

A JOYFUL NOISE!

August 2012

For the first time in four years, the Michigan Conference has a called Conference Minister. (Does this sentence make sense to you? If not, here's an explanation.)

The United Church of Christ is like other denominations in that all our churches covenant or make sacred promises to support one another no matter our differences in worship, theology, or social justice stands. What makes us different from other denominations is that each congregation is autonomous in that each church can worship however it chooses, believe however they are led, and interact in their communities as they choose. We are not bound by what the national, state, or regional denominational organizations suggest. This is part of our heritage, our lineage to the Pilgrims who sought sanctuary in a new land, away from governments and church systems that dictated to them how to worship, who could be their pastor, who they could love, and what they believed.

Our history informs our current and ongoing creation of our denomination. This is why it is hard for the UCC to take a stand on any given political issue because the larger body cannot speak for individual congregations. Yet we still must have an organizational structure to keep us from dissolving into thousands of individual congregations. And so, we have regional groupings called Associations, ours being the United Northern Association consisting of 16 churches. A larger grouping is our Conference. Some states like Pennsylvania have four Conferences within the state. Our Conference unites the 150 UCC churches in Michigan. Then there is the national organization based in Cleveland, Ohio under the guidance of our President and General Minister The Rev. Geoffrey Black.

Four years ago, our former Michigan Conference Minister resigned. Soon after, The Rev. Judith Youngman became our Interim Conference Minister. Judith left last fall, and now, the Michigan Conference has called The Rev. Campbell Lovett to become our new Conference Minister.

Campbell started on June 15, and on that Sunday our congregation signed and sent a card of welcome to him. He responded to me by email thanking us for the card and looking forward to working together. I then extended a courtesy to him inviting him to preach here on the Sunday of his choice and he accepted.

I am excited to let you know that our newly called Michigan Conference Minister will worship with us on Sunday, August 19. After worship he has asked to meet with our leaders. I hope you will be able to be with us that Sunday to welcome him to Benzonia and to our Association.

Pastor Dan Furman

What's New in the Library

The Man Who Planted Trees. You have probably heard of the guy from Copemish who is cloning trees. This is the story of him, of David Milarch, and how his mission to clone the world's greatest trees came to be. Quoting from the book's cover, "This book's hopeful message of what one man can accomplish against all odds is also a lesson about how each of us has the ability to make a difference."

Christianity's Family Tree. It's pure coincidence that two of this month's nonfiction books have to do with trees! This "tree" is of the genealogical sort. With Christ as its root, the author provides a general history and overview of eight mainline Christian denominations and their branches. The book is recommended as a beginning overview of the many Christian denominations. A leader's guide, participant's guide and DVD are available for group study.

Dream New Dreams. The author, Jai Pausch, may be familiar to you. Jai was the wife of Randy Pausch who wrote about his battle with pancreatic cancer in the book *The Last Lecture*. In this poignant account, Jai tells of her relationship with Randy, of the physical and emotional drain of being the caregiver to a person with cancer, of trying to nurture and protect their three young children and finally, working through the grief, and the healing, to create a new life for both herself and her children.

Lots of Candles, Plenty of Cake. In this irresistible memoir, Anna Quindlen writes about looking back and looking ahead in gratitude and celebrating it all. Anna talks about her life from a child to young woman to aging adult, using the events of her life to explore what matters most to women at different ages. Quindlen often manages to say the things I feel but cannot put into words, and she's done it again with this book.

Women's Fellowship News

Under the leadership of Joann Cooper, we had another very successful Junque Sale. We want to thank everyone who made this possible, those who donated, set up, cleaned up, and worked the sale. We couldn't have done it without you.

Our special price of \$75 each for chairs ends the middle of August. If anyone would like to purchase a chair, you can make a check out to the church and write "Chairs" on the memo line.

Christian Education News

The Sunday School is working on a float for the Coho Festival Parade on August 25th. The parade theme is "Hooked on Honor" and we have lots of supplies on hand that will fit in nicely. We have secured a boat, trailer, and driver but need your decorating ideas! Contact Katrina at 325-3348.

THANK YOU to Mickey Austin, Ruth Catton, and Jean and Wally Edwards for all their work folding and labeling and stamping the January issue of The Joyful Noise.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR AUGUST VOLUNTEERS -

COFFEE HOUR

August 5	Deacons
August 12	Church Picnic
August 19	Pat Schopp and Barb Brian
August 26	Christy Case

NURSERY

August 5	Kay Bos
August 12	Jo Danford
August 19	Kris Richards
August 26	Pat Schopp

GREETERS

August 5	Jean Voight
August 12	Christy Case
August 19	Ardith Jones
August 26	Jean Bowers

HEAD USHER

Earl Schopp

Church Directory Updates

Probably within minutes of the distribution of our most recent church directory, someone's phone number changed or someone was in the process of moving. And so, our church secretary has put together an updated list of members and friends with as up to date contact information as we have. If you would like a copy, they are in the Fellowship Hall on the same table as the Hymn Request box. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office.

UCC Sister Church of the Month

As part of our continuing efforts to work together as community of faith, in worship we pray for UCC churches in our United Northern Association. You are invited in August to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of First Congregational UCC, Atlanta.

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 \$400, you may reserve a one-square foot plot that covers 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.

Give to the BACN Summer Match Campaign

Benzie Area Christian Neighbors is asking us to participate in a Summer Match Campaign. The Mulvaney Foundation will give \$30,000 to BACN if an equal amount is raised in the community. To join in this effort, please make your check out to First Congregational UCC with BACN written in the memo section. Thank you for your donation.

Habitat for Humanity Benefit Concert

Mark your calendars for Saturday, August 25 at 7:00 p.m. when the Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir comes to town for a performance at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. This performance with a free will offering is for the benefit of Habitat for Humanity here in Benzie County. The quartet provides not only great singing, but superb comedy and outstanding presentation with a fishing and hunting theme. Don't miss it!

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.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



- 3 Roger Weil
- 4 Dorothy Uren
- 4 James Sheets
- 7 Gloria Dedloff
- 7 Chester Jones
- 7 Joann Worden
- 9 Dawn Olney
- 11 Doii Burget
- 12 James Brian
- 14 Doris Marshall
- 15 Lisa Sauer
- 16 Bud Strong
- 17 Bryce Gray
- 18 Linda Nugent
- 21 Jerald Richardson
- 21 Ruth Catton
- 22 Donna Ballard
- 23 Earl Schopp
- 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
- 23 Pat and Earl Schopp
- 24 Jean and Wally Edwards
- 26 Marilyn and Jim Sheets
- 30 Darlene and Bryce Gray
- 31 Jo and Trevor Danford



Flowers



There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office for altar flowers for 2012. If you would like to supply 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.

Church Family Update

You are invited to remember in your prayers some of our members who are home-bound, in assisted-living or facing health concerns: Marylou Patee, June Trost, Norm Stewart, John Robson, Marjorie Call, Buck and Dorothy Hall, Liz Ehman, Barb Nason, Jo Danford, Mona McElderry, Helen Pickard, and Betty Henry.

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.

AUGUST 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
			1 12 Noon - AA 2:00 MS Support Barn	2 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	3	4
5 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	6 9 Bridge Class 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	7 10:00 Yoga-Barn 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	8 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting Barn 4:00 Deacons	9 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	10	11
12 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship CHURCH PICNIC	13 9 Bridge Class 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 11Commodities Distribution 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	14 10:00 Yoga -Barn 7:00 Council 7:00 WAA - Barn	15 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	16 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	17	18
19 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	20 9 Bridge Class 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Trustees 7:00 AA - Barn	21 10:00 Yoga -Barn 6:30 Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	22 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	23 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	24 8:30 Benzie Conservatn District Program	25
26 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	27 9 Bridge Class 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	28 10:00 Yoga -Barn 6:30 Plant It Wild 7:00 WAA - Barn	29 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	30 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	31	

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A Joyful Noise! August 2012

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

Daniel E. Furman Minister
Chris Stone Treasurer
Mary Rodriguez.. Financial Secretary
James Sheets..... Church Moderator
Rosemary Miller Choir Director
Jean Edwards..... Newsletter Editor
Carolina Jones & Katrina Smith..... Christian Ed Coordinators
Hope Kochis Custodian
Nancy Eggleston Secretary

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