Hello Sisters and Brothers,

“That’s what I consider true generosity; You give your all and yet you always feel as if it costs you nothing.”  ~Simone de Beauvoir

“You cannot do a kindness too soon because you never know how soon it will be too late.”  ~Ralph Waldo Emerson

“It takes generosity to discover the whole through others. If you realize you are only a violin, you can open yourself up to the world by playing your role in the concert.”  ~Jacques-Yves Cousteau

“Give what you have. To someone, it may be better than you dare to think.”  ~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

“Gentleness, self-sacrifice, and generosity are the exclusive possession of no one race or religion.”  ~Mahatma Gandhi

“Generosity is the most natural outward expression of an inner attitude of compassion and loving-kindness.”  ~The Dalai Lama XIV

Do you know that we often have an initial impulse to be generous, only to talk ourselves out of it?

It may be a little know fact that in my three Christmases here I have not filled a Giving Tree ornament. I get one or two ornaments, and then someone says that the ornaments were gone before they could take one. I give them mine. This year the tags were gone before I got there.

This is all to say that this church is extremely generous. I was aware of it when I interviewed through search and call but living here with you it is so evident. This year I have been humbled every day by the giving that you do. From the giving tree, to donated food, to the hospitality of cookies in the Barn, to opening the doors to groups that need a home, to taking in a family at the last minute for Christmas gifts.

I am blessed to be able to walk with all of you in all that you do for each other and the community.

Happy New Year.
See you along The Way,
Patty

Quotes found at: psychologytoday.com/generosity
**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**
4 Randy Dye  
4 Janet Townsend  
4 Shannon Townsend  
6 Andrew Call  
11 Esther Rodriguez  
12 Tad Peacock  
18 Jean Voight  
19 Mark Weaver  
21 Donovan Haase  
21 Shirley Kennard  
25 Helen Dewey  
26 Mary Rodriguez  
29 Deb Rafferty  
30 Linda Joy  
30 Beth Sheets  
31 Kelsey Neveu  
31 Chris Lowe

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**
18 Harold & Marsha Case

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS**
Nancy Reynolds  
Pat Forrester  
Helen Pickard  
Peg & Randy  
Kay Fischer  
Elisabeth Case

**UCC SISTER CHURCH OF THE MONTH**
As part of our continuing efforts to work together as a community of faith, we pray for UCC churches in our United Northern Association. You are invited to pray this month for the ongoing mission and ministries of Charlevoix UCC.

**FLOWERS**
If you would like to supply flowers, please sign up on the sign posted on the bulletin board. 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**

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<td>Jan 12 Chris Stone</td>
<td>Jo Bahry</td>
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<td>Jan 19 Mary Rodriguez</td>
<td>Agnes Slater</td>
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<td>Jan 26 Annual Meeting</td>
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**HEAD USHER:** Jim Catts

**THANK YOU NOTES**

“Your generous donation of socks, paper towel, and protein/snack bars that went toward our Christmas Gift Bag Program truly made a difference. This year was an astounding success in items collected for the bags and we couldn’t have done it without First Congregational UCC of Benzonia! Over 200 gift bags were put together! Words cannot describe the wonderful feeling we get from the warm smiles and hugs shared by Benzie seniors receiving the gift bags we put together. Thank you for being part of this heartwarming undertaking for those less fortunate and in need of some Christmas cheer.” —Douglas Durand, Executive Director, Benzie Senior Resources

“I want to thank Benzonia UCC for your recent donations to the Baby Pantry. We are so grateful when others want to participate in this work.” —Christian Baron, Baby Pantry

Check out all of our thank you notes on the bulletin board!
**MI Conf. Happenings**
Want to keep up with the happenings within the Michigan Conference, UCC? Head to http://www.michucc.org/ and click “News” in the upper righthand corner.

**Circle I**
Circle I will not meet in January, but will meet again February 19th.

**Cookie Walk Thank You!**
Circle I would like to thank all who helped with the Cookie Walk, made cookies, and purchased cookies. We made $641, which will be split between the Christian Education mission trip next summer and Women’s Fellowship to help with the cost of some new chairs.

**Annual Meeting and Potluck**
Mark your calendar for our Annual Meeting and Potluck on Sunday, January 26, following worship.

**Annual Report Reminder**
Committee Chairs:
Please have your annual reports in to Sam ASAP, by the end of the day on Friday, January 17 at the latest. Thanks!!

**Christian Education**
The Sunday School Classes collected close to $200 in returnables for their Christmas Jar project. We are grateful to all of you who donated your bottles and cans.

The funds were used to donate items for the Benzie Senior Resources holiday collection and Coldwell Banker sponsored Stockings for Soldiers. Five stockings were filled with socks, hats, gloves, crossword puzzle books, lip balm, and snacks and were sent to our military personnel worldwide.

Happy New Year
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| 6:30 Worship & Church School  
6-8 ACOA (Barn) | 6:30 Worship & Church School  
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A Joyful Noise January 2020

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BENZONIA UCC
BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

Office Phone: 231-882-4922
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Our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/BenzoniaCongregational