

# A JOYFUL NOISE!

February 2012

Congratulations to my cousin Lisa who turns five this year!! Being a Leap-Year baby, has won her some notoriety over the years, (her peppy personality helps quite a bit too!). She, like others born on February 29, learn to cope with the missing birthdays that don't appear on the calendar, most often, by having birthday parties on February 28 and March 1. Not bad.

Which makes me think that it's good to find ways to celebrate even if there's nothing special on the calendar. Of course we celebrate December 24, Easter Sunday, and July 4, and in our church the last Sunday in June which has become our Anniversary Sunday, but maybe we can learn from our Leap Year babies and extend the celebrations to other days as well.

Our Board of Deacons are always working hard to put fun things on the calendar. You will read more about their upcoming ideas as you page through the newsletter. Not long ago we completed our first Live Nativity. Soon after, in worship, I preached for a second year in a row about the concept of our congregation being Epiphany people. Our church, located in such a beautiful location, attracts travelers from far away who come here seeking something wonderful, much like the Magi who traveled to find the Christ child at Epiphany. We have a beautiful stained-glass window that one of our children recently told me in worship that "it isn't a cross, it's a star!" (I suppose it's a matter of perspective.) So if we have travelers coming this summer, perhaps we should begin planning now how to receive them.

We will continue our traditional celebrations of outdoor worship, picnic, and travelling to Beach Bums games, but maybe we can also dream about other fun things to do this summer as we welcome back the pilgrims seeking renewal in our area. Start dreaming now, and then share your ideas.

When I was growing up, my family would occasionally go to Pizza Hut for dinner. Without fail, every time we went, I would ask my parents for a quarter, go over the jukebox, and select Kool and the Gang's hit "Celebration" to listen to while we ate. I don't know what they thought about my tradition, but I just loved that song. Let's celebrate in 2012, on our traditional days and let's find some new times to give thanks to God for life! Happy Birthday Lisa!!

Pastor Dan Furman

## ***Ash Wednesday***

The season of Lent begins on the last Sunday in February. Join us for the imposition of ashes on Wednesday, February 22, at 7:00 p.m. Whether you wish to be "imposed upon" or not, you are welcome to join us for evening worship as we reflect on the arrival of Lent and what it means for us as Jesus' disciples.

## **Christian Education News**

Our Sunday School and Youth Group have had a very busy year so far. September began with Rally Sunday followed by Fall Festival and Trick or Treat for UNICEF. Our students showed up on a November Saturday to bake goodies for a "1-11-11 Challenge" bake sale the next day. \$222.22 was raised and donated to Benzie Home Health Care. On another November Sunday – our junior bell ringers led by Penelope Olson performed two Thanksgiving songs. In December, our older kids prepared soup and salad for the Mills Community House Christmas Craft Show. Then, all had fun at the Advent Workshop. We finished up the year with our Christmas Pageant.

We try to have some fun fellowship for kids each month. Proposed upcoming dates:

February 5 – Sledding Party

February 19 – Mardi Gras Party and Fun Day at church

February 25 – Lock in for our older kids

March 11 – Youth serving Coffee Hour

March 25 – Swimming Party

May – Maybe a trip to the Drake School House

April 22 – Bowling

June 10 – Children's Sunday

July 4 – Parades!!

Other ideas that we are considering and would love to do include:

- Summer Family Camping Trip

- Trip to the UCC National Youth Rally to be held July 10 - 13

- Vacation Bible School

- Summer Sunday - One Room School House

Each Sunday we focus on a Bible Scripture and activity related to this scripture. We are also learning about the fundamentals of our faith such as the Lord's Prayer, Communion, the Ten Commandments.

One concern that we have is that we have a group of really great preteen and teenage kids. We would like to find someone to fill the Youth Coordinator position, who will work with us in offering these kids a meaningful program. Like Pastor Dan said at our Christian Ed Meeting - The "3 S's" - Social – Spiritual – Service.

## **New Bible Study Starting**

When you hear the beautiful harmonies of Handel's Messiah, are you excited to join in the tradition and stand to marvel at the wondrous themes of praise? Is it one of your favorite Christmas or Easter musical selections? Have you ever thought about the Scripture that is woven throughout Handel's masterpiece? If you have answered yes to any of these questions, then please join us for our newest Bible Study where we will listen to selections from the Messiah and then talk about the Scripture passages. We will start on February 28, Tuesday morning at 10:00. Please let the office or Pastor Dan know by Sunday, February 19, so that we may order a workbook for you. If you are unable to meet with us but would like a workbook to read on your own, that is also possible. *And He shall reign forever, and ever!!* Join us.

## **Women's Fellowship News**

Women's Sunday is February 12th with Penelope Olson speaking on "Herbs of the Bible." Anyone who is interested in taking part may contact Chris Stone.

Circle I will meet in The Barn on Wednesday, February 15, at 1:00 to do some detailed cleaning. Please bring some cleaning supplies with you. We will move to the church at 2:30 for refreshments.

There will be a Fajita Dinner after church on February 19th.

Our next meeting is March 7th.

## **Mission Trip**

Our Christian World Service Board is exploring the concept of a summer 2012 mission trip to Missouri. This will be an intergenerational experience. All ages are welcome. Part of the trip will be educational with stops at Eden Theological Seminary a UCC institution, and visiting the Missouri Mid-South Conference office in St. Louis. Part of the trip will be tourism with stops to tour the St. Louis Arch and other sites. Part of the trip will be mission to help the communities that suffered tornado devastation in Joplin, Missouri. Tentative dates are June 17 - 23, 2012. If you are interested, please speak with Pastor Dan.

## **UCC Sister Church of the Month**

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

## **Flowers**

There is a sign-up sheet outside the church office for altar flowers for 2012. If you would like to supply 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](http://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.

## **Memorial Garden**

On the north side of our church property is a beautiful memorial garden for members and friends of the church who would like their cremated ashes interred on our sacred grounds. For \$250, you may reserve a one-square foot plot that covers future opening and closing as well as a memorial plaque to be placed on the stone located along the walkway. Please speak with Pastor Dan for more information.

Donations for perpetual care are also welcomed.

## February Birthdays

Happy birthday to the following members of the church family!

1	Alice Hinkamp
2	Pete Moss
2	Peg Strong
2	Leah Johnson
3	Doug Joy, Jr.
3	Glen Sauer
4	Ryan Strom
5	Sharon Pokorny
8	Christy Case
8	William Armstrong
9	Anita Armstrong
9	Christine Jones
11	Janet Schell
13	Kim Weaver
16	Rich Pokorny
23	Donna Knox
26	Keith Westphal
27	Joyce Wittbrodt
29	Marsha Case
29	Marilee Strom

(no wedding anniversaries in February)

## Volunteer Opportunity

We have church members who would like to come to church but have no transportation. If you are willing to pick people up on your way to church, please contact the office or Pastor Dan.

## A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS -

### COFFEE HOUR

February 5	Deacons
February 12	Roxane Miner
February 19	Fajita Feast
February 26	Mike and Carolina Jones

### NURSERY

February 5	Phyllis Crowell
February 12	Chris Jones
February 19	Gillian Soholt
February 26	Jean Bowers

### GREETERS

February 5	The Woloweic Family
February 12	Cindy Schnaar
February 19	Natalie Dawe and Stef
February 26	Mike and Carolina Jones

### HEAD USHER

Doug Rodriguez

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

## Church Family Update

You are invited to remember in your prayers some of our members who are home-bound or in assisted-living or are facing health concerns: Bob and Mickey Austin on the death of their daughter Barbara Bolek, Doug Joy, Marylou Patee, June Trost, Norm Stewart, John Robson, Marjorie Call, Buck and Dorothy Hall, Ruth Masters, Liz Ehman, Betty Peters, Barb Nason, Bernice Rankin, Bruce Jenema, Mona McElderry, Helen Pickard, Jo Danford, and Betty Henry.

**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.

# ***FEBRUARY 2012***

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT
			1 12 Noon - AA 2:00 MS Support Barn 6:30 Bell Choir	2 11-2:30 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn	3 12 Noon LOWV	4
5 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	6 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	7 10:00 Yoga-Barn 1:00 Grief Support - Barn 6:30 - Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	8 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting Barn 4:00 Deacons 6:30 Christian Ed 6:30 Bell Choir	9 11-2:30 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn	10 12 Noon LOWV	11
12 <b>WOMAN'S SUNDAY</b> 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	13 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 11Commodities Distribution 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	14 10:00 Yoga -Barn 1:00 Grief Support - Barn 7:00 Bell Choir 7:00 WAA - Barn	15 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 4:00 Deacons	16 11-2:30 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn	17 12 Noon- LOWV	18
19 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	20 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	21 10:00 Yoga -Barn 1:00 Grief Support - Barn 5:00 Trustees 6:30 Kiwanis 7:00 WAA - Barn	22 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn 6:30 Bell Choir <b>7:00 Ash Wednesday Worship</b>	23 11-2:30 Central Wellness Exercise - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 5:30 NA - Barn	24 12 Noon LOWV	25
26 10:15 Church School 10:30 Worship	27 10:00 Central Wellness - Barn 12-5 Bridge Club 7:00 AA - Barn	28 10:00 Bible Study 10:00 Yoga -Barn 1:00 Grief Support - Barn 7:00 Bell Choir 7:00 WAA - Barn	29 12 Noon - AA 2:30 Knitting - Barn			

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## ***A Joyful Noise! February 2012***

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC BENZONIA, MICHIGAN

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Chris Stone .....Treasurer  
Mary Rodriguez.. .....Financial Secretary  
James Sheets.....Church Moderator  
Christy Case ..... Choir Director  
Rosemary Miller .....Assistant Choir Director  
Jean Edwards.....Newsletter Editor  
Carol Dye & Katrina Smith.....Christian Ed Coordinators  
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