

April 2016 *The Tie That Binds*

First Congregational United Church of Christ, Cadillac, Michigan



SOME THOUGHTS FROM SARA KEINATH

Friends --

As we here in Northern Michigan are celebrating the Vernal Equinox and the return of spring, I am reminded of spring celebrations in other parts of the world. Many of you will remember that I was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Nepal from 2001 - 2003, and this special corner of the world continues to have a special place in my heart.

While living in Nepal, one of my favorite celebrations was a day called [Holi](#). Holi (pronounced just like "holy") is the festival of colors, or festival of sharing love. With the religious background of the triumph of good over evil and the agricultural significance of the return of spring, this event has evolved over the years to be a day for playing, laughter, and reconnecting with friends and family. All day long, people throw colored powder and water at each other, like a country-wide water balloon fight! Often the water is colored as well, so by the end of the day everyone has color all over them. (Make sure to wear your old clothes that day!)



Sometimes people will ask if you are "playing" before decorating you with color, but just as often they like to surprise you from around corners. The result of all of this throwing color or water and running after each other is usually lots of laughter! There are giggles as people try to sneak up on someone, there are delighted screams as some run and some chase, there are contagious guffaws as all generations join in the colorful fun. Everyone is ready to throw off the gloom of winter and rejoice in the turning of the season.

There is a lot of music on this day; shops will play popular Hindi music from the radio or groups of people will play music around town. At the end of the day, there comes a time when all the playing has worn everyone out. People go home and clean up, and then it is time for visiting friends and family. Often this is a time for renewing or repairing relationships that may have soured over the past year.

The Western world has come to appreciate this celebration of color and laughter as we incorporate the technique into the popular [Color Run](#) (usually 5K races where powdered colors are thrown on participants throughout the run). If you google the word "holi" or "color run" you will see lots of pictures of flying color powder; I will bet if you look this up, you won't be able to keep a straight face. Laughter and joy is contagious, even through a picture.



Celebrating the colors
Of our beautiful relationship,
I wish you and your family
All the bright hues of life!!

Have a Colorful Holi

- Sara Keinath

APRIL EVENTS

NEW MEMBERS SUNDAY APRIL 3rd



Calling all friends of First Congregational UCC, Cadillac! This is an open invitation to join First Congregational on Sunday April 3rd 2016. We have five people who are joining, and we would like to invite anyone else who is interested to join this inclusive family of faith. Please speak to John Doud if you are interested.

SPRING CLEANUP SUNDAY APRIL 17th



Come to church in your work clothes, come down to fellowship hall afterwards for a bite to eat, and stay to help clean up. There will be a job for everyone. Every effort is appreciated. Together the burden is small.

MOVIE APRIL 19th 6:45pm



"The Grand Seduction" is a gentle movie about a small fishing village that schemes to "seduce" a doctor to come and live and practice in this remote part of Newfoundland. A very charming movie. There will be a potato bar with lots of fixings. \$5 donation. The potato bar will be at 6pm, movie starts at 6:45pm.

EARTH DAY

Sunday School will have a special song with the choir to celebrate Earth Day on April 17th

NOISY OFFERING



Noisy offering is starting again, on the last Sunday of the month, so bring your spare change for the children to collect for their nominated charity.

FROM PENNY PHELPS:

REJOICE IN THE SOUND OF OUR ORGAN!

Two weeks ago, the organ repair team spent two days laboring over our organ. Their initial goal was to replace the brittle, worn-out leather that enables the bellows to push air through the dozens of pipes hidden behind the choir loft. There are several of these bellows, and we anticipated a major project at a major cost, but when the team actually inspected them, only one, made of sheepskin, was in bad shape; the others, made of cowhide, were in great shape. Consequently, the job wasn't as extensive as we had expected. They also did a thorough tuning of the organ, and as you may have noticed last Sunday (Palm Sunday), it sounds great! No noticeable "air" sounds, just the full, rich sound of a top-notch pipe organ. Only one repair remains: to replace the power supply, and that will be done soon.

We are very grateful to the angels in our midst who have made this refurbishing possible.



STRANGE ITEMS IN YOUR LAUNDRY BASKET?

Some time ago, on my way home through Canada, I purchased a tablecloth – white with a blue damask border – for the church. It was useful because it could be used in any season, but it hasn't been seen at the church for a couple of years. Did it get taken home to wash, and perhaps there were some stubborn stains? And then there was the red and white plaid tablecloth that disappeared. It definitely needed to be ironed after washing and maybe it is lingering in the bottom of a laundry basket because ironing isn't your thing. If you know the stories behind these mysterious disappearances, please let me know.

Penny Phelps

PASTOR NEW CELL PHONE NUMBER

Please note that John Doud can now be reached on his new local-code number 231 313 6053.

NEWS FROM THE CLERK

Marie Linn



I would like to thank all those who have completed and turned in their **blue membership profiles**. I would also like to encourage others to complete their cards. Your time and effort are greatly appreciated. I will soon be asking you to complete a more detailed checklist with options for getting more involved with the church. Please keep in mind that **WE ARE THE CHURCH!** It takes all of us to complete our mission. Everyone is important.



Check out the **bulletin board in fellowship hall**. BOT minutes, Obits, Thank Yous, Calendar of events, ONA news, committees!



In another effort to involve everyone, I have created a forum for expressing opinions, thoughts, ideas, on any subject involving the church. I put a **wooden box** on the table at the back of the sanctuary. Simply give your written input and place it in the box. The board will review and prioritize it for action. All your input is welcomed and valued.

In an effort to include the congregation in taking ownership of our church building, we are asking everyone to take a fresh look around the church. **Please write down areas you see that need to be cleaned up/out on the input slip included in the bulletin.** Simply place the slip in the box. No names are necessary.



I would like to remind everyone that on the **first Sunday of each month we celebrate both birthdays and anniversaries**. These are very special days. We enjoy sharing these events with our church family. All are invited down to fellowship hall after the service to celebrate. **Please check and update the birthday/anniversary list located on the table at the back of the sanctuary.** I would like to make sure we are not missing anyone.



The Board of Trustees has created a new committee. It is called the **Centennial Group**. The committee will be led by Bob LeVand. The group will work with the historical society, restoration of our building, and preparing for our centennial celebrations in **2023**. We are looking for volunteers. If you are interested in joining this committee, please sign your name on the sheet posted on the bulletin board. Watch for the organizational meeting to be held in April.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

NEW BABY WELCOME PALM SUNDAY MARCH 20th

Everyone enjoyed welcoming Susannah Elenbaas to our congregation. Thanks to Pat McCurdy, Catherine and Emily, for making this such a special event.



PANCAKE BRUNCH



The Pancake Brunch, held on March 19th, made \$477 for the Stehouwer Free Clinic here in Cadillac. Thanks to Bob Evans for providing the food so that all the proceeds can go to this good cause, for the dedicated team who prepared and cooked and cleaned up after the meal, and to all who supported the event.

SHAKESPEARE EVENT MARCH 12TH



Friends of Cadillac Library held an event at First Congregational, featuring the Pigeon Creek Shakespeare Company.



LENTEN BREAKFAST MARCH 9th

Pat McCurdy shared a heartfelt testimony, and Mike Tuch was the speaker at the CAMA Lenten Breakfast. Thanks to Penny Phelps, Kelly McCann, Joyce Oatley and Sara Keinath for a wonderful breakfast



BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING March 21st 2016

- Mission collections will occur at the start of the service on the third Sunday of the month
- A Centennial Group is being set up to prepare for centenary in 2023
- Work Day April 17th after church
- Earth Day is April 22, 2016. We will celebrate this day in church on Sunday April 24, 2016.
- Clam River clean up event in June: Sunday school event with plenty of adult helpers needed.
- New assistant Financial Secretary, Mark Morley
- Penny is willing to become the new building administrator
- The need for an emergency plan was discussed
- Next Meeting April 18th 6:30pm

THE WIDER U.C.C.

UNITED NORTHERN ASSOCIATION SPRING EVENT – APRIL 30TH



Please join us for our spring meeting at the Harrison UCC on Saturday, April 30th. The Theme of the day is Blessed to be a Blessing, which is a reference to the New Church Start in Traverse City. A small but devoted group, led by Rev. Jody Betten, has been meeting for some time, dreaming, organizing, and planning the best way to re-introduce the UCC in the Traverse City area. Jody will be sharing with the association how dreams are being transformed into reality.

In the afternoon, the results of the recent grant competition, Seeds for Service, will be announced and churches throughout the association will discover how they can join with other groups in their communities to be a blessing to those in need.

The Harrison church will provide a continental breakfast, and a hearty lunch. Please see Penny Phelps for registration information.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCE: APRIL 23RD VITALITY DAY



Saturday, April 23, 2016 Festival of Faith - Vitality Day
Edgewood United Church, UCC, East Lansing

Click here for [ONLINE REGISTRATION](#)

A paper registration is available on the Conference website (www.michucc.org).

UCC WOMEN OF MICHIGAN: THE GATHERING JUNE 10, 11, 12

UCC Women of Michigan invite you to join us at

The Gathering

“Laughter and Joy in the Spirit”

Psalm 126: 2 “Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy”

June 10, 11, 12 2016

Kettunen Center, Tustin, Michigan

www.kettunencenter.org



The Gathering is a weekend of retreat, renewal, relaxation, and recharging. It is a time to greet old friends, and make new ones. It offers workshops, music, singing, and this year lots of laughter and joy. There will be Friday evening entertainment and vespers. Saturday's activities give you many opportunities to either stay busy or simply enjoy the beautiful surroundings of [Kettunen Center](#).. Sunday offers a Sunday school class and a very meaningful worship service. Of course, we must add a business meeting somewhere in all the activity. Kettunen Center is located in the woods on a beautiful lake in Tustin, Michigan. The accommodations are "luxury in the woods" and the food is scrumptious and abundant. In short, it's your weekend. Come and enjoy!

Click here for [The Gathering Info and Registration](#)

MISSIONS



Love INC

Love In the Name of Christ

Sperry Claypool

Love INC is a proven model whereby local affiliates network together local churches, church volunteers and community organizations to help people who lack resources. Through Love INC affiliates, churches and individual Christians are mobilized to:

- Work together across denominational lines
- Provide coordinated help to neighbors who are in need
- Give practical help – both tangible and intangible

As each individual church does what it can, even the most complex needs can be addressed collectively.

Love INC is one of the most effective networking, outreach and mobilization tools available to churches today.

Our local Love In the Name of Christ began serving the Cadillac area in 1991. At that time, it consisted of seven churches willing to join each other to aid local needy-residents. Now, Love INC has grown to 52 churches serving Wexford and Osceola counties.

Love INC makes four thousand referrals a year, screens applicants for Wexford County's Project Christmas and Osceola's Gifts for Kids, coordinates the Higher Ground life-skills learning program, and operates two INC Spot re-sale stores. The re-sale shops generate additional monies for Love INC operations, but they also provide low-cost (or free) items to many needy Love clients.

Gifts to the Mission Fund, this month, will make it possible to help many of those people who'd otherwise "fall through the cracks". Your donation will make a real difference in the life of someone in our community. Anything you can contribute will be appreciated.

2016 Missions:

April	Love Inc	Sperry Claypool
May	Strengthen the Church	Karma Chapo
June	New Hope Shelter	tba
July	Back Pack Program	Tom Jobson
August	Shepherd's Table	Tom Jobson
September	Feeding America	Sperry Claypool
October	Neighbor's In Need	tba
November	Salvation Army	Sperry Claypool
December	Christmas Fund	Karma Chapo

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayer List: Please hold these members, friends, and family in prayer:

Terry Oss, Marjorie Wicks, Jenny Freese, Edward Hradel, MacKale McGuire, Diane Barfield, Ann Winter, Drake Boyke, Mary Easter, Susan Muma

COMMUNITY

THE INC SPOT



The INC Spot Resale Store of Manton is looking for reliable volunteers to work in the store for anywhere one hour per week to whatever time one can give. All varieties of talents that God has given you can be used. Do YOU wish to help out your community by giving back? The opportunity to serve is just a phone call away. Please call Donna at the store at 231-824-4500. The store is located at 209 S. Michigan and the hours are Monday-Friday 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. and Saturday 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Closed Sundays.

Thank you for prayerfully considering how you can help.

AFTER 26 DEPOT

The 2nd Annual Depot Music Fest will be held on August 6, 2016. This is our biggest, and most significant fundraiser, and is an essential component in our survival. Last year we were able to raise about \$17,000.00 from the event. We hope to do as well this year, if not better, but it only occurs with the dedicated volunteerism of many people.

Dave Gaunt



If you are willing to lend a hand in some way, please plan to attend the Depot Music Fest organizational meeting on April 10, 2016 at 3pm at the Depot. More information will be shared at that time.

Thank you!



Thanks to photographers Marie Linn and Robin Corbin for taking and sending the photos used in this issue. We welcome photographs for inclusion in the newsletter or elsewhere – please email to office@firstcongcadillac.org

Sunday Morning Schedule

Date	Greeter/ushers	Liturgist	Fellowship Hour	Sexton	Preacher
APR 3	Sperry & Gert Claypool	Charlotte Barfield	<i>Birthday Sunday Volunteers needed</i>	Sperry Claypool	John Doud
APR 10	Carol and Jerry Nilsson	Robin Corbin	Sara and Kevin	Robin Corbin	Linda Baynes
APR 17	Dave and Sandy Gaunt	Laura Porter	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Dave Gaunt	John Doud
APR 24	Tom and Diane Jobson	Tom Jobson	<i>Volunteers needed</i>	Tom Jobson	John Doud

APRIL 2016 *Non-Church activities that occur in the church.						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					<u>1</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>2</u> *Jazz.8:30 am
<u>3</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am <u>NEW MEMBERS SUNDAY</u>	<u>4</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm *Symphony Board 7pm	<u>5</u> *Jazz.8:30am	<u>6</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm Choir 7pm	<u>7</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>8</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>9</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>10</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am	<u>11</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm	<u>12</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>13</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm Choir 7pm	<u>14</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>15</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>16</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>17</u> Choir 9:30am Worship 10:30am, <u>SPRING CLEANUP</u>	<u>18</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm Board Meeting 6:30 pm	<u>19</u> *Jazz.8:30 am <u>Movie 7pm "The Grand Seduction"</u>	<u>20</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm Newsletter items due	<u>21</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>22</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>23</u> Jazz.8:30 am
<u>24</u> Worship 10:30am <u>NOISY OFFERING</u>	<u>25</u> *Jazz 5:45 pm	<u>26</u> *Jazz.8:30 am	<u>27</u> *Strength 4:30pm *Jazz.5:45 pm Choir 7pm	<u>28</u> Jazz. 8:30am, 5:45 pm	<u>29</u> Jazz.8:30 am	<u>30</u> Jazz.8:30 am