

A JOYFUL NOISE!

September 2012

It hardly seems possible, but when I do the math again and again, it all checks out. This month I turn 40. Does this make me middle-aged? I remember five years ago thinking I hit one of the last age milestones that grant you something, like when you can vote, drive, enlist, or drink alcohol. At 35 I remember being excited that I could now run for President. But the next age milestone as far as I know is 65 and the arrival of AARP in your mailbox.

40. So what has changed? Obviously I haven't changed at all except that my clothes seem to have shrunk a bit and my hair seems to be a lighter shade of brown, but I'm sure that's just the way the sunlight is reflecting. What I can't believe is how much taller my nephews are now and how much the small town where I grew up in Grandville has changed. Oh, and I guess there's the fact that my old high school is now the new junior high (my old junior high was bull-dozed). I graduated from high school 22 years ago, (now that cannot be right!), college 18 years ago, and I've been in ministry for nine years now, five in Pennsylvania and four here.

Times have changed. I remember when cable TV was new, when a remote control meant you didn't need to get up off the couch to change the channel, and TV sets were large boxes and heavy. I remember when you wanted to talk with someone on the phone you could only move around so far because it was attached by a cord to the wall. I remember when gas was 89 cents per gallon. Hairstyles, fashion, and music have all gone through various transitions.

But the one thing that has remained constant while everything else has been changing in the last 40 years, is God's love. It doesn't matter what church I have been a part of: First Park Congregational UCC in Grand Rapids, First United Methodist in Holland when I was in college, St. Andrew UCC in Lancaster, Pennsylvania where I was a student pastor for two years, Disciples United Community Church in Lancaster (a new church start where experimentation in worship and social justice was celebrated), Colonial Park UCC in Harrisburg, or First Congregational UCC Benzonia. In whatever household of faith I have found myself, God has been there, active, breathing new life and inspiration into the people. God has been there in our Bible studies, baptisms, confirmations, missions, evangelism, weddings, even in our funerals, God has been and continues to be the constant in all our lives no matter what transitions we are going through. This is why we keep coming back to church. To give thanks, to celebrate God's eternal love, and to do what we can to make this Earth, this home, this life better.

September means a fond farewell to our warm summer and many tourists; it means back to school, Rally Day (September 9); and it means time to prepare for Autumn and winter. And for me it means turning 40. I wonder what adventures are in store for me for the next 40? One thing is certain, God's love will always be with us. See you in church.

Pastor Dan

News from the Deacons

Wow, what a wonderful, busy summer. We sure have been blessed here at our church with the baptism of four babies! How wonderful.

Our float in the Frankfort and Beulah parades was wonderful. We hope it reached out to our neighbors and friends and let them know we are a caring and welcoming church.

We had a wonderful turnout for our annual Beach Bums tailgate party and game. Over 70 people enjoyed the game. It was a wonderful night at the ballpark with fun and fellowship for everyone.

Our church picnic on the 12th was delicious to say the least. We must have the best cooks in the area.....everything was delicious. Thank you to everyone that helped to put that together.

Now looking forward to fall and cooler weather we have Rally Sunday coming up. This will be on September 9th. It will be great to see all the young children together again. We will also be starting up a new Bible Study class which begins on Wednesday, September 5th at 6pm. We meet for a light dinner and then begin class. Come join us. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board.

Looking ahead, we will be showing the movie UP on October 14th right after fellowship. We did this last year and everyone had a great time. We will be serving popcorn and lemonade and it is free. Please join us.

Women's Fellowship News

Circle I will meet on Wednesday, September 19. Place is to be announced. Sarah Circle and Circle IV will meet together at the church at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 19. We need to get organized as a combined Circle.

There is no Women's Fellowship meeting in September. The first meeting will take place on October 3.

Looking ahead . . . On Saturday, October 6, we will celebrate **Harriet Stone's 90th birthday** with an open house from 12:00 - 2:00 at the church. All members and friends are invited. She has asked that there be no gifts.

What's New in the Library

The Long Walk, A Story of War and the Life That Follows. The author, Brian Castner, served three tours of duty in the Middle East, two of them as the commander of an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit. Their job was to safely detonate roadside bombs. The descriptions are brutally vivid, almost unbearable to read. A second battle began when he arrived back home. It, too, is brutally honest, an unflinching portrayal of the toll war exacts on the men and women who are fighting it. The review in the *Boston Globe* says "This is an important book to read for anyone who wants to get some sense of the long-term human toll of the Iraq war. How many soldiers have been damaged as Castner has? How many lives and families have been destroyed - or will be - by the effect of (war)?"

Some of My Best Friends Are Black. This book looks at integration and the ways it has failed from a fresh perspective. It show us both how far we've come in bridging the racial divide and how far we've yet to go. The author argues that we haven't achieved racial integration because we don't really want to. He writes, "White resistance and Black reticence are hopelessly entwined with one another. . ." If this is not the recipe for racial harmony, perhaps it will move the discussion forward. Recommended reading for anyone who still things we live in a post-racial America.

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 September to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of **Zion United Church of Christ, Brutus.**

Bible Study

On Wednesday, September 5, at 6:00 p.m. we will begin our next Bible study. We will be focusing on two Old Testament prophets, Amos and Hosea. What did they have to say then and what are they saying now? We will feast together with a meal and then feast on the Word. Come, join us.

Let's All Go to the Movies

On Friday, September 7, you are invited to join us in a night at the Cherry Bowl Drive-In. Feel free to just stay for the first movie or stay up late and watch both. Come have fun and support Harry Clark.

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. 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.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS -

COFFEE HOUR

Sept. 2	Deacons
Sept. 9	Jean Voight & Cath Kelder
Sept. 16	Ann Young & Mary Thompson
Sept. 23	Joan Appelhoff & Barb Riegler
Sept. 30	Chris Jones

NURSERY

Chris Gehring
Barb Brian
Joanne & Alan Appelhof
Chris Stone
Barb & John Riegler

GREETERS

Harriet Stone
Ann & Al Young
Mike & Carolina Jones
Doii Burget
Ann & Gordon Nordbeck

HEAD USHER Dennis Richards

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kay Fischer
- 3 Mary Thompson
- 8 Pete Moss
- 8 Jerry Slater
- 9 Andrew Wolowiec
- 10 Patricia Swanson
- 13 Joyce Barnes
- 14 Dan Furman
- 15 Samantha Weaver
- 15 Patricia Forrester
- 16 Betty Mitchell
- 16 Jennifer Olney
- 18 Muriel Williams
- 18 Barbara Brewer
- 19 Cath Kelder
- 19 Judy Ross
- 21 Ardith Jones
- 22 Myrt Maddock
- 22 Bob Walton
- 24 Rosemary Miller
- 28 Doc Wagner
- 30 Mary Ellen Wagner

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Roger and Becky Sattler
- 7 Jim and Dorothy Lyons
- 8 Chet and Shirley Jones
- 8 Bud and Peg Strong
- 9 Bill and Cynthia Schnarr
- 11 John and Doris Marshall
- 11 Gordon and Anna Nordbeck
- 13 Mark and Kim Weaver
- 14 Buck and Dorothy Hall
- 25 Tom and Patricia Swanson

Church Family Update

You are invited to remember in your prayers some of our members who are home-bound, in assisted-living, or are 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, Jo Danford, 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 for 2012. 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 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.

Thank You

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

Many thanks to Women's Fellowship for their work in the transition from the former chairs in the Fellowship Hall to the new ones. The last order of eighteen chairs were delivered on August 23 at a cost of \$1,300. If you would like to make a contribution towards this, please make your checks out to the church with the word "chairs" in the memo section. Thank you.

SEPTEMBER 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
						1
2 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	3 LABOR DAY Church Office Closed 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	4 10:00 Christian World Service 10:00 Yoga-Barn 6:30 Christian Ed 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	5 12 Noon - AA 1:00 Women's Fellowship 2:00 MS Support Barn 6:00 Bible Study	6 10 Centrl Wellness Exercise - Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	7 12 N - LOWV Library Night at Drive-In	8
9 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship RALLY SUNDAY	10 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 11:00 Commodities Distribution 7:00 AA - Barn	11 10:00 Yoga -Barn 7:00 Council 7:00 WAA - Barn	12 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 4:00 Deacons 6:00 Bible Study	13 10 Centrl Wellness Exercise - Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	14 12 N - LOWV Library	15
16 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	17 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Trustees 7:00 AA - Barn	18 10:00 Yoga - Barn 6:30 Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	19 Circle Meetings 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 6:00 Bible Study	20 10 Centrl Wellness Exercise - Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	21 12 N - LOWV Library	22
23 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	24 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	25 10:00 Yoga - Barn 7 WAA - Barn	26 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 6:00 Bible Study	27 10 Centrl Wellness Exercise - Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	28 12 N - LOWV Library	29
PASTOR DAN ON VACATION SEPTEMBER 23 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29						
30 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship HYMN SING						

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Mary Rodriguez..Financial Secretary
James Sheets.....Church Moderator
Rosemary Miller..... Choir Director
Rosemary MillerAssistant Choir Director
Jean Edwards.....Newsletter Editor
Carolina Jones & Katrina Smith.....Christian Ed Coordinators
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