

*Lent*

## Worship and other Information

- 1) On Sundays: 9am Bible study/discussion Fellowship Hall; Worship 10:30am *in person* and *livestreamed* on our church FB page. <https://www.facebook.com/Columbus-Community-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-109813516270/>
- 2) Wed, soup suppers with Lutherans: 5:30pm
  - a. Community Cong. March 9, 23, April 6
  - b. St. James Luth. March 16, 30, April 13
  - c. → Each church brings 2 soups & 2 breads each Wednesday – please sign up to bring soup or bread – sign-up sheets at church
- 3) *Beads & Blessings* gathering. 10:30am – 1pm. Learn about the use of prayer beads over the centuries, plus opportunity to make them. Bring a sack lunch; drinks & dessert to be provided. Please invite others.
- 4) Donations for potted flowers for Easter Sunday welcome – sign up by April 10
- 5) Pastor's office hours on Wednesdays 11am till late afternoon thru 4/6; Effective 4/13: 9:30am-3:30pm. Fridays 9am – 1pm, with Coffee with Pastor Fridays at 10am, except 2<sup>nd</sup> Fri each month and Good Friday: 11am – 12:30p
- 6) Wednesday Bible study will resume after Easter - on April 20



Send emails to [ucccolumbus@gmail.com](mailto:ucccolumbus@gmail.com). Please send requests, comments, photos, suggestions for newsletter to [joannyeootd@gmail.com](mailto:joannyeootd@gmail.com) *and* to [kudu1939@yahoo.com](mailto:kudu1939@yahoo.com). Mail donations or pledge payments to Community Congregational Church, PO Box 545, Columbus, MT 59019 OR donate online: (1) <https://tithe.ly/give?c=3716202> or (2) click on the GREEN GIVE button at top right of our website: <https://columbuscommunityucc.com/>

## TIOSPAYE

Before joining the United Church of Christ (UCC), my experience of “church seasons” was the first Sunday in October (“promotion Sunday”) when I would graduate to the next class; fall revival; Christmas; Easter; spring revival; Vacation Bible school immediately following the end of school. What a surprise when I first joined the UCC shortly before the church’s Pancake Supper for Fat Tuesday! I had never heard of Fat Tuesday nor a Pancake Supper to celebrate it.



So here in this church we have had a Pancake Supper on March 1, followed by Ash Wednesday, which we shared with the Lutherans. I have come to cherish these church seasons as I now have come to understand them. There is a satisfying rhythm to them, each with its own particular focus.

Lent originated early after Jesus’ death though at the time its structure varied according to the region. A common practice was weekly fasting on Wednesday and Friday until mid-afternoon. In addition, candidates for baptism, as well as the clergy, would fast before the rite, which often took place at Easter.

During the fourth century, based on the timeframe of Jesus’ reported time in the wilderness after his baptism, various Christian communities observed a longer fast of 40 days before the beginning of the three holiest days of the liturgical year: Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.

As Christianity spread through Western Europe from the fifth through twelfth centuries, the observance of Lent did as well. A few Lenten days were “black,” or total, fast days. But daily fasting came gradually to be moderated during most of Lent. By the end of the Middle Ages a meal was often permitted at noon.

Also, bishops and theologians specializing in

church law specified restrictions on the kinds of acceptable food: no meat or meat products, dairy or eggs could be consumed at all during Lent, even on Sundays.

The idea was to avoid self-indulgence at this time of repentance for one's sins. Marriage, a joyous ritual, was also prohibited during the Lenten season. I never have fasted for Lent, but I am considering doing some modified version. The suggested regimen is to fast on **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday** with only one simple meal during the day, usually without meat. Refrain from eating meat on all Fridays in Lent, substituting fish for example. Eliminate a food or food group for the entire season. Especially consider saving rich and fatty foods for Easter.

Other activities are also suggested, in keeping with the idea of Lent as a time for spiritual renewal as well as self-discipline. These include making amends with estranged family and friends, offering community service, and giving special attention to the reading of the Bible or other spiritual writings and to prayer.

Though some practices may have changed, Lent in the 21<sup>st</sup> century remains essentially the same as in centuries past: a time of quiet reflection and spiritual discipline. (Portions adapted from The Conversation, an online news source).

Shalom, Pastor Kate

### Moderator's Musings

Lent began March 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is my annual reminder that it's a good time to take up something and give up something. From my long ago psychology class comes the lesson that if you can do something for three weeks you can create or break a habit. Give it a go. Use the six weeks of lent to make the changes resolved last January. And if not for the sake of self-improvement, then as a reminder that some carry burdens and do without constantly.

Part of the transition to spring in this part of the world is that we enjoy increased hours of daylight. And so it is with Easter and the light of the world. As there is more daylight, this is a good time to work on enlightenment. "We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when we are afraid of the light." — Plato. It seems as though there is currently an abundance of darkness. Therefore, it is a good time to bring in more light. Join us in person or on Facebook this Easter season.

Maurie Petterson

### Church Contacts (Pls note changes for Joan)

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 Facebook: Columbus Community Congregational

Worship & more **Lenten schedules** on page 1

Choir practice schedule *TBA* – please contact Maurie or Kate if you want to sing in our combined church choir.

Mar 6	Communion Sunday
Mar 11	Friday afternoon Worship services at Beartooth (1pm) and at Meadowlark (2pm)
Mar 12	Turn clocks AHEAD before going to bed
Mar 13	Diaconate & Trustees meet after worship
Mar 19	Sack lunch study <i>Beads+Blessings</i> 10:30-1
Mar 20	Council meets after worship
Mar 27	One Great Hour of Sharing offering received
Apr 3	Communion Sunday
Apr 8	Friday afternoon Worship services at Beartooth (1pm) and at Meadowlark (2pm)
Apr 10	Palm Sunday Diaconate & Trustees meet after worship
Apr 14	Maundy Thursday service (our church 7pm)
Apr 14	Good Friday service (at St. James, 7pm)
Apr 17	Easter sunrise service on East Hill, 7am Pastor Kate: sunrise service main speaker Easter breakfast at our church, 8am Easter service at our church, 10:30am
Apr 24	Council meets after worship
Apr 25	CornerStone news items to Joan please

**Prayer Concerns:** Dan & Carol Hofferber (health and loss of Carol's sister), Thelma Black, Donna Storer, Bill & Janice Goodman, Karen Brewer, Vicky Unger, Donna McFarland, Dick Henry, Paula Newkirk, Drew Maki, Sam Spano, Vanessa Cameron, Diane & Mike Stocker, Meadowlark + Beartooth Manor, all health care workers and First responders, all affected by Covid-19, mental health challenges, grief, or suicide.

## JUST HOPE



one word  
because until justice and hope are united,  
neither is fully possible

### TeamWorks report

Our church learned about JustHope from our former minister Randy Leisey. Its founder, Leslie Penrose, began working to address systemic poverty in

Nicaragua in 1986. Our church and our TeamWorks have supported its microcredit program, which provides small loans to women to start a small business in order to support their families. In one area nine women signed up this year to begin a pig breeding or agriculture business. Four new women have applied this year; it requires \$350 in new capital for each additional woman: \$250 for the loan and \$100 for the 3 years training and coaching they receive.

Women are responsible for each other's loans so local women are involved in reviewing applications for new loans. They can recognize women in their community who are a trustworthy credit risk. Since 2009 this microcredit program has provided over \$50,000 in microcredit loans to 157 women through 15 community microcredit banks in Nicaraguan villages. After 10 years, the women's repayment rate continues to be 100%.

Beth notes that in 2020 we sent \$800 (\$400 from the raffle of Rhonda's beautiful afghan, \$200 from Mission, and \$200 from TeamWorks), which paid the salary for the woman running the microcredit program. You can read how the microcredit program works and see our church listed as a supporting partner of the program at <https://justhope.org/our-work/programs/social-enterprise/microcredit-project>. Thank you, Beth, for creating the display of photos and reports! Everyone can see it on the landing outside the East room.

### From Church Council Minutes, Feb 20

**PRESENT:** Maurie Petterson, Jim Movius, Rhonda Peterson, Jerry Nye, Mary Kuehn, Pastor Kate Stulce, Beth Damm, Joan Nye and Curt Kuehn

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** Matches Treasurer. The

2022 pledges already submitted is 1/3 of Budget.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Bank balance, prepaid pledges for the last few years were being transferred in our books but not with the bank. So the last few years prepaid pledges were transferred from Savings to Checking which put a lot in checking account. Memorial funds on annual report were wrong but now balances with memorial committee. RBC Wealth went down \$1041.18; Jim working on analysis for investing. One needs to submit slip for reimbursement; slips are in copy room.

**TRUSTEE'S REPORT:** Jerry would like Trustees to reconsider on investing in the audio/video equipment, eg TV+DVD player for Fellowship hall. Put up a curtain over the coat area to cover shovels, etc. The Door/bench moved to Stulce home; Kate will donate to church for it.

**DIACONATE:** Bingo on 2/27. Jerry & Rhonda will bring chili; Mary soup. Changing Bingo prizes to \$1 a card/Bingo winner takes the pot. (Mary got prizes for kids.) Need to look at inactive members. On 3/6 Jerry and Joan will go to Rapelje café and hope others church go also. Jerry has stored the 7 Accordion oak doors from between the sanctuary and East room; would like to have them removed. Maurie will take 2; Mary will take 2. \$200 apiece.

**CHRISTIAN ED:** Jerry mentioned Fat Tuesday. Conference schedule of summer camps for youth, family, & intergenerational at Mimanagish on bulletin boards. Or ask Joan to email it to you.

**MISSION:** Mission balance stands at \$2,487.65. Received thank you from the Mental Health Center, Montana Food Bank Network, JustHope. Donations went to two young men bicycling thru the area to raise environment awareness & received thank you.

**TEAMWORKS:** Served lunch served at our Annual Meeting and on Feb. 24 for Columbus Foundation. Website & Beth's report on JustHope on this page.

**MEMORIAL:** Nothing new. Balance is \$6,277.68.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** "Much of my time recently has been consumed with meetings with Tonia Fisher for Lenten services and with Meg Hatch to do joint activities with Absarokee. I have walked at the high school and met more people in the community. Also joined a book club and met more folks that way. I have done some home visits and several in-office visits. Looking ahead - want to increase the variety in our worship services (inc. more recorded music played prior to the service) and a mission activity of resuming the work of

filling backpacks at Project Hope.”

**CHURCH CLERK:** Some people have not received return. Kate will check on voice mail system.

**CALENDAR:** March 16-17 election services. May 22 - LSC is reserved for graduation party.

**EARTHCARE:** We thank church family for bringing items to be recycled or repurposed. Egg cartons to Blgs Family Services. (Food banks receive eggs in giant quantities so need egg cartons for distribution to families.) TP & paper towel rolls are used by Audubon Society for kid education projects. Rx bottles go to Veterinary practices.

Our UCC Conference Green Team now meets by zoom at 2 pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday each month. Discussions are interesting and a book discussion now is part of the monthly meetings. Mary and Kate signed up for EarthCare committee.

**BUSINESS:** Planning/visioning meeting went well; many people showed up.

Rhonda Peterson, Church Clerk



📌 Announcements of summer Camp dates, types, and volunteer needs are posted on bulletin boards on church landing and in Fellowship Hall. For more information, go to our Conference website: [mnwucc.org](http://mnwucc.org) or contact Joan for email.

### Celebrations

Mar 3 Carol Hofferber Birth	Mar 27 Dave Naylor Birth
Mar 6 Alan Drain Birth	Mar 30 Charlotte V.O. Birth
Apr 4 Bonnie Kinsfather Birth	Mar31 Guy Schoenborn Birth
Mar 8 Curtis Kuehn Birth	Apr 7 Van Oosten Anniv
Mar 10 Vicki K Unger Birth	Apr 12 Barry Kinsfather Birth
Mar 13 Ellis Burch Birth	Apr 18 Amy Drain Birth
Mar 19 Randi Docken Birth	Apr 24 Randy Leisey Birth
Mar22 Kevin Homewood Birth	Apr 25 Paulette Northup Birth
Mar 25 RLeisey/Perkins Anniv	Apr 29 Timber Docken Birth



Despite a light turnout after the two years' gap for Covid, our donations and raffle tickets sales for youth programs grossed over \$400. A visiting non-ticket holder (with eyes closed) drew the winning raffle tickets: Pet Sitting winner Linda Halstead; Susan Leaverton woven scarf winner Berte Heath; Framed print winner Pastor Kate Stulce; Dog treats winner Berte Heath; Food containers+ artistic hotpads winner Beth Damm.

Thank you to all who helped and/or donated!

**WELCOME!** Lynn & Judy Bondo moved from Elko, Nevada to Columbus in 2021. They have been married 60 years and are retired. Lynn worked in the electrical field, mostly in Oregon, and Judy was a professional volunteer. They have 2 children and 4 grands. Judy is a fiber artist when not playing “trucks” with grandkids in Laurel. Lynn is an enthusiastic chef for church events. Both worked long & well for Fat Tuesday.

### Serving Schedule for March and April 2022

<b>March 7</b>	<b>March 13</b>	<b>April 3</b>	<b>April 10 Palm Sunday</b>
Beth & Thelma B	Maurie Petterson	Charlotte Van Oosten	Mary & Casey Kuehn
<b>March 20</b>	<b>March 27</b>	<b>April 17 Easter</b> (Easter breakfast 8am)	<b>April 24</b>
Paulette & Daryl	Curt K & Roger H	CoffeeHour Viv G&KathyS	Rhonda & Donna McF

### Basic Serving Rotation Schedule for all year 2022

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of odd numbered mos.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of odd numbered mos.	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of even numbered mos.	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of even numbered mos.	5 <sup>th</sup> Sundays Barbara Hendrsn
Beth & Thelma B	Maurie Petterson	Charlotte Van Oosten	Mary & Casey K.	<b>People to call to fill in or help</b> Joan & Jerry Nye Patty Edwards Linda Halstead- Acharya Amy Drain Cheryl Rasmussen
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of odd numbered mos.	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of odd numbered mos.	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of even numbered mos.	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of even numbered mos.	
Paulette & Daryl Northup	Curt K & Roger H	Viv G & Kathy S	Rhonda Peterson Donna McF	

**Odd numbered mos. :** November, January, March, May, July, September

**Even numbered mos.:** December, February, April, June, August, October



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
We love the sounds of children's voices and invite all to be present in worship.		March 1 Fat Tuesday pancakes	2 Ash Wed. service 7p	3	4	5
6 Bible Study 9 Worship 10:30 <b>Communion</b>	7	8	9 Office hrs above <i>Lenten Soup + service at CCC 5:30pm</i>	10	11 Office: 11-12:30 <i>Worship at Beartooth (1pm) &amp; Meadowlark (2pm) Join us!</i>	12  SPRING AHEAD
Daylight Sav Time 13 Bible Study 9 Worship 10:30 Trustees and Diaconate mtgs	14	15	16 Office hrs above <i>Lenten Soup + service at St. James 5:30pm</i>	17 	18 Pastor in office 9am-1pm Coffee w/ Kate 10	19 <i>Beads &amp; Blessings session, bring sack lunch 10:30am-1:00pm</i>
20 Bible Study 9 Worship 10:30 Church council 11:30am	21 <i>First day of SPRING</i>	22	23 Office hrs above <i>Lenten Soup + service at CCC 5:30pm</i>	24	25 Pastor in office 9am-1pm Coffee w/ Kate 10	26
27 Bible Study 9 Worship 10:30 <i>One Great Hour of Sharing</i> offering	28	29	30 office hrs above <i>Lenten Soup + service at St. James 5:30pm</i>	31	April 1 Pastor in office 9am-1pm Coffee w/ Kate 10	2
3 Bible Study 9 Worship 10:30 <b>Communion</b>	4	5	6 Office hrs above <i>Lenten Soup + service at CCC 5:30pm</i>	7	8 Office hrs: 11-12:30 <i>Worship at Beartooth (1pm) &amp; Meadowlark (2pm) Join us!</i>	9
<b>Palm Sun</b> 10 Bible Study 9 Worship 10:30 Trustees and Diaconate mtgs	11	12	13 Pastor in office 9:30am-3:30pm No afternoon study or serv.	14 Maundy Thursday serv at CCC 7p	15 Office: 11-12:30	16 Good Friday serv St. James Luth 7p
<b>Easter</b> 17 Sunrise serv 7am Breakfast 8am Worship 10:30	18	19	20 Pastor in office 9:30am-3:30pm Bible Study & supper 5pm	21	22 Pastor in office* 9am-1pm Coffee w/ Kate 10	23
24 Bible Study 9 Worship 10:30 Church council mtg after worship	25 CornerStone news items to Joan, please	26	27 Pastor in office 9:30am-3:30pm Bible Study & supper 5pm	28	29 Pastor in office* 9am-1pm Coffee w/ Kate 10	30