



TOWER

Newsletter of Central United Church of Christ

December 2020/January 2021

Volume 74, No. 11

Beloved,

Something a little different this time as we approach a new Church Year on November 29th and a new calendar year on January 1st. For the new calendar year we mostly think of what's good for us and hope that for us, it will be a good year: good health, no money worries, keep our jobs, enough food on the table, shelter in the life style to which we aspire, the kids will be clean and polite and bring no surprises home. But what about the *Church* new year? I decided to ask some of our most illustrious members, or, at least those for whom I have emails:

Michelle (church secretary) was my first interviewee. Michelle should be having a meltdown, with all the changes and extra workload required by our switching back to Covid shut-down again, so I was most interested to hear what she would say. To my surprise, Michelle's head and heart were not focused on her workload. She said: "...regarding the *Tower*... What about something that really captures the hope that Jesus offers as we ponder His birth – and the love that God has lavished upon us by sending a Savior as the propitiation for our sins – a love that never changes, never plays favorites, is always constant, and even goes beyond our comprehension. With all of the changes, fears, disappointments, missed worship services/events/activities, and even loss of loved ones as we continue this journey through a pandemic, one thing remains – hope in Jesus Christ!" Michelle's thoughts on our times, our troubles, is going to be hard to top.



As I received some answers I saw that several, probably representative of us all, were concerned about Central in particular, what its path will be, how we will be of use, how we might expect to bring the good news that makes our lives secure even in the worst of times.

Mary Ann Wippermann was one of the first people I met the first day I supplied, 'way back in April, 2018, and I soon learned she is one of the key persons instrumental in keeping the Sundays running smoothly, with ushers, candle lighting, just about anything and everything that happens on a Sunday morning in addition to the many Central organizations in which she is active (VERY active.) Here's what Mary Ann wrote:

"For me a new year for Central means a hope of returning to normal, or at best a new normal, and the reuniting of our family for worship and activities. I pray that our Savior will continue to guide us in our search for the right senior pastor."

Speaking of "active" brings me to Patti Schmutzler's reply. This past year, along with Rene and others, Patti has been keeping everyone informed about our shut-ins, bringing CDs, sermon transcriptions, bulletins, whatever. Patti, like so many here, work hard keeping the heartbeat of Central going, and like the Energizer Bunny, she keeps going, going, going.... Patti says:

"My expectation for Central Church's new year is that we are to be stronger and more united to serve our Lord and to move forward with positive changes! Psalm 85:10-13"

(Cont. on Page 2)

I was so pleased to hear from some men! Carl Ernst, and his wife Shirley, were in the group that included Faye Rinaldi and Patti Schmutzler, who took me to lunch at Steak and Shake soon after I started. Carl also drove Warren and me out to Sanders Farm that first Fall, and was a faithful member of the old Bible Class that was started at Faye's request and continued until Covid. Carl's response extends beyond Central's doors:

"I hope to see Our Lord and all Churches be the top priority in all our lives. I hope to see our church call a minister and all our members become more involved in the daily life of the church."

Warren Witt replied with the careful thought that made/makes him a leader worthy of following: "Rev. Scott, the new year for the Church doesn't have strong feelings for me. I am continually hopeful that society will come to a better appreciation of Christianity and the church will become a stronger leader of this society. But I feel that is a continuum, not something that starts with a new year. While our country seems to move further and further from Christianity, I hope that every new beginning brings us an opportunity to turn things around, whether it begins with a new year or some other continuum of events."

Alan Bagnull, an unsung hero who put in untold hours of work during our first virtual services last Spring says: "You hear people complain about taking Christ out of Christmas; I'm upset that people are taking Christ out of Christianity." Romans 13:8-10.

More thoughts, hopes and dreams:

Ruthie Long shared: "When I think of what Central Church means to me in future terms, I simply must look back at what a tremendous part it has played in my entire life. This must encompass Sunday School teachers, Elenor Vieth and the Youth Fellowship, the Elenor Circle, each and every one of our members, our Wedding Day, our children and their experiences, and even now, when some things seem to not be going as we would like. Our future is solid with Christ. Central Church and others will come through this pandemic. God has a plan for each of us and we must press on in faith and get the job done! Just look at the beautiful Central Church people working overtime, and the love of church and doing His will. One day we will look back and say, just a bump in the road! We definitely have a future with God!"

From Karen Howser: "My hope is that the church membership will grow, that there will be more community involvement and that we will be able to resume our previous meetings, practices, services, programs, outreach and Christian fellowship as before the pandemic."

And from Tom and Judy Thompson, "Hope for the "Good ole' days" when we heard choir voices and congregational singing, there were no pre-packaged Communion elements, we had greetings with handshakes and hugs, the return of once-a-month pancake breakfasts on Saturday, and the pews were filled with people minus the tape, in such abundance that chairs had to be set up in the aisles."

And, like a message dropped down from Heaven on a prophet's lips our Historian, Walter Schroeder, once wrote: "Very, very soon after Central's Sunday School Building was opened and dedicated on October 6, 1918, it could not be used, continuing into 1919, because of a ban on public meetings due to the ongoing nationwide Spanish influenza epidemic." Central Church's history book (A Sesquicentennial History) pp. 68-69 (Courtesy Patti Schmutzler)

With prayers for comfort and encouragement, and love to all,

Judy

DECEMBER BENEVOLENCE

Rape and Abuse Crisis Service

Jefferson City's Rape and Abuse Crisis Service (RACS) center is a comforting secret place tucked out of harm's way, providing shelter to abuse victims and their children, when their homes are no longer safe. At the RACS center, those temporary residents get counseling and shelter until they can return to a safer, happier world. A tutoring program developed with Jefferson City School District, for after-school help with children's homework, is in place. A pet care program developed with a local veterinarian and a foster care organization helps residents cope. Your contribution to RACS will help fund many of the supply expenses that are needed by the center's families for daily living.

JANUARY BENEVOLENCE

Have-A-Heart

The Have-A-Heart offering supports members of Central's congregation that have a one-time need for a helping hand. This was designed to help those church members who are going through a rough patch because of a family emergency, health crisis or something of that nature. Your contribution to Have-A-Heart shows you have a heart for those in our church who may need a helping hand.

FESTIVAL OF SHARING

January Kit

CWS Hygiene Kit

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

We have hand towels to add to the kits. Affordable wide-tooth combs can be found at discount suppliers such as sallybeauty.com or at Dollar General. 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. You can bring a complete kit or any part of the kit to drop in the Festival of Sharing box in the Narthex. People who have to go to shelters because of floods, fires, tornadoes or other natural disasters greatly appreciate receiving these kits.

RED CROSS HONOR BADGE

The American Red Cross has recognized Central as an extraordinary Blood Program Partner for our work in holding the July Blood Drive during the pandemic. Thank you to everyone who helped in any way.



"This award recognizes you as an extraordinary Blood Program Partner who stood with the American Red Cross during the COVID-19 pandemic. Your dedicated support was essential in our mission to help save lives across the country through blood donation."

85+ BIRTHDAYS



DECEMBER

Laverne Baker (12/06)

1526 Lake Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Paul LePage (12/25)

1003 Rock Hill Road
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Patty Johnson (12/27)

Heisinger Bluffs
1024 West Main, Apt. 230
Jefferson City, MO 65109

JANUARY

Jane Stumpe (1/17)

1110 Major Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Bertie Spalding (1/18)

1809 Devonshire Circle, #A
Holts Summit, MO 65043

Ruth Popp (1/25)

3122 Rock Ridge Road
Jefferson City, MO 65109

2021 OFFICE HOURS

Starting January 1, 2021, the church office hours will be as follows:

Monday—Thursday: 8:30am - 3:00pm

Friday: 8:00am - 3:00pm

“TOWER” DONATION

Thank you to Rev. Scott for her generous donation allowing this “Tower” issue to be printed in beautiful colors for all to enjoy! It is very much appreciated...

ANNUAL REPORTS

If you are responsible for submitting information about your group’s 2020 annual report, **please send in your report by December 31, 2020.** Reports should be emailed to: office@centralucc.com. If you have any questions, please contact the church office at the same email address above, or call 635-1041.

2020 CONTRIBUTIONS/ 2021 PLEDGES

While “in-person” worship is cancelled for now, please remember to continue sending in your tithes/offerings. You can mail contributions to the church office at 118 West Ashley, Jefferson City, MO 65101, and can also drop your offering envelope in the church’s mailbox, located outside, next to the office doors. (The mailbox stays locked and requires a key to secure its contents, so your offering envelope will be safe.)

It’s not too late to turn in your pledge for 2021 which can be mailed to the office or dropped in the church’s mailbox as you prayerfully consider your financial support to the church.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

With in-person worship postponed, please watch the church’s website and Facebook page for information how to pickup your 2021 offering box, as well as updates on Remind through your email account. Once you have your new offering box, it’s important that you use only 2021 envelopes as the system renumbers the assigned envelopes each year, and be sure to discard any previous year’s envelopes.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Watch for more information regarding plans for this year's Christmas Eve Service, and whether it will be held in the sanctuary for you to attend in-person, or if it will only be available for viewing from your home due to Covid-19 precautions. Updates will be posted on the church's website and Facebook page as well as on Remind through your email account.



YOUNG YOUTH ACTIVITIES

We are back to our "lessons in a box" instead of meeting on Wednesdays as long as in-person worship is suspended. If you know someone in K-5th grades who isn't already receiving these activity boxes and who might like to receive them, let me know. They include a regular Bible lesson and a craft or word puzzle activity to reinforce the lesson. It's a way for the kids to stay connected with God and with each other, knowing that the others have the same activities. We worship together, yet apart.

"Happy Birthday, Jesus" Party ... I am holding out hope, but I am pretty certain that this will not be happening this year in our normal format. Be on the lookout for a special box to celebrate Jesus' birth with your families.

Rene Miserez
Young Youth Director

694-6022 cell/text
bellsic@aol.com

FAITH FORMATION CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Mr. Bob, Rev. Scott's husband, has been one of the volunteer teachers since Rally Day. He is teaching a Bible Story with "Science" activities. The first activity was on the Parable of the Vineyard. He brought in several grapevine saplings for the children to plant. The children took it home to watch it grow.

In early November, the lesson was on baby Moses. Various dried corn leaves, reeds, and other natural items were brought in by Mr. Bob. The children learned to build baskets using those natural items, and experimented in a bowl of water placing a small rock inside of the basket. Most of the baskets stayed afloat. Pictured are Alaina, Grayson, and Jameson Sellers, our guest Hunter Loethen, and Mr. Bob.

Thank you to Mr. Bob and Amber Schmutzler for being our teachers. Also, thank you to our helpers, Joyce Mutert and Diana Phillips.



MONTHLY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

SALVATION ARMY MEAL

December 10 — Bell Choir
January 14 — Rene Miserez

MEALS ON WHEELS

December 16 — Women's Fellowship
January 20 — Brotherhood

SALVATION ARMY MEALS 2021

January — Rene Miserez
February — Patti Schmutzler
March — Mission and outreach Ministry
April — Patti Schmutzler
May — WIGS
June — Mission and Outreach Ministry
July — Parlor Class
August — **OPEN**
September — Connie Pack
October — Nelda Lay
November — Rene Miserez
December — Bell Choir

The month of August is open. Please contact Susan Poettgen if you would like to volunteer for this month. Susan's contact information: 573-298-4515; susan.poettgen@gmail.com

**Please turn in your articles/pictures
for the**

February "TOWER" issue by:

FRIDAY, JANUARY 15

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

October 15, 2020

Offerings were lower for the month: \$13,200 verses our budget of \$16,700.

Transferred in money from the HEC Fund and Capital Improvements to cover costs related to fixing the drainage system and the elevator fire alarm.

Special congregational meeting to be held on October 18th to consider removing the last sentence in Section 2 and the last sentence in Section 3 of the By-laws to aid in helping us find a full-time pastor.

Still working on finding a solution to the slate tile replacement or repair. We will be having the roof inspected by Robert Boessen from Architectural Alliance to advise whether he feels repair or replacement is needed.

Three smoke detectors were taken out that hook up to the elevator and hope to have this fixed soon.

Discussed how to handle Christmas Eve Service (s). It's possible we will have 2 or 3 services depending on reservations.

Approved renting an apartment in the Carpenter's Building for Rev. Scott. Since she is making several trips each week here, the cost of the apartment will be offset by the amount we have been paying for mileage.

Respectfully submitted,
Faye Rinaldi

ANNUAL MEETING

Save the date for the Annual Meeting which will be held Sunday, January 31. Watch for more information to follow...

A GLIMPSE OF 2020



Cookie Bouquet Fundraiser



Ash Wednesday Service



New Members, Josh Mullins and Melissa Martin



Women's Lenten Quiet Hour



Virtual Worship

Drive-up Worship at Sander's Farm



Council Meeting (with masks and social distancing)



Rally Day Kickoff



Halloween Party



Festival of Sharing Kits



Annual Golf Tournament



Service of Totenfest



Children's Sunday School



118 West Ashley Street
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage Paid
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

Phone: (573) 635-1041

E-mail: office@centralucc.com

Website: www.centralucc.com

Ministers.....Every Member
Pastor.....Rev. Dr. Judith Scott
Young Youth DirectorRene Miserez
Organist Shirley Klein
Bell Choir DirectorRene Miserez

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:

10:00am Worship Service