

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

PASTOR REYNOLDS' RAP

³⁴I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.
³⁵By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35, NRSV)

Dear Friends,

Recently a few of you have asked me about the status of our visioning project. I am pleased to say that many of the goals and plans we discussed that day have been implemented and that others are in the works. Specifically,

1. Several months ago we held a **musical/craft fundraiser**, which was great fun, well attended, and raised enough money to sponsor a classroom in Pakistan for a year. Our next steps are to determine how frequently we would like to host these types of community events and how we might like to vary the programming.
2. In Lent a new, co-facilitated **evening book study** was born. Now there are plans to expand into video as well and perhaps to begin with the recent PBS special on forgiveness. (See **Penny Phelps** or **Sara Keinath** for details.)
3. In an effort to create more opportunities for fun, informal, multi-generational fellowship, **Third Sunday Fun-days** were introduced in May. At some point we hope a youth group will follow.
4. The Board and the Worship Planning Committee have discussed scheduling a specific day as "**Bring-a-Friend-to-Church Sunday**." This will occur some time in the fall, after we've had an opportunity as a congregation to discuss and grow more comfortable with the idea of evangelism from a progressive Christian standpoint. In the meantime, if you are so inclined, please do invite friends to worship with us, whether or not it's an officially sanctioned Sunday!
5. Still to come: monthly [Cadillac] **free community meals, live music and lemonade** from the church porch, and the creation of opportunities to more effectively **communicate** with and express **gratitude** to one another. Please see **Pastor Carol** if you would like to help bring one or more of these dreams to life.

This is an amazing list--We have accomplished **a lot** together in just a few short months, and for that you are to be heartily commended. And moving outside of these particular goals, the ministry you have provided to one another in recent times of illness and crisis has been a beautiful thing to witness. I am humbled by the many loving and creative ways you share the light of Christ with one another on a daily basis. It's truly inspirational and, I believe, central to who this particular church is and what the Body of Christ should and can be. Thank you for letting your lights shine so brightly.

In addition to continuing to work on the goals we set for ourselves at our last visioning session, I believe our work and dialogues together with the **UCC identity markers** and the **Center for Progressive Christianity's 8 Points** will help to illuminate the way forward for us. We don't have to agree on every marker or point, but, at the very least, they can facilitate sacred conversations about some very important topics. And from there we can discern how God might be calling us to name and respond to them as a congregation.

Namasté,

Pastor Carol PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Please note that Pastor Carol will be on vacation **June 20-28**. If you have a pastoral care need in her absence, please contact Mercy Hospital chaplain **Rev. Ed Gilbert** at 231-342-4397.

In addition, please note that Pastor Carol is now taking Mondays and Tuesdays as her days off. If you have a pastoral emergency, please do contact her on her cell phone (231-884-9884). Otherwise, please know that she will respond to your call or e-mail just as soon as she is able on Wednesday or Thursday.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JUNE 2011

June 5	I Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11	Progressive Christianity Point 8: Commitment to a Path of Lifelong Learning, Compassion and Selfless Love
June 12	Acts 2:1-21	Pentecost Sunday
June 19	Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Psalm 8	This is Good
June 26	tbd (Pastor on vacation)	Holy Welcome

WORSHIP

Pentecost

Please be sure to **wear red** on **Sunday, June 12** as we celebrate the Holy Spirit's arrival and the birth of the church.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Congratulations!

To **Kelsey**, who made the state forensic team and to our new members **Todd, Carol, and Pat**, who joined the church on May 15.

Thank You!

Many thanks to **Troy** and **Bob** for securing special bulbs to light our beautiful steeple and to **Richard, Bill J,** and **Jack** for braving the heights, precarious ladders, and stormy weather to install them. We should see (or hear) the chimes back soon as well!

Prayer List

Please hold these members, friends, and family in prayer: **Lee, Dorothy, Brian, Candy, Ruth, Rita & Dick, Margaret, Albert, Donna, Jeanne, Jenny, the family of Mary.**

UNITED NORTHERN ASSOCIATION

Our UNA **sister church** for June is **First Congregational, UCC, Manistee**. Please lift up the congregation and its pastor, **Rev. Steven Lashbrook**, in prayer during the coming month.

From Atlanta Congregational, UCC

May you dream and vision the wonders of God in the year to come. And may there be blessings on all your heads!

Peace--

One of your sister churches, Atlanta Congregational, UCC & Rev. Ginny Titus

MISSIONS

Our Mission Target for June: The After 26 Project

Penny Phelps

In Michigan, after 26 years of age, individuals with special needs can no longer attend public schools. For these individuals and their families, what to do next is a real challenge. In 2007, a local group of retired teachers, parents, and volunteers got together to see if they could provide some type of meaningful employment for those adults. There is a real need to provide employment for special needs adults, not only in Cadillac, but throughout Michigan.

The After 26 group was originally inspired by a Chesaning restaurant called the Junction of Hope. It is the first nonprofit 501(c)(3) restaurant in the country, and their purpose is to hire persons with special needs in their community. One visit to the Junction of Hope clearly demonstrates how much a job means to the people who work there. It builds their self-esteem and helps them become happy, productive members of their community.

Following Junction of Hope's example, After 26 filed for and received nonprofit status in 2008. The After 26 board is now on a path to open the After 26 Café and Unique Gift Shop. The biggest challenge is raising the estimated opening costs of \$50,000. While money is being received from private grants and individual donations, fundraising is ongoing. Success will be achieved with the employment of special needs adults. Your support is greatly appreciated!

RE-MEMBER

To date, 6 members and friends of our church have confirmed their interest in participating in the United Northern Association's adult mission trip with RE-MEMBER to Pine Ridge Reservation. Due to a scheduling conflict, the date of that trip was recently pushed back to **October 15-21**, which gives us an extra week to register: A finalized volunteer list and 1/2 of our registration fees are due to RE-MEMBER by **June 15**, with the balance and registration forms due **August 15**. The total fee for this year's trip is **\$390**. If you would like to participate, please see **Pastor Carol** or **Dave** as soon as possible. To access the registration form and view detailed information about the trip, please use the following link: <http://www.re-member.org/docs/Registration%20Packet%202011.pdf>

From Developments in Literacy (DIL)

Dear DIL Supporters,

This gratefully acknowledges your contribution of \$1500 towards the DIL project, which is dedicated to the advancement of literacy in the remote villages of Pakistan.

Your donation will pay for 1 year of education of children in 1 classroom at a DIL School. Thank you so very much for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hashmat J. Saeed

Chief Financial Officer

(This donation was raised via our concert fundraiser and the sale of **Shari's** scarves.)

From the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our brother, Jesus.

Thank you for making Our Church's Wider Mission an important part of your mission. Your commitment to the mission and ministries of the wider church make possible the witness of Our Still Speaking God in this time and in places sorely in need of the Word that speaks hope and possibility. Together in covenant we not only imagine, but plant the seeds that will grow and make another world possible. In a time when people say: "We can't." You say: "We can and we will."

May God richly bless you,
Judith Youngman
Interim Conference Minister
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

(Our 2010 contribution was \$620.)

Summary of 5/12 Meeting

Laura, Clerk

The Board met on Thursday, May 12 and welcomed new interim member **Linda**.

The Board continues to discuss ways to bring additional monies into the treasury. Penny suggested bringing back the Holiday Bazaar. There was considerable interest in participating in purchasing items from Equal Exchange (the company that provides the free-trade, organic coffee that is served during coffee hour). There will be more information on this in the upcoming months.

Karma is taking the lead on the Open and Affirming (ONA) UCC Identity Marker and in conjunction with this, is also looking at The Center for Progressive Christianity (TCPC)'s Point #4 (Invite all people to participate in our community and worship life without insisting that they become like us in order to be acceptable). Karma will be meeting with **Pastor Carol, Linda Baynes, Sara Keinath, Troy, Bob, Penny Phelps** and **Laura** soon to discuss what comes next. Others interested in participating in this task force are also welcome.

The Board also discussed the possibility of making bookmarks available for those who visit. These would include a picture of the church, information about worship, and perhaps a brief history of the church. **Pastor Carol** and **Linda** will investigate the cost of such a project. In addition, the Board decided that those who visit would be given a token gift-a jar of jam or honey. There will be a jam making session this summer for those who would like to participate in this project.

The Board and the PRC will meet jointly this summer to discuss the development of an evaluation tool. More information on this process will be forthcoming soon.

Silent Auction

As the Board has discussed strategies for bridging our budget deficit, a fundraising idea that keeps coming up is the silent auction. More than one church or other nonprofit organization has reported to us that, properly executed, silent auctions have the potential to attract many people from beyond the church's membership and to generate good income in the process. The keys are 1) to host another event at the same time, such as an organ concert, which brings visitors into the church, and 2) to have creative auction offerings.

Given that we have a wonderful pipe organ and a very talented and creative congregation, neither of these should be terribly challenging for us to achieve. Ideas that have worked well at other churches include hosting a wine tasting, hosting a gourmet dinner party, and providing transportation to a concert or other destination. Other ideas such as knitting lessons, beer tasting, and sculpture came up in our Board meeting as we reflected on the broad range of interests represented by our church family. The possibilities are endless and fun to consider.

And so, the Board invites you to do just that: Please brainstorm as individuals and groups about the sorts of skills or events you might enjoy offering as part of a silent auction on behalf of the church and share them with the Board as plans begin to take shape over the coming months. As we get further along in the process, a sign-up sheet will be placed in the back of the sanctuary.

FUN!

Dinner with Friends

Following are the dinner group assignments for our next round of Dinners with Friends. If you have not yet signed up and are interested in participating, please contact **Pastor Carol**. If you are a host, please connect with your guests to determine a mutually agreeable date, time, cuisine, etc. Contact information for all but our newest members is available in the most recent church address directory. The new member information will be e-mailed to the relevant hosts shortly.

Enjoy!

Group A

Candy & John

Carol
Carol Reynolds
Jane
Pat & Bo

Group B

Jack & Vickie

Karma & Marty
Sara
Ellen

Group C

Gert & Sperry

Laura
Donna
Bill & Jan

Group D

Shelley & Frank

Todd
Ann & Ginny
Ruthann

Group E

Troy & Bob

Ralph & Margie
Terry Oss & Rita
Penny Phelps

Group F

Shari & Gary

Linda & Jenny
Susan
Bill & Marge

Third Sunday Fun-Day

Remember the Sunday back in January when we engaged in a visioning process concerning the strengths and future of our church? From that Sunday came a suggestion for opportunities outside of worship for fellowship and fun; hence the birth of "Third Sunday Fun-Day." The idea is that on the third Sunday of each month, there will be an event offering fun and fellowship.

May's third Sunday brought a hike/scavenger hunt on the Pathway Trails behind the Vocational Center. It was a bright Sunday afternoon, the woods were beautiful, and the company was fine. A good time was had by all. June's third Sunday falls on Father's Day, June 19. We are planning to go to a 5:00 Beach Bum's (Traverse City's Minor League baseball team) game that day. The fee is nominal. We will arrange transportation details as the day gets closer. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for those who are interested in going.

Please talk with or send ideas for future Fun-Days to **Sandy** or **Candy**

WHOLE EARTH

THE PLUMP PUMPKIN: HOMESTEAD WORKSHOP OFFERING! FARM TOUR!

By Jess Taylor and Amy Jo Prater

When: June 11th 3pm-approx. 5pm

What: See how we fill our days with a tour of chickens, ducks, pottery, sauna, gardens, bread, goats & cheese, wood bowls, drums, fire wood, beer & wine, soap, food storage. We will end up in the kitchen to make and sample a simple farmers cheese and a goat mozzarella.

Where: 8671 E 5 Mile Rd., Luther. Signs will direct you in from the Bristol Store.

Etc.: Any questions call Amy Jo at 231-944-2082.

Suggested donation of \$10 per person. However, no one will be turned away.

VISION

On May 22, Pastor Carol preached the first in a monthly sermon series covering the **8 Points** the **Center for Progressive Christianity** (TCPC) uses to define what it means to be a progressive Christian. That sermon covered Point 2 (Pluralism). Point 8 will follow on **June 5**. (In an attempt to continue to follow the revised common lectionary cycle, the Points will be presented out of order.)

TCPC has recently updated the 8 Points for 2011. The version we had previously reviewed together was crafted in 2003. I think that you will be pleased with the changes, many of which address concerns expressed in our recent congregational meetings.

Please take a moment to acquaint yourselves with the new and improved points below. In addition, if you happen to miss a sermon in the series, you are encouraged to catch up on line, either via an audio recording or a written transcript. That way, we'll all be prepared to cast educated votes on affiliation at the September Semi-Annual Meeting.

The 8 Points

By calling ourselves progressive, we mean we are Christians who...

1. Believe that following the path and teachings of Jesus can lead to an awareness and experience of the Sacred and the Oneness and Unity of all life;
2. Affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of many ways to experience the Sacredness and Oneness of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom in our spiritual journey;
3. Seek community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to: Conventional Christians and questioning skeptics, Believers and agnostics, Women and Men, those of all sexual orientations and gender identities, those of all classes and abilities;
4. Know that the way we behave towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe;
5. Find grace in the search for understanding and believe there is more value in questioning than in absolutes;
6. Strive for peace and justice among all people;
7. Strive to protect and restore the integrity of our Earth; and
8. Commit to a path of life-long learning, compassion, and selfless love.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

State of Michigan

The Midland County Family Division is recruiting homes to provide licensed **respite care** for families involved with **Community Mental Health of Central Michigan**. Respite care is a short-term commitment that allows time-out for families who have emotionally impaired or developmentally disabled children ages 5-17. Be part of a community that supports and strengthens families. Foster care is challenging and rewarding. Payments, training, and lots of support are provided. For an information packet, contact Shaun Hutchens (989-832-6398, shutchins@co.midland.mi.us).

COMMUNITY

Movies for the Mind

Movies for the Mind is an effort to bring to Cadillac thought-provoking and honest documentaries touching on environmental, political, and socially-conscious themes from independent filmmakers, with messages that matter. Films presented have won major awards at festivals ranging from Sundance to Berlin.

Possibly the most beneficial aspect of Movies for the Mind is the discussion that occurs afterward. Our tradition is to turn our chairs toward one another and discuss what we have just experienced. The richness of the discussion, often from varied perspectives, provides a valuable dialogue that expands our perceptions in meaningful ways.

Here are the films and topics we have explored so far:

- **Food Matters** is a hard hitting, fast paced documentary about food and our current state of health.
- **Soldiers of Conscience** offers a dramatic window on the dilemma of individual U.S. soldiers in war.
- **Standing Silent Nation** is a compelling documentary chronicling the story of a Native American family on Pine Ridge Reservation as they assert their sovereignty through the growing of industrial hemp, in order to create economic independence.
- **Playing for Change: Peace Through Music** explores hope, struggle, perseverance, and joy throughout the world, and the connection that is possible through music.
- **Sprawling from Grace: Driven to Madness** is a documentary that touches on the global competition for energy resources, raising the stakes of the energy crisis, and requiring us to re-examine our energy policies...from energy sources, to city planning and public transportation.
- **In Sickness and In Wealth** is a ground-breaking documentary recommended by the Health Department that sheds light on the mounting evidence of how inequities in the rest of our lives – the jobs we do, the wealth we enjoy, the neighborhoods we live in – can get under the skin and disrupt our biology as surely as germs and viruses.
- **Waiting for Superman** undertakes an exhaustive review of public education, surveying “drop-out factories” and “academic sinkholes,” methodically dissecting the system and its seemingly intractable problems.
- **Capitalism: A Love Story**, is a Michael Moore film about the disastrous impact of corporate dominance on the everyday lives of Americans.

There are so many topics to explore and a wealth of good films to investigate them, so we look forward to more monthly features where anyone is welcome and encouraged to join us. Tentative upcoming topics include the exploration of natural gas, organic awareness, changing perceptions of

the disabled, landfills and recycling, the vinyl siding industry, awareness of the holocaust, our diminishing water resource, among many more.

Please contact **Dave Gaunt** at drdavidgaunt@yahoo.com or 231-775-6973 if you're interested in being included on the distribution list for upcoming features.

- When: Most often the **4th Sunday of each month; 6:00pm**
 Where: The Old Phart (formerly Artzy Phartzies in downtown Cadillac – across from the Blue Heron Restaurant)
 Suggested Donation: \$5.00/person optional donation to cover associated costs (No one is making money; we're trying to bring awareness to Cadillac, while paying the bills.)
 What to Bring: Your own seating (lawn chair, pillow, stool, etc.)

JUNE 2011						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 *Jazz. 5:45 pm 7pm choir	2 *Jazz. 8:30am 5:45pm	3 *Jazz. 8:30am	4 *Jazz. 8:30 am
5 Communion Sunday Worship 10:30 am	6 *Jazz. 4:30 pm 5:45 pm	7 *Jazz. 8:30 am	8 *Jazz. 5:45 pm 7pm choir	9 *Jazz. 8:30am 5:00pm BOT 5:45 pm	10 *Jazz. 8:30am	11 *Jazz. 8:30am
12 Sunday Worship 10:30 am	13 *Jazz. 4:30 pm 5:45 pm	14 *Jazz. 8:30 am	15 *Jazz, PRC 5:30 pm 7pm choir	16 *Jazz. 8:30 am 5:45 pm	17 *Jazz. 8:30am	18 *Jazz. 8:30 am
19 Sunday Worship 10:30 am 3 rd Sunday Fun Day	20 *Jazz. 4:30 pm 5:45 pm Items for News-letter Due!	21 *Jazz. 8:30 am *Audubon Meeting 7 pm	22 *Jazz. 5:45 pm Taize Worship First Presb Church 7:00 pm	23 *Jazz. 8:30 am 5:45 pm	24 *Jazz. 8:30am	25 *Jazz. 8:30 am Worship Planning 9:00 am
26 Sunday Worship 10:30 am	27 *Jazz. 4:30 pm 5:45 pm	28 *Jazz. 8:30 am	29	30	*Non-Church activities that occur in the church.	