



The

Columbus Community Congregational Church

# CORNERSTONE

Ephesians 2:20 Rev. Robert Leaverton – May 2021

## Worship and other Information

Now Open Sundays & Wednesday mornings. Safe distancing & masks 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: 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 12 noon
- 3) Women Bible study, on break till fall

For emails, contact [ucccolumbus@gmail.com](mailto:ucccolumbus@gmail.com) & [joannyeootd@gmail.com](mailto:joannyeootd@gmail.com). We welcome requests, comments, pix, suggestions! Please send donations and pledge payments to Community Congregational Church, PO Box 545, Columbus, MT 59019.

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



## TeamWorks to honor Teachers

Women's TeamWorks will meet in Fellowship Hall on Monday, May 10, 9AM to assemble gifts for Teachers Appreciation. Trays of cookies and apples will be delivered to the three Columbus Schools



## Outdoor Ministries

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

Our conference is having camps for youth and adults this summer! Youth camps are listed by grades. You and Me Camp (listed under Adult camps) is designed for youth to go with a parent/grandparent/significant adult. Trudi Downer directs this camp, which for many years was called Grandparents & Me. For adults are Yoga for Body & Soul Camp, Creative Hearts Camp, and Fly Fishing Camp (all in the last week of August).

As in 2020 our camps will be held at Christikon, the Lutheran Camp located a few miles up the road from Mimanagish. Youth from our Conference who went last year all enjoyed it, and Christikon did a great job for preventing the spread of Covid.

All the Camp schedules, materials, and registration forms are available on our Conf. website [www.mnwcucc.org](http://www.mnwcucc.org) - just click on the Camp tab, and items drop down. 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). For youth camps at Christikon the child goes to camp for the grade just finished this spring.

**DEADLINES FAST APPROACHING** are explained at website, but it's best to register before May 15. At our conference website you'll find the full packets: one for youth and one for adults camps.

As in the past, our church can provide financial assistance to help families afford the cost of youth going to church camp! Please tell Maurie Petterson if you have questions, problems, or need hard copy forms or financial assistance for youth camp. Maurie's contact information: [sheepdip@yahoo.com](mailto:sheepdip@yahoo.com) /322-5345.

## Church Contacts

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### Worship Events – See schedule p. 1

May 2	Communion Sunday
May 9 Mothers Day	Diaconate meeting after worship Trustees meeting after worship
May 10	Women's TeamWorks - 9AM gathering to create trays for teachers
May 9	Diaconate meeting after worship
May 16	Mental Health Awareness Sunday
May 19	Brownbag lunch with Pastor & friends
May 24	CornerStone news items to Joan
May 31	Memorial Day



## PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Through most of May we are in the season of Easter. 40 days from the resurrection of Jesus on Thursday 13 May is the Ascension of Jesus. Jesus ascends to God the Father's heavenly realm. Then 50 days after the resurrection we celebrate Pentecost on

Sunday 23 May. The apostles and followers of Jesus receive his promise of a paraclete, an advocate - The Holy Spirit. Then on Sunday 30 May we celebrate Holy Trinity Sunday - the one in

three, three in one. The second half of May is one great celebration in the calendar of the Church year.

The first half of the Church year we gain an understanding of Jesus, from Advent to Holy Trinity. Just who Jesus is, why he came among us, and what does it mean for us. Jesus is a person, flesh and blood, pain and joy. He knows the depths of human depravity, he knows the delights and joys of human life. Jesus also faithfully obeys God's mission he is called to engage. Being faithful to God's call is paramount to the ministry Jesus is called to do. What is this ministry? Jesus is called to share God's love for us with as many people as he can, in as many ways as he can. The second half of the Church year we will explore his ministry to us.

But until that first Sunday in June, we continue to hear about who Jesus is: Son of Man and Son of God, our Messiah, the anointed one we follow. April 25 was the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter - called *Good Shepherd Sunday* in the church year. John 10:14-17 sums up just who Jesus is and why he comes to us: "I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd." Jesus comes to share God's care for us. He comes to proclaim the love and care not only to a select few, but to all of God's children. No one is excluded from experiencing the love of God, no one!

Since this is a global task, and there are about 4 billion people in the world, we get tasked with proclaiming God's love to all and sharing God's love for all. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we are equipped to engage in this ministry. This is the Good News, as we engage life with friends, family, and neighbors this power of the Holy Spirit is with us. The power of God is near, reach out and let it empower you.

Happy Easter, Pastor Robert

**Prayer Concerns:** Vanessa Cameron & family, Don Mason, Thelma Black, Donna Storer, Bill+Janice Goodman, Karen Brewer, Vicky Unger, Donna McFarland, Jim Van Campen, Phyllis Movius, Brandon Brewer, Anna Plumb, Dick Henry, Paula Newkirk, family of Taby Kautz, Drew Maki, Sam Spano, Meadowlark+Beartooth Manor, ALL affected by Covid-19, grief, or suicide

## Moderator's Musings

One of the reasons to live in Montana is we get to enjoy the seasons. I don't mean the oft reported seasons of almost winter, winter, still winter, and construction. Yes, we did have two snow storms last week – but they were joyful. No ice, moisture soaked into the ground, the world is turning green. As a side note, if you have appointments in Billings, allow extra time as construction season is well underway.

Another harbinger of summer is the Outdoor Ministries camp offerings. We don't have Mimanagish, but the usual camp offerings are provided at Christikon, the Lutheran camp just up the road from Mim. See the above article on p.1, and get more details are on the conference website at <https://www.mnwcucc.org/>; click on Camp tab. Note the deadlines for camp registration. I now am our church's contact person.

Speaking of terrific places to be, our church is right up there as well. We are still masking, and all are welcome. Ed Cash provided music for two weeks accompanying with his guitar. Good music and fun to sing along. Thanks Ed, we look forward to seeing/hearing you again.

Last but not least, if you haven't received your COVID vaccine, please call the Stillwater County Health nurse at 406-322-1070.

Maurie Petterson, Moderator



## Our Earth Care team



Mary Kuehn has spearheaded a town clean-up for Earth Month (postponed to May 1 due to snow). We have donated about 100 empty pill bottles to Cloverleaf Veterinary Services in Columbus and 50 empty pill bottles to Bill Routen's Stillwater Veterinary Clinic in Absarokee. Pastor Robert and Jerry Nye will choose a tree or bush, which our Conference is buying for churches who have a member on the Conference Green Team.

We continue to collect empty pill bottles (preferably without labels but also with labels). We accept prescription, over the counter, vitamin pill bottles. Joan will pick them up from you if you can't get to church. We also are collecting empty toilet paper rolls (for summer activity of Audubon Society), and egg cartons.

## Notes from our Conference Green Team

Please check out the Conference Green Team activities at conference website. At [mnwcucc.org](http://mnwcucc.org) click on Green Team under the Ministries tab.

A search engine called ecosia can be downloaded for your use (instead of Google or Outlook). Every time you use the search engine ecosia, they plant a tree somewhere in the world.

<https://www.ecosia.org/?c>

Netflix now showing "David Attenborough, the life on our planet. Preview this great movie's trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=64R2MYUt394>

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Please CONTINUE giving your regular contributions to our church. Our need for funds, in order to continue our church & programs, don't stop. Please do likewise with your contributions. Trustees have authorized online giving, and Maurie is working on that. In the meantime, please give by check or cash! Anyone who is at least 70 ½ can give directly from your IRA without its being taxable, but the payment must be made directly from your IRA account to the church. Ask Jim Movius about this if you are interested.



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## From Church Council Minutes, April 18

PRESENT: Maurie Petterson, Jim Movius, Rhonda Peterson, Jerry & Joan Nye, Rev. Robert Leaverton, Beth Damm, Mary Kuehn, Curt Kuehn

FINANCIAL REPORT. (Jim Movius) His report matches Treasurer. Pledges are running about \$3235 under budget for the year.

TREASURER'S REPORT. (Curt Kuehn) Report in balance with the bank. Pledges are falling behind. Vanguard is doing well. RBC Wealth is doing ok. OGHs collection was \$371, the best our church has ever had, was sent to the conference. Jim has been studying the Vanguard and RBC to see if they are producing ok. Both have conservative approach. Joan moved that Jim, Jerry, and Curt manage the Endowment Fund. Beth second. All approved.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT. (Jim Movius) Still waiting on another trustee to elect officers for the trustees. The online giving at tithe.ly.com was approved. Maurie will get it started and will oversee it. Bell tower has been repaired. Trustee changed their meetings from Tuesday night to 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month after worship. Outside bench by Peace Pole

needs to be replaced; Joan suggested not having a bench there, but council voted to replace. Request for the Streaming/PowerPoint person to be paid was deferred. They want to find someone with in the Church as Rhonda will be gone for 2 weekends a month starting end of May. Beth asked if she is to investigate tables for the LSC; Maurie stated yes.

**DIACONATE.** (Beth Damm). Beth will pick up pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention day on April. **MISSIONS.** (Mary Kuehn) No meeting. Moved to give money to Montana Food Bank Network.

**TEAMWORKS.** (Beth Damm) Will gather on May 10 to prepare trays for Teachers Appreciation Day.

**CLEANUP.** On Wednesdays the Sheriff's office has a community service detail of people who must do community service. Maurie will call and get our church on the list for this.

**PASTOR'S REPORT.** (Rev. Robert Leaverton) Brownbag lunches have been going well. About 6 – 9 people showing up. Attendance for worship has been picking up. May not be here on May 30 so will have Susan if not.

**CHURCH CLERK:** By Rhonda Peterson. Gave out list of Weekends that she will be gone for the rest of the year. Maurie stated he would work on learning the system.

**CALENDAR.** (Beth Damm) The Museum Board on every Wednesday of April 11:30 – 1pm in fellowship hall, Women's bible studies April 21, 5 pm; this is last meeting for the summer.

**EARTHCARE.** (Joan Nye) Our church gets a free tree or bush to be planted where the church would like it to be planted. Pastor Robert and Jerry will oversee picking it out and planting it. Scavenger hunt: one completed. Joan suggested that the church look at Creation Justice Covenant.

**SEARCH COMMITTEE.** (Jerry Nye) We have 2 candidates. See Search Update on p.1. It was suggested to have a realtor present to explain the housing situation in Columbus (later whenever a candidate visits us) because housing is tight.

#### **BUSINESS:**

1.Conference asked for a representative for Outdoor Ministry. That job somehow was assigned to Joan, who will serve unless/until she can find someone else to serve. Joan is authorized to get a replacement or co-representative.

2.Online giving- Maurie will get it added to website.

3.Streaming- Maurie is going to learn the system.

Next Meeting, May 16, 2021 after worship service.

Rhonda Peterson, Church Clerk

## **Forgiveness is the Gold that Restores Us**

Two Gospel lessons, Luke 24:36-48 and John 20:19-31, about doubting have a lot in common. In Luke Jesus appears among the disciples sheltered together and says: "Peace be with you!" They are fearful, and Jesus challenges them to touch and see his wounds.

Jesus offers them a final challenge with his question: "Have you anything to eat?" They give him broiled fish, and he eats. Jesus is not a ghost or some other apparition; he is bodily resurrected; Jesus lives and eats! Jesus reveals the mystery of the scripture to them, the law of Moses, the prophets and the Psalms. But the Holy Spirit will come later at Pentecost.

But there is one aspect of this post resurrection experience which I have pondered and wondered about: the wounds, stigmata of Jesus. In both these Gospel lessons, the writers' lessons emphasize Jesus' wounds. Through the centuries artistic renditions of Jesus after resurrection have shown these wounds.

I read an essay which offered clarity. Jesus carries the wounds he suffered from our hands. Yet Jesus does not hold this against us. What does our lesson from Luke say to us? "Repentance and forgiveness of sins are to be proclaimed in Jesus' name to all nations." Jesus' tells us to recognize our shortcomings (sinfulness) and to forgive ourselves and others. This is God's grace at work through and for us.

Jesus carries his wounds; he transcends the pain of these wounds, wounds which led to his death. Through resurrection Jesus is made whole, complete, wounds and all. These wounds do not limit Jesus' post resurrection, but are a statement of forgiveness and grace for us.

What wounds do we have, wounds we carry through life? There is a Japanese art form called 'Kintsugi.' Kintsugi takes broken pottery, usually a small bowl, and reassembles it, using molten gold. The result is a complete bowl, but with the brokenness revealed and highlighted by gold. The reassembled bowl is admired as a work of art.



We carry our woundedness, our brokenness through life. We can remain broken, or we can be restored and made whole again. Jesus offers to us the gold to reassemble our broken life into something which is complete, but with our wounds still a part of our identity. What is the gold that Jesus offers, which can bind us together and make us whole? Forgiveness is the gold that can reassemble our brokenness and restore us. Our brokenness is not papered over; it remains as a part of us - we don't forget; we forgive, and we are made whole, renewed and restored to life.

*Rev. Robert Leaverton's sermon of April 18, as modified to appear in Stillwater County News*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
We love the sounds of children's voices and invite all to be present in worship.						1	
2 Communion Sun. Bible Study 9 am Worship 10:30 Search Mtg	3	4	5 Pastor in church 9-12noon	6	7	8	
<b>Moms' Day</b> 9 Bible Study 9 am Worship 10:30 Diaconate Mtg Trustees Mtg	10		12 Pastor in church 9-12noon <i>B: Caitlyn Goddard, Paula Newkirk</i>	13 <i>B: Bill Goodman</i>	14	15 <i>B: Rhonda Peterson</i>	
16 Bible Study 9 am Worship 10:30 Church Council	17 <i>A: Bill/ Janice Goodman</i>	18	19 Pastor in church 9-12noon	20	21	22 <i>B: Dan Aschim</i>	
23 Bible Study 9 am Worship 10:30	24 <b>CornerStone News due</b>	25	26 Pastor in church 9-12noon	27 <i>A: Jim/ Phyllis Movius</i>	28 <i>A: Kevin/Debbie Homewood</i>	29	
30 Bible Study 9 am Worship 10:30	31 <b>Memorial Day</b> <i>B: Viv Gerke</i>	<p><b>Bonnie Kinsfather</b> is Team Captain of our church's Out of the Darkness team. She invites you to join her in registering for the 2021 Yellowstone Valley Walk to Fight Suicide. <a href="https://afsp.org/yellowstonevalley">afsp.org/yellowstonevalley</a>. It's FREE and pretty easy to register. If you have questions about website/registering/how money is used, text/call Joan 406-321-0591. Date for this Walk always is 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in September in afternoon so there is plenty of time to get there after church. After registering on line, you'll receive information by email about these &amp; other fun things. <i>Suicide prevention is everyone's business.</i> Bonnie also accepts donations for the church team. You can give your check (payable to American Foundation for Suicide Prevention or AFSP) or cash to Bonnie or Joan, or go to Bonnie's webpage <a href="https://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.participant&amp;participantID=2400148">https://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=donorDrive.participant&amp;participantID=2400148</a> to donate on line. All money goes to American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and its AFSP Montana Chapter. The 5 Montana Out of the Darkness Walks are the main sources of funding for AFSP Montana.</p>					
		<p>Child Abuse Prev. pinwheels</p>					