

A JOYFUL NOISE!

April 2017

From the Interim Pastor:

Hello to members and friends of First Congregational Church. I am enjoying getting to know the congregation better and learning about how we do things here. Slowly I am learning names and faces. It really helps for everyone to wear name tags.

It is very pleasing to discover that we are very active both in our community and with our connection to the United Church of Christ. At the Christian World Service meeting, I learned about our special offerings like “One Great Hour of Sharing,” “Strengthen the Church,” and CUE. In the next few months, I hope we will all be learning more about these important offerings.

You have encouraged me to make contact with some of our helping agencies and I have done so. The work of places like BACN and Grow Benzie are very impressive and I am happy that we can support these efforts.

Our way of worshiping is becoming clearer to me as well. The women led the entire service on March 5 and did an excellent job. I was very impressed with the content of their service as well as the way they delivered it.

Thank you for welcoming me and Jennifer into your church family. We are happy to be a part of this faith community.

Tim Murtaugh

April Birthdays

- 3 Steve Elrick
- 4 Joanne Harwood
- 5 Anna Nordbeck
- 5 Maridee Cutler
- 6 Scott Neveu
- 9 Earl Schopp
- 12 Shirley Wolfe
- 13 Steve Davidson
- 15 Barbara Brian
- 16 Amanda Case
- 18 Jean Bowers
- 22 Olivia Brian
- 24 Dave Neiger
- 27 Mary Wolke
- 30 Jaxon Brown



April Anniversaries

- 14 Steve and Lynn Stephens
- 23 David and Phyllis Van Hammen

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

THOSE FACING HEALTH CONCERNS:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Brenda Case | Ruth Blacklock |
| Judy Herban | Jean Bowers |
| Tom Kennard | Nancy Reynolds |
| Gary Brouwer | David Neiger |

THOSE IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES:

- Pink Rearick** who is at the Culver Meadows
- Mary Hopkins** who is at Frankfort Senior Care
- Rosemary Miller** who is at The Pines
- Helen Pickard, Pat Forrester, and Hal Bruning** who are in Traverse City

GARY and BEV BROUWER would like to thank the congregation, friends, and family for their prayers and cards. They were much appreciated! Gary is now walking with a walker and recovering at home.

FLOWERS

If you would like to supply flowers, please sign up on the sign posted on the bulletin board, and indicate who the flowers honor or memorialize. You may then bring in your own flowers or donate \$25 to the church to make the arrangements with a local florist.



A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR APRIL VOLUNTEERS

	<u>COFFEE HOUR</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
Apr 2	Deacons	Kay Bos	Earl and Pat Schopp
Apr 9	Potluck	Linda Jenema	
Apr 16	Easter	Chris Stone	
Apr 23	Soul Sisters	Mary Wolke	
Apr 30	Sarah Circle IV	Agnes Slater	

HEAD USHER

David VanHammen

FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Still working ... First, we would like to welcome Rev. Tim Murtaugh as our Interim Pastor...looking forward to working with him. Since the beginning of the year, we have received only four new profiles and have done Skype interviews with two of these candidates. Since about the end of January, there have been no new profiles to review. Chris Jones and Carol Dye met with Rev Tim – he let us know that he will be gone on Sunday May 7th and suggested that we invite Rev. Cheryl Burke to fill the pulpit that morning. We did that and she accepted. The Search Committee will meet with her after the service to review the work we have done and look to the future. As always, we will keep the congregation in the loop!!

FROM THE DEACONS

The Deacons met on March 9th. Thank you to the Soul Sisters for providing a delightful Chili Lunch on Feb 26th – many stayed for the games after. Easter dates to remember include Palm Sunday on April 9th, Maundy Thursday (April 13th) with Communion Service in Fellowship Hall at 7 pm. Easter Sunday of course is April 16th. There are several FUN EVENTS to look forward to. Mother Daughter Banquet on April 28th. Spring Pops Concert on May 23rd which our own Christy Case directs - there will be a Pizza Supper before at the Church. 100 Vouchers have been secured for a Beach Bum game in July – always a great time – more info later! Please put these on your calendar – ***bring friends!***

FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Sunday School students will be holding a Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, April 23. They will be serving pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, and beverages from 9:15am to 10:15am. The Freewill Offering will help fund the Mackinac Island Trip.

On Sunday, April 30, the Sunday School students will participate in a Kentucky Derby-themed Bible Challenge. Get your snacks and coffee and join them in the Fellowship Hall following worship.

POTLUCK REMINDER

An informational meeting and potluck will take place after church on Sunday, April 9. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Women's Fellowship will be meeting at 1:00 on Wednesday April 5th. Mary Peters will be informing us about the "Blessings in a Backpack" program. Also keep in mind the Mother/Daughter Banquet on the 28th. Hope to see you there.

The Women's Fellowship would like to get shades for the last three classrooms. We have enough funds for two rooms but would like to get the third one done at the same time. If anyone is interested in helping us out with this project, please contact Chris Stone or Barb Brian.

CIRCLE 1

Circle 1 will meet Wed. 4/12 @ 1:00 at the church. We will be finalizing the plans for the Mother/Daughter Banquet. Phyllis Crowell-VanHammen is the hostess.

Circle 1 is looking for some men to help prepare, serve, and clean up for the Mother/Daughter Banquet. If you are able to help, please contact Carol Dye. A sign up sheet will be in the fellowship hall in mid-April.

MOTHER/DAUGHTER BANQUET

The Mother/Daughter Banquet is Fri., April 28 @ 6:00 P.M. The program is "Reflections of Roland Roycraft." Tickets are \$14.00 adults, \$7.00 ages 5-12, children 4 and under are no charge. All women of the church and their women friends and relatives are invited. Tickets will be on sale after church Sunday 4/9, 4/16 and 4/23 or you can call Chris Stone @ 882-5205 to reserve some. Please purchase or reserve them by 4/24. If anyone has Roland Roycraft paintings they would like to bring in for the program, please contact Chris Stone or Barb Brian.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

There will be a special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing on Sunday, May 14 (Mother's Day). When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, it goes to those suffering from natural disasters (nationally and world-wide), war, or systemic poverty. Response is immediate for those in disaster situations. We have a goal of \$500 for this offering. Please help those in need.

LIBRARY NEWS

Ordinary Grace...

The story is set largely in a small Minnesota town in the summer of 1961. The narrator writes as a middle-age man looking back on that summer when he was 13. Several deaths occur in the community, the first that of a sometime friend of the boy. The community is badly shaken by this unexpected violence. One of the deaths rip Frank's family apart. Quoting one reviewer: 'the awful grace of God' as it manifests itself within the novel would try the faith of the most devout believer. Yet, ultimately, the world of this novel is one of redemptive grace and mercy.

Sarah Circle donated this book in memory of Doii Burget and Pat Mead.

Why did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha, and Mohammed Cross the Road?

This metaphor of great religious leaders crossing the road is not the beginning of a joke. Rather the author suggests that by going beyond mere "tolerance" we can join in solidarity to become a force against injustice and inhumanity. It is an essential lesson about loving our neighbors and tolerating their differences. Even if we don't agree, we will be better for having explored the ideas presented.

A Song of Faith offers short commentaries on the 104 best chapters in scripture grouped in pairs by theme.

The Kennedy Myth: American Civil Religion in the Sixties tells the Kennedy story from John Kennedy's presidential campaign through Robert Kennedy's assassination, analyzing it in terms of civil religion. Both books were written by James S. Wolfe and were anonymous donations. Jim, a poet, preacher, and professor, has worshipped with us in the past when spending time with his family on Crystal Lake.

April 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 10:30 Worship & Church School	3 10:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12 N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 2:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 5:00 Love INC 7:00 AA (Barn)	4 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12 N AA (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	5 12 N AA (Barn) 1:00 Women's Fellowship 7:00 AA (Barn)	6 12 N AA (Barn) 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA (Barn) 7:30 Choir	7 9:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12 N LOWV (Library)	8 8:30 Men's Fellowship @ Papa J's
9 (Palm Sunday) 10:30 Worship & Church School (Potluck and Meeting)	10 10:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12 N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 2:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 5:00 LoveINC 7:00 AA (Barn)	11 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12 N AA (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn) 7:00 Council	12 12 N AA (Barn) 1:00 Circle 1 7:00 AA (Barn)	13 (Maundy Thursday) 12 N AA (Barn) 4:00 Deacons 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA (Barn) 7:30 Choir	14 (Good Friday) 9:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12 N LOWV (Library)	15 8-12 Zonta (Barn)
16 (Easter) 10:30 Worship & Church School	17 10:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12 N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 2:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 5:00 Love INC 5:00 Trustees 7:00 AA (Barn)	18 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12 N AA (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	19 12 N AA (Barn) Women's Fellowship Circles 7:00 AA (Barn)	20 12 N AA (Barn) 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA (Barn) 7:30 Choir	21 9:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12 N LOWV (Library)	22
23 9:15 Pancake Breakfast 10:30 Worship & Church School	24 10:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12 N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 2:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 5:00 Love INC 7:00 AA (Barn)	25 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12 N AA (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	26 12 N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	27 12 N AA (Barn) 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA (Barn) 7:30 Choir	28 9:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12 N LOWV (Library) 6:00 Mother-Daughter Banquet	29
30 10:30 Worship & Church School (Derby-Themed Bible Challenge)						

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A Joyful Noise April 2017

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

Rev. Timothy Murtaugh.....	Interim Minister
Chris Stone	Treasurer
Mary Rodriguez.. ..	Financial Secretary
Jerry Slater.....	Church Moderator
Carolina Jones	Christian Ed Coordinator
Rose DuFrane	Custodian
Mary Ellen Wagner.....	Organist

Office phone: 231-882-4922

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