

A JOYFUL NOISE!

May 2015

FROM OUR INTERIM MINISTER

I'm a calendar watcher. Always have been. It seems to help me keep my focus, my sense of where I'm headed and why. I'm thinking now of the ten months and ten days I've been interim minister here. It's gone quickly, probably because we've been so busy together.

Now the search committee is busy working on this church's "congregational profile," the document with enough information about you to get your search publicly underway. It's a combination historical document and vision piece, a way to introduce you to that person who'll turn out to be your next settled minister. For me, anyway, this unique and timely coming together of history and vision make it an exciting time.

I'm reminded of something from Halford Luccock's 1938 book, *The Acts of the Apostles in Present-Day Preaching*. It has to do with Acts 2.17b (a reference to Joel 2.28b): "Your sons and your daughters will proclaim [God's] message; your young men shall see visions, and your old men will have dreams" [TEV]. Dr. Luccock writes, When [the old] have not handed on to their children the disturbance of high dreams, it is hard for the children to discover the atmosphere in which seeing visions is natural. . . .

Unless "a person sees visions when he is young he will not dream dreams when he is old," says Halford Luccock. In other words, if the young make no capital investment in faith, hope and love, in the form of vision, there will be no investment [interest] coming into age.

Dreams and visions have always been necessary to Christian faithfulness. We know that by faith. This time of year, then, as you begin to look to summer travel and weekend trips, please don't let special times and places come and go with no thought for God's wider purpose. This church is preparing for the future, a future based on the dreams and visions you believe God in Christ has for you.

In the meantime (and by God's grace), let it be that all of us, old and young alike, will continue to try to follow where God would have us go and so bring in the future God intends.

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

~ Dr. Charles Guerreno

News from The Deacons

We will once again be sponsoring the Pizza and Pops evening out. On May 18, we will meet at the church at 5:30 for pizza, salad, and dessert and then carpool up to Benzie High School to enjoy the Spring Pops Concert, an evening of wonderful music from the choir. This is a great opportunity to get to know other members of our church and support the youth of our community. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board about May 1, so that we know how much pizza to order. Everyone is welcome; please join us!



**SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY
AND POTLUCK
MAY 17**



There's work to be done both inside and outside our church to make it sparkle. Please join us for a potluck and a spring cleaning workbee on after worship on May 17.

**GRADUATION SUNDAY
MAY 31**

Congratulations
to our Benzie Central graduates

Bailey Barnes
the daughter of Kristin Vigland
and Susie Vigland's granddaughter

Tiana Gould
the daughter of
Jeannette Stafford and Thee Gould

Emmeline Wolowiec
the daughter of
Rob and Maria Wolowiec



Highlights from the Board of Trustees Meeting

The Board of Trustees met on Monday, April 20. Treasurer Stone informed the board that the church will be in the red for both March and April, due to insurance payments, and interim training. April will be in red for carpet cleaning, drains fixed and urinal repairs.

We are going to consolidate the Sunday school fund, youth fund, and Christian education fund into one account. We are trying to consolidate as many accounts to more streamline the balance sheet. We have approved the purchase of two new lap-top computers for the treasurer and accounts department. We continue to look for someone to either do a review or audit of our financial records.

Glen Lake Electric has given us a quote to replace the dimmer system in the sanctuary, as this system is very old. We hope to be able to update the system in the choir loft at a later date. The lights will be replaced with LED bulbs.

The next trustees meeting has been changed to May 19, 2015, at 5:00pm, due to pizza and pop activity at the church, followed by the Pops Concert at Benzie Central.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Joy, acting secretary

Search Committee Update

We are working on updating the membership list. If anyone has a new address or email address, would you please let the church office know, or call Barb Brian at 231-352-4929.

News From the Women's Fellowship

There is no Women's Fellowship meeting this month, but Circle 1 will meet on Wednesday, May 20, at 1:00 in The Barn. This will be a spring barn cleaning bee and a review of the banquet.

We send a big Thank You out to Carol Dye and the men who helped prepare and serve the dinner for the Mother Daughter Banquet. It was fantastic!

Please keep us in mind as you do your spring cleaning. Our Junk Sale is on Saturday, June 27.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR MAY VOLUNTEERS -

	<u>COFFEE HOUR</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
May 3	Deacons	Jean Bowers	Joyce Barnes and Bob Ward
May 10	Chris Stone	Nancy Call	Kay Fischer and Doii Burget
May 17	Potluck and Workbee	Kristi Johnson	Pat and Earl Jones
May 24	Esther Rodriguez	Chris Stone	Beth Sheets, Tiana Gould, And Malia Jackson
May 31	Graduation Sunday	Chris Jones	Doug and Mary Rodriguez

Head Usher: Mark Thompson

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 First Congregational, UCC of Cadillac.

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 Committee is working to enhance the relationship between our church and Crystal Lake Elementary school. One way we can do so is to collect and donate new 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.

GoodSearch.com

Remember that if you use the Internet, you can earn money for the church using www.goodsearch.com. One penny per search, or more for internet shopping, is donated directly from the website to our church. Designate us by entering our church name as the charity of your choice.

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 \$450, you may reserve a one-square foot plot that covers future opening and closing as well as a memorial plaque to be placed on the stone located along the walkway. Please speak with Chuck for more information. Donations for perpetual care are also welcomed.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Trish Manning |
| 6 | Trevor Danford |
| 7 | Wade Peacock |
| 7 | Mickey Austin |
| 8 | Mary Cornell |
| 9 | Taylor Johnson |
| 12 | Katrina Smith |
| 14 | Peter Hopkins |
| 15 | Joanne Applehof |
| 21 | Sally Moss |
| 23 | Marilyn Sheets |
| 25 | Bill Bos |
| 26 | Rob Wolowiec |
| 26 | Sabra Danford |
| 27 | Kris Johnson |
| 29 | Ruth Blacklock |
| 30 | Larry Czap |



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 5 | John and Barbara Riegler |
| 7 | Don and Jean Voight |
| 9 | Al and Anne Young |
| 13 | Michael and Nancy Call |
| 17 | Scott and Kathy Neveu |
| 23 | Wayne and Marilee Strom |
| 25 | Jim and Alice Hinkamp |
| 27 | Larry and Nancy Czap |

Card Party for Ruth Blacklock

On Friday, May 29, Ruth Blacklock will celebrate her 90th birthday. Please shower her with cards at
4652 N. Winans Road
Alma, MI 48801

Let us show our love for her with cards and hugs. Happy Birthday, Ruth!!



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 Hal Bruning in Traverse City;
Homebound: Mona McElderry, Jean Voight, and Doii Burget.

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.

Flowers

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for altar flowers. If you are interested in supplying flowers, please sign up for a certain date. You may then bring in your own flowers or donate \$25 to the church to make the arrangements with a local florist. If you would like the bulletin to reflect your donation, please let the church office know who the flowers honor or memorialize, as well as identifying yourself as the donor.



MAY 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
					1 12 Noon - LWV Library	2
3 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	4 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 1:00 CW - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	5 10:00 Yoga -Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 5:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 WAA - Barn	6 12 Noon - AA-Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	7 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 3:00 Choir Practice 5:30 NA - Barn 5:30 Cub Scouts 6:30 - Kiwanis	8 12 N - LWV Library	9
10 MOTHER'S DAY 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	11 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 1:00 CW - Barn 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA - Barn	12 10 Yoga - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 5:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 COUNCIL 7:00 WAA - Barn	13 11:00 Sarah Circle 12 Noon - AA-Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	14 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 10:00 CWS Meeting 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 3:00 Choir Practice 4:00 DEACONS 5:30 NA - Barn 5:30 Cub Scouts	15 12 N - LWV Library	16
17 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship POTLUCK & WORK-BEE	18 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 PIZZA AND POPS 7:00 AA - Barn	19 10 Yoga - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 5:00 TRUSTEES 5:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 WAA - Barn	20 12 Noon - AA-Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	21 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 3:00 Choir Practice 5:00 MRT Support 5:30 Cub Scouts 5:30 NA - Barn 6:30 - Kiwanis	22 12 N - LWV Library	23
24 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	25 MEMORIAL DAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	26 10 Yoga - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 5:30 Cub Scouts 7:00 WAA - Barn	27 12 Noon - AA-Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	28 10 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 3:00 Choir Practice 5:30 Cub Scouts 5:30 NA - Barn	29 Ruth Blacklock's 90th Birthday 12 N - LWV Library	30
31 GRADUATION SUNDAY 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship						

First Congregational Church, UCC
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Phone: (231) 882-4922

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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.

Office Email: secretary@benzoniacongregational.org

<http://www.benzoniacongregational.org>

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