

# A JOYFUL NOISE!

February 2019

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

This past week we, as a church, held our annual meeting. During the meeting there was conversation on several concerns. We had conversation about non-members having the ability to sit on committees, as a way of sharing their talents and passions. We voted on the budget that is a deficit budget by...a lot. We voted on the slate of committee members and officers. All these places had great conversation and the votes were passed unanimously.

As we enter into a new season, I offer this poem, "The Work of Christmas", composed by Howard Thurman, an African-American theologian, educator, and civil rights leader.

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
when the star in the sky is gone,  
when the kings and princes are home,  
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
the work of Christmas begins:  
to find the lost,  
to heal the broken,  
to feed the hungry,  
to release the prisoner,  
to rebuild the nations,  
to bring peace among the people,  
to make music in the heart.

Yes, I am aware that this is a Christmas poem and we are a month past Epiphany, but this is a piece that works throughout the year. We stood with each other at the meeting and said that we are ready to do this work and believe in each other as we accomplish God's work.

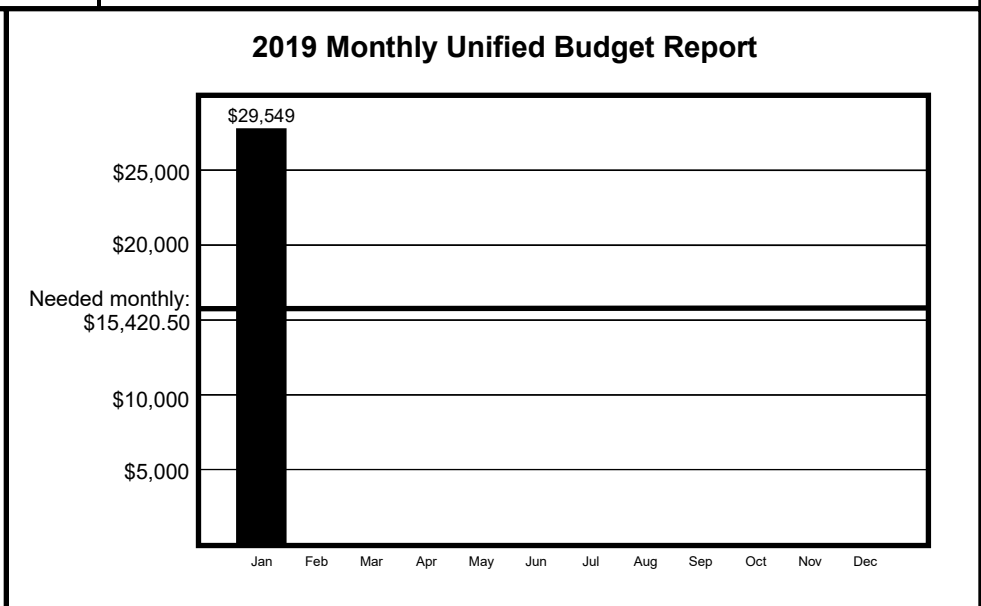
Let's go out and make some music.

See you along The Way,  
*Pastor Patty*

<p><b>FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS</b></p> <p>1 Judy Polhamus  2 Pete Moss  2 Leah Johnson  4 Ryan Strom  8 Christy Case  8 Mary Gehring  8 Elizabeth Neiger  9 Chris Jones  13 Kim Weaver  14 John Gehring  14 Delores Jones  16 Lynn Hopkins  23 Donna Knox  25 Wyatt Brown  29 Marsha Case  29 Marilee Strom</p> <p><b>FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES</b>  <i>(none)</i></p>	<p align="center"><b>REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS</b></p> <p>Nancy Reynolds      Hal Bruning      Les F.  Ruth Blacklock      Eric Atkinson      Mary Thompson  Pat Forrester      Elisabeth C.      Ironton UCC  Helen Pickard      Jerry R.</p>															
	<p align="center"><b>UCC SISTER CHURCH OF THE MONTH</b></p> <p>As part of our continuing efforts to work together as a community of faith, we pray for UCC churches in our United Northern Association. You are invited to pray this month for the ongoing mission and ministries of Ironton UCC.</p>															
	<p align="center"><b>FLOWERS</b></p> <p>If you would like to supply flowers, please sign up on the sign posted on the bulletin board. You may then bring in your own flowers or donate \$30 to the church to make the arrangements with a local florist.</p>															
	<p align="center"><b>THANK YOU TO OUR FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td></td> <td align="center"><b>COFFEE</b></td> <td align="center"><b>NURSERY</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>FEB 3</b></td> <td>Deacons</td> <td>Mary Rodriguez</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>FEB 10</b></td> <td>Roxane Miner</td> <td><i>needed</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>FEB 17</b></td> <td>Barb Brian</td> <td>Chris Gehring</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>FEB 24</b></td> <td>Soul Sisters</td> <td>Christy Case</td> </tr> </table>		<b>COFFEE</b>	<b>NURSERY</b>	<b>FEB 3</b>	Deacons	Mary Rodriguez	<b>FEB 10</b>	Roxane Miner	<i>needed</i>	<b>FEB 17</b>	Barb Brian	Chris Gehring	<b>FEB 24</b>	Soul Sisters	Christy Case
		<b>COFFEE</b>	<b>NURSERY</b>													
<b>FEB 3</b>	Deacons	Mary Rodriguez														
<b>FEB 10</b>	Roxane Miner	<i>needed</i>														
<b>FEB 17</b>	Barb Brian	Chris Gehring														
<b>FEB 24</b>	Soul Sisters	Christy Case														
<p align="center"><b>HEAD USHER:</b> Andy Case</p>																

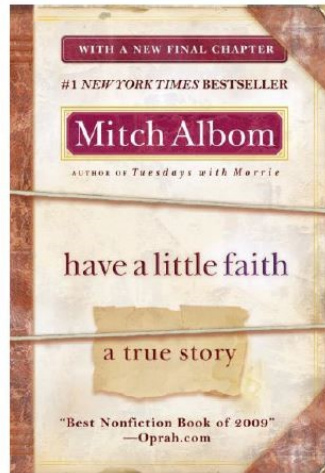
**What is BIG Sunday?**

BIG stands for Bring In Groceries; groceries brought in on BIG Sundays are donated to Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN) to help provide a meal to those in need. BIG Sundays are the first Sunday of every month — as are Holy Communion Sundays — and are a great way for us to share the love and feast of communion and community.



## BOOK DISCUSSION

The Board of Christian Education invites you to participate in our first book discussion of the year on March 10th. The book will be "Have a Little Faith" by Mitch Albom. Soup and salad will be provided following church fellowship. Look for the signup sheet on the bulletin board or talk with Carolina, Beth, or Patty for more info!



## CIRCLE I

Circle I will meet Wednesday, February 20 at 1:00 at the church. Chris Gehring will be the hostess. The Mother/Daughter Banquet will be on the agenda and a recap of the Cookie Walk. The Program for the Banquet has been decided so we need to decide on a color scheme and menu.

## CHILI LUNCH & GAMES

The Soul Sisters will be hosting a Chili Lunch and Games Day on Sunday, February 24th following the worship service. Please join us for fellowship and fun!

## BACN FOOD DRIVE

BACN's winter food drive, Chase the Chill, is scheduled at local grocery stores February 14—16. We always need community members to take a 2-hour shift collecting food for our neighbors. If you can volunteer, please reach out to Sally Bobek, the volunteer coordinator. Her number is 231-882-9544 ext. 228. Thank you in advance for your help!

# SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY

**Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**Donate Cans of Soup**

**BIG Sunday Donations  
to benefit BACN**



## LIBRARY NEWS

***The People Shall Continue...*** First published in 1977, the lesson of this story is as true today as it was then. Told in the rhythms of traditional narrative, this powerful poetic telling of the history of the Native American people from Creation to the present tells us that we must come together to save our planet. We seem to be slow learners.

***Not My Idea...*** A picture book that invites white children and parents to become curious about racism, accept that it's real and cultivate justice. It discusses issues and micro aggressions that people who don't face racial discrimination every time they leave the house (most of us) need to recognize. It's HARD for many people...kids and adults...to acknowledge racial injustice, white supremacy and the struggle for social justice. It feels safe and comfortable to pretend racism doesn't exist. It feels safe to pretend we, kids and adults, don't need this kind of book...but it's cowardly.

***Blended...*** Eleven-year old Isabella's blended family is more divided than ever in this thoughtful story about divorce and racial identity. Isabella's parents are divorced and share custody. Isabella with her dad, Izzy with her mom, feels caught in the middle, trying to keep peace between her parents who really dislike each other. In addition to that, Isabella is mixed. Mom is white, dad is black. She is trying to figure out who she really is. She is also starting to notice how other people look at her when she's with either parent. Then Isabella and her soon-to-be step-brother face racism themselves...

***Almost Everything...*** Candid and caring, insightful and sometimes hilarious, this is the book we need...and that only Anne Lamott can write. Rooted in her own Christianity, she sets out to share "almost everything I know." In the 14 essays that compose the book, she veers from the intensely personal to the philosophical highlighting some of the ways joy and pain are close companions in life. Her breezy style makes her insights memorable and easy to appreciate. Anyone reading with an open mind and heart will come away with more than a few nuggets of useful wisdom.

***Christmas Jars...*** This small book, a quick, easy read, will probably bring tears and at the same time open your heart to begin your own Christmas Jar. This story goes with the jar Beth encouraged us to do. Any jar will do, just keep it out where it will be seen and whenever that bunch of change in your pocket or purse gets too heavy empty it in the handy CJ. Tucking in a bill now and then wouldn't be amiss. Then anonymously pass this jarful of treasure on to someone in need. You protest you don't know any needy person? The folk at BACN, Love Inc, Senior Resources always do. I'm sure Pastor Patty does also. The transformative message about the power of giving that this book presents should encourage one to begin their jar.

## Who were Herbert and Mary Wolfe?



**Herbert & Mary Wolfe**

Our church recently received a large donation from the Trust of Herbert and Mary Wolfe. They died in the early 1990's after years of attending this church every summer. They have no living descendants, so 2 nieces want to tell you a little about them.

Herbert Snow Wolfe was born in 1898 in Parkville, MO, and spent summers on the north shore of Crystal Lake starting in 1903. The family attended the Benzonia Congregational Church every summer, with Herbert's Uncle Austin invited to preach on occasion.

Mary Willard Wolfe was born in 1907, and she came summers to the north shore of Crystal Lake with her family beginning in 1908. The Willard family also attended our church. Dr. William G. Willard later moved from Illinois to Benzonia and was very active in the community and this church. He helped fund Mills Community House and supported its library. Other Willard daughters were Edna Case (mother of Harold) and Helen Catton (mother of Ruth).

Herbert and Mary were married in 1932 at a Glen Eyrie cottage on the north shore. That cottage was later the home of Telfer and Jane Mook.

For many years, they lived in Gainesville, FL, where Herbert was a Horticulture specialist on the faculty of the University of Florida and wrote the helpful book *Your Florida Garden*. They had 2 children, Willard and Maryellen. Neither of them had children. Willard, who died in 1985, had a PhD in history. Maryellen, who attended this church every summer, died in 2018. She had a PhD in Spanish Literature and taught most recently at Indiana University Bloomington.

Helen Wolfe Dewey: One fond memory of Uncle Herb and Aunt Mary is from potlucks. Uncle Herb would start to reach for a helping of something tasty, and Aunt Mary would calmly say, "You don't want that." And he would skip that food. He was always slim and had wavy hair. In fact, when I was a young teen, he was the only person I recognized in my parents' wedding photo from 30 years earlier!

Ruth Willard Catton: Uncle Herbert and Aunt Mary did quite a bit of traveling and he was a guest professor overseas. They took a lot of pictures, and I remember enjoying them at their cottage after a scrumptious meal prepared by Aunt Mary. Maryellen also often worked and traveled overseas, and one time she and my brother Edward unexpectedly ran into each other in London.

# February 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 12N LOWV  <i>Judy Polhamus</i>	2  <i>Pete Moss Leah Johnson</i>
3 <b>10:30 Worship &amp; Church School</b> <b>Souperbowl Sunday</b> 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	4 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30-6:30 CLT (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)  <i>Ryan Strom</i>	5 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 5:30 WAA (Barn)	6 12N AA (Barn) 5:30-6:30 CLT (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	7 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	8 12N LOWV  <i>Christy Case Mary Gehring Betsy Neiger</i>	9 <b>8:30 Men's Breakfast @ Papa J's</b>  <i>Chris Jones</i>
10 <b>10:30 Worship &amp; Church School</b> <b>Tech Sunday</b> 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	11 11 Commodities Distribution 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club <b>5:00 Trustees</b> 5:00 Love, INC 5:30-6:30 CLT (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	12 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 5:30 WAA (Barn)	13 12N AA (Barn) 5:30-6:30 CLT (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)  <i>Kim Weaver</i>	14 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) <b>4:00 Deacons</b> 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)  <i>John Gehring Delores Jones</i>	15 12N LOWV	16 Zonta (Barn)  <i>Lynn Hopkins</i>
17 <b>10:30 Worship &amp; Church School</b> 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	18 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30-6:30 CLT (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	19 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) <b>7:00 Council</b> 5:30 WAA (Barn)	20 12N AA (Barn) <b>1:00 Circle I</b> 5:30-6:30 CLT (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	21 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	22 12N LOWV	23  <i>Donna Knox</i>
24 <b>10:30 Worship &amp; Church School</b> <b>Chili Lunch &amp; Games</b> 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	25 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Love, INC 5:30-6:30 CLT (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)  <i>Wyatt Brown</i>	26 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 5:30 WAA (Barn)	27 12N AA (Barn) 5:30-6:30 CLT (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	28 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)  <i>Marsha Case (29<sup>th</sup>) Marilee Strom (29<sup>th</sup>)</i>		



First Congregational Church of Benzonia UCC  
901 Barber Street, P.O. Box 234  
Benzonia, MI 49616  
Phone: (231) 882-4922

## *A Joyful Noise February 2019*

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BENZONIA UCC  
BENZONIA, MICHIGAN



Office Phone: 231-882-4922    Office Hours: M—R 9am—Noon, F 8:30-11:30  
Office Email: [secretary@benzoniacongregational.org](mailto:secretary@benzoniacongregational.org)  
Our Website: <http://www.benzoniacongregational.org>  
Our Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/BenzoniaCongregational](http://www.facebook.com/BenzoniaCongregational)