

A JOYFUL NOISE!

January 2018

Hello Fellow Travelers,

This past summer I had the opportunity to attend General Synod 31 in Baltimore. It was a fantastic experience. During the Synod, Rev. Dorhauer unveiled a new initiative for the next two years. It is called 3 Great Loves. This past week Rev. John Dorhauer with Rev. Traci Blackmon and Rev. James Moos, the executive team of the UCC, sent out a Christmas message, highlighting this message again. It has me thinking.

This is what the UCC.org website has to say about the initiative:

The United Church of Christ has a vision of a just world for all. In this world all are welcomed, everyone is loved, and justice is inherent. 3 Great Loves is our denomination's opportunity to live out our Love of God and vision of a just world for all and express how our Love of Neighbor, Love of Children, and Love of Creation work together to address the inequities in our current world.

I have seen many things happening around The First Congregational Church of Benzonia, UCC that falls in line with this proclamation. We open our doors to Family Life Center and several anonymous groups. We give to BACN and Benzie Senior Resources. These are but a few of the places that I see show Love of Neighbor and Love of Children. Which leaves me wondering how we show and live Love of Creation.

As we enter in 2018 I would love to hear what you think about this vision and how we can step deeper into it. Do we say yes to Safe Harbor next winter? Is there a need with children of the community that we can help fill? Do we put sensors on the lights and compost the coffee grinds?

These are some of my thoughts. I would love to hear yours.

In Christ's Love,
Patty

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Randy Dye
- 4 Janet Townsend
- 4 Shannon Townsend
- 6 Andrew Call
- 6 Bud Cleghorn
- 11 Esther Rodriguez
- 12 Tad Peacock
- 17 Judy Johnson
- 18 Jean Voight
- 19 Mark Weaver
- 21 Donovan Haase
- 21 Shirley Kennard
- 25 Helen Dewey
- 26 Mary Rodriguez
- 29 Debra Rafferty
- 30 Linda Joy
- 30 Beth Sheets
- 31 Kelsey Neveu



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 18 Harold and Marsha Case

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

**Helen Dewey
Case Family
Mary Wolke
Neiger Family
Walton Family
Geri Thornell
Rosemary Miller**, who is at The Pines
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 First Congregational Church of Manistee.

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 JANUARY VOLUNTEERS

	COFFEE	NURSERY
JAN 7	Deacons	Jo Bahry
JAN 14	Linda Joy & Joan Harwood	Agnes Slater
JAN 21	Lynn Stephens	Barb Brian
JAN 28	Annual Meeting	Pat Schopp

FROM THE TRUSTEES

At the November Trustee meeting new flooring for the sitting area in the Barn was discussed. The speakers in the choir loft will be checked. A committee was formed to look into a new building use fee schedule and a security plan was discussed. The treasurer reported that the value of our investments has increased \$7600.00 in the last quarter. The monthly income had decreased and some funds may have to be transferred from savings by the end of the year.

FROM CIRCLE I

Circle I would like to thank all the bakers and shoppers who helped to make our cookie walk a success. We made \$609.33. We will be sending \$304.00 to Angel Gowns and the balance will be used to purchase a chair storage cart for the Barn. Thanks also to all those who helped us get set up and helped take down so we would be ready for the funeral.

Circle I will meet Wednesday, January 17 at 1:00 at the Church. Chris Jones is the hostess. Our next projects are the Maples dinner and the Mother/Daughter Banquet.

ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

Mark your calendars! On January 28, 2018 we will have our Annual Meeting after the Sunday service. Please bring a dish to pass and your own plate and flat wear. Also bring any questions, comments or suggestions you might have.



January 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 9-12 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA (Barn)	2 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	3 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	4 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA (Barn)	5 9-4 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N LOWV (Library)	6
7 10:30 Worship (with Holy Communion) & Church School	8 9-12 Centra Wellness (Barn) 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA (Barn)	9 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 3:45-6 HCCS 7:00 Council 7:00 WAA (Barn)	10 10:00 Budget Meeting 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	11 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 3-6:30 HCCS 4:00 Deacons 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA (Barn)	12 9-4 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N LOWV (Library)	13 Singing Sisters (Barn) 8:30 Men's Breakfast @ Papa J's
14 10:30 Worship & Church School	15 9-12 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Trustees 7:00 AA (Barn)	16 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 3:45-6 HCCS 7:00 WAA (Barn)	17 11:30 Benzie Area Ministerial Association 12N AA (Barn) 1:00 Circle I 7:00 AA (Barn)	18 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 3-6:30 HCCS 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA (Barn)	19 9-4 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N LOWV (Library)	20 Zonta (Barn)
21 10:30 Worship & Church School	22 9-12 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA (Barn)	23 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 3:45-6 HCCS 7:00 WAA (Barn)	24 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	25 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 3-6:30 HCCS 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA (Barn)	26 9-4 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N LOWV (Library)	27
28 10:30 Worship & Church School Annual Meeting and Potluck	29 9-12 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA (Barn)	30 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 3:45-6 HCCS 7:00 WAA (Barn)	31 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)			

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FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 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 Website: <http://www.benzoniacongregational.org>

Our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/BenzoniaCongregational