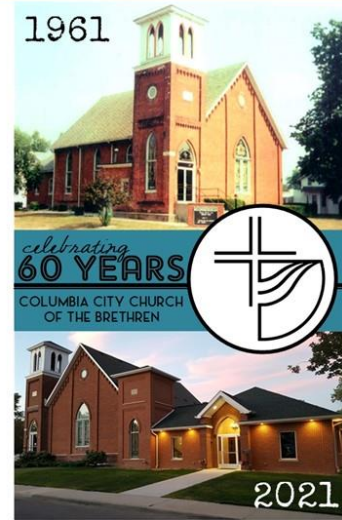


Honoring the
Sherman &
Mowrey
families

“Worship through the Decades”

October 3, 2004
October 3, 2021



One Sunday each month from June through October of 2021, we are revisiting worship services from all of the first five decades of our church as we celebrate our 60th anniversary this year. Today, we revisit October 3, 2004.

Everything printed in the inside of your bulletin is exactly how the bulletin looked on October 3, 2004. Current info, announcements, and joys & concerns are listed on the inserts. In the 2004 bulletin, you'll notice the worship statistics are half what we are experiencing today both in giving and attendance. You'll also notice several items in the announcements about raising money for the new facility project and land fund. At that time in our history, we were working with Church Growth Services, interviewing architects, buying land, and attempting to sell this building. My how much has changed in 17 years!

Another aspect of this special series “Worship through the Decades” is highlighting families who have remained active in our church nearly all 60 years. Today we honor the legacy of the Russell & Ruby Sherman and Robert & Marjorie Mowrey families.

First, let's step back prior to our congregation's opening. Sisters, Ruby & Marjorie Jagger, would both marry on October 12 – seven years apart from each other. Those marriages brought George Russell Sherman & Robert Mowrey into the

Church of the Brethren. And as married couples – what an impact they would make on the life of this congregation over the past 60 years.

As the church began, Russell & Ruby Sherman, Kent, Brian, & Randy Sherman, and Marjorie Mowery were 6 of the 55 people who transferred their membership from the Blue River Church of the Brethren on September 14, 1961.

Russell Sherman was elected to serve on the first committee to pursue the possibility of starting a Church of the Brethren congregation in Columbia City. Russell would serve as the church's first receiving treasurer and served as one of the first Trustees. Ruby Sherman was elected the first Primary and Junior Sunday School Assistant. Marjorie Mowrey was the first Messenger Agent. Kent Sherman served as one of the first ushers.

Other notable firsts among this family are that Russell & Ruby Sherman served as greeters for the afternoon service on May 7, 1961, the day of the first worship service. Kent Sherman was one of the first ushers to serve the congregation that same day.

Both Ruby and Marjorie were active in Women's Fellowship from 1961 until their deaths. Marjorie served as the very first Secretary-Treasurer and Ruby directed the Aid.

Adding to the membership in December 1961 were several members of the family who were among the very first to be baptized into the new congregation. Those were Robert Mowrey and Lanna Mowrey.

By the summer of 1962, the congregation held its first Vacation Bible School of which Ruby Sherman was on the planning committee. Among those pictured in a photo of one of the classes led by Rev. Moyne Landis were Becky Sherman and Mike Mowrey.

A difficult period for the congregation happened in mid-1963 when the pastor announced he would be leaving as well as a quarter of the congregation's members due to the Annual Conference statement on church membership for those who were not baptized in the Church of the Brethren.

It was then up to remaining families like the Shermans and Mowreys to cover the needs of the church. At a June 6, 1963 congregational meeting, Russell Sherman

was elected to serve as Receiving Treasurer and Robert Mowrey as Disbursing Treasurer. These two men would serve in these roles for many years to come, with many of those years being ones the church struggled to financially stay afloat. By the end of 1963, five baptisms were performed. Among those baptized were Mike Mowrey and Rebecca Sherman. Laura Mowrey was baptized in early 1964.

Also in early 1964, Russell & Ruby Sherman, along with Glenn & Eloise Frank, were installed as deacons – a role Ruby would continue to serve until her death on September 30, 2021. She was the last lifetime deacon in the church. The congregation went to term deacons in 1982.

In the mid-1960s, the Sherman and Mowrey children were actively involved in the children's and youth programs of the church with Lanna Mowrey and Becky Sherman serving at different times on the section youth cabinet. Mike Mowrey also served as CBYF president.

One of the biggest events as far as attendance in the life of the church to that date was the wedding of Becky Sherman to Dave Felix in 1974.

Throughout the years members of these families have diligently served the church. Russell Sherman served as a Sunday School teacher for many years. Marge Mowrey also served as a Sunday School teacher and helped with VBS for many years. Russell & Ruby Sherman served the church as Annual Conference delegates for many years. Ruby Sherman and Marge Mowrey would work many hours with Women's Fellowship, including hosting a lunch for August birthdays at Timbercrest for many years.

Within the past 20 years, Marge Mowrey and Laura Mowrey Wall served on the Church Board. Marcia Mowrey Krider worked with the New Facility Committee during the time the church was looking to sell our building. Grant Daily helped the church secure the loan for our new addition in 2017. Continuing to hold membership in the church today are Laura Wall, Marcia Krider, Mark Mowrey, Miranda Krider, Grant & Rachel Daily, Trista Mowrey, and niece of Ruby & Marge, Vonda Cormany. Hudson and Oliver Daily are the 4th generation of the Mowrey family to be involved in the life of this congregation.

In her passing this past week, Ruby Sherman left a void. She was the oldest living member of the congregation at 101 and the last member of the Sherman family to be involved in the church. Her kindness, friendliness, grace, and dedication to serving in the name of Christ will be missed by our entire congregation.

We might not be the church we are today without the dedication and service of the Russell & Ruby Sherman and Robert & Marjorie Mowrey families. Today, we celebrate their ongoing legacy.

- *Written by Pastor Dennis Beckner, with info from "Columbia City Church of the Brethren - Celebrating 50 Years: 1961-2011" Church History, written by Mary Helfrich, 2012.*