

# New style of worship brings new spirit to mainline church

MAUMEE, Ohio (AP) — The pews have been replaced by upholstered chairs at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church. The altar is now an expansive stage that accommodates drummers, guitarists and keyboard players. The most popular seats in the building are the two leather couches that make the church’s entryway feel like a hip coffee shop.

St. Paul’s rocks — with dancing, clapping and happy music that is making its contemporary services ever-more popular, eclipsing the traditional Sunday morning services it still offers.

“We needed to offer something different because people were leaving to find churches where they could express more joy or celebration,” said the Rev. Roger Miller, St. Paul’s pastor. “The church is just looking for a way to speak to the culture.”

Many mainline Protestant denominations with leveling or declining attendance are experimenting with similar ideas, following the lead of non-denominational megachurches that appeal to young people and families.

“Mainline churches are way behind in the ballgame because they were so steeped in their worship traditions,” said Ronald Shifley, pastor at Spencerville United Church of Christ, which started a contemporary service two years ago. “Down the road, churches will have to move to contemporary worship in some form or they’ll cease to exist.”

Contemporary services are less formal than the coat and tie services. Praise bands take the place of an organ or a choir. There’s dancing instead of kneeling. Skits are acted out. Hymn books are missing. Scripture often still plays a role but in less formalized readings.

This style of worship is a big reason why Protestant megachurches have grown so much, with some drawing members away from traditional churches. Megachurches with a weekly attendance of at least 2,000 have doubled in five years to 1,210, according to a study from Leadership Network, a church-growth consulting firm in Dallas.

St. Paul’s, which is in suburban Toledo, holds one of its contemporary services in a movie theater about two blocks from the church, getting edgier with skits, flashing lights and rock ‘n’ roll. St. Paul’s calls it “church for people who don’t go to church.”

There’s not a suit and tie among the crowd. About 150 people attend each week — more than the number at the 8 a.m. Sunday traditional service. Financially, it’s almost reached a break-even point, balancing out against the cost of renting the theater and paying for utilities.

People who might be uncomfortable going into a church have no problem going to a theater, said member Patti Rish. A few always wander in late.

“They don’t come in with a quiet reverence,” she said. “It’s just like going to the movies.”

Instead of popcorn and soda, churchgoers grab cups of chocolate-flavored coffee and jelly

doughnuts on their way into worship. The service starts out with a skit about golfing and religion, and moves into rock ‘n’ roll with a heavy drum beat that brings nearly everyone out of their seats.

St. Paul’s added its first contemporary service 11 years ago. Attendance on Sunday mornings had flattened out to a little over 400, and Miller was worried that the church would soon see a decline.

He also thought Sundays were becoming a little stale. “I remember saying to myself, ‘I’m just tired of this. It’s the same old, same old,’” he said.

The results were dramatic.

Attendance increased every year — it grew by 63 percent in the first six years. Many attendees were families with different religious backgrounds. “We had a lot of mixed marriages that ended up settling here,” Miller said.

Rish, who grew up Roman Catholic, began attending St. Paul’s just before the initial changes. “When I stripped away the tradition, I was able to make a better connection with God,” she said.

The growth allowed the church to begin a \$2.6 million renovation — an addition that included new Sunday school rooms, a new kitchen and an updated sanctuary.

The transition, however, can be traumatic. Churches often lose at least a few longtime members and risk alienating a large part of their congregations.

“People are creatures of habit and messing with their worship service reaches pretty close to the core of their faith,” said Bill Rindy, a pastor at First Lutheran Church in Fargo, N.D. “You’re on holy ground and need to be aware of that.”

His church offers both styles of worship, which has “helped us avoid the worship wars,” Rindy said.

## 2006 SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM

Join us once again for a fun-filled, learning experience!

**JUNE 5 - July 12**

Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**Ages 4-13**  
**Mondays - Wednesdays**

For questions call the Colby United Methodist Church Office at 460-2761.

Sponsored by:  
United Methodist Church  
950 S. Franklin, Colby  
Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Monday thru Friday

# Leaders battle proposed marriage law

WASHINGTON (AP) — Religious leaders are lining up in opposing coalitions over whether to amend the U.S. Constitution to ban gay marriage.

A group of religious leaders calling themselves Clergy for Fairness is campaigning against any such amendment. Among its members are leaders of Reform Judaism, the Episcopal Church, the United Methodist Church, the United Church of Christ and other denominations.

Another group, the Religious Coalition for Marriage, is lobbying for an amendment that would define marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman. Endorsers of that effort include Roman Catholic cardinals, along with leaders of the National Association of Evangelicals, the Southern Baptist Convention and the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations.

The U.S. Senate is scheduled to take up the issue in June.

Clergy for Fairness says its mem-

bers have different views on rights for same-sex couples, but believes a federal marriage amendment “reflects a fundamental disregard for individual civil rights and ignores differences among our nation’s many religious traditions.”

“It is not the task of our government and elected representatives to enshrine in our laws the religious point of view of any one faith,” the group wrote in a recent letter to federal lawmakers. “Rather, our gov-

ernment should dedicate itself to protecting the rights of all citizens and all faiths.”

The Religious Coalition for Marriage counters that “the world’s great monotheistic religious traditions” and “impeccable social science research” agree that when marriage is “radically redefined” or is “no longer the boundary of sexual activity,” the result is damage to individuals, family life and social justice.

# Colby church offering children’s ministry

Psalms 8:2 says, “From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise.” All too often children are left out of the worship experience even though they have a natural ability to praise with a pure heart. This summer Colby Wesleyan Church is offering a

Wednesday evening children’s ministry designed to enhance children’s natural ability to praise and worship.

All children ages 3 years old to 5th grade are invited to join Kids in Worship: Interfaith (KIWI) for a summer of spiritual growth begin-

ning June 7. This non-denominational children’s ministry will meet each Wednesday from 7 to 8 p.m. The children will be encouraged to worship God in spirit and in truth through song and prayer. A brief lesson and scripture will teach about honoring God and parents as

well as about the power of prayer.

Adults and responsible teens are needed to help with younger children and to help with accompaniment for worship and snacks. For more information please contact Colby Wesleyan Church at 462-8391 or Karen at 460-9077.



Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



**MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Chris Shubert. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

## Schedule of church services

**ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL**, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday, Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May

**COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**, Pastor, Jeremy Gundling, 245 W. College Dr. - 462-8234, Early Service - 8:00 a.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

**BEREAN CHURCH**, 1000 S. Franklin, 460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Heartland Christian School Gym

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**, Pastor Bradley L. Herndon, Grant & Webster Street, 462-2867, Morning Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday School 9:15 a.m., Evening Worship 6:30 p.m., Wednesday Bible 7:30 p.m.

**COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH**, (SBC), Pastor Tom Huffman, 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m.

**MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Chris Shubert. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC**, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05

p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Worship, 9:00 a.m.

**WESLEYAN CHURCH**, 320 W. Pine - 462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**, 1145 S. Franklin - 460-6605, President Dave Geldmacher, 846-7740; Calvin Haverfield, 1st counselor, 672-4165; Matt Christensen, 2nd counselor, 460-0146. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 462-3571.

**COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 462-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., 6:30 p.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. http://www.gbmg-umc.org/colby-umc/

**REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.**, 345 N. Franklin, Apostle W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 10 a.m., Sunday worship, 11 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Center (Bible School), 7 p.m.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**, 510 E. 4th, Jay Kelley, minister, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

**COLBY EVANGELISM CENTER**, Rev. Robert Cooper, 815 West 3rd - 462-2062, Sunday School 9:45; Sunday service 10:00 and 6:30 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.; Friday Youth Power Hour at 7:00 p.m.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Bradley L. Herndon, 385 W. 3rd - 460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 9:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. E-mail: fcccolby@st-tel.net

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Rev. John L. Schmidt, East 5th & Country Club, 462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m.

**OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

**PLEASANT HOME CHURCH**, Pastor, Charlie Busch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.

**LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Evening Worship 7:00 p.m.

**WINONA METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. Michael Eurit, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:30 a.m. (CDT)

**BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., Morning Worship, 10:45 a.m.

**THE SHEPHERD’S STAFF, REXFORD**, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 687-2565

**REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

**BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men’s Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children’s Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women’s Bible Study

COMMERCIAL SIGNS  
OF COLBY & HAYS  
YOUR SIGN / Our Reputation  
1185 Zelfer Ave. • Colby, KS

nwkansas.com  
Call 462-3963 or stop by  
155 W. 5th St., Colby

COLBY PHOTO  
Wednesday is double print day.  
Mark & Aradath Beringer  
420 N. Franklin, 462-8169

COLBY  
FREE PRESS  
155 W. 5th • Colby  
462-3963

Check Us Out!  
CHECK US OUT!

Look no further for total investment and retirement planning for individuals and businesses. Raymond James Financial Advisors listen to you like you are the only investor in the world.

For more information about how I can serve your investment needs, please contact me today.

401(k)s

Asset management

Banking services

Bonds

Cash management

College planning

Estate planning

Financial planning

Insurance & annuities

IRAs

Money market funds

Mutual funds

Pension & profit sharing plans

Research

Retirement planning

Stocks

Tax planning

UITs

And more!

Lisa Wilson

Raymond James Financial Advisor

RAYMOND JAMES

FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

Member NASD/SIPC

FARMERS & MERCHANTS

BANK OF COLBY

You first.

Securities are offered exclusively through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member NASD/SIPC, an independent broker/dealer, and are not insured by FDIC, NCUA or any other financial institution insurance, are not deposits or obligations of the financial institution, are not guaranteed by the financial institution, and are subject to risks, including the possible loss of principal.

2411d

Phone: 785-460-3321

Toll Free: 866-460-3321

240 W. 4th

Colby, KS 67701