

# A JOYFUL NOISE!

June 2015

## FROM OUR INTERIM MINISTER

Well, it happened again. There I was, feeling frazzled and hassled, unloved and overwhelmed --stop me if this sounds familiar-- there I was, up to my bald spot in loose ends, bugs and goo when . . . nothing. Nothing changed. Nothing got better. Nothing at all. Happens all the time, at least to me.

Remember this from Psalm 118? It's verse 24: "This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." Sometimes when I think of that or hear it, I do it with a bit of irony.

Psalm 118 is what scholars call a psalm of thanksgiving. Its context is festivals and feasts, celebration and joy. One man calls it "a model for prayer," and someone else says Psalm 118 is about trust. The Christian church uses this psalm most commonly on Palm Sunday and Easter, when the focus isn't on verse 24 but verse 17: "I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD." Martin Luther calls verse 17 "a masterpiece" and concludes "all the saints have sung this verse and will continue to sing it to the end."

Next time it happens to you, the next time loose ends, bugs and goo get the best of you, read Psalm 118. Pay special attention to the way it ends. You've heard that before, too.

God is good.

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

~ Dr. Charles Guerreno

## Strengthen The Church Special Offering: Invest In The Vision

On Sunday, June 21, we will be receiving the Strengthen the Church special mission offering.

Strengthen The Church is a special mission offering to re-imagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, Strengthen The Church largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC voice has not been heard.

Our gifts will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Because of this offering, many more will hear the good news that "God is still speaking."



Visit the UCC site at <http://www.ucc.org/stc/> for more information.

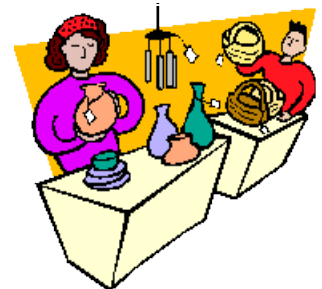


HUGE THANK YOU to all who stayed to help with our Spring Church Clean Up. It was a very successful day – Barn was power washed, trash collected and disposed of, windows washed, shrubbery trimmed, registers vacuumed, nursery cleaned, Sanctuary and Fellowship hall furniture cleaned and pews cleaned – and much more. A great day! Thanks!!

### News From the Women's Fellowship

Circle I would like to thank all who helped make our Mother Daughter Banquet a success. A special thanks to the men who cooked (with Carol Dye's supervision), served and stayed to clean up. Thanks to Chris Gehring, Agnes Slater and Kay Fischer for the nice program, Christy Case and Mary Ellen Wagner for the special music and Miriam Godoshian for the invocation and the Jones Family for the multi-generation toast. Also thanks to the Benzie County Historical Society and all the women who were kind enough to let us display their wedding dresses and wedding memorabilia. We served about 84 and had a wonderful time.

The CLASSIC JUNK SALE will take place on Saturday June 27<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 3 pm. We invite you to donate treasures that you are no longer using. Antiques and collectibles were very popular items last year. Other great items include kitchen items, bedding, towels, tools, gently used household items, toys, landscaping stuff – almost anything you can think of. However – no clothing, books or electronic items such as old computers, printers etc.



You can bring your donated items in starting Sunday, June 21<sup>st</sup>. Please put them in the Sunday School room right next to the south parking lot. Then plan to attend this sale – EVERYONE LIKES TO FIND A BARGAIN OR TWO.

If you have time, we will be needing help with the setting up on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> and also on the day of the sale. If you can help, call Barb Brian at 352-4929 or email her at [The\\_Brians@charter.net](mailto:The_Brians@charter.net).

Women's Fellowship uses funds from this sale to support their programs.

### Highlights from the Board of Trustees Meeting on May 19, 2015

Board of Directors Meeting – May 19, 2015. Treasurer reported that we are in good standing at this point in our financial year with projected budget income and expenses being met. Two new laptops and church accounting software called Church Windows will be purchased through the Memorial Fund to update our accounting system. Christopher and Company, CPA firm, will do a Financial Review of our accounting procedures. Building and Grounds reported that the landscaping work is complete with hydro-seeding of front lawn and sprinkling system update this spring. The sound system has been updated - most important, we will be making recordings of services available to those who cannot attend on Sundays. The overhead lighting system in the sanctuary has been updated. New posters with BUILDING AND USE RULES to be posted in the main Church Building and in the Barn. We want to remind those who use our buildings that this is a non-smoking and alcohol / drug free campus. Also requested that use of tape on walls and ceilings be limited. The church buildings are available for members to use for their special occasions – information at the church office.

## Search Committee Update

The Search Committee met on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. During the preceding month, Co-chairs Chris Jones and Carol Dye, had a telephone conference with our mentor, Rev Cheryl Burke from the UCC office. She is encouraging us to have our “Draft” Church Profile done and to her by the end of June. We will be working toward this goal.

Input from members and friends is so important. Thank you to those who took the time to discuss and answer questions after church during the coffee hour. Responses to questions included these comments.

Question #1 - What are the strengths or positive qualities of your church?

Everyone has such kind hearts – it is a loving church. We are a family. Fellowship is excellent. People are tolerant of different interpretations of scripture. Heritage. Good musicians. Community involvement. Christmas Pageant and Workshop. Great food. Would like to sing more old songs. Love for one another.

Question #2 – What is God calling your Church to become over the next few years?

Talk to each other. Reach out. Cards to those who are absent. Hymn sings. More volunteer activities. Larger Sunday School - More teen activities. Locate and encourage young families. Bring people together. Find a musical director. Prayer circle. “Adopt” families and individuals. Adult education and discuss spiritual matters. Listen and respond to member and community needs.

Good work everyone – we will be back in touch soon.

## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR JUNE VOLUNTEERS -

	<u>COFFEE HOUR</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
<b>June 7</b>	Deacons	Mary Rodriguez	Mike and Carolina Jones
<b>June 14</b>	Mary Rodriguez	Barb Brian	<i>Greeters needed.</i>
<b>June 21</b>	Chris Gehring	Belle VanHammen	Bill and Kay Bos
<b>June 28</b>	Joan Harwood	Carolina Jones	Chris Gehring

**Head Usher:** Mike Jones

**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.



### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Doug Joy, Sr.
- 8 Harold Case
- 9 Alan Appelhof
- 10 Virginia Kilburn
- 13 Leonard Case
- 15 Bob Ward
- 16 Mercedes Smith
- 18 Roger Vance
- 21 Mitchell Webb
- 21 Kathy Neveu
- 25 Ethan Webb
- 28 Chris Stone
- 29 Victoria Joy

### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES



- 2 Doc and Mary Ellen Wagner
- 8 Lee and Chris Stone
- 10 Leonard and Brenda Case
- 14 Mark and Mary Thompson
- 15 Steve and Charlotte Evans
- 22 Roger and Phoebe Vance

### 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 June to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of the First Congregational Church of Charlevoix.

### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### THOSE FACING HEALTH CONCERNS:

**Brenda Case**  
**Tom Kennard**  
**Linda Ponte**

#### THOSE IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES:

**Pink Rearick** who is at the Pavilions in Traverse City.  
**Mary Hopkins** who is at Orchard Creek in Traverse City.  
**Gordon Nordbeck** who is at The Maples.  
**Rosemary Miller and Flo Wellman** who are at The Pines  
**Helen Pickard, Pat Forrester, and Hal Bruning** who are in Traverse City.

#### FOR OUR SHUT-INS:

**Mona McElderry**  
**Doii Burget**

#### FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:

**Mary Cornell** who died on May 11. Her funeral service will be on June 6 at 11:00 a.m.  
**Susan Lutes** who died on May 20. Her graveside service will take place on June 14 at 1:30 p.m. at the Benzonia Twp. Cemetery.

*May their souls and the souls of all the departed rest in peace.*

**Reminder:** If you, or a loved one, 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.

### FLOWERS

There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office 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.



### Congratulations Graduates!

#### **Bailey Barnes**

Daughter of Kristin Vigland and Jim Barnes

#### **Tiana Gould**

Daughter of Jeannette Stafford and Thee Gould

#### **Emmeline Wolowiec**

Daughter of Maria and Rob Wolowiec

# JUNE 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
	<b>1</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn  12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club  7:00 AA - Barn	<b>2</b> 10:00 Yoga -Barn  12:00 AA - Barn  5:30 Cub Scouts  7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>3</b>   12:00 AA - Barn  5:30 Cub Scouts	<b>4</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 10:00 CWS Meeting 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn  6:30 - Kiwanis 7:30 Choir Practice	<b>5</b> 12 Noon - LOWV Library	<b>6</b>   11:00 <b>Funeral for Mary Cornell</b>
<b>7</b>  10:15 Church School  10:30 Worship	<b>8</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club  7:00 AA - Barn	<b>9</b> 10:00 Yoga -Barn  12:00 AA - Barn  5:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 COUNCIL 7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>10</b>   12:00 AA - Barn  5:30 Cub Scouts	<b>11</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn  12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 4:00 DEACONS 5:30 NA - Barn  7:30 Choir Practice	<b>12</b> 12 N - LOWV Library	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>  10:15 Church School  10:30 Worship  1:30 <b>Graveside Service for Susan Lutes.</b>	<b>15</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club  7:00 AA - Barn	<b>16</b> 10 Yoga - Barn  12:00 AA - Barn  7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>17</b>   12:00 AA - Barn	<b>18</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn  12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn  6:30 - Kiwanis 7:30 Choir Practice	<b>19</b> 12 N - LOWV Library	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b>  <b>Strengthen Your Church Offering</b>  10:15 Church School  10:30 Worship	<b>22</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club 5:00 TRUSTEES  7:00 AA - Barn	<b>23</b> 10 Yoga - Barn  12:00 AA - Barn  7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>24</b>   12:00 AA - Barn	<b>25</b> 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn  12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn  7:30 Choir Practice	<b>26</b> Junk Sale Setup  12 N - LOWV Library	<b>27</b>   <b>Junk Sale</b>
<b>28</b>  10:15 Church School  10:30 Worship 11:30 Living with Loss	<b>29</b> 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 - Bridge Club  7:00 AA - Barn	<b>30</b> 10 Yoga - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn  7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>31</b>   12:00 AA - Barn			

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## ***A Joyful Noise! June 2015***

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

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

Office phone: 231-882-4922

Office hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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<http://www.benzoniacongregational.org>

Our Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/BenzoniaCongregational](http://www.facebook.com/BenzoniaCongregational)