey in 2010--all that we have accomplished and struggled through together, my heart overflows with gratitude. It has been a year at once challenging and deeply rewarding. But we have indeed stayed at the table and are beginning to see the fruits of our labor and perseverance. Among other things, we have welcomed more and more return visitors and friends, increasing numbers of children, exciting new ministries to the Lakota Nation and the Cadillac community, and an unfolding congregational vision to guide us onward. These are wonderful gifts to lift up and celebrate in this season of divine light, love, hospitality, and self-giving!

I can't thank you enough for who you are and all that you do. I rejoice and am honored to be part of this gifted and generous faith community, and I am excited to move into the new year with you, discerning and discovering together what God has in store for us in our shared ministry.

May God abundantly bless each one of you, this church, and community in 2011 and beyond.

Namaste,

Pastor Carol

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Vacation

Pastor Carol will be on vacation December 25-January 3. If you have a pastoral care need in her absence, please contact Mercy Hospital chaplain Rev. Ed Gilbert at 231-342-4397.

Office Hours

Pastor Carol's office hours are changing. She will now be available at the church from 1:00-5:00 pm on Thursdays and at other times by appointment.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JANUARY 2011

January 2 Celebration	tbd (Sara Preaching/Pastor on Vacation)	Epiphany
January 9	Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:13-17	Possibilities Unfolding
January 16	Matthew 9:35-10:23	All That We Are

January 23
January 30
Beautiful
WORSHIP

tbd (Rev. Cheryl Burke preaching)
Matthew 5:1-12

Called Together
The Vision

Communion Sunday

Because Pastor Carol will be on vacation January 2, **for the month of January only**, Communion will be celebrated on the **second Sunday** of the month, **1/9**.

New in the Pews

In January we will be introducing a **"friendship pad"** to each row of pews in the sanctuary. At the beginning of each service, you will be asked to sign the top sheet, then pass the pad along to neighbors in your pew, and finally back to its starting point.

The friendship pads are intended to help us extend an even more extravagant welcome to one another and our visitors, familiarizing us with our neighbors' names and creating opportunities to reach out to one another in worship and coffee hour. In addition, they will enable us to compile contact information for those newcomers who wish to learn more about us, to be added to our mailing list, to become members, and/or to be called by our pastor.

Sermons

Thanks to the joint efforts of **Robin [edit]** and **Rachel Whiteman**, audio files of most of Pastor Carol's 2010 sermons are now available on our website—www.firstcongcadillac.org! Written transcripts are just beginning to be added as well.

Weather

Did you receive a phone call about the cancellation of the worship service on 12/12? If not, you may need to have your name added to the church phone tree. Please sign the designated sheet at the back of the sanctuary.

Going forward, you can also check the church website or the church voicemail system, which will be updated for weather closures by about 9:00 am on Sunday.

VISION

Rev. Cheryl Burke of the UCC's Michigan Conference returns to Cadillac on Sunday, **January 23** (**February 13** snow date) to guide us through the next step of our church visioning process. Cheryl will preach in the morning worship service and then lead a 2-hour visioning workshop in Fellowship Hall. This process of appreciative inquiry is designed to help us discern our gifts as a congregation and the things we love most about our church. From there we will be equipped to strategize about how to more fully utilize our gifts, and, in so doing, to manifest more of what we love.

The Pastoral Relations Committee will be coordinating a luncheon for participants. Please speak to **Laura [edit]** or **Joyce [edit]** if you would like to bring a dish to share or help with set-up or clean-up.

FUN!

Santa's Mistakes

Don't care for that aftershave? Not into dusting figurines? Bring those items that didn't strike your fancy down to the church for our annual Santa's Mistakes display. We'll set our items up on the piano in Fellowship Hall, along with a basket. Folks can browse our treasures and put a donation in the basket for whatever appeals to them. Money collected will go to offset the cost of running our church kitchen.

MISSIONS

Our Mission Target for January: Our Church's Wider Mission Penny Phelps

Who we are as members of the United Church of Christ is all bound up in Our Church's Wider Mission. As we review our values and goals, the concept of social justice keeps coming up – an awareness of deep economic disparity and tribal conflict and gender issues and lack of education and opportunity – and we are committed to doing what we can to right those wrongs. As individuals -- even as a small congregation – what we are able to do is minute, like the widow's mite, but when our efforts and voices are combined with all those in the UCC, mountains can be moved!

The gifts we give to OCWM help support the national church and the Michigan Conference, which ties together all the local UCC churches in Michigan. The national church and the conference help local churches find clergy, celebrate ordinations and installations, offer conflict resolution, and support new churches. The national church collects funds for victims of hurricanes and earthquakes and other natural and man-made disasters – without siphoning off a large chunk of donations for "administrative expenses." Presently, of all the OCWM funds collected in Michigan, 29 percent is sent on to the national church and 71 percent is kept here in Michigan to pay salaries and maintenance on the conference center in Lansing and to support all the programs (such as sending Rev. Cheryl Burke to help us discern what our mission is) and needs of the 156 local churches in Michigan. The budget is small and carefully monitored – there is no fat to trim. Please support who we are with a gift to OCWM.

Cadillac Area Community Health Clinic aka "The Free Clinic"

This week we received a Christmas card and the note below from the Free Clinic, which we support through donations received at our monthly pancake brunches. In addition, Pastor Carol recently joined the Clinic's Board of Directors.

The Cadillac Area Community Health Clinic would like to say thank-you and tell you that because of you we were able to:

- Treat: 1221 patients at the Urgent Care Clinic
451 through the Medication Access Program
*** from 17 Counties 858 from Wexford. 238 from Missaukee, 179 from Osceola
- Provide: 113 people at the free clinic with samples or voucher for their prescriptions
Over 1.4 million dollars worth of free medications through Medication Access
69 people with x-rays
78 patients with needed lab work
55 people with dental vouchers that allow them to see a dentist for one visit
(Often our wonderful local dentists do much more than one visit for that voucher)
(some of those dentists never turn in the voucher for payment)

Our numbers have increased at the Wednesday night clinic from an average of 19-25 people in 2009 to 35-45 in 2010. But because of your support we were able to meet the needs and care for the working poor of the Cadillac Area. Thank you for being the wonderful people you are.

The Cadillac Area Community Health Clinic Board of Directors
Cindy Evans, RN BSN Executive Director
Karen Zenner, Medication Access Coordinator

THANK YOU!

Many, many thanks to--

- Everyone who helped set the sanctuary beautifully aglow by purchasing poinsettias and/or by coordinating and decorating with them (**Penny Phelps**)!
- **Laura [edit]** for masterfully publicizing the St. Francis Animal Blessing, Blue Christmas Service, and the Crafters for a Cause craft show to the Cadillac community.
- **Candy [edit]** for organizing the Crafters for a Cause craft show with such speed and efficiency, as well as to the talented cooks, canners, crafters, and models who participated, **[edit]**
- **Karma [edit]** for preparing and serving a scrumptious post-caroling meal, complete with festive music. Thanks also to our carolers—**Karen [edit], Lisa [edit], Shannon [edit], Margie Annis, Rachel Whiteman, Jack [edit], Connie [edit],** and **Linda [edit]**. We are already strategizing for next year's outing and would welcome your voice too!
- The many gifted singers, musicians, speakers, and usher/greeters who participated in the Christmas Eve service, as well as to **Rita [edit], Terry [edit], Candy [edit], John [edit], Troy [edit], Bob [edit],** and **Jack** and **Vickie [edit]** for the magical reception afterwards.

COMMUNITY

What is Success?

- Are you "AWARE" of the Principles and Universal Laws that are necessary to get you from where you are to where you want to be?
- Do you repeat the same behaviors and expect different results? That is the definition of "insanity" you know. Yet it is what the majority of people do.
- Do you blame the conditions and circumstances in your life for your lack of success?

If you are ready for a change and want 2011 to be different....

JOIN US!

Where: First Congregational Church

When: January 11 - February 8th, 2011

Time: 5:30 p.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Cost: \$97 workshop; \$20 for book

To register, contact

Penney McRae at 231-876-0643 or penneymcrae@charter.net

You can also visit www.penneymcrae.com

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UNITED NORTHERN ASSOCIATION

Our UNA **sister church** for January is **Alpena First Congregational UCC**. Please lift up the congregation and its interim pastor, **Rev. Richard Hotchkin**, in prayer during the coming month.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Summary of 12/9 Meeting

Laura [edit]

[edit]

Highlights of the meeting:

- Sunday School Rules - The members discussed the reaction of the congregation and decided to invite parents and interested congregants to attend a future meeting to future explore this issue.
- Membership Committee – Pastor Carol expressed her desire to get this committee up and going. The purpose of this committee would be to welcome guests who are attending services and make sure that there is contact information for them. The board also decided that guests would be given a small token – such as a jar of jam/jelly – to welcome them to our service.
- The phone tree needs to be updated ASAP so that in case of inclement weather, people could be contacted if service is cancelled.
- Pew Pads/Welcome Cards – Pew pads will be placed at the end of each pew so that visitors/guests can identify themselves and give contact information. Welcome cards also will be sent to visitors/guests.
- Nurturing/Care Committee – This is another committee that Pastor Carol would like to see up and running. The job of this committee would be to send cards to those who are sick, having birthdays, etc.
- Communications – Another committee/person who acts as newsletter editor and serves to contact the media about events going on within the church.
- **Annual Meeting – January 30, 2011** – Colin **[edit]** will serve as moderator.

JANUARY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 *Jazz. 8:30 am
2 Worship 10:30 am	3 *Jazz. 4:30 pm 5:45 pm	4 *Jazz. 8:30 am PRC 5:30 pm?	5 *Jazz. 5:45 pm	6 *Jazz. 8:30am 5:45pm	7 *Jazz. 8:30am	8 *Jazz. 8:30am
9 Communion Sunday Sunday Worship 10:30 am	10 *Jazz. 4:30 pm 5:45 pm	11 *Jazz. 8:30 am *Success 5:30-7:15 *Audubon Meeting 7 pm	12 *Jazz. 5:45 pm	13 *Jazz. 8:30 am 5:45 pm BOT 5:00 pm	14 *Jazz. 8:30am	15 *Jazz. 8:30 am
16 Sunday Worship 10:30 am	17 *Jazz. 4:30 pm 5:45 pm Martin Luther King Jr. Day	18 *Jazz. 8:30 am *Success 5:30-7:15 pm	19 *Jazz. 5:45 pm	20 *Jazz. 8:30 am 5:45 pm Items for Newsletter Due!	21 *Jazz. 8:30am	22 *Jazz. 8:30 am
23 Sunday Worship 10:30 am Visioning & Lunch 11:45 am	24 *Jazz. 4:30 pm 5:45 pm	25 *Jazz. 8:30 am *Success 5:30-7:15 pm	26 *Jazz. 5:45 pm Taize Worship First Presb Church 7:00 pm	27 *Jazz. 8:30 am 5:45 pm	28 *Jazz. 8:30am	29 *Jazz. 8:30 am
30 Sunday Worship 10:30 am	31 *Jazz. 4:30 pm 5:45 pm				*Non-Church activities that occur in the church.	