



TOWER

Newsletter of Central United Church of Christ

August 2020
Volume 74, No. 7

Loved Ones, serious thoughts today.

Just when I thought I'd used all the good Church Sign calendar sayings, another popped up that I couldn't resist: "Don't major in minor things."

Of course, that resonated big time with me, not only because of my academic exposure to things major and minor, but because of my natural inclination to get sidetracked by "...the cares of this life" as Jesus would say—and, don't we all. O.K., so I shouldn't fixate on preparing dinner when I'm up to my elbows in printer's ink (after all, what's a half-hour or two?) or try to find the ironing board for that one piece of clothing that will complete my wardrobe on a Sunday morning when almost anything else will do just as well under my robe, but what ARE we to do that counts as more major than eating or being responsibly clothed, maybe being responsible in general? What ARE we here for? Is it enough that we return thanks that we are not as "other men?" Do "...the cares of this life" include or exclude the care of others?

These are questions I'd rather avoid, if I'm honest. The difficulty is that it's a choice between two goods. True: if I'm responsible for my own welfare (Yes, with the grace of God) then I'm not a "burden" to others. Paul talked about that when he wrote "You remember our labor and toil, brothers and sisters; we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you while we proclaimed the gospel of God." The church at Thessalonica was going through persecution at the times Paul wrote. True, also: not all churches were persecuted at the same time in those days. The church at Corinth was wealthy, and received quite a different message: "We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been given to the churches of Macedonia, for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part...even beyond their means."

What does this mean for us? Yes, we should live responsibly so as to not burden others unnecessarily. Yes, we should be thankful for the blessings God has given each of us AND *remember that we are to be a blessing to others in the name of Jesus Christ!* This is even more difficult. Our natural, human inclination is to grasp, to hold tightly to what we've been given. Our LORD has provided a cure, though: "...those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

(Cont. on Page 2)

The times in which we live will become even more difficult and it's hard not to be afraid and possessive, at least, I find it hard not to be apprehensive and acquisitive. I find it hard not to be consumed by the cares of this life. I need constant reminders, constant assurance that our LORD is with me, is with us. May we join with one another, support each other, remind each other, that our LORD has made us a promise to never leave or forsake us, HE is with us, and HE keeps promises, proven in the shedding of His very blood.

More than that, no one can ask. Take heart; it is so. Amen. It is so.

Judy

UPDATE FROM SEARCH AND CALL COMMITTEE

Congregational Meeting, August 23, 2020

We will hold a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 23 immediately following Church services to discuss the path forward for the Search and Call process. The Search and Call Committee has been pursuing ministerial applicants for nearly 2 years and has reviewed at least two dozen applicants without success. The Search Committee feels we need to make some clear decisions as a church to better define who we are and what we want from a minister. We may need to pursue other paths, such as the Evangelical Association, in order to find a minister who fits Central and what we need going forward.

For those who may not understand the process, the Search and Call Committee specifies in a Church Profile document who Central is and what type of minister we are looking for. Ministers review that Profile document and if interested, submit an application through the Associate Minister of the Missouri Mid-South Conference. The Search Committee reviews the applicants and decides which ones to interview. If an applicant is deemed acceptable to the Search Committee, they recommend that applicant to the Church Council and if they deem the applicant acceptable, the Council then recommends the candidate to the Congregation. Only then does the Congregation vote on whether to call the minister or not. This process involves background checks and many screening criteria to ensure fairness and meet labor laws as well as trying to select the right minister for our church.

Warren Witt
Search and Call Committee Chair

FAITH IN ACTION

AUGUST MONTHLY 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 a meal on the second Thursday of each month. The last few months we have been preparing for 50 people. During the winter months this can go as high as 75. We have a meal fund set up to help with the cost of providing the hot meal. An allotment of \$125 is given to help Central Church folks who are willing to prepare and serve the meals. The appreciation is so great from everyone who comes to eat. The comments on how good the food is and the heartfelt thanks are so genuine, it just warms the heart.

Please consider helping to keep our meal fund going by donating in this month's blue benevolence envelope. Money donated will also help the Salvation Army continue to provide services.

FESTIVAL OF SHARING KITS

The Mission and Outreach Ministry will be collecting items for the Missouri Family Food Boxes during August. Please place items in the box in the narthex. Donated items must be exactly as shown:

- 3 different cans of vegetables 14.5 oz. (one peas, one green beans, one corn or carrots, other veggies)
- 3 cans tuna 5 oz.
- 3 pkgs. macaroni & cheese
- 3 different cans of fruit 14.5 oz. (one peaches, one pears, one fruit cocktail, mandarin oranges or other fruit)
- 1 can pasta sauce
- 1 jar peanut butter
- 1 lb. pasta
- 3 cans chicken (tuna can size at Dollar General)

TIPTON SHAREFEST

October 10, 2020

Because our mission is to respond to hunger, poverty, and injustice, the Festival of Sharing is moving forward with plans to host the 2020 Sharefests. The Tipton Sharefest is scheduled for October 10, with kit dropoff on October 9. We anticipate shifting to a no-contact or limited contact drive-thru system for donation drop offs, as well as enacting measures for social distancing and hand hygiene. Specific details and expectations will be listed on the [Sharefest pages](#) in August. We will also highlight several ways to support Festival's efforts from the comfort of your home.

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

The summer lunch program continues through August 20. The Second Christian Church was not able to do their spring fundraisers for this program due to the COVID-19 virus. They appreciate any help we can give them. See the list in the bulletin for items needed. Checks payable to Second Christian Church will help with buying meat and cheese for sandwiches.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP

Nicole Baldwin works for NAMI which stands for National Alliance on Mental Illness. Nicole and her co-facilitator, David, wanted to reach out and let the church know that NAMI has a virtual support group online for those living with mental illness. The coronavirus has caused a lot of people to suffer anxiety and depression. This is a great way to stay connected to people while in isolation. Zoom meetings take place every Monday and Friday at 6:00pm. If you would like more information about their Zoom Meetings, or would like to connect with NAMI, please contact Nicole Baldwin at 573-644-7727, ext. 202. Nicole is a Peer Services Coordinator.

THE CENTRAL CIRCLE

YOUNG YOUTH

Young Youth activities are currently unknown. I'll be continuing to review official guidelines as they become available, and then discussing options with the Safe Church Committee and parents. If we are not back to our regular Wednesday gatherings, I will be resuming the "lesson in a box" activities to help kids on their journey with God. If you have a child who was not receiving these lessons and they would like to, let me know and I will certainly add them to our list.

Rene Miserez
Young Youth Director
573-694-6022

CANCELLED EVENTS

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, Central Church is cancelling the annual Oktoberfest German Dinner scheduled for September 25. A drive-through/curbside pickup option was considered, but our church's location is not feasible to organize it smoothly.

The annual Church Rummage Sale which was moved to October 3 has also been cancelled.

90+ BIRTHDAYS

MARY LOU EMMEL (8/27)
Valley Park Retirement Living
355 Karen Drive
Holts Summit, MO 65043

GLADYS GLADDEN (8/28)
408 Crest Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65109

BELL CHOIR

Bell Choir is tentatively planning to start back up with rehearsals on August 19. Our rehearsals will meet whatever restrictions are in place, including the continued likelihood of masks and social distancing. If you are interested in joining the bell choir, please let Rene Miserez know so she can plan appropriate music.

ART SHOW

Rev. Dr. Judith Scott is a wonderful, gifted artist and will be having an art show this month in Kansas City. There will be a limited opening for her art show on Saturday, August 8th. Five people at a time will be allowed in from 2:00pm – 7:00pm at the KCAC Gallery, 3200 Gillham Road, Kansas City, Missouri, (816) 421-5222. Everyone is invited. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Rev. Scott.

OUR SHARED LIFE

We celebrate the announcement of the following births to family members of Central Church:

****CORBIN ALEXANDER MERLE** born May 25, 2020 to Clark and Katie Merle, and to grandparents Michael and Jan Miller.

****HATTIE LUCILLE SUNDERMEYER** born June 13, 2020 to Mark Sundermeyer and Rachele Ocheskey, and to grandparent Mary Sundermeyer.

****BENEDICT WILLIAM RICE ("BENNY")** born June 29, 2020 to Quinten and Heather Rice, and to grandparents Dan and Norma Rice.

Our sympathy is extended to the families of the following Central Church members who recently passed away:

****DORIS WITTENBERGER** passed away June 22, 2020. Services were held July 3, 2020.

****ELEANOR DIERSING** passed away June 27, 2020. Services were held July 6, 2020.



Wilburn Rowden, WWII Veteran, was invited to ride in this year's 2020 Fourth of July Parade. He rode in a restored 1972 Vietnam era Jeep Mutt. Wilburn flew with the mighty 8th Air Force, 452nd bomb group, was a radio operator on the B-17 Flying Fortress "The Sleepy Time Gal." Wounded from enemy fire on 3/08/1944 during his one and only parachute jump and unable to escape, was captured by the Germans. POW: Stalag Luft IV, Germany (415 days)... Was part of the 500 mile march across Germany 2/06/45—4/26/45. Wilburn is a Purple Heart recipient (multiple), Air Medal of Valor recipient (multiple), along with numerous other medals and awards. Additionally, he served 35 years with the Missouri National Guard. Thank you for your service, Wilburn!

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you so much for helping our son have a very warm welcome into our world. We are blessed to have everyone's love and support. Benny loves his beautiful and soft blanket — it's wonderful! Thank you, Alan! We also really appreciate you all looking out for Grandma and Grandpa as they step into many new memories in their lives. Thank you for always being so kind and loving.

Quinten & Heather Rice

Thank you for the card, the magnet, and the picture frame. Thank you for helping me grow into the person that I am today, and for remembering me on my graduation. It has been such a wonderful journey and I can't wait to see what life has in store for me. Love you all.

Bailey Higgins

Thank you dear friends of Central Church for the cards and gifts recognizing 20 years with Central UCC as your church secretary. It is such an honor serving the Lord and serving you — I've always felt like this position is a ministry, and am truly blessed to be here and consider you as "family." Thank you again for your kind and encouraging words—you all mean so much to me .

Michelle Ebersold

I'd like to express my thanks to Allen Schmutzler, Josh Mullins, and David Kohler for the work they did on the audio system while the church building was closed. They replaced the sound board that we had been using for many years and updated our wireless mics, leading to a higher quality and more consistent sound in the building. They also were responsible for the sound for the Sanders Farm services. In addition, Allen has worked many hours lately trying to solve computer issues that have arisen on the laptop since our return, and is doing double duty at the platform with both audio and slides to maintain social distancing. Thank you gentlemen. Everything that you do adds to our worship experience.

Alan Bagnull

Mission and Outreach Ministry thanks all who participated in the CWS Blanket Drive. Total collected was \$1,412.62. We would also like to thank everyone who helped or contributed to the Blood Drive. Total number of units collected will be reported in the September "Tower."

Mission/Outreach Ministry

AUGUST VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

WORSHIP USHERS

2020 Team Schedule:

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

August Team:

Team Captain Needed —
(formerly Gary Woodward's)
Leo Blochberger Harold Creed
Paul LePage (Honorary)

COMMUNION

Sunday, Aug. 2 — Susan Poettgen & Gwen Vieth

SALVATION ARMY MEAL

Thursday, Aug. 13 — Paula Fairchild

MEALS ON WHEELS

Wednesday, Aug. 19 — Brotherhood

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

JULY 16, 2020

The offerings for June were \$20,040 so even with Coved-19 we are doing well with our offerings.

The church board decided to continue with our current worship services even though it was suggested by Rev. Jenny Brown Daniels to discontinue our services. The church is cleaned every Thursday and all areas wiped down with disinfectant.

Mission and Outreach Committee is getting ready for the Blood Drive on July 28th.

The Search and Call Committee will continue to work toward finding a candidate for the full time pastor position as Rev. Allen turned down our offer.

If you are entering the church from the Ashley Street doors or through the gym, be sure the doors completely close.

The Octoberfest has been cancelled.

Church board secretary position is still open so if you would be willing to fill this term, please let the church office or Tommy Thompson know.

Next Council Meeting is set for Thursday, August 20, 2020.

Faye Rinaldi

“TOWER” DEADLINE

The deadline to submit articles for the September “Tower” issue is **August 15**. Please make sure to email your articles to the office in a timely manner. And pictures are always appreciated! Thanks!

August 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10:00am Worship Service	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10:00am Worship Service	10	11	12	13 4:30pm Salvation Army Meal		
16 10:00am Worship Service	17	18	19 10:00am Meals On Wheels	20 7:00pm Council Meeting	21	22
23 10:00am Worship Service	24	25	26			29
30 10:00am Worship Service						

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

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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
Pastor..... Rev. Dr. Judith Scott
Director of Music..... Dr. Patrick Clark
Young Youth Director Rene Miserez
Organist Shirley Klein
Bell Choir Director Rene Miserez

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:
10:00am Worship Service