

**Central Christian Church
Disciples of Christ
December 2023**



Pastor's Goodbye

Dear Ones,

As most of you know by now, I've stepped down from Central's pulpit effective Sunday morning, November 19, 2023. I've not had a current Letter of Call for some time, so I was free to leave without notice. I found that my ministry was disrespected and undermined. It hurt me, it hurt some of you, and it was blocking good ministry. It was time for me to move on in the trust that God will send you just who you need next.

Our Regional Minister, Rev. Josh Patty, is aware of the whole situation, has spoken directly to many of you, and we can rest assured he is holding Central Christian in prayer. He will help you during the transition and as you seek your next pastor. I'm sure that your next pastor will be called by God as a Minister of Jesus the Christ, our Lord. I hope you'll actively support him/her in prayer.

I am truly sorry to leave you. I will follow our ministerial ethics by not trying to interfere with your ongoing ministry and backing away from Central. In all and through all, I wish you God's Peace. You have sincere hearts for Christ, and this, too, shall pass. Blessed Advent, Merry Christmas, and a Prosperous New Year to all of you!

In His Service and with His Love,

Pastor Dianna



We Say Goodbye to Two Central Christian Members

Donald Lee Swanson

Donald Lee Swanson, 76, from Hudson, passed away on Thursday, November 16, 2023, at the Cedar Valley Hospice House following a courageous ten-year battle with prostate cancer, surrounded by his devoted family.

Don was born in Marshalltown, Iowa, on September 25, 1947, to Herman and Dorothy (Apgar) Swanson. He spent his formative years in Quarry, Iowa, and graduated from LDF (Le Grand, Dunbar, Ferguson) High School in 1965. Post-graduation, he pursued his education at Marshalltown Community College, where he met his beloved wife of 53 years, Janet West. Don furthered his studies at Iowa State University, earning a degree in Electrical Engineering in 1971.

Commencing his professional journey at Western Electric in Omaha, he concurrently served in the Army Reserves. In 1976, Don embarked on a career with John Deere in Waterloo, relocating his family to Hudson. With a remarkable tenure spanning 33 years, he concluded his service as the Manager of Fac-

Don's spiritual roots were established at Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Marshalltown. Residing in Hudson, the family actively participated in the Hudson Community Church, where Don held various roles. His civic engagement extended to membership in the Hudson Lions Club, where he served as President, contributed as a board member at the Hudson Library, and served as Treasurer for the Computer and Automated Systems Association for many years.

Don and Janet enjoyed thirty years as Iowa State Cyclone football season ticket holders, weaving countless cherished memories while tailgating with family and friends before each game. Don's enthusiasm extended to navigating the parking lots on his Segway, adding a unique flair to the pre-game festivities.

His zest for life included a love for country concerts and cruises, having traversed the Panama Canal, explored Hawaii, and relished in the fusion of country music and cruising. Estes Park, Colorado held a special place in Don and Janet's hearts, becoming a tradition from their marriage till the present. His passion for the mountains was contagious, passed down to his children and grandchildren, always informing them the distance to the nearest gas station or next rest area.

Above all, Don found immeasurable joy in his nine grandchildren, proudly boasting about their accomplishments at any given chance. Whether it was cheering at sporting events, attending music or Christmas concerts, or simply being a steadfast presence in their lives, Don prioritized their happiness and growth.

Don leaves behind his beloved wife, Janet, and their children: Brent (Sarah) Swanson of Ames, Brian (Jackie) Swanson of Valparaiso, Indiana, and Britt (Ted) Mikels of Waterloo. He is survived by grandchildren: Alyssa, Brennan, and Camdyn Swanson, Nathaniel, Clara, and Charlie Swanson, as well as Aspen, Summer, and Creighton Mikels. His memory lives on through his brother, Dean (Marge) Swanson of Isle of Palms, South Carolina; sisters, Joann (Rejean) Chartier of Fallbrook, California, Donna Oetker of Ankeny, Joyce (Roni) Burns of Bolivar, Missouri; brother-in-law, Gary (Cindy) West of Marshalltown; and father-in-law, Vernon West, along with a niece and nephews. Don was preceded in death by his parents and mother-in-law, Marie West.



Obituary

James (Jim) Edwin Hemphill, 90, passed away peacefully Friday, November 24, 2023, at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines. He was born on November 25, 1932, in Kansas City, Missouri to Keith and Eva (Jenks) Hemphill, and was an only child.

Jim was raised and attended school in Creston, Iowa. He helped his parents at the Hemphill Hatchery and was active in high school band and basketball. Jim graduated from Creston High School in 1950 and was accepted into the Navy ROTC in 1951. Jim attended Simpson College and later transferred to the University of Idaho, graduating with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 1955. He was also commissioned as an officer in the Navy in 1955. Jim worked at Allis-Chalmers in Milwaukee, Wisconsin before returning to the University of Idaho to teach and obtain his master's degree. Jim moved to Marshalltown in 1964 after accepting employment with Fisher Controls where he worked for 28 years. A patent was issued in 1969 for a butterfly valve that Jim invented, and he retired in December 1992. Jim retired as a Commander from the Navy Reserve in 1981 after 30 years of service, including one year of active duty on the Navy destroyer USS Foss. His service in the Navy took him to numerous countries in Europe, Asia, and the Pacific.

Jim was briefly married and had a daughter in 1959. On June 29, 1968, he married Judith Allen McCann and gained four sons and one daughter, and they had two additional daughters together. In addition to helping raise his own eight children, Jim also helped raise 17 foster sons and hosted two foreign exchange students. He was a hardworking provider and role model.

Jim was an active member of Central Christian Church in Marshalltown. He was an elder, deacon, choir member, member of men's group, and participated on the committee that planned the building addition to the church. He was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the U.S. Naval Institute. He belonged to and actively participated in Mid-Iowa Rock Club, the American Philatelic Society, and Men's Garden Club of America, and opened up his own property as part of the garden tours in 2016. Jim enjoyed woodworking and construction projects and added an addition to his home as well as performed several home renovations. Jim loved his flowers and garden, creating his own backyard oasis. In recent years, Jim loved attending performances at Live on Stage, plays at the Marshalltown Community Theater, Marshalltown Men's Chorus performances, concerts he won tickets to on the radio at the Iowa State Fair and symphony performances in Ames and Des Moines. Jim blessed everyone around him with his faith, service, and kind spirit.

Jim is survived and will be greatly missed by his daughters, Jenni (Jeff) Moorman of Ankeny, Karen (Tyler) Evans of Colfax, Linda Hemphill of Sanders, Arizona, and Cathy Hickok of Marshalltown; his sons, Don (Rhonda) McCann of Marshalltown, Dave (Debbie) McCann of Ankeny, Dan (Darlene) McCann of Carmel, Indiana, and Doug (Sheri) McCann of Marshalltown; 17 grandchildren – Erin Hickock, Chris (Amy) McCann, Matt McCann, Kelli (Jon) Lange, Mitch McCann, Bryan McCann, Ashley McCann, Chase (Erica) McCann, Natasha Kelderman, Tori Rigatos, Robert (Lacey) Kelderman, Kylie Moorman, Miles Israel, Evan Moorman, Bella Israel, Grant Moorman, and Parker Moorman; and 17 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Judy, and his parents, Keith and Eva Hemphill.

A visitation for Jim will be held from 9-10 AM on Saturday, December 2, 2023, at Central Christian Church in Marshalltown. Funeral services will be held immediately following at 10 AM with Pastor Jacob Rahrig officiating. Memorials in Jim's name may be directed to Central Christian Church - Missions. A military burial service will follow at 3 PM at Graceland Cemetery in Creston, Iowa. For more information or to send condolences, please visit www.mitchellfh.com or call (641) 844-1234. Mitchell Family Funeral Home is caring for Jim and his family.

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CCC Board Tidbits November 21, 2023

Meeting was called to order by Glenda Hughes, Vice-chair, who also gave the opening prayer. 11 members were present.

Resignations from Pastor Dianna Clark and Deb Lakey, board chair, were read and accepted.

The October minutes were approved. December calendar events were reviewed.

Property – *Jeff Sommerlot* – handicap parking places have been painted. Plaster samples have been sent in to be tested for asbestos.

Personnel – *Jan Bringman* – need to do contracts

Treasurer -*Mary Hazelwood* – insurance premium is going up

Deacons – *Carolyn Thompson* – buying the communion bread now

Elders – *Mary Abens* – retreat was in October. Next meeting is Dec. 7th.

Congregational Rep – *Marla Cook* – many compliments on the lovely fall decorations. Decorating sanctuary for Advent is Dec. 2nd.

Missions – *Judy Osgood* – collecting for HOC to end of Nov. December- bring unwrapped gloves, mittens, hats & scarves -put under the tree. Caring Center needs adult gloves, especially for men.

DWF – *Sarah Sade* – will give the September- December report at Dec. meeting

Worship Team – will meet Dec. 6.

Old Business –

*Will check on dates for the city indoor winter Farmer's Market to use the church basement.

* Contacting a photographer for the church directory is on hold.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted,

Colette Bengé, Board Secretary





2023

Church Board and Committee members

Board Chair: Glenda Hughes

Vice Board Chair:

Board Secretary: Colette Benge

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

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)



December Birthdays

2 Kathy Stoneking
6 Elaine Fiscus
7 Ron Benge, Donna McNamee, Bob Cook
12 Janet Graves
14 Ken Fiscus
20 Dorothy Borton, Lanese Thompson
21 Cind Shneiderman
24 Eric Osgood
25 Jesus, Della Klar
29 Eden Sternhagen



December Greeters: Donna McNamee and Janet Swanson

December Deacon: Carolyn Thompson

December 3

Elder: Mary Abens

Worship Leader: Mary Abens

Scripture: Isaiah 64:1-9

Hymns:

#153 "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

#125 "O Long Expected Jesus"

#537 "My Hope is Built"

#119 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

#151 "The First Noel"

December 10

Elder: Marla Cook

Worship Leader: Marla Cook

Scripture: TBD

Hymns:

#162 "What Child is This"

#677 "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

#86 "O Change My Heart O God" (CP)

#161 "I Wonder as I Wonder"

#145 "Silent Night"

December 17

Elder: Andy Burt

Worship Leader: Marla Cook

Scripture: TBD

Hymns:

#155 "Angels We Have Heard On High"

#167 "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

#149 "Angels from the Realms of Glory"

#159 "There's a Song in the Air"

#143 "Joy to the World"

December 24

Elder: Beth Campbell

Worship Leader: Ruth Pearson

Scripture: TBD

Hymns: TBD

December 31

Elder: Mary Hazelwood

Worship Leader: Mary Hazelwood

Scripture: TBD

Hymns: TBD

Hymns are in the Chalice Hymnal unless otherwise noted.

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



PRAYER CONCERNS

Please be in prayer for the following:



Please pray for our members and families. Hold in prayer the following:

Carl Osgood; Michelle Gilmore; Dorothy and Frank Borton; the families of Don Swanson and Jim Hemphill; Aaron Wogan; Jackie Fiscus; Helen Barger; Marjorie Cobb

- Prayers for those affected by acts of violence
- ◆ Prayers for our nation that we may come together as one.
- ◆ Prayer for all of those affected by war around our world.

Prayer Requests

There are slips for Prayer Requests by the offering trays, in the Gathering Room and in the note box by the Church Office door. Please write your request, check which groups you want it to go to, if it's confidential and sign your name





Elders Meditation

As we enter into December and the trappings, decorations and parties commence the true meaning of the season is often underplayed.

The anticipation of the Advent season and build up to Christmas Day should be the arrival of Jesus and the joy of the birth of the Christ child. May we have the peace and calmness of his mother Mary and the fortitude, trust and love of Joseph in caring for his new family, securing even the humblest place for this amazing birth, in our lives, not just during this season but in all our days.

December, with its' activities and fun is a celebration for all the world, because our savior is born.

Dear God, may we celebrate our joy for the birth of your son these coming weeks. Bless us as we prepare for Your coming into the world.

Amen

Andy Burt



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

We need a volunteer to take pictures for our directory.

If you would like to donate flowers for the service, there is a sign up sheet in the gathering room.



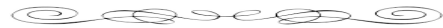
For the month of October

Revenues for October: \$5708.00
Expenses for October: \$6131.00

Year to date: revenues: \$107,681.00
expenses: \$96,258.00

We received notice from Church Mutual that our deductible for certain losses will increase to \$5000.00, and our premium may increase by 25%. That is a serious amount, and we may gather information from other providers to compare costs.

Mary Jane Hazelwood



December Mission Caring Center

Winter has arrived!!!! BRRR!!!! Our December Mission project will be to collect gloves, mittens, hats, scarves and any other warm winter wear for all ages and sizes for both men, women, boys and girls for the Caring Center. Please bring your donated items unwrapped and place them under the Christmas tree that will be in the Gathering Area. As Ruth told us during announcements, warm gloves and mittens are especially needed. Let's help those in need stay warm this winter!

Judy Osgood, Missions

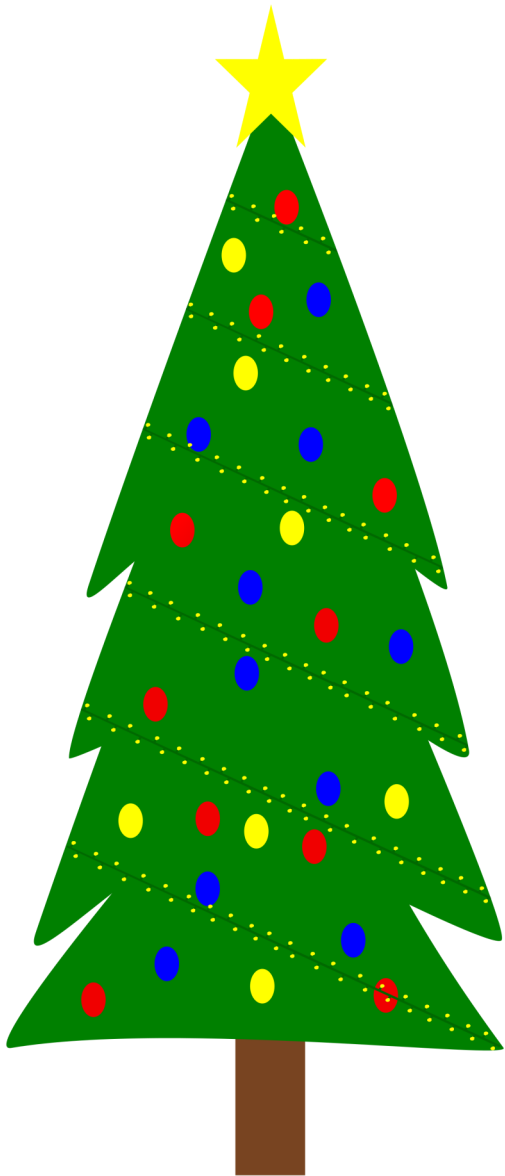
*Thank
You*

Because of your generosity, we were able to provide six \$35 gift cards to six families for Thanksgiving this year!

Thank You!

November Mission

We filled the Mission Shelf with donations to the House of Compassion! Well Done!



Holiday Stroll

Thank you to all who have helped make this a really nice event! From start to finish it took a church community of volunteers to make this happen. And the evening went really well!

Thank you To All involved!

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

There is a sign-up sheet in the gathering room for anyone who would like to bring fresh flowers for our Sunday Worship service.

Refreshment Sunday this month is December 10th, if you would like to share some goodies, there is a sign-up sheet in the gathering room.

Thank You!

Thank you to the Board Members and Elders, Becky and others who took on extra responsibilities the past two weeks to keep our ministries and worship services running smoothly!

AN ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

ABIDE
WITH US



EDITED BY
PAUL KOCH

New for Advent 2023

Our God is always with us every time, even in the most unlikely of places

Abide With Us is a daily devotional walks us through the four weeks that lead to Christmas, reflecting on what we can do to create a welcoming space for God in our hearts and our world. Each devotion contains scripture, a short reflection, and a prayer.

Available for a cost of \$5.00



December 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
					Gatherers Sedlacek Pot Luck 5:30 pm	Jim Hemphill Funeral 9:00 am Visitation 10:00 Funeral Lunch to follow Decorating following funeral
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10:00 Church Service In-person/online		6:30pm Heart of Iowa Chorus	1:00 pm Worship Team 5:00pm Vocal Choir 6:00pm Bell Choir	12:15pm Elders meeting		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
10:00am Church Ser- vice in person/online Refreshment Sunday		6:30pm Heart of Iowa Chorus	5:00pm Vocal Choir 6:00pm Bell Choir	1:00pm DEMF		9 am Group Lydia At Judy O's home
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10;00 am Church Ser- vice in-person/online		5:00pm Group Rebec- ca 6:30pm Heart of Iowa Chorus	1:30 pm Board Meeting 5:00pm Vocal Choir 6:00pm Bell Choir			
24		26	27	28	29	30
10:00am Christmas Service in person/ online		Newsletter Items due		Newsletter published		
31						
10:00am Church Service in per- son/online						

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: Glenda Hughes

Elders Chair: Mary Abens

Deacon Chair: Carolyn Thompson

Office Administrator: Becky Neiman

Custodian: Mary Koshak

Organist: Colette Bengé

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.