

Moderators Message

Dear Disciples Family,

I want to begin my Lenten Message with the Blessings of this Easter Season. Knowing we are starting to get back to some normalcy by getting everyone vaccinated, schools are reopening, as are restaurants, churches, gyms, & movie theaters. We still need to trust in God and know He is with us wherever we are. Our church will continue to follow the guidelines we have been given until it is safe to open safely and without reservation. As we proceed through Lent, let's focus on those we often ignore. We need to be generous and focus on freedoms that we have taken for granted. We need to continue to feed the hungry and give where we can. We also need to continue to pray for and with the search committee as they begin interviews with pastoral candidates. Easter Blessings and prayers be with all of you.

LeAnn Budeski, Moderator

Newsletter Changes

Beginning in May "The View" will be sent out electronically to your email address. Please sign up now at www.gfccc.net if you would like to continue to receive the monthly church news. Be aware that your email address will not be put on any other list, published or given out

We will continue to send out a few hard copies to those who request it. Please give us a call at the church office if you prefer to receive "The View" by mail.

April Birthdays

Birthdays

2 Rachel Buley
4 Shelly Fagenstrom
4 Andy McKerrow
4 Lydia Comstock
7 Brandie Stinson
8 Don Reynolds

20 Dick Locke
22 Brandee Nieman
27 Jack Carroll
30 Clarence Young



THE VIEW

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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.

VISION STATEMENT

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

April 2021



Handicap Accessible

Easter Meditation

Finding God Again, Henri Nouwen

How often have I lived through these weeks without paying much attention to penance, fasting, and prayer? How often have I missed the spiritual fruits of the season without even being aware of it? But how can I ever really celebrate Easter without observing Lent? How can I rejoice fully in your Resurrection when I have avoided participating in your death? Yes, Lord, I have to die—with you, through you, and in you—and thus become ready to recognize you when you appear to me in your Resurrection. There is so much in me that needs to die: false attachments, greed and anger, impatience and stinginess.... I see clearly now how little I have died with you, really gone your way and been faithful to it. O Lord, make this Lenten season different from the other ones. Let me find you again. Amen.

(Source: A Cry for Mercy: Prayers from the Genesee)



As the season of Lent has drawn to a close we embark into Eastertide and a new journey. The Christian Year always moves forward – always pointing us toward the Good

News! The Christian Year begins with Advent, a time of preparation for Christmas. It moves forward to Ash Wednesday and a forty-day period of Lent, a time of self-reflection in preparation for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. Then Easter comes and we step into a new journey, this one toward Pentecost and the celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Church Year is the repetitive reminder of the whole gamut of God’s love. It is the story of our transformation in Christ.

- Christ is promised
- Christ is born
- Christ walks upon the earth
- We remember the “we are dust, and to dust shall we return”
- We repent of our sins
- Christ suffers and dies for those same sins
- Christ rises from the dead and promises the gift of the Holy Spirit before he ascends into heaven
- The Holy Spirit fills us and we go into the world to make disciples

Yes, it is a repetitive reminder. Still, like our celebration of the Lord’s Supper every week, this reminder never becomes dull, rote, or trivial. Let us celebrate Easter and let us move toward the reminder we are filled with God’s Spirit and sent into the world to do the work God has called us to and set before us.

Pastor David

OUR WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday, April 4
Easter Sunday
10:00 Worship

Sunday, April 11
10:00am Worship

Sunday, April 18
10:00am Worship

Sunday, April 25
10:00am Worship

Work Weekend at Cane Ridge West

Work Weekend is tentatively scheduled for May 14 - 16. Please save the date! Work Weekend is a mission opportunity – a chance for you to come to Cane Ridge West, enjoy fellowship and nature and help us prepare for the summer. You’ll work with others to complete projects and play a part in preserving and improving the camp we have all come to know and love, a place where lives are changed for Christ. There are opportunities for all ages and skill levels – no experience necessary! We hope to see you there!

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.

Splinters from the Board



The Church Board met on Sunday, March 21.

January and February financial reports were presented. Giving is still down. Total General Fund receipts for both months were \$15,411. Expenses were \$21,987, including our Disciples outreach.

The Board approved appointing Kathy Asich to the Diaconate to fill a vacancy.

Current COVID restrictions for in-person worship will remain until a recommendation for any changes comes from the COVID safety task force.

Chris Hunter provided an update on Family Promise. They are currently in the process of re-organization. They are also seeking new Board members. If you are interested in serving on the Family Promise Board, please contact Pastor David or Chris Hunter.

Ken Palisin asked the Board to approve funds for expenses involved in bringing a Pastoral candidate to Great Falls for a visit. The Board approved an amount not to exceed \$5,000. It was noted that this amount is likely much more than will actually be spent.

Pastor David expressed his deep appreciation to all for their care, concern, and support while he was away on sick leave. He also reported the Executive Committee approved his request for spiritual retreat and study time. He will be on retreat from April 17-24.

Sometime after Easter, we will be producing a “pictorial directory” for the new Pastor once she or he arrives. Pastor David will be taking the pictures. This will also be an opportunity for families, should they choose, to have a “family portrait” taken. All photos taken will be forward to each family, and you can print any of those photos you choose. We will have a sign-up sheet to schedule a time for you to have your picture taken.

A donor has provided funds for a new camera to be used for our Zoom worship. Chris Hunter is working on getting it set up for use.

The Board approved a request from Veterans Treatment Court Mentors group to hold their quarterly meetings at the church. Our church administrator, Ruth Lindabury, is part of this group.

Community Joys and Concerns

Congratulations to Kevin McCafferty on his retirement from the Great Falls Clinic Hospital. We also wish Yessie Jarvey good luck and best wishes as she makes her move to Florida in May. We are pleased to report that our congregation is nearly 80% vaccinated. Continue to keep Arlene Morrison in your prayers.

2021 Easter Special Offering

Imagine what God can do when we share our gifts. The Easter offering reaches deep and wide with the risen Christ's limitless power by developing Disciples, forming new faith communities, connecting with ministry partners around the world, serving God's people in need.

Deep...

leadership development programs for college and seminary students

Bible studies that challenge and inspire

opportunities for clergy to gather in prayer

spiritual care for those in prison

resources for mental health and trauma care

visionary leadership that calls the church to imagine new ways to witness to God's love

and wide ...

global ministry partners who work for justice, reconciliation, and peace

colleges, universities, and theological institutions that nurture Christian leaders who are transforming church, society, and world

volunteers who help in the aftermath of disasters

new congregations who worship in a variety of languages and worship styles

ministry grants for congregational service ministries that serve hungry neighbors

Please give generously to this year's Easter Offering.



Pastoral Search Committee Report

Your Pastoral Search Committee wants to let you all know we are committed to keeping up a good pace looking for the best candidate for Central Christian Church.



We have reviewed new candidate profiles sent to us, contacted references, and continue to review sermons and meditations. We also wanted to note our Website and our Snapshot Video have received several positive comments.

At present, we are narrowing down candidates to find the one that seems to be the best fit. We will continue to work in the coming weeks to bring our pastoral search efforts to a successful and satisfying conclusion.

Thank You from the Pastoral Search Committee

Thank you to all those who helped with our search for a new pastor! Besides the Pastoral Search Committee, Ken Palisin, Chair, and Jeremy Comstock, Elaine Higgins, Viv Hunter, Yessie Jarvey, Sheryl Knowles, and Kevin McCafferty, many of the rest of you helped, too! First of all, thank you to LeAnn Budeski for gathering our committee together; we turned out to be a good cross-section of the congregation and work together compatibly. We offer now a special thank you to Jacob Novak and Charlie Novak, who created our spotlight video, to Emily Comstock, who narrated it, to Marjorie Kohler, who provided the musical background for it, and her son Rob Kohler who converted it to a useable format. Thanks to the many of you who provided background information for our congregational profile (although you may not know it), especially Bob Frank-Plumlee, LeAnn Budeski, Barb Kakalecik, and Chris Hunter. Thank you to all of you who provided pictures and to all of you who signed photo releases so we could include photos of you. We also thank all of you who participated in the small group meetings last Fall and those of you who answered the survey about what you wished to see in our next pastor. Thank you also to Ruth Lindabury, who handled lots of administrative help, especially with our webpage, and Lynn Yahraus, who rescued it from oblivion. We would also like to thank Mary Larson of the First Christian Church in Helena, whom we consulted regarding some procedures. Finally, a big thank-you to Pastor David James, who guided the early part of our Search process before considering candidates. And of course, lots of thanks to Rev. Sandy Messick, our Regional Minister, who guided the entire process. So, **THANK YOU ALL!**

APRIL 2021

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