

# A JOYFUL NOISE !

July 2012

And just like that, 2012 is half over! How did that happen? I know we didn't have much of a winter and it has just felt like Spring for months now, but July? Already? Well one thing that normally happens in the summer is vacation! Have you taken a vacation yet this summer or this year? Was it relaxing? Time to catch up on sleep, or reading, or falling asleep while reading. Summer vacations are for creating memories, for getting away from it all, and opportunities to have fun.



I'm going on vacation for two weeks in July from the 5th through the 18th. While I love being your pastor: visiting with you, creating worship, and walking with you on our faith journey, I also, like everyone, need time away for Sabbath rest. There are plenty of times in the Bible when either Jesus or the people find themselves in the wilderness. The Hebrew peoples wandered for more than a generation while they searched for the Promised Land. Jesus, on more than one occasion, sought solitude for prayer and revitalization to keep his ministry fresh. Even in the creation story, we are reminded with all the work we do, to take time for ourselves for rest. And so I look forward to some "me" time.

I hope and pray that you are also creating space for "you" time. Our world seems to get busier all the time. And yet one of the fundamental parts of life is sleep. Even our daily routine is centered around what times we are awake and what times we sleep. Our bodies remind us when we need to rest, but it is up to us to take more than a few or several hours to sleep.

So where is that place you dream about for Sabbath rest? Your favorite fishing hole, a favorite or exploring a new golf course, hugging your grandchildren, an Alaskan cruise, a luau on Maui, Disney World, Pierce Stocking Drive at Sleeping Bear Dunes. God reminds us in Scripture and after fifteen hours of work to take a break. Create Sabbath rest in your life. At the very least, right now, close your eyes, take a deep breath, and picture your favorite place in the world. Take care of yourself.

*Pastor Dan Furman*

## **News From the Board of Trustees**

In these difficult economic times, your Board of Trustees has been respectful of our overall budget. Each month, the budget is reviewed, and costs are cut where ever possible. At the same time, we know that we need to keep our building and grounds in good repair.

The Board has done an assessment of the structure of the Church and has found that there are many things that need our attention. A PRIORITY LIST of needed repairs in and around our building has been made. Some of these repairs will need our immediate attention – other items can wait. We also have a WISH LIST. This is a list of smaller items that we need or we would like to have. Our committees will be asked to add items to this list. Both lists will be available to members.

Highest on the PRIORITY LIST are the windows. All of the windows in the building are made of wood and have deteriorated over the years – and especially the four windows on the south side of the Sanctuary where wood rot is very evident. Honor Building Supply and Rafferty Construction have given us a very generous quote to replace the four south windows. At the June meeting, the Board voted to accept this offer. Off budget funds that have been donated to the church will be used to pay for this project.

Yes, we will need to replace the rest of the Sanctuary windows and take a look at other items on the PRIORITY LIST. Fund raising will be necessary.

FYI – things that we have already done with minimal investment include: cleaning all of the storage areas, the kitchen renovation (thanks to Women's Fellowship), landscaping the Memorial Garden (thanks to the Brouwer Family and others), work on landscaping around the building (headed up by Joan Cooper and Chris Gehring). We have purchased paint – the Fellowship Hall is almost done (thanks to Bob Ward, Sonny Rodriguez, and the Brians), new TV in the Barn (Memorial Committee). We have even discovered that the Fellowship Hall drapes, as old as they are, can be washed and actually look pretty good - saving the expense of having to replace them right now.

This is something for us to remember and to think about. In addition to being our place of worship and our place for meetings and activities – many other events are held here – everything from Kiwanis to Alcoholics Anonymous to Yoga classes. We forget that the beautiful park area along US31 and the Ball Diamond / Ice Rink is church owned properties that are leased to the Village of Benzonia for a dollar a year. You could say that this is part of our outreach mission back to our community.

So much has been accomplished by our members working together – and we will need to continue in this spirit. If there is anything you have an interest in working on, or if you would like to donate funds to a particular project – please let one of the Board Members know. Your ideas and input are welcome.

**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

**IN YOUR PRAYERS**

You are invited to remember in your prayers those of our members who are home-bound, in assisted-living, or facing health concerns. This month please remember Marylou Patee, June Trost, Norm Stewart, John Robson, Marjorie Call, Buck and Dorothy Hall, Liz Ehman, Barb Nason, Mona McElderry, Bruce Jenema, Helen Pickard, Brenda Case, Jo Danford, 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.*

**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 July to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of First Congregational UCC, Alpena.



**Flowers**

There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office for altar flowers for 2012. If you are interested in supplying flowers for the new year, 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.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR JULY VOLUNTEERS**

	<b><u>COFFEE HOUR</u></b>	<b><u>NURSERY</u></b>	<b><u>GREETERS</u></b>
<b>July 1</b>	Deacons	Chris Stone	Pete Moss and Blair Moss
<b>July 8</b>	Circle I	Jessica Reed	Earl and Pat Schopp
<b>July 15</b>	Jean Bowers	Chris Gehring	Larry and Nancy Czap
<b>July 22</b>	Linda Jenema	Helen Dewey	Chris Gehring
<b>July 29</b>	Katrina Smith	Gillian Soholt	Katrina Smith

**Head Usher: Mike Jones**

## Pastor Dan's Vacation

Pastor Dan will be on vacation this month from July 5 through the 18th, returning to the church on Thursday, July 19. The Rev. Bill Nelson will preach both Sundays and will be available for any pastoral needs. Contact the church office for his phone number or listen to Pastor Dan's voicemail at the church for Rev. Nelson's phone number.

## What's New in the Library

***The Devil in Pew Number Seven*** This beautifully told, dramatic and true story will have you asking "How could this be?" During the 1970s a young couple moves to Silerstown, North Carolina, to pastor a local church. They are welcomed by the community, the church grows, the young couple have two children. Ideal small town life, right? When the eldest child, Rebecca, the author of the book, is eighteen months old the anonymous phone calls begin. They would continue for years. The harassment would escalate - threatening mail, bombings of their house, sniper fire. Through it all, the pastor and his wife stand steadfast, encourage their children to trust in the Lord and forgive their enemies. Harassment and hate is not the core of this story, forgiveness is, greater forgiveness than many of us could ever possess.

***Sarah's Key*** In the summer of 1942 French police arrested thousands of Jewish families and held them outside of Paris before shipping them off to Auschwitz. On the sixtieth anniversary of the roundups, an expatriate American journalist covering the atrocities discovers a personal connection. Her apartment was formerly occupied by one such family. She resolves to find out what happened to Sarah, the ten-year-old daughter, who was the only family member to survive. This historical novel tells a heart-wrenching story that will stay with you for a long time.

***The Best of James Herriot*** This anthology of Herriot's favorite stories includes hundreds of line drawing and color photographs of the Yorkshire countryside. The rich, lush photographs themselves deserve a look, even if you aren't drawn to any of the stories. One reviewer comments that if you want to read the stories as they were written, you should stick with the novels. I think this book is a wonderful supplement, adding to the stories a picture of where they took place. Thanks, Mickey Austin, for this donation.

***Chickadees At Night*** Written by a resident of Empire and illustrated by a Traverse City resident, this fanciful story about what chickadees do at night is sure to tickle any youngster's imagination and likely start a chorus of *fee-bee...fee-bee...chick-a-dee-dee-dee.....*

## 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.

## 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.

# JULY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
<b>1</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>2</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>3</b> 10:00 Yoga-Barn 10:00 Crystal Lake Property Owners Annual Meeting 11:00 Christian World Service 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>4</b> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12 Noon - AA 2:00 MS Support Barn	<b>5</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn Pastor Dan on	<b>6</b> 12 N LOWV Library Vacation thru	<b>7</b> July 18
<b>8</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship Pastor Dan on Vacation	<b>9</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn Dan on Vacation	<b>10</b> 10:00 Yoga -Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn through July 18.	<b>11</b> 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 4:00 Deacons	<b>12</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn	<b>13</b> 12 N - LOWV Library	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>16</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Trustees 7:00 AA - Barn Pastor Dan on Vacation thru	<b>17</b> 10:00 Yoga - Barn 6:30 Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>18</b> 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 6:30 Christian Ed Today.	<b>19</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn	<b>20</b> 12 N - LOWV Library	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>23</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>24</b> 10:00 Yoga - Barn 6:30 Plant It Wild 7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>25</b> 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	<b>26</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn	<b>27</b> 12 N - LOWV Library	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>30</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>31</b> 10:00 Yoga - Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn				

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## ***A Joyful Noise! July 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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