

A JOYFUL NOISE!

March 2019

Like Snow

Suppose we did our work
like the snow, quietly, quietly,
leaving nothing out.

Hello Fellow Travelers,

As yet another snow storm has come through our lives and area, I contemplate a piece to share. We cancelled church yesterday and that was a hard decision. It was not snowing or blowing at 7 or at 8, but the decision is to be made by 8. Those that make the call were wondering.... When will it start, "they" say that the blizzard will be in full effect by 12 noon. But we have chili and games.... Chimes are to ring... The roads will be bad, white outs... I think you get the picture. It is not an easy decision.

I came into the office this morning after much consideration; the roads are icy, more white outs predicted, the ice mound in my driveway and the road barely cleared, can Sam make it out her road... I came in. And then the wonderful check ins start to happen here at the office. "Big drift over this way" "No internet here" "Stay safe and watch the ice in the parking lot". Life continues and we care for each other.

To help reset the morning I picked up *Leavings*, a book of poems by Wendell Berry. The first poem in the book is the one above. I struck me. I laughed out loud. Shoveling in my neighborhood this morning was not quiet. The wind yesterday Was Not Quiet. Any yet there were moments yesterday that I looked out my window, and the wind had stopped ever so briefly, and saw big beautiful snow flakes gently falling.

The snow shoveled this morning was heavy and dense, hard to move. Not the light airy snow that I feel in reading *Like Snow*.

And here I have sat for 15 minutes reflecting on this poem. Moved by this poem.

Sometimes we do our work quietly as not to be seen in our giving and doing. Sometimes we do our work like the storm yesterday, loud and boisterous and having a lot of attention.

I invite you to reflect, read, breathe into, the snow.

See you along The Way,

Patty

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Nancy Reynolds	Eric Atkinson	Liz
Ruth Blacklock	Elisabeth C.	Family & friends of Joel Stratton
Pat Forrester	Jerry R.	Family & friends of Randy Strauch
Helen Pickard	Les F.	Lewiston UCC
Hal Bruning	Chris Lowe	

UCC SISTER CHURCH OF THE MONTH

As part of our continuing efforts to work together as a community of faith, we pray for UCC churches in our United Northern Association. You are invited to pray this month for the ongoing mission and ministries of Lewiston UCC.

FLOWERS

If you would like to supply flowers, please sign up on the sign posted on the bulletin board. You may then bring in your own flowers or donate \$30 to the church to make the arrangements with a local florist.

THANK YOU TO OUR MARCH VOLUNTEERS

	COFFEE	NURSERY
MAR 3	Deacons	Pat Schopp
MAR 10	Chris Gehring	Carol Dye
MAR 17	Barb Brian	Kay Bos
MAR 24	Mary & Sarah	Will Jones
MAR 31	Chris Stone	Sheila Dinger

HEAD USHER: Andy Case

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Tim Brian, Susie Vigland, Christine Gehring
- 2 Helen Pickard, Miriam Godoshian
- 3 Liam Jones, John Riegler, Brandon Sauer
- 5 Brent Strom
- 6 Calvin Smith, Carson Case
- 7 Beau Wagner
- 9 Jo Bahry, Ayden Webb
- 10 Belle Brown
- 11 Ted Bahry, Bev Brouwer
- 12 Jeffrey Maddock, Kristin Richards
- 13 Lucas Richards
- 16 Genny Bowman
- 22 Maria Wolowiec, Caleb Case
- 24 Carol Davidson, Nick Danford
- 26 Judy Herban
- 29 Carol Dye
- 30 Spencer Manning, Jr.

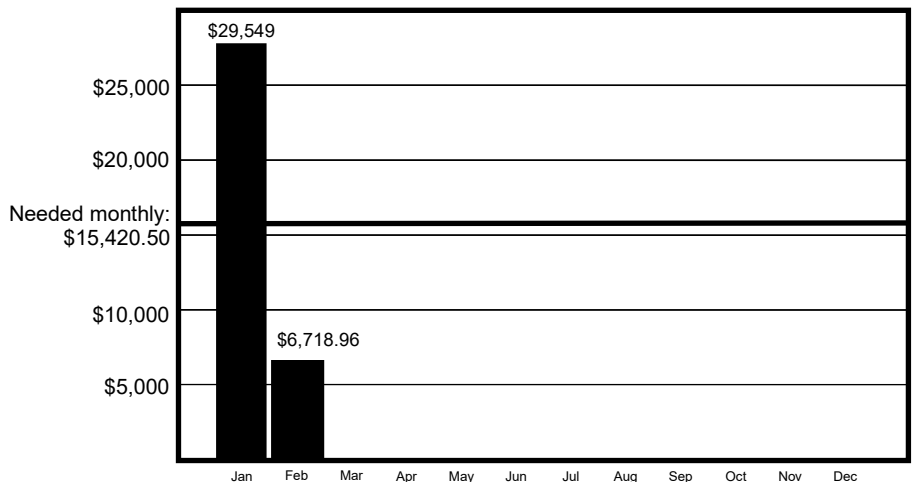
MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Dennis and Kristin Richards
- 26 Rob and Deb Rafferty

What is BIG Sunday?

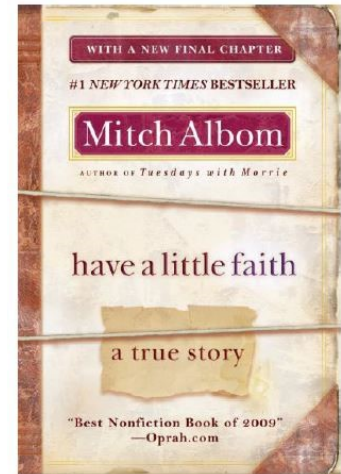
BIG stands for Bring In Groceries; groceries brought in on BIG Sundays are donated to Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN) to help provide a meal to those in need. BIG Sundays are the first Sunday of every month — as are Holy Communion Sundays — and are a great way for us to share the love and feast of communion and community.

2019 Monthly Unified Budget Report



BOOK DISCUSSION

A book study will be held in our church library during the month of March. Dates will be March 10 thru March 31 (four Sundays). Times will be 9:30 to 10:15am. The book is "Have a Little Faith" by Mitch Albom. He shares a true story of receiving this question from his rabbi: "Will you do my eulogy?" Though reluctant to accept the invitation, and uncertain about his ability to do it, he says yes. After that, the book becomes a journey of faith that is tender, transporting, and deeply moving. The discussion leader will be Fred Edmonds. Please ask Carolina Jones or Pastor Patty about availability of books or where to obtain one.



LEGO MOVIE



The Garden Theater will be having a free showing of *The LEGO Movie* (the original) on April 14 at 2:00pm. Please join us for an afternoon where everything will be awesome!

CIRCLE I

Circle I will meet Wednesday, March 20 at 1:00 at the church. Pat Schopp is hostess. Final details will be completed for the Mother/Daughter Banquet.

DO YOU HAVE...?

The nursery is in need of paper towel rolls, toilet paper rolls, and clean soup cans. They will be used for art projects. Please contact Melanie with any donations.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Sunday is March 3rd. Kay Bos, Mary Wulke, and Carol Dye are giving the message. Chris Stone has organized the rest of the morning.

We have had another donation of \$2,000 for the kitchen fund, giving us a total of \$7,300.

Our March meeting is being held Wednesday the 13th because Ash Wednesday is on the 7th. We will be hosting the Maple/Long-Term dinner. The meeting will start at 1:00pm with the board meeting at 12:30pm. Sarah Circle IV is in charge of refreshments.

MOTHER/DAUGHTER BANQUET

Circle I would like to remind you to mark your calendars for the Mother/Daughter Banquet on Friday, April 26 at 6:00pm at the church. We will be looking for men to help prepare the food, serve, and clean up. If you can help, please see Carol Dye.

FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COORDINATOR

*Yet, O Lord, you are our God;
We are the clay, and you are our potter;
We are all the work of your hand. —Isaiah 64:8*

Greetings and many blessings to you all. As we approach the end of our second trimester, I'd like to go back and reflect on the things we have accomplished during this time. I would like to let you know that we have successfully transitioned our 5th-7th Graders to their own class. This is exciting news! I am so looking forward to continuing to challenge them and providing more opportunities that contribute to their faith journey. As you may know, all our classes are working on our "Have a Little Faith" unit. I have to say, conversations have been fantastic! From songs and videos to felt boards and games, we are using all kind of ways to make the classes fun and interesting. We can not do this without our wonderful volunteers, so please give a special shout-out to every single one of our volunteers supporting Melanie in the Nursery, Mike Jones teaching Middle school class, Mr. Sheets teaching the youth class, and Fred Edmonds who will lead the conversations with the adults. To all of you that are reading the book and are planning to be part of our class, I would like to let you know that we have decided to do 4 classes instead of 1. We will meet at the library for 4 Sundays starting on March 10th to 31st from 9:30-10:15 am. Details will be posted on bulletin board, and announced in the Friday Blast and during church.

What's next? For our Lent unit, we will invest 6 weeks to study Jesus' life and teachings. We will follow the children's Lent experience "Walk His Ways", that provides weekly challenges to walk his ways at home, school, and everywhere we go. This year for Lent we won't be giving something up but giving something to, just like Jesus did. Middle schoolers and youth will follow the curriculum as well, but their weekly challenge will consist of 1 community service each week. We will have lots of fun! I will inform the congregation each week about our service of the week and will encourage adults to join us if possible. Please, take a minute to talk with the kids about their weekly challenges and share your experiences with them. This unit will start on March 17th and go all the way to Easter.

We are currently looking for volunteers to teach our middle school or youth class. If you are interested, please contact me to talk about this. Curriculums are simple and fun. I will work with you to incorporate what you want to share with the class I prepare for the week. The best part of all is to spend that time with our little ones, and the satisfaction to be a little light to lead their way.

—Carolina

March 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 12N LOWV	2
3 10:30 Worship & Church School 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	4 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA (Barn)	5 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 5:30 WAA (Barn)	6 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn) 7:00 Ash Wed.	7 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	8 12N LOWV	9 8:30 Men's Breakfast @ Papa J's
10 9:30 Have a Little Faith 10:30 Worship & Church School <i>Daylight Savings</i> 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	11 9:00 Trustees 11 Commodities Distribution 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA (Barn)	12 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 5:30 WAA (Barn)	13 12N AA (Barn) 1:00 Women's Fellowship 7:00 AA (Barn)	14 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 11:00 Deacons 12N AA (Barn) 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	15 12N LOWV	16 Zonta (Barn)
17 9:30 Have a Little Faith 10:30 Worship & Church School 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	18 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA (Barn)	19 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 5:00 Council 5:30 WAA (Barn)	20 12N AA (Barn) 1:00 Circle I 7:00 AA (Barn)	21 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	22 12N LOWV	23
24 9:30 Have a Little Faith 10:30 Worship & Church School 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	25 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA (Barn) <i>Sam out of office</i>	26 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 5:30 WAA (Barn)	27 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	28 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	29	30
31 9:30 Have a Little Faith 10:30 Worship & Church School Committee Member Installation 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	<div style="border: 2px solid green; padding: 10px; margin: auto;"> <p>Future View:</p> <p>April 14: Palm Sunday April 14, 2:00: LEGO Movie @ Garden Theater April 18, 6:00: Maundy Thursday Supper & Service w/ Communion April 19: Good Friday April 21, 7:00: Easter Sunrise Service April 21, 10:30: Regular Service April 26, 6:00: Mother/Daughter Banquet</p> </div>					

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A Joyful Noise March 2019

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BENZONIA UCC
BENZONIA, MICHIGAN



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Our Website: <http://www.benzoniacongregational.org>
Our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/BenzoniaCongregational

Barn—February 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 6-8 ACOA	4 12N AA 7:00 AA	5 10:00 Yoga 12N AA 5:30 WAA	6 12N AA 7:00 AA	7 9-10:30 AA 12N AA 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA	8	9
10 6-8 ACOA	11 12N AA 7:00 AA	12 10:00 Yoga 12N AA 5:30 WAA	13 12N AA 7:00 AA	14 9-10:30 AA 12N AA 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA	15	16 Zonta
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