



Worship and other Information

Open Sundays & Wednesday mornings. Covid safety measures encouraged. Sunday 9am - Bible study/discussion Fellowship Hall; Worship 10:30am *in person* and *livestreamed* on our church FB page. <https://www.facebook.com/Columbus-Community-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-109813516270/>

- 1) Pastor in office every Wednesday 9-12noon
- 2) Brownbag lunch with Pastor & friends in Little Stone Church: 3rd Wednesday of each month, 12 noon (See other events on p.2)
- 3) Women's Bible study, on break till fall

For emails, contact ucccolumbus@gmail.com & joannyeootd@gmail.com. We welcome requests, comments, photos, suggestions. Send donations and pledge payments to Community Congregational Church, PO Box 545, Columbus, MT 59019.

Our website: <https://columbuscommunityucc.com/>



New Minister

The Rev. Kate Stulce & her husband, Terry Stulce, were with us June 17-22. We had several meetings, helped them get to know Columbus and our area, and worshipped together. In our special meeting after Sunday worship our church voted unanimously to issue a Call to Kate, and she

accepted! They have reserved an apartment in Columbus, and they should arrive with belongings in August. Kate's first column appears on p.2.

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Summer is here. We enjoy warm weather unencumbered by winter clothing. This is particularly enjoyable now that COVID guidelines

are being eased and we can enjoy life without wearing a mask and we can socialize once again. We again enjoy human social interaction, which even the most reclusive of us missed.

June will be a time when a prospective pastor for Community Congregational Church makes an appearance and visits with us. June is the ideal time for a visit. June blesses Montana with beautiful weather, breathtaking snow-capped mountain vistas, crystal clear air and green valleys abounding. We as a congregation put our best foot forward in greeting a prospective pastor. We show them our best Montana hospitality, fellowship and friendship. We offer them a gracious welcome to our congregation, our community and our state. This is our opportunity to truly live into our motto: *"No matter who you are, or where you are on your journey, you are welcome here!"*

Yes, we have waited a while to even get to where a prospective pastor is coming to visit us and we want to make the best of this opportunity. They evaluate where the Spirit is calling them into ministry and we, through the Holy Spirit, see if this is where and how God is leading us. Please hold in prayer the prospective candidate minister coming to visit Community Congregational Church. May they have safe travels here, be greeted warmly, genuinely and be welcomed to this Body of Christ, Community Congregational Church.

The above was written before Rev. Kate made her visit. Now that she has arrived, has been warmly received, offered a call, and accepted your invitation for her to be your pastor, my days with you all are drawing to a close. This was the agreement between all of you and me. I have enjoyed my time getting to know and serve you. We will have more Sundays together ahead of us as we continue to enjoy our time together as summer unfolds. I am looking forward to our summer Sundays (and Wednesdays) together.



Peace, Rev. Robert

Church Contacts

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 Facebook: Columbus Community Congregational
 Website: <https://columbuscommunityucc.com>

Worship Events – See schedule p. 1

| | |
|---------|---|
| July 4 | Communion Sunday, Independence Day |
| July 11 | Diaconate & Trustees meet after worship |
| July 16 | Baroque Music concert at our church 7pm |
| July 18 | Church Council meets 11:20am |
| July 21 | Brownbag lunch w/ Pastor+friends, noon |
| July 22 | CornerStone news items to Joan please |
| July 25 | Graduation celebration for Brandon Brewer |



Tiospaye

This title is a Lakota word which loosely translated means ‘extended family.’ I chose it because the *church* serves as a kind of extended family for each other and for all those to whom we extend ourselves beyond the church walls.

“It was by faith Abraham obeyed God’s call to go to another place . . . not knowing where he was to go.” I have thought often of this verse from Hebrews in recent months.

After I completed my term as interim pastor in Florida, Terry and I took some time to travel. My intention was to seek a call when we returned. Then Covid became a factor. Before we left to travel, I had been doing some supply work in a small church about 30 miles from our home. It had appeared before we traveled that I might be hired as their

stated supply pastor. But by the time I returned, Covid was impacting congregations. They decided they were not ready to make any hiring decisions.

Before Covid I had applied for Global Missions, and in February they contacted me. They couldn’t send me immediately given the pandemic. But they were eager to make plans for me. Terry was adamant that this was just not feasible to consider. So now two things I had thought might open up were closed doors.

In early April I began (vociferously!) complaining to God: “I’m ready. I’m willing. But nothing is happening! Surely if I am called, there is a place for me, somewhere You would use me.” The next day I received a call from a church to fill in while their pastor was on vacation. But they wanted to know if I would be interested in serving them when their pastor retires this summer. So I thought, okay, maybe this is where I am intended to be . . .

But, then, the day after that, when I came home from some errands, Terry announced he had been looking for property in Wyoming and Montana. This was a startling announcement. We had never considered moving that direction. But, lo and behold, in my mail that day I had received the Christian Century magazine, where there was an ad for Columbus Community Congregational Church, UCC. Terry urged me to apply, and obviously I did. But this meant upending our lives! Yikes!

Strange events followed: a church sign I drove by displayed the message: “Let your faith be bigger than your fear.” A few minutes later I got on the Interstate and directly behind an RV that was the model Montana High Country. The following day we met friends in North Carolina at an Airbnb which was decorated with Yellowstone and Glacier posters. In that little North Carolina town we went to a thrift store that had been started in the 1920s by a woman doctor who had longed to go as a foreign missionary. But she was turned down as too old. (She was 30!) She discovered instead that she had a ministry to carry out in that small town where she and her husband established a hospital, a school, and the thrift store which supported the school.

So, I guess I follow in the tracks of Abraham (and others) going where God calls, even to those unexpected places! Terry and I look forward to being part of your community and sharing ministry with you, officially beginning Sept. 1. As the song goes, I’ll see you in September! Blessings, Kate

Columbus Farmers’ Market: 3:30-6:00pm, Thursdays for 8 weeks, July 15 – September 2. New location: Granite Peak

Prayer Concerns: Vanessa Cameron & family, Doug/Casey/Jackie Schreiner & family, Don Mason, Thelma Black, Donna Storer, Bill+Janice Goodman, Karen Brewer, Vicky Unger, Donna McFarland, Jim Van Campen, Phyllis Movius, Dick Henry, Paula Newkirk, Drew Maki, Sam Spano, Meadowlark + Beartooth Manor, all health care workers and 1st responders, all affected by Covid-19, mental health challenges, grief, or suicide

Outdoor Ministries

“Renew, Refresh, Reclaim and Reconnect!” with God, ourselves, each other, and nature.

Our conference is having camps for youth (July) and adults (August) this summer! As in 2020 our camps will be held at Christikon, the Lutheran Camp located a few miles up the road from Mimanagish. Christikon has done a great job for preventing the spread of Covid.

Camp schedule for ADULTS (instructors named):
Aug 25-28 Yoga for Body & Soul (Lisa Harmon)
Aug 26/27 to 29 Creative Hearts (Patty Martinson & Susan Leaverton) - you pick your start date.
Aug 27-29 Fly Fishing (Doug McClelland & Urbie Nash)

For registration, camp activities description, cost, and what-to-bring forms, go to our Conference website www.mnwcucc.org - just click on the Camp tab, and items drop down. (You'll find two different costs for Creative Hearts, depending on when you want to start, Thurs or Fri.) NOTE: if items under Camp tab don't open for you, refresh your browser (by clicking on the little circular arrow at upper left corner of your web screen). Or call Maurie.

Moderator's Musings

One of my early lessons in Christianity was that we see the world and all things differently. We try to live within the Christian teachings. How does this work in our daily lives? Historically one of the names Congregationalists were known by was independents. While that reflected the goings on in England at the time, let's hope it still applies to us. In our church we value education and independence. We should expect and respect diversity. We begin each worship service with, “no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.” As moderator I receive comments such as, to make up one, “I don't like Harold Snert because he snores during the sermon;” or, “Schmnlhd Grtz was rude this morning when ...” Yup, you are right, but remember, they

are welcome here - as are you. One of the fundamentals of our Congregational heritage is the possibility/responsibility to have our own and to respect other's beliefs. That comes down to, “love others as yourself.” If we expect to have your views respected, then respect others as well. That doesn't mean we have to agree, just treat others with the same respect and courtesy we expect. Is it easy? Not for me. Do I fail? Frequently.

Our friend Rev. Randy Leisey provided the best advice, “Love one another other constantly.” That's who we are and who we should work to become. That's what makes us, remembering WE are the church, who we are and ... different.

Maurie Petterson, Moderator



Our EarthCare team

Joan reported to council that we have met the objectives we set for ourselves when this team was formed in spring 2019, plus some other projects. Now we have presented 6 plans for the future to our council, including but not limited to:

- 1) To have our church become the 3rd Creation Justice Church in our Conference. Of the 5 steps, the first step is to designate a team of willing people and register the church; we don't need to have everything done when we sign up.
- 2) Encourage people to learn more about Stillwater Valley Watershed Council and its free Fuel Load and Fires Assessment on one's property. See video at its FB website.

Hopefully we might be able to expand this to a wider *Community EarthCare Team*. This would help our environment and might draw people into long-term involvement with our church - for those who want to do good, as Maurie has described, who would welcome this type of “church.”

Please contact Joan to join our EarthCare team.

July Highlights in Stillwater County:

July 16: Baroque Music Montana returns, featuring countertenor *Reginald Mobley* + harpsichord, theorbo. and violin. Columbus Community Cong. Church (free will offering for musicians) at 7:00pm

July 17: Shakespeare in the Parks. *Cymbeline* at the Fishtail Park, 6:30pm

July 18: Shakespeare in the Parks: *Midsummer Night's Dream* at Columbus Heritage Park, 6:30pm





| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---------|--|---|----------------------------|---|
| Farmers Market new time & location = Granite Peak Park. Parking in lot on 6 th Ave. (West of Subway/East of Museum storage). Thursdays 3:30 – 6:pm, July 15 – Sept. 2. | | | Citywide Garage Sale on June 26 , inc. one in Little Stone Church. | 1 | 2 | 3 |
|  Bible study 9am Worship & Communion 10:30am | 5 | 6 | 7 Pastor in church 9-12noon | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| | 11 Bible study 9am Worship 10:30am Trustees mtg Diaconate mtg | 12 | 13 | 14 Pastor in church 9-12noon | 15 Farmers Mkt 3:30-6pm | 16 <i>Baroque Montana Concert, 7pm</i> |
| 18 Bible study 9am Worship 10:30am Council mtg | 19 | 20 | 21 Pastor in church 9-12noon Lunch with Pastor&friends, 12 noon in LSC | 22 Farmers Mkt 3:30-6pm Cornerstone items to Joan | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Bible study 9am Worship 10:30am Brandon Brewer's HS graduation celebrated | 26 | 27 | 28 Pastor in church 9-12noon | 29 Farmers Mkt 3:30-6pm | 30 | 31 |

Birthdays (B) and Anniversaries (A)

- June 26 A – Jerry/Cary Frank
- June 29 B – Doreen Spano
- July 1 A – Ron & Trish Goddard
- July 2 B – Wes Wierminski
- July 6 B – Tami Eckberg
- July 10 B – Donna Storer
- July 10 B – Paul Hollar
- July 17 B – Una Kay DeCock
- July 27 B – Jerry Frank
- July 30 B – Jessica Burch
- July 30 A – Guy & Toni Schoenborn

Servers for July:

July 4 Joan Nye
 July 11 Rhonda Peterson
 July 25 Church hosts 4 Brandon
Needed: servers for July 18 and all of August. We ask for one person to volunteer per Sunday, and you can ask someone to serve with you if you like. Just bring cookies; coffee and juice are in the kitchen. Please contact Joan's email or 406-321-0591 to volunteer.



Brandon Brewer has graduated from Columbus High. His graduation cake will be served on July 25 during Fellowship Hour. **Join us as we celebrate** with Brandon and family. He leaves for the US Army this fall.

Read Kate's blog online:
<https://kateshopecafe.net>