



TOWER

Newsletter of Central United Church of Christ

September 2020

Volume 74, No. 8

The Roomba

It is late Saturday afternoon as I write this and it has been a busy week again. My goals for Saturdays always include vacuuming the house, preparing sweet rolls and the rest of Sunday's big weekly breakfast, as well as getting ready in general to get up at the crack of dawn to be sure I 'm at the Church on time, clean and dressed in my right mind, as much as can be. Today I looked at the pile of sawdust and grass clippings on the living room rug and wondered if I was going to have the time and energy to do a proper job. Then, I spotted Ralph-the-Roomba, quietly awaiting the command to wake up and get to work.

I'd forgotten that Ralph, the Roomba, is more than a plaything for the cat. Technically, Ralph-the-Roomba was given to me to be my helpmate for these busy days. Ralph is more than just a pretty toy, Ralph has a job to do, but Ralph has to be awakened. Ralph needs to be turned on and put to work or his battery will weaken and eventually fizzle out. He needs to be maintained, have his dirt catcher emptied and brushes cleaned, and he needs to be plugged into a source of energy to be recharged when he slows down. I repeat! Ralph is more than just a decoration, a toy for the cat. Ralph was invented to be a blessing, but he's only a blessing when used.

And aren't we all.... There is a lesson for us, even in a man-made machine. We also need to work, work in the name of our LORD Jesus Christ. We need to be plugged into the Holy Spirit for energy, for direction. The work is continual. Life's sawdust, debris, grass clippings and pebbles are tracked into our lives despite our best efforts to exclude them, a constant reminder of why we're here and where to turn for help. But we are not left alone to our labor. We are together and have been given the tools we need to achieve the goal.

Praise be to God for Roombas, mechanical and human, for energy, for endurance, for skill, and most of all, for access to the Triune God who has not only given us tasks but the means to accomplish them!

May we rise to the challenge.

Amen, so be it, may it be so!

Judy

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, ...let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...." Hebrews 12:1, 2a

REPORT ON BLANKET DRIVE

Central United Church of Christ received the banner shown below from Church World Service for being a "Sponsoring Congregation" in 2020 for financial support of their ongoing Blanket Ministry.

Recently during Central Church's Blanket Drive, \$1,412.62 was collected and given to Church World Service. Many people here and around the world greatly appreciate this ministry.

Congregational gifts support two types of CSW blankets: 1) Woolen blankets which are great for frigid temperatures. They hold heat extremely well, they're water resistant, and they don't easily catch fire so people can use them while warming up by a heat source. 2) Fleece blankets, more appropriate for warmer climates, help keep families covered without adding bulk if they have to move around a lot. Fleece is water repellant, durable, warm and soft.

Families also share that they use blankets:

As insulated padding if they have to sleep on hard, cold surfaces.

As room dividers if they're staying in shelters and need a moment of privacy.

As bags to carry supplies if they must move from place to place.

Thank you for embracing your neighbors in many different ways through your gifts!



FAITH IN ACTION

MONTHLY BENEVOLENCE FOR SEPTEMBER Food Bank of Central/NE Missouri

A message from the Food Bank:

“The COVID-19 crisis is hitting our community hard – and we are seeing a surge in demand for food and meals. You are a vital member of our team – and an essential partner in the fight against hunger in Missouri. With your support, we can weather the storm and put food back on tables. Thank you for showing us the best of our community during the most challenging of times.”

You can help continue this work with a donation in the September blue benevolence envelope for the Food Bank of Central/NE Missouri.

FESTIVAL OF SHARING KITS

The Mission and Outreach Ministry will be collecting items for the Missouri Family Food Boxes during September. 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)

FESTIVAL OF SAHRING SHAREFEST



Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Sharefests will be staffed with volunteers from the host churches. We will not be taking a group to Tipton this year. The kits can only be dropped off on Saturday, October 10. In response to the Coronavirus, Church World Service has shipped 2,195 blankets, 7,110 Hygiene Kits and 570 School Kits.

PROJECT HOMELESS CONNECT

This year's Project Homeless Connect will be held on October 16, 2020. Due to the pandemic, no in-person event will be held. The group is looking for other ways to distribute help. Mission and Outreach Ministry is working with individuals to see how we can help this year. More information will be in the bulletins as it becomes available.

SPECIAL THANK YOU

Special thanks to Alan Bagnall for his invaluable contributions to Central Church. Alan creates our PowerPoint screens for our in-seat worship services, each week. During the many weeks of pandemic closure, Alan stitched-together the audio files for our virtual services. Creating a fulfilling experience. Rev. Dr. Judith Scott spent considerable time each week making audio recordings to which Alan seamlessly added music. He coordinated the services with Pastor Judy and Shirley Klein. Alan continues to create CD recordings and transcribe the services. Rene Miserez and Patti Schmutzler delivered these to as many as 13 members without cyber technology. Thank you, Alan, Pastor Judy, Shirley, Rene and Patti!! And any unknown others who help in this valuable outreach.”

THE CENTRAL CIRCLE

OUR SHARED LIFE



Pictured is Central UCC member, Navy Lieutenant Commander Jeremy Snellen. Jeremy and his wife live in the DC area with their two children. He's stationed at the Pentagon, and has been in the Navy for 12 years. Thank you for your service, Lieutenant Commander Snellen!

YOUNG YOUTH

As I write this, I am anticipating that we will have started back up our Wednesday after school program in person. As is the new usual, however, it looks like the only thing that's certain is uncertainty. If you have a child in K-5th grades, we would love for them to be joining us. If we are in person, we have implemented appropriate safety measures and I welcome you to contact me to find out what those are. We have food and fun, faith and fellowship and help to build relationships with God and each other. If we are not in person, we have returned to "lessons in a box" to continue engaging the kids with their faith. Monitoring the safety of the kids and our congregation is an ongoing process.

Rene Miserez
Young Youth Director
573-694-6022

ALTAR FLOWERS & BULLETINS

Historically, members have made "in memory/honor of" donations for our Sunday bulletins of \$15 per Sunday. Similarly, altar flower donations are \$33 per Sunday. Due to restrictions of Covid-19, our costs have been lowered as we are printing fewer bulletins, and a member has been volunteering to pickup the floral arrangements each week and Central is not being billed for the delivery fee.

As we move forward, you may wish to donate \$28 per Sunday for altar flowers and \$10 per Sunday for bulletins. If you have already pre-paid and wish a refund, please contact Michelle in the church office. If you do not expect a refund and wish to consider this monetary difference as a donation to the church, then no contact is necessary.



90+ BIRTHDAYS

JUANITA MUCK (9/14)

Primrose Retirement Community
1214 Freedom Blvd., Apt. 235
Jefferson City, MO 65109



THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Blood Drive or gave blood. We met our goal with 37 units collected. Total collections for both sites were 146 units. One unit of blood saves three lives. With our collections, potentially 111 lives were impacted. Way to go Central.

Susan Poettgen
Mission/Outreach Chair

Thank you for your \$295.81 donation to Common Ground! It warms my heart to know there are so many churches that trust us with funds to assist people in our community. If you would like to subscribe to our monthly newsletter, send your email address to: tinamollenkamp@cgcb.org or go to www.CGCB.org and click "Newsletter Archive and Sign-Up."

Tina Mollenkamp

Thank you for your donation of \$235.81 to Unleashing Potential (UP). We are truly grateful for your investment in the education and safety of our children, and supporting UP's mission of ensuring that all children have the freedom to thrive and reach their greatest potential.

Darlene Sowell
President & CEO

Thank you for your gift of \$435.81 to River City Habitat for Humanity. Your gift helps in buying the lumber to build walls, paying for the plumbing to be installed and, most importantly, growing our Habitat program so that more families will have the ability to believe in a better future. Please consider signing up for our e-newsletter by visiting our website at www.rivercityhabitat.org or send an email to susan@rivercityhabitat.org.

Susan Cook-Williams
Executive Director

Mark your calendar for September 11th for this year's annual Golf Tournament sponsored by the Brotherhood! Plans have been made, hole sponsor letters have been sent out and returns are coming in!

Why not help? Surely you know someone who would sponsor a hole for only a \$100.00. A sign with the sponsor's name will be placed on the golf course the day of the tournament, and also displayed in the friendship room.

There will not be an auction this year; however, dinner will be served out at the Sander's Farm at 5:30pm, where the air is pure and there's space to roam! The Boy Scouts are fixing the meal. Be sure to make your reservations now! If you have any questions or would like to make reservations, please contact Larry Long or Russell Rottmann.

BELL CHOIR



The Bell Choir is wanting to grow our numbers again and fill the void for live music during worship. If you ever thought you might like to give ringing bells

a try, now is a great time and you are welcome to join us! The ability to read music is a plus, but not required.

Contact Rene at 694-6022 so we can plan appropriate music for the number of ringers.

SEPTEMBER 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)

September Team:

Team Captain — Carl Ernst
John Hequembourg Larry Long
Susan Poettgen Curt Shipley

SALVATION ARMY MEAL

September 10 — Connie Pack

MEALS ON WHEELS

September 16 — Prime Time Club

DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER "TOWER" ARTICLES:

Tuesday, September 15

RELAY FOR LIFE — COLE COUNTY UPATE

As you know, the traditional Relay for Life scheduled for June 5 was canceled. However, it has been rescheduled and will now be a virtual event.

Relay for Life Cole County -- A Week of Hope will be held September 14 — 20, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. each day on the Relay's website, www.relayforlife.org/colecomo, and Facebook page, @rflcolecomo. A different aspect of the Relay will be featured each evening.

Two aspects will have a very different look — the silent auction and the luminaria ceremony. The silent auction will be held online from 7:00 p.m. on September 14 through 7:00 p.m. on September 20. The website for the auction will be 32auctions.com/rflcolecomo. Central UCC Women's team will be providing a spa-themed basket for the auction.

The luminarias will be displayed in the 100 and 200 blocks of East High Street on September 19 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Also, on the 19th at 7:00 p.m., a memorial video will be available for viewing on the Relay's website and Facebook page.

The American Cancer Society Day set for a St. Louis Cardinal's baseball game in August has been canceled. Therefore, our team's raffle for four tickets has also been canceled.

If you want more information about the events planned for the Week of Hope, you can go to the Relay's website at the web address listed above.

If you wish to make a donation or provide a luminaria in honor of a survivor or caregiver or in memory of someone who lost their battle with cancer, you can contact one of the team members, Jeanne Kujath, Connie Pack, or Mary Ann Wippermann, for assistance.

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
10:00am Worship	7	8	9	10 5:00pm Salvation Army Meal	11 Brotherhood Golf Tournament & 5:30pm Dinner at Sander's Farm	12
10:00am Worship	14	15	16 10:00am Meals On Wheels	17 7:00pm Council Meeting	18	19
10:00am Worship	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:00am Worship	28	29	30			



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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