



TOWER

Newsletter of Central United Church of Christ

August 2021
Volume 75, No. 6

Norbert's Chair

When I accepted the offer to present a neutral pulpit sermon for the church that brought us to the Midwest, Bob and I were invited to a family reunion at the home of one of the pillars of that church. The home, a large comfortable ranch with a yard set up for entertaining, belonged to Norbert and his wife Marsha. Norbert was one of those natural geniuses like our Allen Schmutzler. A member of the Greatest Generation, Norbert worked for one of the big electrical manufacturers after he came home from the war. When I served the church, he'd peruse the neighborhood on trash night to get old radio tubes and other gadgets he'd refurbish or repurpose for the Church to use. We had a good, working amplification system from the sanctuary to the fellowship hall in the basement, if you could figure out where to turn it on. It reminded me of the cigar box radio my dad made me during WW II, full of all sizes, shapes and colors of glass tubes.

Norbert and Marsha's was a large extended family. To us it seemed as if the entire church were there that evening. Where to sit.... Not a problem. There was a chair, a special chair, used only when the minister visited, I found out. It seemed not to matter if the minister were young, old, fat, thin, rich or poor, drab or fashionable, male or female. That chair was reserved for THE MINISTER and no one, not even Norbert, sat in that chair, EVER. That was the minister's chair. That was MY chair! That was where I would sit throughout the festivities, throughout the evening. My food was brought to me, children were brought to me along with an on-and-off parade of family members as they came along for refills or new courses, whatever. That night was quite an experience. That night was quite the welcome.

When I began visitations (an 83-mile circuit) I learned that nearly every household had a minister's chair. Not everyone was gifted with material delights, but always, always, there was a chair for the minister. It was kept dusted; no one else was allowed to sit in it. It was a strange feeling, as if my presence remained even after I'd actually left physically. It was as if I were a part of that household, even if not born into it. I felt like Elijah, finally showing up for Passover.

I have warmed chairs here, at Central, also. And now, as you may have heard, just as in that former church, it is time for me to leave my chair and allow another to sit in my place. I leave with ambivalent feelings. I don't like having to leave my chair, ever, wherever, whenever. But I carry memories of special chairs, special people, people I love, I pray over. And I DO leave something else for those who care for the chairs and those who sit in them. I leave prayers of blessing, prayers of protection, prayers to bring those I have served and love ever closer to the Christ who walked with us, ate with us, conversed with us, sat with us, then, now, and forever.

May the minister's chair always be warm. Amen; may it be so, may it always be so.

Judy

VERSE OF THE MONTH: "Then you shall make a mercy seat...There I will meet with you...." Exodus 25:17, 22

PASTORAL CANDIDATE

Pastor Jason Abbott

The Church Council and the Search and Call Committee have invited Pastor Jason Abbott to conduct candidate services for Central Church on August 1, and August 15, 2021. Jason taught English at Jefferson City High School before becoming a pastor. He has a Master's Degree in Religion, and a Doctorate of Ministry. His pastoral career included being the Associate Pastor at Grace Evangelical Free Church in Jefferson City, Teaching Pastor at Community Evangelical Free Church in Harrisburg, PA, and most recently as the Senior Pastor at First Evangelical Free Church in Chicago from 2019 until about a month ago. Jason and his wife, Natalie, recently moved their family of 5 children back to Jefferson City, and he has a strong desire to help Central Church grow.

Central Church will host a reception following the August 1 worship service for people to meet and greet Jason, his wife Natalie, and their family. After the August 15 service, we will have a congregational meeting to vote on calling Pastor Abbott as our full-time pastor. There will also be a dinner following the congregational meeting.

RUMMAGE SALE

August 7

7:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

You may begin dropping off items for the Rummage Sale in the church gym on Monday, August 2. This year the focus is on back-to-school items for elementary through college ages. We particularly need clothing for boys and girls in every size and season. Please make sure all clothing is clean and in good condition. Don't forget to bring household items, linens, small electronics (no computers or printers), mini-fridges, microwaves, flat screen TVs, furniture, outdoor items, collectibles, books, DVD's, CD's, and hobby and craft items.

Set-up for the Rummage Sale will take place on Thursday, August 5, and Friday, August 6, from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. We need volunteers to help with set-up and also on Saturday, the day of the sale, beginning at 6:45 a.m. After the sale, help is needed to clean-up, take down everything, and take remaining items to Goodwill.

Thank you for your help and support. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please call and leave a message with Carole Spencer at 635-6580 or Sondra Spencer at 573-694-5588.

AUGUST BENEVOLENCE
Salvation Army & Meal

The Salvation Army helps with needs, and provides services to the community. One of the ways the Salvation Army helps is to provide a hot meal each evening for clients staying at their shelter and the public. Central Church cooks and serves one of those meals on the second Thursday of each month. We have a meal fund set-up to help with the cost of providing a hot meal. An allotment of \$125 is given to help Central Church folks who volunteer to prepare and serve the meal at Salvation Army. The appreciation is so great from everyone who comes to eat. Please consider making a donation to this month's blue benevolence envelope which will go towards the cost of the meals that our volunteers prepare and serve, and also helps the Salvation Army continue to provide services.

JEFFERSON CITY DIAPER BANK

The Mission and Outreach Ministry is promoting the Jefferson City Diaper Bank which serves Cole County and Southern Boone County. They became a non-profit organization in 2017, and now disperse over 70,000 diapers to over 650 local families. They distribute about 350 packages of diapers each month in our area. Check out their facebook site at www.facebook.com/JCMODiapers. You can help by bringing children's diapers & pull-ups for the box located in the narthex.

FESTIVAL OF SHARING
August Kit

Mission and Outreach Ministry will be collecting items for the Missouri Family Food Boxes. Please bring the following and place in the box in the narthex: 3 boxes of mac & cheese; 3 cans of vegetables; 3 cans of fruit; 1 jar of peanut butter; 1 can of pasta sauce; 1 lb. of pasta; 3 cans of tuna; 3 cans of chicken.

2021 RELAY FOR LIFE COLE COUNTY
Friday, August 6

This year's Relay for Life will be a drive-in style event at the Capital Mall parking lot (Dillard's wing near Country Club Drive). The ceremony begins at 7:30 p.m. with Rod Smith as the emcee and will last 30 minutes to 1 hour. The ceremony will also be broadcast live on NASH FM 100.1. Attendees will be allowed out of their vehicles if they feel comfortable doing so (bring a chair or blanket). Starting around 6:00 p.m., several teams will be selling homemade cinnamon rolls, McAlister's tea, individually-wrapped cancer ribbon sugar cookies from Small Cakes, t-shirts, and homemade items. Also, at 6:30 p.m., the luminaria will be set out for the public to see. The luminaria ceremony and slideshow will be streamed on the Relay for Life's Facebook page, @rflcolemo. Don't forget about the silent auction which will be held online August 1, 7:00 p.m., through August 8, 7:00 p.m. The website for the auction is 32auctions.com/rflcolemo2021. Auction items are now available for viewing on that website. Central Church Women's team has two items on the auction. Money raised by those items will be credited to the team. It's not too late to make a donation to the team. Contact Mary Ann Wippermann at mlwipper@embarqmail.com or 636-3685.



Pictured is Wilburn Rowden, from a recent New York Times article titled "Coronavirus Briefing." An excerpt from the article: "The grin of Wilburn C. Rowden, a 98-year-old World War II veteran, who finally returned to church services (and his social life) in Jefferson City, Missouri, for the first time in 17 months."

85+ BIRTHDAYS

AUGUST

August Begemann (8/06)

13823 Blue Ridge Road
Henley, MO 65040

Mary Petry (8/11)

2012 Deer Trail
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Gladys Gladden (8/28)

% Cedarhurst Sr. Living of Lebanon
842 Lynn St., Apt. #31
Lebanon, MO 65536

THANK YOU

Thank you for the many ways our church family has supported us through this incredibly difficult sadness of Bob's death. We are grateful for the many expressions of sympathy, for the food lovingly prepared and served, for the comfort of a hug, for the space to grieve, and for lifting us in prayer. Some days we struggle much more than others, but we have felt your presence on our journey and know you wish us peace.

Rene and Laura Miserez

Thank you for all the cards and congratulations from my friends at Central Church on the occasion of my 90th birthday.

Bob Stumpe

BROTHERHOOD HIGHLIGHTS

June 1, 2021

- ◆ Eleven men and Rev. Scott enjoyed Schulte's fried chicken and trimmings provided by Jim Norment.
- ◆ Repair of the parking lot has been completed and removal of the shrubs has been approved.
- ◆ Approved giving \$100 to Second Christian Church for their summer lunch program to feed kids.
- ◆ Agreed to sponsor Dan Meers (KC Chief's Mascot) to speak at our church on July 31.
- ◆ Agreed to grill brats on September 24 for Oktoberfest meal.
- ◆ Discussed possible ice cream social this summer.

Carl Ernst, Secretary



Special Music group on July 4, 2021.

MARTHA CIRCLE CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

On Sunday, August 15, the Martha Circle will celebrate the anniversary of their 100th year of service! Congregational Life Ministry will be providing a meal on that Sunday consisting of fried chicken and all the "fixins." Please join us after worship on August 15 for a delicious meal as we celebrate with the members of the Martha Circle.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE UPDATE

Congregational Life Ministry is asking for church groups to sign-up to provide and serve a meal on the third Sunday of each month. You will get a free-will offering to use for your group/committee. The only month/date left to fill is for December 19. These meals are very much appreciated, and the fellowship is an added bonus for all. Please notify Karen Howser at 573-680-5011, or Faye Rinaldi at 573-619-3339, if you can help.

THANK YOU FROM REV. SCOTT

Pictured is Rev. Dr. Judith Scott with organist, Shirley Klein, during Rev. Scott's last Sunday at Central Church. She writes:

To the Beloved Congregation:

What a wonderful send-off you gave me on Sunday! The food, the flowers, the fellowship, your many gifts—how I will treasure each and every one, how often I will pour over them enjoying the memories they provide. Your generosity, your love knows no limit. What a joy to have been able to serve you! Thank you, thank you!

With love, in Christ, and prayers for future blessings,

Judy



YOUNG YOUTH

Are you ready for some more fun activities centered on God? We return to Wednesday after school activities and programming on August 25. Come whenever your school gets out, and we end at 6:00. We share a Bible lesson adventure or activity, fun with friends, and dinner. We need U for F-U-N times at church!

Adults ... there will be lots of opportunities to volunteer with youth programming this year. Please consider how you might help us ... can you give 30 minutes to be our Safe Church second adult for a Wednesday Bible lesson? Can you give two hours to help with a special activity? It's not what I want *from* you ... it's what I want *for* you.

What an enthusiastic group of kids we had for Lava Lava Island! They showed up eager to have fun building relationships with Jesus. Our daily themes were Jesus brings hope, Jesus followed God's Word, Jesus gives us



courage, Jesus saves us, and Jesus gives us a reason to celebrate. Our recap presentation can be viewed on the church website or facebook page as part of the July 18 worship service video, beginning at time stamp 14:30, and then more singing at 33:00.

A special thank you (Mahalo!) to the volunteers who helped make VBS a good experience for the kids ... to those who devoted time during the week, and/or for setup or take-down. Bible School is built with a team of volunteers who give their time freely to help kids know God. The irony in that is that it often works the other way, and the kids help the adults know God. I already have adults signing up to help next year!

Rene Miserez, Young Youth Director

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

USHER SCHEDULE

January/July	Mary Ann Wippermann Team
February/August	TEAM CAPTAIN NEEDED (Leo & Harold)
March/September	Carl Ernst Team
April/October	Monty Schmutzler Team
May/November	Russell Rottmann Team
June/December	TEAM CAPTAIN NEEDED (David, Dennis, Gary, Warren)

AUGUST:

(Team Captain needed...)

Leo Blochberger Harold Creed
Paul LePage (Honorary)

SALVATION ARMY MEAL

August 12 — Nelda Lay

MEALS ON WHEELS

August 18 — Brotherhood



Ethan Gonzales
helping Patti
Schmutzler with
Meals On Wheels.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

June 17, 2021

- Warren Witt accepted the position as Transition Chair as requested by Larry Long.
- There will be a Congregational Meeting on July 11th to ask the congregation permission to re-file our Bylaws from Chapter 352 to Chapter 355 which was recommended by our attorney. We will also vote to rename our church to Central Church.
- John Ruth is the attorney we hired to assist us with the transition.
- There will be a worship service followed by a picnic on June 27th at the Sander's Farm.
- The air conditioner in the gym was repaired.
- Vacation Bible School will be July 12-16.
- On July 31st, KC Wolf, Dan Meers, will present 'Courage Leadership, Living a Life of Influence'.
- There will be a diaper drive in August.
- Brotherhood will have their annual golf tournament September 10th.
- There will be a blood drive in October.
- On December 14th, the church will have a trolley that will take people to see Christmas lights. There will be a signup sheet.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joyce Mutert, Council Secretary

"TOWER" DEADLINE

Please email your articles and pictures for the September "Tower" issue to the office **by Sunday, August 15**. Thank you.

August 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Reception/Meet & Greet with Pastor Jason Abbott & Family	2	3	4 9:00am Quilting 1:00pm Dominoes	5 Set-Up for Rummage Sale	6 Set-Up for Rummage Sale	7 7:00am Church Rummage Sale
8 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship Service	9	10	11 9:00am Quilting 1:00pm Card Games	12 4:30pm Salvation Army Meal	13	14
15 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Congregational Mtg. 11:30am All-Church Luncheon	16	17 1:00pm Elenor Circle	18 9:00am Quilting 10:00am Meals On Wheels 1:00pm Dominoes	19 6:00pm Mission/Outreach Min. 7:00pm Council Meeting	20	21
22 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship Service	23	24	25 9:00am Quilting 1:00pm Card Games 3:00pm Young Youth 6:15pm Bell Choir	26	27	28
29 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship Service	30	31				

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
118 West Ashley Street
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101
Permit No. 8

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
Young Youth DirectorRene Miserez
Organist Shirley Klein
Bell Choir DirectorRene Miserez

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:

10:00am Worship Service