

# A JOYFUL NOISE !

May 2012

On Sunday, April 15, we gathered for a moment of special prayer in worship for Tom Carver who was preparing to deploy to Afghanistan for military service. It was a poignant moment for us, as a church, to be directly connected to the ongoing war there. Over the years our congregation has been touched with the tragic loss of Doii Burget's grandson who died in action in Afghanistan, and we have prayed for Sonny and Esther Rodriguez's son who served. But in comparing the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with the previous U.S. wars, so many more Americans served in Vietnam, Korea, and World War II that at times we as a church and we as communities are removed from personal connections to the war.

From time to time we hear about celebrities or politicians going overseas to entertain or support our troops. From time to time we send prayers or care packages. From time to time we hear about death(s) or notice the flags at half-staff and perhaps we say a silent prayer. But much of our days we do not think about either those who are serving currently in Afghanistan or any of the scores of locations around the world, nor do we often think about the grieving families whose lives will never be the same with the loss of their son or daughter.

On Sunday, May 27, we again will dedicate a portion of our worship service in remembrance of all who gave their lives for our freedom to worship, for our freedom to gather, for our freedom to speak for or against war, and for all other liberties we now enjoy. Following worship and our fellowship time together, there will be a memorial service at the Champion Hill Cemetery in Honor, at 2pm, where I will lead the prayer and where all the names of veterans who have died will be read and remembered.

This May, I would invite you to try to be more aware of the military actions around the world, how they are affecting the nations involved and how they are affecting our nation. I would invite you to be aware of the several cities across the nation who are putting together welcome home parades for Iraq war veterans and wonder how many Iraq war veterans are handling re-acclimating to Benzie County and the Traverse City area and if they feel welcomed home. I would invite you to be mindful of the grieving families in our area or in Michigan who are still trying to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives. I would invite you to invite your friends and neighbors to worship on May 27 so that they may also share their grief and know we as a church family care about them, about all who are called to serve, as well as all who are called to promote peace and justice. See you in church.

*Pastor Dan*

### ***The Board of Trustees Report***

The trustees are looking into replacing the television in The Barn. There is some tree work that needs attention and will be done soon. We are getting estimates for sealing and striping the parking lot. We are also considering the possibility of sending a welcome note and small local gift certificate to visitors.

We are looking into the possible formation of a Pastoral Relations Committee. Some members are attending a forum at the UNA spring meeting to learn more about this and to see if it would be beneficial for our church.

### ***Happy May From the Deacons***

We continue into the Easter season filled with hope and wonder. We are continuing the new ideas that we brought to worship last month by singing the hymn and providing all of the scriptures from the lectionary. I, as the chair of the deacons, challenge you to look at them each week and see the connection they have to each other and to your spiritual life.

Also important to our spiritual life is maintaining the bond between our church family members. We do this in a variety of ways. Two of those ways are visitations and fellowship events. If you know someone in need of a visit, let us know. If you would like to visit someone, that would be great.

Our next gathering will be pizza and a band concert. This will take place on May 16th at 5:00 p.m. Please not the earlier time from some of our other events.

Last, but not least, we are open to new ideas and possibilities. The Spirit moves each of us in different ways and if we share our experiences we can grow stronger in our faith.

Peace be with you,  
Gillian

### ***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.

### ***Flowers***

There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office for altar flowers. 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](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.

## **Women's Fellowship News**

Women's Fellowship will meet on Wednesday, May 2, at 1:00 p.m. Circle I will host this meeting. Dessert will be served. The Spring Thank Offering will be taken up. It is going to the teaching hospital at Tegucigalpa, Honduras, the alma mater of our own Carolina Jones. The Executive Board will meet at noon preceding the general meeting.

May 5 is spring cleaning bee. We hope to see willing volunteers to help keep our church looking clean.

We now have 57 maroon chairs in the Fellowship Hall. Excel Office Supply gave us one free chair, and they have extended our special price of \$73.18 to August 31 of this year. (The actual price is \$83.) If anyone wishes to donate money for another chair or chairs the Fellowship would be grateful. We would like to have 75 matching chairs.

Circle I purchased a new microwave oven for the kitchen. We plan to replace our two serving tables, as well as purchase a special table that can be used for sales or other service.

Watch for the list to update your address, e-mail and telephone number. We hope to get information from all the women of the church, not just circle members.

Circle I will meet Wednesday, May 16 at 1:00 at the Cold Creek Inn for an end of year gathering and to plan for the coming year. Please let Chris Stone know if you are planning to attend. Call 231-882-5205 or 231-651-0476 or e-mail [chrisstone47@yahoo.com](mailto:chrisstone47@yahoo.com).

Sarah Circle will meet on Wednesday, May 16, at noon for lunch at Kay Fischer's cottage. The phone number at the cottage is 352-9167. Circle IV will meet at the church on Wednesday, May 16, at 10:30 and go out for lunch afterward. Next year Sarah Circle and Circle IV will be combined.

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

***The Harper Collins Study Bible***...This landmark general reference of the Bible offers a full text of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible. Introductions to individual books are written in language sensitive to both the person of faith and to those more interested in the Bible as literature. Maps, study guides, concordance, and the Apocryphal Deuterocanonical books (books read by the Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox Christians) are included.

***Caring for a Person with Alzheimer's Disease***...Published by the National Institute on Aging, this guide is for people who care for family members or others with Alzheimer's disease. It is intended to help one learn about and how to cope with the changes and challenges this disease presents.

***A Secret Gift***...This is an account of America at its worst - and Americans at their best - woven from the stories of Depression Era families in Canton, Ohio who were helped by gifts from a generous and secretive man. The stories are both fascinating and inspiring. Kay Bos reviewed this book at a recent Women's Fellowship meeting.

***Miss Julia to the Rescue***...The latest, #13, in this ongoing series. Miss Julia glumly contemplates becoming an empty-nester as members of her "family" are on vacation or have moved into their own home. She is saved from this dubious situation by a mysterious phone call that sends her on a rescue mission. "Be prepared to laugh so much you'll cry," writes on reviewer.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We, in our Sunday School Department, have been having so much fun. Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> was an example. The day started with our Sunday School Students acting as greeters for the 10:30 am service. Then, during the service the students presented a song using Bell Chimes led by Penelope Olson. Our Sunday School Hour was spent making Thank You cards for Penelope who is moving away very soon. Kids loved Penelope's help in leading the Bell Choir. The evening ended with an intergenerational Bowling and Pizza Party at Lucky Jack's in Traverse City. We had approximately 50 Sunday School Students, parents and friends attending. **EVERYONE HAD A BLAST!**

Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> – Planning to have a SPANISH LESSON for everyone during the Coffee Hour after Church. We will be celebrating **Cinco de Mayo**. Carolina Jones will be providing the lesson as well as some ethnic food. **Plus every kids favorite – a piñata.**

After Church on May 20<sup>th</sup> – Another intergenerational event. We are planning on taking our students to the **Drake School House** on Fowler Rd. Everyone is welcome to join us. The Drake School House has been preserved as it was a century ago. Kay Bos will be teaching an old fashioned Sunday School lesson. This will be followed by an informal lunch. Those who would like to continue the afternoon will go on to the Sleeping Bear Dunes.

Many more things in the planning stage – we will keep you posted.

## **CLEAN UP DAY**

Our Spring Clean Up Day for the Church is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> starting anytime after 9 am. Please bring your favorite cleaning materials, etc. Pizza will probably show up around 1 pm so that our hard working people will not go hungry.

There is a list of things that need to be done on the Bulletin Board. If you cannot come on May 5<sup>th</sup> – but would like to help – you can sign up for a couple of the activities on the list.

Last year's Clean Up Day was a great success – looking forward to seeing everyone again this year.

Thanks to all who help.



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

Happy birthday to the following members of the church family!

- 1 Trish Manning
- 6 Trevor Danford
- 7 Wade Peacock
- 7 Mickey Austin
- 7 John Hanmer
- 8 Mary Cornell
- 9 Taylor Johnson
- 9 Wally Edwards
- 12 Joe Wittbrodt
- 12 Katrina Smith
- 14 Peter Hopkins
- 15 Joanne Applehof
- 16 Jo Danford
- 20 Bob Austin
- 21 Sally Moss
- 23 Marilyn Sheets
- 25 Bill Bos
- 26 Rob Wolowiec
- 26 Sabra Danford
- 27 Kris Johnson
- 29 Ruth Blacklock
- 30 Larry Czap

## MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 John and Barbara Riegler
- 7 Don and Jean Voight
- 9 Al and Anne Young
- 13 John and Barbara Hanmer
- 13 Michael and Nancy Call
- 17 Scott and Kathy Neveu
- 23 Wayne and Marilee Strom
- 25 Jim and Alice Hinkamp
- 27 Larry and Nancy Czap

## *Remember In Your Prayers*

You are invited to remember in your prayers some of our members who are home-bound, in assisted-living, or are facing health concerns. After the April newsletter was printed, we were saddened with the death of Douglas Joy Jr. Please remember Linda, Victoria, and the Joy family. Also, in April Ralph Williams passed from this life to the next. Please remember Muriel Williams and family. You are also invited to remember Marylou Patee, June Trost, Norm Stewart, John Robson, Marjorie Call, Buck and Dorothy Hall, Ruth Masters, Liz Ehman, Barb Nason, Mona McElderry, Bruce Jenema, Helen Pickard, 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 community of faith, in worship we pray for UCC churches in our United Northern Association. You are invited in May to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of Portage Lake, Houghton United Church of Christ. This is the only UCC church in the Upper Peninsula and may be leaving our Association to join the Wisconsin Conference as it is an eight hour drive for them to join us for any local ministries.

## *Note These New Addresses*

Liz Ehman  
D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans  
425 Fisher Street Room #112  
Marquette, MI 49855  
(906) 226-4112

Helen Pickard  
3950 Sumac Drive  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
(231) 922-0531

Ron and Penelope Olson  
188 Limberpine Circle  
Parachute, CO 81635  
(231) 383-0488 (Penny's cell)  
(231) 383-3090 (Ron's cell)

## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR MAY VOLUNTEERS

	<u>COFFEE HOUR</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
5/6	Deacons	Mary Rodriguez	Alan and Joanne Appelhof
5/13	Chris Stone	Chris Gehring	Chris Stone
5/20	Marsha Case	Nancy Call	Cindy Schnaar and Ardith Jones
5/27	Barb Brian	Jo Danford	Clinton and Olivia Brian
	<u>HEAD USHER</u>	John Riegler	

### *Thank You . . . .*

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

### **Coming Events**

**Memorial Day Remembrance in Honor:** On Sunday, May 27, at 2pm, our communities will gather for prayer and a reading of names from all deceased veterans in our area. We will gather at the Champion Hill Cemetery in Honor. Pastor Dan will lead the prayers. Please join us for this important community event.

**Calling all Walkers!!** On Sunday, June 10, after worship, our church is supporting the first annual Benzie County Crop Walk. This is a fundraiser for hunger issues locally, nationally, and globally. 25% of all funds raised will be donated to BACN, the remaining amount given to the host organization Church World Service with whom we partner for many ministries. Soon we will be recruiting donations as well as walkers for either the 2.5k walk or the 5k walk in Elberta. Start training today!

**National Youth Event:** Every four years, youth ages 13-18 gather together for worship, workshops, mission projects, and fellowship. Four years ago, we sent youth from our church who witnessed 3,000 youth from all across the nation and came back energized about the future. The Christian Education Board is working toward registering youth for this trip July 10-13 to be held at Purdue, Indiana. For youth ages 15 and up, this is a once in a life-time opportunity. Please speak with Pastor Dan, Carol Dye, or Katrina Smith for more information.

**Summer Camp Anyone?** Did you know that there is a place for youth and/or families to camp in Michigan that is affiliated with the United Church of Christ? The place is Camp Talahi near Brighton. They are offering camps for Junior High youth, Senior High youth, Music/Arts/Dance/and Drama camps, and Wilderness Adventure camps. If you are interested, please check out their website at [www.camptalahi.org](http://www.camptalahi.org) or talk with Pastor Dan.

### **CLASSIC JUNQUE SALE**

It's spring and thoughts go to cleaning out that junk in your garage, spare room and basement. As you do, look at the items and see if they would be appropriate for the Classic Junque Sale that will be held June 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>. Gently used linens, kitchen ware, jewelry, household items, craft items, furniture and toys are all items that sell. We do not want clothing, electrical appliances, computers or books. Please price the items before bringing them in. Items will not be accepted at the church until the week of the sale. We will also be selling baked goods. All of the proceeds for this sale go the mission works of the Women's Fellowship. If you have questions, please feel free to call Joan Cooper at 517-819-7607.

# MAY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
		1 10:00 Yoga - Barn 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	2 12 Noon - AA 1:00 Women's Fellowship 2:00 MS Support Barn	3 10 Centr'l Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	4 12 N - LOWV Library	5 Spring Cleaning Bee
6 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	7 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5-8 Love, INC 7:00 AA - Barn	8 10:00 Yoga - Barn 7:00 Council 7:00 WAA - Barn	9 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 4:30 Deacons	10 10 Centr'l Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 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 12-5 Bridge Club 5-8 Love, INC 7:00 AA - Barn	15 10:00 Yoga - Barn 6:30 Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	16 Circle Meetings 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	17 10 Centr'l Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 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 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Trustees 5-8 Love, INC	22 10:00 Yoga - Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	23 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	24 10 Centr'l Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	25 12 N - LOWV Library	26
27 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	28 <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> OFFICES CLOSED 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 5-8 Love, INC 7:00 AA - Barn	29 10:00 Yoga - Barn 7 WAA - Barn	30 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn			

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## ***A Joyful Noise! May 2012***

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

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Chris Stone .....	Treasurer
Mary Rodriguez.. ..	Financial Secretary
James Sheets.....	Church Moderator
Rosemary Miller.....	Choir Director
Jean Edwards.....	Newsletter Editor
Carol Dye & Katrina Smith.....	Christian Ed Coordinators
Hope Kochis .....	.. Custodian
Nancy Eggleston .....	..Secretary

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