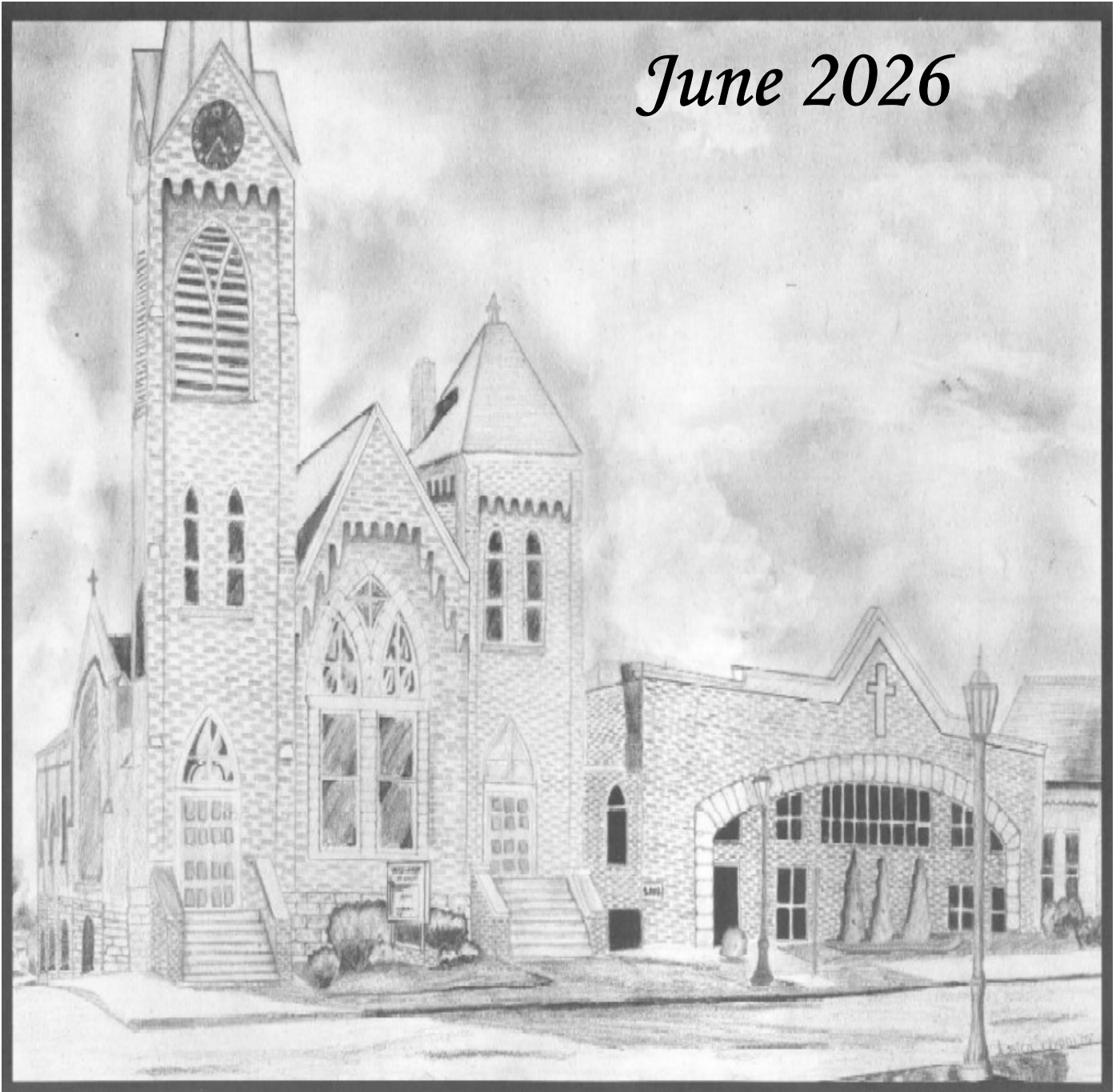


The Tidings

June 2026



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Christ Centered *Biblical *Compassionate*

101 N. Oak, California, MO 65018

Phone: 573-796-4885

It's time to say good bye.....

There is something sacred about a beginning – and something equally sacred about an ending.

Seven months ago, we stepped into a season of “in-between.” Not what was, and not what will be. Interim ministry often lives in that tender space where memories are still so close and the future so far away. And now, it is time to say goodbye, again.

But before we do, it is worth pausing to name what this time has meant.

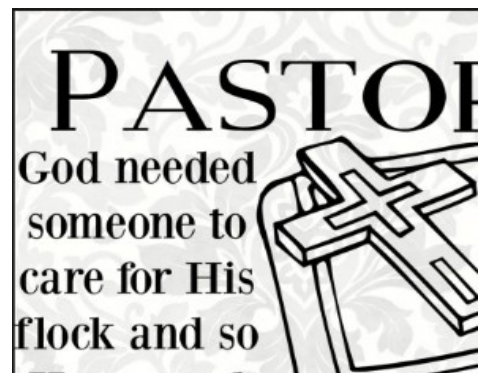
In these months together, we have done more than simply “get through” a transition. We have listened – to one another, to shared stories, and to the still-speaking voice of God. We have remembered who we have been, even as we began to imagine who we are becoming. There have been moments of joy and laughter, and moments of grief and uncertainty. All of it has mattered.

Interim time is never just about holding things together. It is about tending the soul of the congregation. You have cared for one another. You continue to worship, to serve, to pray, and to hope. In ways both seen and unseen, you have been the church – not because of any one leader, but because of the Spirit alive among you.

As I prepare to step away, I carry deep gratitude.

Gratitude for your openness in a season that could have easily been guarded. Gratitude for your willingness to engage the hard conversations. Gratitude for your humor, your kindness, and your resilience.

The truth is, this goodbye is not an ending as much as it is a handing -off. You are not standing still; you are moving forward. The work you have done in these seven months will shape the ministry that comes next. You are more ready than you may realize.



So as we say good bye, I want to leave you with this:

Trust the Spirit who has been with you all along.

Trust the story God is still writing in and through you.

Trust that what lies ahead is not something to fear, but something to embrace.

And remember – ministry was never mine to carry alone. It has always belonged to all of you.

It has been a privilege to walk with you in this season. To share in your worship, your questions, your stories, and your hopes. I leave with a full heart.

Goodbyes are never easy. But they can be meaningful. They can be holy. They can be sacred.

So I do not say goodbye with sadness alone, but with deep gratitude – and with hope for all that is yet to come.

May God bless you and keep you in the days ahead.

May you continue to grow in faith, in love, and in courage.

And may you always remember that even in times of transitions, you are never alone.

Thanks be to God for this time we have shared.

Amen!

Blessings,

Pastor Lina Eddy



California United Church of Christ

May 11, 2026 Consistory Meeting Highlights

The May Meeting of the California United Church of Christ was Called to Order at 6:05pm by Vice-President Jay Bestgen. A quorum was established with Jay Bestgen, Larry Schoeneberg, Holly Bieri, Doug Dampf, Tara Mesienheimer, and Kris Ingram present. Jim Deeken and Anny Roll were absent. Larry Schoeneberg opened the meeting with a thoughtful prayer.

Minutes from the April Meeting were approved.

Treasurer, Tara Meisenheimer presented the Treasurer's Report and the Stewardship Snapshot Report. The balance brought forward in the General Fund was \$78,289.27. There were \$42,867.02 in receipts and \$38,355.65 in disbursements leaving a balance of \$82,800.64. No checks were noted.

Financial Secretary, Larry Schoeneberg presented the Financial Secretary Report. The total income YTD was \$123,940.71 compared to the same time last year, which was \$94,663.28. The total expenses YTD was \$74,374.65 compared to the same time last year, which was \$106,028.89.

Larry Schoeneberg also gave an update on current CD activity. The UCC Church General Account will mature on May 13th and The Undesignated Bequests Account will be maturing May 29th.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds/Safe Church – Jay Bestgen, Doug Dampf, and Kris Ingram

Fire System -Korsmeyer Fire came to assess the current fire alarm system for possible fire safety improvement options. They will provide a bid for the replacement of the current fire alarm system box and some fire safety upgrades.

Old Business

Church Membership – New members will join the church on Sunday, May 24th.

Flooring Improvement – The Congregation approved the flooring project as presented. The project is scheduled to start with phase one planned for June 8th – 12th and phase two June 15th – 17th.

Scholarship Night – Will be held May 12th at 6pm and Kris Ingram will present scholarship certificates.

Senior Sunday – Will be held May 17th and gifts will be presented by Jim Deeken.

Cemetery Service – Will be held May 24th with Rev. Lina Eddy Conducting the service.

Funeral Policy – The updated Funeral Policy was presented.

Wedding Policy – The group reviewed the Wedding Policy draft.

Additional updates were made and the group will vote on the changes at the next meeting.

New Business

Pastor Matheny – The group reviewed and approved Pastor Matheny's Proposed contract.

VBS Quilt Raffle – In order to defer some of the costs of VBS Ronda Mortenson would like to create a quilt and hold a raffle beginning early next year to raise money for VBS 2027. The group gave approval for the VBS Quilt Raffle.

New Members –Brittney Medlin, Kirstan Chambers, Darren Rowles, Catherine Stout and Jane Burger were all approved as new members.

Upcoming Communion Date

May 24, 2026 – Pentecost Sunday

June 7, 2026 – 1st Sunday of the Month



Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

The Lord's Prayer

The meeting was concluded with The Lord's Prayer prayed in unison.





Pastoral Search Com *Updates*

The Pastor Search Committee continues to move forward with our mission to find a new pastor for our church. Pastor Profiles continue to be submitted to the committee from a variety of sources. We have our process in place to review the resumes, check references, and interview applicants. We have had several UCC pastors that have shown an interest in moving forward in the process. We are grateful for all applicants' interest and anxious to find the pastor God is sending us.

We thank you for your support and prayers during this time of transition. Please continue to pray for our church that God is planning to send us the person who will lead us forward with the Church's mission to bring people to Christ. We have put out suggested prayers to assist you in your prayer life but know that any prayer is welcome.

California and Salem UCC Pastor Search Committee,
Ken, Darles, Toni, Morgan, Larry, Steven and Tammy

STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

	<u>April 2026</u>	<u>April 2025</u>
General Fund		
Balance Brought Forward	\$ 78,289.27	\$ 52,336.78
Receipts	+ 42,867.02	+ 24,236.33
Disbursements	<u>- 38,355.65</u>	<u>- 29,705.36</u>
Balance – April 30, 2026	\$ 82,800.64	\$ 46,867.75
 <i>As of April 30, 2026</i>		
Building Fund Balance	\$115,121.39	\$ 111,750.92
Local Benevolence Fund Balance	\$ 10,897.16	\$ 10,267.91
Memorial Fund Balance	\$ 20,603.06	\$ 18,966.41
Schnuck Endowment Fund Balance	*\$ 32,423.46	**\$ 19,409.89
Scholarship Fund Balance	\$ 19,471.72	\$ 17,665.63
Youth Fellowship Balance	\$ 12,612.12	\$ 4,009.73
Total OCWM Received	\$ 830.00	\$ 800.00
Other Benevolent Offerings	\$ 8,856.53	\$ 6,547.92

Note on 2026 Snapshot regarding Schnuck Endowment

**The C. Schnuck Endowment Checking Fund balance of \$32,423.46 includes \$166.49 that is part of the original restricted gift unable to be expended. \$32,256.97 of the fund balance may be expended.*



Note on 2025 Snapshot regarding Schnuck Endowment

***The C. Schnuck Endowment Checking Fund balance of \$19,409.89 includes \$166.49 that is part of the original restricted gift unable to be expended. \$19,243.40 of the fund balance may be expended.*



UCC Women's Guild

Minutes of the May 20, 2026 Meeting

The May meeting of the UCC Women's Guild was celebrated with 15 members present. Cheryl opened the meeting with a prayer. Carole led the Bible Study featuring the Ten Commandments. We focused on the words from the 6th Commandment. "Do Not Murder." Honor the gift of life in our world. We may never kill another person, but there are ways that a person can kill through words. Jesus expands murder to include "being angry with another person, insulting another person, and calling a person a fool." (Matthew 5: 21-26)

Brenda gave each of us a puzzle piece and compared it to our lives. We are all important-we fit together and God loves all of us. What part will we trust God with the most?

Our benevolence opportunities for May are Rape & Abuse Crisis Center, California Nutrition Center, and Healing House.

Motion was made by Brenda and seconded by Phyllis to approve the Secretary minutes. Judy motioned to accept the financial report, which was seconded by Carole. Both motions passed.

Committee # 2 is up for the next Celebration of Life dinner. We have 1145 Best Choice labels. Thank you for saving those labels! Judy reported sending out 24 cards. More cards were signed for sending out in June. Please don't forget to sign the cards as the recipients really love mail!

A Food Pantry report showed that we gave 196 pounds of product. Thank you!!

Old Business

The Lake Orchestra Community Orchestra will be here on June 16th. Guild will provide cookies and punch for after the event.

New Business

New Member reception was discussed with Guild providing cookies and punch. Linda motioned to purchase needed supplies from Sam's. Phyllis seconded the motion, and it was approved.

America's 250/UCC's 160 celebration was discussed. The fairgrounds will be having activities all afternoon with fireworks there as well. A quilt show will be held at the Nutrition Center. Anyone who has a quilt that they would like to display was welcomed. There was a quilting group here at the church, so if you have a quilt from that group, you are encouraged to show it.

Carla gave an update to the Conference. The Fall Conference will be held at Springfield. She is involved in interviewing potential new ministers and said that it is very rewarding, and educational.

Darles gave an update on the new minister's search. They are continuing their search. We were encouraged by her report.

Phyllis' Birthday was recognized this month. Lexi gave a closing prayer. A social time was enjoyed by the group. Hostesses for this month were Carole and Carla. They provided a yummy, frosted chocolate cake, Jello with fruit, and a peach cobbler. Thank you ladies!!

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Burger



Laid to Rest

We extend our Christian sympathy to the Family and
Friends of

Sue A. Latham who passed away
May 8, 2026

~

May God bless those who mourn in these days.

New Members Joined the Church Sunday, May 24, 2026

Brittney Medlin

Kirstan Chambers

Darren Rowles

Catherine Stout

*Jane Burger by letter
of transfer*



Special Benevolence—June

Food Pantry

The special offering for Benevolence for June is the Food Pantry. The Food Pantry began operating at the Moniteau Christian Ministries Center located at 303 Latham Road 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 Food Pantry serves an average of 215 families each month.

Please make your checks payable to United Church of Christ and note Food Pantry on the memo line. Thank you for your support!



**Food
Collect**



THE LAKE AREA COMMUNITY ORCHESTRA COMES TO UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, CALIFORNIA

The Lake Area Community Orchestra will present a
Summer Concert at California United Church of Christ

On Tuesday, June 16th.

The performance will begin at 7 pm. Admission is FREE.

United Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	
	<p>1</p> <p>6:30 PM SS Teacher and Officer Meeting</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9:00</p> <p>11</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Communion</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00 PM Consistory</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00</p>
<p>14</p> <p>R.O. K. Sunday</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00</p> <p>7:0</p>
<p>21</p> <div data-bbox="462 1480 803 1627" style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Father's Day</p> <p>6:30 PM -8:30 PM Bible School</p> <div data-bbox="381 1879 787 2026" style="text-align: center;">  </div>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30 PM -8:30 PM Bible School</p> <p>7:00 PM Men's Brotherhood</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00</p> <p>6:3</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>20</p>

Christ

June 2026

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	
7 AM Prayer Cell 10:00 AM Quilters Meet	3	4	5
7 AM Prayer Cell	10	11	12
7 AM Prayer Cell 10:00 PM Lake Orchestra Concert	17 1:00 PM Women's Guild	18	19
7 AM Prayer Cell 6:30 PM -8:30 PM Bible School	24 6:30 PM -8:30 PM Bible School	25 6:30 PM -8:30 PM Bible School	26

Sunday School Teachers & Officers Meeting

May 4, 2026

Austin Chambers called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM. Those present were Austin Chambers, Ronda Mortenson, and Steven Burger.

Steven made a motion to approve the April 2026 Teacher's and Officer's meeting minutes. Ronda seconded the motion. Motion passed. Steven motioned to approve the April 2026 Teacher's and Officer's Treasurer's report. Ronda seconded motion. Motion passed.

Key Dates for 2026

Camp Schedule- Cinda will coordinate for 2026. Carole will promote during SS and church

Bible School 2026- June 21-25th

Rally Sunday- August 30th

Sunday School Fall party- Set for October 11th at Sweet Water

Veggie Tales- Halloween- Saturday, October 31st

Giving Tree- Sunday, November 29th (1st Sunday of Advent)

Christmas Eve Program- Thursday December 24th, 2026- Committee organized for this.

Cookies and Carols- December 13th or 20th

Old Business:

Discussion was had concerning the committee cabinet meeting and ideas that were shared.

New Business:

On April 24, 2026, Cressida informed the Sunday School Superintendent that she would step down from the Pre-K/Kindergarten class, and her last class would be May 31st. Discussion was had on potential replacement and what steps could be taken to move forward. Ronda has offered to take the children from the Pre-K/Kindergarten class for the immediate time being.

A \$500 request was made for a semi-circle table like the one in Ronda's classroom and a swivel chair to accommodate a larger class size.

Ronda will need up to \$100 for new curriculum (activity sheets) and materials for the next quarter. Please note that a quorum was not established, but a decision was made by the Sunday School Superintendent and those present, to approve the expenditures so that the classroom needs will be met prior to May 31st.

Further discussion was had on having the interim pastor meet the Sunday School teachers and classes later in the summer.

A discussion was had on getting the new young adult class started. There are up to 6 interested parties. Will discuss further next month.

Other business:

Ronda discussed funding opportunities for VBS 2027. She will discuss the opportunity further after approval from the Consistory.

Sunday School opening will make mention that the Amazon supply list for VBS will close May 31st.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50
Respectfully submitted by Austin Chambers, 1st Superintendent.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS IN THE MINISTRY OF TRANSFORMING LIVES!



Please save your Best Choice UPC labels! There is a box on the window sill in the downstairs foyer to place them in. Your support to the Food Pantry is greatly appreciated.



Sunday, June 21

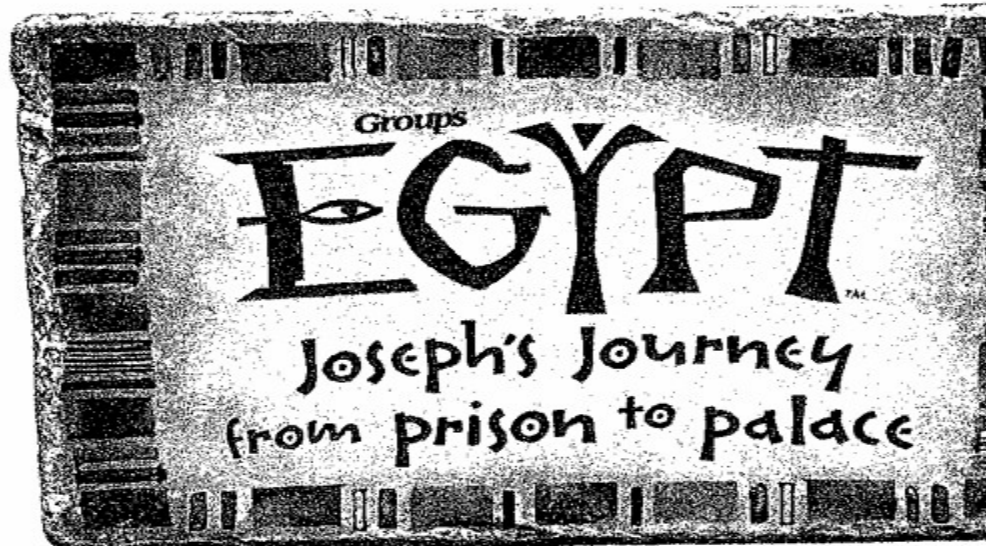


Food Pantry Items Needed

Each month the Food Pantry is requesting a different food item. For the **month of June**, **Cereal** is the food item requested. There is a box in the downstairs foyer at the California UCC to place your food items.

196 lbs dry mixed foods for the month of April were donated

United Church of Christ Pres



Vacation Bible School
101 North Oak Street Californ
June 21st – 25th 6:30 – 8:30
Age 3 yrs - 5th Grade
Register at calmo-ucc.org



Dear Friends,
Thank you for supporting River city Habitat for Humanity with your generous gift of \$786.03 on April 30, 2026. With the help of donors like you, we have already partnered with two local families to purchase their homes this year, and we are currently working on three more homes that we hope to complete before the end of 2026. Thank you for being part of what we are building together.



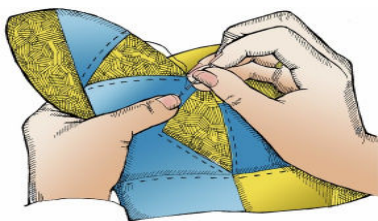
Camp Aurora Summer 2026 Dates

Senior High Camp	July 5 - 11
Junior High Camp	July 12 - 17
Junior Camp	July 19 - 24
Primary Camp	July 26 - 29

Quilters Meet Tuesday, June 2nd

11:00 to 4:00 pm

Come join us!



QUILTING GROUP



Summer Music

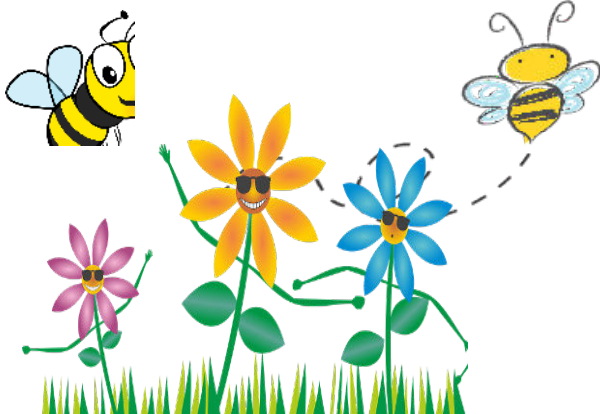


June

07 Ada Milligan & Brynna Hall
14 Kids Group
21 ?
28 Kolten Fulks

Nursery Attendant

Emma Bestgen



Children's Time

07 Anny Roll
14 Holly Bieri
21 Ronda Mortenson
28 The Puppets



Lay Readers

07 Brad Friedrich
14 Carla Clennin
21 Toni Kueffer
28 Mary Burger

Acolytes

07 Georgie Peck & Charley Medlin
14 Camden & Sutton Lawson
21 Nora Wolford & Amelia Howard
28 Lee Bieri & Max Robertson





Birth

Roan Wayne Opie, son of
Bryce and Morgan (Bestgen) Opie was born May 3, 2026.
He joins sisters *Kolly and Kwincy*.
Congratulations to parents, siblings, grandparents
and great grandparents!

*Read the Bible on your phone.
YouVersion Bible app. You can
download this app for free at
the app store.*



*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 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



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

Please save all of your used toner and ink cartridges! The church office collects used toner and ink cartridges in order to get 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)



June Birthdays



01 Nadine Dougherty
01 Kristen Everett
02 Beth Dampf
04 Leroy Schnieders
05 Milo Milligan
05 Cindy Ash
06 Bryce Opie
07 Kolten Fulks
08 Kayla Baker
10 Jim Deeken
11 Cody Schneider
13 Megan Carlock
13 Tammy Meisenheimer
14 Sophia Miller
14 Karsyn Rowles
14 Raelynn Rowles
15 Grant Burger
15 Alex Meisenheimer
15 Cheryl Schoeneberg
16 Brooks Volkart
18 Boston Schoeneberg
21 Keith Selk
21 Emilie Liebi

22 Bill Hess
22 Eric Bieri
24 Becky Schneider
26 Khloe Mortenson
27 Courtney Cassil
27 Kathy Roll
27 Robert Schlup
28 Quade Peck
28 Breanna Pruitt
29 Kaleb Borghardt
29 Max Robertson
30 Stacy Friedrich
30 Kirstan Chambers



June Baptisms

Kaitlyn Adams—June 16, 2002
Isaac Ash—June 10, 2001
Connie Bestgen—June 1, 1969
Jay Bestgen—June, 1969
Kathy Bueker—June 11, 1967
Adam Burger—June 13, 1993
Dawn Chapman—June 12, 1994
Johnny Cassil—June, 1975
Bridget Clifford—June 23, 1990
Jessica Connelly—June 18, 2000
Beth Dampf—June 23, 1973
Kristen Everett—June 9, 1980
Matthew Gerhart—June 11, 1989
Kendall Gratz—June 19, 2022
Sydney Gratz—June 30, 1996
Brett Hall—June 7, 1981
Brynna Hall—June 1, 2014
Hunter Hall—June 19, 2011
Jaelea Hall—June 19, 2011
Courtney Hees—June, 1981
Dean Kiesling—June 25, 1939

Kenny Knipker—June 14, 1953
Allee Koestner—June 18, 2000
Jacob Kueffer—June 18, 2000
Camden Lawson—June 23, 2013
Lauren Lawson—June 15, 1986
Lennon Lawson—June 3, 2018
Ada Milligan—June 10, 2018
Elaine Proctor—June 15, 1941
Regina Pruitt—June 14, 1959
Derek Schoeneberg—June 18, 2000
Laura Schoeneberg—June 18, 2000
Rachelle Thompson—June 14, 1959
Verna Wolfrum—June 10, 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
Rhonda Elliott, Office Manager rhonda@calmo-ucc.org
Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. & 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

WEBSITE: calmo-ucc.org

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