

# Central Christian Church Disciples of Christ



December 2020



6th Elaine Fiscus  
7th Ron Bengé  
7th Donna McNamee  
9th Karen Visser  
12th Janet Graves  
14th Ken Fiscus  
20th Dorothy Borton  
24th Eric Osgood  
25th Duane Visser  
25th Della Klar

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## Pastoral Corner

### SPOILER ALERT – JESUS IS THE CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Greetings Central Christian Church. I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve as your pastor. I know that we will do great things together and help change our community, state, country, and world. I want to say thank you for the cards and gift cards for pastor appreciation. My family and I will enjoy them greatly.

Sunday, November 29, 2020 will be the start of Advent. We are going to be using the Advent Devotional written by our President Terri Hord Owens. As we go through Advent, I will preach on different items that I have taken out of the devotional, and then one day during the week will do a Facebook Live session. This Facebook live session will be a short session that will give us the opportunity to talk about the devotion.

Advent is a time for celebration and most importantly preparation. It is a time for celebration because of what we are preparing ourselves for in the coming days. Christmas morning is a wonderful day when we celebrate the birth of Jesus not only because he was

born unto a virgin but because we know what his life was all about. It is like we have the spoiler alert of the best gift we could ever receive.

This season, I pray that you can sit and enjoy the preparation for the coming of our Christ. Take some time out of your busy day and fix yourself on the preparation of Christmas. Take time to enjoy the season of Advent. Don't just go through the motions but make the motions count. There is no other gift that could ever compare to what our God gives us, and for this, I think we take time for us to really sit with God and be with God. Let God move us in different ways that we have never been moved before during this time. Advent is so wonderful to be able to study the different scriptures that are telling us that Jesus is coming and that Jesus will be our greatest Christmas Gift of all time.

Go and be the church,

Pastor Andy Elliott  
515-447-2565

[andyelliott1983@gmail.com](mailto:andyelliott1983@gmail.com)

## Board Splinters

Meeting was called to order by Colette Bengé, board chair. 13 members and 1 guest were present. Pastor Andy gave a devotion and opening prayer.

Minutes approved as written.

### Reports:

Property - Allen Miller- Working on insurance to fix things from derecho. Tim Nichols is the roofer. Jamie is adjuster with Church Mutual.

Personnel- Pat Sommerlot – will be working on contracts

Deacons – Carolyn Thompson – when it gets too cold to collect offering outside, people can drop it in the church mail box.

Elders-Beth Campbell- Elders schedule is set until end of Dec.

Missions-Judy Osgood- will put article in newsletter urging others to participate in Christmas mission projects locally.

Pastor’s report- Andy thanked everyone for the cards. He gave an update on his dad.

### New Business

Pat Sommerlot presented the 2020 Annual Meeting Ballot.

Mary Hazelwood presented the 2021 budget which the board approved.

Andy will start calling on members in January.

Brief discussion about subscribing to an online directory. Board decided to do our own through the church web site.

Meeting adjourned.



## Finance/Treasurer News

As of November 22, 2020:

Thanksgiving Offering  
\$210.00

Nicaragua Village  
Hurricane Re-building  
\$1,575.00

The 2021 budget will be coming to you via mail. I tried to be realistic, optimistic, and conservative at the same time.

Treasurer,

*Mary Jane Hazelwood*



## Prayer Concerns

Family and friends experiencing the virus, Joyce Grogan, Brian Fitzpatrick, Stan & Jan Hatch, Caleb’s Great-Grandfather, Tim Ebersole, Gail Halsted, Dennis Paxson, Marjorie Cobb, Shelly Wogan, Gracie Overton, Mary Horn, Marilyn Denton, Jackie Fiscus, Tammy Losing & Family, Lorin Miller, Loren Nickel, Bob Duke, Mark Weaver, Linda Aschan, Terry Graves, Jan Bringman, Gloria Morrison, Rich Matherly, Allen & Jamie Smoldt, Lois Brown, Linda Blackford, Kevin Meyer, Jim Maxted, Don Romig, Catherine Hickok, Corban Pierce & Family, Bill McLeland, Dorothy Borton, Bobby Weishaubt, Shawn Cooke, Carol Hoing, Karen Barret, Leanna Bowers, AnnaMarie Charloft, and those who are homebound

## Mission News

Since we won't be "open" for church at Christmas this year, Missions will not have a church project of giving other than our Christmas offering.

There are many opportunities in our community to donate to that will help many people and organizations. I encourage all of you to pick one or more for your contributions this year.

Some suggestions are: Toys for the Salvation Army. There will be barrels placed in various businesses (US Bank

is one) for you to place toys/games you have purchased. Look for them where you shop. And don't forget the older kids! The Marshalltown Police and Fire Department is collecting food items to make Christmas Blessing Baskets to provide a Christmas meal for those in need. Typical food items for a holiday meal can be dropped off at the MPFD lobby until December 16th. You may want to send monetary donations to the House of Compassion, Emergency Food Box, the Salvation Army, or the Iowa River Hospice House. Also, if

you'd like to help Beth's friends in Nicaragua recuperate from their tropical storms, you can send a monetary donation to Central Christian Church and note Nicaragua Fund on the memo line.

There are many places to give this Christmas season. There are many who have great needs this year. I know you at Central will choose an opportunity and be generous. You always are!

Merry Christmas! Judy Osgood



## Nicaragua Update

The second hurricane that hit Nicaragua did much more damage to my village than the first storm. Eighty (80) homes were destroyed by the rain and wind. The government will give 40 families \$94 dollars to rebuild their homes and the

rest are without a home. The members of the Friends of Santa Emilia group are collecting funds to send to the church to be distributed to families in need. If you wish to give to this fund, please send a check to the church made out to Central

Christian Church with Nicaragua in the memo line. We will then forward the money to Nicaragua. Any amount can help. Thanks for your prayers for the people of Santa Emilia!

- Beth Campbell



## Christmas Offering

Our gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas. Your regional ministry works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers

- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

**The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our regions.**

## Elders

On October 22, my mother died. She was going to turn 94 in January and until October 18, she had lived in her own home. That, in itself, is a testament to her character. While no one ever wants to give up a loved one, I am grateful that she was part of my life for nearly 69 years.

The author, John Updike, has said that the relationship between a child and a mother is as if there are only two people who speak the same language and when one dies, you are the only one left speaking that language. I think there is a lot of truth that.

We are in the season of Thanksgiving and Christmas is just around the corner. This will be a time when I miss her language the most. These were holidays where she excelled. The year I was three, going on four, we went to a neighboring turkey farm and

she bought the Thanksgiving turkey. It was tethered in the trunk of the car and put in the tool shed while she started every pot she had boiling with water.

Ax in hand, she went to the tool shed, opened the door, and the turkey had freed itself and flew into a tree. Back in the house she went and back out with Dad's 20 gauge shotgun. My mother was not one to mess with.

It was a struggle, not uncommon to all of you, of how to maintain contact with her during the pandemic and I was beginning to wonder how we would celebrate Thanksgiving in the midst of COVID 19.

Those years on our farm where she butchered the turkey, raised the pumpkins for the pies, pickled the peaches from our trees, planted and harvested the potatoes, and so many other things meant she was always working

hard. In doing so, she created rich and meaningful memories my siblings and me. Memories that will help with celebrating this holiday season.

Some time this pandemic will be over. We'll be left with recollections of how we found joy, worshipped our God, maintained contact with family, weathered trials, acted as good neighbors and lived our lives as Christians.

As we say the Lord's Prayer, we say these words: "Give us this day, our daily bread." We aren't asking for more. In the warmth of our homes, in the connection with members of the congregation, and with good cheer; we will receive our daily bread during these holidays and beyond.

Happy Thanksgiving!

- Mark Smith



# DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 <b>2nd Sunday of Advent HOPE</b>  10am Worship Drive - Up	7	8	9	10 6:30pm PP&F	11	12
13 <b>3rd Sunday of Advent PEACE</b>  <b>Christmas Offering</b>  10am Worship Drive - Up	14	15	16	17 6:15pm Elders 7pm Board	18	19
20 <b>4th Sunday of Advent LOVE</b>  <b>Christmas Offering</b>  10am Worship Drive - Up	21	22 <b>Newsletter article deadline</b>	23	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26
27  10am Worship Drive - Up	28	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed	January 1 Office Closed	2

# CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

*Disciples of Christ*

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Facebook: Central Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ) Marshalltown

Pastor: Andrew Elliott  
515-447-2565

Board Chair: Colette Bengé

Elders Chair: Beth Campbell

Deacon Chair: Carolyn Thompson

Organist: Colette Bengé

Choir Director: Valerie Sondag

Office Administrator: Karen Nablo

## December 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*