

Central Christian Church

Disciples of Christ



April 2020

March 2020 Board Meeting

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2nd Dennis Westphal
 9th Ramona Osgood
 12th Robert Breno
 14th Janet Stubbbs
 15th Jim Fiscus
 20th Sandi Miller
 23rd Pat Sommerlot
 27th Frank Borton

Attending: Judy Osgood, Ron Bengé, Colette Bengé, Carolyn Thompson, Mary Hazelwood, Marla Cook, Brandon Ruopp, Erin Jacobson, Beth Campbell

Opening Prayer: Carolyn Thompson

Calendar Review: Erin Jacobson

Property: Allen Miller - No Report

Personnel: Janet Smith - Reported via phone that Mike is back to work. Thanks to Melissa Osgood for cleaning while Mike was unable to work after surgery.

Finance: Ron Bengé - No report.

Treasurer: Mary Hazelwood presented the February financial report.

Deacons: Carolyn Thompson - No report.

Elders: Beth Campbell reported that the Elders did not meet and recommends sending cards or calling those that are homebound.

Congregational Representative: Marla Cook - No report.

Missions: Judy Osgood - Talked about the Easter Offering and reported that there are groceries to deliver.

Christian Education: Melia Chapman. No report.

DWF: Sarah Sade reported via phone that all DWF group meetings and April luncheon are canceled. Lenten Breakfast is also canceled.

Search Committee: Our profile has been submitted and accepted.

Old Business: No report.

New Business: Judy Osgood moved to cancel all services and activities until further notice. Board approved. Colette will send a letter to the congregation. The office will remain open. Lily orders are canceled and the money will be returned.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Jacobson, Secretary

Easter Offering

“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” – Psalm 118:24 NRSV

Across the United States, Canada, and beyond, Disciples are rejoicing in all that the Lord has made.

We rejoice with the **Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries (Obra Hispana)**, **National Convocation**, and **North American/Pacific Asian Disciples (NAPAD)**, who will be holding their biennial gatherings *together* this summer for the first time.

We rejoice with the growing number of congregations who, with support from **Green Chalice** and **Disciples Home Missions**, find new ways to care for all that the Lord has made – developing recycling programs, installing solar panels, planting community gardens, and more.

We rejoice in all the stories and voices preserved by the **Disciples of Christ Historical Society**, who work every day to document and share our Church’s heritage.

We rejoice that lives are restored through the work done by the **National Benevolent Association’s** Prison and Jail Ministry. This collaborative group develops and shares resources to help Disciples serve and minister to those currently and formerly incarcerated.

We rejoice in the work **Disciples Women** do together to combat human trafficking, working together with **Global Ministries**, to partner with organizations supporting vulnerable communities around the world.

This Easter, *we* rejoice together as one Church, as the One Body of Christ. We rejoice in all that we accomplish

together, and the work God accomplishes through us.

Let us rejoice that the Easter offering, through Disciples Mission Fund, makes this ministry – and so much more – possible. Through the general ministries of our Church, lives are changed and our world is transformed. **Will you rejoice with us and give to this special day offering?**

This Easter season, let us rejoice in all the ways our wider Church embodies the Spirit of Resurrection, through life-giving ministry.

Mail your Easter Offering to the church office at 300 W Main Street, Marshalltown, IA 50158 or drop it in the locked mailbox by the South/ramp doors.



Prayer Concerns

Military separated from their families due to non-essential travel ban, Mary Horn, Marilyn Denton, Jackie Fiscus, Tammy Losing & Family, Lorin Miller, Dennis Paxson, Loren Nickel, Bob Duke, Mark Weaver, Linda Aschan, Terry Graves, Danielle Mooers, Jan Bringman, Gloria Morrison, Rich Matherly, Allen & Jamie Smoldt, Chuck Netolicky, Lois Brown, Linda Blackford, Kevin Meyer, Jim Maxted, Amanda Bearman, Don Romig, Catherine Hickok, Corban Pierce & Family, Bill McLeland, Dorothy Borton, Bobby Weishaubt, Shawn Cooke, Carol Hoing, Lisa Smith, Karen Barret, Leanna Bowers, AnnaMarie Charloft, Allison Sherman, and those who are homebound

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

300 W. MAIN MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA 50158

March 24, 2020

Dear members of Central Christian Church congregation,

The board voted unanimously to cancel all services and activities until further notice.

The office will remain open during regular hours, Tuesday through Friday, 9am to 1pm. Even though we are not meeting for worship, we still have expenses. Please continue your financial support either by mailing in your offering or putting it in the locked mailbox by the ramp doors.

Please feel free to contact us with prayer concerns, reporting illness, or questions.

Church office -641.753.3129

Beth Campbell (Elder chair) 641.751.5292

Colette Bengé (Board chair) 641.753.3502

There is a weekly worship service provided by Disciples Net, an on-line congregation. Their website is www.disciplesnet.org.

I will use social media to let you know when Sunday services will resume. If you need a personal phone call, please let me know.

Blessings to all of you,

Colette Bengé, Board chair

Thoughts on Worship Suspension

By Rev. David Shirey, Central Christian Church, Lexington, KY

Our rationale for these decisions derives from principles grounded in our faith mandate to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves. Simply stated, "In this circumstance, what does love require?"

1. Love requires us to protect the vulnerable.

This virus puts the elderly and people with compromised health conditions at special risk. Like me, our congregation's senior members are motivated by a fervent desire and unwavering commitment to worship God together. I and they will make every effort, regardless of the risk or cost, to be present for worship, feeling guilty if we do not make such an

effort. Cancelling corporate worship this Sunday and offering a service available for home viewing safeguards our most vulnerable and relieves the deeply ingrained impetus to worship weekly.

2. Love calls for us to seek the common good.

By voluntarily taking a sacrificial action such as cancelling corporate worship, we love our neighbors by doing our part to take an action that we hope will slow down the spread of the virus, thereby preventing as-yet-healthy persons from contracting the virus or making it easier for infected persons who may not yet know of the infection to spread it unknowingly to others.

3. Love calls for us to act in solidarity with persons of good will.

Heeding the Kentucky Governor's request and heeding the best wisdom of public health

officials, we join a community-, state-, nation- and worldwide coalition of concerted caring whose cooperative efforts will the well-being of all people.

4. Love calls for actions that minimize regret.

If we were to proceed with events or activities that lead to the infection of persons or the unwitting spread of the virus, we would rue the decision to proceed with "business as usual" when we could have chosen otherwise. Though it is debatable whether faith communities cancelling their services this weekend will indeed make a difference for the good, we can proceed with this decision knowing we did not choose to disregard or ignore this call for vigilance and caution.

Christian Conference Center



Come for an overnight, a day, or a few hours. Congregations, Individuals, or Groups can sign up to assist with a project on the grounds.

Meal and housing can be provided free of charge with pre-registration. Types of projects may include: Preparing trails for campers, splitting wood, painting Campbell Hall, seasonal work on the miniature golf course, landscaping grounds, de-winterizing Chi Rho Country.

All level of skill is needed. Please consider sharing your time to prepare our Holy Ground for this year's campers.

Register today:

[https://](https://docgeneralassembly.webconnex.com/2020CCCworkretreat)

[docgeneralassem-](https://docgeneralassembly.webconnex.com/2020CCCworkretreat)

[bly.webconnex.com/2020CCCworkretreat](https://docgeneralassembly.webconnex.com/2020CCCworkretreat)

Prayer during Outbreak

by Dr. Valerie Bridgeman. Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs Associate Professor of Homiletics and Hebrew Bible: Methodist Theological Seminary of Ohio (shared with permission)

I am praying for people who suffer from depression and anxiety for whom this season is painful. *singing, "I need you to survive". I know answering the phone is difficult for you, but I'm going to continue to reach out and to pray.

I am praying for the people who genuinely care for the people incarcerated that they must serve as wardens, guards, nurses, doctors, lawyers, and chaplains. I also am praying for those people in those categories who are abusive to our kin for whom they are called to care. I'm praying.

I am praying for the people trapped in the carceral state, whether they are "guilty" or not. I am especially praying for the people who are in jails or prisons because they couldn't pay a bond. Praying for our kin.

I am praying for all first responders.

I am praying for all doctors, nurses, technicians who are in medical centers of any kind.

I am praying for everyone who is houseless, and those who depend on shelters for the night. I also am praying for our kin who actively and diligently care for our kin in this category.

I am praying for people trapped in the house with their abuser.

I am praying for everyone working in stores that provide food and medicine.

I am praying for everyone who already has lost their job because of slowdowns due to COVID19.

I am praying for administrators at schools of every level who are having to make decisions in a context for which they have no prior experience.

I am praying for presidents, deans, principals, superintendents, provosts, and any one at any level who has to "pass on information" to the people they are responsible to lead.

I am praying for families who are stretched to provide breakfast and lunch for their school-aged children, when these costs were not in the budget and they don't know how this is going to go.

I am praying for pastors and bishops who lead congregations; for rabbis who lead; for imams who lead, and all other religious leaders making tough decisions now as they try to figure out, not just how to use technology, but how to genuinely be a spiritual guide to the people who entrust their soul care to them.

I am praying for those of us with immunocompromising diseases.

I am praying for people on the autism spectrum for which disruption is difficult.

I am praying for people who are caring for young children and elderly parents right now.

I am praying for children who are afraid in the moment because no one is really talking with them.

I am praying for people who already were food insecure and for whom this moment in history exacerbates.

I am praying for truckers delivering to stores, for their safety on the road.

I am praying for older adults who live alone without support.

I am praying for people sick with other diseases (before COVID19) and who need medical attention and human care.

I am praying for extreme extroverts who are feeling panicked at the idea of social distancing.

I am praying for high school seniors whose proms and graduations are being canceled or postponed.

I am praying for chaplains in every setting.

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Disciples of Christ

**300 West Main Street
Marshalltown IA 50158**

Phone: 641-753-3129

Email: Chalice@centraldoc.org

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Website: www.centraldoc.org

Email: Chalice@centraldoc.org

Facebook: Central Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) Marshalltown

Board Chair: Colette Bengé

Elders Chair: Beth Campbell

Deacon Chair: Carolyn Thompson

Organist: Colette Bengé

Choir Director: Valerie Sondag

Office Administrator: Karen Nablo

April 2020 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