

# A JOYFUL NOISE !

June 2014

## *FROM OUR INTERIM MINISTER*

In her book, *March of Folly*, Barbara Tuchman says the popes of the Renaissance “drifted into vanities, congregated in absurdities, planned shortsightedly, and plotted dementedly.”

Renaissance popes didn’t exactly corner the market on any of that, did they?

I’m sure you have your own example of drifting and demented plotting and planning. I do. Maybe the last few weeks of summer will bring (or continue to bring) all of us a small bit of relief from the irritation and indignation we feel at the folly of others.

You realize, of course, you (and I) are on the other side of that for some people. Whoever they are, they’re enjoying just a little relief from you (and me). Honest. Really.

How’s that feel? Yep, me too. How in the world can God love everybody? Seems to me the hardest part would be getting started. How does love begin? What sets it off, feeds it, shapes it, aims it, matures it?

First, you have to make room, don’t you? Then patience, forgiveness, gratitude, humor, trust . . . And you just keep it up. I know, I know: sometimes you wear out, especially when Things Break Down. What then? How do you keep it going? What do you do when it’s hard? Where do you go?

We’re open all summer. Rest of the year, too. Every Sunday. 10:30 AM.

God is good.

See you in church (and bring someone with you!).

*~ Dr. Charles Guerreno*

## **Highlights from the Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Mike Jones**

The trustees met on Monday, July 21. All members were present. The treasurer reported that we were in the black for our annual budget, but that we were in the red for the month. This was due to several large bills coming due and the compensation paid to Fred upon his leaving (it was unbudgeted). We are pretty close to having to use some of our savings, but this was expected with the budget this year. The capital improvement fund stands at \$34,209 with some donations still coming in.

Work on sealing and striping the parking lot should happen before the end of the month. The landscaping improvements are also underway. The outside painting and installation of new windows on the north side of the sanctuary are pending when the contractors are available. A new office chair for Chuck and a dehumidifier for the Sunday School classroom were purchased.

All church members and groups who borrow church equipment such as chairs are reminded to bring them back clean and returned to their original place. No smoking/smoke free campus signs will be purchased and placed in the outside areas of the church. Next meeting is set for Monday, August 18.

**Below are a couple of reminders that will help with our building maintenance.**

- 1) Hallway lights have been upgraded. There is a new light switch with 3 switches at South end of the hallway. When you walk into a dark hallway, switch on the center switch only. This turns on the center light bulb in each fixture which gives us plenty of light for most days. If additional light is needed, the other two switches can also be turned on. **LAST PERSON OUT ON ANY DAY – please see that all the lights are turned off.** This will save us on our electrical bill.
- 2) **LAST PERSON OUT** in the evening - please also see that the doors are locked.
- 3) Parking Lot upgrades are scheduled for Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> . Asphalt Solutions will be making repairs then sealing and striping the parking lot and in front of the church. Please do not drive on these areas on the 5<sup>th</sup> or the 6<sup>th</sup> so that the parking lot has a chance to dry completely. Of course, if it rains – this will be rescheduled (but hopefully not.)
- 4) We have had a problem with humidity, odor and mildew at the south end of the building. A dehumidifier has been hooked up to drain into the children’s bathroom drain. If anyone wants to use these rooms or there are children in and out of the nursery or Sunday school room, please just unplug the dehumidifier and set aside until the event is over. Then plug it back in.

THANK YOU

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

	<b><u>COFFEE HOUR</u></b>	<b><u>NURSERY</u></b>	<b><u>GREETERS</u></b>
<b>August 3</b>	Deacons	Katrina Milks	Lynn Stephens & Carol Dye
<b>August 10</b>	Kay Bos	Carolina Jones	Gerri Thornell
<b>August 17</b>	Anne Nordbeck	Helen Dewey	Ardith Jones & Gerri Thornell
<b>August 24</b>	Joyce Barnes	Linda Jenema	Jean Bowers & Harriet Stone
<b>August 31</b>	Sarah Circle IV	Chris Stone	Joan Cooper

**Head Usher:** Bill Bos

**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 \$500 you may reserve a square-foot plot that covers future opening and closing as well as a memorial plaque to be placed on the stone along the walkway. Donations for perpetual care are welcomed.

**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 by donating 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.



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Andrea Polhamus
- 3 Roger Weil
- 4 Dorothy Uren
- 4 James Sheets
- 7 Chester Jones
- 7 Theodore Reed
- 9 Dawn Olney
- 9 Clara Reed
- 11 Doii Burget
- 12 James Brian
- 14 Doris Marshall
- 15 Lisa Sauer
- 16 Bud Strong
- 18 Linda Nugent
- 21 Jerald Richardson
- 21 Ruth Catton
- 23 Gordon Nordbeck
- 26 Shelley Thompson
- 28 Al Young
- 30 Susan Lutes



## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Susie and Alan Vigland
- 17 Mary and Doug Rodriguez
- 17 Barbara and James Brian
- 21 Shirley and Art Wolfe
- 21 Agnes and Jerry Slater
- 22 Carol and Steve Davidson
- 23 Pat and Earl Schopp
- 24 Jean and Wally Edwards
- 26 Marilyn and Jim Sheets

## THE BEADED MOCCASIN

**Cath Kelder**

Among many Native American tribes Elders are given a pair of beaded moccasins as a symbol of their contributions to their tribe and their earned place as Keepers of Wisdom. In this monthly column I hope to offer facts and tips that might be of interest to those who are already Wisdom Keepers and those who one day will become Wisdom Keepers.

This month we will talk a bit about how patterns help keep the brain active and rejuvenated. It used to be thought that the brain stopped replacing cells by middle age. Now we know the brain continues to establish neuropath ways though out life, if the brain is stimulated. Remember those card games and Dominos that were played around the kitchen table. These are examples of pattern recognition. You might find Richard Snowden, MD book, [Aging with Grace](#), an interesting read.

I have placed a word search puzzle on the table by the Upper Room. See if you can find all 35 words taken from the Declaration of Independence. As you do the puzzle notice how some words begin to pop out at you.

This month's quote is from Macrina Wiederkehr: *"Help me to believe the truth about myself—no matter how beautiful it is."*

## 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 August to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of the First Congregational UCC of Manistee.

## 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:  
 Pink Rearick at The Homesteader;  
 Mary Hopkins at Paul Oliver Long Term Care;  
 Gordon Nordbeck at The Maples;  
 Rosemary Miller at The Pines;  
 Helen Pickard, Pat Forrester, and Dee Lyons in T.C.  
 Homebound or facing health concerns: Marjorie Call, Buck Hall, Mona McElderry, Susan Lutes, Brenda Case, Jean Voight, Doii Burget, Joan and Jerry Richardson, and Jean Edwards.

**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 minister 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.

# AUGUST 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
					1 10:30 Betty Mitchell's Memorial Service	2
<b>3</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>4</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>5</b> 10:00 Yoga -Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>6</b> 12 Noon - AA-Barn	<b>7</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:30 Choir Practice	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>11</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12-5 - Bridge Club	<b>12</b> 10 Yoga - Barn 7:00 Council 7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>13</b> 12 Noon - AA-Barn 3:00 Deacons	<b>14</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>18</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:00 Trustees 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>19</b> 10 Yoga - Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>20</b> 12 Noon - AA-Barn	<b>21</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:30 Choir Practice	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>25</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>26</b> 10 Yoga - Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>27</b> 12 Noon - AA-Barn	<b>28</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Living with Loss						

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## ***A Joyful Noise! August 2014***

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

Dr. Charles Guerreno ..... Interim Minister  
Chris Stone .....Treasurer  
Mary Rodriguez.. .....Financial Secretary  
James Sheets.....Church Moderator  
Carolina Jones .....Christian Ed Coordinator  
Jessie Zeller ..... Custodian  
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