

A JOYFUL NOISE!

November 2014

Someone asked me if I ever plan to write a book. I said no, but I must admit I've thought about it a little. I don't know what kind of book I'd be qualified to write, but it has occurred to me that in much of my conversation and thought and prayer I'm especially partial to several sentiments coming chiefly from what other people have said or written.

If I ever write a book, it's likely to center around quotes or ideas like these:

- * "Life is lived looking forward but understood looking back." That's a paraphrase of something Soren Kierkegaard once wrote. The older I get, the more I understand it.
- * "It's my turn." When Mitch Albom tries to sympathize with Morrie Schwartz in Tuesdays With Morrie, Morrie deflects Mitch with the observation that it's simply Morrie's turn to be old and sick, and it's Mitch's turn to be young and well. It's blunt and fatalistic, but powerful nonetheless (at least to me).
- * "Life is about losing everything." From Isabel Allende's book Paula, a book about the death of her daughter Paula. It's a good thought for any stage of life.
- * "Punctuated equilibrium." Stephen Jay Gould says that phrase describes evolution. It also works for a lot of other human activity and concern, especially aging. Great change is rarely smooth.
- * "How long will the human experiment last?" Shelby Lee, my mentor in the ministry, asked me that many years ago in the middle of a deep conversation about the ways of God. Shelby was getting at the importance of patience and perseverance, and character and faith. The more I've thought about it, the more it's come to mean.
- * "God remembers." In seven billion years, or so, when the sun becomes a red giant and absorbs what's left of the earth, will it matter that we lived? Yes, because it matters to God, and God remembers.
- * "God is love." My entire ministry turns around trying to do what I can to help that great truth of the Bible inform more and more of life.

That's me. What about you? What would be your book?

God is good.

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

~Dr. Charles Guerrero

FALL UNA REPORT

We met in Clare on September 19 and 20. Benzonia was represented Rev. Chuck Guerreno and delegates Jo Bahry and Cath Kelder. Friday evening was dedicated to the Association business meeting. We still have five churches involved in the Search Process to call a pastor: Benzonia, Cadillac, Ironton, Manistee and Northport. Rev. Gary Peters has been called to pastor Harrison.

Saturday morning Rev. Adam Webber led a Taize service of chanting movement meditation. We then had our morning presenter, Sara Keinath, from Cadillac in a discussion of digital presence of the church in the 21st century. Several key points were emphasized: is the church offering digital marketing or digital ministry; a committee must become responsible for digital content; protocol guidelines must be made clear; the web presence must be updated weekly with event and provocative ideas and questions which call for dialog; Facebook is the site of choice by the "digital natives," those born after 1980; those of us born before 1980 and the "digital immigrants" must work at becoming understanding and knowledgeable in engaging dialog over the internet and in face to face encounters.

The afternoon session was about PTSD. LCOL Linda Fletcher, retired army nurse, has been researching and working with veterans for the eight years. Her information was both enlightening and heart wrenching. A returning combat veteran commits suicide every 65 minutes according to research done in 2012. That adds up to 8000+ veteran deaths a year. Then she added the "kicker:" this study only covered 17 states. Taking this fact into account the suicide death toll is closer to 24,000+ deaths. For ninety years the medical community and veteran affairs have been treating the symptoms and not the root causes.

Traverse City now has an organization dedicated to working with veterans with PTSD. This organization is called AMOH, A Matter of Honor. At least 33% of returning veterans have suffered some degree of PTSD. Linda Fletcher offers a two evening class through NWM College. Check out www.INFO@ANOH.US for dates, times and place. Also there is a conference coming up on November 10 and 11 in Traverse City. Please check out the poster and flier in the narthex. One of the key root causes of PTSD is "moral injury." The church has a vital role to play. But first we need to become an informed covenanted community.

Thank you for the privilege of representing you at the Association meeting.
Your Association delegates: Rev. Chuck Guerreno, Jo Bahry and Cath Kelder

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 9 for Stewardship Sunday. Many thanks if you have already completed and mailed back your Estimate of Giving card for 2015. 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 9 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.

Community Thanksgiving Worship: The Benzie County Ministerial Association is sponsoring the annual Community Thanksgiving Service on Tuesday, November 25, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Frankfort. The service will feature choirs from several of the area churches. Please join us on Tuesday evening as we give thanks.

Women's Fellowship News

Our next meeting will be November 5 at 1:00 p.m. We will be visiting shut-ins and packing gift boxes for our college students.

A special thanks goes out to all of you who purchased items for our kitchen shower last month.

We are having a soup lunch on November 16 after church. Deer hunters are welcome to join us.

Sarah Circle IV will meet at 11:00 on Wednesday, November 19, 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 19, 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 14 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 7, at 9:00 a.m. This is an activity for every one of every age 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.

Giving Tree Tradition Continues

Women's Fellowship is going to make Christmas a little merrier for some Benzie County families. LOVE INC will provide us with the Christmas lists of several families. On November 30, a giving tree will be in Fellowship Hall with gifts listed on tags for adults and children. More information will follow toward the end of November. Thank you for being part of this long-standing tradition and for your spirit of giving.

BEADED MOCCASIN

I have had my thoughts turned toward end of life issues with the death of three members of our congregation and the death of a special friend out in Iowa. Therefore I would like to talk a bit about end of life decisions.

In 1990 the U S Supreme Court ruled that how the end of life wishes were to be handled would be determined by laws in each state. Here in Michigan we have what is called Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care. Some 80% of Americans polled believe they should have the right to choose end of life options, yet only 23% have actually created their state's document addressing their end of life choices.

In Michigan an individual can make his or her wishes known in a document and appoint three advocates to speak on his or her behalf if he or she becomes incapable for letting his or her wishes known.

The Munson System has provided a document called FIVE WISHES. I have place copies of this document on the table in Fellowship Hall. It gives specific instructions that you wish to be followed when and if you are left unable to communicate what you want in the way of your care. The Instructions are activated only when two physicians verify your inability to speak for yourself. At that point the advocate can then use your instructions to direct the type of care you wish. There are three chosen advocates in order to make sure at least one of them can be reached. Once you have filled out the document it is signed by yourself and each of the three advocates. You need to make copies for each advocate and copies for your physician and the hospital. You keep the original.

By having a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, your family and friends will know what you want when that time comes as it will for all of us. If you do not have a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care, I urge you to consider completing the FIVE WISHES.



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Elsie Walton
2	Arthur Wolfe
3	Barbara Hanmer
5	Agnes Slater
7	Mike Jones
8	Nancy Reynolds
9	Sonny Rodriguez
10	Mark Thompson
13	Jeanne Hafer
13	Evan Milks
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

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:

Pink Rearick at the Homesteader;

Mary Hopkins at Frankfort Senior Care Home

Gordon Nordbeck at The Maples

Wally Edwards at Paul Oliver Living and Rehabilitation Ctr.

Rosemary Miller and Susan Lutes at the Pines

Helen Pickard and Pat Forrester in Traverse City

Homebound: Buck Hall, Mona McElderry, Brenda Case, Jean Voight, Doii Burget, and Jerry Richardson.

We share our sympathy as Marjorie Call passed from this life to the next. Our prayers are with her family.

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 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 First Congregational Church, UCC in Onekama.

FLOWERS

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for altar flowers. If you would like to supply flowers, please sign up for a certain date. You may then bring in your own flowers or donate \$25 and we will order flowers from a local florist.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS -

	<u>COFFEE HOUR</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
Nov. 2	Deacons	Kay Bos	Cindy Schnaar and William Schnarr
Nov. 9	Mary Rodriguez	Belle VanHammen	Roger and Phoebe Vance
Nov. 16	Soup Lunch	Nancy Call	Genny Bowman
Nov. 23	Lynn Stephens	Mary Rodriguez	Andy and Christy Case
Nov. 30	Jean Bowers	Kristi Johnson	Belle VanHammen
	<u>HEAD USHER</u>	Sonny Rodriguez	

NOVEMBER 2014

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

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

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Chris Stone	Treasurer
Mary Rodriguez.. ..	Financial Secretary
James Sheets.....	Church Moderator
Carolina Jones	Christian Ed Coordinator
Jessie Zeller Custodian
Nancy EgglestonSecretary

Office phone: 231-882-4922

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Our New Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/BenzoniaCongregational