

# A JOYFUL NOISE!

March 2015

The other day I was looking for something in The Lord of the Rings and I rediscovered this poem by Bilbo Baggins. I'd completely forgotten it.

1. I sit beside the fire and think  
of all that I have seen  
of meadow-flowers and butterflies  
In summers that have been.

Of yellow leaves and gossamer  
in autumns that there were,  
with morning mist and silver sun  
and wind upon my hair.

I sit beside the fire and think  
of how the world will be  
when winter comes without a spring  
that I shall never see.

4. For still there are so many things  
that I have never seen:  
in every wood in every spring  
there is a different green.

I sit beside the fire and think  
of people long ago,  
and people who will see a world  
that I shall never know.

But all the while I sit and think  
of times there were before,  
I listen for returning feet  
and voices at the door.

Isn't that wonderful? Read it aloud. Meter, cadence, timing; tone, feel, vibe: call it what you will, sometimes J.R.R. Tolkien comes close to the feel of the Bible or Shakespeare, or a really good Super Bowl commercial.

Just kidding about the commercial.

Bilbo's poem touches me. I find myself thinking not just of life and death and such, but of aging and loneliness and how the attention of one caring friend or relative can make a difference in how life feels for someone out of circulation, someone in the wings.

Anyone come to mind? Go visit. Drop in. Yes, Jesus did say, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the age," but somehow that feels closer and more firm when someone brings it by in person.

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

~ Dr. Charles Guerrero



## **SPRING AHEAD**

Remember to turn your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 7. You don't want to be late for church on Sunday morning.

### ***Notes from the Trustees Meeting on February 16***

As this was the first meeting since the annual meeting, we welcomed newly elected Dennis Richards to the board. Officers for this year will be Earl Schopp as Chairperson and Chris Gehring as Vice-chairperson. The secretary duties will be on a rotating basis among all board members. Linda Joy was appointed as head of the Stewardship Committee with Chris Stone and Chris Gehring as members. Carol Dye continues as the head of the Building and Grounds Committee with Mike Jones and Dennis Richards as members.

We are continuing to receive 2015 pledges that now total \$140,000, bringing us closer to the \$150,000 we have projected. This compares with pledges of \$105,000 last year. We discussed the church website and the need for a volunteer to help coordinate with the webmaster. Additional chairs for Fellowship Hall are being provided by Women's Fellowship. Chairs for the library are being purchased with a donation from the Bridge Club. Other donations are furnishing chairs for the pastor's office and The Barn.

Next meeting is Monday, March 16 at 5:00 PM.

### ***From the Search Committee***

Thank you to everyone who responded by filling out the ALL CHURCH SURVEY and returning it to us. We are in the midst of compiling the results and will get back to you. If you have not had a chance to return your survey – you still have time. Call if you need another copy (Carol, 231-392-4005).

Question – Why do we have a Search Committee? Foremost, we need to find a new pastor for our church. We are in the first steps of creating our Church Profile. As we work on this profile, we should be reminded of who we have been historically and discover who we are today. We will ask: What do we want for the future of our church? What do we value and what are our goals? What do we have to give? And perhaps most important, how much faith do we have that we can achieve our goals?

Our next meeting is on February 25<sup>th</sup>. We will keep you posted. And once again we ask for prayers for this journey - guidance, courage and strength. We are all in this together.

### ***Beaded Moccasin***

***Cath Kelder***

I wanted to share with you some facts about water. There was a great article in my last issue of Michigan Polio Network.

Water is essential to staying healthy. Water is needed for all the functions of the body from nerve transmission to digestion. Even our immune system is lowered by dehydration. Low water balance in the body can cause heartburn, constipation, foggy memory, and migraines.

We are not able to substitute coffee, tea, soda, or juice for water. These fluids are stimulants to the nervous system and will actually cause the kidneys to remove more water from the system.

If you would like to peruse the whole article just let me know and I will make you a copy (352-4978).

## ***What's New in the Library***

***Small Victories: Spotting Improbable Moments of Grace***...a collection of new essays and selected pieces from Anne Lamott's older books. Through these essays she assures us that we can prevail over the pain and suffering in our lives, and that these small victories change us---for better--- along the way. Although these are stories about her own life much of what she writes resonates with the reader. A must for all Lamott fans and a point of entry for newcomers.

Donated by Sarah Circle in memory of Joan Richardson.

***What She Left Behind***...This book moves back & forth between the 1930's and the 1990's. Izzy and Clara are the two central characters around which a story of mental illness, loss, love and redemption is formed. These strong, complex women are forced to confront many of the same issues. Themes that play out in each character's story: the idea of a normal life and being denied it, doing what you're told, the strength and love that should exist in a family, and betrayal by a parent. At times the story is sad, but it is also beautiful.

***Safe at Home***...This video is a helpful guide that shows how living at home as you age can be easy, convenient and safe. Learn smart ways to prevent falls, discover ways to improve the functionality of your home. See a variety of options---from simple tips & easy do-it-yourself projects to those that require a skilled craftsman. This book was donated anonymously.

***Unbroken***...the story of Louis Zamperini, a youthful bad boy, a track & field star of the 1930's who participated in the Berlin Olympics, an American serviceman who crashed to sea, spent some 40+ days floating in the Pacific, was "rescued" by the Japanese who held him as a POW before he finally made it back to the U.S. He is the one, though beaten daily by a particular Japanese corporal, who kept getting up, coming back, rebounding and holding on to the tenuous thread that connected him with life and hope. It's a story about faith, strength, endurance. It provides us with a glimpse of what war and imprisonment can do to men.

Donated by Sarah Circle in memory of Marjorie Call whose husband was a POW of the German's in WWII.

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

The Maples dinner and the fellowship meeting have been changed to March 18<sup>th</sup>. Also, please keep in mind that there will be a Mother/Daughter Banquet April 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Young Women's Group will be hosting Soup Sunday on March 15th following the Worship Service. Lunch will include a variety of soups, bread/rolls, dessert, and beverage. See you there!!!

## ***The Jail Ministry***

Last February 23, Kay Bos suggested that we send valentines to the inmates of the Benzie County Jail. If you remember, Kay bought valentines and we signed them and prepared cookie-candy bags for every inmate of our jail. The Women's Fellowship took over this project, and we continued to serve the inmates whenever we were permitted. We have been sending our devotional magazines, along with some used Guideposts to the jail throughout this past year. Again, this February Kay contacted the new Jail Administrator, Dan Smith, and obtained permission for us to send personal valentines to the inmates, along with some wrapped candy. Kay and Bill delivered those to the jail on February 13. This Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, we will be delivering pizza, pop, M/M chocolate chip cookies (from Shop and Save Bakery – we are no longer allowed to send our home-made cookies) plates, napkins and cups to the jail at 3:00 P.M. A card will go with the treats so that someone will know that this is a mission of the First Congregational UCC Church of Benzonia. 'God is still speaking.'

### **Welcome New Members**

On February 15, the following new members were received into our congregation.

**Helen and Miriam Godoshian** came to us by the invitation of Mary Cornell. Helen's husband was an electrical engineer for Detroit Edison. After he retired they moved to Benzie County. He became a consultant and worked in various countries. Helen went with him. Since 1962 they have had a summer place on Lower Herring Lake. About 1997 they moved to Crystal Ridge.

Miriam taught 1st through 4<sup>th</sup> grade at a Waldorf-Inspired school in Detroit. After retiring she went to Sweden, where she had friends. She lived there for 5 years, doing some teaching at an International school. In 2011 Miriam moved to Crystal Ridge to help take care of her parents. (Her father died in Dec. 2012). At Crystal Ridge she met Mary Cornell and was introduced to our church. The Godoshians had attended the Elberta Methodist Church, but our church was much closer and Miriam and Helen fit right in, with Miriam singing in the choir. We are very glad that they joined us.

**Shirley Kennard** and her husband, Tom, have been married for fifty years. They have four children and five grandchildren. Shirley attended Oakland University where she received a B.S. degree in Early Childhood Education. She then worked as a day care director for some years. After her husband retired, she worked at Bordine Nursery in Rochester, Michigan for eleven years. Shirley and Tom moved to Benzonia in 2005, spending six months here and six months in Arcadia, Florida. Now Tom's declining health has kept them in Benzonia year around. Shirley likes to read, garden, and go line dancing at The Gathering Place in Honor. She hopes to become active in our church, helping with dinners and worship services.

**Larry and Mary Wolke** are both lifelong members of the United Church of Christ, and both were confirmed in the E&R tradition. Larry was raised on a farm in Melbourne, Iowa. Mary was born in eastern Iowa, but grew up in Wisconsin (in the other Sheboygan). They met while attending Lakeland College. They have four children, five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. Larry and Mary moved from Iowa into a multi-generational living situation with their youngest daughter and her husband in rural Empire, Michigan.

### **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, March 29. Fill out this form as you wish to have it printed in the Easter bulletin. You may drop off your order at the church office or put it in the offering plate. The cost of a lily plant is \$14.00.



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

\_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

1	Susie Vigland
1	Christine Gehring
2	Helen Pickard
3	Liam Jones
3	John Riegler
3	Brandon Sauer
5	Pink Rearick
5	Brent Strom
6	Calvin Smith
6	Carson Case
9	Jo Bahry
9	Ayden Webb
10	Belle Van Hammen
11	Ted Bahry
12	Kristin Richards
13	Lucas Richards
16	Genny Bowman
18	James Hinkamp
19	Mary Hopkins
22	Maria Wolowiec
22	Caleb Case
23	Roger Sattler
24	Carol Davidson
24	Nick Danford
26	Judith Herban
27	Pat Mead
30	Spencer Manning, Jr.
31	Becky Sattler

**MARCH ANNIVERSARIES**

5	Dennis and Kristin Richards
26	Rob and Debra Rafferty

***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;

Rosemary Miller, Susan Lutes, and Flo Wellman at the Pines;

Helen Pickard, Pat Forrester, and Harriet Stone in Traverse City;

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

***UCC Sister Church of the Month***

As part of our continuing efforts to work together as a community of faith, in worship we have been praying for UCC churches in our United Northern Association. You are invited in March to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of the Zion United Church of Christ in Brutus.

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

**COFFEE HOUR**

Mar 1	Deacons
Mar 8	Shar Patterson & Christy Case
Mar 15	Chris Gehring
Mar 22	Mary Rodriguez
Mar 29	Ashely Ewing & Carolina Jones

**NURSERY**

Mar 1	Agnes Slater
Mar 8	Carol Dye
Mar 15	Kay Bos
Mar 22	Helen Dewey
Mar 29	Linda Jenema

**GREETERS**

Mar 1	Ardith Jones
Mar 8	Kay Fischer
Mar 15	Joyce Barnes & Bob Ward
Mar 22	Miriam Godoshian
Mar 29	Jo Bahry

**HEAD USHER**

Doug Rodriguez

# MARCH 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
<b>1</b>  <b>WOMEN'S SUNDAY</b>  10:30 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>2</b>  10:00 Central Wellness - Barn  12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club  5:00 Love, INC  7:00 AA - Barn	<b>3</b>  10:00 Yoga-Barn  12:00 AA - Barn  7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>4</b>  12 Noon - AA - Barn    7:00 AA - Barn	<b>5</b>  10 Central Wellness Exercise / Barn  12:00 AA - Barn 3:00 Choir Practice  5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn  6:30 - Kiwanis	<b>6</b>  12 N - LOWV Library	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>  10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>9</b>  10:00 Central Wellness - Barn  11:00 Commodities Distribution 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club  5:00 Love, INC  7:00 AA - Barn	<b>10</b>  10:00 Yoga-Barn  12:00 AA - Barn  6:00 Cub Scouts  <b>7:00 Council</b> 7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>11</b>  12 Noon - AA - Barn  <b>3:30 Deacons</b>  7:00 AA - Barn	<b>12</b>  10 Central Wellness Exercise / Barn  12:00 AA - Barn 3:00 Choir Practice  5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn	<b>13</b>  12 N - LOWV Library	<b>14</b>  8:30 Zonta - Barn
<b>15</b>  10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>16</b>  10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club <b>5:00 Trustees</b> 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA / Barn	<b>17</b>  10:00 Yoga-Barn 12:00 AA - Barn  6:00 Cub Scouts  7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>18</b>  12 Noon - AA - Barn  <b>Dinner for The Maples</b>  7:00 AA - Barn	<b>19</b>  12:00 AA - Barn  3:00 Choir Practice  5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn  6:30 - Kiwanis	<b>20</b>  12 N - LOWV Library	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>  10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>23</b>  10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club  5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>24</b>  10:00 Yoga-Barn 12:00 AA - Barn  6:00 Cub Scouts  7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>25</b>  12 Noon - AA - Barn   7:00 AA - Barn	<b>26</b>  10 Central Wellness Exercise / Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 3:00 Choir Practice  5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn	<b>27</b>  12 N - LOWV Library	<b>28</b>  8:30 Zonta - Barn
<b>29</b>  <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>30</b>  10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club  5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>31</b>  10:00 Yoga-Barn 12:00 AA - Barn  6:00 Cub Scouts  7:00 WAA - Barn				

First Congregational Church, UCC  
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## ***A Joyful Noise! March 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

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Office Email: [secretary@benzoniacongregational.org](mailto:secretary@benzoniacongregational.org)

<http://www.benzoniacongregational.org>

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