



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

**April 2025 Issue  
 Worship “plus”**

- 1) Sunday Worship 10:30am *in person* and also on <https://www.facebook.com/Columbus-Community-Congregational-United-Church-of-Christ-109813516270/>
- 2) Pastor Kelly’s schedule during the week:  
**Wednesday** - Worship team 4 pm (during Lent)  
**Saturday** - in office 10:00 am-1pm, starting with Coffee w/ Kelly 10 am; also making calls in the community.  
 Also available to meet with folks by appointment

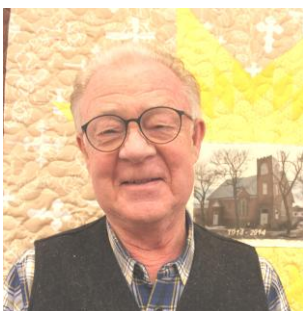


**Lenten Season Schedule**

(shared by our CCC church & St. James Lutheran)

Apr. 2	Soup & Bread	5:30 pm	St. James
Apr. 9	Soup & Bread	5:30 pm	CCC
Apr.13	Palm Sunday	Each church reg. time	
Apr.17	Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm	CCC
Apr.18	Good Friday	7:00 pm	St. James
Apr.20	Easter Sunday	Each church reg. time	

Please add your name to sign-up sheets in East room (light beige sheet) for bringing soup or bread.



**Lent, a Time for  
 Renewal**

Lent is a season to take account of how we have been doing and renew our faith that the good will prevail. It comes in the spring. The weather turns

warm, the grass turns green, and everyone gets busy preparing for the year ahead. The past year has brought many changes to the world and many will change in the year ahead. But during Lent we are invited to remember Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness and, in a manner of speaking, to walk with him there. It’s not just about what he gave up. It is also about the road he could see ahead of him and his acceptance of that call. He reduced his dependence on earthly things, but it was also an opportunity to deepen an understanding of things of eternal importance. It is a time to be thankful for the many good examples we have in the scriptures and heroes we have met in our own lives. And it is a time to plant new hopes and to prune away what has not proved fruitful. The world is new again. We can be, too.  
 Onward and upward, Kelly



Easter is April 20. If you'd like to help decorate our sanctuary for Easter, tell me the following:

1. Which potted flower(s) would you like us to buy: lily, tulip, hyacinth. (You can choose more than one.)
  2. Tell me the message (if any) you'd like on each potted flower you order: e.g. In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_ or In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Please give this info to Joan Nye by Palm Sunday, April 13 (the sooner the better). You are welcome to give it to me in person, by mail, by text, or by email. Please get your cash or check (payable to Joan Nye) to me anytime by April 13. Jerry and Joan will buy the flowers & get them to the church for Easter.
  4. Price per potted flower: \$10.00. You are welcome to take yours home with you after worship on Easter.
- Questions: Call or text me at 406-321-0591, or email me at [joan.nye10@gmail.com](mailto:joan.nye10@gmail.com).

## Moderator Musings

The “Wall Street Journal” ran an editorial on abundance. I confess I didn’t understand much of it and was unaware it was a new term describing business, government, and other enterprises. I have always liked the term, “Abundance of Caution.” As time has passed, I appreciate the need to be more careful. Driving in Billings or Bozeman or likely many other places is a good example. Pull out in front of someone and get shot in a road rage incident. Follow too closely and impede a teenager driving 80+ miles per hour while slaloming through traffic.

Maybe we could work for different kinds of abundance. Perhaps an abundance of empathy wherein we are over concerned about our fellow beings. Perhaps an abundance of kindness would lead us to act on empathy and treat others a bit better. What other areas should we consider for working for abundance?

And the opposite of abundance, according to WSJ is scarcity. Perhaps we could encourage a scarcity of some of the opposites? And maybe Lent or Easter is a good time to start?

Maurie Petterson

## STILLWATER COMMUNITY CHORUS PREPARING FOR SPRING CONCERTS

After three wonderful performances in the past, the Stillwater Community Chorus rehearsals have begun: Mondays 6:00 pm, alternating between our church and the Absarokee CCC. Come if you like to sing, and please share this info with other singers.

**We Remember in Prayer:** Dan & Carol Hofferber, Thelma Black’s son Bob Harper, prayers for a Parkinson’s cure, Bill & Janice Goodman, Karen Brewer, Vicky Unger, Donna McFarland, Dick Henry, Sam Spano and his mother Doreen, Dennis Henderson, Everett & Wyatt McKay, Nakota and Emily (serious accidents), Tristan Voller, Kate Stulce, Linda Rose, Drew Maki, Cindy Jackson, Gordon Nye, Una Kay DeCock, Abby & Joe Cassidy, Devin Matthews commuting for grad school, the laid-off mine employees, people affected by fires, travel, accidents.

The residents/staff of Meadowlark and Beartooth Rehab & Nursing. All affected by mental illness, loss or pain. All caregivers. All in harm’s way, feeling grief over loss, or struggling to make sense of a new reality.



**From article on Easter by Rev. Paul K Hanson**  
(retired ELCA), in a prior Billings Gazette

I don’t think about heaven very much. That may sound strange if you think heaven is what religion is mostly about. I’ll go further. I don’t think God wants us to think all that much about life after death.

I do believe in death. That is, I know that I will die. We’re called “mortals” for a reason. We are aware of the future, including death. And human “beings” don’t like the idea of “non-being.”

Dear Abby, the advice columnist who died recently, was once asked if she thought about dying much. Her delightful reply: “no, that’s the last think I want to do.”

I think we are born with an innate fear of death, and that’s good. It helps us to survive, especially in the early years. But it can come to dominate our life if we don’t somehow deal with it. Paradoxically, the fear of death can keep us from living. And loving.

That’s where Easter comes in. The resurrection of Jesus includes the promise that death is not the end of the story – not for Jesus and not for us.

A pastor friend once told me that all his funeral sermons can be summed up in once sentence: “I believe that the God who has been with me in life will not depart from me in death.”

There it is, simple and yet profound. God has made us to be in loving relations. Indeed, that is what life is mostly about. You’ll find it in both the Hebrew and Christian scriptures: Love God, love neighbor, love yourself.

And God is so much into relationships that he promises they will continue beyond our biological life. Where is “heaven?” When? How? I don’t know, and I don’t much care. I am happy to leave it up to God. But I suspect it will involve relationships, with God and with our loved ones.

Trusting God with my death means I am set free to live, which means to celebrate the earthly relationships provided to me – loving God, neighbors, and self. It helps me treasure life without making it an idol. It also helps me to face death rather than deny it, and thus reduce (although certainly not eliminate) the fear of losing someone we love.

I recall reading in some old catechism the question: What should be my chief concern in life? The answer was: That I might be saved. I disagree! God’s good news of life beyond death sets me free from being concerned about “being saved.” In effect, God is saying: “Don’t worry overmuch about your death. Trust that I have “saved” you. Please, instead, give your energy to living and loving. Make the world a better place.”

. . . . I don’t think God gives pop quizzes. Instead, God asks us to make the most of “time,” trusting his promise to take care of eternity, even to celebrate it. And Easter morning might be a particularly good opportunity to do so.