Worship and other Information
1) On Sundays: 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/
2) Pastor in office (a) Wednesdays 9am – 3pm and (b) Fridays 9am – 1pm. (Coffee & Conversation with Pastor Fridays 10am)
3) Bible study (women + men) Wednesdays 5pm
Send emails to ucccolumbus@gmail.com; requests, comments, photos, suggestions for newsletter to joanyeootd@gmail.com. Mail donations or pledge payments to Community Congregational Church, PO Box 545, Columbus, MT 59019 OR donate online: (1) https://funde.ly/give?c=3716202 or (2) click on the GREEN GIVE button at top right of our website: https://columbuscommunityucc.com/

Ecumenical Thanksgiving service: Sunday, Nov. 21, 4 pm at our church

Advent begins on Nov. 28

Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God’s incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:1), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist (John 1:29), and his first miracle at Cana (John 2:1). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

By the 6th century, however, Roman Christians had tied Advent to the coming of Christ. But the “coming” they had in mind was not Christ’s first coming in the manger in Bethlehem, but his second coming in the clouds as the judge of the world. It was not until the Middle Ages that the Advent season was explicitly linked to Christ’s first coming at Christmas.

In modern times the season of Advent begins on the Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd each year and lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. In our faith tradition Advent marks the beginning of the Christian church year. Advent 2021 begins on November 28 and ends on December 24.

This will be my first Advent with this congregation. Our celebration may look a little different as I seek to blend honoring tradition and creating fresh ways to enhance our experience. Plans are underway to carry out the Hanging of the Green within the November 28 service. The following Saturday (Dec. 4) we will have an all-church breakfast and “mini retreat” to learn more and prepare ourselves for the season with the theme A Call to ADVENTure. People are invited to attend one or the other or both. Blessings, Pastor Kate

Saturday, Nov 27, 9am: Christmas tree & Advent wreath will be assembled in Sanctuary.
Sunday, Nov. 28: 1st Sunday of Advent with Hanging of the Greens during 10:30 worship
Saturday, Dec 4, 8:30 am: All-church breakfast cooked by the Men, followed by A Call to ADVENTure study
Sunday Dec 5: 2nd Sunday of Advent, 10:30 worship
Sunday Dec 12: 3rd Sunday of Advent, 10:30 worship *Sweets sale after worship
Sunday, Dec. 19: 4th Sunday of Advent, 10:30 worship
Children’s pageant video and Live Christmas singing
Friday, Dec. 24: Christmas Eve service 5pm
Saturday, Dec. 25: Christmas, no worship
Sunday, Dec. 26: 10:30 worship
Sunday, Jan. 2: Epiphany Sunday, 10:30 worship

*As in 2020 the Sweets Sale will feature pre-ordering of items (different people’s specialties). Details on selections, prices, and contact info will be provided by email, flyers at church, and online. Sweets Sale proceeds fund Mission projects all year.
I am reminded of another Holocaust survivor, Dr. Viktor Frankl, a psychiatrist who survived Auschwitz and Dachau only to learn upon liberation that his family had been almost entirely wiped out. Out of his experiences he developed what he termed logotherapy, a spiritual process of finding meaning in the difficulties of our lives.

Another lesson is that gratitude is essential all the time and even more so in the midst of circumstances when gratitude is the least likely response. I am sure I would have sided with Corrie: “No way am I thanking God for the fleas!” Yet I am aware that gratitude is transforming. I find it difficult to maintain fears, worries, resentments, grudges, angers, while counting my blessings. Being grateful has a way of dispelling negativity.

This passage from the Psalms has become a kind of “mantra” for me. I have tried to train myself (with some mild success), to make this my waking thought in the morning and my closing thought at night:

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.”

Shalom, Pastor Kate

Church Contacts

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All other matters cktrucker@gmail.com
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Jammin Afterschool Youth to be determined
Mission Mary Kuehn 406-322-5912 kcmlq@charter.net
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Women’s TeamWorks Beth Damm 406-290-5016
dammb@gmail.com
Church: P O Box 545 / 138 N. 4th St / Columbus 59019
email uccolumbus@gmail.com
Website https://columbuscommunityucc.com/
Facebook: Columbus Community Congregational


TIO SPAYE

In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God concerning you. I Thessalonians 5:18

Recently I came across the recounting of a story I had read years ago in The Hiding Place. Two Dutch sisters, Corrie and Betsie ten Boom, were Christians imprisoned during World War II for the crime of hiding Jews. In their prayer time Betsie insisted that they give thanks for the fleas in their barracks, following the directive to give thanks “in everything.” Corrie objected but gave in when Betsie persisted. They later learned that the severe infestation of fleas in their barracks had resulted in their suffering less harassment from the guards who assiduously avoided their flea-ridden barracks.

So what is the moral of this story? Surely one is that our vision is always limited. What may seem tragic, senseless, meaningless, often holds some hidden blessing if we open ourselves to it.

This passage from the Psalms has become a kind of “mantra” for me. I have tried to train myself (with some mild success), to make this my waking thought in the morning and my closing thought at night:

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.”

Shalom, Pastor Kate
Moderator’s Musings

“Being born in the United States is like winning the lottery.” - Martin Luther King

This is the time we, in the U.S. celebrate Thanksgiving. I sometimes hear comments that there are problems and issues that override our need to give thanks. I agree we have some “issues” but we are truly fortunate. Suffer me a very few reminders.

Food = 50% of the world’s population suffer from malnutrition and hunger. In the U.S. obesity is perhaps the leading health problem. We buy groceries and eat in public places without fear of foodborne diseases. Our tap water is safe for drinking and almost universally available.

Education = The U.S. has had free public education since the founding. This was unique at that time and remains so in many areas of the world. One of the stories from the Iraq war is that the U.S. sponsored reading instruction for the Iraqi prisoners. Prisoners voluntarily stayed in prison to continue to learn to read at a 4th grade level.

Medicine = I remain amazed the foundational research had been accomplished so that the COVID vaccine only had to be adapted to the specific virus and deployed. We often lose sight of the fact people are alive and well now that would have died from disease a few decades ago.

We are able to worship as we please and we have political freedom.

As one of my favorite persons, Linda Cliatt-Wayman, says, “So what, now what.” We “stand on the shoulders” of giants who made the commitment and the sacrifices to bring us where we are today. We have a duty and obligation to continue the enterprise. It is our turn to be humbly thankful for all that we have, to focus on the possible and create an even better future. Best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving.

Maurie Petterson

Cleaning fees: Our Trustees remind all to check to see if your contribution for church cleaning has been paid. It is $50.00 per individual, $100 per family. The 2021 cleaning fees are running short of budget. Please check with Jim Movius if you aren’t sure if yours is up-to-date. (We used to take turns cleaning our church, but many years ago the church family voted to pay an annual fee for cleaning by a third party.)

FREE Computer Ink cartridges: Jim Movius has a collection of #564 HP ink cartridges left over after his faithful printer died. "Free to a good home" - Contact Jim.

Music lovers: Baroque Montana will be back soon! Concert in our Columbus Congregational Church on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, at 7 pm. Mark your calendars. More details about program forthcoming.

From Church Council Minutes, Oct. 24

PRESENT: Maurie Petterson, Jim Movius, Rhonda Peterson, Jerry Nye, Mary Kuehn, Pastor Kate Stulce, Beth Damm, and Curt Kuehn

MINUTES: Minutes accepted – Jim mentioned that Rhonda & Jim are working on a headset for pastor.

FINANCIAL REPORT: by Jim Movius. Matches Treasurer. At 75% and down $3,604, should be at 80% at this time. There are several pledges that are not keeping up plus less going into the plate than in the past.

TREASURER’S REPORT: by Curt Kuehn - in Balance with Bank-Checking account is at its lowest than has been in decades. Vanguard gained $903.43 last quarter. RBC Wealth went down $701.58. Maurie asked trustees to see if we need to move RBC to Vanguard. Jim has stated that it is in the discussion with trustee’s now. RBC Wealth has more fees than Vanguard.

TRUSTEE’S REPORT: by Jim - Curt has a new computer thanks to memorial committee. Jim stated it was in the minutes to review investments.

DIACONATE: By Jerry. Halloween Service-costume welcome, will be having a costume contest, luncheon and Bingo after service. Thanksgiving service is November 21, at 4 pm. Mini Retreat is December 4th with a Breakfast beforehand. All Saints Sunday will be Nov 7th along with Pastor Kate and Terry joining church.

MISSIONS: by Mary, Gave Project Hope a $105 check, elected officers - Mary chairperson, Linda secretary and Amy treasurer. Curt stated that he got in $273 marked missions but spent $82 out of it for a water bill that someone needed help with.

TEAMWORKS: by Beth Damm-No report.

MEMORIAL: By Beth, paid $599.99 for computer.

PASTOR’S REPORT: Pastor Kate has been attempting to contact people about returning to
church. Working on thanksgiving service with other Pastors. Carol will play for Thanksgiving service. Book on Growing your church—need to address it in all groups and meetings. Haley with Extension office called and asked for fellowship hall on Nov 16, with lunch served. Beth stated that TeamWorks would provide lunch. [Extension office canceled later hopes to reschedule.] Got a new laptop donated.

CALENDAR: By Beth Damm- Town Pump used LSC on Oct 21. LSC reserved all day on Oct 30.

BUSINESS:

Commitment campaign: 5 new pledge cards today (Oct. 24) so that is a total of 10.

Web Page: Kate wants to learn how to upload her sermons.

Lloyd Schneider wrote to say that it would be good to have everyone sit in the middle pews so that viewers online can see all. This is a good idea, will ask or make suggestions for people to move, but do not announce it or asked them to move. Give people the choice.

Next Meeting, November 28, 2021, after worship

Respectfully submitted, Rhonda Peterson

When filling out your Christmas cards this year, please consider sending one to this address:
A Recovering American Soldier,
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20307-5001.

All Saints Sunday Remembrances: Nov 7
*Jacqueline Sue Henry Kimbrough (Dick Henry’s daughter) February 5, 1955 - December 24, 2020

*Bruce Edward McFarland
October 17, 1937 - January 18, 2021

*Shirley Rose Holwegner (Thelma Black’s sister) March 3, 1939 - February 19, 2021

*George L Scott (Barbara Henderson brother, Maurie Petterson uncle) September 15, 1927 - March 31, 2021

*Bruce Wagner (Cheryl Rasmussen’s brother) February 13, 1954 - September 9, 2021

*James D Helgeson (Rhonda Peterson's boss and friend) December 21, 1941 - September 19, 2021

*Paul James Hoover (Thelma Black's brother) November 26, 1942 - September 24, 2021

*Dorothy Homewood (Kevin’s mother) November 24, 1929 - October 4, 2021

*Phyllis Movius (spouse of Jim Movius) April 10, 1946 – November 5, 2021

Celebrations

Nov 18 Jerry & Joan Nye (Anniv)
Nov 27 KC Kuehn (Birthday)
Dec 7 Terry Stulce (Birthday)
Dec 14 Mary Kuehn (Birthday)
Dec 19 Cary Frank (Birthday)
Dec 22 Dan & Carol Hofferber (Anniv)
Dec 27 Anna Plumb (Birthday)

New Serving Rotation Schedule, starting with November 2021 (except as noted on calendar)

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<tr>
<th>1st Sunday of odd numbered mos.</th>
<th>3rd Sunday of odd numbered mos.</th>
<th>1st Sunday of even numbered mos.</th>
<th>3rd Sunday of even numbered mos.</th>
<th>5th Sundays Barbara Hendrsn</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beth &amp; Thelma B</td>
<td>Maurie Petterson</td>
<td>Charlotte Van Oosten</td>
<td>Mary &amp; Casey K.</td>
<td>People to call to fill in or help</td>
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<td>2nd Sunday of odd numbered mos.</td>
<td>4th Sunday of odd numbered mos.</td>
<td>2nd Sunday of even numbered mos.</td>
<td>4th Sunday of even numbered mos.</td>
<td>Joan &amp; Jerry Nye</td>
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<td>Paulette &amp; Daryl Northup</td>
<td>Curt K &amp; Roger H</td>
<td>Viv G &amp; Kathy S</td>
<td>Rhonda Peterson</td>
<td>Patty Edwards</td>
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<td>Donna McFarland</td>
<td>Linda Halstd-Acharya</td>
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<tr>
<td>Odd numbered mos. : November, January, March, May, July, September</td>
<td>Even numbered mos.: December, February, April, June, August, October</td>
<td></td>
<td>Amy Drain</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Cheryl Rasmussen</td>
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<td>To be added to “fill in” list, contact Joan.</td>
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### Nov 21 thru Dec 2021

**God is still speaking,**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Bible study 9:00am  
Worship 10:30am  
Ecumenical Thxvgg  
Service, 4pm |        |         | Pr.Kate office 9-3  
NO Bible Study |        |        |         | 9am Set up sanctuary basics for Advent |
| Nov 28 | 29     | 30      | Dec 1     | 2        | 3      | 4        |
| Bible study 9:00am  
Worship 10:30am  
**Council meeting**  
after worship |        |         | Pr.Kate office 9-3  
Adult Bible Study & supper, 5p |        | Pr.Kate in office 9-1 | 8:30 am  
All church  
Breakfast & Mini-retreat about Advent |
| Dec 5  | 6      | 7       | 8         | 9        | 10     | 11       |
| Bible study 9:00am  
Worship 10:30am  
TeamWorks mtg  
after worship |        |         | Pr.Kate office 9-3  
Adult Bible Study & supper, 5p | **for Parade/Lights Friday  
- meet 4pm at Rhonda’s** | Pr.Kate in office 9-1 | Don Mason  
Celebration of Life 1 pm, pie & coffee after |
| Dec 12 | 13     | 14      | 15        | 16       | 17     | 18       |
| Bible study 9:00am  
Worship 10:30am  
**Sweets Sale**  
Diaconate & Trustees  
meet after worship |        |         | Pr.Kate office 9-3  
Adult Bible Study & supper, 5p |        | Pr.Kate in office 9-1 | Phyllis Movius  
Memorial Service 11am, luncheon after |
| Dec 19 | 20     | 21      | 22        | 23       | 24     | 25       |
| Bible study 9:00am  
Worship 10:30am  
including Christmas pageant video & Christmas carols |        |         | Pr.Kate office 9-3 |        |        | Candlelight Service 5pm |
| Dec 26 | 27     | 28      | 29        | 30       | 31     | Jan 1    |
| Bible study 9:00am  
Worship 10:30am |        |         | Pr.Kate office 9-3  
Adult Bible Study & supper, 5p |        |        |          |

**Servers for November and December**

Nov 7: Beth Damm & Thelma B.  
Nov 14: Charlotte Van Oosten  
Nov 21: Maurie Petterson  
Nov 28: Paulette & Daryl Northup  
Dec 5: Kate Stulce  
Dec 12: Viv & Kathy  
Dec 19: Mary & KC  
Dec 26: Rhonda & Donna

**Full Serving rotation schedule - p. 4**  
(To be added to the list, contact Joan.)  
Still collecting Christmas donations for **Intermountain Children**-memo 4Kids  
**Birthdays & Anniversaries – p. 4**