

A JOYFUL NOISE!

June 2023

Hi,

Over the past five months I have offered up poetry for contemplation. This month I would like to offer a different perspective, a place for you to practice some writing. Before you cringe as badly as I do in thinking about writing a haiku, here is the premise.

This past week I attended the online space of the Festival of Homiletics. One of the speakers was Rev. Dr. Otis Moss III, the preacher and teacher of Trinity UCC, Chicago. Dr. Moss is a vibrant and energetic motivator, teacher, and preacher. His lecture was based on the question: Do we retell or tell anew the story of God and/or Jesus? Do we simply tell the story that we know over and over again, or do we find innovative and thought-provoking ways to share the story of Jesus? Towards the end of the lecture Dr. Moss gave a writing assignment, a challenge. To write your favorite biblical story with out using the letters a or e. Here is one of mine, Exodus 3:1-12, Moses and the burning bush.

A drifting protector of livestock stood monitoring his wife's founder's stock and took sight to brush burning, but not consumed. Moses loom up to it and understood spirits singing, "Doff your flipflops, for you occupy holy ground. I am God, God of your blood, of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I know my individuals cry and now you must go on a mission, to go to the Pharoh and notify him to let my individual go." Moses blurted, "Who am I to do this work??" And God said, "I will be with you."

Personally, I think that I would fail this assignment should I have had to complete it at seminary. Dr. Moss also stressed finding another way to tell the story. How would you react if you had some strange things happen to you? Let's paint a scene.

You have had a bit of a go in life. Parts of your life have been fairly easy, and parts of your life have been a bit rough. You now find yourself running from the law because you stood up to the powers that be to protect someone, and those said powers are now trying to kill you. You find this wonderful woman, who is not the one society says that you are to marry, but you do anyways. Life is fairly good. Your father-in-law has given you full reign over watching some of his sheep. Nice. You are away from people and that suits you just fine. Outside all day - Yeah! And then one day you see a bush that is burning. This is not so good. Fire will destroy the grassland, and then the sheep will have nothing to eat. You walk over to see if you can put the fire out and that is when your world takes a hard left turn! The bush is burning but not burning up. The surrounding land is fine. What??? From there you hear a voice calling YOUR name. You! "Yes, this is God. Take off your shoes." You get a bit indignant, "What? Take off my shoes? This is no place to walk around bare-foot. Do you know what the sheep leave behind?" And God continues, "Okay, fine, but I have a job for you to do. There are a lot of people that need someone to stand up to the powers that be and relieve them from their suffering. I'll be with you the whole time, so, let's get to work." And the whole time your brain is spinning... "You want me to go and do the thing that I am running away from, the thing I did before that the authorities now want to punish me for. How long do I have to think about this?" How do you answer God when your name is called.

Happy to listen and/or read your rewrites.

Peace along the journey,

Pastor Patty

Remember in Your Prayers

Nancy Reynolds	Maddie	Jim Sheets
Doris Marshall	AJ	Dan
Barbara	Russ	Crystal and Carina
Philip Lyman	Denise	Family and Friends of Jess Verstrate
Misha	Kathy S.	Family and Friends of Peyton Burch
Greg Lowry	Chris L.	
	Ann N.	



June Birthdays

4	Laura Nespor
8	Harold Case
11	John P. Marshall
15	Bob Ward
16	Mercedes Smith
18	Roger Vance
18	Patty Higgins
21	Susie Marquardt
22	Melanie Bredbanner
24	Noreen Henry
25	Ethan Webb
28	Chris Stone
29	Victoria Joy



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 Northport.

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.



Cards and Notes



Check out all our notes on the bulletin board!

A new organization has been created in Benzie County. Please see the bulletin board for information on Benzie Welcome Corps. It was created in early 2023 to sponsor and welcome a Ukrainian family displaced by war to Benzie County. A family will be arriving in October.



Anniversaries

8	Lee and Chris Stone
14	Mark and Mary Thompson
16	Hunter and Brianna Brian
30	Jim Catts and Chris Jones

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)



Volunteers Coffee Hour

Jun 4	Phyllis Crowell VanHammen
Jun 11	Christian Ed
Jun 18	Chris Jones
Jun 25	Carolina Tabora





For our BACN donations this month, we are trying to collect **Healthy Breakfast and Lunch items**. Help us help those in need by participating in our ongoing **Bring In Groceries** program.

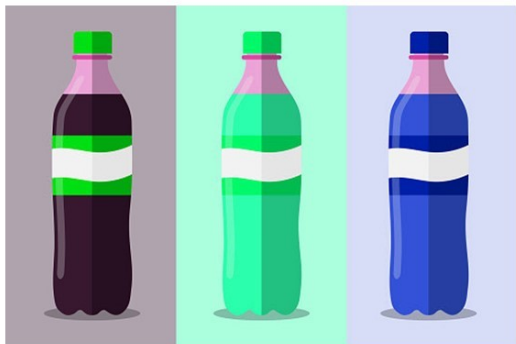
June Musicians



June 4 - Nena Girven
June 11 - Mary Ellen Wagner
June 18 - Mary Ellen Wagner
June 25 - Nena Girven

2023 Youth Sunday School Service Project

Returnable Bottles & Cans Collection



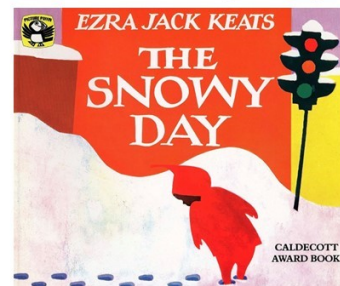
Funds raised will purchase new winter boots for the Benzie County Baby Pantry

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)

Socks for Students
Ankle Socks for Benzie
County Students



SIZES

2T-3T through Men's 9-12

Everything in Between
Supporting

Father Fred Foundation
Now through July 30th



Happy
Father's
Day



Hi Patty,

Just wanted to send a note of gratitude for inviting me to service last Sunday. It was nice to see familiar faces and share more about how BACN and your parish can work together.

Also, thank you so much for the continued donations and financial contributions.

Sincerely,
Sarah Sullivan
Executive Director



Habitat
for Humanity®

of Benzie County

Benefit Golf Outing

Saturday, June 10, 2023

4 Person Scramble

Men's, Women's, Co-ed Teams
18 Holes of Golf with Cart
Lunch after Golf

Registration 8:00 AM
Shotgun start at 9:00AM

Register at

BenzieHabitat.org

Crystal Lake Golf Club
8493 Fairway Dr. Beulah, MI
Questions? CLGC 231-882-4061





Christian Education's
One Room Schoolhouse
Sunday School Sign Up

Volunteers Needed!

June 18 _____

June 25 _____

July 2 _____

July 9 _____

July 16 _____

July 23 _____

July 30 _____

August 6 _____

August 13 _____

August 20 _____

August 27 _____

If you need ideas for a lesson or project,
contact Beth Sheets or Carolina Jones

June 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 3-6 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	2 12N AA (Barn) 7 PM AA (Barn)	3
4 10:30am Worship BIG Sunday Communion 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	5 12-5 Bridge Club 5-6:30 SMART Recovery (Barn) 7 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 AA (Barn)	6 3-6 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	7 12N AA (Barn) 3-6 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	8 3-6 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	9 12N AA (Barn) 7 PM AA (Barn)	10 8:30 Men's Breakfast @ Papa J's
11 Youth Sunday 10:30am Worship 12:00 Deacon's 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	12 9:00 Trustees 11 Commodities 12-5 Bridge Club 5-6:30 SMART Recovery (Barn) 7 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 AA (Barn)	13 Noon-5 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	14 12N AA (Barn) 1:30 - 5 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	15 7:00 NA (Barn)	16 12N AA (Barn) 7 PM AA (Barn)	17
18 10:30am Worship 12:00 Christian Education 12:00 Special Congregational Meeting 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	19 12-5 Bridge Club 5-6:30 SMART Recovery (Barn) 7 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 AA (Barn)	20 Noon-5 Tutoring (Barn) 5:00 Council 7:00 WAA (Barn)	21 12N AA (Barn) 1:30-5 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	22 7:00 NA (Barn)	23 12N AA (Barn) 7 PM AA (Barn)	24
25 10:30am Worship with Guest Pastor Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	26 12-5 Bridge 5-6:30 SMART Recovery (Barn) 7 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 AA (Barn)	27 Noon-5 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	28 12N AA (Barn) 1:30-5 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	29 7:00 NA (Barn)	30 12N AA (Barn) 7 PM AA (Barn)	

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A Joyful Noise June 2023

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BENZONIA UCC
BENZONIA, MICHIGAN



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Our Website: <http://www.benzoniacongregational.org>
Our Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/BenzoniaCongregational