

A JOYFUL NOISE!

March 2023

Hello,

This past season of Epiphany we spent a day talking about the Beatitudes.
As we move into and through Lent, may this poem version carry you on and through your journey.

Tonight, A Blessing

Katherine Burgess

I bless the emptiness in our hearts; Because that leaves a space for God to enter in
I bless the things in us that touch other people gently; Because gentleness is the way to reach another
I bless the sadness that sometimes overwhelms us; Because that will lead other to comfort us
I bless our yearning for the truth; Because it can be satisfied in Jesus Christ
I bless the mercy and forgiveness that we show others; Because it reflects God's mercy and forgiveness
That is extended to us every single day
I bless the childlike purity in all of our hearts; For we must become like children to see the face of God
I bless you when you are a peacemaker; And grant you God's peace which passes all understanding
I bless you in a time of persecution; For Jesus was himself persecuted
And you will be with him in the kin-dom of heaven
I bless us with a good sleep
And a peaceful rest
So that tomorrow
We can continue
With God's work
Amen.

Peace and comfort to your Lenten Journey,

Pastor Patty

Remember in Your Prayers

Nancy Reynolds	Maddie	Family and Friends of Ken Schmidt
Doris Marshall	AJ	
Barbara	Russ	
Philip Lyman	Denise	Family and Friends who have lost loved ones
Misha	Kathy S.	
Greg Lowry	Jackie Patterson	
	Sue Micinski	



March Birthdays

1	Tim Brian
1	Christine Gehring
3	Liam Jones
3	John Riegler
3	Brandon Sauer
5	Brent Strom
6	Calvin Smith
6	Carson Case
7	Beau Wagner
8	Barry Hahn
9	Jo Bahry
10	Belle Brown
11	Bev Brouwer
12	Jeffrey Maddock
15	Emily Pagan
16	Chantelle Jones
18	Hunter Brian
22	Maria Wolowiec
22	Caleb Case
24	Carol Davidson
24	Nick Danford
26	Judy Herban
29	Carol Dye
30	Joan Cooper



UCC Church of the Month

As part of our continuing efforts to work together with our fellow United Northern Association churches as a community of faith, we invite you to pray this month for the ongoing mission and ministries of Lewiston.

Flowers

If you would like to supply flowers for the altar, please sign up on the bulletin board or contact the church office. You may then bring in your own flowers or donate \$30 to the church flower fund for an arrangement to be purchased from Victoria's Floral.



For BACN



For our BACN donations this month, we are trying to collect **Personal Care Items**. Help us help those in need by participating in our ongoing **Bring In Groceries** program.



Cards and Notes

Check out all our notes on the bulletin board!

Dear Friends,

I wanted to personally thank you for the warm card you wrote. I much appreciate the kind words. Thank you for re-assuring me that I'm not alone. Also, would like to thank you for the quick snacks means a lot. God Bless.

~ Kaleb, Benzie County Corrections

Hello, We had a real bad Hurricane in our area Sept 27, 2022. We have 389 homes in our area. 100 of them were damaged. It was a big mess. What I do today is important because I am exchanging a day of my life for it. So get out and do your best. My best to all and thanks for sending the cards. Valentine's Day is a very special day for me.

~ Larry Czap



Anniversaries

26	Rob and Debra Rafferty
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Volunteers Coffee Hour

Mar 5	Council
Mar 12	Linda Joy
Mar 19	Mary Wullke & Sara Moorhead
Mar 26	Chris Gehring



Web Links

Michigan Conference News: michucc.org

United Northern Association Facebook Page:
facebook.com/UnitedNorthernAssociationUCC

Church Facebook Page: facebook.com/BenzoniaCongregational

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOGrpQiU7ggXa7tT6vhTHRw>

Instagram: [first_congregational_benzonia](https://www.instagram.com/first_congregational_benzonia)

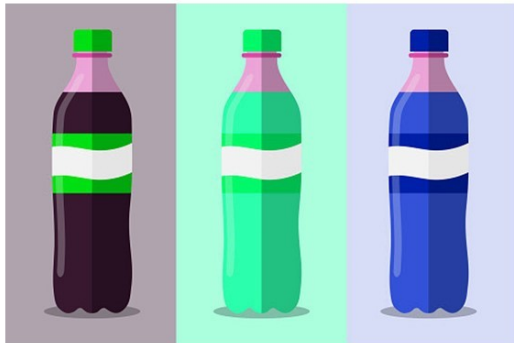


Musicians

Mar 5	Mary Ellen Wagner
Mar 12	Nena Girven
Mar 19	Mary Ellen Wagner
Mar 26	Nena Girven

2023 Youth Sunday School Service Project

Returnable Bottles & Cans Collection



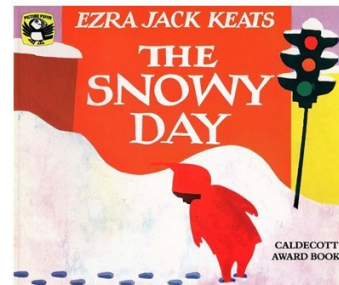
Funds raised will purchase new winter boots
for the Benzie County Baby Pantry

Drop off at church or contact Beth
at 231 645 2164 for pickup arrangements

#bootsforbabies

2023 Festival of Trees

The Snowy Day



COLLECTING THROUGH SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH

The Snowy Day

- Board Book
- Paperback
- Hardcover

Snow Suits and Snow Pants

- Snow Suits
(Sizes 3 months – 24 months)
- Snow Pants
(Sizes 2 T – Kids XL)

Circle I will meet in the Barn on Wednesday, March 15 at 1:00 PM.
Chris Jones is the hostess. We will be cleaning the Barn, so bring some
cleaning supplies such as pails, rags, cleaners, etc.



Michigan Conference Minister: 'Our hearts are broken this Valentine's Day' after shooting at Michigan State

by [Lillian Daniel](#) | published on Feb 16, 2023

After three people were killed and five injured on the campus of Michigan State University late Feb. 13, the Rev. Lillian Daniel, [Michigan Conference](#) Minister, wrote this reflection responding to the tragic event. The Conference office is located in East Lansing, just a few miles from the MSU campus.

This Valentines Day, I did not send our 140 Michigan churches the sugary sentiments of a heart shaped box of chocolates but the prayers from my broken human heart after last night's shooting at Michigan State University. We had church members who could see the scene from where they were locked down in homes and churches. Last night, as I checked in on our local pastors, I knew they were checking in on their churches, communities, families, workers, students, first responders and the weary world around them.

For, as every pastor knows, when tragedy hits, our churches grow much larger than the membership rolls. Churches become centers of care for the whole community, in buildings at busy intersections, in online gatherings, or on prayer chains. When violence locks us down or sends us into the streets, the church has the chance to blast past its walls, when preachers realize that their most important sermon may be the one that is offered to the stranger at the grocery store who recognizes them and says, "Pastor, just answer me this. How can God let this happen?"

I've heard that question a lot lately, from people horrified by whatever picture of the world they receive in the news of their own choosing, but it's a question that we in the church have an ancient answer to. God does not let this happen. People do. It is people who let these things happen. We saw it in the video of Tyre Nichols, killed by the brutality of human violence and the more devastating brutality of human indifference. We see it in the horror of the war in Ukraine, where, as in all wars, the poor pay the greatest price, while far away leaders philosophize to monetize their own safety. We see it in ourselves as a country, when the news of one school shooting after another becomes routine, in a culture drooling for violence as entertainment, but hardened to it in real life. We see it in ourselves as a nation of immature impulses and short attention spans, more interested in shooting balloons out of the sky than taking guns out of the hands of its own people. God does not allow that to happen. People do.

Yet somehow, despite the stakes, God, the great creator of all things, chose to create us with free will and mortal bodies. We could have been made to live forever as coddled infants, with our needs met, our decisions constrained and our capacity to harm the rest of creation minimized. Instead, we were created in the image of God, which means we have souls and bodies that were literally built for growth and change. Created with a limited time on earth, we were given the ability to choose between right and wrong, love or death, God or stuff, the care of all creation or the tedious worship of the self, all on a short journey through life whose purpose is to draw us closer to the one who gave us life to begin with.

As for the shooting in East Lansing, God does not let this happen. People do. It is God's people who let the worst things happen to ourselves and to one another, from the violent act of taking lives, to the violent inaction of cynical indifference. But it is also God's people who allow the most beautiful things to happen, from the courageous saving of lives, to the loving healing of broken spirits, to the humble repairing of the world from our own mistakes. This is what it means to follow Jesus, human and divine. Today, our Michigan pastors and churches are at the beating heart of it all.

March 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 5:30 Women's Fellowship Potluck 3-6 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	2 12N AA (Barn)? 3-6 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	3 7 PM AA (Barn)	4
5 10:30am Worship BIG Sunday Communion 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	6 9:45-11:15 Barn Personal Use 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 7 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 AA (Barn)	7 12N AA (Barn)? 3-6 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	8 3-6 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	9 12N AA (Barn)? 5:00 Deacons 3-6 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	10 7 PM AA (Barn)	11 8:30 Men's Breakfast @ Papa J's
12 10:30am Worship 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	13 9:00 Trustees 9:45-11:15 Barn Personal Use 11 Commodities 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 7 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 AA (Barn)	14 12N AA (Barn)? 3-6 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	15 1:00 Circle I (Barn) 3-6 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	16 12N AA (Barn)? 3-6 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	17 7 PM AA (Barn) <i>Happy St. Patrick's Day</i> 	18 9-Noon Zonta (Barn)
19 10:30am Worship One Great Hour of Sharing Offering 12:00 Christian Education 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	20 9:45-11:15 Barn Personal Use 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 7 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 AA (Barn)	21 12N AA (Barn)? 3-6 Tutoring (Barn) 5:00 Council 7:00 WAA (Barn)	22 3-6 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	23 12N AA (Barn)? 3-6 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	24 7 PM AA (Barn)	25
26 10:30am Worship 12:00 Family Movie 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	27 9:45-11:15 Barn Personal Use 12N AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge 7 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 AA (Barn)	28 12N AA (Barn)? 3-6 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)				

First Congregational Church of Benzonia UCC
901 Barber Street, P.O. Box 234
Benzonia, MI 49616
Phone: (231) 882-4922

A Joyful Noise March 2023

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BENZONIA UCC
BENZONIA, MICHIGAN



Office Phone: 231-882-4922
Office Hours: M—F 9am—Noon
Office Email: secretary@benzoniacongregational.org
Our Website: <http://www.benzoniacongregational.org>
Our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/BenzoniaCongregational