

A JOYFUL NOISE!

July 2011

By the time you are reading this, I will be in sunny and presumably hot Tampa, Florida. You may be thinking, "Pastor Dan? Don't you want to go to Florida in the winter?" And you would normally be right, but I am very much looking forward to being in Florida in July, not because of the weather, but because I love the United Church of Christ.

Every two years, our denomination gathers as a national body at different locations around the country. You may recall that two years ago, General Synod, met in Grand Rapids and it was relatively easy for us to attend. This year, we will be in the Southern Conference of the UCC. Last year, I attended Synod as a visitor and it was the first time I had ever seen our denomination on a large scale. I cannot fully describe the beautiful sight of thousands of UCCers of all ages, tongues, and races: German Reformed heritage, Congregational heritage, African-American heritage, Pacific Islander heritage, Hispanic heritage, and many more groups with previous affiliations coming together to form the United Church of Christ and moving forward. It is emotionally powerful. Worship is lively. Workshops are invigorating. And voting on important issues is humbling.

In the summer of 2010, I was elected a delegate to General Synod among several candidates from our region and state. It is important to know that every church has delegates for their regional Association and state Conference meetings, but General Synod delegates represent the wider church. In other words, churches do not have their own delegates and likewise, I will be happy to hear your thoughts about particular matters, but in the end I will vote my conscience after spending time in prayer and discernment. Being a delegate is a four year commitment meaning I will attend General Synod this year in Florida and again in two years in Long Beach, California. There are clergy, lay, and youth delegates.

Now, I owe you an apology. While I have been preparing myself for this trip which is work and not vacation, I have not shared much with the church about Synod, what it means, and what will be discussed. For this, I am sorry. If you would like to view the Resolutions that will be voted on at Synod, please either call the church office or go online to www.ucc.org and look under General Synod proposed resolutions. When I return, I will talk more openly and intentionally about my experience and what the outcomes of our decisions were.

Please pray for safe travel, for the delegates of the Michigan Conference, and that all delegates recognize the Spirit moving through our proceedings as we try to hear God's Still Speaking voice directing us into the future. I will be taking a week of vacation after Synod to recuperate and will return to the office on July 14.

Should you need emergency pastoral care, The Rev. Bob Larimer of the Blaine Christian Church is on call. His phone number is: 231 352-9148. You may also call the church office for more information. See you mid-July. Happy Fourth!!

Pastor Dan

Women's Fellowship News

Circle I will have a special meeting on Wednesday, July 13, at 1:30 p.m. to package up the health kits and discuss next year. If you have not yet contributed to the health kits, please get your items or completed kits in soon.



CLASSIC JUNK SALE

Before we know it, the Classic Junk Sale will be here. It will be held Friday, July 8th, from 8-3 and Saturday July 9th, from 8-12. Set-up will be on Thursday, July 7th, from 8 – 2.

We will need workers for the setup for 2 hour shifts. For the sale, we will also need workers for 2 hour shifts, with the most workers needed from 8 – 10 on Friday. That is when we get the most people coming to the sale. Watch for sign-up sheets on the bulletin board.

As you clean out that junk in your garage, spare room and basement, look at the items and see if they would be appropriate for the sale. Appropriate items include gently used linens, pots, pans, kitchen utensils, jewelry, knick-knacks, household items, toys, furniture and the like. We do not want clothing, electrical appliances, computers or computer accessories or books (take those to the Benzonia Library). Remember that we ask you to price the item before bringing them in, so to make it easier on yourself and do it now while you are doing your cleaning.

Items will be accepted at the church beginning Sunday, July 3rd. Until then, please keep them at your place. We appreciate all your assistance with this project. All proceeds will go towards the missions of the Women's Fellowship. If you have any questions, please contact Penelope Olson at 383-0488.

News from the Deacons

What a wonderful time we had at the annual Beach Bums game and tailgate party.

We had a wonderful turnout even with the scary weather forecast. The rain held off until after the game. The Beach Bums won 6 to 3 and had a couple of homeruns which were very exciting. Thanks to all who came out to join the fun. We are going to try to put together another outing before the summer is over. Please join us.

Our next outing is to Michigan Adventure with the youth. The trip is being planned for August 13th with a light breakfast at church and then carpooling down to Muskegon. More info will be in the bulletin and in the church e-mails.

We have started a study of the Book of Ruth. It meets on Sunday mornings at 9:00 am. Richard Rowland is the leader and welcomes everyone to join us. Because of this, we have moved the study of The Lord's Prayer to August.

We hope everyone is enjoying our beautiful summer and the peace of God to all.

What's New in the Library

Just in time for your summertime leisure reading, Genny Bowman has donated three novels. Many thanks, Genny.

The Inn at Angel Island...the first in a new series by Thomas Kinkade and Katherine Spencer. Angel Island, somewhere in New England, is the same kind of small town Kinkade wrote about in the Cape Light series. Liza and brother, Peter, have inherited a rundown inn from an aunt. They come to the inn eager to fix it up and sell it off. Liza begins to have second thoughts as she recalls summer childhood days spent here. A charming handyman comes to help with the repairs....and the story takes off from there.

16 Lighthouse Road and ***Hannah's List*** are both by Debbie Macomber.

In ***16*** the author does what she does best, introducing readers to the scenic Pacific Northwest town of Cedar Cove, Washington and its cast of characters, including family court judge Olivia Lockhart who makes news by denying the divorce petition of a young couple. This draws the attention of the local newspaper's editor, who begins to court Olivia. Other prominent members of the cast are Olivia's daughter, her mother and her best friend. The multiple story lines and numerous relationships make reading challenging at times but worthwhile as the reader comes to realize the author is protesting against the disposable personal relationships all too common today;

The second Macomber novel, ***Hannah's List***, introduces us to a small cast of characters (5), one being the 36 year-old wife of Dr. Michael Everett. The doctor's wife, Hannah, who died of cancer at 36 years-old, left a letter for her husband to be opened on the first-year anniversary of her death. In it she tells Michael he shouldn't spend the years grieving her, he should marry again, then goes on to suggest he consider one of three women as his next wife. Michael follows through, sometimes halfheartedly, learning more about each of the three and about himself along the way. And, of course, in the end finds the "right one". (Macomber's stories always have a happy ending.)

Some other fiction you may have missed:

Front-Porch Tales...Warm-hearted Stories of Family, Faith, Laughter, and Love...

Phillip Gulley

The Help...Kathryn Stockett

Shades of Blue...Karen Kingsbury

Between Friends...Debbie Macomber

Help, Lord! I'm Having a Senior Moment...Again!...Karen o'Connor

Christian Education News

Volunteers are needed for the one-room school this summer.
Please sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board.



PROPOSED BY-LAWS AMENDMENT

An amendment to the Church By-laws has been approved by the Church Council for recommendation to the Congregation. The proposed By-law amends Article IV-Officers. Under the proposal, the Church treasurer, so long as he or she is a member of the Church, would automatically become an additional voting member of the Board of Trustees. The Trustees and treasurer have requested this amendment believing it will improve the overall operation of the Board of Trustees. A special meeting of the members of the Church has been scheduled for August 21, 2011, immediately following the regular Sunday service to consider and vote on the proposal.

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 July to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Charlevoix.

Flowers

There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office for altar flowers for 2011. If you are interested in supplying flowers, please sign up for a certain date (or if you are unable to be in worship call the church office to make arrangements). You may then bring in your own flowers or donate \$25 to the church to make the arrangements with a local florist. If you would like the bulletin to reflect your donation, please let the church office know who the flowers honor or memorialize as well as identifying yourself as the donor.

GoodSearch.com

Remember that if you use the Internet, you can earn money for the church using 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.

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. Please check it out and tell your friends and neighbors.

Golf Team



It's that time of year again!! If your golf clubs have been calling your name, the church golf team has played once and is looking forward to more opportunities. Again, this year we will gather most often on Friday's at local golf courses. This year, if there is interest, we may play in local fundraising tournaments. If you would like to be a part of the 2011 Golf Team please contact Pastor Dan at: pastordan@benzoniacongregational.org or call the church office.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to the following members of the church family!

2	John Trustdorf
8	Dennis Richards
8	Cynthia Schnarr
12	June Deering
13	Carl Nespor
16	Darlene Gray
18	James Lyons
22	Nancy Call
23	Hannah Sattler
23	Mary Jane Trustdorf
24	Neil Nugent
25	Hannah Rodriguez
25	Gillian Soholt
30	David Van Hammen

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

1	John and Rosemary Abbett
2	Robert and Elsie Walton
4	Ted and Jo Bahry
17	Ralph and Muriel Williams

Church Family Update

In June, a church member who has given much over the years to our church, died. Roland Roycraft was an artist, art teacher, and accomplished gentleman who lived a fascinating life. Our church will not be the same without him. Please remember his family as well as Jean Bowers who was by his side for countless months meeting his every need.

You are also invited to remember some of our members who are home-bound or in assisted-living: 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 Hayes, June Deering, and Virginia Kilburn.

**A BIG THANK YOU
TO OUR JULY VOLUNTEERS -****COFFEE HOUR**

July 3	Coffee Hour Fund
July 10	Circle IV
July 17	Circle I
July 24	Linda Jenema
July 31	Katrina Smith

NURSERY

July 3	Chris Stone
July 10	Anne Young
July 17	Chris Gehring
July 24	Nancy Call
July 31	Gillian Soholt

GREETERS

July 3	Harold and Marsha Case
July 10	John and Barbara Riegler
July 17	Katrina and Mercedes Smith
July 24	Chris Stone
July 31	Chuck and Gloria Dedloff

HEAD USHER

Sonny Rodriguez

Caring Friends

On Palm Sunday, April 17, our church launched a new initiative called Caring Friends. About two years ago, there was discussion about bringing back Stephen's Ministry, a lay visitation program. But due to several reasons, we were unable to revitalize the Stephen's program, so instead we pursued the UCC version, Called to Care. When promoted, eleven members and friends signed up for the five-week training. These eleven were commissioned in worship on Palm Sunday and are now serving our church by assisting Pastor Dan in visitation of our members and friends who are home-bound, in assisted living or nursing home facilities, or hospital situations. If you would like a visit from a Caring Friend or you know someone who you think could us a visit, please contact the church office or Pastor Dan for arrangements. A second training will be offered in the summer of 2011.

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.

Worship Music Survey 2011

The Music committee seeks your help. We have developed a survey seeking your comments about the music ministry at Benzonia UCC. We are considering implementing some new ideas for worship and your feedback is very important to us.

Please mark the appropriate column – 1 is disagree, 2 is neutral, 3 is agree

	Question	1	2	3
1	I like both contemporary & traditional music.			
2	I would like more contemporary music.			
3	I would like more traditional music.			
4	I would like more music.			
5	If there were more vocal/instrumental opportunities, I would participate.			
6	I would like more instrumental music.			
7	I would like more soloists.			
8	I would like more special music events or guest artists.			
9	I would like more handchime choir.			
10	I would like more chancel choir.			
11	I would be open to the idea of using a projector/screen to project music lyrics.			
12	I prefer reading music from a hymnal and/or bulletin.			
13	I would like to hear more music with children and youth.			

14. Are there any musical instruments you feel should not be used in worship at church, and if so, what are they?

15. What things do you like about our church's worship music.

16. What things don't you like about our church's worship music?

17. How can our church improve in the area of worship music?

Thank you for completing this survey. Please turn in to the church office by July 3.

JULY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
					1 12 N - LOWV Library	2
3 9:00 Bible Study 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	4 10:00 CMH - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	5 10:00 Yoga-Barn 6:30 Christian Ed 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	6 12 Noon - AA 2:00 MS Support Barn	7 8am-2pm - Set up for Junk Sale 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	8 8-3 Junk Sale 12 N - LOWV Library	9 8-3 Junk Sale
10 9:00 Bible Study 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	11 10:00 CMH - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 7:00 AA - Barn	12 10:00 Yoga -Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	13 12 Noon - AA 1:30 Circle I 2:30 Knitting - Barn	14 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	15 12 N - LOWV Library	16
17 9:00 Bible Study 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	18 10:00 CMH - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	19 10:00 Yoga -Barn 5:00 Trustees 6:30 Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	20 12 Noon - AA 10:30 Circle IV Noon Sarah Circle 2:30 Knitting - Barn 5:30 Love, Inc. Picnic	21 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	22 12 N - LOWV Library	23
24 9:00 Bible Study 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	25 10:00 CMH - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	26 10:00 Yoga -Barn 7 WAA - Barn	27 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	28 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 6:30 Music Committee 7:30 Choir Practice	29 12 N - LOWV Library	30
31 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship						

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

A Joyful Noise! July 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
Hope Kochis Custodian
Nancy Eggleston Secretary

Office phone: 231-882-4922 Office fax: 231-882-7992

Office hours: Monday – Friday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

<http://www.benzoniacongregational.org>

Office Email: secretary@benzoniacongregational.org