

A JOYFUL NOISE!

September 2017

From the Pastor:

Hello Friends,

First and foremost, I want to thank all of you for the warm welcome that has been extended to me in my first few weeks here at First Congregational and my home. You all have made the transition from Maine to Michigan very easy and comfortable; from cleaning my condo and stocking the cupboards to helping move the heavy furniture to here at the church answering my questions and offering me your smiles.

As I settle in I would like for a bit more assistance. I would like to know what your favorite places are to go out to eat, get ice cream. Where do you do your recreational activities, what are they? I love to go out for hard ice cream and hike. I am learning to be more comfortable in a kayak. Where do you like to go for your fun stuff?

On a more theological note I would love to hear what it is about First Congregational of Benzonia that has you coming back. Is it the fact that your family has been here for 150 years? Is it for the missional work that is done here? Is it the company and the fellowship?

I love to ask questions but I love stories more. I am ready to hear the stories that you hold in this community. I am excited to help write some new stories.

See you along The Way

Patty

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Kay Fischer
- 3 Mary Thompson
- 8 Pete (Eldon) Moss
- 8 Jerry Slater
- 9 Andrew Wolowiec
- 9 Mike Sheets
- 10 Patricia Swanson
- 13 Joyce Barnes
- 15 Samantha Weaver
- 15 Patricia Forrester
- 16 Jennifer Olney
- 18 Muriel Williams
- 18 Barbara Brewer
- 19 Ed Deering
- 19 Cath Kelder
- 21 Ardith Jones
- 22 Gregory Reed
- 24 Rosemary Miller
- 29 Nate Stone
- 30 Mary Ellen Wagner



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Chet and Shirley Jones
- 9 Bill and Cynthia Schnarr
- 11 John and Doris Marshall
- 13 Mark and Kim Weaver
- 19 Randy and Carol Dye

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Brenda Case | Ruth Blacklock |
| Nancy Reynolds | Kay Fischer |
| David Neiger | Judy Herban |
| Genny Bowman | |

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 May to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of First Congregational Church of Gaylord.

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 \$25 to the church to make the arrangements with a local florist.



THANK YOU TO OUR SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

- | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------------|
| | COFFEE | NURSERY |
| Sept. 3 | Deacons | Barb Brian |
| Sept. 10 | Sunday School | Carol Dye |
| Sept. 17 | Miriam Godoshian | Agnes Slater |
| Sept. 24 | Women's Fellowship | Chris Gehring |

HEAD USHER: Andy Wagner

A NOTE FROM DR. MURTAUGH

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for welcoming me back to the church last Sunday and for the beautiful cards and gifts. It was great to be back and I look forward to being with you again.

Blessings for the future of First Congregational Church.

Tim Murtaugh

LIBRARY NEWS

Thinking it might be of interest to some because of our Jail Ministry, I chose ***The Graybar Hotel*** by Curtis Dawkins for our church library.

In this, his first short story collection, Dawkins offers a window into prison life through the eyes of prisoners and their cellmates. Don't be misled by Dawkins low-key voice in the narration of these stories told from within the Michigan prison system. Dawkins is described by one reviewer as "a wickedly skilled" storyteller who leads you to think life behind bars is not so bad, then WHAM he hits you over the head when the scene shifts from boredom to horror.

Almost all stories seem to have originated from something he experienced or witnessed in jail or prison. He describes the tedium, idiosyncrasies, and desperation of long-term incarceration. The stories are moving, human stories about men enduring impossible circumstances. The narrators never insist they are innocent or are being treated unjustly; they accept their fates as both inevitable and self-inflicted. These amazing stories, set in a grim place, remind us that even those people lost and forgotten behind stone & steel remain human.

In 2000, Curtis Dawkins earned a master of fine arts degree from Western Michigan University. In 2005, he was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole for felony murder, part of a drug deal gone bad.

All net profits on this book go to the author's education fund for his kids.

September 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 12N LOWV (Library)	2
3 9:00 Sunday School Pancake Breakfast 10:30 Worship & Church School	4 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 2:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	5 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	6 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	7 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA (Barn) 7:30 Choir	8 12N LOWV (Library)	9 8:30 Men's Breakfast @ Papa J's
10 10:30 Worship & Church School (Rally Sunday with Ice Cream Social)	11 11:00 Commodities Distribution 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 2:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	12 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 Council 7:00 WAA (Barn)	13 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	14 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 4:00 Deacons 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA (Barn) 7:30 Choir	15 12N LOWV (Library)	16
17 10:30 Worship & Church School	18 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 Trustees 2:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA (Barn)	19 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	20 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	21 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA (Barn) 7:30 Choir	22 12N LOWV (Library)	23
24 10:30 Worship & Church School	25 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 2:00 Centra Wellness (Barn) 5:00 Love, INC 7:00 AA (Barn)	26 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	27 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	28 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5:00 MRT 7:00 NA (Barn) 7:30 Choir	29 12N LOWV (Library)	30

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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