

December 2025

Hi,

Time. Do you have enough? Have you used it wisely today? Does time leave you feeling frazzled and overwhelmed? Content and comfortable?

I know that I talk about time a lot. From starting many Joyful Noise articles with a thought on time, to being in my study, to being at home, I talk about time. Usually that conversation is about how I don't have enough of it or that I have not managed it well. I often feel like I have not accomplished everything that I should have if my desk is not cleared in my study and the dishes, laundry, and floors are not done at home, in any given day.

#### Time.

We have spent a year looking and reflecting on many different spiritual practices. Perhaps I should have started the year with this sentence: Spiritual Practices are not meant to make you think of another thing to do.

Spiritual practices are meant to bring you closer to God and to be in God's time. A time to reflect, meditate, pray, and perhaps more importantly, be with God.

To be with God. Now isn't that something that we should all make time for. Anne Frank is quoted as saying, "No one has ever become poor by giving". A true statement when we think of our time and God. We are not poor when we give God our time. We gain peace and calmness when we give God our time.

Maybe you didn't practice any of the offers over this year; Lectio Devina, Labyrinth, Storytelling, Dialogue and Deep Listening, Giving, Breath Prayers, Gardening. Maybe you found another space to call a spiritual practice; Singing, Sabbath, Bearing Witness, or Art and Journaling.

The form is not as important as the outcome. Time with God is time well spent. May you give God some time today.

Peace to your day. Peace to the time you give to yourself. Peace to the time you give to God.

Partor Patty

Barbara, Jeff, Brad, Ed, Paula, Hank, Randy; family & friends of John P Marshall

Drayers 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

**Trinity UCC** 





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

#### **Web Links**

Michigan Conference News: michucc.org

**Church Facebook Page:** 

facebook.com/BenzoniaCongregational

**United Northern Association Facebook Page:** 

facebook.com/UnitedNorthernAssociationUCC

**Church YouTube Page:** 

https://www.youtube.com/@FirstCongregationalBenzoniaUCC

Church Instagram Page: @First Congregational Benzonia



### **December Birthdays**

- Keith Brian
- 3 Dick Haase
- 5 Courtney Sauer
- 10 Izzy Bredbanner
- 12 Emily Rafferty
- 12 Blair Moss
- 14 Margie Peacock
- 15 Cathy Hahn
- 18 Emmeline Wolowiec
- 18 Michael Call
- 19 Johnna Milks
- 20 Rosemary Abbett
- 20 Mia Jones
- 27 Steve Walton
- 28 Tyler Moss
- 29 Kay Bos
- 30 John Milks
- 30 Danielle Plumstead
- 31 David Call

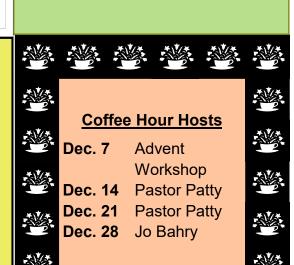
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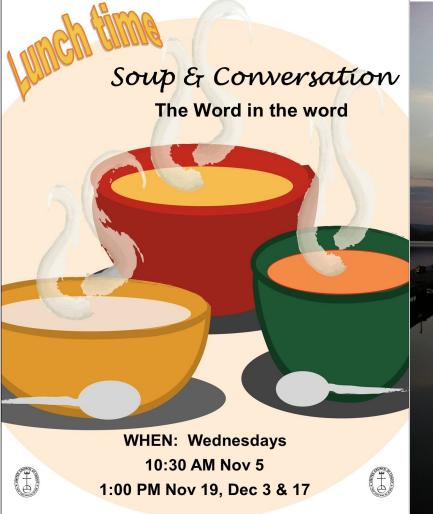
- 31 Wayne Strom
- 31 Edward Shigwadja
- 31 Michael Wear



### **December Anniversaries**

- Mike and Anna Wear
- 7 Sonny and Esther Rodriguez
- 21 Mike and Carolina Jones
- 22 Andrew and Christy Case











### Hear Ye... Hear Ye

December's BIG Supports
Benzie Food Partners

Pasta
Spaghetti Sauce
Mac and Cheese
Hearty Soups
Peanut Butter
Oatmeal
Microwave Meals
Noodles
Pizza Mixes

Saltine Crackers
Coffee
Condensed Soups
Tuna Fish
Jelly
Cereal
Condiments
Rice
Canned Meals





### Advent Workshop

On Sunday, December 7th at 9:00 a.m. First Congregational Church of Benzonia, UCC



### Fun for All Ages

- . Christmas Crafts
  - . Ornaments
  - Decorations



9:00 Fun Starts
10:30 Abbreviated Worship
11:00 Brunch Following





# We're Collecting Toys for Tots...

Gift Suggestions for Teenagers





Tool Sets Sports Equipment



Sports Bags



Ear Buds





Board Games



All Donations Benefit Toys for Tots of Benzie County

Sponsored by Outreach



# **Benzie Senior Resources**

We are collecting:



**Breakfast Bars** 





Bar Soap

Deadline: Sunday, December 7th

### The Giving Tree

is up in Fellowship Hall. If
you take a tag, please be
sure to write your name
and info on the
corresponding paper,
so we know who is
responsible for each gift.
Please return your gift(s)
UNWRAPPED by
Sunday, December 14th.

# From the Desk of the Treasurer...

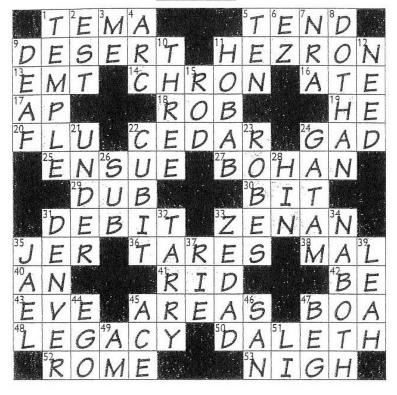
As we approach the end of 2025, we would be happy to help you plan year-end giving. If you need assistance with a Qualified Charitable Distribution or other donation, please contact Bill Dundon.

# Looking Ahead...

Annual Meeting is
January 25, 2026
immediately following
worship. If you have a
report to submit,
please do so at your
earliest convenience.

# crossword Key for November

## 28



### December 2025

December 2025						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 12pm Bridge 7pm AA (Barn) 7pm Boy Scouts	2 7pm WAA (Barn)	3 1pm Soup & Conversation 7pm AA (Barn)	4 10:30am Women's Radiant Qigong 11am Single MOMM 5pm AA (Barn) 7pm NA (Barn)	5 12pm WAA (Barn) 7pm AA (Barn)	6 8:30am Men's Breakfast 1:00pm John P Marshall Service
7 BIG Sunday 9am Advent Workshop/Brunch 10:30am Worship	9am Trustees 11am Commodities 12pm Bridge 7pm AA (Barn) 7pm Boy Scouts	9 7pm WAA (Barn)	10 7pm AA (Barn)	11 10am Rekindle Counseling 10:30am Women's Radiant Qigong 11am Single MOMM 5pm AA (Barn) 7pm NA (Barn)	12 12pm WAA (Barn) 7pm AA (Barn)	2pm Circle 1 Cookie Project 5pm Single MOMM Christmas
14 10:30am Worship "To Hear the Story" Multigenerational Play	15 12pm Bridge 7pm AA (Barn) 7pm Boy Scouts	16 7pm WAA (Barn)	17 1pm Soup & Conversation 7pm AA (Barn)	18 10:30am Women's Radiant Qigong 5pm AA (Barn) 7pm NA (Barn)	19 12pm WAA (Barn) 7pm AA (Barn)	20
9:30am Christian Ed 10:30am Worship 7pm Longest Night	22 12pm Bridge 7pm AA (Barn) 7pm Boy Scouts	23 7pm WAA (Barn)	24 7pm AA (Barn) 9pm Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26 12pm WAA 7pm AA (Barn)	27
28 10:30am Worship	29 12pm Bridge 7pm AA (Barn) 7pm Boy Scouts	30 7pm AA (Barn)	31 7pm AA (Barn)			

#### ACROSS

- 1 "Behold, I will send you \_\_ the prophet" Mal. 4:5
- 6 Wise men's guide
- 9 26th book of the Bible (abbr.)
- 10 A son of Levi Gen. 46:11
- 13 "\_ up a child in the way he should 45 The \_\_ Testament go:" Prov. 22:6
- 15 "Jesus took bread... and said, Take, eat; this is my \_\_." Matt. 26:26
- 16 17th Hebrew letter Psalm 119
- 17 Without (2 words)
- 19 Milliliter (abbr.)
- 20 "Make ready wherewith I may \_\_," Luke 17:8
- 21 White heron
- 23 "O Lord God: thou art my trust from my \_\_.' Psalm 71:5
- 25 "Enter ye in \_ the strait gate:" Matt. 7:13
- 27 "And the lion shall eat like the ox." Isa. 11:7
- 29 12 to a Roman
- 30 4th book of Moses (abbr.)
- 32 Son of Hammedatha Esth. 3:10
- 34 Golfer's stand
- 36 " not the poor, because he is poor:" Prov. 22:22

- 38 "And ye shall be of all nations for my name's sake." Matt. 24:9
- 40 60 to a Roman
- 41 "Your words have been \_\_ against me, saith the Lord." Mal. 3:13
- 43 Was written by John (abbr.)
- 46 Smallest state (abbr.)
- 48 "\_\_ a wise man, and he will love thee." Prov. 9:8
- 50 Cornhusker state (abbr.)
- 51 A son of Issachar Gen. 46:13
- 53 Horse competitions
- 54 A Son of Reuben Gen. 46:9
- 56 Bugle call
- 57 "And dust shalt thou eat all the of thy life:" Gen. 3:14
- 58 "But Christ being come an high of good things to come," Heb. 9:11

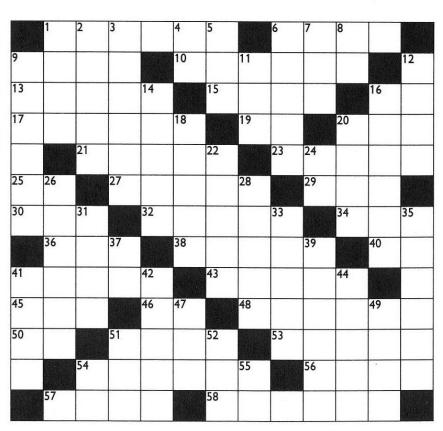
### **DOWN**

- 1 15th book of the Bible
- 2 Rent out
- 3 11th book of the Bible
- 4 "I came forth from the Father, and come into the world:" John 16:28
- 5 58th book of the Bible (abbr.)

- 6 "Wherefore look ye so \_\_ today?" Gen. 40:7
- 7 "Let us search and \_\_ our ways, and turn again to the Lord." Lam. 3:40
- 8 "And Joshua sent men from Jericho to \_\_," Josh. 7:2
- 9 A son of Helah 1 Chron, 4:7
- 11 45th book of the Bible (abbr.)
- 12 Follows Hab.
- 14 "Come forth, and flee from the land of the \_\_," Zech. 2:6
- 16 Father-in-law to Eleazar Exo. 6:25
- 18 Father of Abram

- 20 "Yea, many shall make \_\_ unto thee." Job 11:19
- 22 Er's wife Gen. 38:6
- 24 "And the lion shall eat straw like the \_\_."
- 26 "And the and the crane and the swallow observe the time of their coming;" Jer. 8:7
- 28 Necessary for baptism
- 31 State of emotion
- 33 "And my people shall be ashamed." Joel 2:26
- 35 "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is \_\_;" Eph. 5:18

- 37 Bushel (abbr.)
- 39 "Behold, ye fast for strife and \_\_," Isa. 58:4
- 41 \_\_ of Solomon
- 42 "And they passing by Mysia came down to \_\_." Acts 16:8
- 44 "Aristarchus. Demas, \_\_, my fellow labourers." Phile. 1:24
- 47 Sickly
- 49 "But Mary \_\_ all these things," Luke 2:19
- 51 "\_ will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." Matt. 6:10
- 52 Swiss mountain
- 54 Father
- 55 Abraham's birthplace



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# A Joyful Noise!

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