



The Columbus Community Congregational Church
CORNERSTONE
Ephesians 2:20

June 2023 Issue

Worship “plus”

- 1) 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 2-5 pm/ on Thursdays 10am-1pm in Little Stone Church / and on Fridays 9:30am - 1:00pm (but not on the 3rd Friday due to Meadowlark services)
- 4) Coffee with Pastor Kate Fridays 10-11am (but not on 3rd Friday)



T I O S P A Y E

Seeking the Sacred

My sermon for Camp Sunday was based on 1 Peter 2:2-5 & 9-10. What do you hear in that passage? Is it “long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation?” Is it “You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people?” Or perhaps “Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people?”

What a lot is packed into these few verses, all beautiful, powerful, meaningful. How important that we seek spiritual nourishment, that we might grow in our faith. I read that in the second and third centuries, new converts were fed milk and honey at their baptism as symbol of the spiritual nourishment on which they would need to rely.

What especially struck me in the above scripture is the imagery of living stones.

When the Pharisees told Jesus to silence His followers for proclaiming Him the King of glory, Jesus said, “I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out” (Luke 19:40). This echoes Psalm 96 verses which describe all of creation speaking out about the glory of God. And we are living stones, building blocks, in the kingdom.

The book of Nehemiah contains one of the closest references to “living stones” or “stones of life” in the Old Testament. In the company of associates, one of Nehemiah’s opponents criticizes attempts to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem saying, “What are these feeble Jews doing? Will they restore things? Will they finish it in a day? Will they revive the stones out of the heaps of rubbish—and burned ones at that?” Beside him, Tobiah the Ammonite said, “That stone wall they are building, any fox going up on it would break it down!” (Nehemiah 4:2-3).

In Nehemiah, a major focus is dispersion (after the Israelites had been conquered and were taken captive) and return to Jerusalem—themes that are also important in 1 Peter. Within this passage, imagery about stones is configured as demolition, materials salvaged and repurposed for rebuilding the Holy City and site of God’s presence. These words evoke thoughts of our Little Stone Church, how those stones speak of so much life over the years, how it has been repurposed.

From this perspective, one commentator says the “living stone” imagery may invite us to consider resurrection as a site of repurposed life and reconstruction.

Perhaps we think of resurrection as an event, i.e. Easter Sunday. But we are called to resurrection LIFE. Peter seems to use every image he can think of to impress upon us the importance of living the resurrection.

His words convey the possibility of a resurrection so profound that aspects of it are captured in images of rocks, milk, darkness, light and growth as well as in spiritual houses, precious stones, and newborn babies. May we follow Peter’s dramatic, dynamic model as we seek to grow spiritually, to live as God’s beloved, to be living stones, building blocks in the kingdom, to open ourselves to living resurrection daily. When Jesus said, “Do this in remembrance of me,” he reminds us of our calling to live a resurrected life.

Blessings, Kate

Moderator Musings

I am unsure whether Summer is just around the bend or already here. Daytime temps in the 80s and 90s, weeds flourishing, once again it appears spring was one day long – a Thursday, I think. As you make your summer plans, remember to include our church and the available opportunities. Of course, there is worship and fellowship each Sunday to include some gatherings with the Absarokee church and outdoor worship. There are also outdoor opportunities at Mimanagish. There are camps ranging from multi-generational, to fishing, to arts, to drumming. <https://www.mimanagish.org/events>

Church Events this month

Jun 4	Communion Sunday
Jun 11	Diaconate and Trustees meet after worship
Jun 7	Climate Change in Montana talk, 12 noon
Jun 7	Bible study 1:00 pm in Little Stone Church
Jun 14, 21, 28	Bible study 1:00 pm Fell. Hall
Jun 16	Friday afternoon Worship services M-lark
Jun 18	Fathers Day
Jun 22	CornerStone items to Joan please
Jun 25	Church council meets after worship

Facebook: “Columbus Community Congregational”
 Items for the newsletter to joan.nye10@gmail.com.
 Mail donations to church (P O Box 545, Columbus MT 59019) **OR GIVE** button at our new website www.columbuscommunitychurch.com

Prayer Concerns

Dan+Carol Hofferber, Beth Damm, Thelma Black, Bob Harper, Bill+Janice Goodman, Karen Brewer, Vicky Unger, Donna McFarland, Dick Henry, Una Kay DeCock, Rhonda Petson, Tristan Voller, Susan Campbell, Drew Maki, Sam Spano, everyone with challenging conditions, Meadowlark residents+staff.

TeamWorks came together in their usual cheerful helpful way to prepare for Teachers’ Appreciation Day. Cookies preparers: Charlotte Van Oosten, Paulette Northup, Sherry Aschim, Beth Damm, Mary Kuehen, Vivian Gerke, Judy Bond, Kathy Stabnow, and Rhonda Peterson. Kitchen helpers: Mary Kuehn, Vivian Gerke, Paulette Northup, Beth Damm, Sherry Aschim, and Charlotte Van Oosten. Apples from IGA were ordered and delivered to the church by Daryl and Paulette Northup. The treats trays were delivered along with “thank you” cards to the elementary, middle and high schools by Sherry Aschim. Many teachers expressed their appreciation on cards received at our church. Our team is awesome! Thank you everybody, Paulette

Pastor prepares communion for kids



From Council meeting on May 20

PRESENT: Maurie Petterson, Daryl+Paulette Northup, Pastor Kate+Terry Stulce, Jerry+Joan Nye, Curt Kuehn. Breakfast at Nye home.
FINANCES: pledges receipts ahead of last year.
DIACONATE: Busy planning worship and events.
CHRISTIAN ED: Pastor will serve communion to Docken kids May 21 before their summer in Idaho.
TeamWorks: Teacher Appreciation well received.
PASTOR’S REPORT: In addition to usual worship, some non-Sunday services planned for summer. Wedding cards for Devin+Monte on East room table; see Kate to contribute to wedding gift she got.
EARTHCARE: Stillwater Rising is sponsoring talk on Climate Change for Montanans: June 7, 12noon.
Next Meeting: June 25, 2023

Joint choir singing *Old Time Religion* medley May 21





June 2023

God is still speaking,

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
May 28 Homemade Ice Cream during Fellowship May 28				1 Pastor in Little Stone Church 10am-1pm	2 Pastor in office 9:30am-1:00pm Coffee w/ Kate 10	3
Communion Sunday 4 Friendly Fellowship 9:30 Worship 10:30am	5	6	7 Dr. Running talk 12 noon Bible Study in LSC 1:00 pm Pastor in office 2-5 pm	8 Pastor in Little Stone Church 10am-1pm	9 Pastor in office 9:30am-1:30pm Coffee w/Kate 10	10
11 Faith & Friendship 9:30 Worship 10:30 Diaconate & Trustees meetings after	12	13	14 Bible Study in Fell.H. 1:00 pm Pastor in office 2-5 pm	15 Pastor in Little Stone Church 10am-1pm	16 Walking/Litter Patrol 9:00 am <i>Worship at Meadowlark (2pm)</i>	17
Fathers Day 18 Faith & Friendship 9:30 Worship 10:30	19	20	21 Bible Study in Fell.H. 1:00 pm Pastor in office 2-5 pm	22 Pastor in Little Stone Church 10am-1pm Cornerstone items to Joan please	23 Pastor in office 9:30am-1:30pm Coffee w/ Kate 10	24
25 Faith & Friendship 9:30 Worship 10:30 Council meeting after	26	27	28 Bible Study in Fell.H. 1:00 pm Pastor in office 2-5 pm	29 Pastor in Little Stone Church 10am-1pm	30 Pastor in office 9:30am-1:30pm Coffee w/ Kate 10	

Servers for Sundays in June 2023:

June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25	July 2
Charlotte Van Oosten	Viv Gerke & Kathy Stabnow	Mary & KC Kuehn	Rhonda & Karen B	Joan & Judy