

# A JOYFUL NOISE!

August 2017

From the Interim Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of First Congregational Church

Now it is time for me to say “good-bye” and for us to say “hello” to our newly called pastor, Patty Higgins. Patty plans to arrive in a U-Haul truck on Tuesday, August 1. (She might need help unloading.) Then, after getting unpacked and settled in, her ministry will begin on Monday, August 7. This will be the culmination of three years of planning and hard work by the Search Committee and the entire congregation. Truly, it will be a new chapter in the history of this historical congregation. It is an exciting time.

So I must clear out the office and make way for her. It is the role of an interim minister. It has been a wonderful experience serving First Congregational Church. Everyone has been so supportive and kind to me and to Jennifer. We are both grateful for this opportunity to get to know you and to participate in the congregational life with you. We certainly hope to be able to stay in touch.

Many have asked what my future plans are and I have to say I don't know. I hope to do more interim ministries, either through the United Church of Christ or the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ.) We will just have to wait and see what happens.

Meanwhile, please know that I have the highest regard for this congregation and am very positive about its future here. I have loved being here. Thank you for all you have done.

Tim Murtaugh

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Andrea Polhamus
- 3 Roger Weil
- 4 Dorothy Uren
- 4 James Sheets
- 4 Toni Dye
- 7 Chester Jones
- 7 Theodore Reed
- 9 Dawn Olney
- 9 Clara Reed
- 11 Amy Winters
- 12 James Brian
- 14 Doris Marshall
- 15 Lisa Sauer
- 15 Peter Jenema
- 18 Linda Nugent
- 20 Sara Moorhead
- 20 Andy Wagner
- 21 Jerry Richardson
- 21 Ruth Catton
- 26 Shelley Thompson
- 28 Al Young



**AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES**

- 17 Doug and Mary Rodriguez
- 17 James and Barb Brian
- 21 Art and Shirley Wolfe
- 21 Jerry and Agnes Slater
- 22 Earl and Pat Schopp
- 26 Jim and Marilyn Sheets

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**

- Brenda Case**                      **Ruth Blacklock**
- Nancy Reynolds**                **Kay Fischer**
- David Neiger**                    **Gary Brouwer**
- Judy Herban**                    **Andy Wagner**
- Genny Bowman**

**Rosemary Miller** who is at The Pines  
**Helen Pickard, Pat Forrester, and Hal Bruning**  
 who are in Traverse City

- Family of Mary Hopkins**
- Family of Pink Rearick**
- Family of Nancy Czap**

**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 May to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of First Congregational Church of Clare.

**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.



**THANK YOU TO OUR AUGUST VOLUNTEERS**

	<b>COFFEE</b>	<b>NURSERY</b>
<b>AUG 6</b>	Deacons	Chris Gehring
<b>AUG 13</b>	Ann Nordbeck & Mary Thompson	Chris Jones
<b>AUG 20</b>	Genny Bowman & Ann Young	Pat Schopp
<b>AUG 27</b>	Church Picnic	Mary Wolke

**HEAD USHER:** Bill Bos

## LIBRARY NEWS

***Saving Arcadia***....a narrative nonfiction account about the fight to save the Arcadia Bluffs area from developers told by one of the principal players in the event. The quote about a small group of people changing the world comes to life in this endeavor. The ending is especially poignant when we are reminded that we all are responsible for the care of our natural resources...it is not just the thrill of protecting beautiful part of the world but now comes the daily-ness of maintaining it. Kind of like having a child.

Thanks to Miriam Godoshian for the donation of this timely book.

The Milliron family has donated several books from Mary's library. All are good books, in excellent condition, but are older and you may have read them. I'll leave them in a group on the library table for a while before shelving. They are ready for check-out. The group includes:

- *Wild Goose Chase*...Mark Batterson
- *Wild at Heart*...John Eldredge
- *Uprising*...Erwin Raphael McManus
- *Love and Respect*...Dr. Emerson Eggerichs
- *Mistaken Identity*...Don & Susie VanRyn and Newell, Colleen & Whitney Cerak
- *Uppity*...Bill White
- 

The books on the book cart have been removed from the collection. If you see something you would like, feel free to take it...only request is that it be recycled when you have read it!



## **BACN/BACON COOK-OFF**

Mark your calendars for the annual BACN/Bacon Cook-off—August 26<sup>th</sup>, from 11 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, Frankfort.

Area chefs will create delectable small dishes containing—you guessed it—bacon! Sample as many as you like and vote for your favorite. Tickets are \$3 per small plate. Water and lemonade are provided free of charge.

BACN/Bacon also hosts a raffle (need not be present to win) where two lucky winners will draw tickets for ½ a processed, packaged pig. Raffle tickets are \$5 each or 6 for \$25. Raffle tickets can be purchased the day of the event, or prior at BACN or from a BACN Board member.

For more information, call 231-882-9544, or email [kottinger@benziebacn.org](mailto:kottinger@benziebacn.org)

## **COFFEE HOUR/NURSERY SCHEDULES**

It is time to create the coffee hour and nursery schedules for 9/2017 - 8/2018. Let us know if you would like to make a change in your schedule or if you would like to be added to the schedules.

Coffee Hour: Barb Brian (352-4929, [the\\_brians@charter.net](mailto:the_brians@charter.net))  
Nursery: Chris Stone (882-5205, [chrisjstone47@gmail.com](mailto:chrisjstone47@gmail.com))

We are hiring a new nursery attendant but it is important to have a volunteer in there each week also.

Coffee hour does not need to be fancy. It can be just cookies and crackers and cheese. The cookies can be store bought. Coffee, juice, crackers, cheese, and napkins are provided by the Women's Fellowship. Don't hesitate to ask for help with the serving and clean up.

These are important ministries for our church. If we do not hear from you, we will follow the same format as last year.

# August 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		<b>1</b> 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	<b>2</b> 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>3</b> 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA (Barn) <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>4</b> 12N LOWV (Library)	5
<b>6</b> <b>10:30 Worship &amp; Church School</b>	<b>7</b> 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 2:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>8</b> 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) <b>7:00 Council</b> 7:00 WAA (Barn)	<b>9</b> 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>10</b> 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club <b>4:00 Deacons</b> 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA (Barn) <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>11</b> 12N LOWV (Library)	<b>12</b> <b>8:30 Men's Breakfast @ Papa J's</b> 9-2 Crystal Ridge Meeting
<b>13</b> <b>10:30 Worship &amp; Church School</b>	<b>14</b> 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 2:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>15</b> 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	<b>16</b> 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>17</b> 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA (Barn) <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>18</b> 12N LOWV (Library)	19
<b>20</b> <b>10:30 Worship &amp; Church School</b>	<b>21</b> 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club <b>5:00 Trustees</b> 2:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>22</b> 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	<b>23</b> 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>24</b> 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA (Barn) <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>25</b> 12N LOWV (Library)	26
<b>27</b> <b>10:30 Worship &amp; Church School (Church Picnic)</b>	<b>28</b> 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 2:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>29</b> 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	<b>30</b> 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>31</b> 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA (Barn) <b>7:30 Choir</b>		

First Congregational Church, UCC  
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## *A Joyful Noise August 2017*

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

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

<http://www.benzoniacongregational.org>

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