

## Moderators Message

Dear Disciples Family,

I just finished jury duty. Before you begin to groan and feel sorry for me, remember that I am retired. This is never easy. People's lives depend on the court and the jury.

Sometimes doing the right thing is excruciating. Your may heart hurt for the defendant, as mine did, yet it's important to follow the law as laid out by the judge.

The judge followed us back to the jury room to answer concerns and questions we may have had. Our concerns were for the defendant, a teenager. We wanted her to get help finishing school and to get mental health help. The judge reassured us that this is one of her goals in sentencing. She will do her research.

It is good to know many people in the world seek to do the right thing, to go over and above what is right, and do the work that helps others.

This is what our church is about. Our church is about a movement for wholeness. Even though our mental health class was interrupted by COVID, we endeavored to finish and learn. It wasn't easy for our teacher, Nicole, or for us, but we finished. Now we know mental health concerns are everywhere. We know this pandemic is causing concerns for others. In our church, we think of others. We think about how to help. We think about how to help people become whole in spirit, emotion, and health.

This jury taught me that there are people who want to do what is right because it is right. People are willing to sacrifice time and convenience to do just that. Many look at others and empathize. This is a good world with a good God.

Blessings,

Margaret Houge, Moderator

### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

#### Birthdays

4 Becky Fawcett-Monroe	18 Barbara Kakalecik
7 Ethan Habets	18 Jenny McKerrow
8 Robyn Kelly	19 Royden Levi
8 Jeremy Comstock	21 Kameron Allen
17 Mauri Novak	27 Mike Wennerberg



## THE VIEW

Central Christian Church  
1025 Central Avenue  
Great Falls, Montana 59401

Church Office (406) 453-4317  
web page [www.gfccc.net](http://www.gfccc.net)  
e-mail: [cccgf1025@gmail.com](mailto:cccgf1025@gmail.com)

Rev. David James, Interim Minister  
Ruth Lindabury, Church Administrator

The mission of Central Christian Church is to empower people for Christ's ministries in their daily lives: home, school, workplace, church, and Community.

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September 2020



Handicap Accessible

#### VISION STATEMENT

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

## GREAT FALLS CROP HUNGER "VIRTUAL" WALK

Sunday, October 11

**Walk. Give. Change the world.**

Our community believes in ending hunger. And, in 2020, we will continue to fight against the new challenges of disease and disaster that leave people hungry. Join with us in raising funds to help neighbors near and far get the meals they need this year.

Donate to your favorite walker or team - or start your own right here. 25% of funds raised will support the Helping Hands Food Pantry at First English Lutheran in downtown Great Falls. More information will be available in the bulletin and on our website.

Together, we can help end hunger in our community and around the world!

## Notes from the Pastor

Most of you probably have no idea that you wrote my article for this month. My first Sunday here, I asked a simple question: What are your hopes for Central Christian Church. Your response was overwhelming. I want to share those hopes – your hopes. Some of them were very similar, so I edited a bit, and combined some. But your hopes are all here.

- I hope that we can continue to deepen our faith by finding new ways to serve our community. I hope that we can help lead Great Falls to become a kinder, more compassionate place where all can thrive and feel welcome.
- More food/snacks. Youth activity increase.
- To grow in faith, love, and compassion. Work in the community. Find new ways to serve God.
- I hope we continue to be an inclusive church remembering All Means All.
- Continue to be a missional open and affirming church. Grow in membership.
- Social justice action & growth. Intellectual growth. Challenge to move in a positive way out of our comfort zone.
- To continue on our Christ-led path.
- Continue to be an open and affirming church. I want everyone to still be open to talk to our pastor. I am looking forward to this new growth. Thank you.
- Keep doing Zoom worship online. We can only be present once or twice a month. Continue to stay on the liberal side (theologically) of the aisle. *Continued page 3*

 <b>OUR WORSHIP SERVICES</b> 
<b>Sunday, September 6</b> 10:00 Worship
<b>Sunday, September 13</b> 10:00 Worship
<b>Sunday, September 20</b> 10:00 Worship
<b>Sunday, September 27</b> 10:00 Worship Rev. Karen Frank-Plumlee
<b>Sunday OCTOBER 4</b> 10:00 Worship Rev. Karen Frank-Plumlee

### CALENDAR

Sept. 2 - Transitional Committee 10am  
Sept. 8 - Executive Committee 10am  
Sept. 13 - Board Meeting 11:30am  
Sept. 17 - Lydia Meeting 7:00pm  
Sept. 24 - Oct. 3 - Pastor David on Vacation  
Oct. 11 - Virtual CROP Walk

Please see online calendar for all events scheduled at Central Christian. Please call the church office to schedule your event.

### PASTOR'S SCHEDULE

Pastor David will be working Sunday to Thursday each week. Saturday is his study/retreat day, and Friday will be his day off. Pastor David is available at all time for emergencies. For urgent matters please call or text him at 510-461-0791. You may also contact him by email at [pastor@gfccc.net](mailto:pastor@gfccc.net).

## Prayers for our Faith Community

We continue to hold these people in our prayers: Glenn McKerrow and his family as they mourn the loss of Lea McKerrow, Carl Donovan, Kathryn Vessels & Ellie Wilson, Jerry Ness, Bobby Olguin, Becky & Jinks Monroe, and Jim & Sherry Freeman. We also hold in prayer the teachers, students, and staff of schools as they begin a new school year in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis.

### Pastor David's Vacation

Pastor David will be traveling to California to attend his son's wedding which is on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. He will be on vacation from September 24<sup>th</sup> through October 6<sup>th</sup>. He will be back in the office on October 7<sup>th</sup>. We are pleased to have Rev. Karen Frank-Plumlee as our guest preacher while Pastor David is gone. If you need pastoral care during his absence, please contact one of the Elders.

### *From the Northern Lights Region*

## Regional Assembly Update

Regional Assembly, when and where, has been a moving target this year. Our plans for the event to be an inaugural year celebration and destination at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho were cancelled, as so many things were in the Spring. In May, we asked you to Save the Date for a reimagined gathering to be held in Post Falls, Idaho. But this too has been reassessed in the face of ever-changing COVID-19 infection rates and government guidelines.

We're marching forward though! Please keep a pin on the saved dates, November 13-15, and watch for specific details to be shared as soon as we can: this Assembly is going virtual! The Assembly Planning Team is in communication with other regions that have already conducted their gatherings online and we're reaching out to you during the monthly Fireside Chat to imagine what a virtual assembly would look like to you and what pieces of an in-person gathering are important to recreate in a virtual platform. So, bear with us and stay tuned– Regional Assembly 2020 is coming to a screen near you this fall!

## Cascade County General Election Information

The following is information from the Cascade County Government Website and was copied here on August 20, 2020.

The November 3, 2020 Presidential General Election will be conducted by mail ballot with an in-person voting option available October 2, 2020 through Election Day, November 3, 2020. Registration and ballot request deadlines have also been extended. Ballots will be mailed to active and provisionally registered voters starting October 9th, 2020. Return postage is prepaid. You do not need to add any postage to the return envelope if you return your ballot by mail.



We hope that our voters will take advantage of the opportunity to vote through the mail and to vote early. This will reduce the number of people that need to vote in-person on Election Day, and will therefore reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission to voters and election workers. Our in-person operation will be socially distanced, will require that you wear a mask and will be operated according to public health guidelines. Both your right to vote and your safety are important to us.

## Loaves & Fishes Dinner Cancelled

For the health and safety of the members of the 13 churches involved in FISH, it was decided to cancel the 2020 Loaves & Fishes Dinner.

This dinner is the major fund raiser for FISH which usually raises about \$7500 during the dinner and auction.

The Town Pump Charitable Foundation has invited FISH to be part of the 19th annual "Be a Friend in Deed, Helping Those in Need" food bank campaign.

Town Pump will match each dollar collected by FISH up to \$20,000 from September 1 through November 30.

If you wish to support FISH, you may write a check to **FISH for the Loaves & Fishes dinner**. The address of FISH is: Box 662 Great Falls, MT 59403.

What a great way to double your donation!

## Notes continued...

- Continued spiritual growth. We are an outreach church but have not had a new outreach challenge for a while. Continue to be a generous church, monetarily, and spiritually.
- I hope we continue to grow into a deeper spirituality – perhaps learning new prayer types from other traditions (i.e., Native American, contemplative, etc.). I hope we are able to be a voice of the helping to get at the history and roots of racism and do something to begin eradication and healing of ethnic/racial division.
- Reach and serve people in Great Falls that we have not even thought about yet.
- To maintain our forward movement as a congregation and find our new mission and direction.
- Be more involved in LBGTQ issues since we are an open and affirming church. Reach out to folks who miss church. Have more social gatherings when we can.
- More diversity in the congregation. Continue Open and Affirming Mission with even more LGBTQ members. Group participation in BLM events.
- My hope is we can all get along, and all be treated equally: All of us are important.
- To thrive and reach a broader community. Thank you, Pastor James, for accepting the call to be here.
- We continue our worship as is...also our values.
- More traditional music and praise band. Everyone welcome.
- That the focus of the church is broad, not narrow.
- Being a church family again, once the coronavirus hopefully is gone.
- Continue to grow in faith and practice spiritual practices. To “see” how to help others in real life and God. Learn more about being the church in the world.
- A trust in our church that will carry through with a deeper knowledge of who we are and who our church could be.
- Continue to grow in faith, including acceptance for all people. Support David James and have success in finding a permanent replacement. Enjoy fellowship.

*Peace,*

*Pastor David*

## Indigenous Film Festival Aug 31-Oct 5 Register today to participate in this FREE event!

Dear Northern Lights friends,

“I can’t breathe.” Protests and police responses. Our cities and hearts afire.

During any other year, these many visible reminders of our nation’s original sins of slavery, racism, and the doctrine of discovery might have made the work of ending racism and promoting reconciliation a hands down priority for us as people of the way of Jesus Christ and his gospel of justice and hope. But 2020 has not been any other year. Racism stands as just one among a handful of disasters natural and human-made that leave so many of us feeling overwhelmed by this moment and unprepared to respond. I stand right there with you in your frustration, exhaustion, and uncertainty given everything happening around us.



While it’s obvious that we have much work to do before justice might roll down like an ever-flowing stream, becoming an anti-racist and pro-reconciling denomination remains at the heart of our work as Disciples of Christ and is an important task for us as we continue to form and reform our new Northern Lights Region. So, I’m delighted to offer an opportunity for you to take what might even be your first steps on this pro-reconciling journey we’re called to share. I hope you’ll *virtually* join me and others from around our region at the first Indigenous Online Film Festival beginning next week. Featuring works by Indigenous American creators, this festival will release new films grouped by category every Monday from August 31<sup>st</sup> to September 28<sup>th</sup>, which will be available to view online for one week. The festival is free to all who register at the following website:

<https://visionmakermedia.org/online-filmfest>

Thanks for reading this far and considering your part in helping proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ by the voices of Indigenous American creators. I hope to share more with you moving forward on how we work together to end racism and foster reconciliation soon. But in the meantime, I hope to “see” you at the festival!

Yours in Christ’s service,  
Rev. Clint Collins  
Regional Anti-Racism and Pro-Reconciliation Coordinator

## General Board Announces Cancellation of 2021 General Assembly

Dear Church:

We write to you in unprecedented times to share some unprecedented news: In a special called meeting of the General Board of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) via Zoom on Sunday, July 19, 2020, the board voted to cancel the 2021 General Assembly originally scheduled for July 31-Aug. 4, 2021, in Louisville, KY.

This was not a decision that was made lightly. After many weeks of prayer, investigation and long discussion, it became obvious to us that we needed to act in the best interests of the Church going forward. The COVID-19 pandemic has made travel and large gatherings ill-advised until the situation becomes more stable.

Even in these difficult days, and maybe more so in these difficult days, we are united in our conviction that God is with us. Over these past several months, we have often prayed together using the words of Romans 8:38-39, which would have been our theme scripture at the General Assembly: There is nothing that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. We know this to be true.

With gratitude,

Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President

## Week Of Compassion Continues Covid-19 Response

*Rev. Caroline Hamilton-Arnold- Week of Compassion Associate Director, Domestic Disaster Response*

As this pandemic continues to rage around the world, needs continue to grow. Recent reports from Oxfam International and the World Food Programme indicate that nearly 300 million people could face crisis hunger by the end of this year -- a more than 40% increase over 2019. ***In the face of this need, we are inviting Disciples to “Grow Your Compassion” with a designated offering for COVID-19 Relief.*** 100% of designated gifts will go to alleviate suffering caused by this pandemic: domestically, through our Household Solidarity Grants for Income Loss and grants to support Disciples feeding ministries; and internationally, through partners who are focusing on food security and slowing the spread of the coronavirus through water, sanitation, and hygiene. **So far, within the Northern Lights Region, 2 households from 2 congregation have received Household Solidarity Grants for Income Loss.**