



MILLERSBURG  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

ESTABLISHED  
1836

## MILLERSBURG CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

"In the heart of the community, with the community at heart."

REV. PATRICIA A. FARMER, MINISTER  
pafarmerecuador@gmail.com 505-900-155

**JULY 2021**



### Patricia's Ponderings: The Open-Ended House

Open-ended: That's how I describe the home where my husband and I now live. Since we purchased our well-worn (shabby-sans-chic) historic house 3 years ago, we have been renovating and restoring. For us, it's a matter of DIY (do it yourself) on a shoestring budget.

Despite our busy lives, we've managed to restore a great deal—with a lot of help from our friends. But nothing is finished; nothing is *ever* finished. If you've ever tried to restore an old home, you know what I mean. Just when you think you can breathe that long-awaited sigh, your eyes follow the wall up to an unsightly gap in the old trim. You decide to cover a radiator and it leads to the need for seat cushions which leads to the need for matching that material to the kitchen chairs which leads to recovering the chairs which leads to reorienting the budget which leads to rethinking the bathroom project entirely, *ad infinitum*. As Margo Kaufman says, "Remodeling is like pulling a loose thread on a cheap sweater—the job keeps unraveling."

Some say it's hard to live in an unfinished home, that only the untried or the unhinged would choose such a life. Those people would be right. Still, there are upsides to the unfinished abode, like the time we pulled up the living room carpet to find gorgeous original oak floors. For the imaginative spirit, an empty room with creaky doors and peeling wallpaper is not really empty but bursting with possibility! Remodeling—say what you will—offers a wide-open space for the imagination to fly around and have fun.

After much soul-searching, prayer, meditation, and double-dips of butter pecan ice cream, I have finally accepted our house-in-process as a permanent living situation rather than a transitional time to "get through." Kind of like the spiritual life and the nature of reality itself: it's all in process. The sooner we learn to accept this, the more we can relax into the adventure.

In the *Alphabet of Spiritual Literacy*, "O" is for Openness. To be open is to be vulnerable and accepting and curious and inclusive. But to be all these things is to be unapologetically unfinished. We must be willing to accept our souls as open-ended houses: Always open to something new. Always remodeling. Always inviting in new people, new ideas, and new ways of thinking, organizing, and adapting to a changing and challenging world. The vibrant soul hungers for open doors that bring in fresh air to stir up the imagination. So why not give your imagination space to play by embracing the unfinished self? After all, being always unfinished means that positive change is still possible, not only within ourselves but in our world, in human consciousness, and in our yearnings for justice and environmental well-being. The universe is open! Gloriously so.

Our open-ended souls are connected to each other and to the stars and to the galaxies and to the bumble bee and to God. We constantly adapt to the decisions and movements of others and ourselves, while God fashions fresh possibilities out of all these changes, moment by moment. And so together we grow, restore, re-create, co-create; we find redemption, we make things better—not always, of course, but we give it our best. So, let's stop trying to finish the project we call our self; instead, let's throw open the windows of the soul to the ever-fresh possibilities from heaven's imagination and just go with it. And if you have any spare time, we have some floors that need sanding.

Blessings, Rev. Patricia



A community shower is being held for the baby girl of Brent Moran and his wife Crystal Lai, at 7 pm on Saturday, August 7, 2021. [They live in Hong Kong, so that is 8 a.m. their time.] Their daughter is due August 18. The shower in the USA will be held at Millersburg Christian Church. Brent and Crystal will join us by zoom.

Others who want to join by zoom, please send an email to [bvg.moran@yahoo.com](mailto:bvg.moran@yahoo.com) so that you will receive the zoom link. For those of you in the Millersburg area, please join us at the church for refreshments and celebration of this blessed event!

Crystal and Brent set up a baby registry and the link is [https://www.myregistry.com/giftlist/baby\\_moran](https://www.myregistry.com/giftlist/baby_moran). If you want your gift to arrive before the shower date, please order by mid-July. Grandma Barbara offered to handle logistics with regard to ordering. If you'd like to avoid navigating the buying process (though they ensured things are in English), please just let Barbara Moran know what item you'd like to sponsor. (This will be the Moran's first grandchild)

Belated congratulations to Mike and Barbie McGrath who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary June 19!

Congratulations to Kathy Craighead who is retiring from MU!  
Her new e-mail address is [craigheadki@gmail.com](mailto:craigheadki@gmail.com)



Rev. Patricia will be on vacation July 12-26. Rev. Bob Green will be preaching both Sunday services.

### Mark your calendars!

Outdoor Worship Set for Sunday, September 12! - Larry Baumgartner and his family will host our annual outdoor worship at their Cedar Creek Farm on Sunday, Sept. 12.

### Prayers of Healing for:

Rhad Baker – recovering from a farm accident and surgeries for broken foot and ankle  
Amanda Nolte - recovering from Lasik surgery  
Ryan Green - continued prayers  
Courtney Moran - torn ligaments  
Judy Nozsek - continued prayers  
Freddie Copeland - continued prayers  
Jerry Powell - continued prayers  
Lewis Baumgartner – continued prayers  
Marilyn Allen



Please plan to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> fellowship event in over a year!

WHAT: Ice Cream, Cookies and Fellowship

WHEN: July 24, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

WHERE: Jeff and Barbara Moran's house

If you would like to swim, fish, etc. in their lake prior to eating ice cream, you are welcome to come at 5:00 p.m. We will eat ice cream and cookies at 6:30! Please bring lawn chairs if you have some that are easily transported!

Hope to see you then!

Please join us when we resume our 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday social fellowship event July 4 at 9:45 a.m. Brenda Rose will be our hostess.

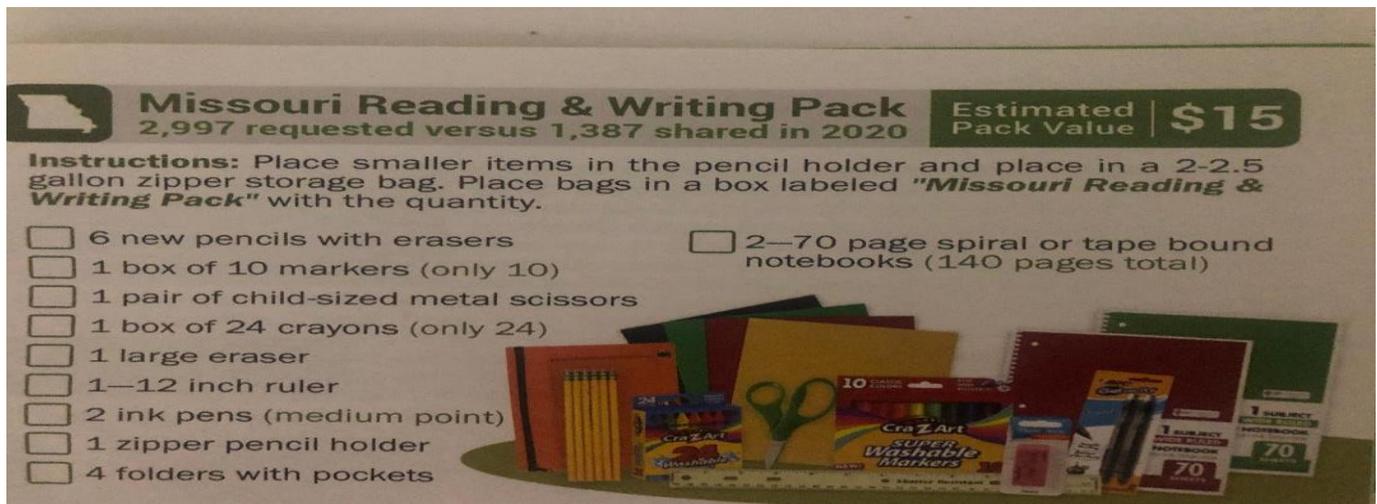
Congratulations to Bernie & Vickie Roberts on the birth of their new granddaughter, Elizabella Rose who was born June 22, 2021 and weighed 6.99 pounds! Proud parents are Nathan and Courtney Roberts and a big sister for Slater!

### Laity Sunday participants



The Missions Committee selected the Missouri Reading & Writing Pack to collect and give to the Festival of Sharing this year. Our goal is 20 packs. We will maintain a tally board at the church showing what we've collected and what we still need. We have plenty of time, so we can wait for back to school sale, if we want to. We have to deliver the kits on September 25, 2021.

Thank you. Randy



**Treasurer's Report - Balances for Millersburg Christian Church accounts:**

	1/11/21	2/15/21	3/22/21	4/15/21	5/14/21	6/21/21
Checking	8,692	9,649	12,510	14,626	13,789	15,166
Savings	3,507	3,508	3,509	3,511	3,512	201
Special	4,011	5,731	5,825	12,748	14,082	17,289
PayPal	1,931	1,071	2,159	159	209	308.19
Flex Fund (Disciples Church Extension Fund)					4,990	

Both Proverbs 11:2 and 16:18 indicate that pride should be avoided. However, I believe that, done without haughtiness and with humility, we can show a bit of pride in ourselves as a congregation. Amazing things happen when Millersburg Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) members and friends hop to action.

A month ago we were wondering how to pay for the must-do repairs on the church's roof and HVAC system. Should we borrow money, decimate our Special and Savings Accounts, establish a special fund or use some combination of these means to pay the bills? I was worried about the impact of these expenses on our church's finances. As Jesus noted about the disciples in Matthew 8:26, when they feared the sea and the storm, I was of little faith and afraid of what might happen. Well, the disciples didn't drown in the Sea of Galilee and our church didn't drown in debt.

Now the bills are being paid and, because of your great response to the urgent request for help, we didn't need a loan and we still have our Special and Savings accounts, although there is shrinkage. These bills are being paid with funds coming from your generous donations and by moving some of our savings into the special account. The HVAC bill was for \$11,594 and the roof repairs probably cost \$5,550--we've yet to get the official bill for this--for a total of \$17,144. If you compare the amounts in this month's Special and Savings accounts (deducting \$5,550 from the Special account to cover the yet to be paid roofing repair) to what they contained last month, you'll find that so far we are down by \$5,654. And, some of you are continuing to pay into the Special account, thus helping to shrink the shrinkage.

Now that we've shown just a touch of pride, here's more good news, we can also smile over the Rummage Sales results. We earned \$1,836.78 and it is deposited in the general account to help meet our budget for salaries, operating expenses and charity. Thanks be to God.



# JULY



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
				MPS 8-3  <i>Rita Adams</i>		
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>HAPPY 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY</b>	MPS 7-8	MPS 8-3  <i>Braxton O'Bryan</i>  <i>Remi Giofre</i>		MPS 8-3 <i>Amiria Harper-Rose</i>  <i>Cindy Baumgartner</i>	<i>Kennedy Blevins</i>  <i>Jeremy Czeschin</i>	<i>Beau Landrum</i>  <b>Tom &amp; Beth Haas</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
Craig Latty Paul Schmidt  Board Meeting after worship				<i>Kim Loyd Gary Hackmann Emmett Darrel Crane</i>	<i>Jennifer Weiss Billie Jean (Anderson) Woods</i>	<i>Kate Bedsworth</i>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<i>Bowen Force</i>	Newsletter Deadline  <b>Danny &amp; Brenda Rose</b>	<i>Huston Force Janna Islam-Rose</i>  <i>John &amp; Nichole (Adams) Tutt</i>		<b>David &amp; Cheryl Rose</b>	<b>Revs. Ron &amp; Patricia Farmer</b>	Ice Cream Social at Moran's-6:30  <i>Slater Roberts</i>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Chris &amp; Kim Force</b>	<i>Bill Anderson</i>		Newsletter Assembly			

## Millersburg Christian Church

*(Disciples of Christ)*

4527 State Road J  
Fulton, MO 65251

**Return Service Requested**



### THOSE WHO SERVE IN JULY



**ELDER:** Bob Green

**DIACONATE:** Larry Strawhorn  
Patty Eggleston

**SERVE Food Pantry item for the month of July:**  
Canned vegetables

10:00 a.m. Visiting

10:30 a.m. Worship Begins

Rev. Patricia Farmer, Minister

Brenda Williamson, Administrative Assistant and  
Bookkeeper

Church telephone number is 573-642-2939

Church email address is: [mcc1836@socket.net](mailto:mcc1836@socket.net)

Brenda telephone number: 573-544-3360

Brenda email: [blouwilliamson@yahoo.com](mailto:blouwilliamson@yahoo.com)

Find us on the web at

[www.millersburgchristianchurch.org](http://www.millersburgchristianchurch.org)

"Like" us on Facebook!

You can contact her at

[pafarmerecuador@gmail.com](mailto:pafarmerecuador@gmail.com) or by phone/text (505-900-1553).

The best times to reach her are Monday-Thursday during regular business hours. Friday and Saturday are her days off.

You are welcome to join us in person to worship in the sanctuary at 10:30 am on Sundays. To join our worship service by zoom, send an email to [MCC1836@socket.net](mailto:MCC1836@socket.net), and put "Zoom Church" in the Subject line. You will be sent an email the Saturday before the service with a link by which you can connect by Zoom on your laptop, tablet, or smartphone. You can also join to just listen to the service by non-smartphone. Join by 10:20 am. Service starts at 10:30 am.

Previous sermons are posted at our website:

[www.millersburgchristianchurch.org](http://www.millersburgchristianchurch.org).