

# A Joyful Noise!

July 2025

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Happy Summer,

I am having a hard time facing July. I think our cooler than normal May started the warmer months off a little too slowly for me and now, time seems to be flying. With July here, the Council is preparing for our next quarterly meeting and potluck. Please be sure to join us on Sunday, July 13 immediately following worship.

At our last quarterly meeting and potluck in April, you chatted and brainstormed at your tables over lunch. Those thoughts and ideas were then shared with the group and recorded. The Council, and our committees, have been considering those ideas and working toward implementation or further discussion. I wanted to update you on a few of your suggestions and some of our progress.

First of all, Soup and Conversation is back! After Pastor Patty's successful Lenten program, the Deacons and the Christian Education Committee have planned to continue Soup and Conversation through next winter. The first topic of conversation will be the United Church of Christ. That discussion will begin on August 6<sup>th</sup> and meet every other Wednesday through September. Rev. Dr. Lawrence Richardson has agreed to join us and lead our conversation on Wednesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>.

Youth involvement was a hot topic at our brainstorming session. Our committees have continued to discuss strategies for reaching out and engaging a younger audience. At the same time, the Michigan Conference of the United Church of Christ recently announced they have received a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. for \$1,250,000. This grant will be used to fund the Michigan Conference Mitten Project: *knitting together children and adults in worship and prayer*. This 5-year program will invite congregations to engage children in worship, so that all of us can leave church more deeply connected with the spiritual and ready to find the sacred in our everyday lives. Throughout this program, all Michigan UCC churches will receive resources to nurture children in worship and prayer practices, as well as, the opportunity to receive \$5,000 to do specific work within their church.

Please continue to share your thoughts with us. I would like to echo Pastor Patty's newsletter article from last month encouraging us to share stories. As we continue to journey together, the more we share and brainstorm together, the better we can be today and for the future.

Blessings to your July,

*Sara*

Barbara, Mike S., Bethany, Mike, Diana,  
Ayden, Dixie

# Prayers For...

Those who have lost loved ones.

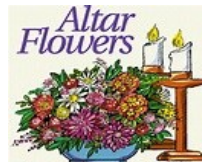


## UCC Church of the Month

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 Gaylord 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 **condiments**.

## 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



## July Birthdays

|    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| 1  | Cleo Finch       |
| 8  | Cynthia Schnarr  |
| 8  | Angie Haase      |
| 16 | Darlene Gray     |
| 19 | Laura Kassanos   |
| 22 | Nancy Call       |
| 24 | Neil Nugent      |
| 25 | Hannah Rodriguez |
| 28 | Neil Marshall    |
| 29 | Tiana Gould      |
| 30 | David VanHammen  |
| 30 | Anna Wear        |



## Coffee Hour Hosts

|                |                                                          |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>July 6</b>  | Circle 1                                                 |
| <b>July 13</b> | Quarterly Mtg/Potluck/<br>Council                        |
| <b>July 20</b> | Linda Jenema                                             |
| <b>July 27</b> | Open—contact the<br>church if you would like<br>to host. |



# Benzie Central Schools will be Providing Summer Meals



## Summer Meal Service Locations

FREE for all students 18 and under!

### Meal Service Locations

Lake Ann Elementary  
19375 Bronson Lake Rd  
Interlochen, MI 49643

### **Dates & Times**

June 23 – August 22, 2025  
Monday thru Friday

Breakfast 8am-9am  
Lunch 11:30am-12:30pm

**CLOSED**  
July 4<sup>th</sup> for the holiday

# SUMMER MEALS

### DETAILS

- Meals are only available during service times
- 1 breakfast & 1 Lunch per child each day
- Children must be present
- Meals must be consumed on site



chartwells®

*Do you or someone you know  
need assistance registering for  
the Father Fred Back to  
School Shoe Event? Please con-  
tact the church and we will  
help you get signed up!*



# CALL TO MEETING: 2025 Michigan Conference Annual Meeting October 3-4, 2025



The 2025 Annual Meeting will be addressing key themes around thriving and not just surviving as we look at how to do justice, how to stand for our values, and how our churches can respond in new and creative ways to manage these turbulent times. The Annual Meeting of the Michigan Conference United Church of Christ will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 3 and 4, 2025 with a theme of “A Justice Seeking Conference.” It will be held at the Westin in Southfield.

The Annual Meeting will kick off on Friday morning by offering an optional visit to the Detroit Historical Museum. After lunch, workshops will be available with some interesting topics in the works. Financial options the Conference offers, how to develop older adult ministries, justice topics, and more. Saturday will include hearings for resolutions, worship with conference minister Rev. Dr. Lillian Daniel, and a session with keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Wendell Anthony.

Like last year, our days together will be full and will include vendor tables, childcare, and time for relaxation and fun. [Registration is open NOW](#). Be sure to note the early bird rate.

Rooms will be available for those staying overnight with a [discounted rate for reservations](#) made before September 5, 2025.

## **Registration is open now**

Early Bird Registration is \$150.00 for Friday and Saturday until August 1, 2025

## **REGISTER NOW!!**

Partial and full scholarships for clergy and delegate registrations are available with preapproval (does not include lodging)

Individuals or churches in need of assistance, please contact [Lisa Soulliere](#) before August 30, 2025.

***Discounted lodging*** is available at the Westin in a [block of hotel rooms](#) for the Michigan Conference UCC until September 5, 2025



It's time to get ready for  
**BACK TO SCHOOL SHOES**

**EVENT INCLUDES**  
New shoes and socks for toddlers through high school (grade 12)  
Eye exams and glasses (if needed)  
School supplies (while supplies last)  
*All services offered at no cost*

**REGISTER ONSITE AT THE FATHER FRED FOUNDATION**

July 28: Benzie  
July 29: Leelanau  
July 31: Kalkaska  
August 1: Antrim  
August 5-8: Grand Traverse

THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT SUPPORTERS!

GOLDEN new balance Vision To Learn

Registration starts May 13th and ends July 18th  
fatherfred.org

**THE Father Fred Foundation™**

826 Hastings St.  
Traverse City, 49686  
Questions? Call: **231-947-2055**

**BENZIE BUS**  
Offering FREE door to door transportation at the Benzie event for residents! Call 231-325-3000

**Our Mission:** Based on the founding belief that each of us is created in God's image, we offer help, hope, and compassion to anyone with essential needs.

# Crossword Key for June

**23**



Soup & Conversation will be starting back up. 6 PM on Wednesdays, Aug 6 and 20, as well as Sept 3 and 17. The topic of discussion will be the United Church of Christ 101. No prerequisites required! Stay tuned...

# July 2025

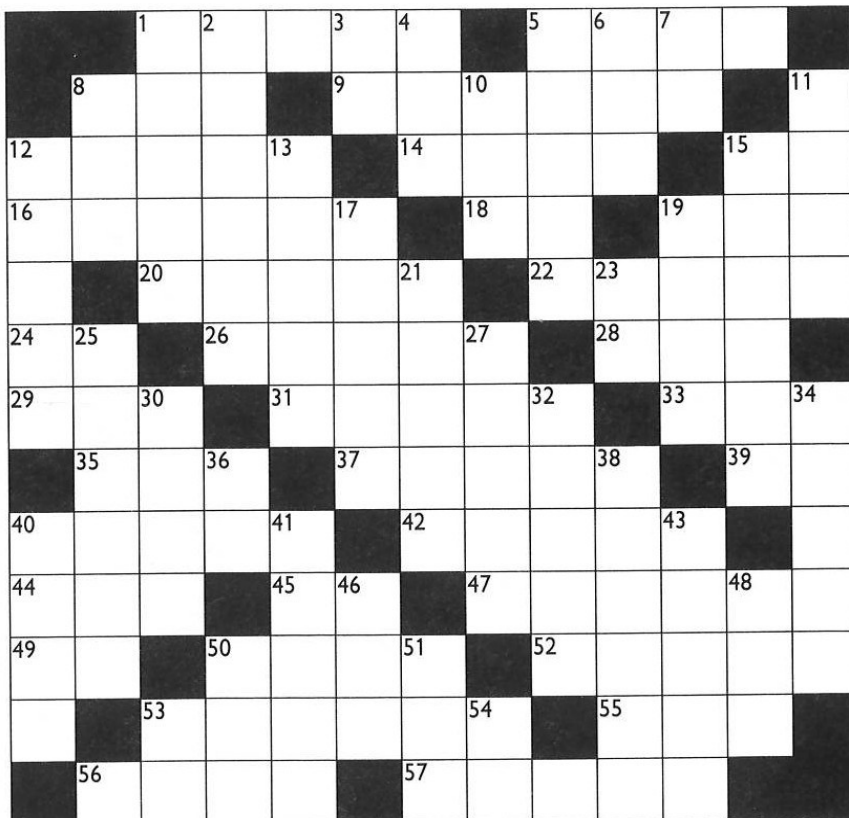
| SUN                                                                      | MON                                                                                                                             | TUE                                                                                                      | WED                                                                  | THU                                                                                   | FRI                                                                                | SAT                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                          |                                                                                                                                 | <b>1</b><br>10am Tutoring<br>7pm WAA (Barn)                                                              | <b>2</b><br>10am Tutoring<br>7pm AA (Barn)                           | <b>3</b><br>10am Tutoring<br>5pm AA (Barn)<br>7pm NA (Barn)                           | <b>4</b><br>Independence Day Office Closed<br>12pm WAA (Barn)<br>7pm AA (Barn)     | <b>5</b><br>8:30am Men's Breakfast<br>9am Tutoring<br>10am Bridal Shower |
| <b>6</b><br>BIG Sunday<br>10:30am Worship                                | <b>7</b><br>12pm Bridge<br>5pm SMART<br>7pm AA (Barn)<br>7pm Boy Scouts                                                         | <b>8</b><br>10am Tutoring<br>7pm WAA (Barn)                                                              | <b>9</b><br>10am Tutoring<br>7pm AA (Barn)                           | <b>10</b><br>10am Tutoring<br>5pm AA (Barn)<br>7pm NA (Barn)                          | <b>11</b><br>12pm WAA (Barn)<br>7pm AA (Barn)                                      | <b>12</b><br>9am Tutoring<br>10am Crystal Lk Property Rights Assoc       |
| <b>13</b><br>10:30am Worship<br>11:30 am Quarterly Mtg & Potluck         | <b>14</b><br>12pm Bridge<br>5pm SMART<br>7pm AA (Barn)<br>7pm Boy Scouts                                                        | <b>15</b><br>10am Tutoring<br>5pm Safe Church Training for Council, Deacons & Trustees<br>7pm WAA (Barn) | <b>16</b><br>10am Tutoring<br>7pm AA (Barn)                          | <b>17</b><br>10am Tutoring<br>5pm AA (Barn)<br>7pm NA (Barn)                          | <b>18</b><br>12pm WAA<br>7pm AA (Barn)                                             | <b>19</b><br>9am Tutoring                                                |
| <b>20</b><br>10:30am Worship<br>9:30am Christian Ed<br>1:30pm Marsh Walk | <b>21</b><br>12pm Bridge<br>5pm SMART<br>7pm AA (Barn)<br>7pm Boy Scouts                                                        | <b>22</b><br>10am Tutoring<br>7pm WAA (Barn)                                                             | <b>23</b><br>10am Tutoring<br>7pm AA (Barn)                          | <b>24</b><br>Pastor Patty Vacation<br>10am Tutoring<br>5pm AA (Barn)<br>7pm NA (Barn) | <b>25</b><br>Pastor Patty Vacation<br>9am Kitchen Use<br>12pm WAA<br>7pm AA (Barn) | <b>26</b><br>Pastor Patty Vacation<br>9am Tutoring                       |
| <b>27</b><br>Pastor Patty Vacation<br>10:30am Worship                    | <b>28</b><br>Pastor Patty Vacation<br>7am Father Fred Shoe Event<br>12pm Bridge<br>5pm SMART<br>7pm AA (Barn)<br>7pm Boy Scouts | <b>29</b><br>Pastor Patty Vacation<br>10am Tutoring<br>7pm AA (Barn)                                     | <b>30</b><br>Pastor Patty Vacation<br>10am Tutoring<br>7pm AA (Barn) | <b>31</b><br>10am Tutoring<br>5pm AA (Barn)<br>7pm NA (Barn)                          |                                                                                    |                                                                          |

## ACROSS

- 1 "Give us this day our daily \_\_\_\_."  
Matt. 6:11
- 5 Healed wound
- 8 Ginger drink
- 9 "Ye cannot serve God and \_\_\_\_."  
Matt. 6:24
- 12 "He shall shake off his unripe \_\_\_\_ as the vine,"  
Job 15:33
- 14 Used to attach Jesus to the cross
- 15 Electrical Engineer (abbr.)
- 16 "And her gates shall \_\_\_\_ and mourn," Isa. 3:26
- 18 New Testament (abbr.)
- 19 African antelope
- 20 "And on the seventh day God \_\_\_\_ his work which he had made;"  
Gen. 2:2
- 22 "For where your treasure is, there will your \_\_\_\_ be also." Matt. 6:21
- 24 Railroad (abbr.)
- 26 "And at Bilhah, and at Ezem, and at \_\_\_\_," 1 Chron. 4:29
- 28 IV x IV
- 29 "\_\_\_\_, our God is merciful."  
Psalm 116:5
- 31 "The heathen \_\_\_\_, the kingdoms were moved;"  
Psalm 46:6
- 33 21st book of the Bible (abbr.)
- 35 Father of Bezaleel  
Exo. 38:22
- 37 Son of Raguel  
Num. 10:29
- 39 Santa's word
- 40 A river of Damascus  
2 Kgs. 5:12
- 42 "But rather rejoice, because your \_\_\_\_ are written in heaven."  
Luke 10:20
- 44 Daniel's abode for a night
- 45 "\_\_\_\_ Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth"  
Jer. 32:17
- 47 "That the plowman shall overtake the \_\_\_\_,"  
Amos 9:13
- 49 "A city that is set on \_\_\_\_ hill cannot be hid."  
Matt. 5:14
- 50 "\_\_\_\_ that ye enter not into temptation."  
Luke 22:40
- 52 "And the \_\_\_\_ measure that is abominable?"  
Micah 6:10
- 53 "The day following unto \_\_\_\_," Acts 21:1
- 55 Prefix for eight
- 56 "The seven \_\_\_\_ ears devoured the seven rank and full ears."  
Gen. 41:7
- 57 "Let your light so \_\_\_\_ before men,"  
Matt. 5:16
- 5 "The \_\_\_\_ with the tongs both worketh in the coals," Isa. 44:12
- 6 12th book of the N. T. (abbr.)
- 7 "For I have given you \_\_\_\_ example,"  
John 13:15
- 8 Son of Jether  
1 Chron. 7:38
- 10 "Let us make \_\_\_\_ in our image,"
- 11 Last book written by Moses (abbr.)
- 12 "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the \_\_\_\_, for ever. Amen."
- 13 "There is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at \_\_\_\_,"  
1 Sam. 28:7
- 15 "The king will \_\_\_\_ him with great riches,"  
1 Sam. 17:25
- 17 Father of Tahan  
1 Chron. 7:25
- 19 "For God so loved the world, that he \_\_\_\_ his only begotten Son,"
- 21 Idol of the Philistines  
Judg. 16:23
- 23 After Gen.
- 25 Son of Leah  
Gen. 29:32
- 27 "He is in the house of Machir, the son of Ammiel, in Lo- \_\_\_\_," 2 Sam. 9:4
- 30 Son of Dishan  
Gen. 36:28
- 32 Women
- 34 "And he built the inner \_\_\_\_ with three rows of hewed stone,"  
1 Kgs. 6:36
- 36 "Our Father which art \_\_\_\_ heaven,"
- 38 "Till ye be left as a \_\_\_\_ upon the top of a mountain,"  
Isa. 30:17
- 40 First man
- 41 Brother of Moses
- 43 "There was silence in heaven about the \_\_\_\_ of half an hour." Rev. 8:1
- 46 "And when Paul \_\_\_\_ laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them;"  
Acts 19:6
- 48 Enter (abbr.)
- 50 21st letter of the Greek alphabet
- 51 Affirmative
- 53 Positive or negative blood factor
- 54 Quieting sound

## DOWN

- 1 "I shall bear the \_\_\_\_ to my father for ever." Gen. 44:32
- 2 "\_\_\_\_ ye therefore, and be converted,"  
Acts 3:19
- 3 "\_\_\_\_ I my brother's keeper?" Gen. 4:9
- 4 Son of Jacob by Bilhah Gen. 35:25



First Congregational Church of Benzonia UCC  
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Benzonia, MI 49616

# A Joyful Noise!

First Congregational Church Of Benzonia UCC  
Benzonia, MICHIGAN



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