

# CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH

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## Newsletter July — August 2021

*On the following pages, you will find reports from several council members, committee chairs, and team leaders. Enjoy!*

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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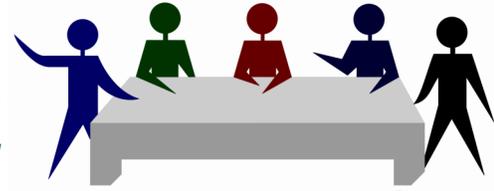


Love. Grow. Serve.



# GOVERNING COUNCIL

## EXCITING TIMES AT CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH



*I hope you didn't miss the Sunday, June 6th, Worship Service on the lawn including dedication of the new "Keene's Kids" children's playground. What a wonderful service made possible by Pastor Layman, a dedicated team of volunteers and all attendees. Glory be to God!*

*Please plan to attend our Sunday July 4th Special Independence Day Service at 10:00am led by Glenn Ulman. If attending Car Church, you are encouraged to come inside to experience the full effect of this Service to worship God and celebrate our freedoms. Bring a friend!*

*The "re-opening" of Christ Community Church is well underway with the cautious relaxation of pandemic safety precautions. Hymnals and bibles have been returned to the pews, our wonderful choir is singing again and after Service refreshments have resumed. Fellowship is indeed thriving again at Christ Community Church.*

*Our Audio-Visual Modernization Project was approved by the Governing Council with continuing congregational voting pending. This project will replace outdated and sometimes poorly performing existing equipment, add new audio and visual capabilities such as two Sanctuary monitors, include a special and improved electronic component for the hearing impaired and much much more. Kudos to Strategic Planning Committee Chair Randy Agee and Property Committee Chair Mike Kordich for spearheading this project to enhance the worship experience at Christ Community Church.*

*Other capital improvement projects are still alive but on hold until construction materials become more reasonable. Also, an exciting study on the future growth direction of the Church is underway. More on that in the months to come.*

*May God bless and keep you.*

*For The Governing Council,*

*Bruce Gilbert, Chairman*

## PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE



From his (Christ's) abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another (John 1:16 NLT)

For from his (Christ's) fullness we have all received, grace upon grace (John 1:16 ESV)

Lake Mead is the largest reservoir in the United States. It was filled in the 1930's and provides water to many residents in the West. It is fed by the Colorado River and lies on the Nevada-Arizona border. Demand for water in the area continues to increase. This increase in demand, in conjunction with extreme climate change, adversely impacts the ability of the Colorado River to keep the reservoir at full capacity. In fact, the reservoir is currently 143 feet below full capacity, the lowest in its history. As a point of reference, the current deficit is approximately the height of the Statue of Liberty, excluding the base.

25,000,000 people rely on water from Lake Mead. Many residents from Nevada, California, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico depend on the reservoir to supply water to their households. Unfortunately, there is more water leaving the reservoir than coming in. This positive net outflow is causing concern for many public officials as they are charged with ensuring the reservoir's sustainability. The livelihood of millions of people is depending on it.

I love this verse in the Gospel of John. It is a much-needed reminder that God's grace never runs out. No matter how much grace he supplies, his reservoir of grace will never be depleted. In fact, God never has a positive net outflow of grace. Isn't it comforting to know that no matter how many times we blow it, he is there providing grace out of his abundant supply? For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. Grace has been defined as the free and unmerited favor of God. A similar definition suggests grace is the act of receiving something we do not deserve. According to this verse, we receive an abundance of blessings we do not deserve. This verse also promises these blessings, by way of grace, will not cease. They will continue flowing, much like waves on a seashore, from God's abundant supply.

Blessings ahead!

Derek

**You may reach Pastor Derek Layman at 540.420.6836**

## PRAYER LIST

We are asking the membership to please review the Prayer List and let us know who can be removed! We certainly want to keep anyone on there that needs our prayers and support, but the list is becoming a bit outdated.

You can find the Prayer List on the [Sermons & Prayer List](#) page of our church website [www.christfamily.org](http://www.christfamily.org)

Please email [admin@christfamily.org](mailto:admin@christfamily.org) with names that can be deleted.

Thank you!



## DID YOU KNOW?

### Memories...

Our 1st service for Christ Community Church was held on February 5, 1995 at Union Hall Plaza by Pastor Edward McClain.

Our invite said "Please join us as we begin the journey to establish this church. A church focused on creating a community place of worship, where all are welcome to worship our Lord and we can serve our community as we serve Him."

A reception was held at Smith Mountain Building Supply immediately after the service.

Queen Bee is now located where Smith Mountain Building Supply was years ago.

Linda Simpson



*Pastor Edward McClain*



# MEMBERSHIP

We continue to update the directory!

You do not have to be a member to be in the directory.

If you want to submit a new photo, or update your address or phone number please submit to [4jrwilson@gmail.com](mailto:4jrwilson@gmail.com)

The App – Instant Church Directory, continues to update their software & graphics. It is a very handy tool to learn new names & even has a map feature. If you need assistance, see me at church or email your questions. The initial set up has been a stumbling block for some – happy to assist.

Jim Wilson



# FELLOWSHIP



We have started to have cold drinks & treats available immediately after our Sunday service. We had a nice crowd for the Keene's Kids Playground Dedication Service. I was asked for the blueberry muffin recipe - this recipe is from "Sally's Baking Addiction".

*The recipe is printed below, or you can visit this link:*

<https://sallysbakingaddiction.com/blueberry-muffins/print-recipe/67559/>

We have some new faces at Christ Community Church and we need to welcome them!

Hopefully we can host a potluck lunch or brunch in September.

Denise Wilson

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## Best Blueberry Muffins with Streusel Topping

Prep Time: 15 minutes    Cook Time: 25 minutes

Total Time: 45 minutes    Yield: 12-14 muffins

These blueberry muffins are buttery, soft, and moist. For that bakery style goodness, top with cinnamon brown sugar streusel. This thick muffin batter combined with my initial high oven temperature trick guarantees tall muffin tops. Prepared with basic ingredients and a couple mixing bowls, you'll appreciate this easy breakfast recipe.

## Ingredients

### STREUSEL TOPPING

1/2 cup (100g) packed light or dark brown sugar

1/2 cup (67g) chopped walnuts (or pecans)

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

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# FELLOWSHIP

## MUFFINS

- 1 and 3/4 cups (219g) all-purpose flour (spoon & leveled)
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup (115g) unsalted butter, softened to room temperature
- 1/2 cup (100g) granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup (50g) packed light or dark brown sugar
- 2 large eggs, at room temperature
- 1/2 cup (120g) sour cream or plain/vanilla yogurt, at room temperature
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1/4 cup (60ml) milk, at room temperature
- 1 and 1/2 cups (250g) fresh or frozen blueberries



## INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 425°F (218°C). Spray a 12-count muffin pan with nonstick spray or use cupcake liners. Grease/line a second pan with 2 liners because this recipe yields about 14 muffins. Set aside.

Mix all of the streusel ingredients together. Set aside.

Whisk the flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt together in a large bowl. Set aside.

Using a handheld or stand mixer fitted with a paddle or whisk attachment, beat the butter, granulated sugar, and brown sugar together on high speed until smooth and creamy, about 2 minutes. On medium speed, add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in the sour cream and vanilla extract on medium speed until combined. With the mixer running on low speed, add the dry ingredients and milk into the wet ingredients and beat until no flour pockets remain. Fold in the blueberries.

Spoon the batter into liners, filling them all the way to the top. Top each with streusel, gently pressing it down into the surface so it sticks. Bake for 5 minutes at 425 then, keeping the muffins in the oven, reduce the oven temperature to 350°F (177°C). Bake for an additional 18-20 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. The total time these muffins take in the oven is about 23-25 minutes, give or take. Allow the muffins to cool for 5 minutes in the muffin pan, then transfer to a wire rack to continue cooling. Muffins stay fresh covered at room temperature for a few days or in the refrigerator for up to 1 week.

# OUTREACH



## **NUTRITIONAL SUPPORT**

Christ Community Church, with support of Penhook United Methodist Church, Redwood United Methodist Church and Trinity Episcopal Church, provided weekend nutritional support for 992 children at risk in the following schools:

- Glade Hill, Rocky Mt. Elementary
- Benjamin Franklin Middle

Thank you for assuring that these children did not go without food during the school year!

Additionally, Gifts of Food Support were provided to two families in our community this quarter.

## **CARING CRAFTERS**

Stay tuned for more information on the direction of Caring Crafters.

*(Emogene Weller)*

## **COMFORT QUILTERS**

In the first 5 months of 2021 we have donated the following:

- 29 quilts
- can tabs worth 40 hours at Ronald McDonald House
- Coke product bottle caps worth \$18 to Glade Hill School

Continue to support the collection of Box Tops and Coke tops. They add up to make a difference for others.

*(Barbara Armstrong)*

## **HOODIES**

We have been very blessed for funding to supply 3,000 hoodies for children in our area. We will be distributing these in Oct, so if anyone wants to donate to this, please note on your check. Thanks to all who support this project!

*(Sharon Agee)*

Thank you to the many supporters of the Christ Community Church's Outreach program.

Through your love, we are able to reach out to so many in our community.

Jody Lawson Barbour and Anne Wood – Co Chairs

## MUSIC PROGRAM

Well, the choir is back where it belongs.

They are happy to be back and excited to be doing a new song for the 4th of July. Meanwhile, you will be hearing some of your old favorites as well.

We also want to welcome Shirene Gentry as our newest member. We are certainly happy to have her with us. As always, we would welcome anyone who enjoys singing and can offer just 1 hour per week. Reading music is helpful but not necessary.

Our practice time is Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m.

Hope to see you soon.

Lilian Farling

