

Worship+FB Live with Pastor Kate

- 1) On Sundays (after Aug.7) at 9:15am begins "FB Live with Pastor Kate" on our church FB page (below), with discussion following.
- 2) Sundays Worship 10:30am *in person* and also on <https://www.facebook.com/Columbus-Community-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-109813516270/>
- 3) Pastor's office hours: on Wednesdays 9:30am-3:00pm and on Fridays 9:30am-1:30pm
- 4) Wednesday Bible study "on pause" until fall.
- 5) Walkin' & Talkin' Thurs. 8:30am from LSC
- 6) Coffee with Pastor Kate Fridays 10-11am.
- 7) Worship at Beartooth Manor (1pm) and at Meadowlark (2pm) on 3rd Friday afternoon each month, August 19 this month

Send emails to ucccolumbus@gmail.com. Please send requests and items for this newsletter to joan.nye10@gmail.com. Mail donations or pledge payments to Community Congregational Church, PO Box 545, Columbus, MT 59019 OR use the **GIVE** button at <https://columbuscommunityucc.com>

Outdoor Worship August 7

On August 7 we'll have our worship outdoors at Fireman's Point, beginning at 10:30am and including communion and Ed Cash on guitar! For lunch afterwards Jerry & Cary Frank are bringing meat; others will bring side dishes. TeamWorks will provide paper goods & drinks. Our Absarokee sister church is coming for this gathering. Please join us and COME, even if you can't bring a side. This church community always has plenty of food!



TIOSPAYE

Last year at this time we were frantically going through the work of preparing to move to Montana. I recall that every morning as soon as I opened my eyes, I knew immediately

that I must get up and begin the tasks that would help us accomplish "The Move." I find it hard to realize that I am approaching the completion of my first year as your pastor.

There is always a learning curve with a new job. My intention has been to bring a sense of joy and focus to our worship as well as to every aspect of our life together. My hope has been to increase the sense of community among us and also to build community with others beyond our walls. As my first year comes to a close, I find myself evaluating my efforts towards those goals. But my self-evaluation is limited. Your input is invaluable as we continue to work together. What have you found helpful or meaningful? What would you like to see more? Less? What improvements might you suggest?

While you ponder that, let me just offer you something I came across recently. I felt drawn to a book on my office shelf that I had read some years ago, When the Heart Waits, by Sue Monk Kidd. In it she shares the story of a friend who had put all her energies into climbing the corporate ladder. She was drained and feeling like she was in a midlife swamp. She took some time away, went to Maine where she took long walks in the country, often feverishly praying and pleading with God. But one day she came across a spider in the midst of spinning its web. She found herself captivated. She described the experience to Ms. Monk Kidd:

I sat on a stump for the longest time, watching the spider. And you know what? The most beautiful thing happened. This is the way you're supposed to pray, a voice inside me said. Just be quiet and still so that you can begin to see the thing God is already weaving. So that's what I've started to do."

I pray as we head into this second year on our journey together, as our council prepares to revisit Visioning this fall, that we will endeavor to "be quiet and still so that we can begin to see the thing God is already weaving." God is Still Speaking. God is in our midst. Thanks be to God!

Shalom, Kate

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Website <https://columbuscommunityucc.com/>

Facebook: Columbus Community Congregational
(specific website above on p.1)

Every Thursday: Walkin' and Talking' group leave from the **Little Stone Church** at 8:30 am. The number of walkers varies. Coffee and conversation follow in Little Stone Church, about 9:15 am, and non-walkers are welcome for coffee and treats too.

Aug 7	Outdoor Worship 10:30am at Fireman's Point – with Communion & meal & Abs.
Aug 14	Diaconate & Trustees meet after worship
Aug 19	Friday afternoon Worship services at Beartooth (1pm) / Meadowlark (2pm)
Aug 21	Council meets after worship
Aug 24	CornerStone items to Joan, please
Aug 26 - 27	Camp Mimanagish gathering of adults – contact Kate to reserve your spot. \$70 for one night+3 meals: Fri. noon to Sat. morn.

Prayer Concerns: Karen Brewer, Dan & Carol Hofferber, Thelma Black & her son Bob Harper, Beth Damm, Bill & Janice Goodman, Vicky Unger, Donna McFarland, Dick Henry, Joseph Garcia, Drew Maki, Sam Spano, Vanessa Cameron, Diane & Mike Stocker, Meadowlark + Beartooth Manor, all health care workers and First responders, all affected by Covid-19, floods, mental and/or physical health challenges, grief, suicide, other losses.

Moderator's Musings

In my last offering I provided a brief history of who we are as a church. This one will provide some thoughts on where we are today and could be titled, "Why I am in this church?" If we are "non-doctrinal" then what do we believe? For me it started at church camp – Mimanagish – with a discussion led by Rev. Stacy Richards, then pastor in Great Falls. As we were discussing some bible passage, he said words to the effect, "Don't focus so much on the words that you miss the message." He gave us permission to not believe the literal scripture. Take Luke 10:25-37 – the story of the Good Samaritan – as an example. It's a parable. Does it matter if there wasn't a Levite or a priest who walked by on the other side – nope. The message is "Love your neighbor as yourself."

OK, that's an easy one. The point is "we" are allowed to question. We are folks with more questions than answers, as many doubts as certainties. As independents we are allowed and required to search, research, discuss to develop as much or little as we need and want. "No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." From decades ago to nearer term this has been a consistent message.

Not too long ago we were discussing who is welcome.

Someone said, "...but they have to be Christians."

Nope. We just need to look at Luke 10:25-37

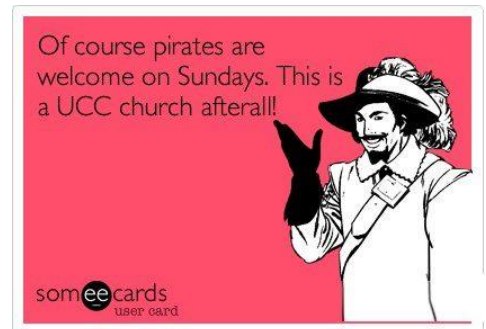
again for the answer to "Who is my neighbor?" When do we get in trouble? The answer is quite simple; it is when we are intolerant of diversity; when we do not respect these wonderfully independent souls who are our neighbors, friends, and fellow travelers on life's journey.

Maurie Petterson

♪♪ **Special Music** ♪♪

Teen A.J. Browning sang for worship on July 24; we loved his sharing his talent. Devin Matthews again will play her classical guitar on Aug. 14. Use Devin's contacts to inquire about or arrange for classical guitar lessons at our Little Stone Church:

501-691-5299 (text/call) devinmatthewsguitar@gmail.com



From Council meeting minutes, July 17

FINANCIAL REPORT: Jim reported that we received a \$1000 check someone who attended our Baroque Music Montana concert in June. The \$1000 check originally in the memorial fund has since been transferred to Teamworks. We still are ahead of last year's donations. Curt and Jim are now in balance. Reminder to ask IGA for storage building rent.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Vanguard account has dropped according to market fluctuations. The new Endowment account with Vanguard is set up finally. Maurie will be added as 3rd endowment account mgr per the instructions of the Trustees. He mentioned that the 2nd half of the insurance is due this coming month. A check was written to Mission.

TRUSTEES REPORT: Bonnie reported that the Little Stone Church has been repainted by Viv Gerke and her crew. Maurie moved the Boy Scout flags to the coal room. The old minister chair has been moved to the sanctuary. Tables and chairs were moved back. Other items still to be disposed of or moved. Will determine if piano can be tuned.

DIACONATE: Food drive for Project Hope. Outdoor service at Fireman's Point on Aug 7. Adult overnight at Camp Mim-some of the buildings are available with bathrooms in them. If we could use them, about 8 people said they would consider going up for a day. TV situation- Jerry said that we have the equipment, it just needs to be installed. Jim will contact Mr. Stark for a microphone update. The Blessing of the Stulce Home is being postponed - Meg Hatch not available in August.

CHRISTINAN ED: Camp scholarships-No report from the conference as to whether we owe anything.

MISSIONS: Mary reported all going well.

TEAMWORKS: Beth noted that \$1000 was received from the funeral of Donna Storer. It was recommended that someone from the Teamworks be present at functions in the fellowship hall, especially if they are using the kitchen.

PASTOR KATE: Camp was challenging because of the small number of campers. She is getting close to her one-year anniversary here at Columbus Community Congregational Church and looking forward to it. She plans to do some FB Live comments/discussion for Sunday mornings (see p1).

CHURCH CLERK: Rhonda reported by her report that it is very hot in the corner and smells of urine. Maurie said that we try putting fans in the windows on early in the mornings to cool it down. No action

taken on portable air conditioners proposed by Rhonda. Will also check the registers to make sure that they are covered to alleviate the smell.

EARTHCARE: Joan will present, at our [zoom] conference annual meeting, a workshop about our church's EarthCare efforts & actions.

BUSINESS: There is a request from the conference that we do a short podcast/video about our church. One suggestion is to do a video of our outdoor service on August 7. Easy to do with a phone. Joan said that she has 2 numbers for piano tuners and would contact this week. Bonnie will contact Meadowlark to see if they would be interested in a piano if it can be tuned.

Next meeting: August 14,2022

Bonnie Kinsfather, Trustee

Your Good Road

(Translation of The Lord's Prayer)

“O Great Spirit, our Father from above, your name as sacred and holy.

Bring your good road to us, where the beauty of your ways in the spirit-world above is reflected in the earth below.

Provide for us day by day – the elk, the buffalo, and the salmon. The corn, the squash, and the wild rice. All the good things we need for each day.

Release us from the things we have done wrong in the same way we release others for the things done wrong to us.

And guide us away from the things that tempt us to stray from your good road.”

-Luke 11:2b-4, First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament



Baroque Montana concert on June 17, 2022

Rich Towards God

From Pastor Kate's sermon on July 31, 2022

Luke 12:13-21 contains *The Parable of the Rich Fool* and begins with someone saying, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." Jesus replied, "Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?" Then he added, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions."

In Jesus' times it was not unusual for someone to appeal to a local rabbi to help resolve a legal matter. Law and religion were so closely intertwined that there was barely any distinction between a judge and a teacher. Jesus discerned that the man's legal concern was not the real problem; it was greed.

The misuse of wealth was a major topic in first century Palestine. Almost every chapter of Luke's Gospel has some reference to money. Greed is nothing more than a desire to have more than we actually have. Jesus used this exchange as an opportunity to explain why greed has no place in the Kingdom of God. Focusing on accumulation of wealth and goods isolates a person from others while the Kingdom of God---or *KINDOM* as it is more aptly called--- is about community, interconnectedness, living and working together for the glory of God.

Jesus tells the parable of the rich man who decided to tear down his barns and build bigger ones to store the excess grain from an especially abundant harvest. He would be well set for many years. Isn't it wise and responsible to save for the future? The rich farmer worked hard and saved wisely so he now can relax and enjoy the fruits of his labor.



But there is one very important thing the rich man has not planned for — his reckoning with God, who said to him, "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?" (Luke 12:20)

The rich farmer is a fool not because he is wealthy nor because he saves for the future, but because he appears to live only for himself and because he believes he can secure his life with possessions.

The rich man's land has produced abundantly, yet

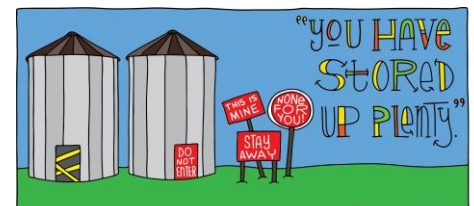
he expresses no sense of gratitude to God or to the workers who have helped him plant and harvest this bumper crop. He has more grain in storage than he could ever use, yet seems to have no thought of sharing it with others, and no thought of what God might require of him. He is blind to the fact that his life belongs to God and that God can demand it back at any time.

When Jesus looks at the rich landowner reveling in his stores of grain, he sees a person drowning in self-absorption and oblivious to his own mortality. From the *Message* translation Luke 12:20-21: "Just then God showed up and said, 'Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods—who gets it? That's what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God.'"

What a terrible state to be in. Yet we can recognize it all around us and can recognize it within ourselves. We find plenty of ways to fill ourselves with worries, with distractions, with plans that exclude any thought of God.

Jesus conveys in this parable, the fate of an isolated, insecure soul who has forgotten human connection and forgotten that in the face of Death (the great equalizer) we are all naked paupers but for the grace of God.

In most translations the last line of the Luke passage admonishes us to be *rich towards God*. What does it mean to be "rich toward God?" Each of us can consider that meaning for ourselves. But perhaps we can begin with gratitude for how rich God is toward us and out of gratitude consider how we use our resources, how we use our talents, how we reflect God's love to one another and to all we encounter. God is still speaking. God is in our midst. Thanks be to God.



Food drive for Project Hope continues thru Labor Day. Put donations in the box by the pulpit or in shopping cart in Fellowship Hall entry. (Mark cash/check donations for Project Hope.)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 <i>Meet 9:30am at Sen. Ctr 4 Coffee + rolls. Pastor in office afterwards to 3:00pm</i>	4 Walkin' & Talkin' 8:30am from Little Stone Church	5 <i>Coffee /Kate 10am</i> Pastor in office 9:30am-1:30pm	6
7 Worship 10:30am at Fireman's Point with Communion and lunch	8	9	10 Pastor in office 9:30am-3:00pm	11 Walkin' & Talkin' 8:30am from Little Stone Church	12 <i>Coffee /Kate 10am</i> Pastor in office 9:30am-1:30pm	13
FB Live 14 with Pr Kate 9:15am Worship 10:30am Diaconate + Trustees meet	15	16	17 Pastor in office 9:30am-3:00pm	18 Walkin' & Talkin' 8:30am from Little Stone Church	19 <i>Coffee /Kate 10am</i> Pastor in office 10-11:30 am Worship at Beartooth 1pm; Meadowlark 2pm	20
FB Live 21 with Pr Kate 9:15am Worship 10:30am Council meeting after worship	22	23	24 Pastor in office 9:30am-3:00pm CornerStone items to Joan please	25 Walkin' & Talkin' 8:30am from Little Stone Church.	No Office Hrs 26	27 Camp Mimanagish for adults. Contact Kate. \$70 for one night + 3 meals: Fri. noon to Sat. morn.
FB Live 28 with Pr. Kate 9:15am Worship 10:30am	29	30	31 Pastor in office 9:30am-3:00pm	We welcome the sounds of children's voices in our sanctuary during worship.		
<i>Youth singing camp songs with Pastor Kate</i>					August Birthdays & Anniversaries 2 Toni Schoenborn B 4 Sherry & Dan Aschim Anniv 11 Ron Goddard B 13 Dick Henry B 16 Roger Hanson B 22 Robert Van Oosten B 24 Ed Cash B	