

# A JOYFUL NOISE !

April 2014

## **FROM OUR PASTOR**

I want to share with you something that makes me both happy and unhappy. A few days ago, I received a phone call from a woman I have known since she was ten years old. She and her family were members of the church I pastored in Colorado. After graduation from college, this young woman enrolled in seminary and then was ordained into ministry. For nine years, she has been serving a church in Salt Lake City. She has also married and now has a little girl of her own. The phone call was a request. "I have accepted a new position," she said, "the one I sought your wisdom about several months ago. Our long conversation at that time was very instrumental in my decision. It would be an honor for me to have you preach the sermon at my Installation Service." It was, of course, an honor for me to be asked to preach that sermon. The phone call and the invitation is what makes me happy.

What brings unhappiness is that the date for her Installation Service is Palm Sunday. It was not the date she wanted, but it was the only date that Conference and Association representatives could be present. So it is a bit of a dilemma for me. To stay or to go. And yet, these sorts of invitations come along rather infrequently during the course of a pastor's life... and it would be such an honor for me to look down at that young woman on that Sunday and try to speak a few words for God. I have talked with Jim Sheets and Earl Schopp and both have encouraged me to go... as long as I can find someone to fill our own pulpit on that day. So I have accepted the invitation and have also secured Paul Hammer to preach on Palm Sunday for you. Please know that I am grateful for your understanding and that I shall look forward to sharing our Maundy Thursday and Easter services with you when I return.

Fred

## **HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES**

### **Maundy Thursday**

A service of Holy Communion at our church beginning at 7:00 p.m. We will be remembering the night Jesus broke bread with his disciples just before his life ended on Good Friday.

### **Good Friday**

A community service will be held at Blaine Christian Church beginning at 12 noon. Members of all churches are most welcome to attend. Many local pastors will share in leading the service.

### **Easter Sunday**

Our worship service will begin at 10:30 a.m. with a coffee hour to follow. Please come and share with us that which lies at the very core of our faith: God's love is everlasting and eternal.

## **Highlights from the Board of Trustees Meeting on March 17, 2014**

The Board of Trustees met on March 17. We discussed building maintenance and improvements that will begin as soon as spring arrives. Windows for the north side of the sanctuary will be replaced, matching the south windows. All the other outside windows will be scraped and painted. The parking lot is due to be sealed and lines painted. And the landscaping can begin. The landscaping was supposed to happen in the fall, but winter came before we expected it. In addition, Carol Dye reported that we finally have a better settlement from the insurance company for the door that was destroyed in the break-in last November. The Trustees decided to replace both outside double doors. This will bring the doors in line with current building code for glass in doors.

We discussed having an all-church spring clean-up. The suggestion was made to try a Sunday afternoon and have a hotdog roast afterwards. As there is still so much snow, we will wait until next month to schedule a date.

## **Church Council News**

The Church Council meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7 PM. You do not need to be a member of the council to attend. The meeting is open to all.

The financial secretary reported that the total pledges for 2014 are \$104,550. (The 2014 budget is \$149,714.)

We are continuing to look at our website to see what improvements can be made.

Ash Wednesday service had 23 in attendance, which is about double the attendance for last several years.

Women's Fellowship Spring Thank Offering in April will go to the Syrian refugees through the United Church of Christ. We had a good response for the valentines and the cookies for our shut-ins and inmates.

Circle I has spent half of the December cookie walk funds on shades for the pastor's and the secretary's offices. The other half is going to Benzie Home Health Care.

Pastor Fred Edmonds thanked the Women's Fellowship for cleaning, painting and sprucing up the pastor's office.

The Ad Hoc Committee seeking a long-term interim pastor is receiving pastoral profiles from the Michigan Conference office.

We had a lively discussion concerning the directions of the church.

Dates for quarterly potlucks and informational gatherings and fellowship have been set for April 13, July 13, and October 12 immediately following the worship service.

## **POT-LUCK LUNCH AND CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, APRIL 6**

Following the departure of Dan Furman as our church pastor, the Church Council embraced the idea that open and transparent communication should be our goal in the days and months ahead. Thus the Council proposed that, for the foreseeable future, we will gather quarterly in the fellowship hall after worship for a pot-luck meal together. Following the meal, there will be opportunity for open discussion about what sort of church we want to become... and how it is we want to get there. We will also learn more about the progress of finding a permanent interim minister. Jim Sheets, Council president, will moderate the meeting (which will be very informal in nature). Please come and share lunch with us (please bring a dish with you!) and feel free to stay as long as you can and leave when you need to leave. The date is Sunday, April 6, right after church.

### News From the Women's Fellowship

The money from the Cookie Walk has been divided between Benzie Home Health Care and buying shades for the church office. We will join Trinity Lutheran and St. Ann Churches to send the jail inmates a dinner of pizza and pop as a treat for Easter. This is what they asked for. Women's Fellowship is contributing \$30. We will be giving scholarships to our graduates: Paige Sauer, Andrew Wolowiec, Bryce Cutler, Edward Shigwadja, and Jessica Brian. If you know of any other graduates from our church, please let Chris Jones know (378-2116). We will give Emmeline Wolowiec a gift to help with her trip to Washington, D.C. for Close-Up.

The next Women's Fellowship meeting will be on Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 pm. We will be collecting our Spring Thank Offering that is going through the UCC Church to the Syria refugees . After the meeting we will pair off to visit shut-ins who have expressed an interest in a visit. We welcome any one who would like to join us. Sarah Circle IV will meet at the church at 11:00 on Wednesday, April 16. Circle 1 will meet at the church on Wednesday, April 16, at 1:00.

We are going to have a junk sale on Saturday June 28<sup>th</sup>. Please keep this in mind as you do your spring cleaning. And don't forget that April 25<sup>th</sup> is the Mother/Daughter Banquet. We are looking for some men to help with the cooking and serving and clean up. If you can be of help, please contact Carol Dye.

### NEW IN OUR LIBRARY

At his departure, Dan left some books for the library, two of them by J. Kelly Poorman. **All the Little Children** and **And a Child...** are fiction, both revolve around school age boys, in both books bullying is the issue as is homosexuality. In both books the kids themselves take a stand against bullying, their mission being that every student can enjoy a safe, caring environment. The author writes from a first-hand experience as he was bullied as a child. Poorman is very active in his local United Church of Christ in Pennsylvania.

**Memories of a Munchkin** ...was donated by Pat Kinske. The Munchkin is Meinhardt Raabe who played the Coroner in the classic film *The Wizard of Oz*. Raabe's memories of making the film are illustrated with memorabilia from the film: production shots, posters and promotional pieces and numerous other items. It is also the story of this 'little person' and his remarkable courage & energy. Quoting from the dust jacket: "Open this book and travel the yellow brick road one more magical time!" Of special interest to us is the coauthor of the book, Lieutenant Daniel Kinski, U.S.N. The son of Pat and the late Dan Kinski, he grew up in Benzonia , graduated from Benzie Central High School, and attended this church.

### EASTER LILY ORDER FORM



We will once again order and arrange lilies in the sanctuary for Easter. If you wish to donate a lily plant, please submit your order no later than Sunday, April 13. This form may be dropped off in the church office or put in the offering plate. The cost of a lily plant is \$12.00.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to provide a lily plant in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Or in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

APRIL SPECIAL DAYS...**April Birthdays**

Happy birthday to the following members of the church family!

3	Steve Elrick
5	Anna Nordbeck
5	Maridee Cutler
6	Scott Neveu
9	Earl Schopp
12	Shirley Wolfe
13	Steve Davidson
15	Barbara Brian
16	Amanda Case
24	Dave Neiger
25	Jean Edwards
29	Joan Richardson

**April Anniversaries**

23 David and Phyllis Van Hammen

**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: Rosemary Miller and Pink Rearick at The Homesteader; Mary Hopkins at Paul Oliver Long Term Care; Betty Hickman at The Pines; Helen Pickard and Pat Forrester in Traverse City; Homebound or facing health concerns: Marjorie Call, Buck Hall, Mona McElderry, Susan Lutes, Brenda Case, Gordon Nordbeck, Laura Brian, Jean Voight, Doii Burget, Carol Dye, Dee Lyons, and Joan and Jerry Richardson.

**Reminder:** If you, a loved one, or a church member you know is in the hospital, please let the church office know so that our pastor 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.

**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 April to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of the Congregational UCC, in Harrison.

***Thank You***

*We want to thank everyone who helped with the dinner for the Long-Term Care and the Maples residents. An extra special group of students from Benzie Central performed under the direction of Christy Case before dinner and Ann Nordbeck and Mary Ellen Wagner followed up after dinner with a sing-along of Irish tunes. It also happened to be Mary Hopkins birthday. Thirty members of our church helped with this project. Many thanks to all of you.*

*The Deacon's and the Women's Fellowship*

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

	<b><u>COFFEE HOUR</u></b>	<b><u>NURSERY</u></b>	<b><u>GREETERS</u></b>
4/6	Potluck	Linda Jenema	Bill and Kay Bos
4/13	Chris Jones	Barb Brian	The Milks Family
4/20	Deacons	Chris Stone	Phyllis Crowell-VanHammen
4/27	Carolina Jones	Shar Patterson	Barb and Jim Brian

**Head Usher:** David VanHammen

# APRIL 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
		<b>1</b> 10:00 Yoga-Barn  7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>2</b>  12 Noon - AA - Barn  1:00 Women's Fellowship  2:00 MS Support Barn	<b>3</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn  5:30 NA - Barn  6:30 - Kiwanis	<b>4</b> 12 Noon - LOWV Library	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship  <b>POTLUCK</b>	<b>7</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:30 Love, INC 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>8</b> 10:00 Yoga -Barn  5:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 Council  7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>9</b>  12 Noon - AA-Barn  3:00 Deacons	<b>10</b>  10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn  5:30 NA - Barn	<b>11</b> 12 N - LOWV Library	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>14</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:30 Love, INC 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>15</b> 10 Yoga - Barn  5:30 Cub Scouts  7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>16</b> 11:00 Sarah Circle 12 Noon - AA-Barn  1:00 - Circle I	<b>17</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn  5:30 NA - Barn 6:30 - Kiwanis <b>7:00 Maundy Thursday Service</b>	<b>18</b> 12 N - LOWV Library  12N Community Good Friday Service at Blaine Christian Church	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>EASTER</b>  10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>21</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b>  10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:00 Trustees 5:30 Love, INC 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>22</b> 10 Yoga - Barn  5:30 Cub Scouts  7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>23</b>  12 Noon - AA-Barn	<b>24</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn  5:30 NA - Barn	<b>25</b> 12 N - LOWV Library  <b>MOTHER / DAUGHTER BANQUET</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>28</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:30 Love, INC 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>29</b> 10 Yoga - Barn  5:30 Cub Scouts  7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>30</b>  12 Noon - AA-Barn			

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## ***A Joyful Noise! April 2014***

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

Fred Edmonds .....	Interim Minister
Chris Stone .....	Treasurer
Mary Rodriguez.. ..	Financial Secretary
James Sheets.....	Church Moderator
Jean Edwards.....	Newsletter Editor
Carolina Jones & Katrina Milks.....	Christian Ed Coordinators
Jessie Zeller .....	Custodian
Nancy Eggleston .....	Secretary

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