

Moderators Message

Dear Disciples Family,

Grace abounds! Justin Holcomb, an Episcopalian priest, says grace is getting what you don't deserve. I think grace is much more than that (and Justin says so later in his essay). Grace is being forgiven on a daily basis. Grace is living in and feeling God's love. Furthermore, grace is passing on God's grace to others. We forgive as we have been forgiven. We pass it on. We pay it forward. Grace is at the core of our faith and our beliefs.

Pastor Bryant from Boston Heights Church of God said that grace is reflecting God's glory. How do we do that? Every time we forgive automatically, we forgive hurts just because. Grace is giving; giving of ourselves, our time, our finances, our joy, our hard work to make life better for all. Grace is praying for others. We ask God to relieve the pain and hurts of others knowing that God hears our prayers. Grace is visiting those who are hurting or in the hospital. Taking time to pray with them, or just visit. Grace is a second grader sharing her lunch with another who has no lunch. And grace is her mother putting more food in the lunch box to share.

Grace is working for others by painting, cleaning, repairing. Grace is letting others see our love for them, not just those in our congregation but those outside, other Christians and nonbelievers. Grace is so much more. We feel grace automatically as children of God. We also show grace automatically by reflecting God's nature.

May the grace of God and the grace of you shine out in this New Year!

Margaret Houge, Moderator

Incoming Moderators Message

As incoming moderator of Central Christian Church for 2021, I would like to thank everyone for having the confidence in me to trust me with this position. I hope everyone will be comfortable coming to me with questions you might have, concerns regarding the church, and keeping the entire church in your prayers as we go forward, especially in the search for a new pastor. I look forward to serving you in this new year. I am hopeful we can come back to the church as this pandemic eases. Be safe, wear a mask, social distance, and have a Very Happy New Year! God's Blessings!

LeAnn Budeski

THE VIEW

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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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January 2021



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VISION STATEMENT

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





First off, I want to extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation for the generosity of this congregation during the Christmas season. Your gifts

are much appreciated. Your love shines through and brightens my days.

I am writing this as we approach a new year and a new beginning. I think most of us would agree that 2020 was not the best year. We did, however, make it through. Sometimes, I wonder how. Grace is a word that comes to mind, God's grace. It is our faith that pushes us forward, even in the darkest of times. I recall a banner that hung in a church I once served. It read, "Faith is walking up to the edge of all the light you have and taking one more step." I am certain that this pandemic, the ongoing mess in Washington D.C., the issues of systemic racism, political differences, acts of violence, and other things that create the darkness around us, can never overcome the light that shines forth through God's love. When I was about eight years old, our neighbor, a retired minister, gave me my first Bible. On the inside cover he wrote several Scriptures, and I have always remembered one in particular. From Hebrews 13:5, "I will never leave you or forsake you." Hold on to this promise. I look forward to a better year in 2021.

On a final note, I will be on vacation from January 23rd to February 6th. I appreciate the time you have granted for renewal and rest. God's peace be with you all.

Pastor David

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, January 3
10:00 Worship

Sunday, January 10
10:00am Worship

Sunday, January 17
10:00am Worship

Sunday, January 24
10:00am Worship
Rev. Karen Frank-Plumlee

Sunday, January 31
10:00am Worship
Rev. Bob Frank-Plumlee

THANK YOU FROM FISH

God bless you for your support of the FISH program. Thank you for the many ways in which you have helped FISH this year: volunteering during your FISH week; giving of financial gifts; offering prayers for our success; donating food and contributing to the Town Pump Challenge. Because of your generous giving, Town Pump will be matching \$20,000 this year.

Happy New Year!

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.

Community Joys and Concerns

We celebrate with Randy and Sheryl Knowles as they celebrate their 50th anniversary – congratulations. Pastor David's brother-in-law, Robert, had successful back surgery and is recuperating at home. We pray for the family of Sid Skaer, Stephanie Skaer's daughter-in-law as they mourn the loss of Sid's father.

During our FISH week we helped 31 families, 77 people. We gave out 2308 pounds of food. Thank you to Gary, Dennis, and Louise Hill who were the workers.

This past week we lost a long-time member as Joyce Wennerberg passed away early on Christmas Day. Graveside services will be held on Tuesday, January 5th at 2:00. She will be interred at Highland Cemetery. There will be a viewing on Sunday, January 3rd at 2:00 at O'Connor Funeral Home. Memorial donations can be sent to Central Christian Church.

Splinters from the Board



The Board of Directors met on Sunday, December 20 to take action on two items. The first was to pass a resolution regarding investment funds held at FSC Securities Corp and Invesco Mutual Funds. This is a resolution that needs to be done from time to time. The other item was to vote on the adoption of a sabbatical policy. This policy was approved.

If you have any questions about these actions, please let us know.

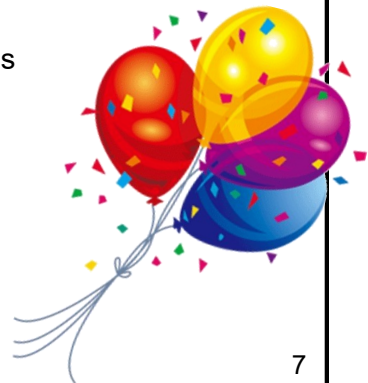
January Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 8 Glen Pipes
- 13 Kaylee Webb
- 13 Annah Anderson
- 14 Elaine Higgins
- 16 Dennis Hill
- 25 Nona Wennerberg
- 27 Brad Skaer
- 31 Kathy McKerrow

Anniversaries

- 2 Randy & Sheryl Knowles
- 10 Royden & Connie Levi
- 23 Bill & LeAnn Budeski



In Memoriam: Joyce Wennerberg

Betty "Joyce" Moritz Wennerberg, 82, went to be with the Lord and her husband at Benefis Hospital in Great Falls, Montana, on December 25, 2020, her favorite day of the year. Joyce was born February 21, 1938, to Simon and Frances (Faire) Moritz in Conrad, Montana, the third of eleven children who grew up on the family farm.

On August 6, 1955, Joyce married Donald "Donnie" Lee Wennerberg at the Mission Church in Conrad. They lost a set of newborn twins and gave birth to Mike, Greg, Kathy and Johnny while still living in Conrad. The couple moved to Great Falls, building a house on 18th Avenue South and having twins Robert and Roberta.

Living on 18th Ave S was a great blessing in the lives of the Wennerberg Family. They made many lifelong friends in that neighborhood, and the Dolsons, Redding/Lohofs, Pizzinis, Prices, Lodges, Hermans, Procivs, Luckes, Schotts and others are still more like family than just neighbors. Joyce's children attended Sunnyside Elementary school and all eventually graduated from Great Falls High School.

Throughout her lifetime, Joyce held many jobs in nursing homes as a CNA and in the kitchen. Her hobbies included playing games and pranks with her enormous family and groups of friends, helping to raise her grandchildren to love the Lord, serving at her church - Central Christian in Great Falls, sewing clothing and blankets, crocheting everything from dish rags and dolls to bed-sized afghans, cooking and baking, praying for all of the people in her heart, and simply being around everyone she loved. Joyce lived a life trying to be like Christ, and often fed large crowds of people with just her soup pot, a loaf of bread, and a batch of cookies. She had such a big heart for her faith, family, and friends, and she loved to laugh!

There will be a viewing at O'Connor Funeral Home and Crematory in Great Falls on Sunday, January 3, at 2:00 pm. Graveside services and interment at Highland Cemetery will occur on Tuesday, January 5, at 2:00 pm. The family will plan a Celebration of Life for Joyce later in 2021, likely in the spring or early summer. Anyone interested in making a memorial donation, please send to Central Christian Church in Great Falls.

Pastoral Search Committee Report

The Search Committee would like to thank everyone for completing the questionnaire included in last month's newsletter. Your responses made it possible to present an accurate profile of the members of our congregation. This was just one small portion of the Congregational Profile the committee has been completing. Over the past month we have completed sections that reflect our Congregational Discernment utilizing information gathered from the congregation's responses to Survey Results, Hopes for Central Christian Church, and Small Group Responses. We have defined the Ministries and Service Groups in our Congregation, our Community Demographics, Outreach Ministries, Congregational Dynamics, defined Goals for the Next Five Years, outlined Personal and Professional Qualifications and the Areas of Greatest Need for Ministerial Leadership.



Any candidate considering applying for our open position will be looking to our media sites including our website and Facebook page. Revisions are being made to the website. The Facebook page is taking on a new life. The church would very much like to form a "Facebook Team" that would continuously post timely, relevant posts and keep the site cleaned up. We are certain this kind of talent exists in our membership but need that talent to step forward and volunteer. If interested, please contact Pastor David.

Our next goal will be to create a "snapshot" video of our church that would introduce potential candidates to our facility, our membership, programs, outreach, etc. We want to shine above all the other congregations also in the search process to attract the best candidates. If you have ideas to include in the snapshot, please contact any member of the search committee.

Your Pastoral Search Committee: Jeremy Comstock, Elaine Higgins, Viv Hunter, Yessie Jarvey, Sheryl Knowles, Kevin McCafferty, Ken Palisin, Chair

JANUARY 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day 10:00am AA	2
3 9:00am Elders 10:00am Worship 6:00pm ACA	4 10:00am AA 1:00pm Alanon 7:00pm Search Committee	5 10:00am AA 6:30pm ACA	6 10:00am AA	7 10:00am AA	8 10:00am AA	9 3:00pm MT Blind & Low Vision
10 9:00am Elders 10:00am Worship 11:30 Annual Meeting 6:00pm ACA	11 10:00am AA 1:00pm Alanon 7:00pm Search Committee	12 10:00am AA 6:30pm ACA	13 10:00am AA	14 10:00am AA	15 10:00am AA	16
17 9:00am Elders 10:00am Worship 6:00pm ACA	18 10:00am AA 1:00pm Alanon 7:00pm Search Committee Martin Luther King Day	19 10:00am AA 6:30pm ACA	20 10:00am AA	21 10:00am AA 7:00pm Lydia Group	22 10:00am AA	23 Pastor David on vacation
24 9:00am Elders 10:00am Worship 6:00pm ACA Pastor David on vacation	25 10:00am AA 1:00pm Alanon 7:00pm Search Committee Pastor David on vacation	26 10:00am AA 6:30pm ACA Pastor David on vacation	27 10:00am AA Pastor David on vacation	28 10:00am AA Pastor David on vacation	29 10:00am AA Pastor David on vacation	30 10:00am AA Pastor David on vacation
31 9:00am Elders 10:00am Worship 6:00pm ACA Pastor David on vacation						