

# A Joyful Noise!

April 2026

Hi,

As I am making my way through the Mitten Project books, the book I picked up for this month is *Evey Season Sacred* by Kayla Craig. I picked it up somewhere between the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> of March, while the sun was shining and the temperature was in the high 30s and low 40s. As it was a delightful day, I turned to the section reflecting on spring.

The writing immediately took me back to being a child and then raising my children as Ms. Craig reflects on *Frog and Toad are Friends*, a book from my childhood. Frog is trying to wake up Toad as spring is at hand. Time to move back out into the world after the cold and hibernation of winter.

I then had to put the book down, and to be honest, have not yet picked it back up. Life.

With that said, I spent the next few days reflecting on the thawing ground. The softness as well as the smell of warming ground. I took time to look at my flower beds and saw small green shoots coming up. We were able to pick up some of the limb litter in the yard. The lilac bush is starting to bud out. Spring is here. Easter is coming. Life is good.

And then.

And then we had 72 hours of snow, slush, ice, freezing rain. Winter was back with a temper tantrum taking out power, closing roads, and causing anxieties to rise. Winter was trying to get the last word. How dare we take joy in the extended daylight hours, newly bestowed upon us?

And yet.

And yet, spring is here. And yet, the snow is melting, almost as fast as it came. And yet, there is more daylight to the day. Easter is still coming, even as we are still looking at our wilderness journeys.

Every season is sacred. God is present in all seasons. What ever season you are experiencing today; may you know God is with you.

Always, God is present.

See you along The Way,

Pastor Patty

Barbara, Anna, Rodney, Robin, Carina, John; family & friends of Carolyn Gaylord; family & friends of Dixie; family & friends of Nancy Eggleston; family & friends of Darlene Gray.

# 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

**Atlanta Congregational Church 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 **Groceries** benefitting **Frankfort 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:** @benzoniauucc



Happy birthday



- 4 Joan Harwood
- 5 Anna Nordbeck
- 5 Maridee Cutler
- 6 Scott Neveu
- 9 Earl Schopp
- 12 Sheila Dinger
- 12 Tim Johnson
- 13 Steve Davidson
- 15 Barbara Brian
- 16 Amanda Case
- 18 Jean Bowers
- 22 Olivia Brian
- 27 Mary Wolke
- 30 Jaxon Brown
- 30 Cheryl Dundon



- 23 David and Phyllis Van Hammen



## Coffee Hour Hosts

- Apr 5** Chris Stone
- Apr 12** Doug & Mary Rodriguez
- Apr 19** CE Pancake Breakfast
- Apr 26** Jane Gary





Happy  
*Easter*

## Join Us! Shelter Partner Training

When disasters strike, your support helps neighbors recover faster.



**American Red Cross**  
of Northern Michigan

### Training Details

**Location:**  
Benzie County Government Center  
448 Court Place  
Beulah, MI 49617  
Board of Commissioner's Room

**Date & Time:** April 18, 9 am – 12 pm

### Included Trainings

#### Shelter Fundamentals (2 hours 30 minutes)

Shelter Fundamentals is a basic level course that introduces the roles and responsibilities for opening, operating and closing a shelter during a disaster. The course focuses on what new shelter workers need to know to work in a shelter.

#### Everyone Is Welcome (20 minutes)

The purpose of this course is to describe the concept of providing services to all clients and staff in a manner that recognizes the needs of those with disabilities and other access and functional needs. These efforts promote inclusion of the whole community, so that everyone we serve, and all those we serve with, will feel welcome in all our service delivery and work sites.

Ready to help? Register today or contact us for more details.

To schedule training at your facility, contact: [Meghan.Powers3@redcross.org](mailto:Meghan.Powers3@redcross.org)

## JOIN US FOR THE **BENZONIA ACADEMY LECTURE**

# THE HISTORY OF CHURCH IN BENZIE CO.



PRESENTED BY **REV. DINAH HAAG**  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF FRANKFORT, MI



**THURSDAY • APR. 9 • 4:00 PM**  
**MILLS COMMUNITY HOUSE**  
891 MICHIGAN AVE. • BENZONIA

 **ASSISTIVE LISTENING DEVICES • OR WATCH VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM!**

**PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE BEFORE EVENT IN CASE OF CANCELLATION.**



**BENZIE  
AREA  
HISTORICAL  
MUSEUM**

**OPEN**  
WED - FRI - SAT  
11 AM - 4 PM  
OR BY APPOINTMENT  
6941 Traverse Ave.  
Benzonia, MI 49616

**VISIT US ONLINE AT**



 /BenzieAreaHistoricalSociety  
 /benziehistorical  
 /benziehistorical

**WWW.BENZIEMUSEUM.ORG**



**Benzie Area Christian Neighbors**

Have you seen some of these warm and fuzzy fleece blankets in our Clothing Center? Each of these beautiful blankets are hand-made by Linda, a caring community member who drops these off so that our neighbors can stay warm and cozy with a fleece blanket. Thank you Linda!

Women's Fellowship is looking for pies to serve for dessert at the Maples Dinner on April 8. Any kind of pie is welcome. Please have them at the church that afternoon so they can be cut and plated. Contact Chris Stone if you will provide a pie. [chrisjstone47@gmail.com](mailto:chrisjstone47@gmail.com)

Women's Fellowship will meet Wed., April 8 @ 2:00 at the church. We will have an informal meeting while setting the tables and prepping the food for the Maples Dinner which will be @ 5:00. Help cleaning up after is needed also.

Single MOMM is treating their moms to dinner on Sat, May 9. They are looking for volunteers to help serve and clean up. Please check with Sara Moorhead if you are interested in helping or want more information. Contact Sara @ [themoorheads@sbcglobal.net](mailto:themoorheads@sbcglobal.net)

**Pancake Breakfast**

Sunday, April 19, 2026

By Donation  
Immediately following worship  
Sponsored by Christian Ed

First Congregational Church of  
Benzonia, UCC



# APRIL IS



## Frankfort Student Pantry Month

Bring in groceries during the month of April to support the Frankfort Student Pantry and Mobile Elementary School Pantry

### \*NEEDS LIST\*

#### Easy Meals

Pancakes: Mix (add water) & Syrup  
Spaghetti: Sauce and Noodles  
(Canned sauce is better for student transport)  
Pizza Kit  
Shells & Cheese (no milk needed)  
Pasta

#### Healthy Snacks

Fruit Cups / Apple sauce  
Peanut Butter  
Jelly / Jam  
Crackers  
Granola / Protein Bars  
Trail Mix  
Beef Sticks / Jerky

#### Individual Meals for Displaced Students

Easy Mac  
Instant Oatmeal Packets  
Velveeta Shells (in containers)  
Ramen Noodle Cups  
Single Soups (in containers)  
Non-perishable meal bowls  
Oatmeal cups  
Individual Pasta Roni  
Individual Mashed Potatoes (in containers)

#### For Fun (A special treat)

Cake Kits (include pan, oil, frosting and candles)  
Muffin Mixes  
Fruit Snacks  
Little Debbie's

#### Beverages

Gatorade  
Flavored Waters  
Water Bottles

## 2026 Spring Meeting of The United Northern Association



**SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH**

**3:00PM TO 5:00pm**



**Gaylord First Congregational UCC**

- A light lunch will be provided as we gather: Sandwiches, Finger Foods, Fruit, Cookies and Coffee
- The meeting will include: Keynote Speaker, Rev. Cheryl Burke, Associate Conf. Min. of Clergy Care & Formation
- Awarding of the "Seeds for Service" Grants
- Election of candidates for open positions
- Discussion of the Unified Committee on Ministry proposal

### **NO REGISTRATION FEE**

218 W. Second Street

Gaylord, MI 49735

Telephone: 989-732-5726

FMI: Alison at 802-829-3211

# Crossword Key for March

## 32

1	L	2	I	3	L	4	I	5	E	6	S	7	A	8	Z	9	O	10	T	11	U	12	S
11	D	12	A	13	N	14	E	15	T	16	O	17	M	18	B	19	G	20	E	21	R	22	A
16	O	17	M	18	E	19	G	20	A	21	W	22	A	23	R	24	N	25	N	26	I	27	L
21	T	22	A	23	R	24	I	25	F	26	P	27	A	28	U	29	L	30	M	31	E	32	M
H	26	T	27	O	28	T	29	A	30	L	31	M	32	L	33	I	34	35	M	36	37	38	
31	A	32	H	33	N	34	E	35	V	36	E	37	R	38	L	39	A	40	41	42	43	44	
37	N	38	O	39	W	40	R	41	O	42	P	43	E	44	D	45	R	46	47	48	49	50	
43	L	44	O	45	T	46	R	47	E	48	P	49	A	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	
48	S	49	Y	50	R	51	I	52	A	53	R	54	E	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	
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59	E	60	L	61	E	62	A	63	T	64	S	65	D	66	E	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	
65	K	66	I	67	R	68	M	69	A	70	T	71	N	72	E	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	
71	E	72	N	73	O	74	S	75	R	76	A	77	R	78	E	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	
76	L	77	U	78	D	79	I	80	M	81	K	82	I	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	
81	S	82	E	83	T	84	T	85	L	86	E	87	E	88	L	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	



Circle 1 will meet Wed., April 15 @ 1:00 @ the church. Linda Jenema is the hostess. We have a funeral luncheon on May 9 to plan.

## April 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> 7pm AA (Barn) Paige—Vacation	<b>2</b> 10:30am Women's Radiant Qigong (Barn) 5pm AA (Barn) 6pm Maundy Thursday 7pm NA (Barn) Paige—Vacation	<b>3</b> 12pm WAA (Barn) 7pm Good Friday Service 7pm AA (Barn) Paige—Vacation	<b>4</b> 8:30am Men's Breakfast Platte River Inn
<b>5</b> Easter Sunday 7am Sunrise Service 10:30am Worship	<b>6</b> 12pm Bridge Office Closed 7pm AA (Barn) 7pm Boy Scouts	<b>7</b> Pastor Patty— Vacation 5:30pm Single MOMM 7pm WAA (Barn)	<b>8</b> Pastor Patty— Vacation 5pm Maple's Dinner 7pm AA (Barn)	<b>9</b> Pastor Patty— Vacation 10:30am Women's Radiant Qigong (Barn) 2pm Women's Fellowship 5pm AA (Barn) 7pm NA (Barn)	<b>10</b> Pastor Patty— Vacation 12pm WAA (Barn) 7pm AA (Barn)	<b>11</b> Pastor Patty— Vacation
<b>12</b> Pastor Patty— Vacation 9:30am Deacons 10:30am Worship 3pm UNA Spring Meeting—Gaylord	<b>13</b> 9am Trustees 11am Commodities Distribution 12pm Bridge 7pm AA (Barn) 7pm Boy Scou	<b>14</b> 5:30pm Single MOMM 7pm WAA (Barn)	<b>15</b> 8am Benzie Cty Community Chest 7pm AA (Barn)	<b>16</b> 10:30am Women's Radiant Qigong (Barn) 5pm AA (Barn) 7pm NA (Barn)	<b>17</b> 12pm WAA (Barn) 7pm AA (Barn)	<b>18</b> 8:30am Benzie Zonta (Barn)
<b>19</b> 9:30am Christian Ed 10:30am Worship Pancake Breakfast Following Worship	<b>20</b> 12pm Bridge 7pm AA (Barn) 7pm Boy Scouts	<b>21</b> 5pm Council 5:30pm Single MOMM 7pm WAA (Barn)	<b>22</b> 7pm AA (Barn)	<b>23</b> 10:30am Women's Radiant Qigong (Barn) 5pm AA (Barn) 7pm NA (Barn)	<b>24</b> 12pm WAA 7pm AA (Barn)	
<b>26</b> 10:30am Worship	<b>27</b> 12pm Bridge 7pm AA (Barn) 7pm Boy Scouts	<b>28</b> 5:30pm Single MOMM 7pm WAA (Barn)	<b>29</b> 7pm AA (Barn)	<b>30</b> 10:30am Women's Radiant Qigong (Barn) 5pm AA (Barn) 7pm NA (Barn)		

## ACROSS

- 1 One of the sons of Shobal  
Gen. 36:23
- 5 "And I will give him the morning \_\_\_." Rev. 2:28
- 9 Father of Anub and Zobebah  
1 Chron. 4:8
- 12 "The children also of Benjamin from \_\_\_" Neh. 11:31
- 13 Son of Abinadab  
2 Sam. 6:3
- 14 "Bethel on the west, and \_\_\_ on the east."  
Gen. 12:8
- 15 "That ye may with one mind and one mouth \_\_\_ God,"  
Rom. 15:6
- 17 "Remember not the sins of my \_\_\_,"  
Psalm 25:7
- 19 "Jesus saith unto them, Come and \_\_\_." John 21:12
- 20 Wicked king; son of Ahijah  
1 Kgs. 15:33-34
- 21 "A measure of \_\_\_ for a penny,"  
Rev. 6:6
- 23 "When the Lord shall have washed away the \_\_\_ of the daughters of Zion,"  
Isa. 4:4
- 24 "\_\_\_, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters,"  
Isa. 55:1
- 25 Unwavering course
- 27 "Then let him count the years of the \_\_\_ thereof,"  
Lev. 25:27
- 30 Individual Retirement Account (abbr.)
- 32 "Nevertheless the men \_\_\_ hard to bring it to the land;"  
Jonah 1:13
- 34 Father of Joshua
- 35 15th or 16th book of New Testament (abbr.)
- 37 Another of the sons of Shobal
- 39 Knock out (abbr.)
- 40 "He leadeth me in the \_\_\_ of righteousness"
- 42 Bad habits
- 44 Bohemian dances
- 46 "And the people shall be as the burnings of \_\_\_:"  
Isa. 33:12
- 47 "But this man hath done nothing \_\_\_."  
Luke 23:41
- 48 "The burden of the word of the Lord in the land of \_\_\_,"  
Zech. 9:1
- 51 National Rifle Association (abbr.)
- 52 To be full
- 54 "John to the seven churches which are in \_\_\_:"  
Rev. 1:4
- 55 Poetic for it is
- 56 15th book of the Bible
- 57 "Christ is the \_\_\_ of the church:"  
Eph. 5:23
- 5 "Whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be \_\_\_."  
Prov. 29:25
- 6 "\_\_\_ kingdom come." Matt. 6:10
- 7 "Joshua sent men from Jericho to \_\_\_,"  
Josh. 7:2
- 8 "A \_\_\_ priesthood,"  
1 Pet. 2:9
- 9 "The children of Israel served \_\_\_-rishathaim eight years." Judg. 3:8
- 10 A pledge
- 11 Was over the Nethinims  
Neh. 11:21
- 16 Bury
- 18 Cereal grain
- 20 "And Hazar-susim, and at Beth-\_\_\_,"  
1 Chron. 4:31
- 21 "And Samuel told him every \_\_\_,"  
1 Sam. 3:18
- 22 Son of Lotan  
Gen. 36:22
- 23 "Maketh us wiser than the \_\_\_ of heaven?"  
Job 35:11
- 26 \_\_\_ Ark
- 28 Gospel that tells of the Nativity
- 29 Grandson of Adam
- 31 "Greet \_\_\_ my beloved in the Lord."  
Rom. 16:8
- 33 Slew the giant
- 36 "And he was strong as the \_\_\_,"  
Amos 2:9
- 38 "Ataroth, and Dibon, and Jazer, and \_\_\_,"  
Num. 32:3
- 41 "How sweet are thy words unto my \_\_\_!"  
Psalm 119:103
- 43 "\_\_\_ from anger, and forsake wrath:"  
Psalm 37:8
- 44 "That \_\_\_ after the dust of the earth"  
Amos 2:7
- 45 Father of Ahab  
1 Kgs. 16:29
- 46 "Eloi, Eloi, \_\_\_, sabachthani?"
- 48 "Wisdom hath builded \_\_\_ house,"  
Prov. 9:1
- 49 Spy agency (abbr.)
- 50 Owned
- 53 26th book of the Bible (abbr.)

## DOWN

- 1 Laid by a hen
- 2 "And I will punish \_\_\_ in Babylon,"  
Jer. 51:44
- 3 Home
- 4 Cowboy rope

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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



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