

Central Christian Church
Disciples of Christ
March 2026



Pastor's Pondering

March, 2026

In Micah 6:8 "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." God has shown us what we need to do in this world to make it a better place. In Micah's time the world was in a mess. People continued to ignore God and do whatever they wanted.

Today we are doing the same thing. Arguing, biting and clawing our way through life with little deference to what God is telling us. When I was in my early years in the 1950's community was a force to be reckoned with. Neighbors were all working together to make the community a place to be proud of, and a safe place to live.

We didn't lock our doors, or shout at each other. Community was based on love and cooperation. That has changed. Our communities are no longer cooperating together to give and protect each other. We are not following God's plan.

God has given us the tools, now it is our responsibility to be the action. "To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with God."

During this Lenten season let's strive to be who God wants us to be and follow the light of Jesus out of the darkness.

With Love and Shalom

Pastor Mike



2026

Church Board and Committee members

Board Chair: Jim Gossett

Vice Board Chair: Beth Campbell

Board Secretary: Colette Benge

Treasurer: Mary Jane Hazelwood

Property: Jeff Sommerlot, Allen Miller, Steve Huseboe, Bob Cook

Personnel/Congregational Rep: Beth Campbell, Carolyn Thompson, Peggy White..

Finance Chair: Pat Sommerlot

Missions: Judy Osgood, Beth Campbell, Marla Cook, Pat Sommerlot, Carolyn Thompson

Deacon Chair: Carolyn Thompson

Deacons: Carolyn Thompson, Ed Phillips, Rhonda Spence

DWF: Sarah Sade

Elders Chair: Mary Abens

Elders: Beth Campbell, Jan Bringman, Jim Gossett, Mary Jane Hazelwood, Andy Burt, Marla Cook, Colette Benge,

Elder Emeritus: Sara Sade

March Birthdays

- 3 Beth Campbell
- 6 Travis Thompson
- 7 Linda Halvorson
- 11 Jean Whitmore
- 13 Dennis Paxson
- 19 Allen Miller
- 20 Daniel Abens
- 21 Anthony and Carter Levis
- 28 Karen Dodd

March Greeters: Allen Miller and**Janet Swanson****March Deacon: Rhonda Spence****March 1**

Elder: Andy Burt

Worship Leader: Allen Miller

Scripture: Psalm 121, John 3:1-17

Sermon: "We Come with Fear"

Hymns:

#72 "To God Be the Glory"

#558 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

#576 "My Faith Look Up to Thee"

#35(CP) "Shout to the Lord"

March 8

Elder: Beth Campbell

Worship Leader: Beth Campbell

Scripture: Psalm 95, John 4:5-42

Sermon: "Where is the Water?"

Hymns:

#371 "Wade in the Water"

#90 "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

#351 "Fill My Cup, Lord"

#17(CP) "My Life is in You Lord"

March 15

Elder: Mary Jane Hazelwood

Worship Leader: Mary Jane Hazelwood

Scripture: Psalm 23, John 9:1-41

Sermon: "Help Us to See Jesus"

Hymns:

#108(CP) "As the Deer"

#585 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

#339 "Just as I Am"

#592 "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

March 22

Elder: Mary Abens

Worship Leader: Mary Abens

Scripture: Psalm 130, John 11:1-45

Sermon: "Hope Out of Death"

#552 "Standing on the Promises"

#254 "Breath on Me Breathe of God"

#94 "Breathe On Me"

#184(CP) "Soon and Very Soon"

March 29(Palm Sunday)

Elder: Marla Cook

Worship Leader: Marla Cook

Scripture: Psalm 118:1-2; 19-29, Matthew 21:1-11

Sermon: "Riding on a Donkey"

Hymns: #192 "All Glory Laud and Honor"

#108 "Lift High the Cross"

#196 "Go to Dark Gethsemane"

#191 "Ride On, Ride On, in Majesty"

Elders Meditation



I had a really hard time deciding about a topic for this meditation. There are always thoughts of money...having finished the budget and received reports for January. Not today, though. Paging through the Disciples of Christ website (full of all sorts of information) I came across a video and writing with the title "A Call to Christians...in a Crisis of Faith and Democracy." It is deep. It is serious. It reflects our denomination's teaching and those of the Bible. Frankly, it is frightening and not an easy read. Instead of paraphrasing, I'm quoting the article because I could not improve on it.

No matter your political leanings, it's impossible to justify the cruelty of ..." citizens and immigrants being demonized, disappeared and even killed; the erosion of hard-won rights and freedoms, and a calculated effort to reverse America's growing racial and ethnic diversity..."

"In moments like this, silence is not neutrality—it is an active choice to permit harm." Things are happening today that "...assault our core rights and freedoms and threaten to derail and even destroy our democracy." "The government-sponsored cruelty and violence we are witnessing stands in total opposition to the teachings of Jesus."

As Christians, our ultimate allegiance belongs to God alone, and we believe that any political leader who demands absolute power places themselves in opposition to God's sovereignty.

A section of this writing, "The Word of God" draws from familiar Bible teachings and parallels current happenings with gospel. "Jesus declares that truth and freedom are inseparable" (John 8:32). "Daily we hear lies and distortions that seek to divide..."

"Jesus gives His final test of discipleship in Matthew 25:31-46, making clear that the measure of our faith is revealed in how we treat those who are hungry, thirsty, sick, strangers, or imprisoned."

"The Spirit of God"

We commit to: Protect and Stand with Vulnerable People; Love our Neighbors;

Speak Truth to Power; Seek Peace; Do Justice; Strengthen Democracy; Practice Hope;
Ground our Discipleship

"May God guide us, empower us, and strengthen us."

Mary Jane Hazelwood

<https://acalltochristians.org/>



PRAYER CONCERNS

Please be in prayer for the following:



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

David and Linda Halvorsen, Peggy White, Derrica Krutsinger, Specialist Tanner Curley (Jim and Marcia Gossett's grandson, stationed in Syria), Lynne DeSotel, John Schneiderman, Janet Graves, Sherry Eggers, the family and friends of Cathy Wetherbee who passed away.

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.
- ◆ Pray for those affected by flooding and other natural disasters.
- ◆ Prayers for those affected by the severe weather throughout the country.
- ◆ Pray for World Peace.

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, and check which groups you want it to go to. Let us know if it's confidential, and sign your name

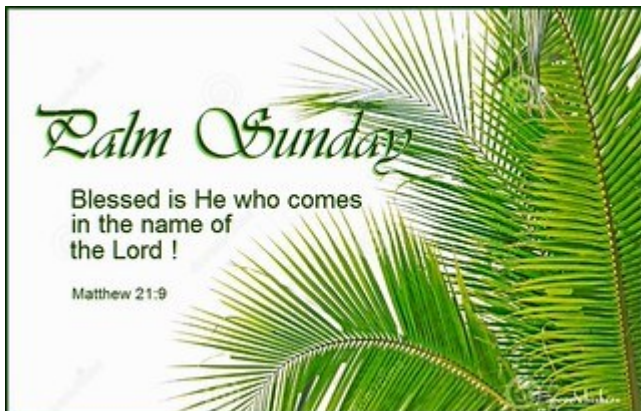


Thank You!

As you know, I had knee replacement surgery on January 21. It has been harder than I thought it would be but I am getting better all the time. I hope to be back in church soon!

I want to thank everyone who has helped me through this venture! Carolyn and Pat have made sure I got to physical therapy, I have received food and flowers, cards, calls, emails and texts. I appreciate them all and thank each of you! Group Lydia sent a beautiful bouquet and Colette brought me a beautiful rose bowl from DWF. Pastor Mike came to the hospital on my second day at the same time physical therapy came for me and I shooed him out to go do Moment with God! I felt bad about that later! I did appreciate him coming by.

Thank you for your prayers and positive thoughts. Judy Osgood



Order your Mum or Lily for Easter

The cost is \$14 per plant. Orders need to be completed on March 8.



Finances Ending December 2025

Total Revenues December: \$15761.00
Total Expenses December: \$15000.00
Total Revenues 2025: \$129847.00
Total Expenses 2025: \$176222.00

Total Loss 2025: \$49375.00



Announcements

St Patrick's Day Luncheon

Shepherds Pie

Sunday March 15

Following

Sunday Worship

Service



Gatherer's-March

Friday March 27 5pm

Smokin G's

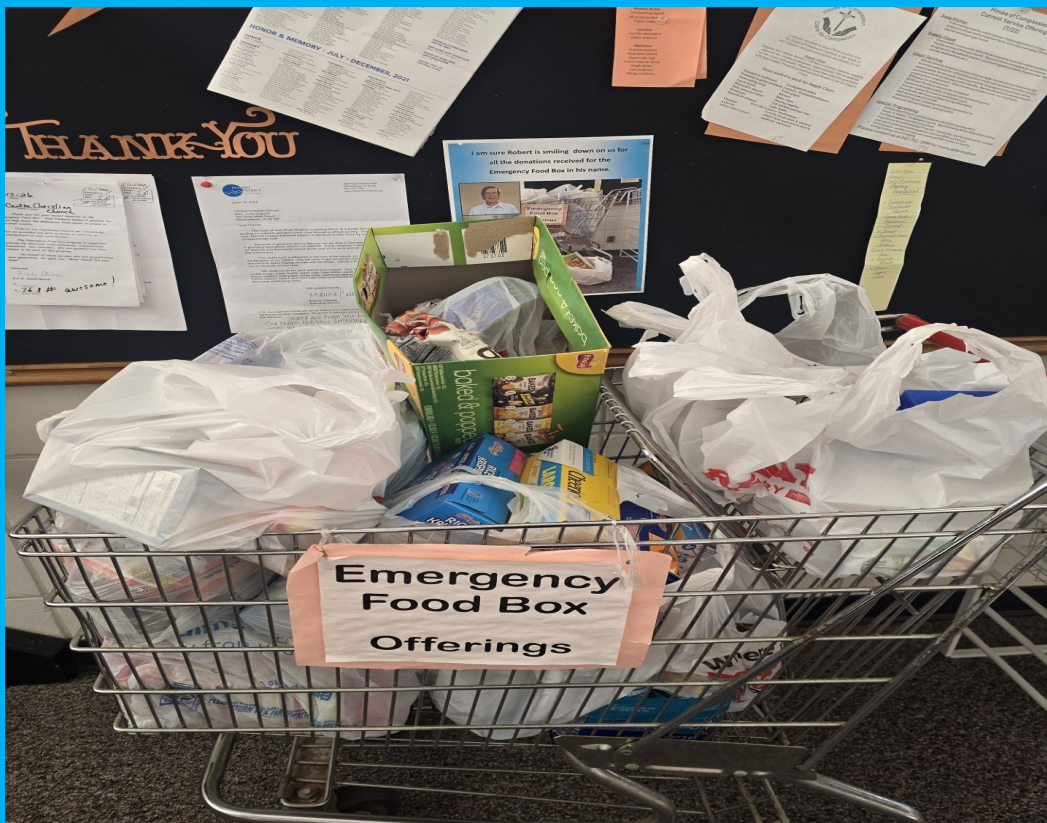
Hosted by Jeff and Pat

Sommerlot

Please let Carolyn Thompson know by Wednesday March 25 if you would like a reservation.

Missions

Thank you for your generous donations of food for the Emergency Food Box in February. We hadn't decided on a mission for March so we are asking that you continue to fill the grocery cart for the Emergency Food Box through March. Food insecurity goes on....we can help.



March 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:00 Church Service Missions-Food box		Pastor Mike away	No Bible Study 4:00pm Woship/Missions Mtg 5:00pm Vocal Choir 6:00pm Bell Choir	1:30pm Grief Support		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:00 Church Service Missions Food Box			1:30pm Bible Study 4:00pm Elders Mtg 5:00pm Vocal Choir 6:00pm Bell Choir			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:00 Church Service Missions Food box St. Patrick's Day Meal After services		5:00pm Group Rebecca	1:30pm Bible Study 4:00 Board Meeting 5:00pm Vocal Choir 6:00pm Bell Choir	9:15am Quilters 1:30pm Grief Support Group		9:30 Group Lydia Judy O's house
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:00 am Church Service Missions Food box		New Articles Due	1:30pm Bible Study 5:00pm Vocal Choir 6:00pm Bell Choir	Newsletter Pub- lished		
29	30	31				
10:00am Church Service Palm Sunday						

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Disciples of Christ

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Email: Chalice@centraldoc.org

Facebook: Central Christian Church (Disciples of
Christ) Marshalltown

and
Marshalltown Central
Christian Church

Pastor Mike Carlson

Board Chair: Jim Gossett

Elders Chair: Mary Abens

Deacon Chair: Carolyn Thompson

Office Administrator: Becky Neiman

Custodian: Jessica Vazquez-Ramos

Organist: Colette Bengé

Choir Director: Valerie Sondag

Office Hours: 9am-1pm , Tue-Fri

2026 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.