



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Christ Centered *Biblical *Compassionate 101 N. Oak, California, MO 65018 Phone: 573-796-4885

Maybe not Why, But How?

"Then summon me and I will answer, or let me speak, and you reply to me." Job 13:22

Why? From a very early age, we start asking why. Our parents tell us not to do something, and we ask why. I remember lying in bed early one morning with my granddaughter Baylor a couple of years ago. She started asking questions about the birds singing outside in the trees. Why do they live in trees? What do they eat? What do they do? I probably spent 20-30 minutes trying to answer all of her questions. Answers she couldn't fully understand yet but a wonderful conversation between a loving grandpa and his precious granddaughter. I think our relationship with God is like this many times. Sometimes not so joyous but still precious.

I read through the book of Job during the month of April. It is a tough book to read. It is filled with all kinds of questions from Job, trying to understand what happened to him. The loss of everything precious to him except his wife. Job 13:20-24 I think best states Job's anxiety, "Only grant me these two things, God, and then I will not hide from you: Withdraw your hand far from me, and stop frightening me with your terrors. Then summon me and I will answer, or let me speak, and you reply to me. How many wrongs and sins have I committed? Show me my offense and my sin. Why do you hide your face and consider me your enemy?"

Job is bargaining with God. He is asking the question why that all of us ask throughout life when something terrible happens to us, our loved ones, or someone in our community. Preachers usually answer with: we live in a fallen world. God gave us free will. Satan brought sin, disease, and death into the world. All good and valid answers, but I think we are asking the wrong question. We need to be asking how? How do we overcome losses? How do we endure through times of tribulation? How do we stay close to God and not lose our faith? Those questions give us practical help when we are falling into a dark void that doesn't seem to have a bottom. Jesus was very clear that in this life we will have trouble (John 16:33). Paul told his disciples "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God (Acts 14:22). Peter told his readers "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you" (I Peter 4:12). All through the Bible we see God's people go through tough and terrible situations. As Paul Harvey said, the rest of the story is how God's people make it through those tough times. First we focus on Jesus. Jesus said "Take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Paul told his readers "to hold up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one" (Ephesians 6:16). Peter tells his readers "to commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue doing good" (I Peter 4:19).

We must prepare a spiritual first aid kit for ourselves and for those around us when trouble and great pain arrive at our doorsteps. C.S. Lewis said "But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains; it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world." Even in the midst of terrible suffering we can still hear God's voice. The question isn't why, but how? The church exists to be the EMTs of the spiritual world. May God bless you with his peace in the midst of the storms of life.

Serving Jesus Together, Russ



California United Church of Christ April 8, 2024 – Consistory Meeting Highlights

The April Meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by President Alan Chambers. Reverend Cobb opened the meeting with prayer.

A quorum was established with Ellen Ash, Carole Barbour, Jay Bestgen, Holly Bieri, Alan Chambers, VanDee Miller, and Larry Schoeneberg present. Jim Deeken was absent.

Minutes of the March meeting were approved as was the Treasurer's Report (Ellen Ash), the Financial Secretary's Report (Larry Schoeneberg) and the Stewardship Snapshot.

The Worship Stats were reviewed. Average Sunday Worship attendance for the month was 213.

Building Use Requests were reviewed and approved.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds/Safe Church - Jay Bestgen and Jim Deeken

- Oak and North Side Window Covers: revised date for painting before covers can be installed, partially dependent on weather.
- SWC--equipment installed, cameras working, A-phone working, Friday, April 5, 2024 schedule of use (doors locked or unlocked) submitted for South Double Door, system will not be implemented until thoroughly tested, training on how to use the system has begun
- Elevator Inspection: The valve and the "Headspace" notice are being actively pursued. Now the Inspectors think there is a need for a phone in the elevator.

Light Switches in the Sound Room in Friendship Hall: on the list of jobs to do Gas stove burner control knob: plan to design a cover to fit our needs

Carpet for the Office and Assistant Pastor Office: The water leak has been fixed. Commercial grade Carpet squares will be installed in the Office and Assistant Pastor's Office.

Church Mutual Insurance Update: Contact made and a meeting scheduled.

Evangelism - Holly Bieri

Organized with Ginnie Medlin, Chairman and Lauren Lawson, Secretary

Thinking about a new directory (last one in 2019) and choosing Mother's Day gifts

Stewardship-Larry Schoeneberg Next meeting set for July

Worship-VanDee Miller All Communion pieces should be washed and dried after each use.

Pastor / Parish- Larry Schoeneberg

Larry Rohrbach and Allan Mortenson meet weekly with Pastor Russ for updates and schedules.

Old Business

Easter Breakfast: Attended by 160 individuals, good food and plenty of it. Thank you cooks and helpers. Easter Breakfast was a real treat!

Cabinet Meeting Follow-up: Productive gathering with answerable questions and with answers written ahead of time.

New Business

Approval of Scholarships

Layne Brandes attending State Tech and Macie Tremble attending Stephens, have been awarded \$500.00 Scholarships.

The Scholarships will be presented on May 9, 2024 at Scholarship Night at the High School by Consistory President Alan Chambers.

Senior Gifts

Holly Bieri will purchase/make the selections for Senior Gifts from our Church. The gifts will be presented Senior Sunday, May 12, 2024 in the Worship Service.

Copier/Printer

A newer copier with color capabilities is being considered for the church office. It is used, but refurbished. There were some questions about the cost of color copies and the monthly rate of the five year contract so no vote was taken at this meeting. There will be a phone vote when issues are clarified.

Streaming Lenten Services for 2025

Definitely if there are personnel to do it! (Could you help make that happen?) Candle lighters

There is a need for two new candle lighters. Two 12 inch Candle lighters with Bell Snuffer by Sudbury Brass will be purchased.

Cabinet Action

At the Cabinet Meeting on April 7, 2024 the choir director requested that the music program become a line item in the budget. This will happen February 2025.

Approval of Confirmands as New Members.

Consistory joyfully welcomes the five Confirmands of the Class of 2024 into full membership of the California United Church of Christ, Kalyn Carlock, Aubrey Davis, Emma Kissick, Khloe Mortenson, and Brooks Nichols.

Upcoming Communion Date(s)

May 19, 2024--Pentecost

STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

General Fund	March 2024	March 2023
Balance Brought Forward	\$ 91,030.03	\$ 75,066.42
Receipts	+32,567.71	+39,519.41
Disbursements	***- 81,051.23	<u>- 37,479.13</u>
Balance - March 31, 2024	\$ 42,546.51	\$ 77,106.70
As of March 31, 2024 Building Fund Balance	\$ 60,691.38	\$ 14,148.77
Local Benevolence Fund Balance	\$ 11,667.52	\$ 9,411.88
Memorial Fund Balance	\$ 10,700.97	\$ 3,798.20
Schnuck Endowment Fund	** \$ 35,973.54	*\$ 30,136.83
Scholarship Fund Balance	\$ 12,008.06	\$ 10,933.20
Youth Group Fund Balance	\$ 5,872.00	\$ 3,941.67
Total OCWM Received Other Benevolent Offerings	\$ 590.00 \$ 9,581.78	\$ 1,005.00 \$ 4,770.30

*** Includes \$50,000 from the General Fund that was invested in short term CD

Note on 2024 Snapshot regarding Schnuck Endowment

**The C. Schnuck Endowment Checking Fund balance of \$35,973.54 includes \$166.49 that is part of the original restricted gift and is unable to be expended. \$35,807.05 of the fund balance may be expended.

Note on 2023 Snapshot regarding Schnuck Endowment

*The C. Schnuck Endowment Checking Fund balance of \$30,136.83 includes \$1,166.49 that is part of the original restricted gift and is unable to be expended. \$28,970.34 of the fund balance may be expended.

Special Benevolence— May

California Nutrition Center

California Nutrition Center is a great place for Seniors 60 and older to gather. Lunch is served from 11:00 to 12:30 each day with a suggested donation of only \$4. They are open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. located on 107 Versailles Ave. Great place to play cards, work on puzzles or just socialize with good friends. They are a non-profit organization so your donations are greatly appreciated.







Camp Aurora Summer 2024 Dates

Senior High CampJuly 7— July 13Junior High CampJuly 14—July 19Junior CampJuly 21—July 26Primary CampJuly 28—July 31

Sunday School will pay 1/2 of Early Registration Fee for Member and One Friend. Completed forms and check for 1/2 of the Early Registration Fee must be turned in to Cinda Scheidt or Church Office by <u>Sunday, May 26, 2024</u>.

UCC Women's Guild Minutes of the April 17, 2024 Meeting

Opening Procedures

The opening prayer was given by Lexi H. Carole B. presented the lesson centered on the necessity of setting aside a time to gather together to celebrate the Sabbath. Mary Ann K. gave the thought of the day: Man may go to the mountains to communicate with God but God comes to women as they attend their every day tasks.

Benevolence projects include Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity, and Halo House. Members had opportunity to contribute their offerings. 15 members were present and we welcomed new attendee, Julie Steinhauer.

Business Meeting

Judy B. noted the secretary's minutes needed to make the following correction to the March 20 minutes: total offering to World Day of Prayer event was \$1,165 (not \$11,065) and the amount of check sent to World Central Kitchen was increased by UCC Guild to \$1,200 (not \$12,000). Motion by Linda S., second by Phyllis M. to approve the minutes with the correction as stated. Motion Carried.

Motion by Carole B., second by Linda S. to approve the financial report as presented by Judy B. Motion Carried.

Members of First Baptist Church expressed their thanks for the use of our kitchen facilities as they hosted the Celebration of Life Dinner for Jack Bowlin at UCC. They appreciated our well planned and well appointed kitchen and the space available for guests. Committee #1 is up for the next dinner.

Mary B. reported at total of 1765 Best Choice Labels at present. Many thanks to all who save labels.

Judy B. reported 31 cards being sent through Card Ministry this month.

No correspondence was reported.

Old Business

The Confirmation Reception was well attended and enjoyable. Many thanks to the wide variety of generous amount of cookies! Attendees enjoyed the refreshments.

Lexi H. discussed the kitchen light request with Ron Kissick. He felt there would be no problem installing a can light over the drinks serving window. Motion by Linda S., second by Phyllis M. to ask Consistory to proceed with installation and for Women's Guild to pay expenses connected to the installation. Motion Carried. Lexi will start the process by talking to Jay Bestgen.

New Business

No new business items were introduced.

Birthday congratulations were extended to Carole B, Mary B., and Linda S.

Our time for Joys and Concerns is always a highlight and a welcomed time to share with members.

Lexi H. offered the closing prayer.

Barb W. and Phyllis M. treated members to a very elegant and tasty array of snacks as we all enjoyed conversation and fellowship. This monthly meeting is truly a joy for all who attend.

May 15 is the next UCC Women's Guild meeting.

Clarice Nelson, Secretary



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024 HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS!

Layne Brandes Macie Trimble

Kole Ingram

Senior Recognition Sunday at Church

Sunday, May 12th





We rejoice with the family of **Kwincy Elayne Opie** on her dedication April 7, 2024. She is the daughter of Bryce and Morgan Opie. Kwincy's sponsors are Landon and Jennifer Porter.



<u>Baplism</u>

We rejoice with the family of Elliott Marie Baker on her baptism April 28, 2024. She is the daughter of Shane and Kayla Baker. Elliott's sponsors are Jaclyn and Brian Smail.



2024 GOD'S SINGERS SPRING SCHEDULE 6:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.

- May 1: God's Singers Practice
- May 8: God's Singers Practice
- May 12: Sing in Worship





Sunday	Inited Church of Monday	Tuesday
5 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	6 7:00 PM Sunday School Teachers & Officers	7 9:00 AM Prayer Ce
12 Senior Recognition Sunday 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	13 6:00 PM Consistory	14 9:00 AM Prayer Ce
19 Pentecost Sunday 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	20 7:00 PM Brotherhood	21 9:00 AM Prayer Ce
2 6 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6:00 PM Memorial Service at Evangelical Cemetery	27 MEMORIAL DAY * Bemember and Honor *	28 9:00 AM Prayer Ce

May 2024				
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
1 6:30 PM Bells Practice 6:30 PM God's Singers 7:30 PM Sr. Choir Practice	2 National Day of Prayer	3	4	
8 6:30 PM Bells Practice 6:30 PM God's Singers	9	10	11	
15 1:00 PM Women's Guild 6:30 PM Bells Practice	16	17	18	
22	23	24	25	
29	30	31		

Sunday School Teachers & Officers April 1, 2024

Carla Clennin called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM. Those present were Carla Clennin, Ronda Mortenson, Beth Chambers, Austin Chambers, and Cressida Gattermeir.

Cressida motioned for the approval of the March minutes to be approved, Ronda seconded, motion approved. Beth motioned for the approval of the Treasurer's report, Ronda seconded, motioned approved.

Old Business:

Veggie Tales was held on March 16th and Ronda reported that we had 28 children in attendance. Easter baskets were made for pre-registered attendees; leftover baskets were delivered to church members with children as an invitation to Easter Sunday services. Allan Mortenson delivered baskets to four families and two of those families were in attendance for Easter Sunday service.

All present agreed that Palm Sunday with the kids bringing palm branches went well.

New Business:

It was agreed that the summer curriculum for Sunday School should stay the same and that there is no need to change.

Carla requested old curriculum from the children's classes to help the New Franklin UCC find a curriculum. Beth said she keeps her old curriculum in the classroom and could provide it to Carla.

Those present read a thank you card by the California Nutrition Center.



Teachers & Officers - continued

A discussion was had concerning the Fall Party. Hosting the Fall Party at the church worked well. Cressida will ask Dyan if she would be willing to take pictures during the event. Those present also discussed options for improving the photo booth. No menu has been set yet.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM

Next meeting will be Monday, May 6, 2024, at 7 PM

Respectfully submitted, Austin Chambers, 3rd Superintendent

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSFORMING





Congratulations to our Sunday School 1st Quarter Perfect Attendance

Tony Barry, Connie Bestgen, Jay Bestgen, Judy Burger, Courtney Cassil, Carla Clennin, Beth Dampf, Cressida Gattermeir, Dave Gattermeir, Caleb Howard, Kent Howard, Dyan Ingram, Justin Kilmer, Tammy Kilmer, Phyllis Miller, Ronda Mortenson, Joyce Rohrbach, Norman Rohrbach, and Larry Schoeneberg *Please join us for Sunday School – will your name be added for 2nd quarter*

Sunday School with one absentee for 1st Quarter

Adult classes: Carole Barbour, Beth Chambers, Doug Dampf, Kris Ingram, Lola McCarthy, Allan Mortenson, and Larry Rohrbach

Student classes: Lauren Lawson and Kolly Opie

UCC Brotherhood Minutes – Monday, April 22, 2024

Refreshments – Alan Chambers provided a delicious meal and desserts to begin the meeting and Norman Rohrbach prayed a blessing over the meal.

Following refreshments, Dave Meyer gave a devotion on Psalms 36:6 remarking that, in line with the evening's program, God preserves both people and animals.

Business Meeting – President Dave Myer called the business meeting to order at 7:35 PM with 22 members and guests present. The minutes of the March meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was approved with a current balance of \$3,494.00 following an approved donation of \$500 to the Kueffer family in memory of their daughter Claire, a \$150 expenditure for family night bingo prizes, a \$200 gift to the Brotherhood in the name of Betty Spieler and a collection of \$232.65 at the March meeting.

Thank you notes were presented from the Kueffer family for the Brotherhood's gift, indicating that the donation was forwarded to YWAM, Claire's ministry.

It was reported that the Brotherhood Family Night was a success, and consideration was given to hosting another similar event, possibly involving a pitch tournament, later in the year. This discussion will be continued at future meetings.

The May meeting will be held on May 20 to avoid holding the meeting on Memorial Day.

Discussions were held concerning relocating or rescheduling the June, 2024 meeting, which will conflict with Vacation Bible School. The decision was taken for President Dave Meyer to contact the First Christian Church about using their facilities for the meeting. If that cannot be arranged, the meeting could be rescheduled from June 24 to June 27 to coincide with the Brotherhood's VBS fish fry.

Steven Burger volunteered to provide the devotion for the May 20 meeting and Rob Barbour volunteered to provide refreshments. Carmen Ferris will present the program.

The business meeting adjourned at 7:52 PM.

Program – Nancy Krutzsch spoke about her work with Christian Veterinary Mission (CVM).

Nancy became involved with CVM at a veterinary conference in 2017 at a low point in her life. She had always had missions work in her heart, and her 2018 mission trip to Haiti with CVM allowed her to fully experience the presence of God and turn her life around, which has also included the baptism of her son and ex-husband. After several mission trips, she became a CVM regional representative who conducts outreach at various veterinary schools and conferences across the Midwest and South. She plans a mission trip to Belize in the near future.

CVM is a national ministry with 4 foci:

<u>Veterinary student outreach:</u> CVM maintains student chapters to support and foster Christian faith at veterinary and technical schools.

<u>Professional veterinarian and support staff outreach</u>: CVM conducts outreach, continuing education, and faith support for professional veterinarians and support staff through meetings, retreats, conferences and online programs, including mental health and well-being programs.

<u>Short-term missions:</u> CVM organizes short-term missions in developing nations to provide veterinary care for livestock animals as well as Christian outreach. Short-term mission teams generally include 2-3 veterinarians, 4 veterinary students, 4 pre-veterinary students, and 2 veterinary techs. The teams provide the opportunity for experiences that vets and students that they would not have in practice at home.

<u>Long-term missions:</u> CVM provides long-term missions to educate local farmers in developing nations and empower them to raise and care for their livestock in a sustainable manner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted – Dave Gattermeir, Secretary



Memorial Service Sunday, May 26, 2024 Evangelical Cemetery 6:00 pm A Service of Memory and Hope





NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER The Cal invites yc County C will begin

The California Ministerial Alliance invites you for prayer at the Moniteau County Courthouse on **May 2nd**. Prayer will begin at 12:05 at the flag pole.

Lunch is provided for soldiers and vets, firefighters, emergency responders and all who serve in the Courthouse and City Hall.





Acolytes

05 Conner Brockes & Amelia Howard
12 Hazel & Meredith Wolford
19 Jess Medlin & Royce Everett
26 Lena & Lee Bieri

Lay Readers

05 Judy Burger
12 Carole Barbour
19 Becky Schneider
26 Alan Chambers

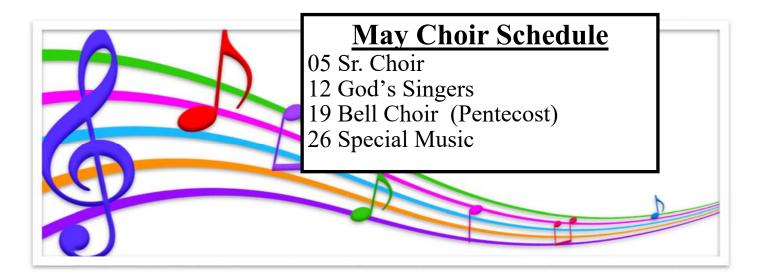
Children's Time

05 JoAnn Cantriel12 Puppets19 Ginnie Medlin26 Holly Bieri



<u>Nursery Attendant</u>

Reagan Cain



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To get access to Right Now Media for you and your family use the link or text to the number listed below.

Custom Registration Link - https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Account/ Invite/CALUCC

Text Registration Code - UCOC to 49775

Read the Bible on your phone. <u>YouVersion Bible</u> app. You can download this app for free



There is an Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meeting at the Annunciation Catholic Church, 414 Patrick St., on Mondays at 8 p.m. Contact number: 660-621-2271.

Giving Made Easy

Online giving is available!

Follow the E-Giving link on our website: calmo-ucc.org to give today or set recurring gifts

Note: Sunday School offering can now be done through EasyTithe.

For your viewing and listening opportunities of the weekly worship services, there are two ways of being part of the weekly services. You may request a cd or dvd from the church office. Please let Rhonda know if you are interested in obtaining one of these versions of the worship service. (796-4885)



A Time of Hope 8:15 a.m. Sunday KRLL Radio ~1420 AM



Please continue to save the Best Choice label bar codes for the SHAREFEST Gathering

MONITEAU CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES CENTER Please save your extra plastic shopping bags to use at the Food Bank. Drop your bags off at the church. Thanks!

USED TONER & INK CARTRIDGES

<u>Please</u> save all of your used toner and ink cartridges! The church office collects used toner and ink cartridges in order to get a \$2 In-store credit per cartridge at Staples toward purchases of office supplies. Please turn in your cartridges to the church office. Thanks!

To Watch California UCC Worship Services Online:

Go to http://www.calmo-ucc.org. Scroll down and click on the "Online Services" link. (The bulletin is also available) Or: Go to youtube.com & search



May Birthdays

03 Elaine Proctor 03 Lisa Wilson 03 Betty Cobb 04 Royce Everett 05 Kole Ingram 06 Bryson Coale 06 Nova Brockes 09 Courtland Gerhart 10 Aidan Bolinger 11 Brooks Nichols 12 Robin Ratcliff 13 Jacob Kueffer 14 Jo Ann Cantriel 14 Barbara Pearson 14 Kristen Rohrbach 15 Loryn Reed 15 Carleigh Lutz 16 Gerri Howard 16 Phyllis Miller 17 Caitlin Deeken Phoenix 17 Kalyn Carlock 17 Brenyn Robertson 17 Ronnie Kissick 20 Amelia Motley 20 Steven McDaniel 20 Jay Bestgen

23 Cressida Gattermeir
23 Lottie Juul
24 Jessica Hayes
24 Kimberly Hanauer
25 Courtney Hees
25 Allee Koestner



- 27 Ashton Bolinger
- 28 Emelia Reed
- 28 Maddie Sedgwick
- 28 Weston Peters
- 30 Janice Anderson
- 30 Norman Rohrbach
- 31 Pamela Hill
- 31 Dean Kiesling





May Baptisms

Janice Anderson—May, 1959 Judy Barbour—May 11, 1941 Sarah Bryant—May 10, 1998 Jackson Cassil—May 15, 2005 Hannah Clutter—May 12, 1996 Kent Hees—May 18, 1980 Cathy Hickman—May, 1975 Kueffer Koestner—May 12, 2002 Sue Latham—May 25, 1947 Alexx Lewis—May 26, 1996 Bruce Miller—May 1, 2016 Max Robertson—May 13, 2015 D.J. Schneider—May 29, 2005 Maximus Sedgwick—May 24, 2017



Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we have been received into the family of Jesus Christ through the sacrament of Baptism.

The MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF CALIFORNIA
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