

A JOYFUL NOISE!

November 2023

Hello Fellow Travelers.

On one of my drives into the office recently I heard a song on the radio. It was written in 2016, but I had not yet heard it. The song is Kill a Word, written by Charles Lucas Ian Dick, Eric Church, and Jeff Hyde. Sung by Eric Church. Kill a Word.

Through the lyrics, some of the words that he would like to kill are: goodbye, regret, fear, hate, brokenness and heartbreak, upset, and disgrace.

The song goes on to say that he would rather take the sticks and stones and be black and blue because words do hurt. You can't unhear, you can't unsay the words. He would turn lies and hate to love and truth.

Over the past month we have been working our way through the latter chapters of the gospel of Matthew. These are parables that we have known for a long time, and would much rather read from Luke, which is gentler. Matthew's stories through chapters 22 and 23 are aggressive. There is a lot of killing and violence, throwing people into the outer darkness, gnashing of teeth and wailing.

Please, don't give up on the parables in Matthew's telling. These readings are important because by the end of the story, Jesus is talking of God's love. God is not vengeful.

Jesus has been telling us for a very long time to give up on the words of hate. Jesus tells us over and over again that there is healing for regret, brokenness, and disgrace. Jesus calls us to be part of the story of reconciliation and healing. We are called to continue the work, using the words of love, that Jesus taught us.

As we move into Advent, and we think of the gifts that we can give, think of the way our words can offer gifts. Gifts that cost nothing out of pocket. Gifts of healing and care. Gifts of love and truth.

Peace to the Journey,

Patricia Paffy

Remember in Your Prayers

Nancy Reynolds	Russ
Doris Marshall	Denise
Barbara	Kathy S.
Philip Lyman	Jim Sheets
Misha	Hailey
Greg Lowry	Friends and Family of
Maddie	Marcia Lee
AJ	

All
those
who
continue to grieve the
loss of a loved one



November Birthdays

5	Agnes Slater
7	Mike Jones
8	Nancy Reynolds
9	Jane Gary
9	Sonny Rodriguez
10	Mark Thompson
12	Nick Kassanos
13	Jeanne Hafer
13	Evan Jones
13	Evan Milks
15	Carolina Jones
15	Dottie Hallock
17	Joe Johnson
20	Malia Jackson
23	Linda Jenema
24	Sonni Rodriguez
25	Pat Schopp
27	Larry Wolke



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 Benzonia.

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!



Anniversaries

24	Tad and Margie Peacock
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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

Nov 5	—Christian Ed—
	Casseroles
Nov 12	—Soul Sisters
Nov 19	—Linda Jenema
Nov 26	—Carolina Tabora





For our BACN donations this month, we are collecting Baking Goods for **Benzie Area Christian Neighbors**. Help us help those in need by participating in our ongoing **Bring In Groceries** program.

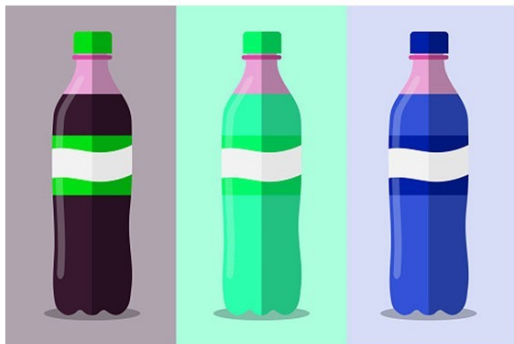
November Musicians



Nov 5—Mary Ellen Wagner and Nena Girven
Nov 12—Nena Girven
Nov 19—Mary Ellen Wagner and Nena Girven
Nov 26—Nena Girven

2023 Youth Sunday School Service Project

Returnable Bottles & Cans Collection



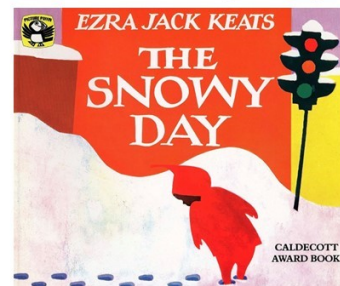
Funds raised will purchase new winter boots for the Benzie County Baby Pantry

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)

Again, this year Circle 1 is encouraging those who like to bake to make 5-6 dozen holiday cookies or other holiday treats like fudge, peanut brittle, small breads or fruit cakes. The breads should be individually wrapped, the candy packaged in small quantities. They should be labeled cookie exchange with your name on them and be at the church by Fri. Dec. 15 or bring them by 1:00 on Sat., Dec.16. Circle 1 and anyone who would like to join them are getting together on Sat., Dec.16 @ 1:00 to package up the cookies for distribution to some of our members and friends. We will also be looking for volunteers to deliver cookies on 12/16,12/17 or 12/18. If you would like to help, please contact Chris Stone @ 231 651 0476 or chrisjstone47@gmail.com.



Circle 1 will meet **Wed., Nov.15** at the church @ 1:00. Dec. projects will be on the agenda.

Fun facts from the archives!

Even though we were organized in the summer of 1860, the people met for two years in the Bailey's home.

We were founded as a Christian Colony and College based upon the general plan of Oberlin Colony and College. The church was part of the Academy.

From the Bailey's home, onto the log schoolhouse, then we moved to the upper floor of the college in 1867.

The building that is now the Historical Museum was completed and dedicated as the First Congregational Church of Benzonia in 1887.

We helped with the Underground Railroad, helping people reach Canada.

For more information on the growth of the church and the county check out Rev. Harlow Mills book, *The Making of a Country Parish*. It is a fascinating read and in both our library and the Benzonia Public Library.

The Mills Community House was once part of the church campus.

We joined the United Church of Christ in 1961.

The building that now is the home of First Congregational Church of Benzonia, United Church of Christ, was dedicated in April 1968.

We are a church with a mission to welcome all people into being followers of Jesus Christ, to serve our community, and to nourish and enrich our faith. Our vision is to be a united community in Christ's love.

CASSEROLE & SOUP

SILENT AUCTION

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023



**BIDDING BEGINS AT 10 AM, ENDS 30 MINUTES
FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF WORSHIP SERVICE**

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

HOSTED BY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

November 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 1:00 Women's Fellowship 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	2 7:00 NA (Barn)	3 12N WAA (Barn) 7 PM AA (Barn)	4
5 10:30am Worship Casserole & Soup Auction 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	6 12N New Comer AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5-6:30 SMART Recovery (Barn) 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 AA (Barn)	7 7:00 WAA (Barn)	8 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	9 4-6 Historical Society (Fellowship Hall) 7:00 NA (Barn)	10 12N WAA (Barn) 7 PM AA (Barn)	11 8:30 Men's Breakfast @ Papa J's 9-5 Personal Use (Barn)
12 9:30 Deacon's 10:30am Worship 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	13 Diane Vacation 9:00 Trustees 11 Commodities 12N New Comer AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5-6:30 SMART Recovery (Barn) 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 AA (Barn)	14 Diane Vacation 7:00 WAA (Barn)	15 Diane Vacation 12N AA (Barn) 1:00 Circle I 7:00 AA (Barn)	16 Diane Vacation 7:00 NA (Barn)	17 Diane Vacation 12N WAA (Barn) 7 PM AA (Barn)	18 9-12 Zonta (Barn)
19 Pastor Patty Vacation 10:30am Worship 12:00 Christian Education	20 Pastor Patty Vacation 12N New Comer AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5-6:30 SMART Recovery (Barn) 7:00 Boy Scouts	21 Pastor Patty Vacation 3:00 Historical Society (Library) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	22 Pastor Patty Vacation 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	23 Pastor Patty Vacation OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 NA (Barn) 	24 Pastor Patty Vacation OFFICE CLOSED 12N WAA (Barn) 7 PM AA (Barn)	25 Pastor Patty Vacation
26 10:30am Worship	27 12N New Comer AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge 5-6:30 SMART Recovery (Barn) 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 AA (Barn)	28 2:00 Historical Society (Library) 5:00 Council 7:00 WAA (Barn)	29 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	30 7:00 NA (Barn)		

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A Joyful Noise November 2023

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BENZONIA UCC
BENZONIA, MICHIGAN



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