

# A JOYFUL NOISE!

November 2012

On Sunday, October 20th, I tendered my resignation as Pastor and Teacher here at First Congregational UCC in Benzonia. Just weeks into my sixth year here, I was made aware that several church members desired the church to be moving in a different direction than I had been leading. Like in any tug of war situation, little forward progress is made and after much prayer and discernment I feel the best action is for me to leave and for the church to seek a new pastor to lead.

I have thoroughly enjoyed living in Northern Michigan, getting to know our church members, being active in the community, and for my own enjoyment, participating in the NMC Community Band for a few years now. I lament that we were unable to connect as a church on a deeper level with the community with regard to mission and outreach, but pray that as the church moves forward it will recognize the need that is present. I celebrate the good people of this church and pray for their continual spiritual nourishment and growth. I enjoyed my participation with the Benzie Area Ministerial Association and will dearly miss my fellow pastors here.

And so now the transition begins. A time of saying farewell and of tying up loose ends. My normal departure time of three months has been extended to six months to allow me time to pursue a new call with a new congregation. If I should secure a new call before these six months have concluded in mid-April of 2014, we will renegotiate an earlier departure. But until then, my ministry here will continue with worship, pastoral care, new program development, and Bible Studies. May God's peace be with our church as we walk together down a new path.

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

**All Saints Sunday:** On Sunday, November 3, we will take some time to remember in worship all who have died in the past year. This is always a moving moment for our church to reflect on the blessings shared with us from our loved ones and to support one another in our common loss.

**Stewardship Sunday:** You are invited to join us Sunday, November 10 for Stewardship Sunday. Many thanks if you have already completed and mailed back your Estimate of Giving card for 2014. 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 10 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, St. Ann's Catholic Church in Frankfort will be hosting the annual ecumenical worship service. Please join us on Tuesday evening, November 26, at 7:00 p.m. 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 29 through the December 1, 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 11am-6pm; Saturday 12-8pm; and Sunday 12-4pm.

### ***From the Trustees***

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE ALREADY CONTRIBUTED TO THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN. We have raised a significant amount toward the \$40,000 needed to take care of our immediate needs. Work is scheduled to begin this month on the outside of the building – and will continue into the spring.

If you are considering a contribution to this fund, there is additional information and pledge cards at the church. Depending on your individual situation – there could be tax advantages. Check with your CPA or preparer for your individual circumstance.

If you would like additional information about these building projects, please give Carol Dye a call at 231-392-4005.

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

Our next meeting is November 6 at 1:00 at the church. Sarah Circle IV is in charge of refreshments. A representative from "Love, INC" will be the speaker. Christian World Service has authorized around \$4,000 of in-kind contributions to Love, INC for use of our church for their meals program.

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

Sarah Circle IV will meet at 11:00 on Wednesday, November 20, at the church and go out to lunch afterwards. 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 20, at 1:00 p.m. The Advent Workshop and Cookie Walk will be on the agenda. Both events are in December.

#### ***Annual Cookie Walk***

This year our Cookie Walk will take place on Sunday, December 15 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.

#### ***Annual Advent Workshop***

This year our Advent Workshop will take place on Sunday, December 8, 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.

### **The Big Deal**

Starting in November, we are adding something new to Big Sunday! In addition to Bringing In Groceries, and celebrating communion, and celebrating birthdays and anniversaries, we will now be adding the Big Deal. The Big Deal will be a community leader who will come and talk with us about their area of expertise and how our church can help. The Big Deal for November will be Sheriff Ted Schendel. I hope you will be able to join us to hear what he has to say.

### **Bible Study**

Starting on Wednesday, November 20, we will begin a Bible study on the theme of Advent. Ever wonder what Advent is, more than the annual tug of war between the congregation who wants to sing Christmas carols and the pastor who wants to wait until Christmas? Well, come join the group. We start with a potluck dinner and then talk about the topic of the night.

### **Living with Loss**

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.

### **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 sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for altar flowers. 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](http://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.

**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. This month please remember:

**Homesteader:** Rosemary Miller, and Pink Rearick

**Paul Oliver Long Term Care:** June Trost and Mary Hopkins

**The Pines:** Betty Heckman

**Traverse City:** Helen Pickard and Pat Forrester

**Home-bound or facing health concerns:** Marjorie Call, Buck Hall, Mona McElderry, Susan Lutes, Brenda Case, Ruth Blacklock, Gordon Nordbeck, and Laura Brian.

We extend our sympathy as Norm Stewart passed from this life to the next. We also celebrate as Linda Joy and Andy Wagner officially joined our church in October. Both are well known to us and we welcome them with open arms.

**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 Zion UCC, in Brutus.

**Thank You . . . .**

to Phoebe Vance, Jean Edwards, Mickey Austin, and Ruth Catton, for folding, labeling and stamping the October issue of The Joyful Noise.

**A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS -**

	<b><u>COFFEE HOUR</u></b>
<b>11/3</b>	Deacons
<b>11/10</b>	Mary Rodriguez
<b>11/17</b>	Barb Brian
<b>11/24</b>	Beverly Brouwer
	<b><u>HEAD USHER</u></b>

<b><u>NURSERY</u></b>
Char Patterson
Anna Butts
Nancy Call
Mary Rodriguez
Sonny Rodriguez

<b><u>GREETERS</u></b>
Kay Fischer
Mickey Austin
Doii Burget
Jean Bowers

# NOVEMBER 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
					1 12 N - LOWV Library	2 Set Clock Back
3 <b>ALL SAINTS SUNDAY</b>  10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	4 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club  7:00 AA - Barn	5 10:00 Yoga - Barn  6:30 Kiwanis  7:00 WAA - Barn	6 12 AA - Barn 1:00 Women's Fellowship	7 10 Centr Wellness Exercise - Barn 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	8 12 N - LOWV Library	9
10 <b>STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY</b>  10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	11 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	12 10:00 Yoga - Barn  6:30 Kiwanis  7:00 Council 7:00 WAA - Barn	13 12 AA - Barn  3:30 Deacons	14 10 Centr Wellness Exercise - Barn  5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	15 12 N - LOWV Library	16  7:00 Youth Group
17  10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	18 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 5:00 Trustees 7:00 AA - Barn	19 10:00 Yoga - Barn  6:30 Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	20 11 Sarah Circle IV 12 AA - Barn 1:00 Circle I  6:00 Bible Study	21 10 Centr Wellness Exercise - Barn 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	22 12 N - LOWV Library	23
24 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship  11:30 Living with Loss	25 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	26 10:00 Yoga - Barn  7:00 - <b>Community Thanksgiving Worship at St. Ann's</b>  7 WAA - Barn	27  12 AA - Barn	28 <b>THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED</b> 10 Centr Wellness Exercise - Barn 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn	29 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	30

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## ***A Joyful Noise! November 2013***

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

Daniel E. Furman ..... Minister  
Chris Stone .....Treasurer  
Mary Rodriguez.. .....Financial Secretary  
James Sheets.....Church Moderator  
Jean Edwards.....Newsletter Editor  
Carolina Jones & Katrina Smith.....Christian Ed Coordinators  
Hope Kochis ..... Custodian  
Nancy Eggleston .....Secretary

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