

A JOYFUL NOISE !

July 2013

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter article, I am proud to be a delegate once again to General Synod, the bi-annual national gathering of the United Church of Christ. We are meeting this year in Long Beach, California. As you are reading this, I am there now, meeting with over 3,000 other pastors and lay members of UCC churches from across the nation and around the world. We will experience dynamic worship and workshops, as well as gather to discuss and discern 15 resolutions. All 15 are available for you to read at www.ucc.org/synod. I discussed one resolution at length in worship on June 23. So you are aware, here are the titles of all 15 resolutions. Please keep us in your prayers. See you in mid-July.

- Pastor Dan

Ecumenical Relationship between the United Church of Christ and the United Church of Canada.

Supporting Compassionate Comprehensive Immigration Reform and the Protection of the Human Rights of Immigrants.

A Call to Respond to the Drug-Related Violence in Honduras Resulting from the Illegal Drug Market in the United States.

Restructuring of Conference Boundaries.

Advocating for Funding to Construct Quality Affordable Housing.

Resisting Actions Seeking to Undermine the Status of Women in Society.

Recognizing the Need for Compassionate Care and Healing to our Veterans.

The United Samoan Ministries of the UCC Request to be Recognized as a Historically Underrepresented Group and Member of the Council for Racial and Ethnic Ministries.

Advocating for Tax Reform as Christian Stewardship and Public Duty.

In Support of Outdoor Ministries of the United Church of Christ.

Urging Divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies.

Calling for an All-Church Offering for Supporting the Educational Expenses of Members in Discernment Preparing for Authorized Ministry of the United Church of Christ.

Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining in Appalachia.

Against Bullying and Discrimination.

Making UCC Church Buildings more Carbon Neutral.

Calling for the UCC to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery which Authorized the Genocide of Indian People and the Theft of Indian Lands.

Pastor Dan on Vacation

Pastor Dan is on vacation until July 11. The Rev. Russell Brandt will be preaching on Sunday while Pastor Dan is away.

The Rev. Dinah Haag from the Frankfort Congregational church will be available, in case of any pastoral emergencies including hospital visits or funerals while Pastor Dan is on vacation. You may reach her by calling: (231) 651-0311.

Oliver Art Center Hosts Lecture On Roland Roycraft's Watercolors

The Oliver Art Center in Frankfort is hosting a free lecture featuring the highly developed watercolor technique of American Watercolor Society member, Roland Roycraft. The coffee talk styled lecture is part of Master's candidate, Laura Millar's graduate thesis project and will discuss Roycraft's highly developed masking and pouring techniques as well as anecdotes about his life and legacy of art in northern Michigan. Featuring one of Roycraft's former students, Stefanie Vallee, and friend, Jean Bowers, the July 10th event will have additional watercolors on display from private collections not seen in the Oliver Center's summer watercolor painting exhibition, *Nature's Light: The Talent and Technique of Roland Roycraft*. Wednesday, July 10th 2013 from 10:00 to 12:00, Oliver Art Center. For information about the exhibit and techniques of Roland Roycraft, please contact Laura Millar at: larmillar@comcast.net Telephone: 678.640.3638. For Oliver Art Center hours, classes, and schedules, please visit their website at: <http://oliverartcenterfrankfort.org> Telephone: 321.352.4151

Deacons Meeting Highlights

The deacons visited Rosemary Miller, Mary Hopkins, Jay Pettit, and Marjorie Call. Any one who is interested is invited to the Beach Bums game on July 30th. We will eat at the church and then carpool to the game. Further details will follow.

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.

Living with Loss

For the last few months, a group has gathered with Pastor Dan in the church Library after worship to discuss how we process grief. Some were dealing with recent loss and others from many years before. All of us carry and process the burden of grief from time to time in life. This group is now meeting monthly on the last Sunday of the month. If you or someone you know could benefit from being with others on this journey, please join us on the last Sunday of the month in the Library after worship.

James Kraker

Former member James Kraker died on Tuesday, June 11, in New Smyrna Beach, Florida. Jim joined the Benzonia Congregational Church in 1936 and was a member until he moved to Gouverneur, New York in 1950, after selling the Cherry Hut to Leonard Case. Whenever he came back to Crystal Lake to visit his sister, Althea Petritz, he would worship with us in the church he still held dear.

Children's Book Deposit

At the entryway from the parking lot, just inside the doors on the left, is a wooden cabinet labeled "Children's Book Deposit." The Christian World Service Board is working to enhance a new relationship between our church and Crystal Lake Elementary school. One way we can do so is to collect and donate new children's books for their library or to be given directly to the students. Please bring books you would like to donate and use the new cabinet at the church.

What's New in the Library

The Child of the Dark. Originally published in 1960, this slim book is a first-hand account of life on the streets of Sao Paulo, Brazil. It is not an easy book to read as it puts faces on the poorest of the poor in our world. Sao Paulo may now be a better place to live than it was 50 years ago, however, we still have the very poor among us facing the same daily struggle for existence.

That Used to be Us. Authors Friedman and Mandelbaum analyze four challenges they believe America faces---globalization, the revolution in information technology, the nation's chronic deficits, and our pattern of excessive energy consumption---and explain what we need to do *now* to sustain the American dream and preserve American power in the world.

Dementia: the Journey Ahead...A Practical Guide for In-Home Caregivers. This book is often considered a must for people dealing with dementia. The author's practical advice and sense of humor will help all caregivers get through this most difficult experience. An appendix of tools and resources for caregivers appears to be quite extensive.

The Gospel According to Peanuts. This is a fascinating little book filled with insight, wisdom, and the type of joy Christians should naturally adopt. In no way does the author, an ordained minister, suggest that every Peanuts cartoon carries a theological message, but he does offer dozens of strips that shed light on a clear and understandable theology. This is the book Pastor Dan used in the recent Soup & Study.

Beneath Her Gentle Wings. This delightful paperback book for preschoolers teaches an important lesson on becoming a caring, loving, nurturing individual.

Last month we received the following letter from the principal of Crystal Lake Elementary School.

Dear Congregation of First Congregational Church,

On behalf of myself and the staff at Crystal Lake Elementary School, I'd like to take the time to express our gratitude for your generous support over the course of the 2012-2013 school year. Having positive community involvement in our schools is invaluable. All of our students have benefited from your support, whether they know it or not.

First I'd like to share with you how pleased we are that two of the members of your congregation have taken time out of their schedules to volunteer at our school on a regular basis. This has allowed our teachers to have smaller groups during instruction time, and has thus increased the impact of that time. We've also been able to provide additional small group support (or one on one support) for some of our students as a result of Kay and Nancy volunteering.

Next, I'd like to thank you for the donation of books. We will be sending some of the books home with students (in addition to some used books we have here), while a great number of the books will be added to our library. We were excited to see such a varying range of titles and ages that the books were geared towards. Our students (and staff) will benefit for years to come from this donation. I cannot express to you how amazed I was to see the volume of books you were able to gather for us. It was truly amazing!

Again, thank you for all of your support throughout this year. We are more effectively able to educate our students with the support of the community. Your support has meant a lot to our school, and we appreciate all that you have done.

With Gratitude,

LeeAnn Stephan, Principal

Crystal Lake Elementary School

JULY SPECIAL DAYS...

July Birthdays

Happy birthday to the following members of the church family!

- 8 Dennis Richards
- 8 Cynthia Schnarr
- 9 Jared Milks
- 12 June Deering
- 13 Carl Nespor
- 16 Darlene Gray
- 18 James Lyons
- 22 Nancy Call
- 23 Hannah Sattler
- 24 Neil Nugent
- 25 Hannah Rodriguez
- 29 Tiana Gould
- 30 David VanHammen
- 30 Anna Butts
- 31 Aaron Hickey

July Anniversaries

- 1 John and Rosemary Abbett
- 2 Robert and Elsie Walton
- 4 Ted and Jo Bahry
- 11 Rich and Mary Anne Civiok

IN YOUR PRAYERS

You are invited to remember in your prayers those of our members who are home-bound, in assisted-living, or facing health concerns. This month, please remember Marylou Patee, June Trost, Norm Stewart, John Robson, Marjorie Call, Buck Hall, Mona McElderry, Bruce Jenema, Helen Pickard, Mary Hopkins, Susan Lutes, Betty Heckman, Brenda Case, Ruth Blacklock, Rosemary Miller, Guy Titsworth, Donna Ballard, Jim Lyons, and Jay Pettitt.

We grieve as Barb Nason Passed from this life to the next. Please hold the Nason family in your prayers.

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 on the bulletin board for altar flowers. If you are interested in supplying flowers, please sign up for a certain date. You may bring in your own flowers or have the church make the arrangements with a local florist for \$25. 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.

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 July to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of Old Mission UCC, in Traverse City.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR JULY VOLUNTEERS -

	<u>COFFEE HOUR</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
7/7	Deacons	Kristy Johnson	Mickey Austin and Dot Uren
7/14	Sarah Circle	Helen Dewey	Anne and Al Young
7/21	Linda Jenema and Marilee Strom	Anna Butts	Larry and Nancy Czap
7/28	Katrina Smith	Carol Dye	Greeters Needed

Head Usher: Earl Schopp

JULY 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
	1 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	2 10:00 Yoga-Barn 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	3 12 Noon - AA 2:00 MS Support Barn	4 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 5:30 NA - Barn	5 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	6
Pastor Dan on Vacation						
7 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship 10:30 Youth Class in Barn	8 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12-5 - Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	9 10:00 Yoga -Barn 7:00 Council 7:00 WAA - Barn	10 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	11 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 3:00 Deacons 5:30 NA - Barn	12	13
Pastor Dan on Vacation						
14 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	15 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:00 Trustees 7:00 AA - Barn	16 10 Yoga - Barn 6:30 Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	17 12 Noon - AA 1:00 - Circle I Lunch at Cold Creek Inn 2:30 Knitting - Barn 6:30 Christian Ed	18 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn	19 8:30-12:30 Conservation Workshop	20
21 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship 10:30 Youth Class in Barn	22 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	23 10 Yoga - Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	24 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	25 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn	26	27
28 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	29 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	30 10 Yoga - Barn Beach Bums Game 7:00 WAA - Barn	31 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn			

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

Daniel E. Furman	Minister
Chris Stone	Treasurer
Mary Rodriguez..	Financial Secretary
James Sheets.....	Church Moderator
Rosemary Miller	Choir Director
Jean Edwards.....	Newsletter Editor
Carolina Jones & Katrina Smith.....	Christian Ed Coordinators
Jessie Zeller	Custodian
Nancy Eggleston	Secretary

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For pastoral emergency, call 231-930-7067