

# A JOYFUL NOISE!

March 2018

Hello My Fellow Travelers.

Have you heard? Have you seen? There have been new people in church lately!! It is wonderful and exciting. It also gives us a moment to think about how we welcome new people in.

I would like to share a reflection that I wrote after attending General Synod 31 this past summer.

In Traci Blackmon's candidate sermon, she spoke of the balconies that were built in churches, space to accommodate more people. As time went on it was the marginalized that was placed up in the balconies, placing those on the edges, primarily the people of color and the poor. As she continued Traci made a connection between the words space and room. The churches had made space, but had they made room? Had they made room for the people that would fill up that space?

This question struck me then and has followed me these three weeks since Synod. I went to Synod as a visitor with the Maine Delegation, as a Member in Discernment. I was encouraged to be part of all delegation caucuses and discussions. I enjoyed meals with the delegation. The differences were that I had a white name badge denoting me as a visitor, not a blue one, for a delegate. I was not part of any committee discussing resolutions, I did not vote. I was at every plenary in the gallery watching the proceedings. I was in the balcony.

After a day or so of plenaries I heard one of my fellow Maine travelers saying that some chocolate would be good on the delegation table as debates and amendments were at hand. During a break, I bought some chocolate. As the plenary was being called back to order I headed for the Maine delegation table. I was met at the railing that separates the delegates from the gallery by a volunteer checking name badges. As mine was white and not blue, I was not allowed on the floor. Shocked, I said that I was merely placing chocolate on the table for my friends. "Sorry, can't let you through" was the reply. Thankfully Rich was beside me and he carried on with said chocolate in hand.

Long story short, this incident combined with Rev. Blackmon's comments hit me right between the eyes. How does all of this play out in our churches? Do we provide space but no room? Do we invite people in and then not include them? How freely do we share information? Who is allowed where within our lives, mission work, and call to do the work we are called to do?

Room versus Space.

May there always be more room and not enough space.

Patty

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Christine Gehring
- 1 Susie Vigland
- 1 Tim Brian
- 2 Helen Pickard
- 2 Miriam Godoshian
- 3 Liam Jones
- 3 John Riegler
- 3 Brandon Sauer
- 5 Brent Strom
- 6 Calvin Smith
- 6 Carson Case
- 7 Beau Wagner
- 9 Jo Bahry
- 9 Ayden Webb
- 10 Belle Brown
- 11 Ted Bahry
- 11 Bev Brouwer
- 12 Jeffrey Maddock
- 12 Kristin Richards
- 13 Lucas Richards
- 16 Genny Bowman
- 22 Maria Wolowiec
- 22 Caleb Case
- 24 Carol Davidson
- 24 Nick Danford
- 26 Judith Herban
- 29 Carol Dye
- 30 Spencer Manning, Jr.



### MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Dennis & Kristin Richards
- 26 Rob and Debra Rafferty

### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- |                                |                       |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Helen Dewey</b>             | <b>Geri Thornell</b>  |
| <b>Family of John Abbett</b>   | <b>Bob</b>            |
| <b>Chet and Shirley Jones</b>  | <b>Nancy Reynolds</b> |
| <b>Emma</b>                    | <b>Helen Pickard</b>  |
| <b>Jim</b>                     | <b>Pat Forrester</b>  |
| <b>Mary</b>                    | <b>Hal Bruning</b>    |
| <b>Family of James Harwood</b> |                       |

### 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 Northport 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 MARCH VOLUNTEERS

- |               | <b>COFFEE</b> | <b>NURSERY</b> |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| <b>MAR 4</b>  | Deacons       | Pat Schopp     |
| <b>MAR 11</b> | Chris Gehring | Carol Dye      |
| <b>MAR 18</b> | Helen Dewey   | Kay Bos        |
| <b>MAR 25</b> | Mary Wolke    | Helen Dewey    |

**HEAD USHER:** Doug Rodriguez

## **CIRCLE I**

Circle I will meet Wednesday, March 21 at 1:00 at the church. Chris Gehring is the hostess.

Circle I would like to remind all ladies of the church that the Mother/Daughter Banquet will be April 27. Mark your calendars! Tickets will go on sale beginning Sunday, April 8.

## **TRUSTEES**

We elected our officers for 2018. Chris Gehring is the chair and Earl Schopp is the vice-chair. The duty of secretary will be rotated each month. Some new flooring will soon be installed in the Barn where the carpet is now. The building use forms and fees have been updated. Some changes will be made to the church ad in the Benzie Record Patriot. Church security was discussed.

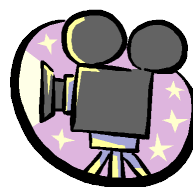
## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

March 4th is Women's Sunday. Four of our ladies will be giving the message as to their life experiences around a table. It should be very interesting!

For our general meeting on March 7th we will be preparing dinner for our guests from the Maples and Long-Term Care. Please join us at 1:00 to help with this project.

## **DEACONS**

The Deacons will be hosting a movie after church on March 11th. The movie "Wonder" will be shown after coffee hour. Carol Dye and Jean Bowers will be providing a light lunch and popcorn will be served during the movie. Please join us and bring a friend!



## LIBRARY NEWS

***If the Church Were Christian...*** by Philip Gulley is mentioned in the UCC article about the small church that grew. This less- than-200-page book will give everyone something to agree with, something to condemn. I think you will find it thought-provoking, challenging, convicting and inspiring. Maybe you will even find something to stir your Christ-like spirit.

***Tired of Apologizing for a Church I Don't Belong To...*** Author Lillian Daniel, a UCC pastor, challenges us not to get distracted by widespread stereotypes about what it means to be a Christian. She pushes back against the idea that one is "spiritual but not religious" with the claim that religion means community. People today are certainly searching for community, exactly what Christianity offers. She places worship and talking about faith at the center of the church's life.

Quoting one reviewer..."A refreshing and at times amusing take on modern day life for Christians.....an enjoyable read that also packs a theological and insightful punch."

Preacher, teacher, writer, Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel is Senior Pastor at First Congregational Church UCC in Dubuque, Iowa.

***Caroline, Little House Revisited***...Authorized by Little House Heritage Trust, this work of historical fiction vividly recreates the beauty, hardship, and joys of the frontier. Caroline Ingalls, "Ma" in Laura Ingalls Wilder's Little House books, is illuminated as never before. She is either a courageous, resilient, loving pioneer woman or a whining, complaining, fearful one according to various reviewers. If you are a fan of the Little House series you will want to read it to form your own opinion. The author does go into great detail on many aspects of what the life of pioneer women must have been like.

We thank the anonymous donor for the book.

# March 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				<b>1</b> 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	<b>2</b> 9-4 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N LOWV (Library)	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> <b>10:30 Worship (Women's Sunday)</b>  <b>BIG Sunday</b>  <b>Faith Formation Class</b>	<b>5</b> 9-12 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>6</b> 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 7:00 WAA (Barn)	<b>7</b> <b>11:00 Memorial Committee</b> 12N AA (Barn) <b>1:00 Women's Fellowship</b> <b>5:00 Maples Dinner</b> 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>8</b> 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) <b>4:00 Deacons</b> 4-7 HCCS 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn) <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>9</b> 9-4 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N LOWV (Library)	<b>10</b> Zonta (Barn) <b>8:30 Men's Breakfast @ Papa J's</b>
<b>11</b> <b>10:30 Worship &amp; Church School (with Holy Communion)</b>  <b>Movie Day</b>	<b>12</b> 9-12 Centra Wellness (Barn) 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>13</b> 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS <b>7:00 Council</b> 7:00 WAA (Barn)	<b>14</b> 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>15</b> 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn) <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>16</b> 9-4 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N LOWV (Library)	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>10:30 Worship &amp; Church School</b>  <b>Faith Formation Class</b>	<b>19</b> 9-12 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club <b>5:00 Trustees</b> 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>20</b> 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 7:00 WAA (Barn)	<b>21</b> 12N AA (Barn) <b>1:00 Circle I</b> 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>22</b> 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn) <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>23</b> 9-4 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N LOWV (Library)	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>10:30 Worship &amp; Church School</b>	<b>26</b> 9-12 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>27</b> 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 7:00 WAA (Barn)	<b>28</b> 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>29</b> 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 4-7 HCCS 5:00 MRT (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn) <b>7:30 Choir</b>	<b>30</b> 9-4 Centra Wellness (Barn) 12N LOWV (Library)	<b>31</b>

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## *A Joyful Noise March 2018*

### 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](http://www.facebook.com/BenzoniaCongregational)