

A JOYFUL NOISE!

January 2013

Here we go. Our journey continues into 2013. What does God have in store for us this year? Where will we go as disciples? It is exciting to think about. I have started my fifth year as your Pastor and look forward to new mission opportunities this year. So let's start the year off by renewing our vows.

Five years ago, when you called me to become your Pastor and Teacher, we exchanged covenantal vows affirming our roles as Pastor and Congregation. On Sunday, January 6, we will re-affirm these vows as we move forward as God's people serving Benzonia, our surrounding towns, our county, and beyond.

The next step, as I have been discussing in our newsletters, is for us to gather in homes and talk about our future. The first Joyous Gathering will be in Thompsonville in January. I would then like to have Joyous Gatherings in Frankfort, Beulah, and Honor, one per month, and at least one more for our summer folk. If you would like to host a Joyous Gathering in one of these towns, please let me know.

These gatherings will provide us with fellowship, fun, and dreaming for direction. Be thinking about what you would like to see in worship, in ministry, in our programs, in our mission and how we can implement these dreams into reality. Here we go! Happy New Year!

Pastor Dan

Learning to Live with Loss

Our Board of Deacons would like to address the needs of our church family especially any who are experiencing grief. To assess our needs please complete this brief questionnaire and place in the offering plate or mail or email to the church office.

1. Have you experienced the loss of a loved one?
2. Do you find that your grief is overwhelming?
3. Would you like to meet at the church with a small group led by a Hospice professional trained in helping us learn to live with loss?
4. If you answered yes to #3, what time of day is best for you: morning afternoon evening
5. Would you be interested in the church creating a group(s) for social interactions?

Women's Fellowship News

Women's Fellowship thanks everyone who so generously contributed Christmas gifts for four families from Love, INC (In the Name of Christ). We had fifteen family members ranging in age from two years to eighty-three years. One expecting mother asked for presents, not for herself, but for her baby. Thank you for helping these families have a Merry Christmas.

Thanks to all those who baked cookies for our annual Cookie Walk, and to those who bought them too. Thanks to Rosemary Abbett for donating the Christmas stockings that were raffled off. We made a profit of \$788.00. Half of this amount will be used for a local mission need and the other half will be used for a church need. We will announce what these projects are when we make that decision.

Circle I will meet at the church on Wednesday, January 16, at 1:00 to paint the hall. Anyone who likes to paint is welcome to join us. Carol Dye is the hostess. The next general meeting of the Women's Fellowship will be on March 6 at 1:00 at the church. Sarah Circle is in charge.

News From the Deacons

We hope everyone had a wonderful Advent season. We were certainly busy here at our church. We thank everyone who helped bring the true meaning of Christmas to our community. A special thank you goes to Sonny Rodriguez for all his hard work to bring the Live Nativity to our community. We wish the weather had cooperated but that is how it goes in Michigan. A big thank you also goes out to the Benzie Central High School for cutting out and painting the camel and three wise men.

We now look forward to 2013 and begin the New Year with a resolution to put God first in our lives. We wish you a year of good health and good wishes for you and your family. If there is any way we can enrich your life here at church, please let a deacon know.

What's New in the Library

Help Thanks Wow: the Three Essential Prayers... The three prayers are asking for assistance, appreciating the good we witness, and feeling awe at the world. In this short book, Lamott recounts how she came to these insights, explains what they have meant to her and how they have helped, and explores how others have embraced these ideas. She directly addresses the need for faith in these often disheartening times in which we live. Honest, funny, thought-provoking as only Lamott can be.

A Winter Dream... Richard Paul Evans, author of *The Christmas Box*, gives us a new holiday novel about family, fate & forgiveness...a modern-day Joseph story. "The story I'm about to share with you begins with a dream...Whether the dream was prophetic or the cause of all that happened, I'll never know"...from the Prologue of *A Winter Dream*. As is true of all Richard Paul Evans' books, the reader is never offended by the content or language used.

A Book of FAIRIES... What a wonderfully magical book! This fantastic children's picture book will transport you into the world of fairies, presenting imaginary facts about imaginary creatures with playful humor. Beautiful color illustrations compliment the text. The book is sure to bring joy to young readers and quite possibly tickle the inner child of the adult who reads the book with them.

January Birthdays

Happy birthday to the following members of the church family!

- 4 John Robson
- 6 Jay Pettitt
- 6 Andrew Call
- 6 Bud Cleghorn
- 9 Bryce Gray
- 11 Beulah Eby
- 11 Esther Rodriguez
- 12 Tad Peacock
- 17 Judy Johnson
- 18 Jean Voight
- 19 Mark Weaver
- 21 Donovan Haase
- 25 Helen Dewey
- 26 Mary Rodriguez
- 29 Debra Rafferty
- 30 Linda Joy
- 31 Kelsey Neveu

**January Anniversaries
Congratulations!**

- 18 Harold and Marsha Case
- 30 Gerald and Joan Richardson

Card Party for John Robson

John Robson, who has been a member of our church for 38 years, will turn 100 on January 4. Please send birthday cards to him at 3825 Scenic Ridge, Apt. A8, Traverse City, MI 49684.

Welcome New Members

On Sunday, December 16, we welcomed three new members to our church: Bob Ward, Aaron Hickey, and Andrea Polhamus. Pastor Dan also baptized Andrea's three children: Clara, Theodore, and Gregory. Please warmly welcome these new members when you next see them.

THANK YOUs

Thank you to all the "Centerfolds" who helped put together the December issue of the Joyful Noise: **Jean Bowers, Mickey Austin, Ruth Catton and Jean Edwards.**

Thank you to all of **our children and youth** for participating in this year's Christmas Pageant, "Carriers of Light." Excellent job! The congregation seemed to enjoy the program.

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. 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, Mary Hopkins, Susan Lutes, and Brenda Case.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR JANUARY VOLUNTEERS -

	<u>COFFEE HOUR</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
1/6	Deacons	Helen Dewey	Cath Kelder
1/13	Beverly Brouwer	Agnes Slater	Ruth Catton
1/20	Helen Dewey	Christy Case	Rosemary Miller
1/27	Potluck - Council	Phyllis Crowell	Jo Bahry
	<u>HEAD USHER</u>	John Wilks	

Joyous Gatherings

Starting this month, Pastor Dan will be meeting regionally in homes with several church members each time. This is to address comments made on the recent ministry surveys. The first gathering will happen in Thompsonville in January. If you would like to attend, a sign-up will appear in the second half of the month on the bulletin board. If you would like to host a future joyous gathering in another part of the county, please let Pastor Dan know.

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 January to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of First Congregational United Church of Christ, Gaylord.

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 \$450, 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 new sign-up sheet outside the church office for altar flowers for 2013. 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

With the arrival of a new year, 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.

Who Meets in our Church Building Anyway?

From time to time we are asked about the various groups that meet in our buildings. So for the next several months we will share with you information about the various community groups that use our building. Over time you will see that the time spent here is less about the electric and heat used and more about the ministry we provide for the members of our community.

The Bridge Club started meeting here in 2012. On Monday afternoons from 12 - 4pm, about 50 people play games in the Fellowship Hall. On Thursday afternoons, a smaller group of between 25 and 30 people play also in the Fellowship Hall from 12 - 4pm. In the summer they teach Bridge lessons on Monday mornings. In addition to their monthly donation, the Club has given the church additional charitable donations and at Christmas time, at Pastor Dan's suggestion, they donated over 60 children's books to Crystal Lake Elementary School's Library.

JANUARY 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
		1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 Yoga-Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	2 12 Noon - AA 2:00 MS Support Barn	3 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 11:00 Christian World Service 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn	4 12 Noon - LOWV Library	5
6 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	7 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	8 10:00 Yoga -Barn 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:00 Council 7:00 WAA - Barn	9 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 4:00 Deacons	10 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn	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 7:00 AA - Barn	15 10 Yoga - Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	16 12 Noon - AA 1:00 - Circle I 2:30 Knitting - Barn 6:30 Christian Ed	17 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn	18 12 N - LOWV Library	19
20 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	21 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:00 Trustees 7:00 AA - Barn	22 10 Yoga - Barn 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	23 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	24 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn	25 12 N - LOWV Library	26 8:30 Zonta In Barn
27 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Potluck 12:15 Annual Meeting	28 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	29	30	31 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn		

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Chris Stone	Treasurer
Mary Rodriguez..	Financial Secretary
James Sheets.....	Church Moderator
Rosemary Miller.....	Choir Director
Jean Edwards.....	Newsletter Editor
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