

Central Christian Church  
Disciples of Christ  
October 2023



Pastor's  
Ponderings  
October 2023

“<sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...” Hebrews 10: 24-25a (NRSV) ”<sup>11</sup>The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup>to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, <sup>13</sup>until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ...<sup>15</sup>But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body’s growth in building itself up in love.” Ephesians 4: 11-16 (NRSV)

Can you believe it’s fall already? Where did our summer go? It feels like our year is flying past and before we know it, it will be All Hallows Eve, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and then we’ll be ringing in 2024! Mercy. A lot has happened, and quickly it seems, this year.

On the world stage, Russia is still in Ukraine; tornadoes, fires, and floods continue to displace so many; desperate people are still showing up by the thousands seeking asylum in our great nation; picketers are still picketing; and politicians are still, well, politicking. Truly, it seems, nothing is new under the sun.

I electronically met a person the other day. Part of my ministry is online, so it doesn’t surprise me when new opportunities arise to tell of the Love, forgiveness, and mercy of God online. However, this time I think I am the one who may grow from the encounter, as this person has shared all of the horrific things done to them throughout the years, and yet, they continue to pursue something full of grace, something higher and more full of Light than what was presented to them as “God” for so, so much of their lives.

Why does that have an opportunity to teach me? Because this person’s conception of Love is found in spiritual practices that I have not experienced before. As we’ve conversed, I recognize God’s Light, though, shining through this new-to-me encounter, and so, with prayer and eyes wide open, I allow my curiosity to ask questions and ponder the places our almighty God occupies that I’ve not even plumbed yet.

It occurs to me that our churches are similar to me. We know God exists; we testify to a loving, grace-filled Creator, and yet, we tend to not want to open ourselves up to anything new for fear of...losing our hold on what we do know? ...sinking into the stormy seas? ...afraid we'll get it wrong and be punished? (I don't know. What would you answer here?) And so, we doggedly insist on doing things the same old way, year in and year out, and then wonder aloud why no one new is stepping up to help out; why our spiritual life seems...dry, dusty, and one-dimensional at best. Reminds me of some scripture:

<sup>3</sup> Then the Lord said to me, "Son of man,<sup>[e]</sup> can these bones come to life?" I answered, "Lord GOD, only you know the answer to that question." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Speak to these bones for me. Tell them, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the LORD!' <sup>5</sup> This is what the Lord GOD says to you: I will cause breath<sup>[d]</sup> to come into you, and you will come to life! <sup>6</sup> I will put sinew and muscles on you, and I will cover you with skin. Then I will put breath in you, and you will come back to life! Then you will know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup> So I spoke to the bones for the LORD, as he said. I was still speaking, when I heard the loud noise. The bones began to rattle, and bone joined together with bone! <sup>8</sup> There before my eyes, I saw sinew and muscles begin to cover the bones. Skin began to cover them, but there was no breath in them.

<sup>9</sup> Then the Lord said to me, "Speak to the wind<sup>[e]</sup> for me. Son of man, speak to the wind for me. Tell the wind that this is what the Lord GOD says: 'Wind, come from every direction and breathe air into these dead bodies! Breathe into them and they will come to life again!'"

<sup>10</sup> So I spoke to the wind for the LORD, as he said, and the breath came into the dead bodies. They came to life and stood up." Ezekiel 37: 1-10, ERV

I've been thinking about all of the things Central Christian *could* be doing, but we *aren't*. For example, we *could* offer free, community meals... but we don't. We *could* offer an after-school program... but we don't. We *could* have a moms' group...or a singles' group...or a couples' group...or an AA or NA or counseling services in our building... but we don't. We *could* have a Children's Moment or a Stephen's Ministry or a housing program for new immigrants... but we don't. We *could* have an active spirituality group...but we don't (we do have 3 awesome members regularly attend our prayer group, though, and we'd so love to have more of you there!). Any other ideas floating out there? What's YOUR idea?

I imagine that a lot of you have ministries that you'd like to see our church doing. Have YOU ever said, "I wish our church would (fill in the blank)," then this article is particularly for YOU. (And if you wish SOMEONE ELSE would be doing these things ...then for Heaven's sakes, when they try, encourage them and don't tell them how it's "supposed to be done!") Consider this God's tap on YOUR shoulder. Here's the thing, though: you might *wish* that we had these ministries (and others!) going, but unless YOU are willing to step up and direct them, they may not get accomplished. In fact, they probably won't. They won't, because unless folks step up and answer God's Call on their lives, unless folks offer their gifts and talents for the upbuilding of God's Church, things will stay pretty quiet around the building.

Abundant life is *noisy*! Consider how quiet it is inside a hospital room where someone is really sick (or in a coffin where death has already come) vs. a room full of happy, full-of-life kids. There's a big difference, isn't there? And LIFE is what we need to be about! Abundant life! We NEED our bones *dancing* and carrying full, healthy bodies.

I'm really excited about a few things I've seen this past year in the life of the church. I've seen the creation and functioning of a wonderful, life-giving Worship Team. (By the way, we're looking for a new chair for that group, so please step up for that!) I've seen many off-shoots of teams created from that group, such as the Visibility Team, the Music Team, and various other new ideas spawned from all of those meetings. I watched as people donated water, coolers, labels, time and talent as we provided free water to the community during the Oktoberfest parade!

We've got a new Children's Sunday School forming with plans to begin October 8<sup>th</sup> in the 0900 hour! Bring your children and your grandchildren! We've had a speaker from Job Corps speak to our Board and we've got a team from AMOS coming to speak to the whole church on the evening of October 12<sup>th</sup> (make sure to come and hear their presentation)! And our Elders are going on a Spiritual Retreat for a little instruction and some very much-needed R&R on October 3<sup>rd</sup>!

Our bones ARE beginning to come to life again, Praise God! I hear it in the hallways and I see it in our gatherings. May we continue to flesh out and then to DANCE into new life once again.

“<sup>15</sup>But speaking the truth in love, *we must grow up in every way into him* who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup>*from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.*” (italics mine.)

May it be so. See you in Church!

*Love,*

*Pastor Dianna*



## Central Christian Church Board Meeting Tidbits September 20, 2023

Meeting was called to order by Deb Lakey, board chair. 8 members were present plus Pastor Diana who led the board in The Lord's Prayer.

August minutes were approved. October calendar of events were reviewed.

**Property-** *Jeff Sommerlot* – committee is talking about the parking lot striping.

**Personnel** – *Jan Bringman* – need to find one more person to answer the office phone while Becky is gone a week in October.

**Treasurer-** *Mary Hazelwood* – went over the August Financial report

**Deacons-** *Carolyn Thompson* – everything is still going well

**Elders-** *Mary Abens* (via email) Elders did not meet in September due to so many having scheduling conflicts. Just a reminder that Elders' retreat is Tuesday, October 3 at the conference center and that will be our October meeting.

**Missions-** *Judy Osgood* (via email) we have been collecting groceries for the EFB each Sunday in September rather than just the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday. The October mission will be the House of Compassion.

**Worship Team** – *Glenda Hughes* – we will be handing out bottled water at the Oktoberfest parade. Need more coolers. Talked about Thanksgiving meal baskets and Christmas shopping event for kids. Christmas Eve service will be combined with regular 10 a.m. service. We will donate adult gloves to Caring Center.

**Pastor's Report-** *Dianna Clark* – prepared sermons for & preached at 5 regular Sundays. Wrote Elders' Retreat materials. Updated Christmas program, met with the Music Ministry team, the Worship Chair, the Worship Team, the Missions Chair, the Board chair, the Visibility team & the TLC team. Led 2 prayer groups, participated in the Coffee group, Gatherers, helped wrap labels on water bottles for the Oktoberfest parade and helped organize & label books for our library. Made 2 Pastoral home visits & one hospital visit. Participated in 2 AMOS trainings (10.5 hours of training). Maintained contact with various members through multiple pastoral calls, texts and cards sent.

### **Old Business**

\*Sound booth – pausing this project

\*Picture directory – need someone to take pictures

### **New Business**

\*Children's programs – starting October 8<sup>th</sup> @ 9 a.m. Glenda Hughes will be in charge so we need to have someone else chair the Worship team.

\*Quilting Guild would like to use our Fellowship Hall

\*Holiday Stroll – working on menu ideas

\*Decorating sanctuary for Christmas is December 2<sup>nd</sup>.



Meeting adjourned.



**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
- TLC Team-**Al Miller, Mary Abens, Mary J Hazelwood
- 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



**October Birthdays**

4	Erin Sternhagen
6	Mary Coleman
10	Stuart Nevins
12	Carole Weber
13	Carl Osgood
23	Derek Dalluge
23	Emily Manis
28	Shawna Cutler



**October Greeters: Jeff and Pat Sommerlot , Al Miller**

**October Deacon: Ed Phillips**

**October 1**

Elder: Beth Campbell

Worship Leader: Ruth Pearson

Scripture: Matthew 21:23-32

Hymns:

#284 Gather Us In

#4 Holy Holy Holy

#3 Let Us Break Bread Together

Insert- He's Got the Whole World In His Hand

**October 8**

Elder: Mary Hazelwood

Worship Leader: Mary Hazelwood

Scripture: Matthew 21:33-46

Hymns:

#61 All Things Bright and Beautiful

#586 Open My Eyes That I May See

#394 One Bread One Body

#344 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

:

**October 15**

Elder: Glenda Hughes

Worship Leader: Sarah Sade

Scripture: Matthew 22:1-14

Hymns:

#286 This Is the Day

#585 What A Friend We Have In Jesus

#386 We Come As A Guest Invited

Insert- Praise Him Praise Him

**October 22**

Elder: Mary Abens

Worship Leader: Allen Miller

Scripture: Matthew 22:15-22

Hymns:

#25 Praise To the Lord Almighty

#452 Here I Am Lord

#86 Great Is My Faithfulness

Insert- Put Your Hand In the Hand

**October 29**

Elder: Marla Cook

Worship Leader: Marla Cook

Scripture: Matthew 22:34-46

Hymns:

#289 What Is This Place

#546 Amazing Grace

#526 The Gift Of Love

Insert- I'll Fly Away



## PRAYER CONCERNS



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

Carl Osgood; Darin Groenveld; Eugene Hines; Michelle Gilmore; Dixie Johnson; Dorothy and Frank Borton; Carol Hoing; Mary Abens; our elders as they go on retreat Tuesday October 3rd.

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

### *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

The prayer group meets on the first and third

Wednesdays at 9 am.

Come join us!





# Elders Meditation

By the time you read this, the special Reconciliation offerings will have been collected and on their way to our regional office. Even though we are past the time for the special offering, I'm sharing some information from our DOC web site, (edited for length.)

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is an Anti-Racist and Pro-Reconciling faith community. This is our identity. This is who we are! We welcome ALL to the Table of Lord as we actively seek ways to expand the Table in order that all people know and experience the uncommon grace and love of our God.

What does it look like for us to be Anti-Racist and Pro-Reconciling? It looks like Disciples Peace Interns providing leadership in our camps with intentional effort to equip youth and young adults with a heart for diversity, equity, and inclusion...

...We embrace this identity through our ministry partners providing funding for programs like National Benevolent Association's The Corner: A BIPOC Clergy Retreat model that supports mental health wellness for ministers confronting trauma in their communities and their own lives while giving themselves in service to others. This replicable model strengthens our witness for social service and social justice advocacy and promotes healthy church leaders...

...This work is done in partnership with Reconciliation Ministry to guide the journey to disrupt racism where your agency and congregation live and serve.

Bigotry, oppression, and racism break the heart of God. We are all diminished by injustice toward racialized and oppressed peoples. Reconciliation Ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is your Mission Fund to dismantle racism and oppression and to share the liberating love of Jesus Christ. Will you join us on this journey? Much more information can be found here: <https://disciples.org/our-identity/identity-resources/#> Click on the "Mission" tab.

Blessings to all,

Mary Jane Hazelwood

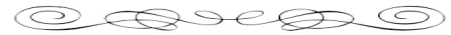




We are currently in need of volunteers for the A/V booth on Sunday mornings.

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. If you have any questions ask Pastor or any worship team member. Glenda is team chair.

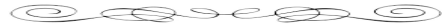


FINANCIAL -- Through August, 31:

Actual monthly income: \$6359.00  
 Actual monthly expenses: \$6177.00  
 Actual income for August: \$182.00

Year to date:  
 Actual income: \$96123.00  
 Actual expenses: \$82371.00  
 Actual income: \$13802.00

**Notes:**  
 Stock market has had some "up" days. (Total assets as of August 31, 2023; \$250234.00)  
 Unexpected expense in August/September:  
 Repair to damaged air conditioning unit (\$500+)



## October Mission

### House of Compassion

The Mission Team considered several possibilities for our October missions project. We unanimously selected the supply closet at the House of Compassion. It's been some time since we have helped fill their shelves with non food items.

Things needed are cleaning products, personal hygiene products, over the counter medications, paper products. light bulbs, garbage bags, disposable diapers, etc. There are lists on the shelves in the gathering area to help you with shopping for these needs.



## September Mission

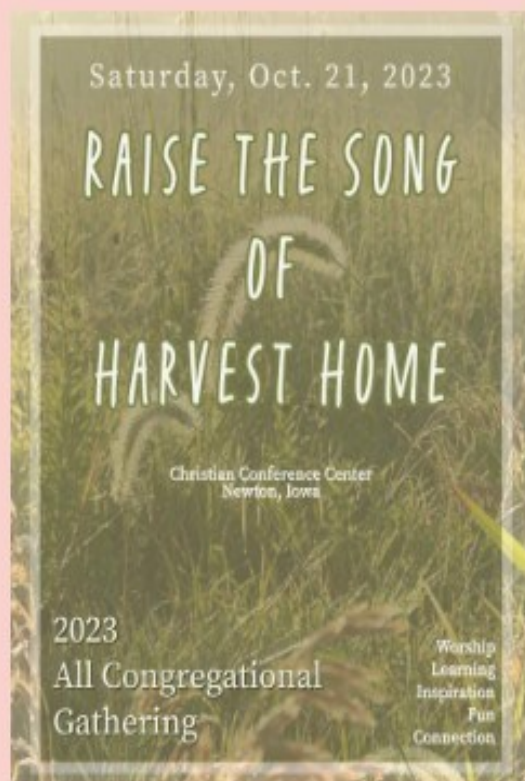
Today I took our grocery donations to the EFB. There was 101 pounds of food! They said to thank our parishioners. Thank you Central!!!!

Judy

*Thank You!*

We need one more voting delegate for this! Please see Deb L.

## 2023 All Congregational Gathering, Saturday, October 21



**Guest Preacher: Ashley Dargai**  
**Guest Musicians: The Guitarras**

Watch your email for more details!

Join us at the Christian Conference Center for this annual event! Be inspired by worship with our guest preacher and guest musicians. Explore valuable topics in the learning sessions, and connect with fellow Disciples from across our region during our Food, Fun, and Fellowship Fair.

All activities are provided free of charge. Feel free to arrive Friday night and enjoy our Holy Ground before the event begins on Saturday (lodging in the cabins, Chi Rho huts, or tents/campers is free of charge; Lodge Rooms are available for a housekeeping fee).

**When:** Saturday, October 21, 2023 check-in begins at 9 a.m.

**Where:** Christian Conference Center in Newton, IA

**Who:** Disciples (pastors, lay leaders, and other congregants of any age) from across Iowa, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota are encouraged to attend.

Rummage Sale-updates and Kudo's

The Marshall County residents and those surrounding areas are always happy to come to our sale. They always say we have such nice things and we price things low. They also mention how organized we are and nice!

So, thank you all! It takes an army to pull this off and so many hours. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you All!

We took in \$2603, plus \$50 in expenses and of course everything not sold is given to different organizations to help their clients.

Thank You All,

Sandy

# ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Gatherer's for October will be on Friday, October 20th, 5:30pm at Legends. Bob and Marla Cook are hosting this event. Please let Pat or Carolyn know by Sunday October 15, if you are wanting to be added to the reservation.

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

Sunday October 8th is refreshment Sunday, if you are able to provide for this, there is a sign-up sheet in the gathering room.

Sunday October 8th is Pastor Appreciation Sunday.

Advent and Christmas sign-up sheets are on the table in the gathering room.

Devotionals books are available for purchase. This book covers a whole year. "365 Love Notes From God". The cost is \$15. If making a check or paying by cash, please be sure to annotate that this is for devotional books.

The Library Meditation/Prayer room is now open and available for use. Feel free to come take a look, check out a book, come for some time of meditation, prayer, and reflection.

The October Mission is "House of Compassion". Things needed are cleaning products, personal hygiene products, over-the-counter medications, paper products, light bulbs, garbage bags, disposable diapers, etc. There are lists on the mission shelf in the gathering room.

The 2023 All Congregational Gathering will be held Saturday October 21, 2023 at the Christian Conference Center, Newton Iowa.

Glenda will be doing Childrens Sunday school beginning Sunday October 8th, at 9:00am. The lesson plan will coincide with the Lectionary.



Carl Osgood 80th Birthday

Open House

Fellowship Hall

Saturday October 14th

2-4 PM

No gifts, please!



# October 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
10 am Church Service in person and online  Matthew 21:23-32	Pastor's Sabbath	9-3 Elders Retreat  6:30 Heart of Iowa Chorus	9 am Prayer Group 10 am Coffee Grp 11 am worship chair 1:00 pm Worship team 5:00pm Vocal Choir 6:00pm Bell			
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
10 am Church services in person and online Pastor Appreciation Day Refreshment/food box Matthew 21:33-46	Pastor's Sabbath	6:30 pm Heart of Iowa Chorus  Becky Vacation	5:00pm Vocal 6:00pm Bell  Becky Vacation	1:00pm Group DEMF  6:00pm AMOS presentation Becky Vacation		Becky Vacation
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
10 am Church services in person and online Greet Your Neighbor  Matthew 22:1-14	Pastor's Sabbath	9:00am Visibility Team 5:00pm Group Rebecca  6:30 pm Heart of Iowa Chorus	9 am Prayer Group 10am Coffee Grp 11:30am TLC 1:30pm Board Mtg 5:00 pm Vocal 6:00 pm Bell	9sm Quilters		9:00 Group Lydia
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
10 am Church services in person and online Matthew 22:15-22	Pastor's Sabbath	6:30 pm Heart of Iowa Chorus News Articles Due	9 am Music Committee 5:00pm Vocal 6:00pm Bell	Newsletter Published		
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				
10 am Church services in person and online Matthew 22:34-46	Pastors Sabbath	6:30pm Heart of Iowa Chorus				

# CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH



*Disciples of Christ*

**300 West Main Street  
Marshalltown IA  
50158**

Phone: (641) 753-3129

Website: [www.centraldoc.org](http://www.centraldoc.org)

Email: [Chalice@centraldoc.org](mailto: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 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.**