

A JOYFUL NOISE!

May2011

Happy Easter!! Spring has arrived and with it come warmer temperatures, the return of our snowbirds, and feelings of resurrection and new life. Soon our roads will be filling with tourists, friends, and family coming back to the wonders of the place we call home. It has been a long winter. At times, some of us wondered if Spring would ever return. Toward the end of April we had a winter storm warning which I didn't realize was possible after Spring had officially started. I thought it should have been a Spring storm warning with snow, but I'm still relatively new here!

The hope for resurrection and new life is one we are familiar with, not only in the church calendar, but also in many aspects of our lives. We yearn for the return of better economic times. We hope for changes in how we live and in choosing to take better care of ourselves. We mourn the loss of our loved ones, yet are sustained by our faith of their new life with God. Even the Church itself longs to reconnect to the community and to stand strong with voice and conviction in a world that has lost touch with the sacred.

We, modern-day disciples, have a long road ahead of us with much to be done, yet it has always been this way. The way of the cross is not easy, yet the teachings of Jesus, the healings and miracles, the challenges extended when acted upon revitalize the mission of God's people. May this Spring, this Easter season, inspire you to be bold in your faith, strong in hope, and sent forth into our world guided by our loving God who calls all of us to serve. Happy Easter!!

Pastor Dan

Caring Friends

On Palm Sunday, April 17, our church launched a new initiative called Caring Friends. About two years ago, there was discussion about bringing back Stephen's Ministry, a lay visitation program. But due to several reasons, we were unable to revitalize the Stephen's program, so instead we pursued the UCC version, Called to Care. When promoted, eleven members and friends signed up for the five week training. These eleven were commissioned in worship on Palm Sunday and are now serving our church by assisting Pastor Dan in visitation of our members and friends who are home-bound, in assisted-living or nursing home facilities, or hospital situations. If you would like a visit from a Caring Friend or you know someone who you think could use a visit, please contact the church office or Pastor Dan for arrangements. A second training will be offered in the summer of 2011.

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.

SPRING CLEAN UP DAY

(inside and outside) is May 14th – 9 am to 4 pm – lunch included.

There will be a list of things that need to be done posted at the Church. If you cannot come for the Saturday Clean Up Day and have a couple of hours to give – you can sign up to do one or more of these projects at a time convenient for you.



When completed – Our Church will sparkle!

Women's Fellowship News

Throughout this past winter and spring, Women's Fellowship has been working on improvements to the church kitchen and fellowship hall. In the kitchen, the stainless steel sink / table has been redesigned and moved to open up work areas. In the fellowship hall, the two storage areas in have been cleaned and the walls painted, giving us valuable storage space.

Thank you to Smeltzer Orchard and to Ken Nye for donating their time to make these changes happen. Shelving in the kitchen and storage areas were also donated.

More needs to be done to continue improving the kitchen and fellowship hall. For example, the old metal folding chairs that we use for overflow are in bad shape and take up a lot of space. We are looking at replacing these with stacking chairs. These ideas have been taken to the Church Council and to the Board of Trustees. Both were supportive of continuing with the work. We welcome your ideas and assistance and will keep everyone updated as work continues.

The **May General Meeting** of Women's Fellowship will be on Wednesday, May 4, at one o'clock. New officers will be elected and installed. Circle I is in charge of this meeting.

The Executive Board will meet in the library at noon, right before the general meeting. Circle and Committee reports are due at this meeting.

Sarah Circle will meet on Wednesday, May 18, at noon for lunch at Kay Fischer's cottage.

CLASSIC JUNQUE SALE



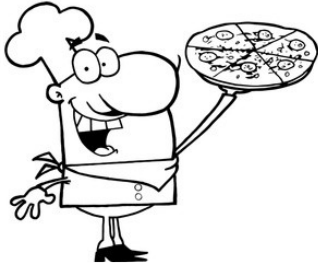
Just a reminder that the Classic Junque Sale will be held July 8th and 9th. So as you clean out that junk in your garage, spare room and basement, look at the items and see if they would be appropriate for the sale. Appropriate items include gently used linens, pots, pans, kitchen utensils, jewelry, knick-knacks, household items, toys, furniture and the like. We do not want clothing, electrical appliances, computers or computer accessories or books. Remember that we ask you to price the item before bringing them in, so make it easier on yourself and do it now while you are doing your cleaning.

Items will not be accepted at the church until the week of the sale, so please find a place you can keep them. All of the proceeds for this sale go the mission works of the Women's Fellowship so your help in making this sale successful is appreciated.

If you have questions, please call Penelope Olson at 383-0488.

News from the Deacons

The Bible Study group has finished the Ten Commandments and will meet again in July to study the Lord's Prayer. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Pastor Dan. The group meets on Tuesdays at 10:00 am.



Our annual **SPRING POPS AND PIZZA** party will be held on May 23rd at 5:30 pm. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board, so we will know how much pizza to order. We will meet at the church for pizza and salad and then car pool to the Benzie Central High School to enjoy the Pops Concert. This is a wonderful opportunity to help support the youth of our church and community. Please join us for this fun filled evening.

Christian Education News

The pool party recently hosted by the Youth Group was well attended and was a treat in this lingering winter weather.

We have had lots of fun with our Sunday School this year. The children enjoyed the reptile presentation by Rob Sellers. Penelope Olsen has been teaching us to play the bells. Hopefully, we will be playing a couple of songs for the congregation on Youth Sunday. For the remainder of the year, we will be studying the Books of the Bible.

May 29th will be a BBQ for the Youth and Sunday school.

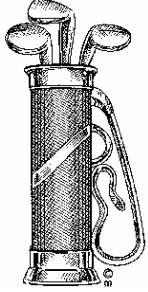
Youth Sunday will be held on June 5th. A time to honor our Youth and Sunday school children and a time for the children to be involved in the church service.

What's New in the Library

Fortytude... You may have read about this book & author in a February/March Record Eagle. Author Sarah Brokaw, a licensed therapist, writes that we can use five core values---grace, connectedness, accomplishment, adventure, and spirituality --- to navigate the rough spots in our life, going on to enjoy the best years of our life. Whether or not your 40's are fast approaching or a long look back, *Fortytude* is a wise and compassionate book filled with specific exercises for meeting life's bumps and challenges.

Miss Julia Rocks the Cradle... No, no, not her own but the twins born to Hazel Marie Pickens with Miss Julia and others in attendance. In spite of Miss Julia's promise to her husband, Sam, she can not help but get involved with the birth and a body found in a nearby tool shed.

The Judgment... book #2 of the Rose Trilogy by Beverly Lewis. Rose is engaged to a well-liked Amish fellow but still pines for Nick, the former foster son of the bishop. Will she marry Silas? Older sister, Hen, returns to live at her parents' farm with her young daughter. She and her husband are separated by mutual agreement but now he is threatening to sue for custody if Hen does not return soon. Another interesting tale from one of the prominent authors of Amish fiction.



Golf Team

It's that time of year again!! If your golf clubs have been calling your name, the church golf team will be organizing for our second year starting in May. Again, this year we will gather most often on Friday's at local golf courses. This year, if there is interest, we may play in local fundraising tournaments. If you would like to be a part of the 2011 Golf Team please contact Pastor Dan at: pastordan@benzoniacongregational.org or call the church office.

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 May to pray for the ongoing mission and ministries of **Zion United Church of Christ in Brutus**, near Pellston and Petoskey. Their pastor has led them for over 20 years, but is retiring this year. Please remember our friends at Zion UCC in Brutus throughout the month of May and as they prepare to search for a new pastor.

Flowers

There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office for altar flowers for 2011. If you are interested in supplying flowers, 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

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, is donated directly from the website to our church. Designate us by entering our church name as the charity of your choice.

Newsletter Email

In an effort to save time, paper, and money, we are now offering our newsletter via email. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by email, please contact the church at:

secretary@benzoniacongregational.org.

We are also sending out weekly updates every Friday with prayer requests and upcoming events. To receive this email simply send our church secretary, Nancy, a note using the above email address. We also have a new church website. You may access it by: www.benzoniacongregational.org. Please check it out and tell your friends and neighbors.

MAY
SPECIAL DAYS...

May Birthdays

Happy birthday to the following members of the church family!

1	Trish Manning
6	Trudy Collins
6	Trevor Danford
7	Wade Peacock
7	Mickey Austin
7	John Hanmer
8	Mary Cornell
9	Taylor Johnson
9	Wally Edwards
12	Jim Uren
12	Joe Wittbrodt
15	Joanne Applehof
16	Jo Danford
20	Bob Austin
21	Sally Moss
23	Marilyn Sheets
25	Bill Bos
26	Sabra Danford
29	Ruth Blacklock
30	Larry Czap

May Anniversaries

5	John and Barbara Riegler
7	Don and Jean Voight
9	Al and Anne Young
13	John and Barbara Hanmer
17	Scott and Kathy Neveu
23	Wayne and Marilee Strom
25	Jim and Alice Hinkamp
27	Larry and Nancy Czap

A BIG THANK YOU
TO OUR MAY VOLUNTEERS -

COFFEE HOUR

May 1	Circle IV
May 8	Coffee Hour Fund
May 15	Esther and Sonny Rodriguez
May 22	Sarah Circle
May 29	Cook Out / Games

NURSERY

May 1	Brenda Case
May 8	Katrina Smith
May 15	Chris Gehring
May 22	Jo Danford
May 29	Pat Kinske

GREETERS

May 1	Jim Sheets
May 8	Susan Lutes
May 15	Sunday School Class
May 22	Jean and Wally Edwards
May 29	Chuck and Gloria Dedloff

HEAD USHER

John Riegler

Church Family Update

Trudy Collins has moved to Minnesota. Her new address is Walker Plaza, 131 Monroe Street, Anoka, MN 55303.

Myrt Maddock is staying with her daughter. Cards may be sent c/o Pat Rankin, 222 Hooper Street, Lakeview, MI 48850.

Please remember our members who are homebound or in assisted living: Roland Roycroft, Marylou Patee, June Trost, Norm Stewart, John Robson, Marjorie Call, Buck and Dorothy Hall, Ruth Masters, Bernice Rankin, Liz Ehman, Betty Peters, Barb Nason, Ken Miner, and Mona McElderry.

THANK YOU to Jean and Wally Edwards, Ruth Catton, and Susan Lutes for all their work folding and labeling and stamping the April issue of The Joyful Noise.

MAY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
1 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship 12 Noon - Youth Group	2 10:00 CMH - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	3 MILLAGE ELECTION 10:00 Yoga-Barn 6:30 Christian Ed 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	4 12 Noon - AA 1:00 Women's Fellowship 2:00 MS Support Barn	5 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	6 12 Noon LOWV	7
8 MOTHER'S DAY 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	9 10:00 CMH - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 7:00 AA - Barn	10 10:00 Yoga-Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn 7:00 Council	11 12 Noon - AA 2:00 MS Support Barn 6:30 Deacons	12 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	13 12 Noon LOWV	14 9:00 am Church Cleanup Day
15 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship 12 Noon - Youth Group	16 10:00 CMH - Barn 11:00 Commodities Distribution 7:00 AA - Barn	17 10:00 Yoga -Barn 5:00 Trustees 6:30 Kiwanis 7:00 BASO Board 7:00 WAA - Barn	18 Circle Meetings 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn	19 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	20 12 Noon-LOWV	21
22 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	23 10:00 CMH - Barn 5:30 Pops and Pizza 7:00 AA - Barn	24 10:00 Yoga -Barn 7:00 WAA - Barn	25 12 Noon - AA 10:30 Circle IV Noon Sarah Circle 2:30 Knitting - Barn	26 10 CMH Exercise Barn 5:30 NA - Barn 7:30 Choir Practice	27 12 Noon LOWV	28
29 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship Cook Out and-Games	30 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED 10:00 CMH - Barn 7:00 AA - Barn	31 10:00 Yoga -Barn 7 WAA - Barn				

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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 Sohlt.....	Youth Coordinator
Jean Edwards.....	Newsletter Editor
Carol Dye & Katrina Smith.....	Christian Ed Coordinators
Pat Kinske	Custodian
Nancy Eggleston	Secretary

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