

# A JOYFUL NOISE!

October 2011

I'm trying something new. Soon after my arrival, four years ago October 1, I learned via our church By-Laws that there is an 111 year old law in the State of Michigan that dictates that to vote in Congregational churches on matters of budget and property, one needs to be 18 years or older. This was news to me as I had always voted on matters after I was confirmed, growing up in Grand Rapids. Youth groups are always a treasured part of churches no matter if there are three or thirty active. So to tell our confirmed youth that they are prohibited from voting on important matters seems like a giant step backwards.

So I'm trying something new. I have decided to submit a Resolution to the Annual Meeting of the Michigan Conference, which will take place in Battle Creek on the weekend of October 5 and 6. As our church has not discussed this more than my various inquiries from time to time, and because our church has not voted on this issue one way or the other since the By-Laws were approved, I will not speak on behalf of our church, rather I will speak as an authorized minister.

Here are some excerpts from my Resolution:

"Many of our congregations continue to celebrate as part of our identity words like "Pilgrim" or "Mayflower" as touchstones connecting us to our ancestors of faith who sought religious freedom in a brave new world; in a place where we could worship and organize as we chose without a Head of State dictating how we praise our God or how we incorporate our churches. Adhering to this law restricts our freedoms to assemble as we choose and silences the voices of our confirmed youth who have become members or disciples in our churches, but as second class citizens, unable to vote on important matters in the ongoing life of the church. ... and so...

**WHEREAS**, we attest in our United Church of Christ Statement of Faith, that "God bestows upon us God's Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races," and

**WHEREAS**, confirmed youth, depending on each congregation's requirements for confirmation, have spent weeks, semesters, or years of preparation, attending classes, being tested, enduring a much more lengthy avenue to membership than adults, only to be told that they cannot vote with adults with regard to certain financial matters,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ shall invite authorized pastors, church leaders, congregations, and Associations to stand up with and for their youth to repeal the 111 year old State of Michigan law, Act 53 of 1901 (458.304), by contacting their local and state Representatives, Senators, and Governor.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that congregations of the Michigan Conference be invited to take a closer look at their by-laws with regard to the rights of their confirmed youth and to strive to support equality in membership / discipleship for all ages.

If you would like to see the entire Resolution, contact the church office or me. Whether you agree or disagree, please pray for God's wisdom and grace to bless our efforts at our annual meeting. God's peace be with you.

*Pastor Dan*

### **Women's Fellowship News**

Circle 1 will be hosting the Women's Fellowship meeting on Wednesday, October 3, at 1:00 p.m. The program will be presented by Pim Dodge on "The Flowers of the Bible." All the women of the church and their guests are welcome. The Executive Board will meet at noon before the general meeting.

Circles will meet on Wednesday, October 17. Sarah Circle IV will meet at 11:00 a.m. at the church and go out to lunch afterward. Circle 1 will meet at 1:00 p.m. at the church.



### **Harriet Stone's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Saturday, October 6,  
from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. here at the church,  
we will be celebrating Harriet's birthday.  
All are welcome. She has requested no gifts.

### **Annual Special Olympics Fajita Dinner Fundraiser**

The time has arrived for our fourth annual Fajita Dinner for Special Olympics to support our athletes here in Benzie County. The dinner will be held here in our church on Friday, October 12th, from 5:00 to 7:00.



### **SAVE THIS DATE:**

**SUNDAY THE 28<sup>TH</sup> OF OCTOBER, 2012**



**START PLANNING YOUR COSTUME NOW!**

**TRICK FOR A TREAT FOR UNICEF BY OUR YOUTH**

**GAMES FOR ALL AGES**

**COSTUMES**

**HAY RIDE?**

**SEE YOU THERE**

**YOUR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

### **Calling All Youth**

Pastor Dan is starting Pilgrim Fellowship (Youth Group) in October. All youth between 7th grade and 12th grade are welcome to attend. We will meet in the Barn on the first and last Saturday's of the month at 7pm. Our first gathering will be on Saturday, October 6.

### **Family Movie**

Join us after worship on Sunday, October 14 as we watch the family friendly Pixar movie "UP". Will we gather in the Fellowship Hall, unless we are distracted by... a...

Squirrel!



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

**The Girl's Still Got It...** "take a walk with Ruth and the God who rocked her world"...walk with Ruth as she travels from Moab to Bethlehem. In this thought provoking tour of the entire saga of Ruth, Naomi and Boaz, the author makes you feel like you are right there, walking with them. As you see God's plan unfold you realize there is a little bit of Ruth in all of us. And along the way you will have had quite a few chuckles.

**Pub Theology**...some of you may have read in the Record Eagle about a group meeting in a pub in Traverse City to discuss faith and beliefs, pub theology. The author, Bryan Berghoef, according to one reviewer "has given us the most complete presentation to date of what pub theology is, why it exists, and what it contributes to the lives and faiths of an increasing number of Christians. The Rev. Berghoef, founding pastor of Watershed Church in Traverse City, has been facilitating Pub Theology gatherings for several years.

A set of four DVD's titled **Uppity Women of the Bible** have been gifted anonymously. The four women are: Ruth, Song of Songs also referred to as Song of Solomon, Esther and Ruth. Each is divided into several study sessions that would be perfect for a study group. Questions as well as resources are available online. All are produced by Lisa Michele Wolfe, Ph.D. and ordained UCC minister.

**Kings and Queens of the Bible**...for our young people grades 2-5. This small book tells seven stories of various kings and queens from the Old Testament: Pharaoh, David, Solomon, Queen of Sheba, Queen Jezebel, Belshazzar, and Esther. Quick stories, written in a conversational tone will provide the basics of these people but will have serious minds seeking additional information. To this end an appendix offers a rundown of the books in the Bible which tell about these people.

### **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 October to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of **First Congregational United Church of Christ in Cadillac.**

### **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. The price 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.

*The family of Jo Danford thanks Pastor Dan and the wonderful people of this congregation for the support you have given us during Jo's illness. The food, the cards, the phone calls, the conversations, the thoughts and the prayers strengthened us immeasurably. Our hearts are filled with gratitude and thankfulness for your kindness.*

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**

1	John Marshall
5	Phyllis Crowell
8	Rob Rafferty
8	Harriet Stone
11	Andrew Case
15	John Abbett
19	R.J. Rafferty
21	Doug Rodriguez
23	Michelle Lee Herban
25	Barbara Riegler
29	Nicole Olney

**OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES**

6	Rob and Maria Wolowiec
11	Lisa and Glen Sauer
14	Pete and Sally Moss

*Thank You* to Mickey Austin, Elisabeth Case, Jean Bowers, and Jean and Wally Edwards for all their work folding, labeling, and stamping the September issue of A Joyful Noise.

**Church Family Update**

Our church family lost three members and friends last month: Jo Danford, Barbara Fuerst, and Earl Soderquist (father of Lynn Hopkins and Mary Rodriguez). Please hold these families in your prayers.

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

**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 (if you are unable to be in worship call the church office so that arrangements can be made). 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 OCTOBER VOLUNTEERS -**

	<b><u>COFFEE HOUR</u></b>	<b><u>NURSERY</u></b>	<b><u>GREETERS</u></b>
<b>Oct. 7</b>	Deacons	Barb Riegler	Roxane Miner
<b>Oct. 14</b>	Ardith Jones and Geri Thornell	Helen Dewey	The Wolowiecs
<b>Oct. 21</b>	Phyllis Crowell and Bilquis Van Hammen	Chris Jones	Pat and Earl Schopp
<b>Oct. 28</b>	October Fest	Linda Jenema	Bob Ward and Joyce Barnes
	<b><u>HEAD USHER</u></b>	Bill Bos	

# OCTOBER 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
	1 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Trustees 7:00 AA - Barn	2 10:00 Yoga-Barn 11:00 Christian World Service 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	3 12 Noon - AA 2:00 MS Support Barn 6:00 Bible Study	4 10 Centr Wellness Exercise - Barn 2:00 Nominating Committee 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	5 12 N - LOWV Library	6 <b>Harriet Stone's Birthday Party</b>
7 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	8 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 11:00 Commodities Distribution 7:00 AA - Barn	9 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 Yoga -Barn 7:00 Council 7:00 WAA - Barn	10 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 4:00 Deacons 6:00 Bible Study	11 10 Centr Wellness Exercise - Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	12 12 N - LOWV Library 5-7 pm <b>Fajita Dinner Benefit</b>	13
14 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	15 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	16 10:00 Yoga -Barn 6:30 Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	17 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 6:00 Bible Study	18 10 Centr Wellness Exercise - Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	19 12 N - LOWV Library	20
21 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	22 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	23 10:00 Yoga -Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	24 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 6:00 Bible Study	25 10 Centr Wellness Exercise - Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	26 12 N - LOWV Library	27
28 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship 11:30 <b>Fall Fest</b>	29 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	30 10:00 Yoga -Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	31 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 6:00 Bible Study			

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## ***A Joyful Noise! October 2012***

### 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

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