

# *The Tidings*

*August 2024*



## **UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

*\*Christ Centered \*Biblical \*Compassionate*

101 N. Oak, California, MO 65018

Phone: 573-796-4885

# Metamorphosis

*“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

**Romans 12:2**

We’ll finish up our sermon series “Transformation” in August. The Greek word for transform is “metamorphosis.” It is the same word to describe Jesus when transfigures into brilliant white light in Matthew 17. It is an amazing change that is noticed by all. For the Christian, there must be a radical change in the inner man for one to live rightly in this evil world. This change takes place by renewing our minds with godly thoughts and the Holy Spirit. Daily we need to spend time focusing on the things of God through prayer and scripture reading. This verse comes with a promise that if we renew our minds, we can work out God’s will in our lives and accept what he has in store for us.

August means so many things. It means the county fair, it means school is starting, it means the days are getting shorter, and it means I need to remember my wedding anniversary. It also means that summer is quickly coming to an end and we need to get ready for everything in the fall. I encourage you to stay connected to the church when you are travelling on the weekends. Watch our service online or find a church in the area to attend as a family. We enjoyed visiting various churches on vacation, but it also made us appreciate our home church when we got back. We have had a wonderful summer of special music. Thanks again to the worship committee for setting this all up.

We've had some wonderful discussion the last two months in our consistory meetings about goals for the future. How to reach more people and how to get more people involved in the life of the church. I'm thankful for our consistory and the time that they sacrifice in serving our congregation. One of the things we are looking at is the top ten things for the church to think about for the future. You might pass along your thoughts and ideas to a consistory member or myself. I love these discussions because we are looking forward. I'm looking for a couple or couples to lead a parenting class for a few weeks on Wednesday nights during ROK. If you are interested in this, please reach out to me. It would be a time of encouraging one another, watching a video, and covering an important parenting topic. I know how important it was for Betty and I to have other couples we could look to and talk to about parenting struggles we were having.

Have a great rest of the summer and continue to read the book of Romans in August. We will cover chapters 9, 11, 12, 13, and 16 to finish up the series.

Serving Christ Together,  
Russ



## **California United Church of Christ July 8, 2024 – Consistory Meeting Highlights**

The July meeting of the Consistory of the California United Church of Christ was called to order at 6:00 pm by Consistory 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, Jim Deeken, VanDee Miller and Larry Schoeneberg present.

The minutes of the June meeting, the Treasurer's Report (Ellen Ash), the Financial Secretary's Report (Larry Schoeneberg), and the Stewardship Snapshot were all approved.

In her Treasurer's Report Ellen noted that Layne Brandes and Macie Trimble had not claimed their scholarships of \$500.00 each yet; and checks were issued for \$2818.15 to K. A. Dutcher for paint and carpet for the front office and \$339.66 for light switches in the Friendship Hall Sound Room.

There was no activity in the Local Benevolence Account in June.

Worship Attendance and On-line numbers remain stable.

Building use requests were approved.

### **Committee Reports**

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

SWC still finalizing a few items before final payment is made, generally a positive response and minimum problems/questions

Elevator valve is available to install

Elevator phone is a work in progress

Brady Glass will prioritize the windows that need repair. Some need more immediate attention.

Church Mutual Insurance Update - Jim Deeken has tried repeatedly to get a call back on several issues. On June 17, 2024 the copier was added to our coverage, but we are still waiting for the Certificate of Copier Coverage from Church Mutual.

**Stewardship** - Larry Schoeneberg - Meeting scheduled for July 16, 2024.

**Worship** - VanDee Miller - Summer music schedule completed.

**Pastor-Parish** - Larry Schoeneberg - Reverend Cobb has been working with Allan Mortenson lining up calls and/or visits and with Judy Burger to make phone contacts

## **Old Business**

SWC Key Fob Status—74 of 100 fobs have been issued to date.  
Monies have previously been approved to purchase more as needed.

Memorial Funds Potential Expenditure-Suggestion of an electronic sign in front of the church (exterior) Gathering information and pictures of signs that are in place.

EasyTithe name change to Amplify-This is a name change only and requires no changes for participants

Wednesday night meal starts September 4, 2024  
Letha Peck will cook; same dishwashers will return; Holly Bieri will be the coordinator

## **New Business**

Membership List Updates -Annual approval vote in August

Quarterback Club Football Banner -A banner advertising the UCC will be displayed on the stadium fence.

Tax Refund Check from Lebeck Estate - A \$500.80 check was received from the Lebeck Estate as a result of a Federal Tax Refund.

## **Upcoming Communion Dates**

Summer Communion, August 4, 2024

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. and closed with The Lord's Prayer prayed in unison.

E. Carole Barbour  
Secretary



## STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

	<u>June 2024</u>	<u>June 2023</u>
<b>General Fund</b>		
Balance Brought Forward	\$ 35,146.97	\$ 92,976.80
Receipts	+ \$ 26,582.49	+ \$ 22,586.91
Disbursements	- \$ <u>24,657.47</u>	- \$ <u>26,097.91</u>
Balance – June 30, 2024	\$ 37,071.99	\$ 89,465.80

### *As of June 30, 2024*

Building Fund Balance	\$ 52,105.99	\$ 43,361.34
Local Benevolence Fund Balance	\$ 11,767.52	\$ 8,806.89
Memorial Fund Balance	\$ 10,774.13	\$ 4,390.88
Schnuck Endowment Fund Balance**	\$ 5,401.75	*\$ 33,412.59
Scholarship Fund Balance	\$ 11,652.39	\$ 9,264.38
Youth Fellowship	\$ 3,205.70	\$ 4,771.67

*Total OCWM Received	\$ 1,561.76	\$ 1,625.00
Other Benevolent Offerings	\$ 11,643.81	\$ 11,924.63

### **Note on 2024 Snapshot regarding Schnuck Endowment**

*\*\*The C. Schnuck Endowment Checking Fund balance of \$5,401.75 includes \$166.49 that is part of the original restricted gift and is unable to be expended. \$5,235.26 of the fund balance may be expended.*

### **Note on 2023 Snapshot regarding Schnuck Endowment**

*\*The C. Schnuck Endowment Checking Fund balance of \$33,412.59 includes \$166.49 that is part of the original restricted gift and is unable to be expended. \$33,246.10 of the fund balance may be expended.*



## Special Benevolence—August

### **Moniteau Christian Ministries Center**



Moniteau Christian Ministries Center was formed to provide a permanent location for Project Share which had been operating out of a rented storefront since May 1, 2003 and the Food Pantry which was a once monthly mobile pantry operating at various locations in California. The MCMC building is located at 303 Latham Road. We welcome anyone who has not seen the Thrift Shop (open Thursday, Friday, & Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm) to stop by to see the many and varied items for sale.

The Cargill Cares Food Pantry began operating at this location in April 2014. It is open from 3-5 pm on the first, second, and third Thursday & Friday of each month and from 9-11 am on the third Saturday. Food items distributed are received from the Central Missouri Food Bank, purchased food products, local donations, food drives, & other supporting entities. If anyone is needing food, please come to the food bank on distribution days. The Cargill Cares Food Pantry serves an average of 215 families each month.

Participating Moniteau County schools pick up their Buddy Packs monthly during the school year at Cargill Cares Food Pantry.

Project Share's Thrift Shop provides free clothing monthly to those requesting clothing assistance. Project Share's income provides monies to the food bank, pays utilities, insurance and numerous other expenses to maintain the MCMC facility.

A benevolent activity that Project Share has undertaken is a prison ministry where an inmate may request needed items (1-pant, 1-shirt, & 1-coat). Hopefully items will be available off the racks.

Project Share is also in need of volunteers to prepare the donated clothing, etc. to stock their thrift store. This activity takes place every Monday & Tuesday from 10 am until around 2 pm or as many hours as you wish to help.

Moniteau Christian Ministry is most grateful for all the support the United Church of Christ has given. Also, very glad we have a food pantry and thrift shop in our own community! **WE ARE BLESSED!**



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

### **Opening Procedures**

15 members were in attendance today as President Lexi H. gave the opening prayer. The sixth lesson from the Bible Study series, "Sabbath and Hospitality" was presented by Carole B. Members considered "hospitality" ("love of the stranger" from the Greek term) and the benefit to all concerned when hospitality is extended. Members participated in a very affirming discussion considering the commandments regarding Sabbath and our obligations as set out in Exodus and Deuteronomy. Thanks again, Carole, for the lesson.

Mary B. gave us the thought for the day from the poem, "Just Think" based on Ecclesiastes 3:1. Members had opportunity to present their offering today and to participate in benevolence giving for the month. (HALO House, Rape and Abuse Crisis Service, and the Buddy Pack Program.)

### **Business Meeting**

- Motion by Linda S., second by Brenda O. to approve the June 19, 2024 minutes as presented. Motion Carried.
- Motion by Carole B., second by Linda S. to approve the financial report as presented. Motion Carried.
- Committee #1 is up for the next Celebration of Life Dinner. Carole B. expressed her gratitude for the Guild's participation in the visitation refreshments for Robert Barbour's Celebration of Life Memorial service the past week.
- Mary B. reported she has 2900 Best Choice Labels at present. Thanks to all who continue to collect those labels for us.
- Judy B. reported 28 cards are going out to our members this month.

### **Old Business**

Sharefest information is ready to put in the Tidings for August and September describing the possibilities for giving to that October 12, 2024 event. Donations and materials will be collected at church over those months and transported to the event on Oct. 12.

## **New Business**

- Plans for cleaning kitchens and chairs: Guild members will meet at 9:00 a.m. on August 21 to clean the kitchens. Lexi will make arrangements for the cleaning of all chairs in Friendship Hall as well as any others she and Cheryl deem a proper prospect for cleaning. (Cost is \$4 per chair. Last year we had 253 chairs cleaned.) Kathy Bueker will be asked to do the cleaning of stoves in both kitchens. Members need to bring cleaning products and implements with them.
- Carla C. reported on the latest meeting of the Western Association. On July 28 Damian Lake will join us for worship. Carla also reported on the upcoming Association meeting Saturday, Sept 21 at the Columbia UCC. An item of concern at that meeting will be the insidious spread of “Steeplejacking”. This is the increasing problem of an outside group who wish to hijack an established, existing church and congregation by joining the congregation. Their hidden agenda is to change the practices, doctrines, traditions, and purpose of the established church. Church governing bodies can guard against this by thoroughly vetting all employees, establishing standards by which changes are considered, informing the congregation of all concerns, and taking action when problems are uncovered. This is not a new problem (see Steeplejacking by John C. Dorhauer and Sheldon Culver, 2007) but it has been resurfacing recently among all denominations across America.
- Birthday Congratulations were extended to Clarice Nelson, Ruth Coale, Cinda Scheidt, Ruth Brizendine and Verna Wolfrum. Live long and prosper!
- Joys and Concerns included a highly anticipated wedding event, a good report from a doctor, and thanks for a perfect day for a Celebration of Life remembrance.

Lexi H. closed the meeting with prayer. Brenda O. and Pamela H. treated members to overwhelming hospitality with most enjoyable refreshments. Much talking and laughing followed.

Clarice Nelson, Secretary

Next Meeting: 9:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 21

## **UCC Brotherhood Minutes – Monday, July 22, 2024**

**Refreshments** – John Osborn provided a delicious meal enhanced by egg rolls from Maria Barbour to begin the meeting and Rob Barbour prayed a blessing over the meal.

Following refreshments, Lashley Rohrbach gave a devotion around several verses, including John 5:19, John 5:30, John 14:23-30, and Matthew 24:36 “He remarked that Jesus knew that he could do nothing without God the Father (He who sent Him to Earth) and that the Father’s will must be done rather than our own.

**Business Meeting** – President Dave Meyer called the business meeting to order at 7:40 PM with 17 members and guests present. The minutes of the May meeting were read and approved by acclamation. The Treasurer’s report was approved with a current balance of \$3054.00 following a \$168.00 expenditure for fish for the Vacation Bible School fish fry.

Discussion was continued about the next Brotherhood Family Night. The decision was made to schedule it on November 17 pending consultation with the Consistory. Further planning will be conducted at subsequent Brotherhood meetings.

The annual prison ministry will be held the week following the Ozark Ham & Turkey Festival in September. The UCC Women’s Guild will provide a meal on the Monday of the ministry week, and the Methodist and Christian churches will also provide meals during the week. Dave Meyer and Rob Barbour will lead the planning efforts.

The annual Brotherhood fish fry will be held on August 26 in lieu of the August meeting. Pastor Cobb will contact Pastor King of the First Christian Church to invite them to the fish fry. Dave Meyer will look to invite prior program presenters.

The business meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM.

**Program** – Alan Meyer, the brother of President Dave Meyer, spoke about his life and his membership in the Knights of Columbus.

Alan grew up in California, graduating from CHS in 1968. Following graduation, he attended Northwest Missouri State University where he earned his degree in Education. He then began a 48-year career in education, school counseling, and coaching, which including earning a Master’s degree from Central Missouri State University (now the University of Central Missouri). He now lives in Lexington, MO with his wife Brenda and has 2 sons and 3 granddaughters.

For many years, Alan has been involved in the Knights of Columbus. The Knights were founded in 1882 in New Haven, Connecticut to help support orphans and widows. Today, the Knights are active in the United States, Canada, Ukraine, and the Philippines. All Catholic men 18 years of age and over who are practicing members of the Church are eligible for membership. About 20% of Catholic men in the US are members. Membership consists of 4 degrees: Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. The first 3 degrees are available online, and the fourth degree will be available soon. The Knights consider themselves the “strong right arm of the Catholic Church” and help the clergy in a variety of ways, including church maintenance, preparing the church for services, praying rosaries, and many other functions.

The Knights support a wide range of charitable programs based on Faith, Family, Community, and Life. Supported charities include food banks, parks and recreation departments, Harvesters, Special Olympics, Coats for Kids, and aid for the victims of natural disasters. They fund a variety of education programs, including scholarships and education grants. Their most visible fundraising effort is the Tootsie Roll sale, which funds programs for children with developmental disabilities, including the Knights of Columbus wing at the Cardinal Glennon Children’s Hospital in St. Louis. The majority of the charitable income for the Knights comes from its insurance business, which supplies life insurance to its members.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted – Dave Gattermeir, Secretary



Dear Church Family,

You are the best! Thank you for the lovely plant, your prayers, your kindness, your generosity, and most of all your presence. We have always felt your care for us--and that is a God-gift. We are so blessed!

Love.

Carole, Katie, Glenn, Ellie, Rob and Maria

*United Church of Christ,*

*Thank you for your generous donation in support of the California Nutrition Center. We truly appreciate it!*

*Pat Sweet, Board Member  
California Nutrition*



On May 15, 2001, the first Prayer Cell meeting was held in the California United Church of Christ sanctuary. An estimated six people were in attendance. Laura Burger created this group to pray over those individuals and groups who needed peace, comfort, healing, strength, protection, safety and wisdom as God's will was done. Today, the group is still meeting weekly to pray for those in need with 13 members who attend in person and two remotely.

Twenty-three years later, Laura has made the decision to step down as leader of the group. As one member put it, "Prayer Cell has been blessed by your leadership, kindness and love for the group."

We would like to thank Laura for her dedication to the Prayer Cell over the past 23 years and for having the vision to bring prayer to so many.

Dear Friends at California UCC,  
We wish to thank you for again being gracious hosts for our concert of the Lake Area Community Orchestra. You provide a great place for us to perform and it is a pleasure to share music with the California Community.

Thanks for the refreshments following the concert. This adds a nice touch and a time for some fellowship.

Blessings to you,

Gene Moll

Lake Area Community Orchestra Publicity Chair

**I would like to extend my sincere gratitude and appreciation to my Church family for supporting me throughout the years. I would also like to extend a Thank You to the Edward C. Kaiser Memorial and the UCC of California scholarship fund for assisting in my future educational endeavors.**

**Layne Brandes**

**THANK YOU!**  
*thank you!*

*Thank you for thinking of me on my special day & helping me celebrate my graduation. Your thoughtfulness & generosity is appreciated. I am excited to begin my academic & college volleyball journey at Stephens College this fall. Thank you for supporting me and providing me the scholarship!*

*Thank you again.*

*Macie Trimble*

## Congratulations to our Sunday School 2nd Quarter Perfect Attendance

Tony Barry, Carla Clennin, Beth Dampf, Doug Dampf, Harvey Kilmer, Judy Kilmer, Lola McCarty, and Elaine Proctor

Please join us for Sunday School – will your name be added for 3rd quarter (July - September)



## Sunday School with one absentee for 2nd Quarter

**Adult classes:** Jay Bestgen, Mary Burger, Sue Cashion, Carmen Ferris, Justin Kilmer, Tammy Kilmer, Bob Kueffer, Mary Ann Kueffer, Phyllis Miller, Allan Mortenson, Joyce Rohrbach, Larry Rohrbach, and Norman Rohrbach

**Student/Teacher classes:** Courtney Cassil, Cressida Gattermeir, Dave Gattermeir, Bruce Miller, Johnny Miller, Sophie Miller, and Ronda Mortenson



## The Building of the Church – 1895

At the beginning of the year, 1895, the church decided to proceed with the building of a new church, and to issue a call for designs and plans. After due deliberation the Building Committee decided on a bid submitted by Sprouce and Ross and awarded them a contract to erect the new church at the sum of \$6,525.

This amount in today's dollars is \$243,964.31 (this amount would probably not buy the stained glass windows we have today let alone the building).

The last service was held in the old church on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1895 and led by Rev. F. A. Umbeck. Following the service the wrecking of the old church began. On July 28, 1895 the cornerstone for the new church was laid. The new church was dedicated on December 15, 1895. This is the church we currently worship in.

One of the things that really struck me is how quickly the church was built. Basically 6 months. On July 22, 1900 the beautiful new organ was dedicated and on February 12, 1902 the cemetery was dedicated.

A paragraph taken from the newspaper reads: "The church is a potent force for the American kind of civilization, and our standards will improve and the nation become greater as the church duties impress themselves upon the members. God has blessed the church and he will bless the things of society and government that the hallowed influence of the church controls."

Our church has a wonderful history of hard working, caring members who had a vision for the church built in 1895. We can be a part of the vision for the future by building the spiritual Church with the same vigor, perseverance, and hard work the members of 1895 had for erecting the building. There is no doubt that God has blessed this church. It is up to us to continue the work of this church in our service to God and our community.

Allan Mortenson  
Historical Committee

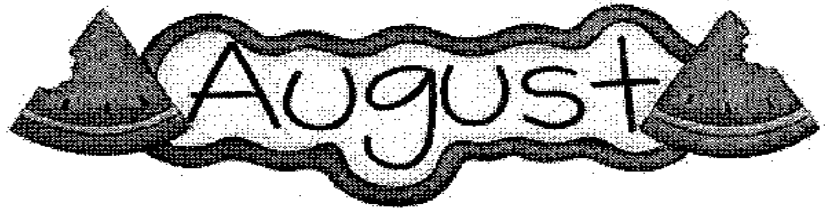


# United Church of Christ

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday



4

Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30  
7:30 PM Moniteau County Fair  
Worship Services

5



6

9:00 AM Prayer Cell

11

Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30

12

6:00 PM Consistory

13

9:00 AM Prayer Cell  
7:00 PM Sunday  
School Teachers and  
Officers Meeting

18

Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30



19

20

9:00 AM Prayer Cell

25

Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30

26

7:00 PM Men's Brotherhood

27

9:00 AM Prayer Cell



# August 2024

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 5:00 PM Fair Parade 
7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17
21 Women's Guild workday 7:30 PM Sr. Choir Practice 	22	23	24 4:00 PM Salem UCC Ice Cream Social 
28 6:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 7:30 PM Sr. Choir Practice	29	30	31 Thompson/Bestgen Wedding 

## **July 1, 2024 Sunday School Teachers & Officers Meeting**

Carla Clennin called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Those present were Carla Clennin, Lauren Lawson, Peggy Liebi, Ronda Mortenson, Austin Chambers, Beth Chambers, Steven Burger, and Cressida Gattermeir.

Ronda motioned for the July 2024 minutes to be approved, Beth seconded, motion approved. Beth motioned for the approval of the Treasurer's report, Ronda seconded, motioned approved.

### **Old Business:**

Ronda provided final details on the 2024 VBS. Costumes were in the process of being cleaned and will be ready for use by Christmas. Discussion was held on how many attended and ate at the Thursday night fish dinner and it is believed around 125-135 plates were served.

Carla provided an update for the Christmas Eve program. Ellen Ash would do music for the night. Lauren will once again organize the age 2-Kindergarten. Ellen is checking with Connie Bestgen to direct the older kids program. Carla will be organizing the candlelight service. This year's Christmas Eve program will be in the sanctuary. Ronda will be replacing the angel costumes. Carla is still researching the prices for the risers for the sanctuary.

Carla provided an update on the R.O.K. Craft Leader. Instead of a craft leader, Kendra, Amy, and Brittany will use the time to put together buddy pack items, care packages, Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes, food pantry items, or little bags to give out to people who need a snack or a bottle of water etc. It will be up to the teachers on what benevolence they want to work on each month.

Additionally, the curriculum for R.O.K. use "Follow the Bible" which consists of 52 lessons which will be used of the next couple of years. Memorization of the books of the Bible and the Ten Commandments will be a part of the curriculum.

Ronda will be cleaning and reorganizing the upstairs storage area. Additionally, Ronda asked if she could give Brad Friedrich the hard styrofoam styled boards to use as he needs. Steven motioned for approval and Beth seconded, motion carried.

Ronda also gave an update on Veggie Tales Carnival. The movie will be 27 minutes long. There will be prizes for the carnival games. There will also be craft kits for kids. The age range for Veggie Tales will remain 2-11. Looking at a date of September 7 or 28, Ronda will check with the office. Ronda requested funds for pinata's and Dave and the Giant Pickle banner and the cost would be \$300. Cressida motioned for approval, Lauren seconded, motioned carried.

**New Business:**

Sunday School will purchase 8 oz. cups (1,000 for \$21.98) and forks (500 for \$13.98) for Sunday School opening. Steven motioned for approval and Ronda seconded, motioned carried.

Rally Sunday is set for August 18<sup>th</sup>. Regular classes will follow.

Ronda requested \$42.99 per year for MY VBS Pro. My VBS Pro would allow VBS director to register kids each without having to re-enter their information each year. It can also send out reminders and notices for other events. Beth motioned for approval and Lauren seconded and motioned carried.

Cressida gave an update on the Fall Party and informed everyone that there would be a hay ride this year, but no photo booth.

The new color copier is available for use in the office. Check with a Superintendent or Rhonda for passcode.

A thank you card was shared from Central Missouri Foster Care and Adoptions as well as Healing House.

Peggy's class will remain with the David C. Cook curriculum.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 pm.

Next meeting will be Monday, August 13, 2024, at 7 PM

Respectfully submitted, Austin Chambers, 3<sup>rd</sup> Superintendent

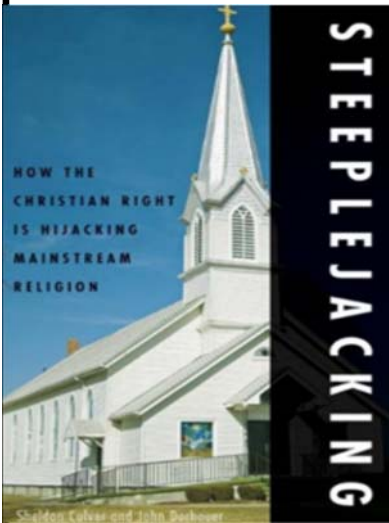


**SUNDAY SCHOOL IS IN THE MINISTRY OF  
TRANSFORMING LIVES!**

## Western Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference

The Western Association (WA) Fall Business meeting will be held on Saturday, September 21 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Columbia United Church of Christ located at 3201 I-70 Dr. NW, Columbia MO.

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer will be speaking on “Steeplejacking: The Who, The How, and The Why”. The WA are encouraging a member of their church consistory or board member to come hear this program. All lay people are encouraged to attend as well. The closest Steeplejacking took place at the UCC – Florissant only 30 minutes from us just months ago.



Registration at: <https://missourimidsouth.org/event/western-association-fall-meeting> \$25 in-person or \$10 online.

I am sure you have questions on what is “Steeplejacking”? My first thought when I heard it was “why are people stealing church steeples”. Little did I know it was referring to a person or persons coming into Christian churches to attempt to infiltrate, influence and take-over an existing congregation.

Rev. Dorhauer along with Sheldon Culver has written a book on “Steeplejacking: How the Christian Right is Hijacking Mainstream Religion” that was published in June 2007.

Continued on next page.....

Steeplejacking is one used in the States to describe the process by which small groups of conservative Christians engineer the take-over of local congregations. Having succeeded in gaining power, they then force the congregation to cut ties with the sponsoring denomination. This process is not uncommon. The book, by Sheldon Culver and John Dorhauer, presents the issue from the perspective of one denomination, the United Churches of Christ (UCC). Both the authors have watched various congregations within this denomination being 'steeplejacked'. Each was then persuaded to become independent under the control of a group of powerful lay people or a minister with a strongly conservative agenda.

The book describes in some detail the processes which allow two or three motivated newcomers with an agenda to take over the reins of an unprepared congregation. Sometimes the minister at such a church is weak or ineffective. Alternatively, he lacks the theological understanding to see what is going on. Sometimes it is the minister himself actively managing the break-away process. In most denominations on both sides of the Atlantic there are legal and financial ties which bind the local body with the national one. Break-away churches may have to factor in the loss of pension rights for a departing minister and expensive court cases to determine ownership of property.

Lay people often find it difficult to see through the distortions and propaganda of the steeplejackers. Also, a minister who is unsure of his theology, or is too demoralized to face up to the virulence of his attackers, sometimes simply abandons the field to the plotters. They are then able to get themselves voted on to committees and generally subvert the congregation on its way to independence.

Respectfully submitted, Carla Clennin, Central Cluster Rep.

Please join the Women's Guild in supporting the

# Festival of Sharing

The Women's Guild invites you to put together one of the kits that are most needed in Missouri. Please deliver your kit to the church no later than

**October 1, 2024.** Monetary gifts are also appreciated. Please indicate on check or envelope that your donation is for Festival of Sharing. All will be delivered to the Sharefest Location on **October 12, 2024.**

We thank you for prayerfully considering to help our group!



**Missouri Family Food Box** | Estimated Pack Value | **\$26**  
 7,578 requested versus 1,352 shared in 2023

**Instructions:** Place items in a sturdy box (i.e. Girl Scout cookie boxes), tape and label "Missouri Family Food Box." Please purchase low sodium/low sugar when possible. Include no more than two food box packs per box due to weight.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 pkgs. macaroni & cheese                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 pound pasta             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 different cans of vegetables                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 cans tuna               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 jar peanut butter                            | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 cans chicken            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 can pasta sauce                              | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 different cans of fruit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 box of oatmeal packets (10 count any flavor) |  |



**Missouri Personal Hygiene Pack** | Estimated Pack Value | **\$30**  
 1,541 requested versus 1,003 shared in 2023

**Instructions:** Tighten lids and place all items in a large zipper storage bag (2-2.5 gallon). Place completed packs in boxes labeled with "Missouri Personal Hygiene Packs" and the quantity on the exterior.

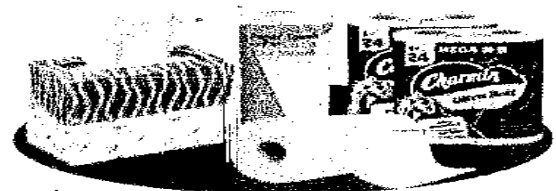
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 fluoride toothpaste (6 oz. or more) | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 hand towel                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 toothbrush (in original package)    | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 deodorant                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 bottle of body wash (15-22 oz.)     | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 razors (disposable)                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 bottle shampoo (12-16 oz.)          | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 comb (large) OR brush               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 washcloth                           | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 bottle travel skin lotion (1-3 oz.) |



**Missouri Paper Product Pack** | Estimated Pack Value | **\$21**  
 4,659 requested versus 1,419 shared in 2023

**Instructions:** Place all items in a tall-sized kitchen trash bag. Label the trash bag "Missouri Paper Products Pack."

- 2 facial tissue (large rectangle boxes)
- 2 rolls paper towels (good quality)
- 12 double/mega rolls of toilet paper as 3 packages of 4 or 2 packages of 6 (unable to receive 12 rolls in one pack)



# Salem United Church of Christ Annual Ice Cream Social



**Date: Saturday, August 24**

Serving begins at 4:00 until dusk

Located on the Salem church grounds  
on HWY K, east of California

Dining inside and outside, pick your pleasure.



Ice Cream    Drinks    Chips  
Sandwiches    Cake Walk

Everyone welcome! Come and enjoy an evening of fun, food & fellowship.

Each month the Ministerial Alliance has a suggested food item. There will be a box at the California UCC downstairs foyer to place your food items each month.

## Food Suggestions for the Food Pantry for the remaining 2024 year

### Month

August  
September  
October  
November  
December

### Food Item

Corn  
Green Beans  
Peas  
Soup  
To be announced





## Summer Music

### August

04 Steve English  
11 Stacy Friedrich  
18 Emma Kissick  
25 David and Cressida Gattermeir

# August

### Nursery Attendant

Reagan Cain



### Children's Time

04 Anny Roll  
11 Ginnie Medlin  
18 Carla Clennin  
25 Puppets

### Acolytes

04 Amelia Howard & Rylan Robertson  
11 Logan Milligan & Megan Carlock  
18 Jess Medlin & Grayden Gatlin  
25 Hazel & Meredith Wolford



### Lay Readers

04 Carole Barbour  
11 Becky Schneider  
18 Susan Burger  
25 Judy Burger

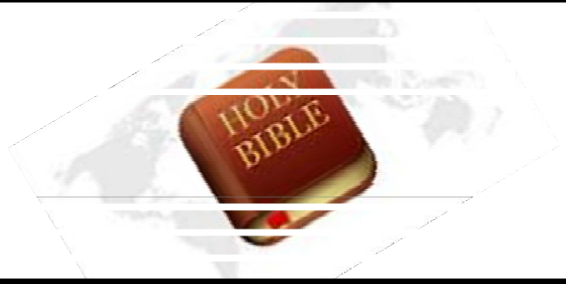
# rightnow MEDIA

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.  
YouVersion Bible 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 for both Church and Sunday School!

Follow the E-Giving link on our website:  
[calmo-ucc.org](http://calmo-ucc.org) to give today or set recurring gifts

**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)

## Notes & News

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

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



[www.calmo-ucc.org](http://www.calmo-ucc.org)



### MONTEAU CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES CENTER

*Please save your extra plastic shopping bags to use at the Food Pantry.  
Drop your bags off at the church. Thanks!*

## USED TONER & INK CARTRIDGES

Please 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](http://youtube.com) & search California United Church of Christ.

# Security System Access



Press Call Button  
for Service ↑  
Or Swipe your Fob  
to get in. →



To access the bottom doors when locked, you will find the call button and key fob pad outside on the pole next to the mailbox. If you do not have a key fob, simply just press the call button and wait for the office to open the door. If you have a key fob, just simply swipe your fob in front of the black pad. You should hear a beep or see the light change to green, and the door will unlock. If you need to use the handicapped button, the door must be first unlocked either by the office or your key fob before pressing the handicapped button. Any member wanting a key fob issued, just let Rhonda know in the office. The doors are locked primarily on a daily basis other than scheduled events.

# R.O.K. & God's Singers

2024-2025 Season begins **September 4th**

6:30 p.m. to 7:20 pm

Watch for more details!

## **Youth and Rally Sunday**

***Sunday, August 18, 2024***

during Sunday School Opening,  
Sunday School will recognize and  
promote students.

Also, incoming 4th graders will be  
recognized and receive a  
Bible during worship service.

**August 21, 2024**  
**First day of School**



# *August Birthdays*

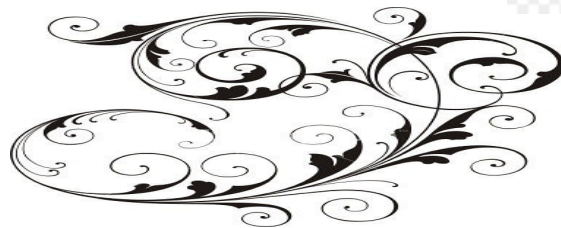
01 Melanie Adams  
01 Grady Howard  
01 Caitlin Meyer  
01 Robbie Zuidervaart  
04 John Schneider  
05 Rylee Hees  
05 Tanner Brancato  
06 Jeremy Burger  
07 Judy Burger  
07 PJ Hanauer  
08 Ted Meisenheimer  
08 Don Vernon  
10 Trystan Hees  
11 Brian Elliott  
11 Erika Nelson  
13 Peter Dampf  
13 Grace Dampf  
13 Lola McCarty  
13 Easton Motley  
14 Lillie Bieri  
14 Randy Bruce  
16 Chase Trimble  
17 Chad Mortenson  
17 Kevin Huffman  
18 Melissa Hindman  
18 Judy Ash  
23 Bryan Wolford  
24 Allan Mortenson  
24 Alyssa Sabartinelli  
25 Ada Milligan  
25 Sue Tuttle  
25 Bella Fulks  
26 Emilie Mouse  
26 Landon Mouse  
26 James Milligan  
27 D. J. Schneider  
28 Doug Ash  
28 Kent Howard  
29 Virginia Strickfaden  
31 Mary Oesterly  
31 Steven Burger



# August Baptisms

Kayla Baker—Aug. 16, 1992  
Fred Barry—Aug. 29, 1955  
Grant Burger—Aug. 8, 1993  
Kalyn Carlock—Aug. 15, 2010  
Megan Carlock— Aug. 14, 2022  
Ruth Coale—Aug. 12, 1945  
Stacy Friedrich—Aug. 30, 1981  
Brandon Hickman—Aug. 27, 1995  
Ethan Hughes—Aug. 14, 2011  
Allison Kruger—Aug. 12, 1990  
Madalynn Presley—Aug. 10, 2003  
Don Vernon—Aug. 7, 1955

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



## *The Tidings*

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF CALIFORNIA  
101 N. Oak Street, California, MO 65018  
(573)796-4885 Church Office      (573)796-3804 Pastor's Study  
Rev. Russell Cobb, Pastor    [rev.cobb@calmo-ucc.org](mailto:rev.cobb@calmo-ucc.org)  
Rhonda Elliott, Office Manager    [rhonda@calmo-ucc.org](mailto:rhonda@calmo-ucc.org)  
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. & 1:00 - 4:00 p.m., M-Thurs.  
Friday 8:00 to 1:00 p.m.

**WEBSITE:** [calmo-ucc.org](http://calmo-ucc.org)

**Sunday:** Sunday School 9:30 a.m.    Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
101 North Oak Street  
California, MO 65018—1744

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