



The **CORNERSTONE**
Columbus Community Congregational Church
Ephesians 2:20

March 2026 Issue

Sunday worship 10:30 *in person* and online at <https://www.facebook.com/Columbus-Community-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-109813516270/>. Fellowship with refreshments follows worship.
Church website: columbuscommunitychurch.com
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Lenten suppers:
Please add your name to sign-up sheet for bringing soup or bread.

Lenten suppers 5:30 pm
Feb. 25 at our church
March 4 at St. James
March 11 at our church
March 18 at St. James
March 25 at our church

Pastor's Corner

POOR IN SPIRIT



At our first soup and bread supper in this Lenten season we got into a good discussion about what it means to be “poor in spirit.” It is one of those paradoxes that pop up from time to time to make us think who we are in this world, and *whose* we are in truth.

We were talking about the first Beatitude in the Sermon on the Mount: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”

The question was: Don’t you have to be rich in spirit, rather than in the riches of this world, to enter into the kingdom? It sounds contradictory, paradoxical.

In *The Message* translation, Eugene Peterson interprets it this way: “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you, there is more of God and his rule.”

I think I make better decisions when I don’t have any clear choices. I have to think and ask not only what the best outcome might be, but what the least bad choice is. We get out of thinking about the

problem and whose fault it is, and we begin to wonder what the solution might be and what part we are called to play in it.

In *The Cost of Discipleship*, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, “The world exercises dominion by force, and Christ and Christians conquer by service.” We have been called to live as Jesus lived, and to share with others a way we might all find a sense of peace through his teaching and his example.

Bonhoeffer also wrote, "Being a Christian is less about cautiously avoiding sin than about courageously and actively doing God's will."

If we try this for a while, maybe we can see a little more clearly what it means to be “poor in spirit.”

Onward and upward, Pastor Kelly

Holy Week services (CCC and St. James)

Mar. 29	Palm Sunday	Each church regular time	
Apr. 2	Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm	CCC
Apr. 3	Good Friday	7:00 pm	St. James
Apr. 5	Easter Sunday	St. James 9:00 am CCC 10:30 am	

A Blast from the Past

Dan Hofferber teaching kids how to drum for *Jonah & the Whale* VBS play (about 2018)





More kids drumming with Dan at VBS

Moderator Musings

We have not really had winter this year. I am not complaining about it. I have always enjoyed winter but confess I have not missed the snow and ice.

And...there is always the memory some of our worst storms have arrived in March and April. I think it will be different this year. Usually, we come out of a Montana winter, and the “resurrection” is welcome and obvious. It will not be the same without the snow leaving and the temperature warming. I have always been amazed at how different the first 40-degree day in the fall is from the first 40-degree day after winter.

It’s different this year – the last week in February was 63 degrees. The renewal of life will be the same with bulbs sprouting and blooming, buds forming and turning into leaves.

We are also in the renewal of our church. We will have the same opportunity. We can choose personal renewal – regardless of the same with bulbs sprouting and blooming, buds forming and turning into leaves.

We will have the same opportunity. We can choose personal renewal – regardless of the weather. We are also in renewal of our church. I am excited about the prospects of new beginnings. Thanks to all for bringing renewed life.

Maurie Petterson

Another Blast from the Past



Paulette & Daryl’s family here for Madison’s confirmation in 2016. Confirmation leaders were Rev. Tracy Heilman and Paulette Northup

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering will be received throughout March.

Holy Week: Key Scripture Readings by Day

Palm Sunday: Entry into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1–11).

Holy Monday: Cleansing the Temple, cursing the fig tree (Matthew 21:12–19, John 12).

Holy Tuesday: Teaching in the Temple, betrayal talk (Mark 11:20–13:37).

Holy Wednesday: Anointing at Bethany, Judas's betrayal (Matthew 26:6–16, John 12).

Maundy Thursday: Last Supper, washing feet, Garden of Gethsemane (John 13-17).

Good Friday: The Passion, Crucifixion (John 18-19).

Holy Saturday: Jesus in the tomb (Matthew 27:57–66).

Easter Sunday: Resurrection (Luke 24, John 20).

Common Themes and Meditations

Service and Humility: Reflecting on Jesus washing the disciples' feet (John 13:34) and his "emptying" of himself.

The Cross: Reflections on the seven last words of Christ, often using texts like *Death on a Friday Afternoon* by Richard John Neuhaus.

Redemption & Suffering: *The Fellowship of His Sufferings* by Dr. Hani Ashamalla, and R.C. Sproul’s *Holy Week: The Week That Changed the World*.

Devotional Reflections: *Commentary on Saint John* by St. John Chrysostom or contemporary reflections on enduring darkness to reach Sunday.