

# A Joyful Noise!

May 2025

Hi,

As we are moving into the next phase of the year, spring, and working with contemplative practices, this month I'd like to offer gardening.

Yes, gardening is not for everyone. Yes, gardening can be arduous. Yes, gardening can get expensive. I understand all of that. However, there can be more to it when we open ourselves up to new adventures and thoughts.

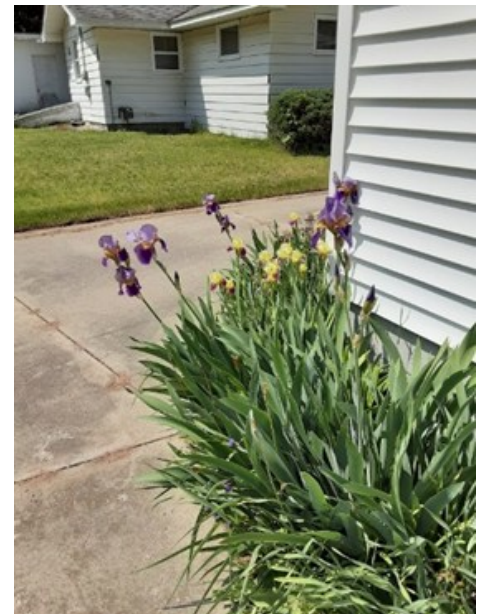
Gardening offers a place of contemplation. What to plant; vegetable or flower, shrub or fruit tree, annuals or perennials, inside or outside plants. To slow down and envision how you can bring more of God's creation, color and honeybees into your space.

Gardening offers a time of slowing down. How to work the soil. Breathing in the scents of the dirt, organic and moist. And if it's not smelling like that, to work in some fertilizer. Slowing down to see the earthworms and even the centipedes.

Gardening offers a time of intentionality. Putting the sunflowers where the sun is shining the most. Offering the impatiens a shady place to flourish. Ensuring that the tomato plants are well supported before they get too big to get a basket around them. Not overwatering the ancient Christmas cactus. Working with creation to ensure that all have what they need to be their best.

Remember too, that the definition of a weed is simply a plant growing where you don't want it to.

Gardening offers time with God. We are part of creation, and we are called by God to help care for creation. Breathe deeply into God's love while your hands get dirty.



See you along the way,

## Remember in your Prayers

|          |                     |
|----------|---------------------|
| Barbara  | Kaylee              |
| Kathy S. | Family & friends of |
| Mike S.  | Gary Brouwer        |
| Bethany  | Friends of Nancy    |
| Eric     | Reynolds            |
| Mike     |                     |
| Diana    |                     |
| Crystal  |                     |



**Those who have lost loved ones.**

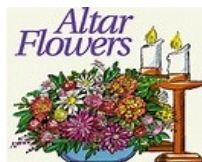


## UCC Church of the Month

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  
**First Congregational Church of Charlevoix UCC**

## Flowers

If you need the assistance of the church for Altar Flowers, please call the office **231-882-4922**.



For our **B.I.G.** donations this month, we are collecting **laundry products**.

## Web Links

**Michigan Conference News:** [michucc.org](http://michucc.org)

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

**United Northern Association Facebook Page:**  
[facebook.com/UnitedNorthernAssociationUCC](https://facebook.com/UnitedNorthernAssociationUCC)

**Church YouTube Page:**  
<https://www.youtube.com/@FirstCongregationalBenzoniaUCC>

**Church Instagram Page:** @First\_Congregational\_Benzonia



## May Birthdays

|    |                    |
|----|--------------------|
| 1  | Dick Henry         |
| 6  | Trevor Danford     |
| 7  | Wade Peacock       |
| 7  | Brianna Brian      |
| 8  | Catherine Clifford |
| 9  | Taylor Johnson     |
| 12 | Katrina Smith      |
| 15 | Joanne Appelhof    |
| 25 | Steve Stephens     |
| 25 | Bill Bos           |
| 26 | Sabra Danford      |
| 26 | Rob Wolowiec       |
| 27 | Kristine Johnson   |
| 27 | Doug Workman       |
| 30 | Lawrence Czap      |



|    |                          |
|----|--------------------------|
| 5  | John and Barbara Riegler |
| 7  | Donald and Jean Voight   |
| 13 | Michael and Nancy Call   |
| 17 | Scott and Kathy Neveu    |
| 23 | Wayne and Marilee Strom  |

## Coffee Hour Hosts

|               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| <b>May 4</b>  | Mary Rodriquez        |
| <b>May 11</b> | Cathy Clifford & Sara |
| <b>May 18</b> | Chris Stone           |





**\*There is a peanut allergy  
in the building!!\***

## **No Peanut or Peanut Butter Products**

This includes and not limited to:  
cookies, nut crunch donut/donut  
holes, frosting, dessert bars and  
candy bars!

### **MESSAGE FROM BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

After a financially successful 2024, Unified Budget income in the first two months of 2025 exceeds expenses by \$12,510. A heartfelt thank you to each of you who have made this possible. All contributions are very much appreciated and help us to carry out our mission to serve others.

# May is...



## **Laundry Products Month**

Liquid Laundry Detergent

Pods

Fabric Softener

Fabric Softener Sheets

Stain Stick

Bleach

Laundry Booster

Woolite

Circle 1 will meet at the Cherry Hut on Wednesday, May 28th at 1:00. Please let Chris Stone know if you plan to attend so we can let them know how many to plan on, so they can have a table ready. Phone: (231) 651-0476, Email: [chrisjstone47@gmail.com](mailto:chrisjstone47@gmail.com)



Women's Fellowship is hosting a dinner for Single MOMM on Friday, May 9th at 6:00pm. If you would like to help serve or help clean up after, please contact  
Chris Stone (231) 651-0476 or  
Jane Gary (231) 633-9728.



## **ATTIC TREASURE SALE**

Hosted by Women's Fellowship

**WHEN: Saturday, June 21st, 8am-4pm**



ATTIC TREASURES SALE



\*We are looking for people to help set up on Thursday, June 19th and Friday, June 20th from 3:00-5:00. We are also looking for people to work the day of the sale and to help take it down at 4:00. If you can help on any of these days and times, please contact Chris Stone, (231) 651-0476, or Jane Gary, (231) 633-9728.

We will begin accepting items for the Attic Treasure Sale on Monday, May 5th. Please put items in the Sunday School room. We will not accept any electronics or clothing. Be sure items are clean, not broken, or missing any pieces.

# May 2025

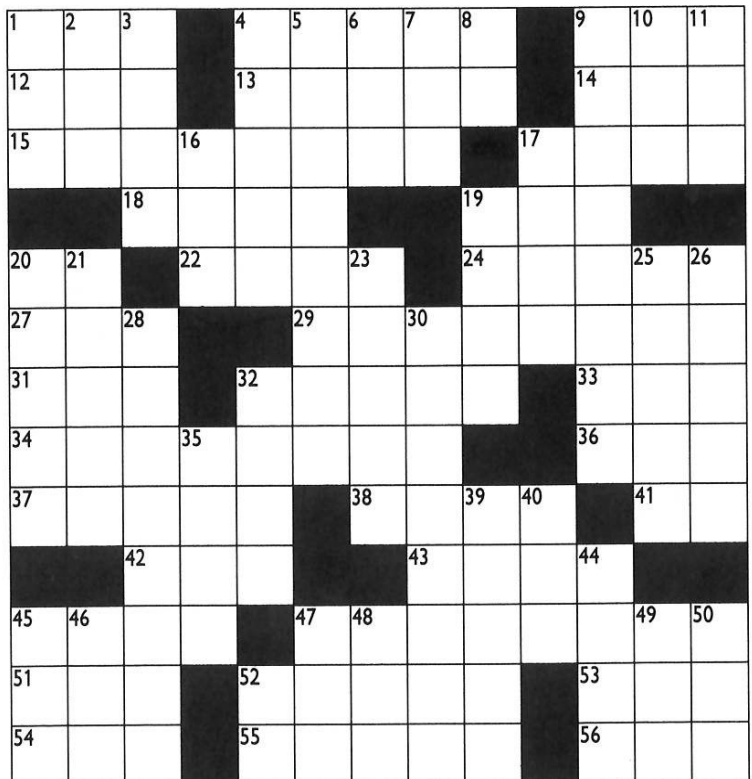
| SUN                                                              | MON                                                                                                       | TUE                                               | WED                 | THU                                  | FRI                                                                         | SAT                             |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                                                  |                                                                                                           |                                                   |                     | 1<br>5pm—AA (Barn)<br>7pm—NA (Barn)  | 2<br>12pm—WAA<br>7pm—AA (Barn)                                              | 3<br>8:30am<br>Men's Break-fast |
| 4<br>BIG Sunday<br>10:30am—<br>Worship &<br>Communion            | 5<br>12pm—Bridge<br>5pm—SMART<br>7pm—AA (Barn)<br>7pm—Boy Scouts                                          | 6<br>5:30pm—<br>Single MOMM<br>7pm—WAA<br>(Barn)  | 7<br>7pm—AA (Barn)  | 8<br>5pm—AA (Barn)<br>7pm—NA (Barn)  | 9<br>12pm—WAA<br>6pm—Single<br>MOMM Mother's<br>Day Brunch<br>7pm—AA (Barn) | 10                              |
| 11<br>Mother's Day<br>9:30am—<br>Deacon's<br>10:30am—<br>Worship | 12<br>9am—Trustees<br>11am—<br>Commodities<br>12pm—Bridge<br>5pm—SMART<br>7pm—AA (Barn)<br>7pm—Boy Scouts | 13<br>5:30pm—<br>Single MOMM<br>7pm—WAA<br>(Barn) | 14<br>7pm—AA (Barn) | 15<br>5pm—AA (Barn)<br>7pm—NA (Barn) | 16<br>12pm—WAA<br>7pm—AA (Barn)                                             | 17                              |
| 18<br>10:30am—<br>Worship<br>12pm—<br>Christian Ed               | 19<br>10am—Pianos<br>tuned<br>12pm—Bridge<br>5pm—SMART<br>7pm—AA (Barn)<br>7pm—Boy Scouts                 | 20<br>5pm—Council<br>7pm—WAA<br>(Barn)            | 21<br>7pm—AA (Barn) | 22<br>5pm—AA (Barn)<br>7pm—NA (Barn) | 23<br>12pm—WAA<br>7pm—AA (Barn)                                             | 24                              |
| 25<br>10:30am—<br>Worship<br>12pm—<br>Miner's Baby<br>Shower     | 26<br>Memorial Day<br>Office Closed<br>12pm—Bridge<br>5pm—SMART<br>7pm—AA (Barn)<br>7pm—Boy Scouts        | 27<br>7pm—WAA<br>(Barn)                           | 28<br>7pm—AA (Barn) | 29<br>5pm—AA (Barn)<br>7pm—NA (Barn) | 30<br>12pm—WAA<br>7pm—AA (Barn)                                             | 31                              |

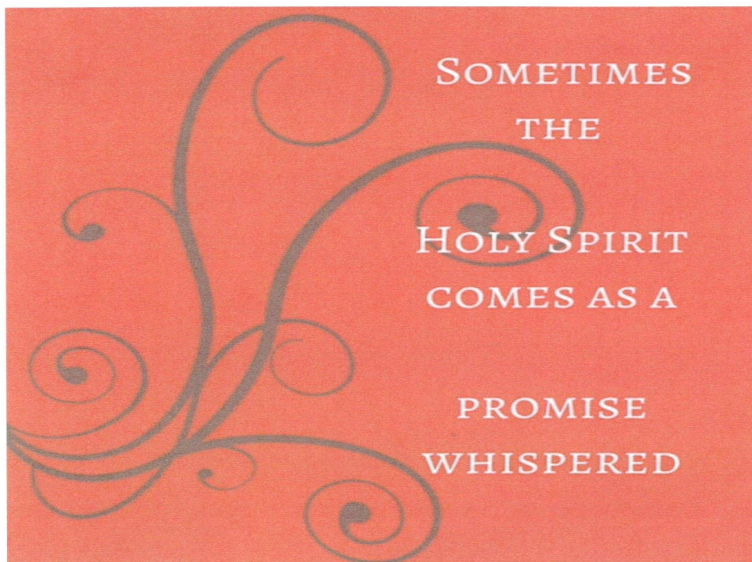
**ACROSS**

- 1 Nothing  
4 "Which he had \_\_\_ prepared unto glory," Rom. 9:23  
9 "Prepare ye the \_\_\_ of the Lord," Isa. 40:3  
12 Period of time  
13 "Nevertheless the men \_\_\_ hard" Jonah 1:13  
14 Mineral  
15 "As he returned into the city, he \_\_\_." Matt. 21:18  
17 "Strain at a \_\_\_, and swallow a camel." Matt. 23:24  
18 "At the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's \_\_\_." Gen. 14:17  
19 The \_\_\_ Testament  
20 Seven days (abbr.)  
22 "She brought forth butter in a lordly \_\_\_." Judg. 5:25  
24 "Then Moses trembled, and \_\_\_ not behold." Acts 7:32  
27 Ben-\_\_: name Rachel gave Benjamin Gen. 35:17-19  
29 "And Jahaza, and \_\_\_, and Mephaath," Josh. 13:18  
31 "Wise \_\_\_ lay up knowledge." Prov. 10:14  
32 "And one cake of \_\_\_ bread," Exo. 29:23  
33 Son of Hur Exo. 38:22  
34 Son of Shimon 1 Chron. 4:20  
36 "\_\_\_, come down ere my child die." John 4:49  
37 Icy rain  
38 "There shall not an \_\_\_ be left behind;" Exo. 10:26  
41 The symbol for palladium  
42 Cheerleader yell  
43 "The breastplate of judgement the \_\_\_ and the Thummim;" Exo. 28:30  
45 "Thy word is a \_\_\_ unto my feet," Psalm 119:105  
47 "Ye should turn from these \_\_\_ unto the living God," Acts 14:15  
51 Before Jer.  
52 70's music  
53 Therapeutic bath  
54 Son of Bilhah and Jacob  
55 Mature  
56 Timid

**DOWN**

- 1 16th book of the Bible (abbr.)  
2 Son of Caleb 1 Chron. 4:15  
3 "God called the dry \_\_\_ Earth;"  
4 Son of 16 Down Gen. 46:16  
5 Removed by circumcision  
6 "\_\_\_ no man any thing, but to love one another;" Rom. 13:8  
7 Esau was born this color  
8 Name of altar in Josh. 22:34  
9 "Talk ye of all his \_\_\_ works." Psalm 105:2  
10 Son of Jether 1 Chron. 7:38  
11 "Touch me not; for I am not \_\_\_ ascended to my Father;" John 20:17  
16 Father of 4 down  
17 Dismal  
19 Father of Azariah 2 Chron. 15:1  
20 "Blessed are the barren, and the \_\_\_ that never bare," Luke 23:29  
21 "Let us \_\_\_ before the Lord our maker." Psalm 95:6  
23 Wife of Ashur 1 Chron. 4:5  
25 Deprive of honor  
26 Day the earth brought forth grass  
28 "Strengthened with might by his Spirit in the \_\_\_;" Eph. 3:16  
30 To condemn openly  
32 Promise  
35 "But the hypocrites in heart \_\_\_ up wrath;" Job 36:13  
39 "Seek him that maketh the seven stars and \_\_\_," Amos 5:8  
40 "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is \_\_\_ for the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62  
44 Maiden  
45 Cover  
46 Son of Abijam 1 Kgs. 15:8  
47 Seven to a Roman  
48 Small cobra  
49 After Gal.  
50 "Verily, verily, I \_\_\_ unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:3  
52 Doctor (abbr.)





Join the Celebration!!  
The Ordination of  
George Davis-Williams

May 25, 2025  
3:00 pm

First Congregational Church of  
Cadillac United Church of Christ

## Crossword Key for April

21

|    |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |   |    |   |    |    |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|----|----|----|---|---|
| 1  | J | A | H  |    | 4  | F  | E  | N | C  | E |    | 9  | E  | P | H |
| 12 | O | W | E  |    | 13 | I  | L  | E | U  | M |    | 14 | T  | I | E |
| 15 | D | E | B  | O  | R  | A  | H  |   | 17 | E | T  | H  | E  | R |   |
|    |   |   | 19 | R  | A  | S  | H  |   | 20 | A | R  | A  | N  |   |   |
| 21 | A | L | E  | R  | T  |    | 23 | A | H  | O | L  | I  | A  | B |   |
| 26 | P | E | W  | S  |    | 27 | P  | R | I  | D | E  |    | 28 | F | E |
| 29 | P | A | S  |    | 30 | U  | R  | I | A  | S |    | 31 | G  | O | G |
| 32 | I | D |    | 33 | A  | R  | I  | E | H  |   | 34 | C  | A  | R | E |
| 35 | I | S |    | 36 | H  | M  | A  | E | L  |   | 37 | P  | A  | L | E |
|    |   |   | 38 | E  | O  | N  | S  |   | 39 | G | U  | N  | I  |   |   |
| 40 | B | U | N  | N  | I  |    | 42 | M | A  | R | A  | L  | A  | H |   |
| 45 | U | R | N  |    | 46 | U  | N  | I | T  | E |    | 48 | E  | R | A |
| 49 | Z | I | A  |    | 50 | M  | E  | T | E  | R |    | 51 | E  | M | T |

First Congregational Church of Benzonia UCC  
901 Barber Street, P.O. Box 234  
Benzonia, MI 49616

# A Joyful Noise!

First Congregational Church Of Benzonia UCC  
Benzonia, MICHIGAN



Office Phone: 231-882-4922  
Office Hours: M—F 9am—Noon  
Office Email: [secretary@benzoniacongregational.org](mailto:secretary@benzoniacongregational.org)