

The Tie That Binds
First Congregational United Church of Christ
Cadillac, MI



SEPTEMBER 2014

From Your Summer Pastor, Pat Ponczek

It took a while for summer to warm up. Then we got a lot of nice days and rain to keep everything green and growing. The farmers' market is overflowing with all kinds of produce and our own little church garden has flourished as well. What a pleasure to watch it grow and then be able to have a harvest! Thanks to the green thumbs amongst us.

Many thanks to Bob and Troy. The annual Pool Party was its usual annual success. The synchronized swimmers made Esther Williams look like a tadpole.

Now, September is upon us. The kids will be going back to school. Sunday school will start again. And it will be time for Adult Bible Study.

This fall, beginning the second week of September, Adult Bible Study will be on two books of the Bible: Genesis from the Old Testament; Matthew from the New Testament. We will cover Genesis in September – Matthew in October. Bible study will meet on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. and on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. Adam and Eve; Noah and the Ark; Abraham and Isaac; Jacob and his 12 sons: I am looking forward to this exploration of the old Sunday School stories of the Bible.

Genesis schedule: #1 Please read Genesis, chapters 1-11 (8 pages)

September 9 & 10 Don't get overwhelmed by the genealogies that you run into. Pick out the names that seem important. (If none seem important – don't worry about it.) It is best if we all read from the same translation. The New Revised Standard Version is the best. If you don't have one, borrow one of the red pew bibles for the time being. If the language seems a little stiff and uncomfortable – it gets easier as you go along. Like talking with someone from Mississippi. You get the hang of it.

September 16 & 17 #2 Please read Genesis, chapters 12-25:1-18 (10 pages)

September 23 & 24 #3 Please read Genesis, chapters 25:19-36:1-8 (10 pages)

Sep 30 & Oct 1 #4 Please read Genesis, chapters 37 & 39-50 (11 pages)

Please SKIP chapter 38. This chapter interrupts the Joseph story and doesn't belong in this location. We will come back to it later.

SKIP CHAPTER 38.

The last section of Genesis is the story of Jacob's favorite son, Joseph. This is the Joseph of the special coat. This is the Joseph of the Donny Osmond movie, *The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*. Although "Hollywooded up" the movie is faithful to the Biblical story. If you can find it, I recommend the movie.

God bless us as we continue on this journey.

Pat



NEWS

Choir



Our first choir practice will be on **Wednesday Sept 3rd at 7:00-8:00pm**

Sunday mornings we will practice from **9:30-10:10am**, since our congregational hymn sing has become. All are welcome!

Please try to arrive on time ready to sing so that our time is both productive and rewarding

Thanks!

Margie Annis
Choir Director



Rev. Dr. William Lyons, guest preacher

On Sunday August 24th, Bill Lyons filled our pulpit in Pat Ponczek's absence. Many of us know Bill because three years ago he spent seven weeks coming to Cadillac to explore the Bible with us when we in the process of becoming an ONA church. This past Sunday, Bill's topic was "Who Am I?" and his scripture lessons were Exodus chapters one and two, Paul's Letter to the Romans, chapter 8:1-8, and Matthew 16:13-20. In each of these readings there were references to identity: Moses' identity, Jesus' identity, and the identity of each of us. He wove all these ideas together, focusing on the need for each of us to recognize that while we have special gifts, we are all God's people, all part of the body of Christ.

EVENTS

Dinner and Movie

It's been a while, so hopefully that means you're thirsty for more, DINNER A MOVIE (Documentary). We thought with fall on the horizon, family dynamics changing for the season, that September would be a good time to gather for a thought provoking documentary and a hearty dinner. We would like to offer for your consideration "God Love Uganda". It explores the role of the American Evangelical movement in fueling Uganda's terrifying turn towards biblical law and the proposed death penalty for homosexuality. These dangerous polices and the money that fuels them aren't coming from Africa; they're being imported from some of America's largest megachurches. Shocking and enlightening, touching and horrifying, God Loves Uganda will leave you questioning just how closely this brand of Christianity resembles the one you think you know. Since the documentary has been released several events have occurred that we will update you on. We look forward to you continuing are journey together of understanding and enlightenment on LBGT issues.



When: **SEPTEMBER 12th** (a Friday)

Time : **6:30pm** (Documentary to start about 6:45pm – (83 minutes long + discussion afterwards)

Place: **First Congregational Church** - Fellowship Hall

UCC REGIONAL EVENT

United Northern Association

The UNA Fall Meeting in Clare on September 19-20 will provide a great opportunity to talk with church volunteers throughout the UNA and to receive helpful training for maintaining a vital and healthy church.

Friday, September 19th, 1-5 p.m.

Provided by the UCC Insurance Board, *Boundary Training for Volunteers*, is a “must” for all of those saints in our churches who work with our youth, in our food pantries, or in other programs. Learn how to protect our members and guests, and how to protect our churches from litigious situations. A member of the UCC Insurance Board, Jim Jenson of Indianapolis, Indiana, will be covering topics that include: Concepts of Boundaries, Power Levels and Vulnerability, Child Abuse & Mandatory Reporting, Sex Offenders in the congregation, Social Networking & Boundaries, and Self-Care for Lay leaders.

The training is free. All interested parties are welcome to attend. Snacks will be provided by the UNA.

Saturday, September 20th, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Morning Workshop: *Social Media and the Church* will be presented by Sara Keinath, a member of Cadillac UCC. She will be sharing how she has used social media to work with 4-H extension offices throughout the state, and will show us how to use social media to build our church community.

Afternoon Workshop: *The Effect of Personal Trauma on the Role of the Church: The Supportive Church*, will be presented by Linda Fletcher, Lt. Col. U.S. Army, retired. A former Army nurse, Linda is the founder and Executive Director of *A Matter of Honor*, a non-profit organization that focuses on the impact of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, PTSD, upon the families and communities of those who suffer from this disorder.

Perhaps you are thinking, “We don’t have many military members returning from combat in our midst, what does this topic have to do with our church?” However, many of do have children and grandchildren who have served in Vietnam and the Middle East. PTSD also affects community members who have been victims of events such as child or sexual abuse, violence, or natural disasters. Learn how you can support their healing.

If you are interested in attending either or both the Friday session and the Saturday session, check with Penny Phelps for a registration form.

Pat Leahy,
UNA Coordinator



COMMUNITY EVENTS

How Is It With Your Soul?

The United Methodist Women and Nancy Smith are offering a 5-session class around this Spiritual Growth emphasis.

Fridays, Sept. 12 – Oct. 10

9:30 – 11:00 AM

Corbin Room

The themes for the sessions –Pray, Learn, Mentor, and Transform will be drawn from the study book *How Is It With Your Soul* by Priscilla Pope-Levison and Jack Levison.

The books are \$10 – however, you are not required to have a book. We will have some available for you to see and purchase at our first class.

Men are welcome to attend, too, as well as friends from other churches!

For more information, call Nancy at 231-884-0199.



Nancy Smith is a retired ordained deacon, with a ministry of spiritual direction, retreat leadership, teaching and writing. As clergy, her membership is in the New England Conference.

Cadillac Community Chorus



This year's show dates are September 20th at 8:30pm, and September 21st at 3:00pm at the Cadillac High School Auditorium.

Tickets \$8 in advance (from UPS, Brink or Horizon), \$10 on the door.

FINANCE

Treasurer's Report

Summary Financial Report as of 7/31/14

2014 Budget	\$99,550
Portion of budget to come from Reserve	10,000
Portion of budget to come from General Fund	89,550
Average Monthly Expenses (\$89,550/12)	7,462

Month	Income	Expenses	Balance	Accum. Deficit
Jan.	\$2,406	\$10,185	-\$7,779	\$7,779
Feb.	7,877	5,268	+ 2,609	5,170
Mar.	6,364	12,445	- 6,081	11,251
Apr.	6,178	8,886	- 2,708	13,959
May	5,316	4,688	+ 628	13,331
June	7,880	8,791	- 911	14,242
July	5,337	2,052	+ 2,385	11,857

You can see that July was a good month, from the standpoint of our budget. The fact that Pat Ponczek is serving as a volunteer means that our expenses dropped significantly and we put a big dent in our deficit. If we continue to keep up with our pledges, and explore ways to supplement our income, we will finish the year in pretty good shape.

There will be at least one big expense in August, the tuck-pointing (mortar repair) on the west side of the building, but that comes out of our building improvement fund, not the budget.

Penny Phelps



Missions

Our mission for September is the West Michigan Food Bank.

They serve as a regional clearing house for donated food on its way to churches and other charity agencies that provide food to needy people. With the help of their partner organization, Food Rescue of Norwest Michigan, in 2013 they distributed three million pounds of food to agencies in Grand Traverse, Wexford, Benzie, Manistee, Kalkaska, Mason, Lake, Osceola and Leelanau counties.

- Sperry Claypool

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayer List

Please hold these members, friends, and family in prayer: ☺

Colin Campbell, Brian Belleville, Margaret Leemon, Jenny Freese, Ruth Pitts, Adam Keinath, Aaron Eckert, Bill Bryan, Bill Allinder, Miguel Monge, Terry Oss, Jim & Sharon Thompson, Charles Raymond, and Marge Mattison.

PASTORAL CARE

The Rev. Paul Tomlinson, pastor at the Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Ed Gilbert, chaplain at Mercy Hospital, have agreed to respond to pastoral emergencies . If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Diane Jobson (775-7367 or 920-8764), chair of the Care and Nurture committee. If you are unable to contact Diane, call Penny Phelps (775-4069). Diane or Penny will contact a pastor.

Due to HIPAA privacy rules, hospitals do not notify pastors when parishioners are hospitalized. When in doubt, please assume the pastor is unaware of a hospitalization and pass the word along.

About Us

Church service is Sunday morning 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School and childcare available.

Margie Annis, Music Director
Penny Phelps, Church Treasurer
Rachel Whiteman, Church Clerk

Church phone: (231) 775-7632.
Pastor email: pastor@firstcongcadillac.org
Office email: office@firstcongcadillac.org
Web Site: www.firstcongcadillac.org

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Date	Usher/Greeters	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour		Sexton	Preacher
SEP 7	Robin & Lowell Corbin	Tom Jobson	<i>Birth-day Sunday</i>	Sue Wachowski / Connie	Linda Baynes	Sara Keinath
SEP 14	Joyce & Mike Oatley	Robin Corbin	Troy Knight		Penny Phelps	Pat Ponczek Mission Moment Sperry
SEP 21	Sandy & Dave Gaunt	Laura Porter	Kelly McCann		Dave Gaunt	Pat Ponczek
SEP 28	Karma Chapo & Donna Debney	Charlotte Barfield	Pot Luck		Robin Corbin	Pat Ponczek

SEPTEMBER 2014 *Non-Church activities that occur in the church.						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<u>1</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>2</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>3</u> *Jazz.5:45 pm Choir 7pm	<u>4</u> *Jazz.8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>5</u> *Jazz. 8:30am	<u>6</u> *Jazz.8:30am
<u>7</u> Worship 10:30 am Communion	<u>8</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm *5:30pm Sympho-ny Board	<u>9</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>10</u> *Jazz.5:45 pm Choir 7pm	<u>11</u> *Jazz8:30 am 5:45 pm	<u>12</u> *Jazz.8:30 am 6:30pm DINNER & MOVIE	<u>13</u> *Jazz.8:30am
<u>14</u> Worship 10:30 am	<u>15</u> *Jazz.5:45 pm	<u>16</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>17</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm Choir 7pm	<u>18</u> *Jazz8:30 am 5:45 pm BoT 6:30 pm	<u>19</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>20</u> *Jazz.8:30am
<u>21</u> Worship 10:30 am	<u>22</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>23</u> *Jazz 8:30am	<u>24</u> *Jazz.5:45 pm Newsletter items due	<u>25</u> *Jazz.8:30am 5:45 pm	<u>26</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>27</u> *Jazz.8:30am
<u>28</u> Worship 10:30am Noisy Offering	<u>29</u> *Jazz. 5:45 pm	<u>30</u> *Jazz.8:30am				