

A JOYFUL NOISE!

February 2024

Hi and Happy February,

For those of you that were at the Annual Meeting this past weekend, please offer a place of grace while I repeat some of what was shared.

Every year we, the church, enter statistical information into the UCC Data Hub. This is a yearly report that we give covering everything from attendance, special services, and giving. The United Church of Christ, on the national level then compiles this information, offering a lot of demographic material. i

Over the past year I have been attending webinars that speak to and concern finances and giving. I have participated in conversations from Honey, Who Keeps Shrinking the Church Budget to Millennial and Gen Z Giving. Some interesting information: Did you know that it will take 5-7 new givers to make up for the loss of one long-standing, large giver? That Millennial and Gen Z'ers only give money to places they believe are doing good work? People, on the whole, will not come to church if they don't see that the church is doing good work, ii be it locally or globally. Here is where this ties in together for us here at FCCB-UCC; we're doing pretty well around here.

In reviewing the data hub information, our average, in person Sunday, attendance is up over last year. Averages aside, we are seeing some new faces more often. iii

Facebook views are trending well, averaging 65 views per service. iv

Posts on FB of what we are doing around here have more likes and shares than the service does, and I am really okay with that. This means that the broader community is seeing what we are doing here at FCCB-UCC, and are sharing that information. People are coming to see what we are doing. They are asking questions in the community about what we are up to. People from outside this church are coming and giving to the programs that Outreach is engaging with.

Although we had a deficit budget for 2023, we are not as far behind as we thought we would be. You give where you can with your time, talents, and treasure. With your whole being. That is what makes the church go round! Being the body of Christ. Using our voice to emulate Jesus' voice; "All are Beloved". Using our hands and feet and hearts to bring the Kingdom of God into being.

Thank you for being the fantastic church that you are!

Pastor Patty

- i. If you are interested in the reports, let me know.
- ii. They don't give to church just because Grammie does.
- iii. Please, wear your name tag.
- iv. This number is a ongoing, not just Sunday, number.

Remember in Your Prayers

Nancy Reynolds	Maddie
Doris Marshall	AJ
Barbara	Denise
Philip Lyman	Kathy S.
Greg Lowry	Robin N.
	Eva M.

Family and
Friends of
Barbara
Pharr



Family and Friends of
Russ Stoddard

Family and Friends of
Tom Stier



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 Cheboygan.

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 collecting **Soup**. Help us help those in need by participating in our ongoing **Bring In Groceries** program.

Cards and Notes



*Dear Pastor Patty and congregation,
We offer our sincere thanks for the out pouring
of love and support you have provided our family
during this very difficult time of loss of my Mother.
The floral arrangement was stunning and very thoughtful.
We so appreciate your kindness.
Most Sincerely, Diane Pharr and the Barbara Pharr family*

Web Links

Michigan Conference News: michucc.org

Church Facebook Page: [facebook.com/
BenzoniaCongregational](https://facebook.com/BenzoniaCongregational)

United Northern Association Facebook Page:
facebook.com/UnitedNorthernAssociationUCC

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



February Birthdays

1	Judy Polhamus
2	Peter Moss
2	Leah Johnson
2	Barry Hahn
4	Ryan Strom
8	Christy Case
8	Mary Gehring
8	Elizabeth Neiger
9	Chris Jones
13	Kim Weaver
13	Shelley Marshall
14	John Gehring
14	Delores Jones
16	Lynn Hopkins
21	Will Jones
23	Donna Knox
25	Wyatt Brown
29	Marsha Case
29	Marilee Strom



Anniversaries
(none)

Volunteers Coffee Hour

Feb 4	Chris Gehring
Feb 11	Soul Sisters
Feb 18	Chris Stone
Feb 25	Barb Brian





Please Join Us for Worship

Wednesday Feb 14	7:00 PM	Ash Wednesday
Sunday March 24	10:30 AM	Palm Sunday
Thursday March 28	6:00 PM	Maundy Thursday with potluck
Friday March 29	7:00 PM	Good Friday
Sunday March 31	7:00 AM	Easter Sunrise
Sunday March 31	10:30 AM	Easter Service

The First Congregational Church of Benzonia, UCC
901 Barber St., PO Box 234, Benzonia, MI 49616



Taco Bar & Games Day



Sunday, February 25
following Worship



Hosted by the Deacons



Circle 1 will meet
Wednesday, Feb 21st at
1:00 PM at Grill 44 in
Bear Lake. Please let
Chris Stone know if you
plan to attend.

chrisjstone47@gmail.com
or 231.651.0476.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Now Thru February 11th



Soup Can Collection
Benefitting BACN and
Benzie Food Partners

NFC vs AFC

Blue and Red bins in
the Fellowship Hall

Sponsored By Outreach

Christian Education Event

BLIND DATE
WITH A BOOK

mystery books of
various genres
clues to help you choose
\$5.00 each



donations benefit Elementary
Sunday School BACN Service
Project and Youth Sunday School
Winter Boot Service Project

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

FEBRUARY 11, 2024
FOLLOWING
WORSHIP SERVICE

MENU

Choice of Soups
Bread
Dessert
Beverages
PLUS
Quarts Available To Go

PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE 2024 BLANKET PROJECT

February 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 3:15-6:45 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	2 7 PM AA (Barn)	3
4 10:30am Worship and Communion	5 11 Commodities 12N New Comer AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5-6:30 SMART Recovery (Barn) 7 pm Boy Scouts	6 3:15-6:45 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	7 3:15-6:45 Tutoring (Barn)	8 3:15-6:45 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	9 7 PM AA (Barn)	10 8:30 Men's Breakfast @ Papa J's
11 9:30 Deacon's 10:30am Worship 11:30 am Souper Bowl Sunday	12 9:00 Trustees 12N New Comer AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5-6:30 SMART Recovery (Barn) 7 pm Boy Scouts	13 3:15-6:45 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	14 3:15-6:45 Tutoring (Barn) 7 PM Ash Wednesday Service	15 3:15-6:45 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	16 7 PM AA (Barn)	17 9-2 Zonta (Barn)
18 10:30am Worship 12:00 Christian Education	19 12N New Comer AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5-6:30 SMART Recovery (Barn) 7 pm Boy Scouts	20 3:15-6:45 Tutoring (Barn) 5:00 Council 7:00 WAA (Barn)	21 1 PM Circle 1 at Grill 44 3:15-6:45 Tutoring (Barn)	22 3:15-6:45 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	23 7 PM AA (Barn)	24
25 10:30am Worship 11:30 am Taco Bar and Games	26 12N New Comer AA (Barn) 12-5 Bridge Club 5-6:30 SMART Recovery (Barn) 7 pm Boy Scouts	27 3:15-6:45 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	28 3:15-6:45 Tutoring (Barn)	29 3:15-6:45 Tutoring (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)		

First Congregational Church of Benzonia UCC
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Benzonia, MI 49616
Phone: (231) 882-4922

A Joyful Noise February 2024

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