

# A JOYFUL NOISE!

July 2020

Hello,

I sit here at my desk reflecting on time and connectivity. Sam and I have been back at our desks for five weeks now. June 7th, we resumed gathering in the sanctuary for Sunday Service while still projecting service through Facebook Live. And though we have had a few in person, social distanced, masks on, meetings here at the church, I still live in the world of Zoom. It feels like we have moved a step forward during this pandemic while it also feels like nothing has changed over the past 15 weeks. Everything has changed (again) and yet everything remains the same.

This month, I offer up a piece of poetry for reflection. In our longings for life to return to once was, we should recognize our connections to each other and to the world around us. We are called to see how God holds us all, acknowledges our individualities, and calls us into community. We belong to each other and we all belong to God.

*Longing*  
Jan Phillips

I am the alms looking for the orphan, I am the blanket searching for the cold  
I am the cure looking for the healer, I am the diamond longing for the coal.

I am the ending seeking the beginning, I am the feeling pining after form  
I am the gallows calling to forgiveness, I am the haven longing for the storm.

I am the inner calling for the outer, I am a jewel crying for the mine  
I am kinship searching for a family, I am the light-year hungering for time.

I am midnight chasing after morning, I am newness aching for the old  
I am oneness calling for the many, I am passion looking for a soul.

I am the question longing for the seeker, I am the rainbow yearning for the rain  
I am solace looking for the mourner, I am triumph thirsting after pain.

I am union calling to the lonely, I am the voyage looking for the way  
I am the wind longing for the windmill, I am the yin falling for the yang.

As the spirit sings out for a body, and the body ones itself to soul,

I am ever fused to the Beloved,  
I am the part bowing to the Whole.

See you along The Way.

*Pastor Patty*

### JULY BIRTHDAYS

8 Cynthia Schnarr  
9 Jared Milks  
16 Darlene Gray  
22 Nancy Call  
24 Neil Nugent  
25 Hannah Rodriguez  
29 Tiana Gould  
30 David VanHammen  
30 Anna Butts  
31 Aaron Hickey



### JULY ANNIVERSARIES

*(none)*

### What is BIG Sunday?

BIG stands for Bring In Groceries; groceries brought in on BIG Sundays are donated to Benzie Area Christian Neighbors (BACN) to help provide a meal to those in need. BIG Sundays are the first Sunday of every month — as are Holy Communion Sundays — and are a great way for us to share the love and feast of communion and community.



### REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Nancy Reynolds	Gaylord Jowett
Pat Forrester	Joyce & Bob
Helen Pickard	Mike Barnes
Elisabeth Case	Robin Nordbeck
Harriet Stone	Mike Sheets
Peg & Randy	Jamie
Jordan Suchoski	

### UCC SISTER CHURCH OF THE MONTH

As part of our continuing efforts to work together as a community of faith, we pray for UCC churches in our United Northern Association. You are invited to pray this month for the ongoing mission and ministries of Manistee UCC.

### FLOWERS

If you would like to supply flowers, please sign up on the sign posted on the bulletin board. You may then bring in your own flowers or donate \$30 to the church to make the arrangements with a local florist.

### THANK YOU TO OUR JULY VOLUNTEERS

#### COFFEE

#### NURSERY

July 5

July 12

July 19

July 26

HEAD USHER:

MONEY COUNT:

### THANK YOU NOTES

Check out all of our thank you notes on the bulletin board!

## United Church of Christ Statement of Faith (adapted to inclusive language by Robert V. Moss)

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord, God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God.

Amen.

### Library News!

***Jesus the Savior...the Meaning of Jesus Christ for Christian Faith***...William C. Placher....The author argues that the Christian tradition does not offer a boring, safe Jesus; instead he argues that Jesus is the one who radically challenges the way we understand the world and how we save our lives. This is a highly-readable product of deep reflection about the New Testament Jesus Christ.

***Denial is my Spiritual Practice (and other Failures of Faith)***...Rachel G. Hackenberg and Martha Spong...It is the sort of experience familiar to many...somewhere between illness, divorce, and brushes with death, faith failed to provide the answers or we failed to live as though we believed faith held the answers. But surely, it's different for the clergy. Rachel and Martha, two UCC pastors, are here to tell you they have had to search for answers to some of life's thorniest problems. Writing with honesty, humor, humility, they offer their own stories as evidence that God remains when we feel faith fails. Combining life experiences, offbeat spiritual perspective and Scripture they offer comfort, grace, laughter and a few tears along the way.

***Where the Crowds Sing***...Set in the 1950's in an extremely rural area along the North Carolina coast, the story revolves around a young woman named Kya. Abandoned by her family, she lives alone in nature. The draw of other people, specifically love, brings her into the contact with the wider world & the need to learn to live with others. This painfully beautiful novel develops on many levels. There is great nature writing, a coming-of-age story, and a murder mystery. It also "explores how isolation affects human behavior and the deep effect that rejection can have on our lives." If you liked *The Great Alone* you will want to read this. Thanks, Barb, for the donation.

## Deacons Update

The Deacons had been meeting by Zoom until this past month (June). We met in person in the Fellowship Hall wearing masks and using "social distancing." This month has been a challenge as we had a great deal of discussion as to how and when to resume Sunday service in the sanctuary of the Church building. We brainstormed ideas and contributed information to the Church Council. The result was the letter sent to all members by Church Council with the guidelines we are using to allow the Sunday service to resume. No idea was taken lightly. A great deal of consideration of all members' situations was included in the Deacons' and Church Council's discussions.

The result was the Church building being re-opened for Sunday service on June 6th. There were 33 people in attendance, wearing masks and seated with social distancing considerations. Procedures were different but Patty's message was significant as always. There wasn't a time of social greeting but everyone was safe.

The result is you have choices in the way you worship. You can attend a modified-to-be-safe service at the Church building if you want to attend in person. Or you can watch the live broadcast of the service on Facebook in the comfort and safety of your own home.

The Deacons considered the serving of Communion in the sanctuary at a Sunday service. Our By-Laws state that Communion be served four times a year. We had already fulfilled this requisite before "Stay at Home" was advised. After careful consideration the Deacons have decided to delay Communion until we are sure it is safe to do. The issue is how to serve Communion in a safe manner. We are considering several ways.

Deacons are contacting all members not only to hear updates about your life but also to explain where we are with worship in our Church. We look forward to updating you and getting your concerns and ideas.

Sharron Smith, Chairperson, and the Board: Christine Jones, Chris Lowe, Betsy Neiger, Jim Sheets, Agnes Slater, Steve Walton

### MI Conference Happenings

Want to keep up with the Conference? Head to <http://www.michucc.org/> and click "News" in the upper right corner.

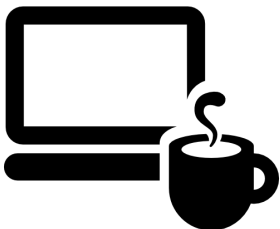
### One Room Sunday School

Summer is almost here and One Room Sunday School will begin on Sunday, June 28th. We will meet via Zoom starting this date. More information will be coming via email and the Friday Blast. If you have any questions, contact Carolina or Beth.



### Zoom Coffee Time

Join Zoom Meeting: [https://zoom.us/j/96169837304?](https://zoom.us/j/96169837304?pwd=ZTVGTXZ4d0JGc1E2ZVJ6UUVVKRmFEdz09)  
pwd=ZTVGTXZ4d0JGc1E2ZVJ6UUVVK  
RmFEdz09



Meeting ID: 961  
6983 7304

Password: 736650

### Stay Home, Stay Well

If you're feeling emotional distress due to the COVID-19 pandemic, help is available. There are many ways to connect with emotional support services without the need to leave home. For resources and help, visit: [https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178\\_99557---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_99557---,00.html)

# July 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			<b>1</b> 12N AA (Barn) 2:30-4:00 APT 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>2</b> 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	<b>3</b> 12N AA (Barn)	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <b>10:30am Worship</b>	<b>6</b> 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>7</b> 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	<b>8</b> 12N AA (Barn) 2:30-4:00 APT 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>9</b> 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	<b>10</b> 12N AA (Barn)	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <b>10:30am Worship</b> 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	<b>13</b> <b>9:00 Trustees</b> 11 Commodities 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)  <i>Patty out</i> _____	<b>14</b> 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	<b>15</b> 12N AA (Barn) 2:30-4:00 APT 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>16</b> 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	<b>17</b> 12N AA (Barn)	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <b>10:30am Worship</b> 6-8 ACOA (Barn)  _____ →	<b>20</b> 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)  <i>Sam out</i> _____	<b>21</b> 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) <b>5:00 Council</b> 7:00 WAA (Barn)	<b>22</b> 12N AA (Barn) 2:30-4:00 APT 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>23</b> 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	<b>24</b> 12N AA (Barn)	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> <b>10:30am Worship</b> 6-8 ACOA (Barn)	<b>27</b> 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>28</b> 10:00 Yoga (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 WAA (Barn)	<b>29</b> 12N AA (Barn) 2:30-4:00 APT 7:00 AA (Barn)	<b>30</b> 9-10:30 AA (Barn) 12N AA (Barn) 7:00 NA (Barn)	<b>31</b> 12N AA (Barn)	

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## *A Joyful Noise July 2020*

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BENZONIA, MICHIGAN



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