

# A JOYFUL NOISE!

January 2017

Most of you have heard by now, but for those who haven't this is what I said in church on Sunday, December 18, at the end of the service, just before the benediction.

To the people who are the  
First Congregational Church, UCC of Benzonia, Michigan

The two years, six months and three days I have been with you have been among the most rewarding and fulfilling of my life, and I do not know how to tell you thank you. I simply do not have words to say how grateful I am for your respect and your friendship, your care and your affection.

My time with you will soon come to an end. Today I present to you my resignation as interim minister, to take effect January 31. On February 12, I will assume the position of interim minister of the First Congregational Church, UCC of St. Joseph, Michigan.

I believe I have been led to this by the Holy Spirit of God in Jesus Christ, but it has been one of the two or three most difficult decisions of my life.

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You are a good group of folk, a good church, and I thank you once more for my time here. I have gotten at least as much as I've given. I will never forget you and the time we had together.

May God bless you with many more years of faithful and active ministry in the name and spirit of Jesus, God's crucified and risen Christ.

*~ Dr. Charles Guerrero*

## **POTLUCK AND ANNUAL MEETING**

This year our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 22. There will be a potluck dinner immediately after the service prior to the meeting. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service.

### ***From the Search Committee***

Our entire church was very disappointed when Rev Guerrero announced that he is resigning as Interim Pastor of our Church and accepting another call. Chuck is loved and has worked well with our congregation. We will miss him – and – also wish him the very best.

Your Search Committee has invested a lot of time and work into finding a new pastor for our Church. First, we put together the required Profile of our Church. Then we have diligently reviewed all of the pastor candidate profiles that we have received. We have had numerous Skype interviews and arranged neutral pulpits. For one reason or another, we have not found the right person – close a couple of times – but it hasn't worked out yet.

We are looking forward to 2017 as a time to re-energize. Be assured, we will continue to prayerfully consider each pastor candidate profile that we receive. The pastor that can lead our church in the years to come is out there – we just need to find that person. And we will.

### ***COMPLETING THE CIRCLE***

We have had four Discussion Groups centered around the Book "Completing the Circle." Great participation and input from those who attended. We are planning on one more Discussion Group for those who were unable to attend earlier groups. When: Monday - January 9 at 5:30 pm. Where: the Sanctuary at the Church.

PLEASE JOIN US. Your thoughts and ideas are important. There will be a signup sheet for this group on the bulletin board or call Carol Dye at 231-392-4005. **A complete report will be ready for our Annual Meeting in January.** Thank you to all.

### ***Women's Fellowship News***

Thanks to all who baked cookies, helped with the Cookie Walk and bought cookies. We had a nice selection of goodies and made a profit of \$587.00 which will be split between the Counselor's Closet at Benzie Central High School and a church project. Circle 1 will meet on Wednesday, January 18, at 1:00 at the church. Bev Brouwer is the hostess.

### ***Memorial Garden***

On the north side of our church property is a beautiful memorial garden for members and friends of the church who would like their cremated ashes interred on our sacred grounds. For \$450, you may reserve a one-square foot plot. That price includes future opening and closing as well as a memorial plaque to be placed on the stone located along the walkway. Donations for perpetual care are also welcomed.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

18 Harold and Marsha Case

### *Thank You*

Many thanks to everyone who helped and attended the Advent Workshop last month. We had many fun crafts, the church was decorated beautifully, the brunch was wonderful.

Thank you to all who helped with serving the Monday Bridge Club Luncheon. As you know, this club meets at our church every Monday and some Thursdays. And a special THANK YOU to this Bridge Club – they donated an extra \$300 to the Women's Fellowship to be used toward needed kitchen improvements.

## REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

### **THOSE FACING HEALTH CONCERNS:**

**Brenda Case**  
**Tom Kennard**  
**Ruth Blacklock**  
**Nancy Reynolds**  
**Judy Herban**

### **THOSE IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES:**

**Pink Rearick** who is at the Culver Meadows.  
**Mary Hopkins** who is at Frankfort Senior Care.  
**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 in January to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of First Congregational UCC, in Harrison.

## **A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR JANUARY VOLUNTEERS -**

### **COFFEE HOUR**

**Jan 1** Deacons  
**Jan 8** Bev Brouwer  
**Jan 15** Linda Joy  
and Joan Harwood  
**Jan 22** Annual Meeting Potluck  
**Jan 29** Lynn Stephens

### **NURSERY**

Jo Bahry  
Agnes Slater  
Phyllis Van  
Hammen  
Christy Case  
*volunteer needed*

### **HEAD USHER**

Jim Catz

## **Flowers**

If you are interested in supplying flowers, please call the church office to sign up for a certain date. You may then bring in your own flowers or donate \$25 to the church to make the arrangements with a local florist. Please let the church office know who the flowers honor or memorialize.



# JANUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
<b>1</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> 10:30 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>2</b> <b>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</b> 9:00 CentraWell. - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>3</b> 10:00 Yoga-Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 5:30 WAA - Barn	<b>4</b> 12:00 AA - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>5</b> 12:00 AA - Barn 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn	<b>6</b> 9:00 CentraWell. - Barn 12:00 LOWV - Library	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10:30 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>9</b> 9:00 CentraWell. - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>10</b> 10:00 Yoga-Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 5:30 WAA - Barn <b>7:00 Council</b>	<b>11</b> 12:00 AA - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>12</b> 12:00 AA - Barn <b>4:00 Deacons</b> 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn	<b>13</b> 9:00 CentraWell. - Barn 12:00 LOWV - Library	<b>14</b> 8:30am Men's Fellowship at Papa J's Honor
<b>15</b> 10:30 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>16</b> 9:00 CentraWell. - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Love, INC <b>5:00 Trustees</b> 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>17</b> 10:00 Yoga-Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>18</b> 12:00 AA - Barn 1:00 Circle 1 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>19</b> 12:00 AA - Barn 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn	<b>20</b> 9:00 CentraWell. - Barn 12:00 LOWV - Library	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10:30 Church School 10:30 Worship  <b>ANNUAL MEETING &amp; POTLUCK</b>	<b>23</b> 9:00 CentraWell. - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA / Barn	<b>24</b> 10:00 Yoga - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	<b>25</b> 12:00 AA - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>26</b> 12:00 AA - Barn 5:00 MRT 5:30 NA - Barn	<b>27</b> 9:00 CentraWell. - Barn 12:00 LOWV - Library	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:30 Church School 10:30 Worship	<b>30</b> 9:00 CentraWell. - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn  12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA - Barn	<b>31</b> 10:00 Yoga - Barn 12:00 AA - Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn				

First Congregational Church, UCC  
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Phone: (231) 882-4922

## ***A Joyful Noise! January 2017***

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

Dr. Charles Guerrero .....	Interim Minister
Chris Stone .....	Treasurer
Mary Rodriguez.. .....	Financial Secretary
James Sheets.....	Church Moderator
Elizabeth Sheets.....	Christian Ed Coordinator
Rose Dufrane.....	Custodian
Nancy Eggleston .....	Secretary

Office phone: 231-882-4922

Office hours: Monday – Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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

<http://www.benzoniacongregational.org>

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