

A JOYFUL NOISE!

January 2011

Happy New Year!! 2011 has arrived. Our congregation just concluded a year of celebration as we marked our 150th year of ministry. We had special guests from our denomination (our Conference Minister, and the Moderator of our United Northern Association), we had four of our five former pastors come to preach on their own as well as all together for our wondrous anniversary in June.

Now, we begin a new journey. Rather than looking back, we look forward to our 151st year. Right off the bat, we begin a new partnership with Love, Inc (Love In the Name of Christ), an organization you may read about in an article within the pages of this newsletter. We will welcome families in need into our church for a meal, for child-care, and for life-skills classes for parents.

Soon our choir will enjoy a much needed and deserved Sabbath rest during the winter. Many thanks to Christy Case, Mary Ellen Wagner, and Rosemary Miller for their tireless dedication to our music program. Thanks also to our choir! While the choir is off, we will have (to my knowledge) our congregation's first Chime Choir, supply sacred music on a few occasions. Under the direction of Penelope Olson, nearly ten church members and friends have been rehearsing and look forward to bringing a new flavor to our worship enhancement.

In Seminary, we learned that there needs to be a balance between Service, Spiritual, and Social activities. Our church already does Social / Fellowship time very well, though there is always room for improvement. Be thinking of ways we can celebrate our church family in this new year. If you have any ideas, please pass them along to Pastor Dan or the Board of Deacons. The Chime Choir is just one new item to help us move forward in our Spiritual development. And our partnership with Love, Inc. will help us grow in our Service.

Moving forward. What ideas do you have for our church in this new year? What is God calling us to do or be locally, regionally, and globally? Bring your ideas and energy to our **annual meeting** after church on January 23 as we prepare to approve the church budget. If you are unable to be with us for our annual meeting, remember us in your prayers. May the peace of Christ be with you.

Pastor Dan

Women's Fellowship News

Thanks to all who baked for the Cookie Walk. We had a very nice selection of cookies and it was very successful. We made a profit of \$769.80 which we are splitting 50/50 with Women's Fellowship Circle I.

There is no Women's Fellowship meeting in January. Circle I will meet for lunch on Wednesday, January 19, at 1:00 at the Cold Creek Inn in Beulah.

News from the Board of Trustees...

Thank you to all who have returned their 2011 commitment card. They are continuing to be received. Soon, the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees will be meeting to compare the commitments we have received and the draft narrative budget of around \$220,000 that we distributed at the congregational gathering in October and with the stewardship letter in November. That budget is \$30,000 less than the budget for 2010. When we compare the income we expect to receive with the budget expense, we will need to decide if we should try to cut the budget further, use more of our rainy day savings, or a combination of both. Please contact any Board of Trustee member if you have comments or questions. We appreciate all who support this church through prayers, time, talents, and treasure.

The trustees are looking at recurring expenses to find items that we can do without having. We are cutting back the size of our Yellow Book telephone ads, not renewing our subscription to the Record Patriot, and discontinuing television cable service in The Barn.

Our Annual Meeting will be January 23. Immediately following worship we will share food and fellowship with a potluck. Then the meeting will begin for the purpose of approving all 2010 annual reports, electing church officers and members of boards and committees, and approving the budget for 2011. This is an important meeting and we hope many members will be able to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Gehring

REMINDER

If you, a loved one, or a church member you know is in the hospital, please let the church office know so that Pastor Dan may visit. Due to privacy laws, hospitals no longer contact the churches to let them know church members are hospitalized. The church wants to know so that we can support you during this time of need.

POTLUCK AND ANNUAL MEETING

This year our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 23. There will be a potluck dinner immediately after the service prior to the meeting. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service.

HANDCHIME CHOIR

Handchime choir practice will resume on Wednesday, January 5, at 7:30 p.m. and will continue every Wednesday evening until the concert on March 20.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER

Some winter highlights coming up for our Sunday School kids include a skating or sledding party and making valentines for shut-ins. If you know of anyone who may like to join us, please encourage them to come. Sunday School starts at 10:15 every Sunday morning.

NEED ANY SHOVELING DONE?

Benzie Central's National Honor Society (of which Erin Thompson is a member) wants to raise funds for the Benzonia ice rink by shoveling for individuals in return for a donation. Call Raenee Harig at 882-4162 to schedule an appointment.

JANUARY SPECIAL DAYS...**January Birthdays**

Happy birthday to the following members of the church family!

4	John Robson
6	Jay Pettitt
6	Bud Cleghorn
11	Beulah Eby
11	Esther Rodriguez
12	Tad Peacock
17	Judy Johnson
18	Jean Voight
19	Mark Weaver
21	Donovan Haase
23	Emily Haynes
25	Helen Dewey
26	Mary Rodriguez
29	Debra Rafferty
31	Kelsey Neveu

January Anniversaries

Congratulations!

18	Harold and Marsha Case
30	Gerald and Joan Richardson

THANK YOUs

Thank you to all the "Centerfolds" who helped put together the December issue of the Joyful Noise: **Anne and Al Young, Susan Lutes, Helen Pickard, and Jean Edwards.**

Thank you to all those who participated in the Christmas Giving Tree and brought presents to the church by Sunday, December 19. The gifts were distributed to area families who were all very grateful to receive them.

Thank you to all of our Sunday School Children and our Youth for participating in this year's Christmas Pageant, "Christmas Around the World". Excellent job! The congregation seemed to enjoy the program. Special thanks to Marley Demers for his assistance with the music, and to all the parents and volunteers for their extra efforts.

Thank You

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR JANUARY VOLUNTEERS -

	<u>COFFEE HOUR</u>	<u>NURSERY</u>	<u>GREETERS</u>
1/2	Coffee Hour Fund	Katrina Smith	Sharon Pokorny
1/9	Mary and Doug Rodriguez	Carol Dye	Pat Kinske
1/16	Helen Dewey	Joyce Barnes	Earl and Pat Schopp
1/23	Annual Meeting	Kris Richards	Kathy Neveu
1/30	Bill and Kay Bos	Jo Danford	Michael and Carolina Jones

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UCC Sister Church of the Month

For the past year, in worship we have been praying for UCC churches in our United Northern Association. You are invited in January to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of The Potter's House in Traverse City. The Potter's House is a new church start. They meet once per month for worship as they continue the difficult task of trying to sustain their ministries without the benefit of a building, endowment, or life-long members. Even more, they are searching for a new pastor. Please remember our friends at The Potter's House throughout the month of January.

New Partners in Ministry

Starting in January, our church will be partnering with Love, Inc. of Manistee County. Love, Inc. (Love, In the Name of Christ) is a national organization dedicated to helping low income families through basic needs support as well as offering life skill improvement classes and community networking. Just recently, the local chapter of Love, Inc. in Manistee has begun helping families in Benzie County. They had been working with Blaine, but wanted to work with another church closer to the center of Benzie County. In November, the Board of Trustees approved the usage of our building for Love, Inc.'s Family Life Center. For ten weeks, families will come to our church on Wednesday evenings for dinner, children will play in childcare, and the adults will take classes. How exciting for us to be a part of the ongoing mission to families in need. Please pray for these families as well as for Love, Inc. and our volunteers. If you would like to volunteer occasionally or weekly, please contact Pastor Dan.

Flowers

There is a new sign-up sheet outside the church office for altar flowers for 2011. If you are interested in supplying flowers for the new year, please sign up for a certain date (or if you are unable to be in worship call the church office to make arrangements). You may then bring in your own flowers or donate \$25 to the church to make the arrangements with a local florist. If you would like the bulletin to reflect your donation, please let the church office know who the flowers honor or memorialize as well as identifying yourself as the donor.

GoodSearch.com

With the arrival of a new year, remember that if you use the Internet, you can earn money for the church using www.goodsearch.com. One penny per search, or more for internet shopping, helps the church. So far, the church has earned \$40 just from Internet searches and shopping. Designate us by entering our church name as the charity of your choice.

JANUARY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
						1
2 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	3 Church Office Closed 10:00 CMH - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	4 10:00 Christian World Service 10:00 Yoga-Barn 1:00 Finance 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	5 12 Noon - AA 2:00 MS Support Barn 7:30 Bell Choir	6 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn	7 10:00 CMH - Barn 12 N - LOWV Library 6:00 AA - Barn	8
9 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	10 10:00 CMH - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 5:00 Trustees 7:00 AA - Barn	11 10:00 Yoga - Barn 7:00 Council 7:00 WAA - Barn	12 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 4:30 Deacons 7:30 Bell Choir	13 9:00 BASO Sub-Committees 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn	14 10:00 CMH - Barn 12 N - LOWV Library 6:00 AA - Barn	15
16 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	17 10:00 CMH - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	18 10 Yoga - Barn 6:00 Trustees 6:30 Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	19 12 Noon - AA 1:00 - Circle I Lunch at Cold Creek Inn 2:30 Knitting - Barn 6:30 Christian Ed 7:30 Bell Choir	20 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn	21 10:00 CMH - Barn 12 N - LOWV Library	22
23 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Potluck 12:15 Annual Meeting	24 10:00 CMH - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	25 10 Yoga - Barn 7 WAA - Barn	26 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 7:30 Bell Choir	27 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn	28 10:00 CMH - Barn 12 N - LOWV Library	29
30 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship						

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

A Joyful Noise! January 2011

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

Daniel E. Furman	Minister
Chris Stone	Treasurer
Mary Rodriguez..	Financial Secretary
James Sheets.....	Church Moderator
Christy Case	Choir Director
Rosemary Miller	Assistant Choir Director
Gillian Soholt.....	Youth Coordinator
Jean Edwards.....	Newsletter Editor
Carol Dye & Katrina Smith.....	Christian Ed Coordinators
Pat Kinske	Custodian
Nancy Eggleston	Secretary

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