

# A JOYFUL NOISE!

June 2020

May 29, 2020

Dear Congregation,

In our Christian faith, Jesus reminds us that we are to take care of the least of these, the most vulnerable, Matthew 25:35-40. We, the Church Council, are charged with taking care of First Congregational Church of Benzonia, United Church of Christ.

Sometimes it is amazingly easy. Sometimes it is exceedingly difficult. Now is an exceedingly difficult time. We have spent the past two weeks discussing on how we may start to re-gather in the sanctuary. It has been hard as we want to keep the most vulnerable safe.

We have decided that with new protocol and procedures in place we can gather June 7, 2020. We know that this opening is not for everyone. Some of you may think that we are moving too quickly and that is acceptable. You will still be able to see the worship service on Facebook Live at 10:30 Sunday morning. For those that are healthy and wanting to come to the building, here are the new protocol and procedures.

- Masks will be worn at all times inside the church building. Starting with the age of two, masks will be required. There will be a small supply of paper masks. You are encouraged to wear one from home.
- Social distancing means that we will not be able to handshake or hug. We know that this is hard, but if you are six feet apart it will be easier to adhere to.
- If the South doors are not pegged open, please give the handicapped button a 'hip bump' to open them.
- Seating in the sanctuary will be guided by an usher. You will be seated starting in the front, moving to the back, using every other row. The usher will hand you a bulletin.
- At the end of the service the usher will again lead. You will leave starting from the rear pews moving to the front. Please dispose of your bulletin.
- The offertory plate will be at the back of sanctuary.
- As it is summertime, it is the time of One Room Sunday School. This will be held through Zoom.
- Nursery will remain closed. Children are encouraged to be with their parents.
- Things you won't be seeing right now in the service: The choir, congregational singing, and passing of the peace. Communion is on hold for a while. There is no receiving line after service.
- If you have an announcement or joy and concern, you may either pass it to Pastor Patty before worship, or email it to [pastor@benzoniacongregational.org](mailto:pastor@benzoniacongregational.org).
- There is no Coffee Time. We encourage you to check in with those that you have been missing; inside should be social distancing, outside you may remove your mask.
- Please, only one person in the restroom at a time.
- See you at 10:15 when the door is opened.

We will be documenting your attendance, so there is no need to think about the red folders.

(cont.)

The building remaining open is contingent on all of us following proper protocol as well as on the health of the communities of: First Congregational Church of Benzonia, United Church of Christ, Benzonia, the surrounding towns, villages and townships, Benzie County, and all bordering counties. If there is an outbreak or reported cases more than 10, we will again cease in person worship services and reassess.

These procedures have been developed with consideration for the health and safety of all who attend our services. We know there may need to be changes as we venture down this road. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact any of us at any time.

In Peace,  
Church Council

Barb Brian, Beth Sheets, Sara Moorhead, Sharron Smith, Chris Stone, Linda Joy, Earl Schopp, Jerry Slater, and Pastor Patty Higgins

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

My family loves to do puzzles. My grandfather always had a card table set up with a puzzle going and it was a place of great conversation. My mom does puzzles, but only up to 750 pieces, that's so they will fit on the table that she has. My brother will only do ones that are 1000 pieces or more, anything smaller is not a challenge. My daughter likes ones with a lot of detail.

About a month ago my brother was bragging about his speed and prowess concerning puzzles. Well, being the older sister and absolutely loving my brother, I ordered him a puzzle to keep him busy for a day or two. It is a clear acrylic puzzle of only 100 pieces.

I share this story today as an illustration of where we are today.

We are 100 separate individual pieces. All unique and yet all the same. When we meet each other, we make a good fit. Each holding a place in the greater good, the completed work.

In looking at the pieces though we are pressed to ask, "Which way is up?" There is nothing on these pieces that tells direction or indicates position. In working our way back from social distancing and building closures we may feel like we are a 100-piece acrylic puzzle. We need to figure out all of our individual needs and how we all connect back together. We are all a vital piece of the whole. Who likes a puzzle with a piece missing??

Grampa taught me that a corner piece is the anchor to any puzzle and that all puzzles should start at a corner. From the corners the sides are built, structure is given, and then the middle comes to life. The corner piece of our re-gathering puzzle is God. Remember as we gather back into the building that God anchors us to each other. With God as an anchor and starting place, we can build structure and fill in the beauty. We will figure out this puzzle. Some pieces may be turned around a few times. Some pieces may not fit just right in on the first try. And yet how satisfying it is when everything fits together and a project is complete, whole, connected.

Anchored to you with God,  
Patty



### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

5 Doug Joy, Sr.  
8 Harold Case  
9 Alan Appelhof  
10 Virginia Kilburn  
15 Bob Ward  
16 Mercedes Smith  
18 Roger Vance  
21 Mitchell Webb  
21 Pamela Carlson  
21 Kathy Neveu  
24 Noreen Henry  
25 Ethan Webb  
28 Chris Stone  
29 Victoria Joy



### JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

8 Lee & Chris Stone  
14 Mark & Mary Thompson  
22 Roger & Phoebe Vance

### 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	Darlene Gray
Pat Forrester	Joyce & Bob	Family and friends of Geri Thornell
Helen Pickard	Mike Barnes	Beth Sheets
Elisabeth Case	Robin Nordbeck	
Harriet Stone	Mike Sheets	
Peg & Randy	Jamie	
Jordan Suchoski	Penny Smith	

### 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 Lewiston 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 JUNE VOLUNTEERS

#### COFFEE

#### NURSERY

June 7

June 14

June 21

June 28

HEAD USHER:

MONEY COUNT:

### THANK YOU NOTES

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

## Returnables Collection

Christian Education is once again collecting returnable bottles and cans this year.

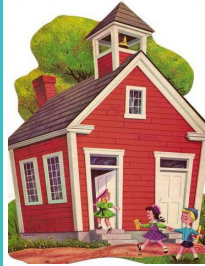


The money collected from the returns will be used for their Fourth Quarter Service Project. Returnables can be placed behind the door in the large Sunday School room or contact Beth Sheets and they can be picked up at your home using social distancing/mask practices. Thank you!

## 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.

## MI COVID-19 Info

Here is some information for the older friends of our church community. This is a resource/article from the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force. Should you or someone you know over the age of 60 need assistance with food or wellness checks, please reach out.

<https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98158-524295--,00.html>

## Circle I

The Circle I Cherry Hut gathering this month has been **cancelled**. We will meet on a future date!

## Offices Open!

The Administrative and Pastor's offices are now open. When you come to the building, please let the office know that you are there, even if you are only stopping to drop off returnables or picking up an Upper Room.



## *June 2020*

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

### Calendar Note

Please remember calendars are fluid these days; we'll keep you updated as we go!

First Congregational Church of Benzonia UCC  
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## *A Joyful Noise June 2020*

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF BENZONIA UCC  
BENZONIA, MICHIGAN



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