

A JOYFUL NOISE!

November 2012

With the end of October we move into preparations for Thanksgiving and a deep breath before the seasons of Advent and Christmas. The main question we are often asked, and I will ask you as well, is what are you thankful for?

Even though the commercials can be maddening, and the national divisiveness has become overwhelming, I am thankful that we live in a free society where we can vote to elect our own leaders. I am thankful for any who build or strengthen bridges between the two main political parties to try to work together for the common good. Let us send our prayers for our local, state-wide, and national leaders. And remember to give thanks for our freedoms by voting on November 6.

With All-Saints Sunday approaching on November 4, a day when we will recognize all our members and friends who have died and passed from this life to the next, I am thankful for the contributions of our own saints who dedicated their lives to making our lives better. May we be inspired to do the same for the generations coming after us.

Sunday, November 11 has two meanings for us this year. For the church it is Stewardship Sunday, the day when we present as part of our offerings for the day our Estimate of Giving cards, our pledge for the coming year. Certainly this is part of our budget preparation, but more so it is a commitment that we make with God to continue to support the ongoing mission and ministry of our church in our community. I am thankful for all our families who give as they are able as modern-day disciples. November 11 for the nation is the day we recognize our veterans. I am thankful for all who have served and are still serving our nation in wartime and in times of peace.

Lastly, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as your Pastor. It is an honor for me that you have welcomed me into your lives both in times of celebration and in times of sorrow. As our congregation continues to shift from celebrating who we were for the last 152 years, I look forward to our ongoing development of who we are now in 2012-2013 and how we will reach out through mission and ministry to our local communities. Thank you for all that you have been doing for our church. May the peace of Christ be with you.

Pastor Dan

Special Events This Month

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 3, or you'll be an hour early for church.

All Saints Sunday: On Sunday, November 4, 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.

Stewardship Sunday: You are invited to join us Sunday, November 11, for Stewardship Sunday. Many thanks if you have already completed and mailed back your Estimate of Giving card for 2013. This will greatly help our church leaders plan for the future. Or if you prefer, you may bring your Estimate of Giving card to worship on November 11 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.

More Special Events

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 evening, November 20, 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 23 through the 25th at the Benzie Area Historical Museum in Benzonia in conjunction with the Museum's very special holiday exhibits. Decorated trees, wreaths and other Christmas items done by community businesses, organizations and individuals are bid for at the silent auction with proceeds going to Habitat for Humanity of Benzie County. Free will donations will be received at the door. Hours for the Festival of Trees are Friday 12-8pm; Saturday 12-8pm; and Sunday 12-4pm.

Calling All Youth

Pilgrim Fellowship, our youth group, continues to meet in November. All youth between 7th and 12th grades are welcome to attend. We will normally meet in The Barn on the first and last Saturday of the month at 7:00 p.m., however due to the Thanksgiving holiday, youth will meet this month on the first

What's New in the Library

Christianity After Religion. Author Diana Butler writes of today's religion scene with its problems such as dwindling attendance, confronting the idea that religion is dead. In addition to summarizing where we are today, but she manages to find hope and purpose in where we are heading. The reader is most likely to come away with hope for and faith in the future. This is the book Pastor Dan has mentioned in sermons recently and it is his donation to our church library. Thank you, Pastor.

The Time Keeper. A fictional fable - far fetched, it's true, but what fable isn't? It is a story about the meaning of time in all of our lives, the importance of treasuring time, what really matters in life and what doesn't, and how an over-focus on time has taken over most of our lives. In the end, this short story will make you think about how you value time.

Same Kind of Different As Me. This is the story of the faith, hope and love of one woman, Deborah Hall. Her faith in God, her hope for a better world, and her undying love forever changed the lives of two men: her husband, Ron, a wealthy international art dealer and Denver Moore, a homeless man for whom living on the streets was "a step up in life." The story alternates between the two men as they tell their story in an open and candid way. This is a message to all of us to reach out beyond ourselves and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

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, 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.

A Letter From Harriet Stone

Dear Friends,

I appreciate all of the hard work that the Women’s Fellowship put into my big 90th birthday celebration. The lunch was excellent. The display was beautiful. The workers were congenial. It was great.

I also want to thank all of the guests that came. It was so good to see all of you. And thank you for the cards. I have read each one of them at least twice.

It was a wonderful, congenial afternoon and I do thank all of you.

Very Sincerely,

Harriet Stone

Women’s Fellowship News

Our next meeting is November 7 at 1:00 at the church. Sarah Circle is in charge of refreshments. We will be setting up and preparing dinner for our guests from The Maples. We will need breads and pies furnished and help with serving and cleanup. All women of the church are invited.

The Executive Board will meet at noon prior to the general meeting.

The Circles are meeting earlier this month because of Thanksgiving. Sarah Circle IV will meet at 11:00 on Wednesday, November 14, at the church, and go out to lunch afterward. 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 14, at 1:00 p.m. We have two special events coming up in December for which we need to finalize the details. Barb Brian will be the hostess.

The Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at our church again this year on November 20 and we will be needing cookies and a couple of people to help in the kitchen with set up and clean up. Please let Chris Stone, 882-5205, or Barb Brian, 352-4929, know if you are able to help with this event.

On Saturday, December 15, we will also need help with cookies and punch for the Benzie Chorus concert at 3:00. Anyone interested can contact Barb Brian at 352-4929.

The last counter has been installed in the kitchen. We thank everyone who has helped with this project.

Annual Advent Workshop

This year our Advent Workshop will take place on Sunday, December 2, at 9:00 a.m. This is an intergenerational activity to decorate the church and make Christmas crafts and ornaments. If you can help with a craft or have a good idea for one, please contact Chris Gehring at 882-4653.

Annual Cookie Walk

This year our Cookie Walk will take place on Sunday, December 16 after the service. If you can contribute cookies, we would like 8 dozen, but we will welcome any amount that you can make. We also would like small loaves of bread, fruit cakes, fudge, caramels and peanut brittle. Please contact Chris Stone at 882-5205.

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 Hafer
- 14 Nancy Czap
- 15 Carolina Jones
- 22 Linda Jenema
- 24 Sonni Rodriguez
- 25 Pat Schopp
- 29 Tom Swanson

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 John and Mary Jane Trustdorf
- 24 Tad and Margie Peacock
- 25 Owen and Katrina Smith

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: Marylou Patee, June Trost, Norm Stewart, John Robson, Marjorie Call, Buck and Dorothy Hall, Liz Ehman, Barb Nason, Mona McElderry, Bruce Jenema, Helen Pickard, and Brenda Case.

In October two members passed from this life to the next. Bob Austin died on October 1. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mickey and the rest of the family. Betty Henry died on October 12. Her service was on October 20 at our church. Betty was a faithful member for 75 years.

Also Gertrude Saffron, a former member, died October 8. Her memorial service was held October 15 at Eden Bible Church.

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 that 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 November to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of First Congregational UCC, Charlevoix.

Thank You

to Jean Edwards, Jean Bowers, and Elisabeth Case 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>
11/4	Deacons	Char Patterson	John and Barbara Riegler
11/11	Mary Rodriguez	Pat Schopp	Hal Bruning
11/18	Jean Bowers	Carol Dye	Chris Gehring
11/25	Beverly Brouwer	Mary Rodriguez	Bob Ward and Joyce Barnes
	<u>HEAD USHER</u>	Sonny Rodriguez	

NOVEMBER 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
				1 10 Centr Wellness Exercise - Barn 5:00 Music Comm. 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	2 12 N - LOWV Library	3 7:00 Youth Group Set Clock Back
4 ALL SAINTS SUNDAY 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	5 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	6 10:00 Yoga - Barn 6:30 Kiwanis 7:00 Council 7:00 WAA - Barn	7 12 Noon - AA 5:00 Dinner for The Maples 2:30 Knitting - Barn	8 10 Centr Wellness Exercise - Barn 2:30 Nominating Committee 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	9 12 N - LOWV Library	10
11 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	12 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12-5 Bridge Club 4:00 CWS 7:00 AA - Barn	13 10:00 Yoga - Barn 5:00 Trustees 6:30 Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	14 Circle Meetings 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 4:00 Deacons	15 10 Centr Wellness Exercise - Barn 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	16 12 N - LOWV Library	17 7:00 Youth Group
18 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	19 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	20 10:00 Yoga - Barn 6:30 Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn 7:00 - Community Thanksgiving Worship	21 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	22 THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED 10 Centr Wellness Exercise - Barn 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	23 OFFICE CLOSED 12 N - LOWV Library	24
25 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	26 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	27 10:00 Yoga - Barn 7 WAA - Barn	28 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	29 10 Centr Wellness Exercise - Barn 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn	30 12 N - LOWV Library	

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

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Chris StoneTreasurer
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 EgglestonSecretary

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