

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

PASTOR REYNOLDS' RAP

will return when Pastor Carol returns from vacation. :)

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JULY 2011

July 3	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Chosen Journeys
July 10	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	A House Divided
July 17	Genesis 28:10-19a	Place of Blessing
July 24	I Kings 3:5-12	Weaving the Future
July 31	Genesis 32:3-23, 33:1-15	Progressive Christianity Point 6: Strive for peace and justice among all people

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Thank You!

Thanks to **Donna, Penny,** and **Karma** who recently hosted a fabulous gluten-free luncheon for the clergy women of the United Northern Association. The food was delicious and the hospitality extravagant as the women were served a family style meal and sent home with gift bags of homemade goodies, including the first strawberry-kiwi jam of the season.

Many thanks to **Margie Annis, Rachel Whiteman,** and **the choir** for another season of beautiful, inspiring music. Though the size of the choir fluctuates from week to week, your work together is consistently excellent, a true blessing to us all. We will enjoy special music over the summer and look forward to the choir's return in September. (We appreciate **Marge Glander's** contributions on the organ as well, but, fortunately for us, she does not take the summer off!)

Many thanks to **Laura** for her fine work with and dedication to our Sunday School children over this past year. As Clerk of the Congregation/Board of Trustees member and PRC co-chair, Laura already had her hands more than full. Yet when a need arose, she graciously stepped up to temporarily fill this role on behalf of the congregation. We are also grateful to **Charly** who has been our terrific nursery attendant for the past year and who be heading off to college in the fall. At that time we look forward to welcoming our own **Kelsi Gaunt** into that role.

Prayer List

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

WORSHIP

Baptism

Please join us on **July 3** to celebrate the baptisms of **Mary's** twin grandsons **Jack** and **Will**, who will be visiting from California with their parents **Michael** and **Lyn** and sister **Katie**. Many of Mary's family members will join us as we formally welcome the boys into the body of Christ, an event that Mary had eagerly anticipated as she planned for the family reunion in July.

Communion

Due to the baptism on July 3, we will celebrate communion in July on the following Sunday, **July 10**.

Gratitude Sunday Potluck

Please join us after worship on **July 10** for a potluck picnic in Fellowship Hall to thank our music, Sunday school, and nursery ministers (a.k.a. **Margie Annis, Marge Glander, Rachel Whiteman, choir members, Laura, and Charly**) for the many gifts they have shared with our congregation over the past year.

Penny will be coordinating this event. Details will follow shortly.

COMMUNICATIONS

Because so much can happen in the course of a month and because we tend to be a rather spontaneous group of people, we are looking at the possibility issuing weekly e-mail updates of timely announcements and reminders, which would serve to fill in the blanks between our monthly newsletters. If you have a weekend event or other announcement you would like to share with the congregation via e-mail, please submit it to **Rita Meech** (office@firstcongcadillac.org) and **Pastor Carol** (pastor@firstcongcadillac.org) by **11 am** on **Thursday**. The e-mail will be distributed to the local church distribution list either that afternoon or Friday morning. If there are no announcements or reminders received for a particular week, no e-mail will be sent.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Summary of 6/9 Meeting

Laura

The Board met on Thursday, June 9 and welcomed new interim member **Bob**.

Treasurer's Report

Penny

Pledges received through 5/31	\$26,188.99
Total Funds available for Budgeted Expenses	35,914.02
Average monthly expenses, including payroll and operations total approximately \$7,320 x 5 mo. =	36,600.00
At present we are short	686.00

That shortage is quite modest, considering our \$20,000 deficit budget for 2011. We appreciate the extra effort members and friends have been making to help us meet our budget. Please keep it up!

MISSIONS

Our Mission Targets for July: Church World Service and ReMember Penny

Most of us are pretty familiar with the work of **Church World Service** – a non-denominational agency that assists and supports people in need in over 80 countries around the world. Several times in the past few years we've assembled health kits to provide essential items for people struggling to overcome disasters in the U.S. and anywhere there is a need. Last year the United Northern Association collected baby kits at its spring meeting, and last May the whole Michigan Conference of the UCC pitched in to assemble Emergency Clean-up Buckets at its annual meeting. What we can contribute to CWS through our mission giving will go to a fund that provides tools and blankets to families trying to survive and rebuild.

As our little church family makes plans to send a second team of volunteers to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, we are keenly aware of the dire poverty in which the Lakota people live: no running water, no fuel, no insulation, sometimes no floors in their homes. Seventy-five percent unemployment – long distances to stores – poor diet. When "ReMember" founder Keith Titus talked to us a year or so ago, he reeled off the bitter statistics and described the reservation as "a third world country right here in the United States." Most of us can't go with the group heading west in October, but we can show our support with our mission dollars.

Love INC

On Thursday, **June 30** from **5:00-8:00 pm** local pastors (including **Pastor Carol**) will be "Celebrity Servers" at Culvers of Cadillac. Come for dinner or one of their delicious ice cream desserts, see pastors "wearing a different hat," and help support the work of Love INC who will receive all tips during the evening.

From Wexford Habitat for Humanity

Attention Candy and all those who assisted with the Habitat Lunch:

Thank you very much for providing lunch to our helpers from Muncie last Monday!

By your partnering with the 13 builders, we will be closer to providing a young mom and her daughter a new and safe home. She is excited!

The group is getting much accomplished this week with your help!

Sincerely,

Dan Peterson

Volunteer Coordinator

Forgiven Ministry, Inc.

Kingsley United Methodist Church is hosting a "One Day with God" camp for Pugsley Correctional Facility for Men on September 10 and is seeking donations to help with the cost associated with this type of event. The "One Day with God" camp is a unique one day event where the children can spend quality time with their incarcerated parent. Activities include games, Christian programming, crafts and lunch. The last hour of the day is dedicated to quiet time between the fathers and their children. This gives the fathers a time to share their hearts and perhaps ask for forgiveness from the child, thus promoting a time of healing for the child and incarcerated parent.

While the children are spending the day with their fathers, there is a program held for other family members or guardians of the children. Many of these family members, who are often full of anger and resentment, have the opportunity to share with others who have much in common. These are broken families who need support and encouragement.

Please join Kingsley United Methodist Church and approximately 125 local volunteers in their efforts to bring reconciliation to these fathers, their children and family members. Our goal is to change the children's lives through forgiveness and reverse the cycle of crime.

Michigan Prisoner ReEntry Initiative ~ MPRI
Cynthia A. Follen, MPRI Facility Coordinator
Pugsley Correctional Facility
7401 E. Walton Rd., Kingsley, MI 49649
Phone: (231) 263-5253 ext. 1413
E-mail: follenca@michigan.gov

Kingsley United Methodist Church
Phone: (231) 263-5278

Forgiven Ministry, Inc. is a public charity exempt under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and is qualified to receive tax deductible contributions. **www.forgivenministry.org**

FUN!

Third Sunday Fun-Day

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

MOVIE GATHERINGS TO BENEFIT OUR CHURCH:

A new fundraising option was found by Bob that may be quite interesting. Goodrich Theater in Cadillac has a program that can return 50% of the concession purchases of our group when we gather for a specific date and movie with prior coupon distribution. That means that we can select a specific movie that all can enjoy, set a date, a time for gathering at the theater, and provide special coupons to our group that when presented at the concession stand, will return 50% of the money spent to our church. So, if anyone sees or knows of a specific movie that they think would be enjoyable for adults or families, please contact Sue, or the Congregational office so that we can set up with the theater our gatherings. We would need at least 1-2 weeks notice in order to accomplish the reservations, notifications and coupons.

See you at the Movies!

VISION

Open and Affirming

Several church members and Pastor Carol are continuing the pursuit of information regarding the UCC process of becoming an open and affirming church. During this past month we have made progress! We have ordered educational films; we have pursued appointments with congregants and pastors in other open and affirming churches; and we have scanned the UCC website for any information that will educate us on the process. Speaking for myself, I sense a growing excitement that Spirit is moving us on the right path. We will be looking forward to sharing what we learn at the autumn congregational meeting when we will ask: Shall we move forward in this exploration as a congregation?

Karma

If you want more information on what we are doing or are interested in participating, please let anyone on the "pre-task-task force" know. (We are **Karma, Penelope,**

Troy, Bob, Linda, Sara, Jenny, Laura and **Pastor Carol**.) Feel free to join us at any time!

Peace and Blessings! Karma

Whole Earth--Transition Towns

Shelley Youngman

You are invited to join a live phone conversation with **Rob Hopkins** on **July 18** from 11:00 am to 12:15 pm. Rob is originator of the Transition concept and co-founder of the Transition Network. He spent many years teaching permaculture and cob building. Now he is a member of Transition Town Totnes, works part time for the Transition Network, publishes www.transitionculture.org, is author of the 'Transition Handbook,' and generally spends far too much time thinking about Transition stuff. He is also a Trustee of the Soil Association.

During the phone call Rob will be exploring new and emerging ideas from the Transition Movement, and there will be opportunities to ask questions about Transition, hear new ideas from around the world, discuss how Transition is taking shape specifically in the U.S., get updates on the follow up to the Transition Handbook and the film 'In Transition 2.0,' and much more.

To register for the event, please follow the link below: http://myaccount.maestroconference.com/conference/register/KECC4Y6CWC0T2KF?utm_source=Transition+US+Mailing+List&utm_campaign=a458cf618b-event-RobHopkins-Jun16invite&utm_medium=email.

UNITED NORTHERN ASSOCIATION

Our UNA **sister church** for July is **Trinity Church, UCC, Northport**. Please lift up the congregation and its pastor, **Rev. Karen Schulte**, in prayer during the coming month.

UCC General Synod 2011

Can it be that two years have gone by since General Synod was right here in Michigan? We heard a lot about it as momentum built up for hosting the whole UCC in Grand Rapids. Many people had a chance to participate in worship services and to assist visitors and to explore all the displays. As a delegate, I was there from start to finish, hitting the floor running to a 6:30 a.m. meeting every morning, then more meetings, and worship (very powerful and creative), and more meetings – sometimes until 9 p.m. It was an amazing experience – and now it's about to happen again! Since each delegate is elected for two General Synods, I will be in Tampa, Florida from July 1st through the 6th. I've never been to Florida before (can you believe it?!), so I hope there's time to explore a bit. I'm expecting the same outrageous meeting schedule and I'm hoping for uplifting worship. One issue I know is on the agenda is a revision of the bylaws of the UCC – which I need to study before I go. The only speaker whose name is familiar to me is Leonard Pitts. He writes a column for the Miami Herald that is syndicated in newspapers throughout the country, including the Detroit Free Press. Over the years I've saved many of his articles and I appreciate his perspective (and the fact that he's a member of the UCC).

I promise to share the highlights with you all when I return.

EDUCATION

Miguel Monge would like to teach Spanish to interested church members and friends. Please see him if you would like to be part of an informal language class.

COMMUNITY

Movies for the Mind Feature Film for June: GasLand, Directed by Jeff Fox, 107 minutes

In this Oscar-nominated documentary director Josh Fox journeys across America to examine the negative effects of natural-gas drilling, from poisoned water sources to kitchen sinks that burst into flame to unhealthy animals and people. Is natural gas a viable alternative to the country's dwindling energy resources, or do the potential harmful consequences outweigh the positives? Fox's film raises these and many more probing questions.

In May 2008, Josh Fox received a letter from a natural gas company offering to lease his family's land in Milanville, PA for \$100,000 to drill for gas. Following the lease offer, he looked for information about natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale under large parts of Pennsylvania, New York, Ohio, and West Virginia. He visited Dimock, PA where natural gas drilling was already taking place. In Dimock he met families able to light their tap water on fire as well as suffering from numerous health issues and fearing their well water had been contaminated.

Fox then set out to see how communities are being affected in the west where a natural gas drilling boom has been underway for the last decade. He spent time with citizens in their homes and on their land as they relayed their stories of natural gas drilling in Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, and Texas, among others. He spoke with residents who have experienced a variety of chronic health problems as well as contamination of their air, water wells or surface water. In some instances, the residents are reporting that they obtained a court injunction or settlement monies from gas companies to replace the affected water supplies with potable water or water purification kits.

Throughout the documentary, Fox reached out to scientists, politicians and gas industry executives and ultimately found himself in the halls of Congress as a subcommittee was discussing the Fracturing Responsibility and Awareness of Chemicals Act, "a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to repeal a certain exemption for hydraulic fracturing." Hydraulic fracturing was exempted from the Safe Drinking Water Act in the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Awards

- ☒ 2010 Environmental Media Award for Best Documentary Feature
- ☒ 2010 Sundance Film Festival Special Jury Prize
- ☒ 2010 Big Sky Documentary Film Festival Artistic Vision award
- ☒ 2010 Thin Line Film Festival Audience Award
- ☒ 2010 Yale Environmental Film Festival Grand Jury Prize
- ☒ 2010 Sarasota Film Festival Special Jury Prize award.

When: June 26 at 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

What to Bring: Your own seating (lawn chair, pillow, stool, etc.)

Who: David Gaunt

STEWARDSHIP

It has been almost a year and a half since time and talent surveys were last completed by the congregation, and, things for many of us have changed significantly since then. Please help us to update our records by completing the 2011 version below and depositing it either in the offering plate on Sunday or at other times in the box outside of Pastor Carol's office. Thank you.

Know that our new members and Board members have already begun to blaze the trail for you by completing their own forms a week or two ago!

MEMBER QUESTIONNAIRE (2011) SKILLS & INTERESTS

First Congregational Church, Cadillac, MI

Name _____ Contact Phone _____

E-mail Address _____

Special Gifts and Skills: (check all that apply)

- Gardening
- Music:
 - Vocal Piano Instrument _____
- Cooking
- Sewing
- Arts & Crafts; special interest? _____
- Languages: Which? _____
- Carpentry skills
- Financial Management
- Computer skills/tech support

Activities of the Church: (check all that interest you)

Choir

- Teaching Sunday School: Particular age? _____
- Working with Youth
- Cooking for Special Events
- Helping with Coffee Hour on Sunday mornings
- Serving as Liturgist during worship services
- Ushering during church
- Greeting before church
- Worship Planning
- Mission and Outreach
 - Helping with monthly Benefit Pancake Brunch (last Saturday)
 - Re-Member trip to Pine Ridge Reservation
- Nurture and Care
 - Visiting and/or Sending Cards to members who are ill or shut in
 - Providing Meals
 - Driving members to/from church
- Event Planning (for fellowship or fundraising)
- Church Communications and Publicity
- Gardening and Landscape Assistance
- Building Maintenance
- Board membership: Particular interests? _____

Comments or things we missed: