

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, August 11th

Sunday Live Worship, 10 am, Sanctuary

<https://www.youtube.com/user/PiratesoftheColumbia>

(Click the "LIVE" link in the tool bar to see recent worship services, as well)

Friday, August 23rd

Tim Anderson's Memorial Service

1 pm, Sanctuary/Ida Payne Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 8th (Homecoming Sunday)

Sunday School for Children Starts, 9 am,

Wesleyan Hall

Sunday, September 8th (Homecoming Sunday)

Community Carnival, 11:30 am

(See details below)

Sunday, September 15th

Adult Sunday School Starts, 9 am, Susanna

Wesley Room

Saturday, September 21st

Quilt Show, 10 am – 4 pm, Sanctuary

What about those series?

Mostly I like to plan worship in series. This has several benefits which you might appreciate.

A series permits us to dig deeper into an idea than a single Sunday makes possible. The series we begin this week, Sacred Earth, Sacred Work, taps into our recognition that creation is sacred helps us with sacred relationships with each other and with our God.

A series permits us to try something different—for just a few weeks. During our next series we will sing our benediction. That means we will sing three songs in a row! That's ok. St. Augustine tells us the one who sings prays twice.

A series helps create momentum in our worship experience, pulling us forward into God's plans.

A series helps inspire planning ahead so that everyone has time to prepare for a good worship experience.

A series helps us distribute related songs so we can use more songs in a theme more often.

A series is a great time for you to invite a friend—encourage them to try your church for this series! Maybe they will love this church like you do.

After Sacred Earth, Sacred Work, we will enjoy a series titled Come to the Table, a call to dine with Jesus—an invitation that means more than a simple eating experience. Future series are being planned. This excites me! I hope it excites you.

Pastor Shirley

The next worship series will be three weeks, Aug. 18, 25 and Sept. 1.
Sacred Earth: Sacred Work (Worship Design Studio)

We are only using three weeks of this series:

Spirit of Compassion

Glorious Diversity

Healing Relationships

Sacred Earth, Sacred Worth

When God began to create the heavens and the earth— the earth was without shape or form... and God's wind swept over the waters... God saw everything God had made: it was supremely good.

What if we lived life truly connected to the origins of Creation and the Creator? In the beginning God created all things and called them originally "good." In this series we will explore six essential ideas found in Creation Spirituality—a way of living within the community of earth that deepens our reverence for life, participates in the creativity of the cosmos, and develops our passion for justice and human transformation. It compels us to lead lives of spiritual inquiry, creativity, and prophetic action as our sacred work in the world.

Spirit of Compassion

8/18/24

Jesus said, "The first [commandment] in importance is, 'Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.' And here is the second: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment that ranks with these." - Mark 12: 28-34

It is through the work of spiritual practice that we move beyond fear into compassion and discover our deep and true selves. Engaging in spiritual practices—whether that looks typically religious (like praying) or not (like walking) have intentionality in common. They draw us closer to the Creator and who we were created to be—free and compassionate beings. What practices in your life draw you closer to your true essence and closer to compassion for others?

Glorious Diversity

8/25/24

"Then God scattered them from there all over the world. And they had to quit building the city. That's how it came to be called Babel, because there God turned their language into "babble." From there God scattered them all over the world." Genesis 11: 1-9

Creation Spirituality rejoices in and courageously honors the rich diversity within the Cosmos which is expressed in every individual and embodies multiple cultures, religions, and ancestral traditions. Creation is rife with theme and variation and yet fear has driven us to try to tame, label and homogenize it. What do we lose when we privilege dominant voices and limit perspectives? Diversity is another name for God and should be celebrated!

Healing Relationships

9/1/24

"Dear friends, if God loved us this way, we also ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. If we love each other, God remains in us and God's love is made perfect in us.

This is how we know we remain in God and God remains in us, because we have been given

a measure of God's Spirit." - 1 John 4: 7-21

We live in sacred relationship with every other living thing. Our food, our health, our homes,

our vocations are all part of an interconnected community. Creation hangs in the balance

when we forget this connection. We acknowledge that our species and the entire earth community depends upon the healing of harm already done, moving toward

sustainability

for the future, and harmony that offers live-giving coexistence for all. Can we embrace our

responsibility to care? Now is the time, if we want a future.

Sanitizers Work Best When Used

Recently the Facilities Team noticed our standing Hand Sanitizing Dispensers were not working. After investigation and a thorough cleaning, they are now repaired and working properly, however we do need your help to keep them that way! There has been another spike in Covid recently, and there are also other bugs that can harm those with compromised immune systems. Our hands easily pick up germs from every surface we touch.

Please protect yourself and others by using these dispensers each time you pass one. This will also keep them free-flowing and prevent clogs. A little dab will do, and better safe than sorry. Thanks for your help.

Quilt Show

Beautiful history will be on display in our church sanctuary on **September 21st from 10 am to 4 pm.** The colors are fantastic, (even the “elderly quilts”.) You can try to “pick” your favorite, but it will be very difficult! These family treasures show love, craftsmanship, and imagination. Come share the talents of our past.

Community Carnival

September 8th is Homecoming Sunday, and the Children and Youth Programs are throwing a community carnival! Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to join us **from 11:30 am – 1:30 pm on September 8th.** Food will be provided.

ALERT!

Impersonation Attempts

This week, we’ve seen an increase in sophisticated impersonation and social engineering attempts. Be prepared to defend against these bad actors by staying informed and vigilant.

Overview

- Attack Methods: Emails, phone calls, and text messages are being used to attempt access to online accounts and sensitive information.
- Deceptive Techniques: Bad actors use Caller ID spoofing and voice generation to create a false sense of safety and familiarity.

Key Points

- No Personal Info Requests: We will never contact you by phone, email, or text to ask for personal information like your account number, verification codes, or online banking username.

Security Reminders

- Email Security
 - Verify the sender's email address by hovering over the name.
 - Avoid opening suspicious links or attachments.
 - Be wary of emails creating urgency or using scare tactics.
 - Phone Call Security
 - Do not trust caller ID; it can be spoofed.
- If asked for sensitive information or if something doesn't seem quite right, hang up and call the trusted number for your banker or branch.
 - Text Message Security
 - Your bank will NEVER ask for personal information via text.
 - Do not click links from unknown senders.
- Verify the sender before taking any action and delete suspicious messages.

Build Trust with Us

- Get to know your bank and our team better by visiting the branch. Familiarize yourself with our branch staff and get to know your banker. Building a personal relationship with us can help you better recognize legitimate communications and be more secure.

By recognizing these signs and staying vigilant, you can protect yourself and your family from potential scams and ensure your financial security.

For safety tips on fraud prevention, visit: <https://cfbhfg.com/security-and-fraud-prevention/>

Community First Bank is a member of the American Banker's Association (ABA). Their campaign of Banks Never Ask That continues to cover these critical topics. To learn more, visit: [Banks Never Ask That! Fraud Prevention](#)