

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### *Birthdays*

1 Logan Wedum  
2 Laas Houge  
3 Dean Young  
8 Ruth Fletcher  
9 Donna Jacobson  
17 Gracie McKerrow  
20 LeAnn Budeski  
27 Joseph Taylor  
29 Ryan Kakalecik  
29 Jennifer Louw

### *Anniversaries*

9 Mark & Jennifer Louw  
16 Korey & Kristi Allen  
28 Kevin & Linda McCafferty  
29 Chris & Viv Hunter



## Barnabas 2020 Grants

Barnabas was an early Disciple who, according to Acts 4:37, “sold a field that belonged to him, then brought the money, and laid it at the apostles’ feet,” so it could be distributed to those who had need.

The Barnabas 2020 Fund aims to bring together those with resources and those with need to live out our values of true community during the COVID-19 pandemic. The fund aims to provide one-time financial assistance grants to lay participating members of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Grants are limited to up to \$500/household and \$2000/congregation. Grants will not be made to persons who have experienced only loss of investments. Pastors may nominate persons from their congregations to receive grants directly from the Region.

Financial resources for this Regional fund will come from two sources:

1. The Executive Committee has approved an initial contribution of \$15,000 from the Origin Church Legacy Gift to seed this fund.
2. Individuals are encouraged to give to this fund through designated donations to the region. In the spirit of Barnabas who used his resources to help others, we encourage those receiving stimulus checks who do not need the money to consider donating a portion of these resources to this fund while also remembering the needs of their local congregations and other mission commitments.

**THE VIEW**  
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**Rev. Dr. Ronald C. Greene, Senior Minister**  
**Ruth Lindabury, Church Administrator**

The mission of Central Christian Church  
is to empower people for Christ's  
ministries in their daily lives:

### VISION STATEMENT

To be an inclusive people living God's radical love  
that challenges all to grow in faith and mission.



May 2020

## SUNDAY, MAY 3 Church Building Reopens with Precautions! 10:45 AM INCLUSIVE WORSHIP

You are welcome to gather at a safe social distance in the sanctuary if you are feeling healthy and are wearing a mask for everyone's protection. Pastor Ron and other Worship Leaders will not be wearing masks when they are up front—but we have rearranged the chairs to provide distancing.

Please check the information inside the newsletter for other changes in our worship and fellowship and precautionary guidelines during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**WE WILL ALSO ZOOM WORSHIP** for the time being in order to make our church accessible to those at risk, our homebound, and people away from Great Falls. The church will continue to send emails with the Zoom link and the code will be posted on our website. If you don't have access to the internet, you can still participate in worship by calling one of the numbers on any telephone.

## RIPPLES ON THE RIVER



The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the truth of the New Testament: The church is not a building. When Paul talked about the church as God's building, it was a metaphor like "God's field" (1 Corinthians 3:9). The churches met in people's homes, by a river, in someone's shop.

We so often talk about "going to church" and everyone knows we're talking about our building at 1025 Central Avenue.

Lately we have been experiencing church through our internet connections. We worship together over Zoom, with Marj playing music from her home, and Jeff singing from the sanctuary. I have been preaching from the pulpit, but Ruth led our Maundy Thursday worship from our home.

We may call our Sunday service "virtual worship" but it's the actual church.

And yet physical places provide deep connections for us as holy ground.

I found myself grieving as we moved out of our home at 52 Cherokee Drive and cleaned up the house for a new family. That structure was more than shelter, it was a refuge and retreat center for Ruth and me. When we said good-bye to the place, we remembered the people who had spent time there over the years—family, friends, church members... and people who have gone on to a "building not made with hands."

As we return to our church building, may we encounter God in that sacred space with all our memories. And may God bless our church wherever and however we connect in the Spirit.

In Christ, Ron



## OUR WORSHIP SERVICES



### "LIVING GOD'S VISIONS"

Reflecting on 18 years of ministry together

#### SUNDAY, MAY 3

10:45 Worship

Message: "Responding to the Challenge"  
(Romans 12:1-2)

Call to Worship: "Press On!"

#### SUNDAY, MAY 10: MOTHER'S DAY

10:45 Worship

Message: "Becoming an Inclusive People"  
(Galatians 3:26-28)

Call to Worship: "All Means All!"

#### SUNDAY, MAY 17

10:45 Worship

Message: "Grow in Faith"  
(John 1:12-13)

Call to Worship: "Believe"

#### SUNDAY, MAY 24

10:45 Worship

Message: "Grow in Mission"  
(Luke 4:16-19)

Call to Worship: "Serve"

#### PENTECOST SUNDAY, MAY 31

10:45 Worship

Message: "Sailing on in the Spirit"  
(Acts 2:1-4)

## COMMUNITY JOYS AND CONCERNS

- ◆ Thank you to Ruth Fletcher for leading the Maundy Thursday Worship Service by Zoom "In the Footsteps of Jesus".
- ◆ Thanks to Antonio Jarvey for playing his original composition for our Easter Worship Service.
- ◆ Thanks to Kate Kohler for inspiring us with her "Isolation Round" in our April 26th Worship Service. Kate's video is on YouTube and you can access her other musical offerings on her website [katekohler.com](http://katekohler.com).
- ◆ Pastor Ron and Dr. Ruth have moved to the Cory Block Apartments with their dog Misty. Cell phone numbers remain the same: 406-868-3501 but they will be receiving mail at the church's address.

### Church Grounds and Cleanup

Anxious to get outside? Call Brett Fagenstrom to find out how you can help in getting our church grounds ready for spring. Thanks to Randy & Sheryl Knowles and Joey Taylor for working in replacing the shrubs in front of our sanctuary and in preparing the flower beds. There are also spring cleaning chores inside the church building that you can perform at a safe distance on your own schedule.

### Thank You

Pastor Ron, Ruth & Members of Central Christian Church,

I just wanted to express my gratitude for the outpouring of sympathy & support in the recent loss of my father. I was truly touched and reminded of how blessed I am to have found such an amazing church family.

Gracias Again!  
Most Respectfully,  
Kerri Hiatt

### Family Promise Update

Our guest family is settled into their temporary home and they are feeling much more secure and safe! Host Congregations are providing meals for them.

We will be maintaining our social distancing operations for the Office for the time being. Our guest family is sheltering in place and will continue to do so until the Pandemic guidelines are lifted. We are not moving beds or the family to any host sites for the time being. Due to the current COVID-19 quarantine situation we are facing, Family Promise will temporarily suspend the rotational housing program.

## Calendar

### Please note: we will not be resuming Sunday School Classes

Sunday, May 3	8:30am Elders Breakfast 10:45am Worship Service—In house & Zoom
Wednesday, May 13	9am-12 noon Pastor Ron's Zoom with Vocations Summit Retreat
Sunday, May 17	8:30am Elders Breakfast 10:45am Worship Service—In house & Zoom
Sunday, May 24	8:30am Elders Breakfast Summer Worship Services Begin 10:00am Worship Service—In house & Zoom
Sunday, May 31	10:00am Worship Service—In house & Zoom Pastor Ron's last Sunday

## Congregational Support

Thank you for your faithful spiritual and financial support of our congregation in this pandemic and our own transition! Our Treasurer reported to our Board that our finances are healthy at this time.

Note to those who use the Givelify App: The church pays 3% of the gift plus 30 cents for each transaction. If you wish to cover that administrative cost, please add 3% to your contribution you authorize [e.g., \$103 for a \$100 donation]. Thank you!

## Wild Women of the West Mini Meet Scheduled

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 2 at 3 p.m. Pacific / 4 p.m. Mountain time! We will gather on Zoom and try to simultaneously broadcast it LIVE in our Facebook group (which, hey, you should join if you haven't already: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/209436506640215/>).

If you haven't already signed up for Disciples Wild Women of the West information or you know of someone not signed up who should be, simply enter a good email address into the subscribe box: <https://www.discipleswow.com/> to receive the Zoom link. **EVERY Disciples woman is invited!**

## Recommended Changes for Reopening Church

The Church Board asked a team of our health care professionals to make a recommendation to the Board about reopening the church. Kevin McCafferty, MD; Linda McCafferty, RN; and Emily Comstock, PA met by Zoom and determined it was safe for us to reopen with certain precautions. The Board approved this step in line with the Governor's Phase One. Our team is asking all of us to observe the considerations below.

### GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- Signs should be on all entry doors, to include the following information:
  - Everyone entering the building must wear a face mask/covering
  - Please maintain social distance of at least 6 feet from others
  - People at high risk should not enter the church; services available on Zoom
  - Anyone experiencing fever, cough, or cold/flu-like symptoms should stay at home
- No temperature checks required for church entry
- Members should be encouraged to bring their own face masks; a limited number of extra masks will be available from greeters for anyone arriving without one (recipients of masks should keep them for all future worship services they attend)
- Anyone with sewing skills is encouraged to make masks to have on hand for members/guests
- Family members should sit together, at least 6 feet away from other families (with at least 2 chairs separating family units); greeters will remind attendees about seating/social distancing/mask guidelines
- Greeters will follow social distancing guidelines, avoiding personal contact and directing attendees to pick up programs which are spread out on tables in fellowship hall
- Rows of chairs will be spaced 6 feet apart; if necessary, overflow seating is available at the tables in the fellowship hall or possibly an extra row or 2 of chairs
- Minister should wear face mask except while preaching
- Musicians should wear face masks except while singing
- Zoom access to worship services should continue indefinitely (preferably until a coronavirus vaccine is available) for those unable to attend in person
- When weather permits, windows and doors should remain open to bring in fresh air and eliminate need to touch door handles; ceiling fans should be configured to pull air upward
- Everyone should be encouraged to bring their own small bottle of hand sanitizer, as well as to wash or sanitize hands and refrain from touching their face

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Changes continued...

- Three children's tables should be placed around the perimeter of the sanctuary, with children from the same family occupying each table. Any additional children will need to stay seated with their parents
- Coffee hour should be eliminated
- Everyone needs to keep away from Marjorie for her protection

#### **COMMUNION PROCEDURES:**

- Congregation will come forward to communion table; minister should encourage people to use their own judgment on whether or not to participate in communion ritual; minister should also instruct parents of participating small children to supervise them in communion process
- Two deacons will be at the table, one on each side, maintaining proper social distance from congregation but providing assistance as needed
- All 6 of the juice trays will be used, 3 on each side; each tray will contain cups for juice as well as cups holding a small piece of gluten-free cracker (only one tray on each side will be placed at the outside corners of the table, replaced by the deacons with full trays as needed). Juice cups and cracker cups will be paired together, spaced one slot apart; participants will each take one pair of cups, serve themselves, then dispose of cups in trash can provided at front of communion table
- Procedure for coming forward to table is as follows:
  - One row at a time from each side will exit to the outside (window side) while maintaining 6' spacing
  - There will be 2 small tables near the front of sanctuary, one for each side, holding an offering plate and bottle of hand sanitizer; participants should deposit any offering, then remove their masks and sanitize hands
  - When the previous participant has finished at the communion table, the next in line will proceed to the communion table to take a juice/cracker pair, partake in communion, discard the cups in trash can, and return to his/her seat and put on mask
  - Following the worship service, communion preparer will wash all trays/dishes in hot soapy water.

### **Will There Be Summer Camps?**

The Region is conducting a survey to help make the best decisions for everyone's safety. Our Outdoor Ministries Team will have a plan in place by May 15th. Watch your email for notices from The Northern Lights Disciples.

### **Moderator's Message**

Dear Disciple Family,

It's been a whirlwind of inactivity, but your elders, Chris Hunter, LeAnn Budeski, Lynn Yahraus, Jean Muir, Elaine Higgins, Clint Houge, and Margaret Houge, have been busy with Zoom. We interviewed two wonderful candidates for interim minister but it turned out they both had other important commitments. This about took our breath away. Sandy Messick, our regional minister, put together more candidates for us. We are currently checking references and interviewing the new choices. LeAnn Budeski, vice moderator, keeps us moving along. We hope to have a choice to present to the board very soon.

Lynn Yahraus, our head elder, is organizing the elders to meet at regular times. We want your prayer needs so we can pray for you during our time together. If you are not in church, send an email, it will be held in confidence if you so choose.

I am so proud of the seamlessness with which our Zoom worship has moved along. There are so many people to thank for all the extra work they have done; Ruth Lindabury, Jacob and Charlie Novak, LeAnn Budeski, Ruth Fletcher, and Ron Greene. The best thing is that all of you asked for help as you needed and let others guide you through the process. Thanks to all who have supported the church and continue to support through this process.

God's blessings,  
Margaret Houge, Moderator

### **From Tennyson Center for Children**

Central Christian Church,

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our children and families. Your support allows programs and services to thrive during this challenging time. Your contribution of \$100.00 allows Tennyson to respond to the COVID-19 crisis with relentless commitment to ensuring that our children and families continue to heal from trauma.

Tennyson Center for Children is proud to be a community organization serving Colorado's most vulnerable. 91% of children living at Tennyson have experienced significant neglect and abuse, and most of our community-based families struggle economically. Your support of this oft-overlooked population fuels our prevention and healing work.

Once again, thank you for your generosity during these tough times. The impact of your gift is immeasurable, as you are a part of a changing lives and giving hope.

With our gratitude,  
Edward D Breslin