

# A JOYFUL NOISE!

April 2018

Hello fellow sojourners,

As some of you may know the United Church of Christ instituted a new theme last year at General Synod. It is Three Great Loves. Over the next two years there will be conversations and initiatives around Love of Neighbor, Love of Creation, and Love of Children.

As some of you may know I have a great passion for the younger learners in our midst. I have been invited to play after worship in the nursery as well as to eat at the little table. I have been given awesome recommendations as to where to eat and get my ice cream by an enthusiastic young man. Much less he follows up to see if I have been there yet. 😊 I have been offered Legos and shared chocolate. Each and every one of you hold these children in love and care.

As some of you may know First Congregational Church host both Family Life Center, a learning space for Love INC., as well as offering a space for Holy Cross Children Services for supervised family visits. The children that come are beautiful and caring divine images of God.

As some of you may know I am meeting with two young adults (technically youth, but once in conversation with them, you know that they are young adults) in Faith Formation class, leading to confirmation in May. These two engage enthusiastically with their mentors and me concerning faith traditions, church history, the Bible and God. In July the three of us will be attending the Great Lakes Regional Youth Event (GLRYE) at Elmhurst College. This will be a place full of young people using their voice to express themselves and to change the world. Malia and Liam will be helping to lead worship Easter Sunday. It is amazing to see how their faith is forming.

In all of this “As some of you may know” language I want to focus and highlight how we here show the Love of Children. It is incredible! It is exciting! It is heartfelt and sincere!

Matthew 21:15-16 ~ When the religious leaders saw the outrageous things he was doing and heard all the children running and shouting through the Temple, “Hosanna to David’s Son!” they were up in arms and took him to task. “Do you hear what these children are saying?” Jesus said, “Yes, I hear them. And haven’t you read in God’s Word, ‘From the mouths of children and babies I’ll furnish a place of praise’?”

April 15<sup>th</sup> the Christian Education team and the Soul Sisters with the help of Carol Dye will be hosting a Spaghetti Lunch. The free will offering will be to benefit Malia and Liam in their trip to GLRYE. Come and eat with them. Come and listen to all our young people. Support them as they find their footing in the world. Share a table and a story with them. They have some really remarkable things to say!

See you along the Way,

Patty

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Steve Elrick
- 4 Joan 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
- 27 Mary Wulke
- 30 Jaxon Brown



### APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

- 14 Steve and Lynn Stephens
- 23 David and Phyllis VanHammen

### 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.

### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- |                               |                      |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Helen Dewey</b>            | <b>Jennifer</b>      |
| <b>Nancy Reynolds</b>         | <b>Pete Moss</b>     |
| <b>Ruth Blacklock</b>         | <b>Pat Forrester</b> |
| <b>Baker-Patterson Family</b> | <b>Hal Bruning</b>   |
| <b>Dan</b>                    | <b>Helen Pickard</b> |
| <b>David</b>                  |                      |
| <b>Jared</b>                  |                      |
| <b>Family of Jerome King</b>  |                      |

### 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 to pray this month for the ongoing mission and ministries of Old Mission UCC.

### 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 \$30 to the church to make the arrangements with a local florist.



### THANK YOU TO OUR APRIL VOLUNTEERS

- |               | <b>COFFEE</b>  | <b>NURSERY</b> |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>APR 1</b>  | Deacons        | Chris Stone    |
| <b>APR 8</b>  | Barb Brian     | Linda Jenema   |
| <b>APR 15</b> | Soul Sisters   | Char Patterson |
| <b>APR 22</b> | Work Bee       | Mary Wulke     |
| <b>APR 29</b> | Sara Circle IV | Kris Richards  |

**HEAD USHER:** David VanHammen

## **TRUSTEES**

The budget is in the black for the month, due to pre-paid pledges. The Case family memorial will be used to upgrade the baptismal font, candelabra, and paraments. The new floor in the barn will be completed as soon as possible because of the heavy schedule in the barn. We will be re-keying the entire church and barn. There will be a limited number of keys made and only a few people with access. The board has approved a Safety and Security seminar for April 12, 2018 at the church. The seminar is being conducted by Lt. Brian Gutowski from the Manistee Sheriff Department. We urge each of you to join us for this very important seminar. Mark your calendar: April 12, 6-7:30pm, at our church. A snack will be provided.

## **CHRISTIAN ED**

Congratulations to Carson Case and his Crystal Lake Elementary OM Teammates on their First Place at the State Finals Competition. The team qualified for World Finals and will be traveling to Iowa to compete.

The Sunday School students will be collecting returnable bottles and cans during the month of April. The returnables can be dropped off at any day of the week in the large Sunday School room. All funds raised will be donated to the OM Team to be used towards trip expenses.

## **SOUL SISTERS**

On Sunday, April 15th, the Soul Sisters and Carol Dye will be hosting a Spaghetti Lunch following Worship Service. A Free Will Offering will be collected for those wanting to donate.

In July, Malia Jackson and Liam Jones, along with Pastor Patty, will be attending the UCC Great Lakes Regional Youth Event at Elmhurst College. The funds raised from the Spaghetti Lunch will be used to defray the cost of the event. This is an excellent opportunity for our young adults and we are honored to do our part to continue their spiritual growth.

## **NEWS FROM BETSIE HOSICK HEALTH AND FITNESS CENTER**

The Fitness Center is excited to announce that we will be offering Movement and Balance classes Monday through Friday starting in May. At the present time, we offer these classes on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday at 11am. Our instructors are certified to work with a wide range of movement issues, including those caused by Parkinson's Disease, Muscular Sclerosis, Arthritis, and the aging process. We can accommodate people who need mobility assistance, and our facility is handicap-equipped. We would be very happy to answer any of your questions or concerns regarding the classes or membership options. Contact Betsie Hosick Health and Fitness Center at 231-352-9661, or Deb Cename, RN/BSN at 231-352-7481.

# April 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1</b> <b>7:00 Sunrise Service</b>  <b>10:30 Worship &amp; Church School</b>  <b>BIG Sunday</b>	<b>2</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9-12 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>3</b> 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 7:00 WAA (Barn)	<b>4</b> <b>11:00 Memorial Committee</b> 12N AA (Barn) <b>1:00 Women's Fellowship</b> 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>5</b> 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn) <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>6</b> 9:00 Moms in Prayer 9-4 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N LOWV (Library) 5:30-7 Kirtan Yoga (Barn)	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>10:30 Worship &amp; Church School</b>  <b>Faith Formation Class</b>	<b>9</b> 9-12 Centra Wellness (Barn) 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>10</b> 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS <b>7:00 Council</b> 7:00 WAA (Barn)	<b>11</b> 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>12</b> 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) <b>4:00 Deacons</b> 4-7 HCCS 5:00 MRT (Barn) 6:00 Safety and Security Seminar 7:00 NA (Barn) <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>13</b> 9:00 Moms in Prayer 9-4 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N LOWV (Library) 5:30-7 Kirtan Yoga (Barn)	<b>14</b> Zonta (Barn) <b>8:30 Men's Breakfast @ Papa J's</b>
<b>15</b> <b>10:30 Worship &amp; Church School</b>  <b>Spaghetti Lunch Fundraiser</b>	<b>16</b> 9-12 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N 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) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 7:00 WAA (Barn)	<b>18</b> 12N AA (Barn) <b>1:00 Circle I</b> 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>19</b> 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn) <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>20</b> 9:00 Moms in Prayer 9-4 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N LOWV (Library) 5:30-7 Kirtan Yoga (Barn)	<b>21</b> <b>Day of Service</b>
<b>22</b> <b>10:30 Worship &amp; Church School</b>  <b>Christian Education</b>  <b>Work Bee</b>  <b>Faith Formation Class</b>	<b>23</b> 9-12 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>24</b> 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 7:00 WAA (Barn)	<b>25</b> 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>26</b> 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn) <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00 Moms in Prayer 9-4 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N LOWV (Library) <b>6:00 Mother-Daughter Banquet</b> 5:30-7 Kirtan Yoga (Barn)	<b>28</b> <b>UNA Spring Meeting in Onekama</b>
<b>29</b> <b>10:30 Worship &amp; Church School</b>	<b>30</b> 9-12 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA (Barn)					

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## *A Joyful Noise April 2018*

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BENZONIA UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

Patty Higgins.....	Pastor
Chris Stone .....	Treasurer
Mary Rodriguez.. ..	Financial Secretary
Mary Ellen Wagner.....	Organist
Andy Wagner.....	Sound Technician
Rose DuFrane .....	Custodian
Samantha Mullet.....	Secretary
Melanie Bredbanner.....	Nursery Staff
Jerry Slater.....	Church Moderator
Carolina Jones .....	Christian Ed Coordinator

Office Phone: 231-882-4922    Office Hours: M–F 9am–12noon

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Our Website: <http://www.benzoniacongregational.org>

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