

A JOYFUL NOISE!

August 2018

Hello Fellow Travelers,

My, how the year has flown!! As of August 7th, I will have sat in the Pastor's Study for a full year. As many of you may have heard me say on occasion, "I am in need of a learning lesson." Or "I am still in a learning curve." I wonder how long I can continue to say these things. However, it has been a wonderful year of learning.

Over the past month I have come to reflect a bit on the stories that we hold and the stories that we share, and how all of that fits into learning about each other. I read this question the other week and it has me wondering, "How do we acknowledge the personal and communal history that each individual brings with them?" How do we hear another's story? What do we learn from the other when we listen.

In a year I have learned so many pieces of both personal and communal history here. The stories that we share. I have learned about the old church building and seen pictures of the Bailey's. There is a huge file of marriage certificates and paperwork as well as the file of baptisms. I have listened to the stories of eight new members, two of which were confirmands. I am still learning about who is related to who, just meeting a person today that has family interned in the Memorial Garden. All of it so life affirming and beautiful.

I am also learning of some of the places that hurt. The stories that we tend to hold closely. I have heard about the harsh words and the misunderstandings. Some of them places where our differences overtake our similarities. Maybe not as beautiful as the first form of sharing but part of life no less.

I have learned where the paper supplies and spoons are kept. I have found the sprinkler system and the toilet plungers. I still ask for directions, or at least rely on my phone's GPS. I may still need to ask which group takes care of what in terms of community care and giving at Christmas time. So, all said, I am still in a learning curve and in need of learning lessons, and sometimes that is on a daily basis.

But I also think that all of us are continually learning. This week, month, (next 5 minutes) I encourage you to stop and reflect on how you share and how you listen to another's stories and what you may learn from them. How much do we actually hear and how much do we just nod our head to? I hope that in all of these reflections we, together, can see how our similarities can really outweigh our differences.

See you along The Way,
Pastor Patty

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 Peter Jenema
- 15 Lisa Sauer
- 18 Linda Nugent
- 20 Sara Moorhead
- 20 Andy Wagner
- 21 Jerry Richardson
- 21 Ruth Catton
- 26 Shelley Thompson

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 Doug and Mary Rodriguez
- 17 James and Barbara Brian
- 21 Jerry and Agnes Slater
- 23 Earl and Pat Schopp
- 26 James and Marilyn Sheets

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

- Helen Dewey
- Nancy Reynolds
- Eric Atkinson
- Ruth Blacklock
- Pat Forrester
- Helen Pickard
- Hal Bruning
- Church of the Month: Brutus

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 Brutus 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 AUGUST VOLUNTEERS

	COFFEE	NURSERY
AUG 5	Deacons	Chris Gehring
AUG 12	Mary Thompson & Ann Nordbeck	Chris Jones
AUG 19	Bill & Kay Bos	Pat Schopp
AUG 26	Church Picnic	Mary Wulke

HEAD USHER: Bill Bos

FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees met on July 18. The treasurer reported that the budgeted income is not keeping up with the budgeted expenses. A window will be put in the door of the nursery. ASCOM is coming to check the speakers in the sanctuary to see if they are functioning correctly. Job evaluations are being done.

CIRCLE I

Circle I would like to remind the coffee hour and nursery volunteers that it is almost time to make out the schedules for 9/2018 - 8/2019. If you are one of these volunteers and are OK with the dates you have, no response is necessary. If you would prefer a different date or can't do it any more, please contact Barb Brian for the coffee hour and Chris Stone for the nursery. If you are not currently one of the volunteers and are willing to help, please call Barb Brian or Chris Stone.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES!

As the old Staple's commercial goes, "It's the most wonderful time of the year!". This play on the beloved Christmas song goes to say that heading back to school is the most wonderful time. I know as a student I was one of the odd kids that really did look forward to going back to school. I am sure that my mother was just as happy as there were four of us in the house over the summer months.

With all of that said it is not always the most wonderful time if you have severe budget restraints and have to get those four kids ready for the classroom.

The good news is we have the opportunity to help and I know that we are really good at helping our neighbors. Love INC. is collecting school supplies to help families in both Benzie and Manistee county. I invite you that while you are out at any of your favorite shopping places to stop and pick up any school supply that suits you. They are looking for everything from pens and crayons to the backpack to put them into. From tissues to glue to binders and paper. From kindergarten to high school. You get the idea? There is a full list on the bulletin board at church.

I will place a collection box in greeting space of the church and will deliver it to Love INC. when we are done. Donations can be made up to August 15th.

Thanks for all that you do!
Pastor Patty

CHURCH PICNIC

On August 26th we will be having our annual church picnic right after church. The board of Christian Ed and the board of Deacons will provide the hot dogs and hamburgers and drinks. Please bring a dish to share and your table service. This is a great time to invite your neighbors and friends. Hope to see you then.

NEW MEMBERS

On July 29th we are privileged to welcome three new members into our family. We welcome Joan Cooper, Chris Lowe and Larry Czap. If you see them during coffee hour or passing of the peace be sure to give them a warm welcome. May God's blessings be on them.

THANK YOU NOTES

"I am writing this letter to tell you how much I appreciated the pizza and soda pop; it was a blessing...Sometimes it may take something as simple as a nice card and a couple slices of pizza from some followers of Christ Jesus to make you more thankful for the daily things in our lives that I myself take for granted...Your card was uplifting and very much needed...Please keep me in your prayers and I will also pray for your church. Pray for those in here that Christ will move them to accept him...May the love and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your church and church members." —Jeff Blankenship (inmate in the county jail)

"Dear Friends in Christ: Thank you for your gift to support Hurricane Relief Efforts, designated for Puerto Rico. Your donation will help address the emergency now, as well as the long-term recovery that will be needed to get communities restored and people back into their homes. Thank you for being inspired by God's grace, for partnering with us in loving our neighbors and uniting with us to build a just world for all." —Nichole M. Collins, UCC Associate Director

"Thanks for everything! ... Thanks so much for the wonderful hospitality! ... Thank you for hosting us. We have had a wonderful time here!" —The FCC Georgetown Youth Group

All of our thank you notes are posted on the bulletin board for you to read and enjoy!

BENZIE HABITAT VOLUNTEERS

Benzie Habitat is preparing for the 2018 Build and we need volunteers for our build crew! We will be building a 1076 sq. ft., single-family residence at [14568 Day Avenue, Thompsonville, Michigan](#). Whether you can work several days a week, or just one – for multiple weeks, or just one - we will be deeply grateful for your support. For more information contact: Bill Merry, Executive Director 231-352-7953; williamrmerry@gmail.com

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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

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