

# A Joyful Noise!

September 2025

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On Wednesday the 6th, 16 of us gathered for the first of four conversations of learning more about the United Church of Christ. This class was met with enthusiasm and saturation of information. When we were done, a suggestion was made that the questions asked and the answers given be shared. So, if you were in the group, here is a refresher. If you missed that night, here are the highlights.

What were the 5 streams that came together to make the United Church of Christ? Congregational Christian, Evangelical and Reformed, Afro-Christian

Who and when did previous mergers take place? Christian (Pilgrims) and Congregational (Puritans) merged June 17, 1931. Evangelical (German Lutherans) and Reformed (A different group of German Lutherans via Switzerland) merged June 26, 1934.

When was the UCC formed? The merger of now three streams happened June 25, 1957. We came together because we were all doing great social justice work!!

Where? Cleveland, Ohio

Where headquarters? Cleveland, Ohio. Fun fact: This is where the Synod 37 will be in July of 2028.

Why do we have a Synod? This was a compromise in the merger. The E&R have always worked under a synod, so that was adopted. The CC churches, as autonomous, got to choose whether to join the UCC. The E&R side became more autonomous. Our General Synod, held triennially, speaks for the church, not to the church.

Are we Conservative or Liberal? Yes, all of the above. As every church is autonomous, we can decide where we fall on the spectrum.

What are the Three Great Loves? Love of Creation, Love of Neighbor, Love of Children.

What is the bible verse the UCC uses as a unifier? "Thay they may all be one" (John 17:21).

How many UCC churches – national – state? Nationally approximately 5000. State of Michigan has 145. There are 12 UCC churches in the United Northern Association. There are six associations in Michigan: Covenant, Detroit Metro, Eastern, Grand West, Southwest, UNA. The UCC has over 200 mission partners around the world.

What are some of the slogans used in identifying the UCC? Unified and Unifying. No Matter where you are or who you are, you're welcome here. God is Still Speaking.

When did FCCB become FCCBUCC? 1961

Fun Facts:: The Congregational Church was the first church to ordain a Black man; Lemuel Haynes, 1785, and a woman; Antoinette Brown Blackwell, 1853. Ms. Blackwell was trained at Oberlin College.

Barbara, Mike S., Bethany, Eric, Mike, Diana,  
Brenda, Jean, Don, Chuck, Brooklyn, Jeff

Prayers For...

Those who have lost loved ones.

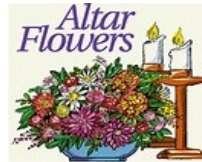


#### UCC Church of the Month

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 Ironton UCC**

#### Flowers

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



**BIG**

For our **B.I.G.** donations this month,  
we are collecting  
**food for Benzie Central Schools Food  
Pantry.**

#### 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



#### September Birthdays

3 Kay Fischer  
3 Mary Thompson  
7 Connie Marshall  
8 Jerry Slater  
9 Andrew Wolowiec  
10 Mike Sheets  
10 Patricia Swanson  
14 Shaun Johnson  
16 Jennifer Olney  
16 Bill Dundon  
19 Ed Deering  
20 Henry Crooks  
22 Gregory Reed  
24 Julie Bretzke  
29 Nate Stone  
30 Mary Ellen Wagner



#### September Anniversaries

5 Tim and Dianne Brian  
6 Clint and Michelle Brian  
19 Randy and Carol Dye

#### Coffee Hour Hosts

**Sept. 7** Linda Jenema &  
Bev Brouwer  
**Sept. 14** Pancake Breakfast  
**Sept. 21** Carolina Táborá  
**Sept. 28** Phyllis Crowell-  
VanHammen



From the Father Fred Facebook Page, August 3, 2025

Father Fred Foundation is with Golden Shoes.

Our Back to School Shoes Program was a huge success and made a big impact! Over 8 days in 5 counties, we provided 1,741 pairs of new shoes, 3,482 pairs of socks, along with school supplies, and vision screenings. We enjoyed every event, seeing countless smiles from happy kids and parents, and watching kids test out their new shoes.

A heartfelt thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time to work the events, including individuals, groups, staff, and board members. A huge thank you to staff member Kristin, who headed up the program, and to our valued sponsors and partners, including Golden Shoes, New Balance, and Vision to Learn.

Thank you also to all who donated to the program! We could not provide this awesome school readiness event without the tremendous support we received from our community. Thank you to all! 💙👟📦✏️👓

From our own record keeper and fantastic FFBTSSE coordinator, Sara, "Father Fred distributed 239 pairs of shoes, and we gave out the size 19's we had last week, so I am considering that 240! Vision to Learn donated 44 eye exams and pairs of glasses".

With 239 pairs of shoes given out that was a lot of lunches and tote bags through Women's Fellowship and Outreach.

Well done Good and Faithful Church!!!







## **Benzie Central Schools Month**

Bring in groceries during the month of September to support the Food Pantries at BCHS/BCMS, Betsie Valley, Homestead Hills, and Lake Ann Elementary

### **\*NEEDS LIST\***

#### **Easy Meals**

Shells & Cheese (no milk needed)  
Spaghetti and Sauce (canned)  
Pizza Kit  
Pancake Mix and Syrup  
Soup with Pop Tops  
Pasta Pop Tarts  
Cereal Cups

#### **Individual Meals**

Soup with Pop Tops  
Chef Boyardee Meals with Pop Tops  
(Ravioli, Spaghetti & Meatballs,  
Beefaroni, etc.)  
Individual Pasta Roni  
Individual Mashed Potatoes  
Easy Mac Cups  
Oatmeal Packets  
Non-perishable meal bowls  
Ramen Noodles/Cups

#### **Healthy Snacks**

Granola / Protein Bars  
Peanut Butter  
Jelly / Jam  
Crackers  
Trail Mix  
Fruit Cups / Applesauce  
Beef Stick / Jerky  
NutriGrain Bars  
Chicken Snack Pack To Go  
Tuna Snack Pack To Go

#### **Beverages**

Gatorade  
Flavored Waters  
Water Bottles  
Crystal Light Packets

Circle 1 will meet at the Cherry Hut on Wed., 9/10 @ 1:00. We need to decide on our activities for the coming months. Please let Chris Stone know if you plan on attending so seats can be reserved at the restaurant.

phone: 231 651 0476

[chrisjstone47@gmail.com](mailto:chrisjstone47@gmail.com)



## **Salt City Dixie Jazz Band Performance**

**Saturday, September 20 at 4 PM**

**First Congregational Church of Benzonia  
United Church of Christ  
901 Barber St, Benzonia**

**Free to the public**

**Donations of canned goods will be collected  
to benefit BACN and Benzie Food Partners**



# Soup & Conversation

United Church of Christ 101

No prerequisites required!



**WHEN: 6 PM on Wednesdays**  
**Aug 6 & 20 and Sept 3 & 17**



# Meal and Community Conversation

## Mental Health and Addiction in Benzie County



Join Benzie Faith in Action, The Benzie County Sheriff's Office and experts in the field of mental health and addiction to find faith centered solutions to a crisis in our communities

**Thursday**  
**September 11th**

**6 PM**

First Congregational Church of  
Benzonia UCC, Benzonia MI

**Dinner Provided, All are Welcome**



Cohosted by Benzie Faith in Action and  
the Benzie County Sheriff.  
For info: Luke Allen, Lead Organizer  
313-870-7654, luke@michfa.org



# Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Breakfast 9 am – 10:15 am  
Rally Sunday 10:30 am  
Join us for the first day of  
Sunday School!

First Congregational Church of  
Benzonia, UCC



# Crossword Key for August

**25**

|    |    |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |   |    |    |   |    |   |   |   |    |    |
|----|----|---|----|----|---|----|---|---|---|----|----|---|----|---|---|---|----|----|
| 1  | A  | B | I  | A  |   | 4  | O | M | E | G  | A  |   | 8  | R | A | G | E  | 11 |
| 12 | H  | A | Y  |    |   | 13 | O | A | R |    |    |   | 14 | M | E | M |    |    |
| 15 | A  | G | A  | R  |   | 16 | B | A | R | A  | K  |   | 18 | R | O | M | E  |    |
|    | 20 | B |    | 21 | R | A  | H | A | B |    | 22 | M | O  | L | E | S |    | K  |
|    |    |   |    | 24 | H | A  | B |   |   |    | 25 | R | I  | B |   |   |    |    |
| 26 | N  |   | 27 | P  | A | G  | E | S |   | 28 | H  | E | B  | E | R |   | 31 | R  |
| 32 | A  | R | A  | M  |   | 34 | L | I | B | Y  | A  |   | 36 | L | A | K | E  |    |
| 38 | H  | O | R  |    |   | 39 | L | A | M |    |    |   | 40 | M | I | A |    |    |
| 41 | A  | D | A  | H  |   | 43 | W | A | R | N  | S  |   | 45 | C | A | M | P  |    |
|    | 46 | M |    | 47 | N | A  | M | E | S |    | 48 | S | E  | L | A | H |    | S  |
|    |    |   |    | 50 | P | A  | L |   |   |    | 51 | O | I  | L |   |   |    |    |
| 52 | T  |   | 53 | A  | P | P  | L | E |   | 54 | J  | U | D  | E | A |   | 57 | A  |
| 58 | H  | O | L  | Y  |   | 60 | S | T | E | A  | L  |   | 62 | B | R | A | N  |    |
| 64 | I  | A | M  |    |   | 65 | C | V | I |    |    |   | 66 | Z | I | N |    |    |
| 67 | S  | T | A  | Y  |   | 68 | S | H | E | L  | F  |   | 69 | C | A | N | A  |    |

# September 2025

| SUN                                                                                                       | MON                                                                                                 | TUE                                                | WED                                                   | THU                                                                                           | FRI                                                              | SAT                                                                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                           | <b>1</b><br><div>Labor Day<br/>Office Closed</div> 12pm Bridge<br>5pm SMART (Barn)<br>7pm AA (Barn) | <b>2</b><br>7pm WAA (Barn)                         | <b>3</b><br>6pm Soup & Conversation<br>7pm AA (Barn)  | <b>4</b><br>9am Tutoring<br>5pm AA (Barn)<br>7pm NA (Barn)                                    | <b>5</b><br>12pm WAA (Barn)<br>7pm AA (Barn)                     | <b>6</b><br>8:30am Men's Breakfast                                                        |
| <b>7</b><br><div>BIG Sunday</div> 10:30am Worship & Communion                                             | <b>8</b><br>12pm Bridge<br>5pm SMART (Barn)<br>7pm AA (Barn)<br>7pm Boy Scouts                      | <b>9</b><br><div>9am Trustees</div> 7pm WAA (Barn) | <b>10</b><br>1pm Circle 1 Cherry Hut<br>7pm AA (Barn) | <b>11</b><br>9am Tutoring<br>5pm AA (Barn)<br>6pm Mental Health Forum & Meal<br>7pm NA (Barn) | <b>12</b><br>12pm WAA (Barn)<br>7pm AA (Barn)                    | <b>13</b><br>9am Tutoring                                                                 |
| <b>14</b><br>9am Pancake Breakfast<br><div>9:30am Deacon's</div> 10:30 am Rally Sunday<br>10:30am Worship | <b>15</b><br>12pm Bridge<br>5pm SMART (Barn)<br>7pm AA (Barn)<br>7pm Boy Scouts                     | <b>16</b><br><div>5pm Council</div> 7pm WAA (Barn) | <b>17</b><br>6pm Soup & conversation<br>7pm AA (Barn) | <b>18</b><br>9am Tutoring<br>5pm AA (Barn)<br>7pm NA (Barn)                                   | <b>19</b><br>12pm BACN Lunch<br>12pm WAA (Barn)<br>7pm AA (Barn) | <b>20</b><br>9am Tutoring<br>1pm Music Committee<br>4pm Salt City Dixie Jazz Band Concert |
| <b>21</b><br><div>9:30am Christian Ed</div> 10:30am Worship                                               | <b>22</b><br>12pm Bridge<br>5pm SMART (Barn)<br>7pm AA (Barn)<br>7pm Boy Scouts                     | <b>23</b><br>7pm WAA (Barn)                        | <b>24</b><br>7pm AA (Barn)                            | <b>25</b><br>9am Tutoring<br>5pm AA (Barn)<br>7pm NA (Barn)                                   | <b>26</b><br>12pm WAA<br>7pm AA (Barn)                           | <b>27</b><br>9am Tutoring<br>Benzie Zonta (Barn)                                          |
| <b>28</b><br>10:30am Worship                                                                              | <b>29</b><br>12pm Bridge<br>5pm SMART (Barn)<br>7pm AA (Barn)<br>7pm Boy Scouts                     | <b>30</b><br>7pm AA (Barn)                         |                                                       |                                                                                               |                                                                  |                                                                                           |

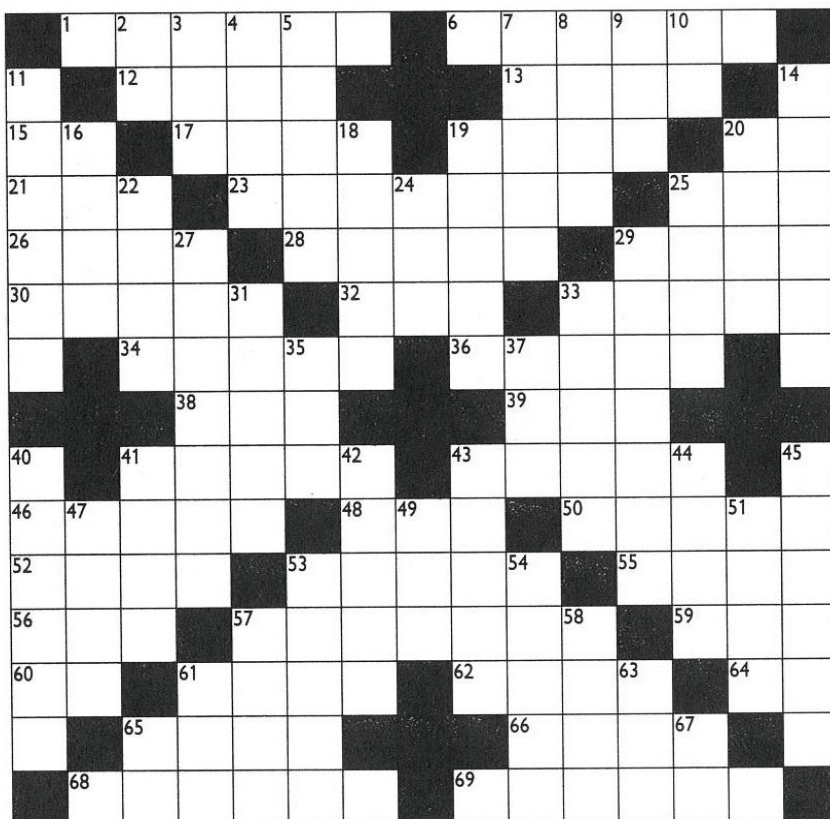


## ACROSS

- 1 "The Lord shaketh the wilderness of \_\_\_\_." Psalm 29:8  
 6 Not in attendance  
 12 With 57 Across were given as a trespass offering 1 Sam. 6:4  
 13 Jacob's wife by trickery  
 15 Exclamation  
 17 CLVIII times VII  
 19 "They are written in the book of Samuel the \_\_\_\_," 1 Chron. 29:29  
 20 Quieting sound  
 21 Girl's name  
 23 "But the \_\_\_\_ shall do the service of the tabernacle" Num. 18:23  
 25 XXXIV times III  
 26 Animal that was one of the plagues  
 28 A wanderer  
 29 "Sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the \_\_\_\_" Mark 10:21  
 30 Traditional forbidden fruit  
 32 Revolutions per minute (abbr.)  
 33 Cautions  
 34 John the Baptist ate locust and \_\_\_\_  
 36 "And he dwelt in the wilderness of \_\_\_\_," Gen. 21:21  
 38 Book also known as the Apocalypse (abbr.)  
 39 Male offspring  
 41 Third Hebrew letter Psalm 119  
 43 Small fruits from a Palm tree  
 46 "And things wherewith one may \_\_\_\_ another." Rom. 14:19
- 48 "And saith, \_\_\_, I am warm, I have seen the fire:" Isa. 44:16  
 50 Where some of the Israelites were taken by the king of Assyria 1 Chron. 5:26  
 52 Sister of Lazarus  
 53 "Alpha and \_\_\_\_,"  
 55 Another place from 50 Across  
 56 "And no man putteth new wine into \_\_\_\_ bottles:" Mark 2:22  
 57 See 12 across  
 59 Sweet potato  
 60 Real estate (abbr.)  
 61 "Shewing the \_\_\_\_ tidings of the kingdom of God:" Luke 8:1  
 62 "Evening, and morning, and at \_\_\_, will I pray," Psalm 55:17  
 64 "Thou shalt have no other gods before \_\_\_\_," Exo. 20:3  
 65 Hebrew midwife Exo. 1:15  
 66 "And the \_\_\_\_ of that house was great." Luke 6:49  
 68 Son of Jahath 1 Chron. 6:20  
 69 "Behold, God is mine \_\_\_\_," Psalm 54:4
- 10 State whose capital is Concord (abbr.)  
 11 Low calorie  
 14 "Whoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never \_\_\_\_," John 4:14  
 16 Biblical musical instrument  
 18 Solomon made a throne out of this 1 Kgs. 10:16-18  
 19 "I did \_\_\_\_ them as the mire of the street," 2 Sam. 22:43  
 20 Zion (Greek)  
 22 "The princes of \_\_\_\_ are deceived;" Isa. 19:13  
 24 Small demon  
 25 In the Bible, this word actually means wheat  
 27 "And \_\_\_\_ your Father which is in heaven." Matt. 5:16
- 29 Zaphnath- \_\_\_\_\_ Name given to Joseph by Pharaoh Gen. 41:45  
 31 "Therefore if thine \_\_\_\_ hunger, feed him;" Rom. 12:20  
 33 Very angry  
 35 Was betrayed by the serpent  
 37 Righteous king of Judah that was son of Abijam 1 Kgs. 15:8  
 40 "The \_\_\_\_ of the just is blessed:" Prov. 10:7  
 41 "Wherefore \_\_\_\_ up the loins of your mind," 1 Pet. 1:13  
 42 12th Hebrew letter  
 43 The god of the Philistines Judg. 16:23  
 44 "Surely thou wilt \_\_\_\_ the wicked," Psalm 139:19
- 45 "Ye have \_\_\_\_ the counsel of the poor," Psalm 14:6  
 47 "At the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's \_\_\_\_," Gen. 14:17  
 49 Female pronoun  
 51 Father of the Aramaean race  
 53 Nebraska town  
 54 *Oh Come Let Us \_\_\_\_ Him*  
 57 Chedorlaomer was king here Gen. 14:1  
 58 "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own \_\_\_\_?" Matt. 16:26  
 61 Chewing confection  
 63 To clip  
 65 3.14  
 67 New England (abbr.)

## DOWN

- 2 "This is my beloved Son, in whom I \_\_\_\_ well pleased;" Matt. 17:5  
 3 Dark  
 4 Book after Prov.  
 5 Number of fat cows in Pharaoh's dream  
 7 Jesus did this for us  
 8 Beholds  
 9 "Eye hath not seen, nor \_\_\_\_ heard,"



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

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Benzonia, MICHIGAN



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