



TOWER

Newsletter of Central United Church of Christ

March 2021
Volume 75, No. 2

Stones. Recently I read the following statement: “There are sometimes seasons when it isn’t possible for us to do even simple things due to circumstances beyond our control.” This seems to be one of them, doesn’t it? If it’s not Covid restrictions, or the weather, it’s those tiny irritations of lightbulbs burning out, some little thing going wrong with the modem that requires two days’ conversations with the internet provider, one less stamp than is needed requiring an unplanned trip to the post office. Those are the pebbles, and each of us knows what constitute pebbles, stones, even boulders, in our lives.

Pebbles. I’ve been thinking a lot about pebbles and stones. They seem especially abundant this year: pebbles that have restricted my bicycle riding since our street was resurfaced with chip’n’séal this Fall, waves of 6” deep pebbles a real obstacle to my physical limitations and lack of sure balance. Then there are my old but valued machines that keep breaking down and require fixing all the time, and varied and sundry other minor irritations that seem to pop up every day. I am hoping for a more placid Spring. In the meantime, I try to think positive thoughts: the road definitely needed some kind of resurfacing, and I have found its pebbles a foot massage if I wear the right shoes. I feel like I am walking on waves, a very earthy version of walking on water. And then, the weather...and the stones.

Those stones. On my walks up and down the hills, which rival those in Jefferson City—almost—there is one place that is level at the top of the first hill. It is a quarter-mile tractor trail from a barn to the road. It is used regularly and the stones are worn, rounded and blend in with the hard clay earth around them. They’d be pleasant to walk on barefoot. Even though they are bigger than pebbles they do not present as much an obstacle. I like to think that is because I have help with them in the heavy farm equipment and the pick-ups that bring corn from a good farmer to his cattle every day. With help, I have learned I can live peacefully with the stones.

Boulders? Boulders come with the weather, aging, international upheavals in a world where nations cannot live in peace with one another, pandemics, you name it. Boulders just have to be accepted it seems. “That’s life,” we say. However, there is one boulder that I cannot do without, the cornerstone of our lives: Jesus Christ. Rock of ages, shelter from the ever-present storms, Himself no stranger to the vicissitudes of life. One with the One God, one with us, our sure undergirding, our sure defense and support.

May you know His peace, His presence, in troubled times. Amen. It is so. Amen.

Judy

VERSE OF THE MONTH: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes....” Matthew 21.42

WORSHIP UPDATE

As you look over the March "Tower" issue, in-person worship services in the sanctuary will have resumed beginning February 28, which is also the Second Sunday in Lent. Please do come and participate in our church services. We miss you. Here's a reminder again of some of the points we'll use which are in line with the CDC and medical authorities:

- a. Wear a face mask in the church building, and any time outside you are near people.
- b. Social distancing will be observed, with 6-feet between people, even when sitting in the pews. People of the same household/family may sit together. Our ushers will assist you with seating arrangements.
- c. Ushers will take your temperature before you enter the sanctuary. This will be done with a laser thermometer. Laser thermometers do not touch the individual. We will not be transferring germs to one another with regular thermometers, etc. If you have a temperature over 100 degrees, or have a cough, or other signs/symptoms of illness, please do not come to church, and seek medical advice.

Shown below, in the picture on the left, are Missy Martin and Allen Schmutzler as they monitor sound and camera operations during the livestream worship service on January 24. Centered, in the picture to the right, are David Kohler and Joshua Mullins. While Rev. Scott took some much deserved vacation time, David preached the sermon message on January 17 and Josh provided the welcome and announcements. Then on January 24, Josh preached the sermon message while David provided the welcome and announcements.



MARCH BENEVOLENCE One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

March's benevolence offering is One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS). When a disaster strikes or people are displaced or made refugees by violence or extreme poverty, OGHS is part of the immediate response and of the long-term recovery. It's enabling people and communities in 80 nations to stand against and rise above hunger, disease, illiteracy, and injustice that denies and destroys dignity.

OGHS provides emergency and long-term assistance to people in the aftermath of every kind of natural or man-made disaster. On average, OGHS responds to a disaster once every 2.5 days. And it responds with advocacy and help, hope and hospitality for people who have been uprooted from their home of origin. More than 30 million of the world's people are uprooted at any given time.

The UCC annually channels more than three-million dollars through One Great Hour of Sharing to humanitarian needs in the world. The United Church of Christ unites with Christians in eight other Protestant denominations and Church World Service in One Great Hour of Sharing, thus multiplying the effectiveness and extent of our witness many times over. On average, ninety-five cents of every dollar supports long-term sustainable development with five cents going towards interpretation materials. Administrative cost is paid by gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission National Basic Support.

The partnership we share with United Church of Christ congregations across the United States is where this remarkable miracle connecting UCC members to the world begins. But first, of course, it begins with your donation in this month's blue benevolence envelope.

FESTIVAL OF SHARING March Kit

CWS Hygiene Kit
1 nail clipper (remove packaging)
1 toothbrush in original package
1 bath size bar of soap in package
1 washcloth
1 wide tooth comb (remove packaging)
10 standard size Band-Aids

We have hand towels to add to the kits. Affordable wide-tooth combs can be found at discount suppliers such as sallybeauty.com or at Dollar General. Search for "wide-tooth pastel comb" to see an example of combs that meet the kit requirements. All items need to fit inside a one-gallon Ziploc type bag. You can bring a complete kit or any part of the kit to drop in the Festival of Sharing box in the Narthex. People who have to go to shelters because of floods, fires, tornadoes or other natural disasters greatly appreciate receiving these kits.



Mission JC has been cancelled this year (for 2021) due to Covid concerns. Watch for updates for Mission JC in 2022 regarding projects for Central United Church of Christ.

85+ BIRTHDAYS



MARCH

CARRIE DAVIS, 3/07
211 Indian Meadow Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65101

THANK YOU NOTES

The family of Jerry Watson would like to thank everyone for the many cards, prayers, donations to Central UCC, and donations to the Alzheimer’s Association in Jerry’s recent passing. He truly enjoyed worshiping with each and everyone of you. God bless...

Ruth Watson
Janet Baker
Michael Watson

I would like to thank my friends and members of the Central United Church of Christ for all the nice cards and telephone calls I received for my 96th birthday. I really enjoyed and appreciated them.

Ruth Popp

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
MARCH 14, 2021**

A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 14, 2021, for the purpose of the election of Church Council officers, and to approve the 2021 budget. The Annual Meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, March 21. Both meetings will take place following worship.

For all the birthday cards and well wishes on my 93rd birthday, I thank you so much. Waiting for the day when we can worship together again.

Jane Stumpe

2020 GIVING STATEMENTS

Your 2020 annual giving statement is in the gym for you to pick-up. They’ll remain in the gym awhile longer for you to pick-up at your convenience.

On behalf of the Jefferson City Rape and Abuse Crisis Service (RACS), thank you for your donation of \$270.81 in December 2020. Because of your gift, we are able to strengthen our support of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking survivors. Your donation will support the important programs and services offered to survivors throughout Central Missouri, and ensure that there is a safe place to go when it isn’t safe to be at home. Again, thank you so much for your support and for your part in helping us to ensure that RACS is a safe place for families.

Angela Hirsch
Executive Director, RACS

If you do not have a keycard to enter the building, please contact the church office at 635-1041 and the gym door will be unlocked for you.

YOUNG YOUTH

Wednesdays after school ... I am soooo looking forward to the return of our Wednesday programming. Kids in grades K-5 get together on Wednesdays after school for food and fun, faith and fellowship. Supervision begins at 3:00 and we end at 6:00. As a quick reminder, Young Youth only meets on those Wednesdays that school is in session so if you've got a snow day, so do we.

EASTER EGG HUNT ... SATURDAY, APRIL 3 ... 10:00am

With hundreds of eggs, it's more of a dash than a hunt and it goes quickly, so you don't want to be late! Bring friends to join the fun, family to cheer you on, and something to hold your eggs. This activity is for all ages up through 5th grade.



Rene Miserez
Young Youth Director
573-694-6022

Pictured is the family of Molly Reese Stafford as she was baptized on Sunday, January 17. Molly is shown with her parents, Kirk and Danielle Stafford, and big brother Kasen. Also pictured is the Rev. Dr. Judith Scott.



MONTHLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SALVATION ARMY MEAL

March 11 — Mission & Outreach Ministry

MEALS ON WHEELS

March 17 — Mission & Outreach Ministry

“TOWER” DEADLINE

Please turn in articles and pictures for the April “Tower” issue by Monday, MARCH 15. Thanks.

SALVATION ARMY MEALS 2021

January – Rene Miserez

February – Patti Schmutzler

March – Mission & Outreach Ministry

April – Patti Schmutzler

May – WIGS

June – Mission & Outreach Ministry

July – Parlor Class

August – **OPEN**

September – Connie Pack

October – Nelda Lay

November – Rene Miserez

December – Bell Choir

If you would like to volunteer for August, please call Susan Poettgen at 573-298-4515, or email her at susan.poettgen@gmail.com. The second Thursday of each month is filled by Central Church. You would be feeding around 50 people. Brochures with information are available in the narthex.



SAVE THE DATE: Easter Sunday, April 4

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Third Sunday in Lent 10:00am Worship Service	8	9	10	11 5:00pm Salvation Army Meal		13
Fourth Sunday in Lent 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Congregational Meeting	15	16	17 10:00am Meals On Wheels	18 7:00pm Council Meeting	19	20
Fifth Sunday in Lent 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Annual Meeting	22	23	24	25	26	27
PALM SUNDAY 10:00am Worship Service	29	30	31			



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR MISSION

To be a Christ-centered community of faithful disciples
who are called to grow in faith, and share God’s love
as we reach out to each other,
to our community, and to our world.

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
118 W. Ashley Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Phone: (573) 635-1041

E-mail: office@centralucc.com

Website: www.centralucc.com

Ministers.....Every Member
Pastor.....Rev. Dr. Judith Scott
Young Youth DirectorRene Miserez
Organist Shirley Klein
Bell Choir DirectorRene Miserez

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:

10:00am Worship Service