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**June/July 2019
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**Jesus: The Christ
Moving from “Jesus” to “Christ”**

By Richard Rohr

On the day of Pentecost, after recognizing the eternal presence of the Holy Spirit, Peter stood up and proclaimed that God “had raised up Jesus” to reveal him as the Christ (Acts 2:32, 36). This is a different way of thinking for most of us, I suspect. Jesus and Christ are not the same; Christ is the much larger and older frame. The three synoptic gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke) are mostly talking about Jesus, the historical figure who healed and taught. Paul never met the historical Jesus and hardly ever quotes Jesus directly. In almost all of Paul’s preaching and writing, he is talking about the Eternal Christ Mystery, rather than Jesus of Nazareth.

It is this Christ who meets Paul on the road to Damascus. The Jesus that you and I participate in, are graced by, and are redeemed by in our own time, is also the eternal Christ. This makes the notion of resurrection easy to imagine. Jesus’ resurrection is not a one-time miracle of bodily resuscitation as much as a needed drama to focus our attention on a Presence that has always been available since the beginning, a Presence unlimited by space or time and now revealed in Jesus personally.

Let me put it this way: Christ is a word for the macrocosm, Jesus is the microcosmic moment in time, and all else is the cosmos—including you and me. You inherently belong to Somebody that is going somewhere! This provides ultimate and deep meaning for human existence. It settles the mind, heart, and emotions.

Only God can hold both the joy and the pain of creation in us, because our little self is just not strong enough to hold that much together and make sense out of it. The lone individual is far too fragile to bear either “the weight of glory” or the “burden of sin.” The Church has wasted centuries trying to rescue individuals from hell and to save individuals for heaven. It just won’t work! But God in us, uniting us in One corporate Body, does this for us!

We eventually know that Someone Else is working through us, in us, for us, and in spite of us. After enlightenment, our life is not our own. Now we draw from the One Big Life, the Christ mystery, the Christ nature, the Christ source. We stop fretting about our smallness. The individual will never be fully worthy or correct, but that same individual can still remain utterly connected if it stops over-defending itself. Our yes deeply matters. The word for that yes and that connection is, quite simply, love.

In Christ, we become God’s Love.



May offerings and attendance

5/05/2019	32	\$ 1456.00
5/12/2019	42	\$ 2934.73
5/19/2019	45	\$ 1648.00
5/26/2019	38	\$ 2004.30

Total \$ 8043.00

Average Attendance: 40 Last Year: 55

The church needs about \$10,000 a month to cover expenses.

Note that attendance last month was 27% lower than it was in May 2018. Help!!



Carol Blair	29-May
Rosalie Dorland	8-Jun
Nancy and Warren Lawrence	9-Jun
Keith and Norma Daly	12-Jun
Dave Whitehead	15-Jun
Shirleen Joha	18-Jun
Beth Brown	23-Jun
Lee and Leif Rains Thomas	24-Jun
Ethan Rains Thomas	29-Jun
Jen and Matt Brozovich	1-Jul
Joanne Gustafson	2-Jul
Claire Kenney	3-Jul
Leon Whitehead	3-Jul
Becky and Mark Anderson	7-Jul
Shea Kluender & Dave Nachtweih	14-Jul
Grant Kenney	18-Jul
Conner Anderson	22-Jul
Dani Parkinson	24-Jul
Dianne Nelson	29-Jul

PARENTS! PLEASE TAKE NOTE!

Kids Raised Going to Church Are Happier Adults, Study Finds

A new study from Harvard's School of Public Health investigated the mental health and physical wellbeing of children and teenagers who were raised with religious or spiritual practices and found a lot of benefits.

by Melissa Locker Save

The research, published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, found that those who attended religious services at least once a week as children or teens were **18 percent** more likely to **report being happier** in their twenties than those who never attended services.

If that isn't enough of a benefit to wrangle your kids into church on a Sunday morning, the researchers also found that kids who went to church were **33 percent** less likely to **use drugs** in their twenties, were less likely to **have sex** at an earlier age, and less likely to have a **sexually transmitted infection**.

In addition, people who prayed and meditated daily either at church or on their own reported greater **life satisfaction**, were better able to **process emotions**, and were **more forgiving**. Researchers were even able to connect church attendance with lower likelihood of **smoking** and an increased likelihood of voting!

Taking your kids to church doesn't benefit just them, either. It can have positive benefits for the community at large, as almost 30 percent of kids raised in church were more likely to do **volunteer work**.

If you just can't get yourself to drag your kids to church—or just aren't in the mood for a fight on a Sunday morning—they may still be able to reap some benefits if they take some time to pray or meditate on their own. According to the study, people who prayed or meditated on their own schedule had lower risks of substance abuse and depression later in their lives.

The next time you're trying to get your kids to church on Sunday, go ahead and cite this article—and then maybe bribe them with a trip to get brunch after services.

— submitted by Becky Anderson

This story originally appeared on *SouthernLiving.com*.

"Children have seldom been very good at listening to their elders, but they have never failed to imitate them." — James Baldwin, novelist and social critic

WRCC UCC June & July Calendar



- June 2: Communion Sunday
- June 6-8: Rocky Mountain Annual Celebration
- June 8: Yoga with Melinda at 8:30 a.m.
- June 9: Pentecost Sunday. Wear **red** or **orange**.
- June 15: **Church clean up day!** Please bring your own yard tools and cleaning supplies. We will begin at 8:00 am.
- June 16: Trinity Sunday, Fathers' Day, Denver Pride Parade, David is preaching.
- June 23: Church worship and **picnic at Morse Park** located at 20th and Carr in Lakewood. All are invited to bring a dish to share. **There will be no services at the church that day.** Our Christian Education committee would like to keep our trash to a minimum, so please bring your own cups, plates, & utensils if possible.
- June 30: Third Sunday after Pentecost. **Baptism** of Zoe and Tyce Brozovich!

Deacons and Trustees are NOT meeting in June.

- July 6: **Yoga with Melinda at 8:30 a.m.**
- July 7: Hot-dog, ice cream, and shorts Sunday.
Wear shorts! Enjoy the food!
- July 13: Deacons and Trustees meet.

Yoga with Melinda at 8:00 a.m.

- July 14: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
- July 20: **No Yoga**
- July 21: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
- July 28: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost



- *We have meditation most Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m.*
- *We have the Adult Study Hour every Sunday at 9:00 a.m.*
 - *Yoga is offered most Saturdays at 8:30 a.m.*
- *The Deacons (9:30 a.m.) and Trustees (10:30) meet the second Saturday of the month.*

MOUSE MORSELS

We hope you have a wonderful June and July! **Congratulations** . . . go out to [Amanda Earle](#) who officially became a Licensed Addictions Counselor. This achievement required additional coursework, passing a state exam, and 3000 hours of work experience. We know Amanda will support the recovery and transformation of many individuals. We want to celebrate a great joy for [Charlotte Rubenking](#). She has a new great granddaughter named [Hazel Hudson](#), born in Ft. Collins on May 16. We also want to let you know that [Sarah Parkinson](#) has changed her name to [Dani Phoenix Parkinson](#). What a beautiful name! Be patient with us, Dani, as we learn your new name. We had a special worship service on Sunday, May 19, as we recognized [Claire](#) and [Grant Kenney](#), [Maylea Williams](#), and [Quintry Jeffares-White](#), who participated in a year-long confirmation training. They are great young people and we celebrate their faith journey. The **choir** was also recognized for a wonderful year of inspirational music! Although the choir is now off for the summer, we have wonderful special music planned. If you have a musical talent to share, please let Ro know. Did you know that [Carol Blair](#) is an artist? She has a painting on display at the Lakewood Cultural Arts Center through July. Be sure to check it out below! **Prayers** . . . Please keep [Vic and Renate Westfall](#) in your prayers. Vic's Parkinson's Disease has required more care than Renate can provide and Vic is now living at the Lakewood Memory Care Center. This has been sad and difficult for both Vic and Renate but they are being very courageous. Please pray for [Linda Warren](#). She broke her ankle (☹) in the process of moving. Moving is awful enough even without any broken bones! Although we are sad Linda fell, she is now happily relocated with her beloved [Rosalie](#)☺. The address is 730 Sunset Drive, Lakewood, CO 80214. [Karen Burron](#) is having some painful family relationship struggles. Please pray for her. We had the opportunity to see [Carol and Norm Meswarb](#). Carol is continuing to recover and declared that in June she would begin pushing herself to be more active! Way to go, Carol! **Traveling** . . . [Ro Rains](#) and [Deana Carter](#) have two fun trips planned for June. They are heading to the Rock'n Soul Jam in Westcliff early in June and later in the month they will be visiting St. Augustine, Florida. They are looking forward to learning more about the history and seeing the architecture. Did you know that St. Augustine is considered the oldest city in America! [Christine Bland](#) continues to do extensive traveling for her work with Lockheed Martin. This next week she is participating in the Lockheed Martin LGBT Leadership Forum. This forum brings together leaders and allies in expanding inclusion in the workplace! Thank you, Christine! *Please let us know of any news you have for us. We hope to see you soon!*



Painting by Carol Blair.
On display at the
Lakewood Cultural
Center.



L to R: Claire Kenney, Grant
Kenney, Maylea Williams, and
Quintry Jeffares-Whitehead

The Church Mouse is published monthly by the Wheat Ridge Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. The deadline for copy is the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Articles may be handwritten or typed, but we prefer plain text sent via email to wheatridgeucc@gmail.com. Articles must indicate the name of the writer and/or sender. Unsigned articles are written by the editor. The church website is: www.wheatridgeucc.org. News and photos for the website should be sent to the same email address listed above. Sunday worship is at 10:00 a.m. Office hours are 8:30 to 1:00pm daily. Monday is the minister's day off. The pastor may be reached at 303-238-6271 (office), 303-246- 0589 (Claudia's cell), or wheatridgeucc@gmail.com.