What's Happening This Week In Community?

Dear ones, today's news bulletin is full of information about so much happening in the life of Community. Restarting life shared in person together holds so much possibility and so much promise, and it also holds so much commitment and so much challenge. As we continue to restart and live into these new ways together, I pray you'll find one happening below to which you can link your spirit and find some encouragement, some love, some hope. Next week, the full column will return as we launch into our New June Worship Series, "Re-Everything: Re-membering, Re-connecting, Re-joying, Re-starting." I'm so excited and hopeful for all we can share in the days ahead.

With hope,

Rev. Ryan

New Roots Farmer's Market

We're excited to welcome back Bawi and Khin, our New Roots for Refuges farmers, this Sunday. They will provide us with fresh produce every week, which will be set up outside the 46th Street entrance in a traditional farmer's market style. Bring your reusable bags and money to make your purchases every Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon.

Congratulations, Graduates!

We celebrate with our 2021 graduates and their families on all that they have accomplished and that God is doing through them! We will celebrate them during worship on June 6, so please plan to join us that day to recognize them.

**Ava Hanan**, daughter of Darrell and Amy Hanan, graduated from Blue Springs South High School. Ava will attend the University of Central Missouri, where she will study Biology in hopes of becoming a Game Warden/Fish and Wildlife Officer.

**Ian McDonald**, son of Lora McDonald, graduated from Rockhurst High School.
Addie Nerstheimer, daughter of Vernie and Kristy Nerstheimer, graduated summa cum laude from the University of Central Missouri. She will be teaching at the Guadalupe Center next year.

**What To Know For Sunday**

**Here's what you need to know for in-person worship!**

- **RSVP:** Click [here](#) to RSVP. This is not required, but will help our staff and leadership plan for the safety and success of that day!
- **Parking:** Parking will be available in the parking garage next door thanks to our partnership with Anthology of the Plaza. Street construction near the church is significant, so plan to allow plenty of time to arrive for worship!
- **What time?** The church building will open at 9:45 a.m. Worship will begin with a half hour piano prelude at 10 and the service will start at 10:30 in the sanctuary. If you're running late, we invite you to enter through the 46th Street entrance. The Main Street doors will be locked after 10:45.
- **Communion:** Bring your own communion elements (we'll have some individual servings available for those who need them).
- **Masks:** Wear your mask while you're inside the building and help us maintain social distancing protocols.
- **Hymns:** Prepare to become an expert at humming hymns! We will be humming along as our section leaders sing, instead of singing collectively.
- **Nursery:** The nursery will be open for children ages five and under. Please check your littles in to the nursery before worship. They will come up together for the children's moment during the service. We ask that children ages three and older wear a mask in the building.
- **Sunday School:** There will be no Sunday School during the month of May.
- **Order of Worship:** Printed bulletins will be available, however, you can still view this week's order of worship by clicking [here](#). You're welcome to look at it ahead of time or have it on your phone.
- **What else?** If you were with us for in-person Easter worship and you kept your scarf, you are invited to bring that with you as a totem to wave as your joyful "noise" instead of singing.

**Leadership Lines**
Community’s Administrative Council met last Tuesday evening via Zoom. Ed Bowers and Rev. Ryan Motter went over a tech proposal from Stark Raving Solutions for necessary upgrades to our worship livestream system; council approved allocating $20,000 from the Major Improvement Fund to upgrade our livestreaming system. Two cameras will be added and the projection room will be converted to a production room which will house the new components. The new system will allow us to recruit volunteers to run the livestream, and two people will be in that room coordinating the livestream and running the projectors in the sanctuary. This new system will enhance both the in-person and livestream worship experience seamlessly.

We are also happy to announce that a generous donation was received from the estate of Jackie Hull. Jackie was a longtime Community member who passed away in January. Per our current policy, the proceeds from this estate will go to our Transformation Fund, which helps support the section leaders of our choir and our Associate Minister position.

Lydia Butler, Treasurer, reported that we currently have a $34K surplus through April. Our income and expenses are currently on track but the Finance Committee is expecting a deficit for 2021. We are coming back to in-person worship sooner than budgeted, so there will be an increase in expenses. Pledges and giving will continue to be monitored and another financial update will be in the newsletter after the end of the second quarter.

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**Saying "Thank You" to Kara Strickler**

With celebration and a full heart, today we’re sad to let you know that Kara Strickler gave her two-weeks notice as Community’s Communications Coordinator last week. Kara’s last day will be on Sunday, June 13, before she begins a brand new full-time job with Jackson County CASA as a Volunteer Specialist. Kara has only served Community for 2.5 years, but during those years she became an essential part of our communications work during the COVID-19 pandemic. Every Sunday Kara was present and ready to run our livestream system, and she did so with great grace and skill. We invite you to join us during worship on Sunday, June 13, as we celebrate Kara’s work with us and wish her well in her new job.

Lucky for us, Kara's new job will allow her some weekend availability to help us transition smoothly from her leadership into our next ways of leadership. You may still see her on Sundays as she helps with this.

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**Proclaiming Pride**

All are invited to this year’s Proclaiming Pride service on Thursday, June 10 at 7 p.m. (doors open at 6:30). We are honored to host and support this event that creates sacred space to celebrate and empower the LGBTQ+ community and allies in Kansas City. This event will feature performers and storytellers including Stephonne Singleton, Calvin Arsenia, The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, CJ Duffie, and more. Following the event there will be an open house with reflection stations and resource tables. If you plan to attend you can register [here](#) to reserve a space. You can learn more and tune in to the livestream on the Facebook event page by clicking [here](#).

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**Orders of Worship Are Now Digital!**

As in-person worship begins again, we’re glad to provide an order of worship (OWW) for you. We’re offering the OWW primarily as a digital download that you can view on your personal electronic devices before, during and after worship. Each week’s OWW will be uploaded by Thursday evening before that Sunday’s worship, and will be available until the following Thursday at noon. To see the OWW each week, you can either visit [https://c4kc.cc/bulletin](https://c4kc.cc/bulletin), or you can check in to Community and you’ll be redirected to the current bulletin five seconds after you submit your check-in.

If you prefer a paper copy of the OWW, we invite you to print your own copy of the bulletin.
at home each week and bring it with you on Sundays. The church will also print a limited number every Sunday for visitors and for those without personal electronic devices or printers at home. These copies can be found at the communion supply table in the narthex as well as on the bookshelves at the Main Street and 46th Street doors.

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**The Life of a Connection Card**

As Community introduces new requirements for filling out our weekly Connection Cards on Sunday mornings, some have asked how those cards are handled each week.

After you fill out your Connection Card, an email is automatically generated with the information you’ve provided, and your attendance is noted in our church database software. Because of the volume of cards (i.e., emails) received, the pastoral staff has asked two volunteers, whose careers have necessitated a high level of confidentiality, to process all provided information into a single confidential report to be submitted no later than our Tuesday staff meetings. This confidential report is received by Community’s pastoral staff, who in turn pray for any prayer concerns and assign pastoral follow-up. Any Covid protocol “flags” are also assigned for follow-up.

We’re grateful for the trust you give to Community’s volunteers and pastoral staff as we work our hardest to care for you and your spirit.

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**This Sunday at Community**

You can follow along with this Sunday’s order of worship by clicking [here](#). Our scripture this week will once again come from Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 with the Rev. Ryan sharing the morning message.

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**Online Giving**

If you’d like to give offering donations to the church during this time, you can mail donations to the church. Mail is still being checked daily and your gifts are gratefully received. If you’d like to give online, you may do so in one of two ways:

- Text the word "Give" to 816-484-3433 and follow the instructions that are sent to you. The first time you text to give you’ll have to set up an account, but from there on out your information will be stored so you can easily text to give.

There will also be a QR code shown during livestreamed worship that will take you directly to the website listed above to donate. Links can also be found in the livestreamed worship comments and on our website.

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**Connect with us throughout the week!**

**Sunday**
- 10 a.m. Piano prelude with Tim Whitmer on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)
- 10:30 a.m. Worship live on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

**Wednesday**
- 10 a.m. Staff Meeting

**Thursday**
- Newsletter email sent

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**Honoring Rev. Shanna’s Sabbatical Boundaries by Lura Cayton**
Rev Shanna and I had agreed to meet for a chat before her Sabbatical began. With the death of my brother we did not get to meet so I think I will just call her and schedule — STOP RIGHT THERE! On Sunday, we agreed to let her step back from the titles of “pastor” and “leader.” A contact from me (or you) does not allow her to do that.

During this Sabbatical time we have covenanted NOT to have any contact with Rev. Shanna. She has entrusted Rev. Ryan Motter and Levon Weaver with the responsibility of determining what she might need to hear from the congregation; they will make contact if it is needed. Rev. Shanna is unavailable for all usual pastoral responsibilities, including funerals, weddings, blessings, and pastoral care. If you feel there is some reason to contact Rev. Shanna, call Rev. Ryan to discuss it with him and let him exercise the trust that has been placed in him. Remember Shanna and her family in your prayers and give room for her to have this time as a Beloved Child of God.

Prayers of Sorrow and Thanksgiving
Please hold the following members of our Community in your prayers:

Family of Shirley Bellatti (sister of Donna Porter), who passed away on April 24;
Family of David Hatten (brother of Lura Cayton), whose funeral was on May 17;

Sheridan Bohon;
Letha Boyd;
Pam Simpson;
Glenn "Woody" Woodmancy;
Sister Susan Holmes;
Louise Nyberg;
Donna Birts-Butler;
David Anderson

Rev. Shanna Steitz and family, who are on sabbatical through August

This weekend the Steeple of Light is lit in memory of Nan Borden on her birthday by the Borden Family.

Kara Strickler
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