

Central Christian Church Disciples of Christ

August 2023



Pastor's
Ponderings
August 2023

⁹ but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. (2 Cor. 12: 9, ERV).

⁸ I mean that you have been saved by grace because you believed. You did not save yourselves; it was a gift from God. ⁹ You are not saved by the things you have done, so there is nothing to boast about. (Eph. 2: 8-9, ERV).

"Grace," when used in both the OT and the NT, usually means the demonstration of God's goodwill towards humanity in the person of Jesus Christ and the effects of that goodwill in human lives. It is not something that we earn or generate ourselves. It is a gift, freely and abundantly given, by God, regardless of our "worthiness" in the eyes of anyone else.

Sometimes I think we might take issue with God over this if we could. In the Bible, we find multiple examples of God's Grace in parable after parable. For example, there is the parable about the workers in the vineyard all receiving the same pay at the end of the day even though some had been hard at work all day long, while others had only been hired moments ago (Mat. 20: 1-16).

When I read that parable, I always imagine those street workers one often sees on really hot, August days, wearing long sleeves, long pants, orange vests, and hats, drenched in sweat by 0900, simply exhausted and filthy at the end of the day. What might they say if someone came in fresh at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, clean, strong, and jovial even, simply from being hired at the last minute, picking up the same paycheck as they for working only 1 hour or less in the sun? I imagine there might be some hard feelings, some grumbling even. Would they accommodate their new brothers and sisters into the fold, or turn their backs and discriminate against them?

Now take that analogy and apply it to our Christian walk. We may have owned property in this area for a long time. Perhaps it was even handed down to us from our parents' parents. How do we feel if/when some folks "not of our kind" (whatever that "kind" may be!) come in and seemingly begin to take over "our" way of life? Do we "accept them into the fold," rejoice that they, too, now have an abundant way of life, or do we grumble and grouse, complaining that "they aren't like us"?

Recently, my Facebook feed has been flooded by other clergy remarking on things that are "unfair" from God's viewpoint. One meme caught my eye especially. It took me a while to figure it out because I don't listen to a lot of country music, although I do like a lot of it. I guess the singer Jason Aldean stirred up some controversy when he published a music video basically saying that all "lawless people" better stay out of small towns "or else!"

The problem is, he didn't just imply "lawless" people, but certain categories of people. Blacks, especially. He also didn't just say, "stay out," but implied that violence would be committed against people who committed violent acts like the looting, theft, rapes, etc. going on in "big cities." He used images of places where horrifically violent acts have been committed in years past against people "unlike ourselves" (i.e., whites).

The meme posted was from a seminary friend who is now an Ordained clergy himself. It featured Aldean's picture in the top half of the post and a picture of Ahmaud Arbery in a suit and tie in the bottom half. The words next to Aldean's picture were, "Try that in a small town," and next to Arbery's were, "Tried jogging."

You remember Arbery, right? He was the 25 year old black man murdered in 2020 during a racially motivated hate crime while jogging in a small town in Georgia. He wasn't just "murdered," he was stalked and hunted by three white men in their trucks as he jogged along the roadside. He wasn't being violent, the white men were.

I bring this up because I still see groups of people targeting others as "not like us," and therefore deserving of suspicion and negativity simply for being "other." Dare any of these groups of "others" to seemingly "flourish" and they threaten the status quo of the area. Taken to the extreme, those who feel threatened can act out in the very same ways that they are afraid the "others" might take-even if and when they absolutely do not-and soon, tragedy ensues.

I imagine God wept when God's child, Ahmaud was destroyed. I imagine God wept when God's other children, the three men who chased and killed him, chose that destructive path.

Suspicion, hate, and destruction do not seem to be abating. In fact, in this pastor's eyes, it seems to have "gone underground" and is itself flourishing.

JESUS offers another Way. Jesus asks us to put our weapons down, whether that be those hammered out of metal and steel, or those formed on the soft palates in our mouths. In their place, in their absence, God's true Love can grow.

We don't have to be afraid that the "others" are going to displace us or get "our" stuff. Our God is a God of abundance, and in God's economy, there's enough for everyone. Yes, it might not look like what we expected, just like the workers who toiled all day didn't expect the newcomer to be given the same wages that they'd earned, but when we're living God's way, it will be enough for us.

There will always be those who choose wrongly and commit various acts of violence, but anticipating violence because of our own bigotry and meeting it with actual violence will never promote Love nor create true community.

Let's stop trying to get ahead of our neighbor, let's stop looking at each other with suspicion, and let's stand next to each other- and "them," whoever "they" are- instead. We might just receive a little Grace ourselves.

See you in Church!

Love,

Pastor Dianna



Celebrating Together, Praying Together

Rev. Joshua Patty
Regional Minister and President

I'd like to invite you and others in your ministry to support the work of our Christian Church Reconciliation Ministry and our region's Anti-racism/Pro-reconciliation team. We are inviting individuals to record short videos about the faithful work you've witnessed and what still remains.

All you have to do is add a few words to complete these sentences. Sentence #1: In the church's (the Disciples') anti-racism work, we celebrate _____! Sentence #2: We need to keep doing anti-racism work because _____!

We don't need anything fancy and we can't include paragraphs or sermons in the short video we are preparing. Just grab your phone, turn it sideways (so your video is wider), find some good light and quiet space, and record these two completed sentences, along with your name, location, and congregation/ministry. [Then upload your video here.](#) If you have any questions, [please email me.](#) Videos need to be submitted by July 31.

Regional Calendar

For more details go to the Regional website:

uppermidwestcc.org

IA State Fair Hymn Sing & Children's Time, Aug 10- 20

Join in the activities at the Pioneer Chapel at this year's Iowa State Fair. The Hymn Sing events will be held every day of the fair at 11:30 am and 6:30 pm. There is Children's time during and after the morning (11:30 am) Hymn Sing.

July 29-Aug 1 General Assembly, Louisville, KY
July 27-Aug 9 Josh at General Assembly/Josh on vacation
Aug 12 Summer Camp Season ends
Aug 13-16 CCC Closed
Aug 16 Clergy Chat with Josh, 1 pm
Aug 24 DMF Day
Aug 24 Clergy Book Study, 2pm
Aug 24 Regional Operations Council, 7 pm
Sep 8-9 Regional Committee on Ministry

Save the Dates!

Sep 22-24
Regional Women's Retreat
Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds, MN

Oct 21
All Congregational Gathering

Central Christian Church Board Meeting Tidbits July 19, 2023

Deb Lakey, Board Chair, called the meeting to order. 8 members were present plus Pastor Dianna who opened the meeting with a devotional and prayer.

June minutes were approved.

Property- Jeff Sommerlot (via email) Bjelland worked on the kitchen drains. Jeff put new Velcro on the west door. Thanks to Steve Huseboe who helped with the ballast and bulbs in the office fluorescent fixture.

Personnel – Jan Bringman – met our new office manager, Becky, who is getting along fine.

Treasurer- Mary Hazelwood – emailed the financial reports to board members

Deacons- Carolyn Thompson – Deacons need to wait to re-cover the plates until all have been served.

Elders- talked about shepherding teams and the Elder retreat in October.

DWF - Sarah Sade – 2 cards were sent & 8 quilts were delivered to area nursing homes.

Worship Team – Glenda Hughes – the nursery is cleaned.

Pastor's Report- Dianna Clark – prepared sermon for & preached 4 regular Sundays. Met with Music Ministry Team, the Worship Ministry Team, the Elders, the Board Chair, the Treasurer and a DOC AV consultant. Participated in the Coffee group & Gatherers. Maintained contact with various members & made multiple pastoral calls.

Old Business

Picture directory – plan is on hold

Moving Sound booth to main floor – the DOC AV consultant will be back in August

New Business

Repair & painting rooms/areas where roof leaked was discussed

Alliant Energy will move the transformer box

Discussed printing/sharing recipes

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Colette Bengé, Board Secretary





2023

Church Board and Committee members

Board Chair: Deborah Lakey

Vice Board Chair: Glenda Hughes

Board Secretary: Colette Bengé

Treasurer: Mary Jane Hazelwood

Property Chair: Jeff Sommerlot

Personnel Chair: Jan Bringman

Vice Personnel Chair: Pat Sommerlot

Finance Chair: Mary Abens

Finance Vice Chair: Ruth Pearson

Missions: Judy Osgood, Beth Campbell, Marla Cook

Congregational representative: Jan Bringman

Deacon Chair: Carolyn Thompson

Deacons: Ed Phillips, Deborah Lakey

DWF: Sarah Sade

Elders Chair: Mary Abens

Elders:

Term ending 2023

Jan Bringman (V) Beth Campbell (M),
Janet Swanson (V)

Term ending 2024

Marla Cook (M), Andy Burt (M), Dietta Nevins (V)

Term ending 2025 :

Mary Abens (M), Mary Jane Hazelwood (M), Glenda
Hughes (M) Deborah Lakey V, Beth Judkins,
Mickolas

TLC Team: Mary Jane Hazelwood, Mary Abens, Al
Miller



August Birthdays

| | |
|----|-------------------|
| 2 | Dietta Nevins |
| 4 | Beverly Kelling |
| 8 | Connie Cooper |
| 8 | Ella Elzinga |
| 22 | Shirley Nicholson |
| 22 | Janet Swanson |



August Greeters: Carolyn Thompson and Sarah Sade

Deacon: Carolyn Thompson

August 6th

Elder: Marla Cook

Worship Leader: Marla Cook

Scripture: Matthew 14:13-21

Hymns: "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

"Let Us Talent and Tongues Employ"

"Let Us Break Bread Together"

"I Love to Tell the Story"

August 13

Elder: Andy Burt

Worship Leader: Andy Burt

Scripture: Matthew 14:22-33

Hymns: "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

"The Storm is Strong" (spoken)

"Faith of Our Fathers"

"Sweet Hour of Prayer"

"Just A Closer Walk with Me"

August 20

Elder: Beth Campbell

Worship Leader: Beth Campbell

Scripture: Matthew 15:10-28

Hymns: "All People That On Earth do Dwell"

"My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

"Amazing Grace"

"Blessed Be the Tie that Binds"

August 27

Elder: Mary Hazelwood

Worship Leader: Vickie Judkins-Mikolas

Scripture: Romans 12:1-8

Hymns: "Come Thou Almighty King"

"We are an Offering" CP

"One Bread One Body"

"Sanctuary" CP

Hymns are in the Chalice Hymnal unless otherwise noted.

This information is subject to changes after the newsletter is distributed.

In All Things, Pray...

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please be in prayer for the following:



The family of Harold Kelling who passed July 21st

The family of Lena Caswell who passed July 19th

Carl and Judy Osgood- Carl is recovering from an arm injury.

Pray for Brenda, (wife of Judy Osgood's nephew), she had a heart attack and is in the CCU in Des Moines. Prayers needed for this family.

Pray for Michelle (Osgood) Gilmore and Eric Osgood (children of Jim and Ramona Osgood), Michelle will begin chemotherapy and will undergo a bone marrow transplant August 1.

Valerie Sondag is fighting a very serious infection.

Eugene Hines who is scheduled for eye surgery August 1, and Oct 10.

The prayer group meets on the first and third

Wednesdays at 9 am.

Come and join us!





Elders Meditation

I have been thinking on what to write for my Elder Meditation for the last few days. I finally decided on spreading Joy after Gatherers at Zeno's last night. There was much Joy and Laughter during Dinner and continued as we left. I can only imagine the joy that the Children in Nicaragua felt when they saw Beth arrive, and when they saw the Soccer balls, Dolls, and Cars that She had from our Church family a half a world away. That is the same type of Joy we need to have when we are Spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our Community, State, and World. We can also spread joy in our Daily lives with kind words and actions. Even a smile can brighten some ones day. I hope that you can think about ways you can spread joy!

Deborah Lakey





In Memory



Harold L Kelling, 95, passed away on Friday, July 21, 2023, at the Timberland Village in Story City. A memorial service for Harold will be held Wednesday, July 26, 2023, at 10 am at Timberland Village, 725 Timberland Drive, Story City, Iowa 50248. Harold Lee Kelling was born in Renwick, Iowa, on January 20, 1928, to John G and Edna (Friday) Kelling. Harold enlisted in the Navy. Upon discharge, he moved to Waterloo where he met his wife, Beverly. They were married in Thor, Iowa, in July of 1952. They were blessed to have celebrated 71 years of marriage together. They moved to Marshalltown where Harold worked for Marshall Mills and Marshall Concrete. He was a thinker and inventor and was very proud to have a patent for a Grain Unloader. Harold was also an accomplished woodworker having made some of their furniture and many small items. After retiring from his jobs in Marshalltown, he and Beverly moved to an acreage near Hayward, Wisconsin. They enjoyed the Wisconsin winters and the wildlife. Especially the bears and deer were frequent visitors. After 15 years, they returned to Marshalltown, Iowa. Harold is survived by his wife, Beverly; sister-in-law, Donna Kelling; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Kenneth and Earl; and sister-in-law, Alice Kelling. Fond memories and expressions of sympathy may be shared at www.AnkenyFuneralHome.com for the Kelling family.

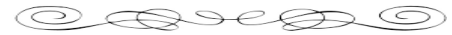


We are currently in need of volunteers for the A/V booth on Sunday mornings.

Volunteers to help with pick up and clean the nursery as children attend.

Volunteers are needed to be a driver to those that need a ride to church

Donate flowers for the service. There is a sign up sheet in the gathering room. See Glenda for more details

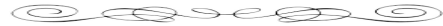


Finance

For the month of June 2023:
Total revenues \$7358
Total expenses \$11,571
Deficit for the month \$4213.00 (roughly equals our insurance premium)

Monthly budget revenues \$9625
Monthly budget expenses \$9799

For the year to date:
Total revenues \$77337
Total Expenses \$66905
Total Income \$10432



AUGUST MISSION!

School Supplies!!

We are working to gather school supplies for the children in the Marshalltown school district. There is a shopping list at the Church for ideas,, however....

Notebooks

Pencils #2

Crayons

Pens

are all good!



Fun Lunches

We are looking at resuming our fun lunches. Please keep a look out for more information on this!



August 2023

| Sun. | Mon. | Tue. | Wed. | Thu. | Fri. | Sat. |
|--|-------------------------|--|--|------------------------|------|------|
|  | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| | | 6:30 pm Heart of Iowa Chorus | 9am Prayer Group 10 am Coffee Grp 11 am worship Chair 1 pm Worship Team | 12:15 pm Elders Mtg | | |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 10 am Church ser- vices in person and online | Pastor' s Sabbath | 6:30 pm Heat of Iowa Chorus | | 1:00pm Group DEMF | | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| Second Sunday Refreshments 10 am Church ser- vices in person and online Food Box Sunday | Pastor's Sabbath | 4:00 pm Group Rebecca 6:30 pm Heart of Iowa Chorus | 9 am Prayer group 10 am Coffee grp 11:30 am TLC 1:30 pm Board meeting | 9 am Quilters | | |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 10 am Church ser- vices in person and online Pass The Peace | Pastor's Sabbath | 6:30 pm Heart of Iowa Choir | | | | |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |
| 10 am Church services in person and online | Pastor's Sabbath | 6:30 Heart of Iowa Chorus | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Disciples of Christ

**300 West Main Street
Marshalltown Ia.
50158**

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Website: www.centraldoc.org

Email: Chalice@centraldoc.org

Facebook: Central Christian Church (Disciples of
Christ) Marshalltown

and
Marshalltown Central
Christian Church

Board Chair: Deb Lakey

Elders Chair: Mary Abens

Deacon Chair: Carolyn Thompson

Office Administrator: Becky Neiman

Custodian: Mary Koshak

Organist: Colette Benge

Choir Director: Valerie Sondag

Office Hours:

**Tuesday - Friday
9 am - 1 pm**

2023 News



We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.
Disciples of Christ Statement of Identity

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME 10:00 A.M.

SUNDAY ONLINE SERVICE 10:00 A.M.