

A Joyful Noise!

January 2026

Hi,

One of my favorite Christmas songs is “*Go Tell It on the Mountain*”, and yes, it is Christmas, not Advent. It has a lively tempo that you can move to and it is a call to action.

After the hush of Christmas and the glow of candlelight, the season of Epiphany calls us outward—to notice where God’s light is shining in the world and to tell the story. The familiar carol rings true this time of year: “*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere...*”

That song is not just about angels and shepherds long ago. It is about us.

We are invited to “go tell” the good news of God’s love made real in Jesus—a love that crosses boundaries, seeks the lost, and meets people exactly where they are. Epiphany reminds us that God’s love is not meant to be hidden or hoarded. It is meant to be shared.

And sometimes, going and telling looks very close to home.

When we tell the story of our church—who we are, whom we welcome, how we serve, and why we gather—we are also telling the story of God’s love at work among us. Every meal shared, every prayer offered, every child welcomed, every voice heard in worship is part of that proclamation. When we live out grace, justice, compassion, and hope, we are preaching a sermon without words.

“Go tell it on the mountain” may mean inviting a neighbor to worship, sharing a church post online, speaking kindly of your faith community in conversation, or simply living in a way that reflects Jesus’ love. It may mean telling someone, “This is a place where you matter. This is a place where God’s love is real.”

As we begin this new year, may we carry the light of Christmas into the world—not quietly, but faithfully. May we trust that our story matters because God’s story is being told through us.

So go tell it—about a love that does not give up, a church that seeks to follow Jesus, and a God whose light still shines.

Grace and peace as we step into the year ahead.

Pastor Patty

Barbara, Jeff, Ed, Paula, Hank, Anna

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

Old Mission Congregational 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 **School Supplies** to help replenish teacher supplies.

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: @benzoniauucc



Happy Birthday



- 4 Randy Dye
- 4 Janet Townsend
- 4 Shannon Townsend
- 6 Andrew Call
- 7 Mickey Streeter
- 11 Esther Rodriguez
- 12 Tad Peacock
- 18 Jean Voight
- 18 Dana Rodriguez
- 19 Mark Weaver
- 21 Shirley Kennard
- 26 Mary Rodriguez
- 26 Betty Workman
- 29 Debra Rafferty
- 30 Linda Joy
- 31 Chris Lowe



- 18 Harold and Marsha Case

Coffee Hour Hosts

The calendar is wide open for any and all to volunteer to host.





How much easier can a fund raiser be??

Do you have stacks of books around you house that need to find a better home?

Maybe just a small stack that you've read and are not keen on keeping, but can't just throw them out?

Maybe you just want to thin out your collection.

We have been approached by Rev. Steve Ayers from Faith Baptist Church. Pastor Steve is willing to pay us for books that we are no longer wanting on our bookshelves.

If you have books that you'd like to donate, please see Pastor Patty.

Just before Christmas, last week, Gretchen Carr came by the church and introduced herself to me. She and I have spoken on the phone a few times, she always asking questions about Ed Catton and if we had any recordings of him singing. Alas, we do not.

When Gretchen came in she told me of her podcast, Traverscityist, found anywhere you get your favorite podcast. Gretchen shared that she grew up in this church and has fond memories of the people and Christmases shared. Moreso she told me about Episode 24: Ed Catton's Holy Night. Though there is no recording of Ed singing, she did have his voice from his time at IPR. Gretchen interviewed two local men that remembered singing with him, one being Neil Nugent.

Should you find yourself with 15 minutes and curious to the conversation it can be found at:

<https://traverscityist.com>

Having never known Mr. Catton, I found it very enlightening.



Images taken from traverscityist.com

The First Congregational Church of Frankfort
Cordially Invites
the good people of
The Benzonia Congregational Church, UCC
to an Installment of
AI's Academy.

It is a gathering for fellowship,
shared food, and the pursuit of wisdom."
(If you could give us a head-count of interested
parties by Wednesday, that would be helpful.)

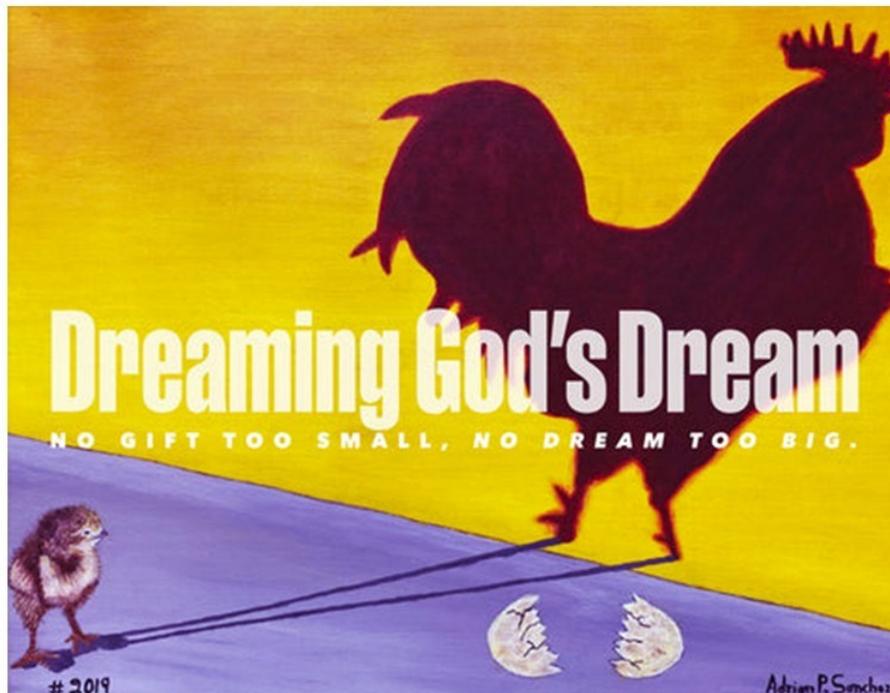
AI's Academy Lives On!

Join us for the first event
of the year, featuring
Dr. Ruth Catton,
who will share her
experiences and insights
from 35 years as a
pediatric missionary
doctor in India.



Thursday, January 15, 2026
5:30 p.m. Dinner - Our Treat
6:00ish Program

As a pillar of
Benzonia Congregational Church, UCC,
we're inviting those folks, too!



Dreaming God's Dream — is that not what we live to do every day? God's dream that we may all be one. Not of one mind but of one heart. One heart to care for those around us. Dreaming God's dream of doing new things in our community, fulfilling our vision to be united in a community of Christ's love.

In November we mailed out the annual stewardship campaign letter. This letter shared things that we have done as well as places where we are growing. What this letter did not have was a "Please do this by this date....." line. That was intentional. There is no time line in how, when, and what we give to God and each other. It is a continuous journey.

However, we will give an update. To date we have received 25 pledges totaling \$110,614, for the 2026 budget. Thank You!! In comparison, 2025 budget worked on 32 pledges and \$104,150.

This is a good start and there is still more to do. Where does our collective imagination go if we make, or exceed, last year's 32 pledge count? Together we can make a difference here in Benzie County as well as in Northwest Michigan, fulfilling our mission and vision.

We are a church with a mission to welcome all people into being followers of Jesus Christ, to serve our community, and to nourish and enrich our faith. Our vision is to be a united community in Christ's Love.

Sharing God's Dream.



January
Bring In Groceries
benefits Benzie Central Schools
with new school supplies for
teachers!

Help us replenish their supplies
for the winter and remainder
of the school year.

High demand items include:

Disinfecting Wipes
Tissues
#2 Lead Pencils
Crayons
Notebooks

January 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 5pm AA (Barn) 7pm NA (Barn)	2 10:30am Women's Radiant Qigong 12pm WAA (Barn) 7pm AA (Barn)	3 8:30am Men's Breakfast
4 BIG Sunday 10:30am Worship/Communion	5 7pm AA (Barn) 7pm Boy Scouts	6 4:45pm Community Family Mentors 7pm WAA (Barn)	7 7pm AA (Barn)	8 8am Community Chest 10am Rekindle Counseling 10:30am Women's Radiant Qigong 5pm AA (Barn) 7pm NA (Barn)	9 12pm WAA (Barn) 7pm AA (Barn)	10
11 9:30am Deacon's 10:30am Worship	12 9am Trustees 11am Commodities 7pm AA (Barn) 7pm Boy Scouts	13 7pm WAA (Barn)	14 7pm AA (Barn)	15 10:30am Women's Radiant Qigong 5pm AA (Barn) 7pm NA (Barn)	16 12pm WAA (Barn) 7pm AA (Barn)	17 9am Benzie Zonta
18 9:30am Christian Ed 10:30am Worship	19 Martin Luther King Day/Office Closed 7pm AA (Barn) 7pm Boy Scouts	20 4:45pm Community Family Mentors 5pm Council 7pm WAA (Barn)	21 8am Community Chest 7pm AA (Barn)	22 10:30am Women's Radiant Qigong 5pm AA (Barn) 7pm NA (Barn)	23 12pm WAA 7pm AA (Barn)	24
25 10:30am Worship Annual Mtg/ Potluck	26 7pm AA (Barn) 7pm Boy Scouts	27 7pm AA (Barn)	28 7pm AA (Barn)	29 10:30am Women's Radiant Qigong 5pm AA (Barn) 7pm NA (Barn)	30 12pm WAA 7pm AA (Barn)	31

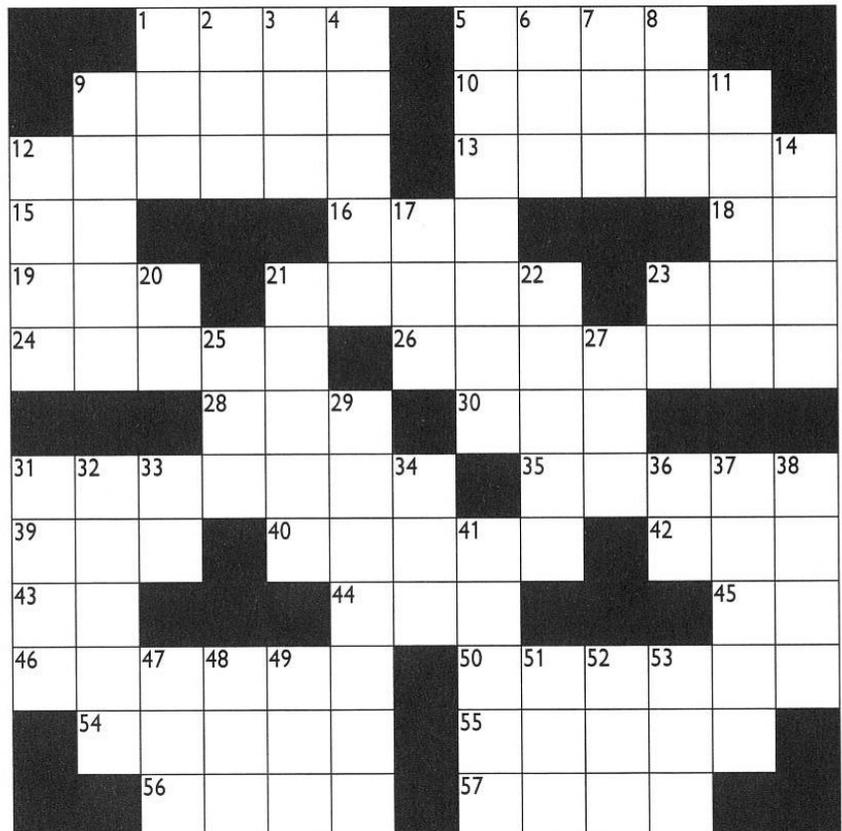
ACROSS

- 1 “__ the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead,” Matt. 10:8
- 5 “How __ better is it to get wisdom than gold!” Prov. 16:16
- 9 “And David built round about from __ and inward.” 2 Sam. 5:9
- 10 Son of Shemida 1 Chron. 7:19
- 12 “Of whom the whole __ in heaven and earth is named,” Eph. 3:15
- 13 “And this __ of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world” Matt. 24:14
- 15 “And let the peace of God rule __ your hearts,” Col. 3:15
- 16 Assistant
- 18 Smallest state (abbr.)
- 19 Gene material
- 21 “And another angel came and stood at the __,” Rev. 8:3
- 23 Professional Golfers’ Association (abbr.)
- 24 “Thy will be done in __, as it is in heaven.” Matt. 6:10
- 26 “He that uttereth a __, is a fool.” Prov. 10:18
- 28 31st book of the Bible (abbr.)
- 30 Mother of Hezekiah 2 Kgs. 18:1-2
- 31 Began his reign at age of seven 2 Kgs. 11:21
- 35 “The __ receive their sight, and the lame walk,”
- 39 Poetic tribute
- 40 Ruth’s mother-in-law
- 42 Is used by members of 23 Across
- 43 For example (abbr.)
- 44 Son of Peleg Gen. 11:18
- 45 Symbol for Zinc
- 46 “There went out a __ from Cæsar Augustus,” Luke 2:1
- 50 “Except a man be born of water and of the __,” John 3:5
- 54 Small seed
- 55 Another name for Mt. Sinai
- 56 First martyr
- 57 15th book of the New Testament (abbr.)

DOWN

- 1 “His lord said unto __, Well done, good and faithful servant;” Matt. 25:21
- 2 He raised Samuel in the temple
- 3 “Come and hear, __ ye that fear God,” Psalm 66:16
- 4 Steadfast

- 5 “And came into the coasts of __,” Matt. 15:39
- 6 Spanish for one
- 7 “God gave unto them Saul the son of __,” Acts 13:21
- 8 “And her __ was to light on a part of the field” Ruth 2:3
- 9 Israelites’ food in the wilderness
- 11 Combine or unite
- 12 “He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with __,” Luke 3:16
- 14 Breaker of the 9th commandment
- 17 “That which groweth of __ own accord” Lev. 25:5
- 20 Arkansas (abbr.)
- 21 Son of Abihail 1 Chron. 2:29
- 22 Master
- 23 Paid (abbr.)
- 25 “Is any thing __ hard for the Lord?” Gen. 18:14
- 27 Nothing
- 29 Son of Jehaleleel 1 Chron. 4:16
- 31 Son of Pedaiiah Neh. 11:7
- 32 “He which hath the sharp sword with two __,” Rev. 2:12
- 33 “__ came unto his own,” John 1:11
- 34 Garden tool
- 36 “How much better is __ to get wisdom than gold!” Prov. 16:16
- 37 “And Jiphtah, and Ashnah, and __,” Josh. 15:43
- 38 Blemish
- 41 Son of Merari Exo. 6:19
- 47 Certified Public Accountant (abbr.)
- 48 “Thou shalt not defraud thy neighbour, neither __ him:” Lev. 19:13
- 49 Before
- 51 “Wherein was the golden __ that had manna,” Heb. 9:4
- 52 Son of Bela 1 Chron. 7:7
- 53 Rapid eye movement (abbr.)



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Benzonia, MICHIGAN



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