



 **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

AUGUST 2021



PATRICIA'S PONDERINGS: Return to the Body

"The first step on a spiritual path today is a return to a sense of one's own body" - Martha Heyneman

Age is like a prankster. We wake up with a weird pain in our toe, bend over to pull weeds in our flower bed only to be stuck in that position due to lower back stiffness, and then, in the late evening, walk toward the bedroom with that pleasant anticipation of blissful sleep and fall over the cat—breaking a wrist (I write from personal experience). Despite all reason and education in these matters of the body and aging, a part of us screams at our bodies: *You've got to be kidding me! What is going on here? I'm not the same anymore! What happened to the "me" that could blithely ignore the body in favor of the mind and soul?*

One thing I have learned about growing old is that you can't disregard the body as a second-class citizen in the world of the spiritual. The body, mind, and soul are all of a piece, and so to nurture our spirituality we need to return to a sense of our own body as sacred. As limited and flawed and neglected as our bodies may be, they are nevertheless filled to overflowing with divinity. There comes a point when you come to a screeching halt in front of the undeniable wall of truth that you already knew in your bones: The spiritual life is an embodied life.

So, if the body is so great, why doesn't God have a body? But God does have a body! The earth is God's body, or at least part of it. If we are to make peace with this larger divine body in which we "live and move and have our being" then we need to pay attention to it, nurture it, and care for it as we do our own bodies.

Just as age can force us to return our attention to our bodies, so our climate crisis compels us to return to the vision of sacred earth that our ancestors and indigenous people understood. The Bible itself offers a world where trees clap their hands and burning bushes speak. Right now, the burning forests are speaking to us in loud and insistent tones, and the message cuts through us like the unwelcome message of the Hebrew prophets: Change your ways--and do it quickly!

If only we could see that we, too, are part of God's own body, we might finally hear the groans of God's pain echoing through the world, calling us to stop the insanity. After all, we are the only physical hands and feet and voices God has. So, let us wake up to the truth of our embodied life that extends to all creation. We are all part of a sacred physicality that is meant for joy. Let us return to the body, return to joy. Perhaps then we will know the deeper meaning of our Christian faith and what it means, in these times, to be "the body of Christ."

Blessings and Peace. Rev. Patricia



Congratulations to **Esther Flaigle** who will be 100 on August 17!

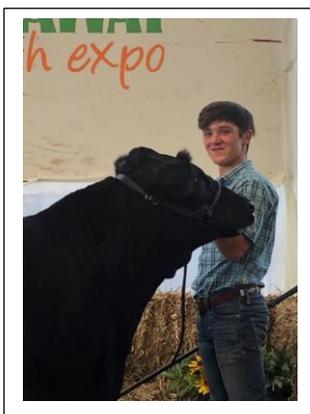
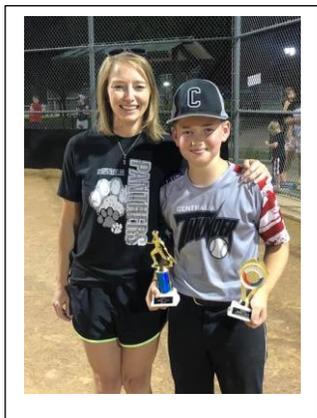
Congratulations to **Cooper Gehring**, son of Sarah Gehring, whose team, the Centralia Thunder, won the 12u league championship and Cooper was named MVP.

Congratulations to **Hayden Bush**, daughter of Kerry and Jana Bush and granddaughter of Terry and Vicki Fritz, whose softball team are the Missouri Little League champions and are headed to Indianapolis to play in regionals!

Congratulations to **Ella Baker** who was named the Auxvasse Rodeo 2021 Lil Darlin

Congratulations to **Gage Baker** who had the Grand Champion Steer at the 2021 Callaway County Expo

Congratulations to **Nathan & Courtney Roberts**, proud parents of Elizabella who was born on June 22, 2021. Proud grandparents are Bernie & Vickie Roberts.





From David Tucker's memorial service.

From Jay Harmon's memorial service



Sincere sympathy to the family of **Darrell Fischer** who was recently killed in an auto accident.

Sympathy for those involved in the **Florida disaster**.

Prayers for the safety of **Brent Moran & family** in Hong Kong

Prayers for **Pastor Ergo** and people in Kenya, Cuba, and other countries with so much unrest around the world.

Thank You!

Thank you for your generous donation of 56.45 pounds of food worth \$98.21 which was made during the second quarter of 2021.

Courtney Harrison, Executive Director

"For my birthday in June (and a celebration of my 4 years with MCC), I was deeply moved to receive this stunning ornament with the face of my beloved cat, Oliver, who died last Christmas. A gifted artist painted this from a photo I had posted on Facebook. This is one Christmas ornament I will have in view all year round! Thank you!"

Rev. Patricia



Treasurer's Report

Balances for Millersburg Christian Church accounts :

	2/15/21	3/22/21	4/15/21	5/14/21	6/21/21	7/19/21
Checking	9,649	12,510	14,626	13,789	15,166	13,440
Savings	3,508	3,509	3,511	3,512	201	202
Special	5,731	5,825	12,748	14,082	17,289	19,064*
PayPal	1,071	2,159	159	209	308	308

Flex Fund (Disciples Church Extension Fund) 4,990

* \$5,547.43 check for roof repairs has not yet been cashed.

The total cost for the HVAC and north roof repair is \$17,141.43. These bills are paid in full and no funds came from the Checking (General) account. This means that our contributions to charity, salaries and church operations have gone on uninterrupted while the unforeseen, costly repairs were completed and paid for. We did good! And money is still being contributed to help to totally cover the emergency expenses.

Now our attention can shift from handling these emergencies to considering the church's 2022 budget. Budget time is fast approaching and church related financial topics require serious contemplation and discussion. Are our charitable contributions at the proper level; what will inflation do to the water, electric, cleaning, paper, printing, and other everyday expenses; how should salaries be adjusted? Along with these questions, should we put money aside for more unexpected, expensive repairs? The church is aging and, among other things, there are two more HVAC units that might fail, plus the roof also has south, east, and west sides which will, someday, need shingle replacement. Along with this is cautious, very preliminary thinking regarding major capital improvements relating to installing an elevator and hard surfacing the parking lot.

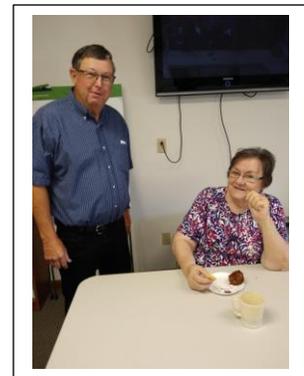
Serious budget related deliberations and prayers are needed! Give Board members your thoughts.

A GREAT BIG THANK-YOU!

Thanks to all who attended our first social get-together in 1-1/2 years. Ice Cream on a very hot night was enjoyed by 17 of our congregation. Thanks to the Membership committee for their ice cream and cookies, to the Morans for hosting the event at their lake (lovely setting) and to the Giofres for their Honey ice cream. All was enjoyed immensely despite 90 temps. It was good to be together.

Our next fellowship event will be Sept 25th in the church yard with **Good Turn Daily** performing on the stage, followed by hot dogs, bon fire and good visiting. Perhaps a little cooler but no less enthusiastic. This will be a community wide event; bring your lawn chairs and join in the fun.

OUR 1ST FIRST SUNDAY SOCIAL IN 2021!





AUGUST

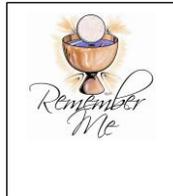
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1st Sunday Social – 9:45 a.m.	Ashley Hackmann	Brent Moran Aimee Landrum Jennifer Baumgartner Hayden Long Hollis Long		Adam & Michelle Hans		Linda Reed Brown Lai-Moran baby shower – 7 p.m.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
David Rose Pastor cabinet following worship	Justin Bright		Rodney & Janet Latty	Bill Bright Randy and Marsha Loyd		John McCray Brianna Force
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
		Frances Bittle Esther Flaigle Shayla Rose & Scott Gesternecker	Josephine Harris J. H. Long Brock Simmons			
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Sherry Hoesch Newsletter deadline		Riley Simmons			
29	30	31				
	Ava Bush	Madeline Hutchison	Newsletter Assembly			

Millersburg Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

4527 State Road J
Fulton, MO 65251

Return Service Requested



THOSE WHO SERVE:

ELDER: Barbara Moran

DIACONATE: Vicki Fritz
Bill Anderson

SERVE Food Pantry item for the month of August: Canned fruit

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

Brenda telephone number: 573-544-3360

Brenda email: blouwilliamson@yahoo.com

Find us on the web at

www.millersburgchristianchurch.org

"Like" us on Facebook!

You can contact her at

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

The best times to reach her are Monday-Thursday during regular business hours. Friday is her day 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, 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.