

A JOYFUL NOISE!

February 2018

Hi Fellow Travelers,

At the time of me writing this piece we are three days away from the Annual Meeting here at First Congregational and I am wondering what it will hold. I have not yet experienced this meeting here. What I do know is that the church officers, committee chairs, and Sam have been busy preparing the reports. There has been a team working between stewardship and finance to set a new budget. A subcommittee of the Trustees has been working hard to fill a new slate of officers and committee members. People have been talking about Safe Harbor and changing the name of this congregation. All of this is hard work. All of this is God's work moving through us.

As I contemplate what is ahead of us I keep hearing Micah 6:8 in my head. From the King James version: He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God. To the Message interpretation: But he's already made it plain how to live, what to do, what God is looking for in men and women. It's quite simple; Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, and don't take yourself too seriously – take God seriously.

I believe that these are words that serve us well. They call us to be a compassionate church. They call us to get our hands busy and perhaps a bit dirty or calloused. They call us to love one another, all of us, inside these four walls and outside in the world. They call us to follow the prophets. These words carry over to the work of Jesus and call to us to continue the work laid out before us.

So, now that the meeting is over, and a new year lays ahead of us, what does it look like to:

Do Justice

Love Mercy

Walk Humbly

Walking with you along the Way,

Patty

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Judy Polhamus
- 2 Peter Moss
- 2 Leah Johnson
- 4 Ryan Strom
- 8 Christy Case
- 8 Mary Gehring
- 8 Elizabeth Neiger
- 9 Chris Jones
- 13 Kim Weaver
- 14 John Gehring
- 14 Delores Jones
- 16 Lynn Hopkins
- 23 Donna Knox
- 25 Wyatt Brown
- 29 Marilee Strom
- 29 Marsha Case



REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Helen Dewey
Family of Rosemary Miller
Family of Art Wolfe
Family of John Abbett
Joshua
Helen Pickard, Pat Forrester, and Hal Bruning,
who are in Traverse City

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 New Waves, 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 FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

	COFFEE	NURSERY
FEB 4	Deacons	Mary Rodriguez
FEB 11	Roxane Miner	
FEB 18	Chris Stone	Chris Gehring
FEB 25	Soul Sisters	Christy Case

HEAD USHER: Andy Case

CHILI LUNCHEON AND GAMES

The Board of Deacons along with the Soul Sisters are once again sponsoring a chili luncheon and games Sunday, February 25. We will meet right after church on February 25th to enjoy chili made by the Soul Sisters. Afterwards we will gather to play games and cards. Be sure to mark this on your calendar and bring a friend to church that day to join us. If you have a favorite game to share, bring it too!



CIRCLE 1

Circle 1 will meet Wednesday, February 21 at 1:00 at the church. Barb Brian is the hostess. Come with ideas for the Mother/Daughter Banquet.

PRAYER CHAIN

The Board of Deacons is looking forward to improving the Prayer Chain. We have lost some valuable members and are hoping to add some new ones. A little info on this very meaningful mission is that they are members or friends of our congregation who pray for anyone who would appreciate prayers. Either a member or friend of our congregation will call either Patty or a member of the group. That person then calls the next person on the list asking for prayers. They in turn then call the next person. If no one answers the phone they then move on to the next person. All this can be done from home. If you are away you could receive the call if you list your cell phone. If this is something you would be interested in joining, please give Chris Jones a call (231 645-9229) or talk to me at church. Thanks for your help!

February 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	2 9-4 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N LOWV (Library)	3
4 10:30 Worship (with Holy Communion) & Church School BIG Sunday Faith Formation Class	5 9-12 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA (Barn)	6 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 7:00 Council 7:00 WAA (Barn)	7 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 7:00 AA (Barn)	8 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4:00 Deacons 4-7 HCCS 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	9 9-4 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N LOWV (Library)	10 Zonta (Barn) 8:30 Men's Breakfast @ Papa J's
11 10:30 Worship & Church School	12 9-12 Centra Wellness (Barn) 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA (Barn)	13 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 7:00 WAA (Barn)	14 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	15 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	16 9-4 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N LOWV (Library)	17
18 10:30 Worship & Church School Christian Education Meeting Faith Formation Class	19 9-12 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Trustees 7:00 AA (Barn)	20 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 7:00 WAA (Barn)	21 12N AA (Barn) 1:00 Circle I 4-7 HCCS 7:00 AA (Barn)	22 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	23 9-4 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N LOWV (Library)	24
25 10:30 Worship & Church School Chili Luncheon and Games	26 9-12 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA (Barn)	27 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 7:00 WAA (Barn)	28 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 7:00 AA (Barn)			

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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

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Our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/BenzoniaCongregational