



TOWER

Newsletter of Central United Church of Christ

March 2020
Volume 74, No. 2

Beloved,

As our hearts turn toward Lent, I thought I'd share some thoughts with you from Bible class to help set the scene.

At the time of Jesus, the New Testament world was surprisingly mobile. The Roman Empire not only conquered vast stretches of land by its military might, but built roads, fortresses, cities, and developed safe methods of sailing the Mediterranean except during the stormy season between November and March. Great amounts of goods and many people traveled the trade routes regularly. The epitaph of the Phrygian Merchant claimed he traveled to Rome some 72 times. The Christian tentmakers Priscilla and Aquila moved their business from Pontius to Rome, to Corinth, to Ephesus, and to Rome again. However, inns were of poor quality, so travelers tried to find private accommodations when possible.

Roman roads, paved, drained and marked by milestones, made it possible to walk about 15 miles/day by foot, twice that by cart. Maps and guidebooks informed travelers of sights and accommodations along the way. People were fluent in more than one language and wrote letters extensively. One type of letter describing and recommending the bearer (a form of identification) was carried and used to reassure prospective hosts of those preferring private accommodations to the inn.

Cities were the primary purveyors of culture, which included the introduction of new deities, moral reformers, merchants and artisans. Neighborhoods were formed of people sharing the same aptitude for certain crafts or the sale of certain products so that everyone knew where to shop. Conditions were crowded. Philosophy, with its religious undertones, was as important as the news and overtly religious interests. Intent in securing access to an influential divinity who would help one navigate the perils of life successfully was paramount.

As we saw when reading the prophets, there were two main differences between what God planned and humans hoped. The Messiah would be offering salvation to all creation, not just one specific nation/family, and would not be a military powermonger, but would bring peace, mercy, forgiveness, and good will rather than material benefit. Far from coming in might, the Messiah would die a scandalous death as retribution for the sin of all. The Messiah would bring news of what the one and only God offered—and required. The offer would be made to the poor and desperate, not only the self-righteous and self-sufficient. This message is as controversial now as it was then.

We now are beginning the Gospels, paying especially close attention to the words of Jesus and where they also may be found in the Old Testament. This study brings a whole new level of meaning to what has become familiar to us over time.

We meet on Thursday mornings at 10:00. Do feel free to pop in to join us whenever you are available! All are welcome.

With love to each of you, in Christ,
Judy

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



Central Church is blessed to welcome new members Joshua Mullin and Melissa Martin who joined on Sunday, January 12, 2020. Welcome, Josh and Missy, to Central's church family!

GERMAN SAUSAGE DINNER

Save the date for Sunday March 22, when the W.I.G.S. Circle will be serving their spring German Sausage Dinner from 11:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. in the church gym.

The menu will include: sausage, gravy, mashed potatoes, German potato salad, sauerkraut, green beans, applesauce, bread, desserts, and drinks. Carry-outs are also available.

Tickets can be purchased from WIGS members after church or during coffee hour for \$12.00 (adults) and \$5.00 (children ages 5 – 12). Children under 5 are free. Tickets will also be available at the door.

In the past, the proceeds from the spring dinner have been used to fund worthwhile church and community projects. Come out and support these projects while enjoying a great meal!

FAITH IN ACTION

MARCH BENEVOLENCE “One Great Hour of Sharing”

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 part 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 United Church of Christ annually channels more than three-million dollars through One Great Hour of Sharing to humanitarian needs in the world. The UCC 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, 95 cents of every dollar supports long-term sustainable development with five cents going towards interpretation materials. The administrative costs are 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 KIT CWS Hygiene Kits

The Mission and Outreach Ministry will be collecting items for the CWS Hygiene Kit during March. Please place your items in our box in the narthex. Donated items must be exactly as shown below:

- 1 nail clippers (remove packaging)*
- 1 toothbrush in original package*
- 1 hand towel*
- 1 bath size bar of soap in package*
- 1 washcloth*
- 1 wide tooth comb (remove packaging)*
- 10 standard size Band-Aids*

Affordable wide-tooth combs can be found at discount suppliers such as sallybeauty.com. 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. Remove the excess air from the bag and seal before boxing. Do not add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each hygiene kit just prior to its journey. People who have to go to shelters because of floods, fires, tornadoes really appreciate getting these kits.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Thank you to all who helped in any way with the recent Red Cross Blood Drive, whether it was making snacks, giving blood, or working at the blood drive. We collected 11 units. The Red Cross was happy with this amount. We were told we have the best food for the canteen!

Susan Poettgen, Chair
Mission /Outreach Ministry

OUR SHARED LIFE



90+ BIRTHDAYS MARCH

Carrie Davis
211 Indian Meadow Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65101

PRIME TIME CLUB

The Prime Time Club will meet on Tuesday, March 24 at 12:00 noon for their carry-in meal and meeting. Greg and Marian Eskijian will entertain us with one of their many travelogues. Please plan to attend.

THANK YOU

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for remembering my birthday with good wishes and cards. I truly feel like I have found a home here.

Jane Stumpe

BROTHERHOOD HIGHLIGHTS

FEBRUARY 4, 2020

- ♦ Ten men enjoyed the brats dinner served by the Boy Scouts.
- ♦ Approved to provide and install a roof on a building at Camp Aurora up to \$750.
- ♦ David Kohler brought us up-to-date on the air conditioning duct and drain for storm water.
- ♦ We will paint a wall at the Boys and Girls Club on February 12.
- ♦ The Boy Scouts will prepare the meal for our golf tournament on September 11, 2020.

Carl Ernst
Secretary

I would like to thank my friends and members of Central United Church of Christ for the nice birthday cards I received for my birthday. I really did appreciate them. Thank you very much.

Ruth Popp

THE BOOK SHELF

Thanks to Lee Thompson, we have added three books of Walter Schroeder's to the library: "Breweries and Saloons", "Buddy's Stories", and "Southside Sketches."

There also is a book of young survivors telling their stories of the holocaust titled "Ten True Tales." They will be on the shelf in the library.

YOUNG YOUTH

We have a great regular group of kids joining us on Wednesdays for our after school activities for K-5th graders. If you have friends or family with kids in that age range, they are absolutely welcome to join us. We share food and fun, faith and fellowship. We always include a 20-30 minute Bible lesson and activities. This is an active group of kids!

Rene Miserez, Young Youth Director
573-695-6022; bellsic@aol.com

BENEVOLENCE THANK YOU'S

Thank you so much for your generous donation of 132 food items collected by the congregation. These food items help to provide our clients with healthy meals. Without the assistance of people of hope like you, we would not be able to help our neighbors in need. I am always touched by the outpouring of generosity.

Thank you to the Central UCC congregation for listening to your hearts and reaching out to those in need! May 2020 bring you blessings!

Marylyn DeFeo
Volunteer Executive Dir.
The Samaritan Center

Thank you for supporting Every Child's Hope (formerly Evangelical Children's Home). Your church's donation of \$430.00 helps us provide a safe place for young people to live and succeed. Donations to Every Child's Hope provide young people the opportunities that allow them to find a way to a brighter future. Children, youth and families are given the tools they need to heal from past hurts, get an education and learn the skills needed to be successful.

We would love to have you visit Every Child's Hope and see what we are doing and how we are working with the children, youth and families in our care. If you would like more information, call 314-427-3755 or visit our website at www.everychildshope.org.

Michael P. Brennan
CEO

Thank you for acting to end hunger in 2019. Because of donors like you, The Food Bank fed over 100,000 people every month last year. One in seven Missourians face food insecurity on a regular basis. We remain committed to making a difference in the lives of those who need it most. With your support, we will make this year another success in serving the most vulnerable of our community.

Summary of 2019 contributions to The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri:

Amount of Gift: \$465.00
Program: General Operations

Lindsay Young Lopez
President and CEO

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

March 2020

WORSHIP USHERS

2020 Team Schedule:

January & July — Mary Ann Wippermann
February & August — Gary Woodward
March & September — Carl Ernst
April & October — Monty Schmutzler
May & November — Russell Rottmann
June & December — TEAM CAPTAIN NEEDED
(formerly Dick Kettenbrink's)

March:

Carl Ernst – Team Captain

John Hequembourg
Susan Poettgen

Larry Long
Curt Shipley

COMMUNION PREPARATION

Sunday, March 1 — Freda Maness

SALVATION ARMY MEAL

Thursday, March 12 — Mission/Outreach Min.

MEALS ON WHEELS

Wednesday, March 18 — Mission/Outreach Min.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 16, 2020

- ♦ Work is being done by the Property Management Ministry to improve security to the main exterior doors to insure the doors lock properly in the event of a power failure at the church.
- ♦ The congregation ended the 2019 year on a good financial condition.
- ♦ Mission and Outreach Ministry is sponsoring a Blood Drive at the church on February 17, 2020 from 1:30 p.m. — 5:00.p.m. in the gym.
- ♦ Bell Choir is planning a Chili Supper fundraiser — date to be announced.
- ♦ There will be an Ash Wednesday Service on February 26 at 6:00 p.m.
- ♦ Search and Call Committee is updating the Church Profile to better describe our church.

Next Council Meeting is set for Thursday, February 20 at 7:00 p.m. in the church library.

Respectfully,

Gary Woodward
Council Secretary

PICTURES!

Please remember to take pictures at church activities and events, and submit them to the church office for future "Tower" issues. You can email pictures to office@centralucc.com. Articles and pictures for the "Tower" are due on the 15th of each month.

MARCH 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship Service 10:15am Children's SS	2 7:00pm Scouts	3 5:30pm Brotherhood	4 9:00am Quilting 1:00pm Dominoes/Fellowship 3:00pm Young Youth 6:15pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	5 10:00am Adult Bible Study	6 1:30pm CWU World Day of Prayer	7
8 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship Service <i>(Daylight Saving Time Begins)</i>	9 7:00pm Scouts	10 12:00pm Women's Fellowship Lenten Quiet Hour 5:00pm Mission and Outreach Ministry	11 9:00am Quilting 9:00am CUCC Family Time (Perkins) 3:00pm Young Youth 6:15pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	12 10:00am Adult Bible Study 5:00pm Salvation Army Meal	13	14 7:00am Breakfast Bonanza
15 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship Service 10:15am Children's SS	16 7:00pm Scouts	17 1:00pm Elenor Circle	18 9:00am Quilting 10:00am Meals On Wheels 1:00pm Dominoes/Fellowship 3:00pm Young Youth 6:15pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	19 10:00am Adult Bible Study 5:30pm Finance Ministry 5:30pm Faith Formation Ministry 7:00pm Council Meeting	20	21
22 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am WIGS Sausage Dinner	23 1:00pm W.I.G.S. Circle 7:00pm Scouts	24 11:30am Prime Time Club	25 9:00am Quilting 3:00pm Young Youth 6:15pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm Sr. Choir Rehearsal	26 10:00am Adult Bible Study	27	28
29 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship Service	30 7:00pm Scouts	31				

CENTRAL
United Church of Christ
118 West Ashley Street
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

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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

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:

8:30am Adult Sunday School
9:00am Coffee Hour
10:00am Worship Service
10:15am Children's Sunday School
(1st & 3rd Sundays)

Ministers.....Every Member
Stated Supply Minister.....Rev. Dr. Judith Scott
Director of Music.....Dr. Patrick Clark
Young Youth DirectorRene Miserez
Organist Shirley Klein
Bell Choir Director Rene Miserez

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