

# A JOYFUL NOISE !

September 2016

## **FROM OUR INTERIM MINISTER**

I'm no scholar , so it's not often that I try to do a scholarly sort of thing here. Recently, though, I did come across something "scholarly" I want to pass along.

A number of years ago H.G.M. Williamson, A British theologian, wrote a book about the Bible's books of Ezra and Nehemiah. Writing about the eighth chapter of Nehemiah, Professor Williamson wonders what to do when "individual texts" of the Bible are understood "in ways that run counter to the prevailing teaching of Scripture as a whole." After mentioning that sometimes parts of the Bible become "no more than fossilized objects of veneration," Williamson observes how the three kinds of authority commonly used to interpret the Bible--the Bible itself, reason and tradition--

constantly check and reform the [other]. The text is the basis; reason is applied for interpretation; and tradition serves to ensure that all is done within the larger framework of appreciation that God's final word is not one of exclusion and judgment, but of grace and invitation.

"God's final word is not one of exclusion and judgment, but of grace and invitation." I like that. I like it very much: I think it's deeply important to any faithful, thoughtful approach to the Bible. The "prevailing teaching of scripture" is God is love, unconditional love. In a time when so many churches and preachers use the Bible to judge and exclude others, I'm very glad for this one, glorious scholarly thought: God's final word is one not one of exclusion and judgment, but of grace and invitation.

God is good. See you in church (and bring someone with you!).

*~ Dr. Charles Guerreno*

## **FROM OUR SEARCH COMMITTEE**

Thank you to all who participated in the recent survey. There were 50 responses with varied opinions. As many have pointed out, ours is a welcoming and loving congregation – room for each of us no matter where we are on our journey through life. We continue to review profiles and have communicated with some really great candidates. All who are qualified are being thoughtfully and prayerfully considered. We will keep in touch. Thank you again.

Chris and Carol, co-chairs

## Women's Fellowship

There is no Women's Fellowship meeting in September. The first meeting of the fall will be Wednesday, October 5, at 1:00 p.m. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Circle 1 will meet on Wednesday, September 21, at 1:00pm at the church. We will either be cleaning the church kitchen or The Barn, so bring a bucket, rags and some cleaning products. This is not a pleasant job, but doing it together makes it enjoyable and it needs to be done.



## Board of Christian Education Report



It's that time of year...We will celebrate the beginning of the new Sunday School year with Rally Sunday on Sunday, September 11. Following the worship service, please join us for our Annual Ice Cream Social.

We are always interested in new children joining our program. If you have names to refer, please contact Carolina or Beth.

Christian Education is pleased to announce the hiring of Tiana Gould as the church nursery attendant. Tiana's first day will be Sunday, September 11. In addition to serving her church, Tiana will continue working through the fall at The Cherry Hut and attending NMC. Welcome aboard.

**CHILDREN'S BOOK DEPOSIT:** At the entryway from the parking lot, just inside the doors on the left, is a wooden cabinet labeled "Children's Book Deposit." The Christian World Service Board is working to enhance a new relationship between our church and Crystal Lake Elementary school by donating children's books for their library or to be given directly to the students. Please bring books you would like to donate and use the new cabinet at the church.

## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS -

|              | <u>GREETERS</u>       | <u>NURSERY</u> | <u>FELLOWSHIP</u> |
|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| September 4  | Geri Thornell         | Barb Brian     | Deacons           |
| September 11 | <i>Greeter Needed</i> | Carol Dye      | Sunday School     |
| September 18 | <i>Greeter Needed</i> | Agnes Slater   | Chris Jones       |
| September 25 | <i>Greeter Needed</i> | Chris Gehring  | Sarah Circle IV   |

**Head Usher:** Andy Wagner

**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 \$500 you may reserve a square-foot plot that covers future opening and closing as well as a memorial plaque to be placed on the stone along the walkway. Donations for perpetual care are welcomed.



**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
- 26 Alma Haase
- 28 Doc Wagner
- 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

Please join us to celebrate  
**Ardith Jones’  
 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday**  
 Sunday, September 18,  
 during coffee hour

***REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS***

***THOSE FACING HEALTH CONCERNS:***

- Brenda Case**
- Jerry Richardson**
- Tom Kennard**
- Ruth Blacklock**

***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.

**FOR OUR SHUT-IN: Doii Burget**

**Reminder:** If you, a loved one, or a church member you know is in the hospital, please let the church office know so that our minister may visit. Due to privacy laws, hospitals no longer contact the churches to let them know church members are hospitalized. The church wants to know so that we can support you during this time of need.

***FLOWERS***

There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office for altar flowers. If you would like to supply flowers, please sign up for a certain date. You may then bring in your own flowers or donate \$25 and we will order flowers from a local florist.



**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 September to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of First Congregational, UCC in Cadillac.

# SEPTEMBER 2016

| SUNDAY  | MONDAY  | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY               | SAT   |
|---|---|---|--|--|----------------------|---|
|   |   |   |  | 1<br>12 Noon - AA-Barn<br>12-5 Bridge Club<br><br>7:00 NA - Barn<br><br>7:30 Choir Practice                            | 2                    | 3   |
| 4<br><br>10:15 Church School<br>10:30 Worship                             | 5<br><b>LABOR DAY</b><br><b>Church Office Closed</b><br><br>12 Noon - AA-Barn<br>12-5 - Bridge Club<br><br>7:00 AA - Barn | 6<br><br>10 Yoga - Barn<br>12 Noon - AA-Barn<br><br>7:00 WAA - Barn                     | 7<br><br>12 Noon - AA-Barn<br><br>6:00 AA - Barn                       | 8<br><br>12 Noon - AA-Barn<br>12-5 Bridge Club<br><br>4:00 <b>Deacons</b><br>7:00 NA - Barn<br><br>7:30 Choir Practice | 9<br><br>12:00 LOWV  | 10<br><br>8:30am Men's Fellowship At Papa J's Honor |
| 11<br><br><b>RALLY SUNDAY</b><br><br>10:15 Church School<br>10:30 Worship | 12<br>11:00 Commodities Distribution<br>12 Noon - AA-Barn<br>12-5 - Bridge Club<br><br>7:00 AA - Barn                     | 13<br>10 Yoga - Barn<br>12 Noon - AA-Barn<br><br><b>7:00 Council</b><br>7:00 WAA - Barn | 14<br><br>12 Noon - AA<br><br>6:00 AA - Barn                           | 15<br><br>12 Noon - AA-Barn<br>12-5 Bridge Club<br><br>7:00 NA - Barn<br>7:30 Choir Practice                           | 16<br><br>12:00 LOWV | 17  |
| 18<br><br>10:15 Church School<br>10:30 Worship                            | 18<br>12 Noon - AA-Barn<br>12-5 - Bridge Club<br><br>5:00 Love, INC<br><b>5:00 Trustees</b><br><br>7:00 AA - Barn         | 20<br>10 Yoga - Barn<br>12 Noon - AA-Barn<br><br>7:00 WAA - Barn                        | 21<br><br>12 Noon - AA-Barn<br><br>1:00 Circle 1<br><br>6:00 AA - Barn | 22<br><br>12 Noon - AA-Barn<br>12-5 Bridge Club<br><br>7:00 NA - Barn<br>7:30 Choir Practice                           | 23<br><br>12:00 LOWV | 24  |
| 25<br><br>10:15 Church School<br>10:30 Worship                            | 26<br>12 Noon - AA-Barn<br>12-5 - Bridge Club<br><br>5:00 Love, INC<br><br>7:00 AA - Barn                                 | 27<br><br>10 Yoga - Barn<br>12 Noon - AA-Barn<br><br>7:00 WAA - Barn                    | 28<br>12 Noon - AA<br><br>6:00 AA - Barn                               | 29<br><br>12 Noon - AA-Barn<br>12-5 Bridge Club<br><br>7:00 NA - Barn  | 30                   |   |

First Congregational Church, UCC  
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## ***A Joyful Noise! September 2016***

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

Dr. Charles Guerreno ..... Interim Minister  
Chris Stone .....Treasurer  
Mary Rodriguez.. .....Financial Secretary  
James Sheets.....Church Moderator  
Carolina Jones .....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.

<http://www.benzoniacongregational.org>

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

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