

# A JOYFUL NOISE!

August 2011

In last month's article, I wrote to you about my upcoming trip to General Synod, the national gathering of the United Church of Christ that meets every two years. Last summer, I was elected a delegate of the Michigan Conference for a four year term, which means I will attend and vote in two Synods. The next one will be in Long Beach, California in 2013.

Synod is an awesome experience. It is very easy for church members to focus inward on building issues, staff packages, local missions, and church school curricula. It is also easy to forget that there are 16 other UCC churches in our United Northern Association, and 155 other UCC churches in the Michigan Conference, all with similar concerns and hopes. But to be in the middle of 3,500 people from all corners not only of the nation, but the world, truly is an emotional experience that reminds us to look outside our local interests in addition to our own.

Worship was invigorating and fun. There is an element of camp music with encouragement to dance and swing your arms to the songs, but there is also much time for reflection in watching dancers bring the Word in a new way of expression. I heard thought-provoking sermons and voted on several resolutions that impact the national governance of our denomination as well as several national and international justice and mission endeavors.

In my discussion with the Board of Deacons, I will wait until September to begin leading sessions for us to talk about my experience, various resolutions, and any questions you may have about the UCC and/or Synod. If you prefer not to wait and have questions now, feel free to call, email, or drop by my office on Monday or Tuesday from 10am to noon.

Synod was very upbeat and hope-filled. Let us, as the theme invites us, imagine what's possible! Have a wonderful August.

Pastor Dan

## United Northern Association Family Picnic

Please join us on Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Otsego Lake County Park in Gaylord. The day will provide a chance to get acquainted with UNA families from our churches throughout Northeast Michigan. There is a swimming area, a pavilion for shade, barbeques, picnic tables, etc. The UNA will bring the paper goods, charcoal, and catsup, mustard, relish, and mayonnaise. You will need to bring meat for the barbeque, a dish to pass, beverages, cards, board games, swim suit, beach towel, sunscreen and a floatie... the floatie is optional!

Pastor Michael Ochs of Ironton UCC will be providing games for the children. There will be lawn games for the adults, and music by Marena and Dale LaBelle. (Guitars and singing seem to be a great activity for family picnics!) The church with the most members present – as well as the church that has traveled the furthest - will win a \$100 donation for their favorite mission project. Do you have other ideas for making this a great summer outing? Contact Pat @ [pleahy593@yahoo.com](mailto:pleahy593@yahoo.com). We look forward to seeing you on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

**New Bible Study to Begin**

Have you ever wondered about the Lord's Prayer? What exactly are we saying or do we really mean it when we say, "Thy will be done"? If you have ever wondered about the origins of the Lord's Prayer or would like to learn more about one of our most sacred prayers, join us starting August 2, for a six-week study. Workbooks are \$14. Scholarships are available.

**Women's Fellowship News**

Circle I met on July 13 and packaged up and sent the health kits to Church World Service. We only collected twelve kits this year. Thanks to all who donated.

**Classic Junk Sale Wrap-Up**

The successful 2011 Classic Junk Sale is in the books. Thank You to all who participated in the sale. We had more merchandise this year than last and it shows in the total tally. Currently, the total received is \$1,833 with about another \$160 to come in for a grand total of \$1,993. Not bad for such a short time of work!

A special Thank You goes to Joan Cooper who was there beside me all the time and pushed the antique and collectibles table. That table did a good business and at prices I did not expect. And Thank You to those who set up and cleaned up. Setup took longer this year but people just kept coming in to help. And the cleanup crew was great, getting us out of there by 1:30. Thanks to all of those who worked or donated, too. Without any of you, the project would not have been possible.

**NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

At the July Trustees meeting, Joan Cooper presented a landscaping proposal that was adopted. The finance committee has started work on the budget for next year with a target of mailing pledge cards in October. The building and grounds committee reported that the bell tower has been sand-blasted and will be getting a sealer applied to stop further leaching on the bricks. The trustees also approved a bid to have Stanley Steamer clean all the carpets (excluding the sanctuary) in the church.

**CALLING ALL GREEN THUMBS!**

If you have any interest in helping to make our church look appealing to our community, please speak with Joan Cooper or Pastor Dan. A long-term commitment is not required. If you can only help out one morning or afternoon, that would be great. If you would like to make a donation, make your check payable to our church with "Beautification Fund" in the memo section. Thank you.



**A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR AUGUST VOLUNTEERS -**

**COFFEE HOUR**

August 7            Circle IV  
August 14          Circle I  
August 21          Church Picnic  
August 28          Sarah Circle

**NURSERY**

Kay Bos  
Linda Jenema  
Kris Richards  
Nancy Call

**GREETERS**

Pat and Earl Schopp  
Jean Bowers  
Alice and Jim Hinkamp  
Doii Burget and Flo Wellman

**HEAD USHERS**

Al and Anne Young

## ***What's New in the Library***

All books added to the collection this month were donations. Thanks to all donors some of whom wish to remain anonymous. The first three are older books but are valuable for their historical information on the Congregational church & Christianity in America.

***Saints and Strangers:*** *Being the Lives of the Pilgrim Fathers & their Families, with Their Friends & Foes; & an Account of Their Posthumous Wanderings in Limbo, Their Final Resurrection & Rise to Glory & the Strange Pilgrimages of Plymouth Rock...*(how is that for a title!)...Historical account of the group of people we know as the Pilgrims, how they got here & how the colony began.. Contains a bibliography of all settlers who stayed and were granted land by 1631. A valuable book for researchers.

***The Devil in Massachusetts***...an authentic history of the Salem witch trials. The book with the pace and excitement of a novel, is a timeless portrait of bigotry and self-righteousness. "In the end, one is pretty sure what was wrong with Cotton Mather, the august judges, and the tormented young girls." (quoting from the book blurb)

***The Steward***...provides the biblical background necessary to reconsider the origins of the idea of Christian stewardship and offers a corrective means for what the author considers a corruption of what stewardship was meant to be. This was donated from the library of Chet Kiefhaber.

***The Choir that Couldn't Sing***...the seven stories in this delightful book are surefire spirit lifters that celebrate life and enrich the soul, The stories come alive with humor, insight, and inspiration, demonstrating how the least in the kingdom of heaven can touch the heart of God.

***Little Princes***...the author volunteers for 3 months at a children's home in Kathmandu, Nepal. What he learns about the children ( all victims of a lucrative trafficking scheme) and himself reshapes his perspective on life. *Little Princes* challenges the reader to examine their own values, set aside judgment and take some action to become and advocate for the vulnerable people that cross their paths.

***There Ought to Be a Place***...a history of the Congregational Summer Assembly as written by Russell W. Freeburg for the Assembly's Centennial Celebration in 2001. As the inscription reads " To the First Congregational, U.C.C., Benzonia. In respect of our shared Congregational heritage...(this book) ...is given to the year around "keepers of the faith" in Benzonia."

### **GoodSearch.com**

Remember that if you use the Internet, you can earn money for the church using [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com). One penny per search, or more for internet shopping, is donated directly from the website to our church. Designate us by entering our church name as the charity of your choice.

### **Newsletter Email**

In an effort to save time, paper, and money, we are now offering our newsletter via email. If you would prefer the newsletter by email, please contact: [secretary@benzoniacongregational.org](mailto:secretary@benzoniacongregational.org).

We are also sending out weekly updates every Friday with prayer requests and upcoming events. To receive this email simply send our church secretary, Nancy, a note using the above email address. We also have a new church website. You may access it by: [www.benzoniacongregational.org](http://www.benzoniacongregational.org). Please check it out and tell your friends and neighbors.

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

Happy birthday to the following members of the church family!

- 3 Roger Weil
- 4 Dorothy Uren
- 4 James Sheets
- 7 Gloria Dedloff
- 7 Chester Jones
- 9 Dawn Olney
- 11 Doii Burget
- 12 James Brian
- 14 Doris Marshall
- 15 Lisa Sauer
- 16 Bud Strong
- 17 Bryce Gray
- 18 Linda Nugent
- 19 Sandborn Eldridge
- 21 Charles Dedloff
- 21 Jerald Richardson
- 21 Ruth Catton
- 23 Gordon Nordbeck
- 26 Shelley Thompson
- 28 Al Young
- 28 Ron Olson
- 30 Susan Lutes

**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

- 1 Susie and Alan Vigland
- 17 Mary and Doug Rodriguez
- 17 Barbara and James Brian
- 21 Shirley and Art Wolfe
- 21 Agnes and Jerry Slater
- 22 Carol and Steve Davidson
- 23 Penelope and Ron Olson
- 24 Jean and Wally Edwards
- 26 Marilyn and Jim Sheets
- 30 Darlene and Bryce Gray
- 31 Jo and Trevor Danoford

*Thank You*

Thank you to Penelope Olson and Joan Cooper for all the work they did for the rummage sale. They did a super job and worked many hours.

Thank you to Richard Rowland for teaching the book of Ruth in July.

Thank you to all those who have agreed to receive The Joyful Noise via email. The savings in postage and paper really add up.

Thank you to Jean Edwards for convincing people to sign up for the email newsletter.

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

Some of our members are homebound in assisted-living, or facing health concerns: Jim Uren, Marylou Patee, June Trost, Norm Stewart, John Robson, Marjorie Call, Buck and Dorothy Hall, Ruth Masters, Myrtice Maddock, Liz Ehman, Betty Peters, Barb Nason, Bernice Rankin, Ken Miner, Mona McElderry, Trudy Collins, Emily Haynes, June Deering, Virginia Kilburn, Jo Danford, and Betty Henry.

**REMINDER:** If someone you know is in the hospital, please let the church office know so that Pastor Dan may visit and offer support during this time of need.

**UCC Sister Church of the Month**

As part of our continuing efforts to work together as a community of faith, in worship we have been praying for UCC churches in our United Northern Association. You are invited in August to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of Congregational United Church of Christ in Clare.

**ALTAR FLOWERS:** There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office for altar flowers. Flowers may be given in memory of a loved one, in celebration of a birthday or wedding anniversary, or in thanksgiving for a blessing. You may bring in your own flowers or donate \$25 to the church to make the arrangements.

### **News from the Deacons . . . .**

Our Annual Church Picnic will be held on August 28th right after church. We will provide the brats and hot dogs, drinks, paper plates and silverware. Please bring a dish to pass. This is always a great time to get to know your neighbor down the pew. Be sure to invite anyone we haven't seen in a while or maybe a friend or neighbor. Rain or shine, we will be enjoying a great lunch together, so please join us.

We are having a second Beach Bums outing this year! We still have fifty-seven tickets available and are planning to go to the Tuesday, August 3rd game. We will meet at the church at 5:00 for hot dogs and chips and then carpool up to the game. We will have the vouchers available on Sunday, July 31st for anyone unable to join us for the tailgate party and wants to meet us at Wuerfel Park. We will exchange our vouchers for tickets in section 103, so we can all sit together. The tickets are free, so please ask a friend or neighbor and join us for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Our church is going for our second annual trip to Michigan Adventure on Saturday, August 13th. We will be meeting at the church for a light breakfast at 8:00 a.m. and then carpooling down to the park. Please watch the Sunday bulleting for more information.



2011 has been a busy year for Habitat for Humanity of Benzie County. Two families, the Dawes and Cardwells, have moved into their new homes this summer.

In September construction will begin on another Habitat home in Thompsonville, giving another family a decent and affordable home. But we need to raise money to begin this new construction and we ask your support of our two upcoming fundraisers.

NEW THIRD COAST BENEFIT CONCERT will take place on Sunday, August 21, 3:00 p.m. at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Beulah. All proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity of Benzie County. New Third Coast is a trio of musicians with a unique folk style sound. Their strong three-part harmonies, combined with diverse instrumentals, have created a following in Northwest Lower Michigan. Bring a friend and enjoy their music while giving to Habitat at the same time.

THE DAN STRAUBEL MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING is scheduled for Sunday, September 18, at 1:30 p.m. at the Mistwood Golf Course in Lake Ann. The \$65 registration fee includes eighteen holes of golf with cart, lunch and barbeque dinner. Registration forms are available at the church or by calling the Habitat office at 399-0300 or online at [benziehabitat.org](http://benziehabitat.org). Grab a couple of friends and have a fun afternoon, helping fellow neighbors in your community achieve the dream of owning a home.

And please remember our RESTORE, located three miles east of Honor on US31. Whether shopping or donating, you are helping Habitat. Gently used building supplies, appliances, and furniture are for sale, and donations are always needed. Call the Restore at 325-7750 to schedule a pick-up of donations or for more information.

### **The 31st Annual Walk for Seniors Walk-A-Thon**

**Saturday, August 6**

You are invited to join us for a relaxing six-mile walk along the beautiful south shore of Crystal Lake and help us raise money for Benzie Home Health Care. When you finish your walk, a delicious brunch awaits. Packets are available by calling 231-325-0138.

Our vision at BHHC is a community where caregiving is valued, families are supported in their caregiving roles and seniors receive the best possible quality care in their home and community. If you wish to donate to this important cause, checks may be made out to BHHC.

# ***AUGUST 2011***

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
	1 10:00 CMH - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	2 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 Yoga-Barn 6:30 Christian Ed 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:00 BASO Board 7:00 WAA - Barn	3 12 Noon - AA 2:00 MS Support Barn Beach Bums Game	4 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	5 12 N - LOWV Library	6
7 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	8 10:00 CMH - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 7:00 AA - Barn	9 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 Yoga -Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	10 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	11 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	12 12 N - LOWV Library	13 Michigan Adventure
14 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	15 10:00 CMH - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	16 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 Yoga -Barn 5:00 Trustees 6:30 Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	17 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	18 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	19 12 N - LOWV Library	20
21 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Congra-tional Meeting	22 10:00 CMH - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	23 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 Yoga -Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	24 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	25 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 6:30 Music Committee 7:30 Choir Practice	26 12 N - LOWV Library	27
28 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Church Picnic	29 10:00 CMH - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	30 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 Yoga -Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	31 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn			

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## ***A Joyful Noise! August 2011***

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

Daniel E. Furman ..... Minister  
Chris Stone .....Treasurer  
Mary Rodriguez.. .....Financial Secretary  
James Sheets.....Church Moderator  
Christy Case ..... Choir Director  
Rosemary Miller .....Assistant Choir Director  
Gillian Soholt.....Youth Coordinator  
Jean Edwards.....Newsletter Editor  
Carol Dye & Katrina Smith.....Christian Ed Coordinators  
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