



*The* Columbus Community Congregational Church  
**CORNERSTONE**  
*Ephesians 2:20*

## January 2023 Issue

### Worship “plus”

- 1) “FB Live with Pastor Kate” on Kate’s FB page *on pause* for now. Faith & Friendship begins at 9:30am Sundays.
- 2) Sunday 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 (shorter on 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays – see calendar page)
- 4) Wednesdays: Bible study in Fellowship Hall, 10:30am (but in Absarokee church on January 4, 9-11am)
- 5) Coffee with Pastor Kate Fridays 10-11am (but not on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday).
- 6) Worship at Meadowlark, Jan. 20, 2pm.



**Notice of Annual meeting:  
 Jan. 15, 2023, beginning  
 after worship & potluck**

## T I O S P A Y E

### “Spiritual” Resolutions

As the year 2022 winds down, you are likely to hear about “New Year’s Resolutions.” You may even be making some yourself. Or you may have given up the pursuit of resolutions some time ago.

I offer instead “spiritual” resolutions although I hesitate to use the term. I really believe that categorizes our lives. We are intended for wholeness. Our lives are not “spiritual” and “everything else.” So when I describe “spiritual” resolutions, I am inviting you to consider the coming year in terms of that which brings integration of faith into every aspect of your life. One of the most instructive things I ever did was to begin to pay my bills in my meditation space.

Considering money as one facet of my faith was a shift in my perspective.

What does faith look like when we include all of life’s dimensions? How do we care for our bodies? You’ll recall scripture refers to our bodies as God’s temples. How do we care for our minds? What thoughts do we dwell on? How do we spend our time? To what do we give our energies? How do we use our resources? How do we care for our relationships? What thought do we give to how we speak to one another, how we interact?

This applies to our individual lives but also to our life as a church community. Our Bible study group just finished a study on the book of Acts. The early church had its struggles. There is no need to idealize it. They were navigating a difficult transition between Judaism and Christianity, as it developed. But there was a fervor about their faith, a genuine concern for one another and for the task they were about of spreading the Good News.

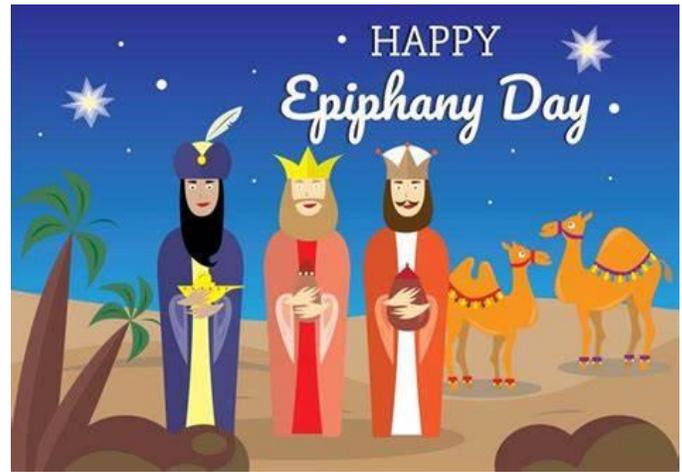
May we enter this new year with intention to develop those behaviors and practices that bring wholeness to our lives. And as we navigate our own transition, between church as we once knew it and church as it is changing, let us do so as those early Christians did, with a love for our community of faith and a desire to make connection with those who are seeking Good News.

Shalom, Kate

P.S. I remind you of the meaning of Tiospaye (or Tiyospaye): Tiyospaye embraces the beauty of living in harmony, taking care of one another, and trusting each other. Your tiyospaye will support you throughout life’s journeys, whether the road is rocky or the path smooth. For the Lakota, you are not only a member of the family through birth, marriage, or adoption, but your family extends far beyond to include the whole Lakota nation. Throughout history, whenever the Lakota would travel somewhere, they could expect to be welcomed and supported as if they were in their own immediate family.

## Church Contacts

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## EPIPHANY with White Elephant Gifts

On New Year's Day we shall share a simple communion service in Fellowship Hall. The next Sunday we shall celebrate Epiphany on Jan. 8 with a special service and a celebration after. Epiphany is generally celebrated the Sunday closest to Jan. 6, the traditional date assigned to the arrival of the magi to the home of Jesus.

As the wise ones were described as bringing gifts to the young child, we would like to have a celebration of gifts by having a "white elephant" exchange (something you have but would like to give away). Sometimes this is called a Chinese auction. We used to have these with our family, and they were so much fun. Bring a wrapped item - it can be useful, can be silly, definitely not something you go out and purchase. The idea is something that you have but don't use, that either someone else might find useful or perhaps humorous. The gifts that become "prized" and contested over can be quite funny. (I was once at a party where the "porta potty" was sought after in the exchange that occurs in the game!) So please keep this in mind and join us on January 8. Even if you don't bring a gift, you'll enjoy "the show" as gifts are exchanged.

**Annual Meeting is after worship on Jan. 15, 2023, with potluck meal for ALL.**

Jan 1	Communion Sunday in Fellowship Hall
Jan 4	Bible study at Absarokee church, 9-11am
Jan 5	Board & Committee reports for annual meeting to be submitted to Rhonda
Jan 8	<b>Epiphany</b> Sunday celebrated White Elephant exchange during Fellowship After that, Trustees and Diaconate meeting
Jan 11, 18, 25	Bible study 10:30am Fell. Hall
Jan 15	Annual meeting with potluck after worship
Jan 17	Community Connect program <b>6:30pm</b> – County Ext. agent Lee Schmelzer speaks about Precision Farming: the technology, the equipment, and the plant science
Jan 20	Friday afternoon Worship services at Meadowlark Assisted Living 2pm
Jan 21	Valentine Craft day 10 am–12:30 pm
Jan 25	CornerStone items to Joan, please

Facebook: "Columbus Community Congregational"  
 Send emails to [ucccolumbus@gmail.com](mailto:ucccolumbus@gmail.com). Send  
 items for the newsletter to [joan.nye10@gmail.com](mailto:joan.nye10@gmail.com).  
 Mail donations to church (P O Box 545) **OR** use the  
**GIVE** button <https://columbuscommunityucc.com>

**Results from the annual SWEETS SALE for  
 our church Mission funds \$1,826.00.**

Thank you to all who prepared goodies for sale  
 and to all who shopped for holiday treats.



**Tuesday, Jan. 17: 6:30 pm**  
**Community Connect topic:**  
**Precision Farming**

**Holiday Wreath-making on Jan. 21**  
**Calling all crafters:** gather with Rhonda,  
 our master crafter, in Fellowship Hall this  
 Saturday morning, 10 am to 12:30 pm, for  
 Valentine crafting, e.g. heart door wreaths.

## Moderator's Musings

Greetings on the eve of a new year. As the calendar turns to 2023 so our church year starts another year. 2022 has been a good year for us. We have - again, yet, still, some more - served as the **Community** church. We have hosted all sorts of meetings, receptions, sales, and significantly started "Community Connect." Bharat Acharya presented a terrific program on India in our first event, an excellent learning opportunity. The second was a non-partisan candidate forum. In a time of heated rhetoric and hostility the forum was an excellent opportunity for moderated discussion.

Pr. Kate has initiated several new programs and changes to "the way we have always done it." We have reestablished the joint choir with St. James Lutheran church for good fun and good music.

Remember the Angel said, "I bring you good news of great joy." We have had good news as well. Attendance and giving are both up. The better news is that even with the sorrow of loved ones lost, sickness, and folks departing, there has been joy among our members and friends.

The best news is there is more to come. Please join us, and participate in the planning and journey as we create the future for our church and community.

Maurie Petterson

Question for Everyone: What would you like to see and hear in other "Community Connect" programs? Is there something about which you are curious, or concerned, or care about that would be good to share with the community? Please let any Council member know, we will see if we can arrange it.

**Prayer Concerns:** Dan & Carol Hofferber, Bob Harper, Bill & Janice Goodman, Karen Brewer, Vicky Unger, Donna McFarland, Dick Henry, Drew Maki, Sam Spano, Vanessa Cameron, family of Gus Spencer (grandson of Mary Kuehn's sister Aileen), Una Kay + Rhonda's cousin Susan Campbell.

All the people currently affected by storms and floods. Residents and staff of Meadowlark. All affected by closure of Beartooth Manor. All those affected by their own or others' mental illness. All feeling loss or pain. All caregivers of others. All those who are in harm's way. All those who are suffering in these trying times.

## Christmas greetings from some in our church family

From **Doreen Spano**: *The Golden Rule* (Matthew 7:12) is common to all religions, as shown below:

**Christianity:** Do to others as you would have them do to you.

**Judaism:** That which is hateful to you, do not do to others.

**Islam:** None of you truly believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself.

**Hinduism:** Do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.

**Buddhism:** Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find painful.

**Native American tradition:** All things are our relatives; what we do to everything we do to ourselves. All is really One.

From **Bill and Janice Goodman**:



Their daughter, **Traci Marchwinski**, posted on Facebook (FB): "First time in a long time Dan didn't have to work Christmas Eve. So Dan, Colton, Ava, and I called the Rescue Mission to see what they needed. They had just had 5 new families check in that they needed gifts for. We four shopped for gifts, wrapped the kids' gifts, and delivered them to the shelter. The shelter was crowded and loud. People crying and people jostling. It was so different from the security we know. Hoping we made their Christmas a little brighter."

After 47 FB comments Traci wrote again: "I didn't respond right away as it took me awhile to process everything we took in. I didn't sleep much that night as I couldn't quit replaying what I had experienced when at the Mission. I will definitely do this again with my family. It was far more gratifying and more fun than buying gifts for us. My overall goal would be to do something like this more often and at times other than Christmas."

**Donna Bowersox** sends Christmas greetings to all. She was pleased to receive the Christmas gift bag of goodies, delivered by Joan & Jerry Nye on Dec. 18. With football on TV, Donna was writing Christmas cards in her cozy Mission Ridge apartment (Billings).

## From Council meeting minutes, Dec 18

PRESENT: Maurie Petterson, Jim Movius, Rhonda Peterson, Pastor Kate Stulce, Joan Nye, Curt Kuehn, and Jerry Nye.

FINANCIAL REPORT: by Jim Movius. Ahead of budget as of now.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Cleaning fund behind by \$127.42. Pledges \$7,404.17 over budget, plates +\$511.55, Rent +\$661.29 over budget. Vanguard is growing.

TRUSTEE'S REPORT: by Jim- Lockboxes are up. Budget line 501M is Mission Committee. Hanson's Cleaning supplies total \$231 and will deliver the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of month.

DIACONATE: By Jerry- Christmas eve is planned, Christmas day is informal in fellowship hall, New Year's Day- informal in fellowship hall. Jan 8- Epiphany-Soup and white elephant gift exchange during Fellowship. Kate is willing to do an evening service, willing to try bible study at different times.

CHRISTIAN ED: Children helped with service.

TEAMWORKS: Paulette is taking the leadership role. JustHope discontinuing operations in 2023.

MEMORIAL: \$7797.68 balance.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Follow up to Holiday Blues in Jan or Feb. Join Absarokee Bible study January 4. Working on Prayer Partners. Maybe start streaming her live session on our church Facebook instead of her own.

CHURCH CLERK: Annual reports are due to Clerk by January 5<sup>th</sup>.

EARTHCARE: Joan asked about appearance of collection area and other suggestions. She'll try to ask the County about recycling cardboard.

BUSINESS:

\* Digital presence- follow up with Jennifer Penfield about WIX.

\*Nomination Committee- Curt and Roger are working on things

\*Community Connect- Precision Farming

\*Annual Meeting – January 15<sup>th</sup> and will be a potluck. Jim donated ham; Rhonda is bringing cheesy hashbrowns.

Next Mtg, Feb. 19, 2023.

Rhonda Peterson, Clerk



## Bible Study Journey and Thoughts of Pastor

No Bible study Dec. 28. **On January 4 - ALL who want to join others will go to Absarokee CCC Bible study 9 am-11 am. We will see the resource they use and consider if we want to use that. I will be at the church at 8:30am on Jan. 4, and we can go together if you wish.**

If folks are interested, we could perhaps have lunch together after the Jan 4 Bible study and discuss what we think we want to do.

I have considered some additional possibilities. Paulette once mentioned Revelation, and I found a book on Revelation that might be worth consideration. We could do a study on who wrote the Bible and more background on the process of getting the Bible in the form we have it now. We could read a novel such as *The Red Tent* that gives a lot of history in a different format.

I still ponder the Acts study, the transition they were in, seeking to figure out how to live out their faith. Recall:

“The church in Jerusalem was the center of power of the early Christian church. The apostles remained in Jerusalem, so it made sense that whenever questions arose concerning faith or doctrine, ritual or practice, the apostles in Jerusalem would settle those questions. To decide the conflict that was brewing between the Jewish Christians and the Gentile Christians, a council was called in Jerusalem. All leaders of the young Christian church were there---Peter, James, John, and the other apostles. And the issue before them was this: what would be the rules to govern life together in the Christian church? Should a person be required to observe the laws of Judaism in order to be a Christian? Or could one be a Christian and not keep all those laws? *What were the essentials for life together?*” (p. 50)

What are the essentials of our life together? How do we live out our faith when so much has changed in our culture, when church has lost the numbers and participation of former years? In Acts, they had a brand-new faith; despite their confusion about the transition from Judaism to Christianity they were excited. As Paulette has mentioned several times, we are folks who have lived decades of faith with an old but enduring Christianity that has gone on for several centuries. We are challenged to bring fresh energy to enhance our faith and to enrich our church community. Thank you all for sharing the journey.

Peace, Pastor Kate



# January 2023

God is still speaking,



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Communion 1</b> Faith n Friendship 9:30 Worship 10:30 in Fellowship Hall	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Bible Study in Abs - leave 8:30am see p.4 above Pastor not in off.	<b>5</b> Reports due to Rhonda for Annual meeting	<b>6</b> Pastor in office 9:30am-1:30pm <i>Coffee with            Kate 10am</i>	<b>7</b>
<b>Epiphany 8</b> Faith n Friendship 9:30 Worship 10:30 2 <sup>nd</sup> Hand Gift Exchange (see p.2) Trustees mtg Diaconate mtg	<b>9</b> Undecorate sanctuary after gift exchange ← on Sunday, Jan. 8	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Pastor in office 9:30am-3 Bible Study 10:30	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Pastor in office 9:30am-1:30pm <i>Coffee with            Kate 10am</i>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Faith n Friendship 9:30 Worship 10:30 Potluck & Annual meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Community Connect 6:30pm Ext. Agent Lee Schmelzer on Precision Farming	<b>18</b> Pastor <u>not</u> in office Bible Study 10:30	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Pastor in office 11-12:30 Worship at Meadowlark (2pm)	<b>21</b> <b>Crafting            10-12:30</b> Valentine theme inc wreath
<b>22</b> Faith n Friendship 9:30 Worship 10:30	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Pastor <u>not</u> in office Bible Study 10:30 Cornerstone items requested	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Pastor in office 9:30am-1:30pm <i>Coffee with            Kate 10am</i>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Faith n Friendship 9:30 Worship 10:30	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Servers this month</b>			
			<b>January 1</b> Sherry & Dan Aschim	<b>January 15</b> All Church Potluck & Annual Meeting	<b>January 29</b> Paulette & Daryl Northup	
			<b>January 8 (Soup)</b> Maurie Petterson	<b>January 22</b> Curt K & Roger H	<b>February 5</b> Charlotte Van O	
			<b>People to call to fill in or help:</b> Joan & Jerry Nye    Amy Drain Patty Edwards       Cheryl Rasmussen Linda Halstead-Acharya			

**Jan. Birthdays (B) & Anniversaries (A)**

- 6 Pete Eckberg B
- 8 Barry & Bonnie Kinsfather A
- 9 Trish Goddard B
- 14 Betty Kuehn B
- 16 Karen Connor B
- 17 Karen Brewer B
- 19 Sherry Aschim B
- 25 Dan Hofferber B
- 28 Heidi Lundin B

Belated 12/14 B'day wish to Vicky Goddard

**Happy New Year!**  
 Consider making *spiritual* resolutions described in  
 Pastor Kate's Tiospaye article on page 1 above.