

A Joyful Noise!

June 2026

Hi,

In keeping with the theme this year of offering an insight to the Mitten Project books, this month is *If God Were A Great Big Bear* by Paul Harbridge and illustrated by Marta Dorado.

I have a passion for children's books. They are fun, colorful, and offer a message that teaches the littles and reminds the bigs among us. This book fulfills all of that.

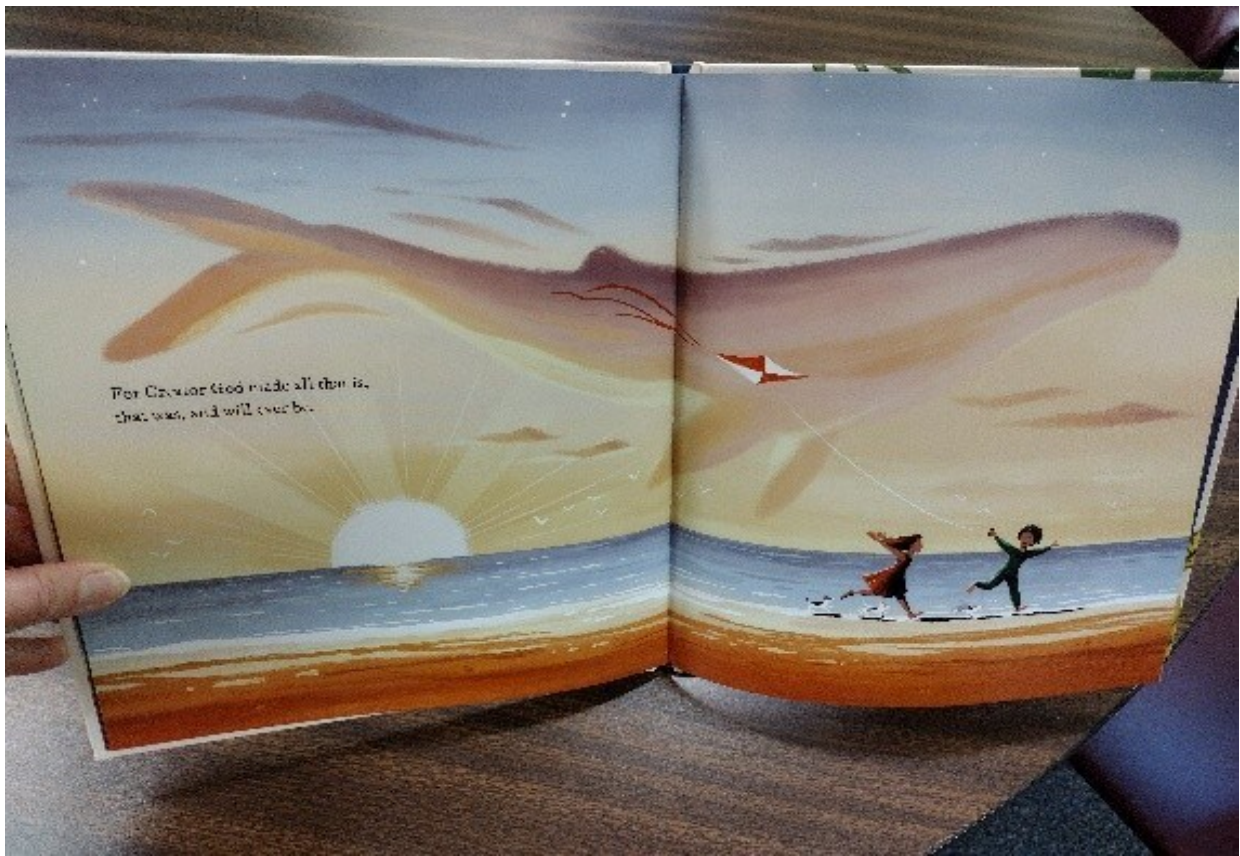
The story is a great look at where God can, may, does, could possibly, reside; from a great big bear to a lilac bush to a whale to a goose to a child. God is in all of these places and spaces. From the galaxy to you and me, God is present. God created and God resides in all that we see.

The author's note in the back reads:

The beauty, perfection, and intricacy of nature and the vastness of the universe are beyond our understanding or imagination. The Nation Geographic Society estimates there are nearly 9 million species of animals and plants on Earth (only about 1 million have been identified), and NASA says there are 100 billion stars in our galaxy alone.

Surely God, in His/Her/Their infinite wisdom and love, made such a perfectly balanced and interconnected world to please not just us humans, but every plant and animal, every planet and star in all Creation.

And that is what *If God Were a Great Big Bear* humbly tries to convey.



This story and artwork succeed in the mission. We are all connected. We all carry part of the divine with us. Let us treat creation and each other as such.

Peace and Grace for the Journey,

Pastor Patty

Barbara, Anna, Robin; family & friends of Cynthia Schnarr

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
1st Congregational Church of Cadillac 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
**Ankle Socks for the Father Fred
Shoe Event.**

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: [@benzoniaucc](https://www.instagram.com/benzoniaucc)



Happy Birthday



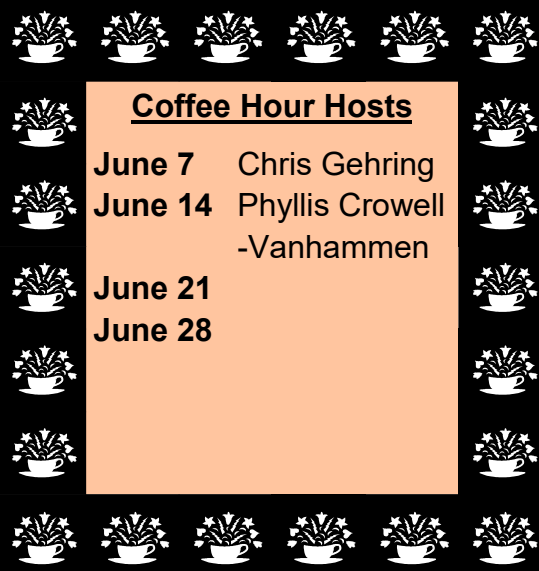
- 8 Harold Case
- 15 Bob Ward
- 16 Mercedes Smith
- 18 Patty Higgins
- 21 Susie Marquardt
- 22 Melanie Bredbanner
- 24 Noreen Henry
- 25 Ethan Webb
- 28 Chris Stone
- 29 Victoria Joy



- 8 Lee and Chris Stone
- 14 Mark and Mary Thompson
- 16 Hunter and Brianna Brian
- 30 Jim Catts and Chris Jones

Coffee Hour Hosts

- June 7** Chris Gehring
- June 14** Phyllis Crowell
-Vanhammen
- June 21**
- June 28**





One chapter ends,
another begins.

Join us to celebrate
the class of 2026!



Saturday, June 13th
from 4-8 PM at
The Barn | 901 Barber St.
Benzonia, MI 49616



 Snapfish



The annual Attic Treasure sale is Saturday, June 27th. We are accepting donations the week of May 25th. Please place them in the Gethsemane room, the second door on the left as you come in the South entrance, or the first Sunday School room on the right. Remember, no clothing or electronics. We will also be looking for help setting up on Thursday, June 25 @ 3:00. We will also need volunteers the day of the sale from opening @ 8:00 to closing @ 3:00 and after to help pack up what is left. You could work a shift from 8-12 or 12-closing or come in just before closing to help pack up and clean up.

ATTENTION MEN of the Congregation!!

Women's Fellowship could really use some of your help the day we set up the Attic Treasure sale and when we take it down and clean up when it is over. If you can help, please contact Chris Stone @ 231-651-0476 or Jane Gary @ 231-633-9728.

June is Ankle Sock Month for B.I.G.



Toddlers, Kids, & Adult Socks
All Sizes

All socks collected benefit the
**Father Fred Foundation Back to
School Shoe Event**



Let's Talk About It

What does the Bible say about justice, authority, public lament, and prophetic witness?

Join the conversation !!

May 6 and 20

June 3 and 17

6:00 P.m.

Bring your favorite Bible story

Bring your questions

A light meal will be provided.

Crossword Key for May

33

We have a funeral on Wed., July 8 @ 3:00 for Cynthia Schnarr. More information will follow via email when we find out what the family wishes for a reception following the service.

1	E	2	B	3	A	4	L	5	S	6	T	7	A	8	R	9	C	10	O	11	Z
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15	G	L	O	R	I	F	Y	16		17	Y	O	18	U	T	H					
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47	A	M	I	S	S					48	H	A	D	R	A	C	H	49		50	
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Attic Treasures & Classic Junk Sale

Saturday, June 27

8:00am - 3:00pm

First Congregational Church of Benzonia, UCC

901 Barber Street, Benzonia

you'll find everything you
never knew you needed



Please join us for a

STRAWBERRY SOCIAL

\$5
admission

\$15
per family



Community
MILLS  HOUSE
est 1909

Date : June 28, 2026
Location : 891 Michigan Ave, Benzonia
Time : 2:00-4:00

Strawberries over
vanilla ice cream

Donated by:



Strawberry
Shortcake

Biscuits by:



June 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 12pm Bridge 5pm SMART Recovery 7pm AA (Barn) 7pm Boy Scouts	2 7pm WAA (Barn)	3 6pm Soup & Conversation 7pm AA (Barn)	4 5pm AA (Barn) 7pm NA (Barn)	5 12pm WAA (Barn) 7pm AA (Barn)	6 8:30am Men's Breakfast
7 BIG Sunday 10:30am Communion Worship	8 9am Trustees 11am Commodities Distribution 12pm Bridge 5pm SMART Recovery 7pm AA (Barn) 7pm Boy Scouts	9 7pm WAA (Barn)	10 7pm AA (Barn)	11 5pm AA (Barn) 5:30pm Single MOMM 7pm NA (Barn)	12 12pm WAA (Barn) 7pm AA (Barn)	13 9-3 Barn Use 4-8 Mia's Open House
14 9:30am Deacons 10:30am Worship	15 12pm Bridge 5pm SMART Recovery 7pm AA (Barn) 7pm Boy Scouts	16 5pm Council 7pm WAA (Barn)	17 8am Benzie Cty Community Chest 6pm Soup & Conversation 7pm AA (Barn)	18 5pm AA (Barn) 7pm NA (Barn)	19 12pm WAA (Barn) 7pm AA (Barn)	20
21 9:30am Christian Ed 10:30am Worship	22 12pm Bridge 5pm SMART Recovery 7pm AA (Barn) 7pm Boy Scouts	23 7pm WAA (Barn)	24 7pm AA (Barn)	25 3pm Attic Treasure Setup 5pm AA (Barn) 7pm NA (Barn)	26 12pm WAA (Barn) 7pm AA (Barn)	27 8-3 Attic Treasure Sale
28 10:30am Worship	29 Patty—Vacation 12pm Bridge 5pm SMART Recovery 7pm AA (Barn) 7pm Boy Scouts	30 Patty—Vacation 7pm WAA (Barn)				

ACROSS

- 1 "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it ____." Exo. 20:8
- 5 "So mightily __ the word of God and prevailed." Acts 19:20
- 9 Worn to protect clothing while eating
- 12 Ointment that Nicodemus brought to the tomb John 19:39
- 13 "That Jesus came from ____ of Galilee," Mark 1:9
- 15 Medical Doctor (abbr.)
- 16 One of the children of Ezer Gen. 36:27
- 18 __ of Eden
- 19 "He __ me out of many waters;" 2 Sam. 22:17
- 20 Old World plant with arrowhead-shaped leaves
- 22 "And being in an __ he prayed more earnestly;" Luke 22:44
- 24 "Observe the month of __, and keep the passover" Deut. 16:1
- 25 Lecah's father 1 Chron. 4:21
- 27 "For ye tithe mint and __ and all manner of herbs," Luke 11:42
- 28 "They afflict the just, they take a __," Amos 5:12
- 29 Northeast (abbr.)
- 30 "Ye know that every one that doeth __ is born of him." 1 John 2:29
- 34 Overdose (abbr.)
- 35 "And he __ him to take it; but he refused." 2 Kgs. 5:16
- 36 "For they shall soon be __ down like the grass," Psalm 37:2
- 37 "But __ will not boast of things without our measure," 2 Cor. 10:13
- 38 "Because I have given mount __ unto Esau for a possession." Deut. 2:5
- 39 "When they that bare the ark of the Lord had gone six __," 2 Sam. 6:13
- 41 "Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and __," 1 Sam. 7:12
- 42 "For whosoever shall __ upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."
- 43 "The churches of __ salute you." 1 Cor. 16:19
- 45 Landed
- 46 Alcoholics Anonymous (abbr.)
- 48 "__ upon these things;" 1 Tim. 4:15
- 51 "And he took them up in his __,"
- 53 "He casteth forth his __ like morsels:" Psalm 147:17
- 54 "These ye shall not eat of them that __ the cud,"
- 55 8th book in the Bible
- 5 "They __ not the bones till the morrow." Zeph. 3:3
- 6 "And the people __ together:" Acts 21:30
- 7 Ezekiel (abbr.)
- 8 Washington (abbr.)
- 9 "Thou hypocrite, cast out first the __ out of thine own eye," Luke 6:42
- 10 "That which groweth of __ own accord of thy harvest thou shalt not reap," Lev. 25:5
- 11 Common food preservative
- 14 Leah's son Gen. 30:14
- 17 "For ye have taken away the __ of knowledge," Luke 11:52
- 19 An Edomite that belonged to Saul 1 Sam. 21:7
- 20 "And Zorobabel beget __" Matt. 1:13
- 21 "And he took one of his __, and closed up the flesh"
- 22 "But God shall shoot at them with an __," Psalm 64:7
- 23 "I will __ thee with mine eye." Psalm 32:8
- 24 The children of Gad built this Num. 32:34
- 25 "Let him seek peace and __ it." 1 Pet. 3:11
- 26 "In the wall of the house he made narrowed __ round about," 1 Kgs. 6:6
- 28 "And when these things __ to come to pass," Luke 21:28
- 31 Baanah's father 1 Kgs. 4:16
- 32 "For every __ is known by his own fruit." Luke 6:44
- 33 21st book of the Bible (abbr.)
- 39 The name of Hadad's city 1 Chron. 1:50
- 40 "Leave there thy gift before the __, and go thy way;" Matt. 5:24
- 41 "We are troubled on every __, yet not distressed;" 2 Cor. 4:8
- 42 A ball of yarn
- 43 "The children of __." Ezra 2:57
- 44 Secant (abbr.)
- 45 Ingested
- 46 Amount (abbr.)
- 47 "He planteth an __," Isa. 44:14
- 49 Teachers College (abbr.)
- 50 "__, so would we have it:" Psalm 35:25
- 52 "And to your sisters, __-hamah." Hosea 2:1

DOWN

- 1 "Wondrous works in the land of __," Psalm 106:22
- 2 "Ye have heard that it was said by them of __ time,"
- 3 "__, we have left all, and have followed thee." Luke 18:28
- 4 "For his bowels did __ upon his brother:" Gen. 43:30

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

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First Congregational Church Of Benzonia UCC
Benzonia, MICHIGAN



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