

A JOYFUL NOISE!

November 2011

Two months ago, I began sharing with you my experiences this summer as a voting delegate at the United Church of Christ's national gathering, General Synod. I shared with you how I travelled there by train, how I was amazed to witness over 3,000 UCC'ers gather for worship, fellowship, and social justice. In this article, I will share some of the Resolutions we approved or voted down.

Voting delegates are responsible for approving or defeating Resolutions that come before the House or the delegates. Resolutions tackle all sorts of worldly issues such as social justice, the environment, healthy living, and also governance and structural changes in the UCC. This year 14 Resolutions were approved, one was defeated, and one was tabled.

The Resolutions are made known to the delegates and to the world at www.ucc.org prior to the General Synod. Upon arrival, delegates are randomly assigned a Resolution to promote impartiality. Delegates may amend, approve, or recommend a Resolution be tabled. Then the House votes on each one.

The Resolutions that caused the greatest amount of discussion and emotion were the Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws related to Governance. All Resolutions may be read in their entirety at www.ucc.org/synod/resolutions, or if you are interested, contact me and I'm happy to make copies to distribute. The main focus of these mentioned Resolutions was to pare down the number of people in the national office and covenanted ministries. The costs were beginning to get out of hand, however the idea of cutting out so many voices from the leadership table was troubling. In the end, the Resolutions passed.

The one Resolution that was defeated was also trying to save money. General Synod currently meets every two years. The Resolution to Amend the By-Laws Related to the Frequency of Synod invited the House to approve national Synod gatherings meet every four years rather than every two. This was defeated as the House felt more would be lost than gained in meeting less frequently.

Here is a list of all the other Resolutions that passed. Each one had amazing conversation that I would love to discuss, but instead will list here in hopes that your curiosity is peaked enough to ask for more information: On Actions of Hostility Against Islam; U.S. Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty; To Form a Theological Commission; A Covenant for Church Youth Ministries; The Right of LBGT Parents to Adopt and Raise Children; Putting our Money Where Our Values Are; Affirming Health Care Coverage for Clergy Families; Resolution for Mindful and Faithful Eating; In Support of the Release of Puerto Rican Political Prisoners; Supporting International Human Rights Related to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity; A Call for a Reflection and Advocacy on Behalf of the Democratic Republic of Congo; and a Common Agreement on Mutual Recognition of Baptism. Next month, my conclusions about General Synod, 2011. Happy Thanksgiving!!

Pastor Dan

Mission:1

On Sunday, September 4, Pastor Dan issued a series of challenges to our congregation. The national office of the United Church of Christ is encouraging all churches to participate in the Mission 1 campaign to promote mission in a special way by November 11, 2011 or 11/11/11.

Pastor Dan challenged the church to:

- 1) collect 111 items of food for BACN. This goal has been met and exceeded. Our new goal is 1,111 items of food. Food for this project may be donated throughout the week until **noon on November 10** as BACN closes at 2pm.
- 2) Donate 111 collective hours of volunteer service anywhere in our communities. Please let the church office or Pastor Dan know what has been done and how many hours. This goal has been met and exceeded. Our new goal is 1,111 hours donated.
- 3) Collect \$1,111 to Benzie Home Health Care. So far we have raised \$1,025. To donate, please make checks payable to: First Congregational UCC Benzonia with 11/11/11 in the memo section. All challenges are to be completed by 11/11/11.

The Board of Trustees Report

The trustees did a thorough walk on the inside and the outside of the church looking for potential problem areas so planning can be done to raise funds. No major problems were found at this time. Two estimates have been received for the painting of the exterior trim but this has been put on hold until next spring. Some of the plaques in the memorial garden are deteriorating so several options are being considered.

We heard a presentation from a representative from WBNZ radio about advertising. It was voted to try some 30 second ads for two months beginning in November. There will be a series of ads on WBNZ 92.3 on Wednesday through Sunday mornings, inviting people to come to church. This is a first for us and we are the only church advertising on this station. This station's format is soft pop rock and markets mainly to women between the ages of 30 and 50. Please check it out and listen for our commercial and tell others too.

The stewardship letters have gone out and November 13 is Stewardship Sunday. Many thanks if you have already completed and mailed back your Estimate of Giving card for 2012. This will greatly help our church leaders plan for the future. You may also bring your Estimate of Giving card to worship on November 13 and bring it forward during the offering. If you have not received an Estimate of Giving card and would like one, please contact the church office.

Memorial Garden

On the north side of our church property is a beautiful memorial garden for members and friends of the church who would like their cremated ashes interred on our sacred grounds. For \$250, you may reserve a one-square foot plot. That price includes future opening and closing as well as a memorial plaque to be placed on the stone located along the walkway. Please speak with Pastor Dan for more information. Donations for perpetual care are also welcomed.

News from the Deacons

The Board of Deacons would like to thank everyone that made our dinner for The Maples and Paul Oliver Long Term Care a success. We would especially like to thank Anne Nordbeck and Carol Dye for leading us. Many women from Circle I, people donated pies, breads or jello salads and helped set up, cook or did the clean up. It was a wonderful evening and thanks to everyone who helped.

We are now looking forward to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Thanksgiving Sunday will be on November 20th. The Deacons will once again decorate the sanctuary. If you have any ears of Indian corn, pumpkins, squash, or other items we could use, please let Chris Jones know.

We will be having a Live Nativity this year. Sonny Rodrigues has been working on the barn. We will need some costumes and volunteers to act out the scene. The Nativity will be on December 17th from 5-8pm and December 18th from 1-4. If you are interested in helping with this, please see a Deacon.

The Bible Study on the Book of Psalms is continuing on Tuesdays at 10am. Please join us.

Women's Fellowship News

The Women's Fellowship, with the help of Carol Dye, served several meals in October. We are so excited with all the changes to the kitchen. Two cabinets have been painted and hung with more to come. Twelve new chairs have been purchased and placed in the fellowship hall. We hope to place another order soon.

Our next meeting is November 2 at 1:00 at the church. Sarah Circle is in charge. After dessert, Carol Dye will tell us about what's been happening in Sunday School. All women of the church are invited. Come and learn about our Sunday School program.

Sarah Circle will meet at noon on Wednesday, November 16, at the church. Bring a sandwich. Kay Fisher is in charge of the program. Circle IV will meet at 10:30 a.m. at the church on Wednesday, November 16, and go out to lunch afterward. We will be receiving our fall thank offering for Love, INC. We welcome anyone who would like to join us or take part in a circle.

Circle I will meet at the church on Wednesday, November 16, at 1:00 p.m. to decide how and when the church will be decorated for the season and to plan the church holiday events. We have a lot of events coming up in December.

Annual Advent Workshop

This year our Advent Workshop will take place on Sunday, December 4, at 9:00 a.m. We need people to share quick, simple crafts with children. A brunch will be served after the worship service. If you can help with this project, please contact Chris Gehring at 882-4653.

Annual Cookie Walk

This year our Cookie Walk will take place on Sunday, December 18. If you can contribute cookies, we would like eight dozen, but we will welcome any amount that you can make. We also would like small loaves of holiday bread, fruit cakes and candies like fudge, caramels and peanut brittle. Please contact Chris Stone at 882-5205.

What's New in the Library

Prayer...If your personal prayer life is giving you problems, read this book. Written in a simple and practical manner "It is a book full of grace and mercy, jubilee and challenge."

One Thousand Gifts...the author invites us to slow down, to learn how to live the full life of grace, thanksgiving, and joy regardless of circumstances. She asks the reader to recognize everyday blessings and express our gratitude for them. Let her stories of everyday give you a way of seeing ordinary amazing grace, a way of being present to God that makes you deeply happy and fully alive.

The Buddha in the Attic...A dramatic, roller-coaster ride through California in the 1920's, this slender book depicts nearly five decades of change beginning with the Japanese "picture brides" who carefully, cautiously built meaningful lives only to lose everything after Pearl Harbor. Written in the third person, this social history of the Japanese immigrant experience is one that you will not quickly forget. Recommended for American history lovers and those in favor of women's rights.

Shattered Silence, the Untold story of a Serial Killer's Daughter...Imagine at age 15, learning that your father was a serial murderer. Imagine living for the next 15 years knowing this and being unable to talk about it, even with family, because your mother forbade it. With a loving husband, with whom she shared the secret, she began making different choices, building a successful and loving life until the day her young daughter came home from school and said, "Mommy, everybody's got a daddy. Where's your daddy?" This question leads her to realize she has been hiding her past and that she needs to come to terms with it. The story is a "vulnerable, compelling, and sometimes very raw journey".

When the Heart Cries...The debut novel of another author of Amish stories and the first of the series, *Sisters of the Quilt*. The eldest daughter in this contemporary Amish family has fallen in love with a neighbor boy who happens to be Mennonite. We outsiders may think of these two cultures as synonymous but they are not and therein lies the rub. A strong, emotional story of tragedy and strength; and along the way you learn some fascinating details of the two cultures. Two more books in this series will follow.

The last two books were donations. We thank Barbara Brian and Ann Nordbeck for their donations.

Sunday School Activities

We are starting up the season with a really great group of Sunday school students. We got right into Pastor Dan's message about the 11-11-11 challenge. Sunday school will be having a Bake Sale after church on November 6. Cookies and other goodies will be baked at the church the day before, Saturday, November 5. We want to raise \$111.11 to donate to the Mission Challenge for Benzie Home Health Care.

Penelope Olson has been practicing a couple of new songs with the kids which will be presented during church in November. We also welcome Carolina Jones, who is helping us with the Sunday school classes and projects. If you are interested in helping, please let us know.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to the following members of the church family!

- 1 Elsie Walton
- 2 Arthur Wolfe
- 3 Marjorie Call
- 3 Barbara Hanmer
- 5 Agnes Slater
- 7 Mike Jones
- 8 Nancy Reynolds
- 9 Sonny Rodriguez
- 10 Mark Thompson
- 13 Jeanne Cole
- 14 Nancy Czap
- 15 Carolina Jones
- 22 Linda Jenema
- 25 Pat Schopp
- 29 Tom Swanson

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 John and Mary Jane Trustdorf
- 24 Tad and Margie Peacock
- 27 Rich and Sharon Pokorny

Remember In Your Prayers

Our sympathy is with Mary Cornell on the death of Fred Coulter in Florida, on Wednesday, October 19, and also for Fred's wife, Beverly. Mary took care of Fred since he was six weeks old, and he considered her his second mother. There will be a service for Fred here on November 6.

We are also saddened by the death of Mary Bruning on Sunday, October 23. Memorial services were held in our church on Saturday afternoon, October 29. Our thoughts and prayers are with Harold and the rest of the family.

You are also invited to remember in your prayers some of our members who are home-bound, in assisted-living, or facing health concerns: Doug Joy, Dick Kishline, Marylou Patee, June Trost, Norm Stewart, John Robson, Marjorie Call, Buck and Dorothy Hall, Ruth Masters, Liz Ehman, Betty Peters, Barb Nasson, Bernice Rankin, Mona

UCC Sister Church of the Month

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

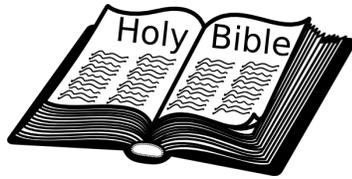
Thank You

to Mickey Austin, Ruth Catton, and Jean and Wally Edwards for folding, labeling and stamping the October issue of The Joyful Noise.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS -

	<u>COFFEE HOUR</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
11/6	Deacons	Kathy Neveu	Bill and Kay Bos
11/13	Kay Bos	Nancy Call	John and Barbara Riegler
11/20	Sunday School	Brenda Case	Chet and Shirley Jones
11/27	Circle IV and Sarah Circle	Mary Rodriguez	Ann and Gordon Nordbeck
	<u>HEAD USHER</u>	Sonny Rodriguez	

Bible Study



We have begun our next Bible study in which we are focusing on the book of Psalms. Have you ever wondered about these poems written in joy, anguish, love, and sorrow that were once central parts of worship in the ancient Temple? Join us on Tuesday mornings at 10am. Please contact Pastor Dan or the church office so we may order a book with a cost of \$17.

Scholarships are available. You may also order a book to read on your own if you are unable to join us for the study. This will continue throughout November.

Mission Trip

Our Christian World Service Board is exploring the concept of a summer 2012 mission trip to Missouri. This will be an intergenerational experience. All ages are welcome. Part of the trip will be educational with stops at Eden Theological Seminary a UCC institution, and visiting the Missouri Mid-South Conference office in St. Louis. Part of the trip will be tourism with stops to tour the St. Louis Arch and other sites. Part of the trip will be mission to help the communities that suffered tornado devastation in Joplin, Missouri. Tentative dates are June 17 - 23, 2012. If you are interested, please speak with Ruth Catton or Pastor Dan.

Reminder

If you, a loved one, or a church member you know is in the hospital, please let the church office know so that Pastor Dan may visit. Due to privacy laws, hospitals no longer contact the churches to let them know church members are hospitalized. The church wants to know so that we can support you during this time of need.

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

With the arrival of a new year, 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, helps the church. So far, the church has earned \$40 just from Internet searches and shopping. Designate us by entering our church name as the charity of your choice.

Coming Events

Hand Chime Choir: The hand chime choir is ready to start practicing again. If you are interested in playing, there is still time to join the group. You do not need to read music, just be able to count to yourself. If you are interested, please call Penelope Olson at 383-0488. Practice will begin on November 2 at 6:30 to 7:30. Practice will be on the 2, 9, and 30 of November. We plan to play on December 11, January 15, February 12, March 11, and April 8 (Easter). We will practice on December 7, and then not again until January 4.

Fall Back: It's that time of year again. Time to enjoy that extra hour of sleep and turn your clocks back one hour when you go to bed on Saturday, November 5, or you'll be an hour early for church.

All Saints Sunday: On Sunday, November 6, we will take some time to remember our church members and friends who have died in the past year. We will light candles for all our loved ones, gather for prayer, and support one another in our common loss. Please join us on this special day.

BIG Sunday: As has become our tradition, the first Sunday of the month is Bring In Groceries Sunday for our Mission: 1 Challenge. It is also the Sunday we celebrate communion and recognize birthdays and anniversaries after worship. This year, we are adding an ACE to BIG Sunday - Adult Christian Education at 9:00 a.m. On November 6, we welcome Kay Bond, the Executive Director of BACN, who will be with us to share what is happening and what their needs are. I hope you can join us to hear about this vital agency in our community.

Community Thanksgiving Worship: For many years many of the local churches have set aside their differences and gathered for community worship at Thanksgiving. This year, it is our honor to host the annual ecumenical worship service. Please join us on Tuesday, November 22, at 7:00 p.m. to warmly welcome our Christian neighbors as we give thanks.

Festival of Trees: Mark your calendars for the Annual Festival of Trees and Silent Auction which will be held Thanksgiving weekend, November 25 through the 27th. Decorated trees and wreaths done by community businesses, organizations and individuals are bid for at the silent auction with proceeds going to Habitat for Humanity of Benzie County. The event takes place at the Benzie Area Historical Museum in conjunction with the Twelve Days of Christmas, the museum's very special holiday exhibit. Free will donations at the door are shared by Habitat and the Museum. Hours for the Festival of Trees are Friday 112-8pm; Saturday 12-8pm; and Sunday 12-4pm.

Volunteer Opportunities

Have you ever sat in your pew and listened to someone read the Scripture or lead the Moment for Mission and thought to yourself, "I could do that." ? If you would like to be a lay reader in the spring or summer of 2012, let Pastor Dan know so that he can work you into the schedule.

We have church members who would like to come to church but have no transportation. If you are willing to pick people up on your way to church, please contact the office or Pastor Dan.



NOVEMBER 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
		1 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 Yoga - Barn 6:30 - Kiwanis 6:30 - Christian Ed 7:00 WAA - Barn	2 12 Noon - AA 2:00 MS Support Barn 6:30 Hand Chime Practice	3 10 Centr'l Wellness Exercise - Barn 10:00 Archive Team 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	4 12 N - LOWV Library	5 Set Clock Back To-night
6 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship 3:00 Funeral for Fred Coulter	7 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	8 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 Yoga - Barn 7:00 Council 7:00 WAA - Barn	9 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 6:30 Deacons 6:30 Hand Chime Practice	10 10 Centr'l Wellness Exercise - Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	11 12 N - LOWV Library	12
13 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	14 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 7:00 AA - Barn	15 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 Yoga - Barn 5:00 Trustees 6:30 Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	16 Circle Meetings 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	17 10 Centr'l Wellness Exercise - Barn 10:00 Archive Team 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	18 12 N - LOWV Library	19
20 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	21 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	22 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 Yoga - Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn 7:00 - Community Thanksgiving Worship	23 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	24 OFFICE CLOSED 10 Centr'l Wellness Exercise - Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	25 OFFICE CLOSED 12 N - LOWV Library	26
27 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	28 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	29 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 Yoga - Barn 7 WAA - Barn	30 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 6:30 Hand Chime Practice			

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

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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
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 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

<http://www.benzoniacongregational.org>

Office Email: secretary@benzoniacongregational.org
Pastor Email: pastordan@benzoniacongregational.org