

Central Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

April 2023



Pastor's Ponderings April 2023

If the Covid pandemic taught us nothing else, I hope and pray that it taught us what is really important in life: each other (and of course, God). We need each other. In that equation we should also find our selves. We need to take care of each other, and we need to take care of ourselves. Seems like I've heard a Bible verse that has that same sentiment somewhere within it ("Praise God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and your neighbor as yourself." Mark 12: 30-32, paraphrased.)

Recently, I've watched several loved ones, as well as many friends, work themselves to the point of physical sickness. When they weren't working themselves to death, they were worrying themselves to sickness. Neither is good for our bodies, nor, in the end, spiritually productive. It's not good for anyone around us, either.

Do you remember the time when we used to spend quite a few hours in the pursuit of.....simple enjoyment? Pleasure, even? Before your imaginations wander too far, I'm thinking about all of the hours spent on our front porches or in lawn chairs in the back yard passing the evenings visiting with friends and neighbors. Nothing fancy- no big barbecue spread; no need to hustle about "getting ready" for everyone who might stop by. There used to be simpler times when a pitcher of cold lemonade or a glass of tap water sufficed as "enjoyable" enough to offer to anyone who happened to want one. Conversations weren't "guided" nor "goal-oriented," just...wandering, slow, and nice. Our company- the companionship of another human being who wasn't interested in anything except fellowship- was more than enough.

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Recently, I've decided to add a new "watch-phrase" to my list of "important priorities." Why? Because I am more often than not one of those people (just like many of you are!) who are over-working and over-stressing about...well, honestly, everything. And so I thought I'd try to make my new "watch-phrase" go viral. Maybe if it catches on, we can all practice it together and bring back a little pleasurable enjoyment to all of our lives!

What's my new "watch-phrase?" It's this: 'SIMPLE AND ENJOYABLE'. One of my goals, and I hope the goal of many of you, will become to pass much of what I pursue through this litmus test: "Is what I am generating/pursuing/doing SIMPLE AND ENJOYABLE? For me, as well as for others around me? If not, I hope that I cease whatever it is and pursue God instead.

Matthew 11: 29-30, NRSVUE- "29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

With the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus the Christ, within view now, I think it's important that we feel that Joy and make it really real- not only for ourselves, but for everyone around us. May the gentle spring rains of an intentionally slower pace bring fragrantly fresh flowers of spiritual abundance- and pleasure- in your lives, too, and may we offer that Joy to ourselves, each other, our visitors, and the world.

Easter blessings, Dear Ones. Hallelujah- He arose, and He lives!

Love, Pastor Dianna



CCC Board meeting tidbits March 15, 2023

Deb Lakey, Board Chair, called the meeting to order. Present: 9 members & Pastor Dianna who gave the opening prayer.

The February minutes were approved. April calendar events were reviewed.

Property- Jeff Sommerlot – the Knox box is here. The kitchen stove needs to be lit. The machine shop will repair the metal cover over the drain cover.

Personnel – Jan Bringman – no issues. Vickie makes up snow days.

Treasurer- Mary Hazelwood – paid half of the insurance premium. Will send the financials via email since the accounting firm does not always have them ready before board meeting.

Deacons- Carolyn Thompson – everything is fine.

Elders- they are wanting to find out who needs rides to church. Also, want to find out who wants a face to face visit.

Missions- Judy Osgood (via email) – the Blanket offering totaled \$550 and the Week of Compassion offering was \$360. The donated groceries for the Emergency Food Box will be taken soon.

DWF - Sarah Sade – 5 cards were sent. 31 boxes of tissues were distributed to area elementary schools.

Worship – Glenda Hughes – discussed starting a flower sign-up sheet to provide flowers for the sanctuary. Planned for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter services. She will pass around participation sign-up sheets during March 19th and 26th services.

Pastor's Report- Dianna Clark – in addition to preaching on Sundays, she has met with the Worship Team, Elders, TLC team, Worship Team Chair, Board Chair, participated in the Prayer group, prepared & led a book study, did a funeral, made multiple nursing home visits including 1 deathbed visit, made multiple pastoral calls & kept everyone up to date on various members.

Old Business

Discussed having church members let the office know if they need a ride to church.

New Business

Representatives are needed for General Assembly July 29 – August 1.

Meeting adjourned.

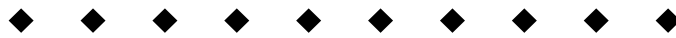
Respectfully submitted,

Colette Benge, Board Secretary





Elders Meditation



Well this Elder is a bit overwhelmed right now. I'm getting ready to head to the Christian Conference Center for Camp Director training. As you may have heard our Associate Minister Tiffany Williams has resigned and will be moving to a church in Texas. Who knows how the summer will go without her, she and her family do so much for the camping program. I was supposed to head home on Sunday to help my mom and take her to some appointments but then the hospital called and said that Robert needed decisions about his care. As I hold his medical power of attorney I had to make some tough choices. After talking to the Drs and nurses we made the decision to try surgery. They all ask me what was Robert like, what made him happy, what does he enjoy. I could told them many stories about how he wanted only to help others, he was always there to do what ever was needed. At the nursing home they always joked that he gave away most of the cookies and treats that we sent because he felt that the nurses and staff didn't get enough thanks. Any time a nurse gave him a shot he would thank them "that was the best shot I ever got" Everyone loves Robert! They thanked me and our church for taking such good care of him. When the Dr. called to say he was surprised at how easy the surgery was and how healthy Robert seems with all his other conditions I knew it was because of his strength and our prayers. So continue to pray for him, he still has a long way to go but he is the most positive person I know and this is a good reminder to all of us about the power of prayer.

Beth





Worship Committee

You may have heard about the newly formed worship committee, an active and enthusiastic group comprised of people who care deeply about the life of worship at Central Christian. To get us started, Pastor Dianna called together the musicians and singers, decorators, elders, deacons and other creative individuals to create a dynamic committee of worship planners. But why stop there? We'd like to invite anyone who has an interest in helping plan and participate in worship to join in the endeavor. Please let Dianna, me, or anyone else on the committee know if you'd like to be part of the team or have an interest in helping plan and participate in the worship life of our church.

This month, we began preparations for Holy Week, including Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Resurrection Sunday (Easter). There are sign-up sheets on the tables if you'd like to be a part of these services. We need people to participate in the procession on Palm Sunday. We are also looking for people to be part of the Maundy Thursday service. I'm excited that so many signed up to commit to pray for our church before and through Holy Week. There are still open positions for "disciples and other participants in the Maundy Thursday Service.

Other items we discussed were adding a sign-up sheet for people to bring flowers for Sunday services. Maybe you would like to bring flowers in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or just because flowers are beautiful and add to the worship experience! We are also working on forming a "Radical Hospitality" subcommittee. This committee will ensure that members and visitors feel welcome. We'd like to invite you to be part of and contribute to this team.

The next meeting of the Worship Committee will be held April 11.

Glenda Hughes.





2023

Church Board and Committee members

Board Chair: Deborah Lakey

Vice Board Chair: Glenda Hughes

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, 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

*Thank
You*

Dear Members of Central Christian Church and
the Disciples Women's Fellowship,

Thank you so much for the continued support of
our Fisher Elementary students. The socks,
pants, undies and Kleenex are such a great help!

Thanks again, Nurse Heather VanBuren

Thank you to Mary Koshak for the wonderful
work she does in keeping the church clean on
the inside and the landscape looking so lovely.

Thank you all, once again, for being an angel for
our staff and students at Rogers. The Kleenex
you donate is so desperately needed. We cannot
thank you enough for your generosity. Rogers
Elementary

Thank you so much for your donation of Kleen-
ex to Hoglan. Those are somethings we can
always use at school. Thanks, Nurse Megan

Thank you again for showing love to the
Woodbury students and staff! It is much
appreciated. Nancy Pins RN

Thank you to the family of Louise Holubar for
the lovely donation toward her memory

Thank you cards are on the bulletin board!

Those serving this month

Deacon

Deb Lakey

Greeters

Dennis Paxton

Allen Miller

Pat and Jeff Sommerlot



Worship Leaders

April 2 Marla Cook

April 9 Allen Miller

April 16 Beth Campbell

April 23 Mary Jane Hazelwood

April 30 Sarah Sade

Elders

April 2 Marla Cook

April 9 Andy Burt

April 16 Beth Campbell

April 23 Mary Jane Hazelwood

April 30 Glenda Hughes

AV Tech Schedule

April 2

April 9

April 16

April 23

April 30

April Birthdays



April 2: Dennis Westphal

April 12: Robert Breno

April 15 : Jim Fiscus

April 20: Sandy Miller

April 23: Pat Sommerlot

April 27: Frank Borton



PRAYER CONCERNS

Please be in prayer for the following:



Please continue to pray for an individual to hear God's Call and step forward for our Youth and Children's ministry

Pray for the people affected by natural disasters across the USA

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 want it to go to, if it's confidential and sign your name

The prayer group meets on the first and third

Wednesdays at 9 am.

Come and join us!





We Are Witnesses

Acts 10:39

Supporting general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) received in most congregations

Sunday April 2 and 9, 2023

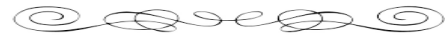
On Easter, we rejoice in the good news that God's love is more powerful even than death itself. Gifts to the Easter Special Offering support ministries that help Disciples witness to that good news. General ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) witness to God's love through:

- Relationships with global mission partners serving in communities impacted by climate change.
- Health and social service ministries that meet basic needs for neighbors.
- Mental health resources for pastors and congregations.
- New congregations worshipping in a variety of languages and worship styles.
- Leadership development programs that nurture new leaders in the church and the world.
- Stewardship education for congregations to grow in their practice of generosity.
- Opportunities like the General Assembly, where the church can gather for worshipful work.
- Support for hospital and military chaplains serving around the world.
- And so much more...

The Easter Offering supports these general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

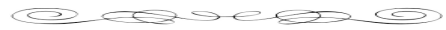
Center for Faith and Giving, Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries (Otro Hispano), Communication Ministries, Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Disciples Home Missions, Disciples Women, Division of Overseas Ministries (Global Ministries), Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, National Benevolent Association, National Convocation, New Church Ministry, North American Pacific/Asian Disciples, Office of the General Minister and President, Treasury Services

We are witnesses to the power of God's love, from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth. Please give generously in your congregation on April 2 and 9, or make a gift at disciplesmissionfund.org/give.



We are in need of drivers for Sunday mornings in order to bring our members who have no transportation to church.

If you are in need of a ride or are able to give a ride please call the church office by Thursdays at noon.



Summer Camp 2023 is here!

Registration is online this year

<https://docgeneralassembly.refox.com/umw-summer-camp-2023>

Gatherer's will be held Saturday, April 29th, 5:30pm at Mama DiGrado's. Hosting will be Jim and Carolyn Thompson. Please let Carolyn or Pat know by Monday, April 24th, so arrangements can be made.

Everyone is welcome.

Come and join us for a fun evening,

MAMA DiGrado's
PASTA & PIZZA



2500 South Center Street
MARSHALL TOWN CENTER
Marshalltown, IA 50158

Thank you! Thank you!

The cart was overflowing with Food for the Emergency Food Box.

Food Box Sunday is the second Sunday of every month. Donations are for the Emergency Food Box.

Donations can be put by the ramp in the shopping cart .





Mission Nicaragua

Nicaragua

A small group of us traveled to Nicaragua in Jan to see what the community was doing and if it was possible to restart our trips since the Covid restrictions. Everyone was glad to see us and we enjoyed our time with our Santa Emilia family. While we were there our main mission was to build beds for us to use since the cabins at the Coffee plantation have fallen into disrepair. With help from Manuel, a carpenter, we built, treated and stained 10 beds to be used in the upstairs of the Assembly of God church. With the money that we brought for extra projects we were able to buy school supplies for the Elementary School and paint for the new iron work at the school. We also left some money for them to use to supplement the school lunch program so that the kids could have some fresh fruit and veggies. We took the nurses from the clinic shopping and got medicine and some extra equipment like an infant scale, a doppler for expecting moms and some blood pressure cuffs and thermometers. We also were able to buy parts to fix the water access at the clinic and get the gate fixed. We also gave money to the community to repair some of the water meters that are in the village. We bought ourselves mattresses for our beds and a few pillows. This year we each paid a little extra to have a cook hired to prepare our meals. It was wonderful to experience some traditional Nicaraguan food instead of dining on tortillas, rice and beans 3 times a day. Norma our cook and Manuel were both unemployed so they each earned enough money to help out their families for a while.

We plan to return July 17th to brick in a wall that will help protect the school grounds. I can't thank you enough for the support that you give me and the gifts that I take to the village. I wish you could see the appreciation I see in their eyes. When I return in July, I will be looking for sets of single bed sheets, light weight single blankets and of course cash for medical and school supplies.





April 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
Office hours are Tuesday –Friday 9 am to 1pm						1
2 10 am Church services in person and online Palm Sunday	3	4 6:30 pm Heart of Iowa Choir	5 9 am Prayer Group 10 am Book Study 5 pm Mixed Choir 6 pm Bell Choir	6 12:15 Elders meet Maundy Thursday Service 5:30PM	7 Good Friday	8
9 10 am Church services in person and online Easter Food Box Sunday	10	11 11 am Worship Team 6:30 pm Heart of Iowa Choir	12 5 pm Mixed Choir 6 pm Bell Choir	13 1 pm DEMF Group	14	15 9 am Lydia Group
16 10 am Church services in person and online	17	18 5pm Rebecca Grp 6:30 pm Heart of Iowa Choir	19 9 am Prayer group 10 am Coffee with Pastor 11:30 am TLC 1:30 pm Board meeting 5 pm Mixed Choir 6 pm Bell Choir	20 9 am Quilters	21	22
23 10 am Church services in person and online	24	25 6:30 pm Heart of Iowa Choir News articles due!	26 5 pm Mixed Choir 6 pm Bell Choir	27	28	29 Gatherer's meet at Mama DeGrados 5:30 pm
30 10 am Church services in person and 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: Deb Lakey

Elders Chair: Mary Abens

Deacon Chair: Carolyn Thompson

Office Administrator: Vickie Judkins-Mickolas

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.
