

Central Christian Church

Disciples of Christ

February 2024



Dirty Windows and Clean Hearts
(A Lenten meditation based on Psalm 51)
By Glenda Hughes, Board Chair

Several years ago, two of my friends and I wrote a Lenten Devotional to share with our church. The other day, I decided to dig through my files and find a copy of it, and I was excited to find that it followed the same sequence as this year, Year B in the Lectionary. I opened it up to this year's Ash Wednesday text and was astonished at what I had written, not because it was exceptionally good or horribly bad, but because in the 15 years since I had written it, my faith journey has brought me to a completely different understanding of the Scripture and the ways in which we journey to the cross with Jesus during the season of Lent. Let me explain....

The previous Ash Wednesday meditation begins by me telling the following story:

"Last summer, with a little help from a friend, I washed the windows at my house. We cleaned the windows and vacuumed and hosed down the dusty dirty screens. After a while, it was easy to see which windows were washed and which ones were still waiting in line. When compared side by side, the clean windows glinted in the sun while the dirty ones looked dull and dingy."

The text that inspired this little remembrance of washing windows was from Psalm 51:1-17-our Ash Wednesday passage for this year. It begins, "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love, according to your abundant mercy to blot out my transgressions."

My meditation went on to say that compared to the Goodness of God, we look like neglected smudgy, dusty windows. Not a pleasant picture, nor is it consistent with the Gospel where we see Jesus preaching, healing, and feeding the hungry. Jesus did not spray down his followers with Windex. He didn't hose down the woman at the well, but gave her Living Water, instead. Jesus brought healing and salvation, restored dignity to the poor and modeled love and compassion to his disciples.

Windows, dirty or clean, allow us to look outside, away from ourselves. Scripture can do the same. And sometimes Scripture asks us to think deeply. Psalm 139 teaches us that we are wonderfully and fearfully made." Scripture also tells us we are created in the image of God. While Paul tells us "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

So how do we reconcile these two notions? We are made in the image of God AND we are sinners. I propose that if we think about sin as NOT a thing that makes us dirty and

unworthy, but something that destroys relationships, breaks down communication and hurts the ones we love. Sin gets in the way of us drawing near to God and to each other.

In this case, God's remedy to the problem of sin is not to condemn, but to lift us up with compassion and love. That is why we pray during the season of Lent, "God have mercy on us." Not because we are like unwashed windows, but because God sees who we really are. We are children of God, loved by God and called to love one another.

Psalm 51 is an invitation to receive God's healing mercy and love, so that broken relationships might be restored, so that we might live in peace with one another. It's certainly a high ideal, but with God, all things are possible.

As I conclude, I'd like to say there is so much more packed into Ash Wednesday's passage, Psalm 51. It is a great passage to meditate on as we enter into the Lenten season. It is a reminder that we are in need of God's grace. It is within this passage we find the well known verse: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." This Lenten season, I urge you to seek God's cleansing mercy, let go of our transgressions and grasp the new life that Jesus offers again and again and again. His Love Endures Forever. Amen.



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Central Christian Church Board Meeting Tidbits January 17, 2024

Board Chair, Glenda Hughes called the meeting to order and gave the opening prayer. 9 members were present.

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

Personnel – Jan Bringman – contracts are signed. Becky had 3 snow days.

Treasurer- Mary Hazelwood - \$12,253 is the insurance premium for the year. She will price other insurance companies. She has started working on the budget.

Deacons- Carolyn Thompson – going back to home made bread. Marcia Gossett and Pat Sommerlot will make the wafers, Marla Cook and Pat Sommerlot will make the table loaves.

Elders- signed the card for Pastor Brad Thornton. Assigned who the visitation Elders will visit.

Missions- Judy Osgood – hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and warm clothes were delivered to the Caring Center in December. Currently collecting items and cash donations for Beth Campbell's mission trip. Missions will help Beth with some travel costs. \$300 from Missions funds will be sent to the Caring Center to help with rent. Week of Compassion Offering is February 18th and 25th.

Worship Team – the pulpit is filled through February 11th.

Old Business

Indoor Farmer's Market update – we get the money from the table rent. Hours are 10-2. Dates are Jan.27, Feb.10 & 24, March 9 & 23, April 6 & 20. We will try this for 3 weeks and then evaluate if it works.

New Business

*Josh Patty visit – working on getting a date

*The Nomination Ballot was approved by the board.

Respectfully submitted,

Colette Benge, Board Secretary





2024

Church Board and Committee members

Board Chair: Glenda Hughes

Vice Board Chair: Jeff Sommerlot

Board Secretary: Colette Bengé

Treasurer: Mary Jane Hazelwood

Property: Allen Miller, Steve Huseboe, Bob Cook

Personnel Committee: Beth Campbell

Finance Committee: Pat Sommerlot

Finance Chair: Ruth Pearson

Missions: Judy Osgood, Beth Campbell, Marla Cook

Congregational representative: Carolyn Thompson

Deacon Chair: Carolyn Thompson

Deacons: Ed Phillips, Rhonda Spence

DWF: Sarah Sade

Elders Chair: Mary Abens

Elders: Beth Campbell, Vickie Judkins-Mickolas, Jan Bringman, Jim Gossett, Glenda Hughes, Mary Jane Hazelwood, Andy Burt, Marla Cook

Honorary Elder: Dietta Nevins



February Birthdays

- 4 Ashley Danner
- 11 Joyce Grogan
- 11 Rhonda Spence
- 14 Barbara Zednichek
- 21 Marcia Gossett
- 24 Alex Thompson
- 29 Izaak Smith
- 29 Jacqueline Steveson

February Greeters: Carolyn Thompson and Sarah Sade

February Deacon: Carolyn Thompson

February 4

Elder: Mary Jane Hazelwood

Worship Leader: Mary Jane Hazelwood

Scripture: Mark 1:29-39

Hymns: #618 "How Firm a Foundation

#504 "Heal Me, Hands of Jesus"

#572 "Take Time to be Holy"

#592 "Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

February 11

Elder: Beth Campbell

Worship Leader: Beth Campbell

Scripture: Mark 9:2-9

Hymns: TBD

February 18

Elder: Glenda Hughes

Worship Leader: Glenda Hughes

Scripture: Mark 1:9-15

Hymns: TBT

February 25

Elder: Mary Abens

Worship Leader: Mary Abens

Scripture: Mark 8:31-38

Hymns: TBD

Hymns are in the Chalice Hymnal unless otherwise noted.

This information is subject to change after the newsletter is distributed.



PRAYER CONCERNS

Please be in prayer for the following:



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

Carl Osgood; Michelle Gilmore; Dorothy and Frank Borton; Jeff Osgood; Beverly Kelling, Seth Egelston, Tommy Mitchell, and a friend of Sarah Sade's. Pray for Beth Campbell while she is in Nicaragua.

- 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.

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



Elders Meditation



There is a certain attitude about the seasons that Iowans seem to adopt in February. We've made it through January—cold, cold, cold January. The winter solstice (the shortest day of the year) is behind us and slowly the days are getting a little longer and longer. February brings more cold and snow, but February is so much closer to March than January. We know that Spring is coming.

This year, Lent begins on February 14th. We will head into the season in which we walk with Jesus to the cross. We travel to Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday where we celebrate the Last Supper, and remember Good Friday, the day Jesus was put on the cross and died. And through it all, we know that Easter morning is coming.

Lent is a season for meditation and reflection on God's great love for us. I remember a Sunday School conversation (at this church) where someone mentioned that they felt uncomfortable talking about all this love stuff, because to her, "love was fluffy." Jesus might disagree. Jesus, who was misunderstood and betrayed by his friends, and tortured and died (I guess we don't really like talking about that part either) revealed God's great mercy and compassion for us. I hope that during this Lenten Season, you will join me in reflecting on these things and that you will be blessed in new and wondrous ways!

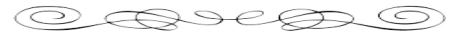
Glenda Hughes



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.



We are still gathering information to complete our new budget and finalize finances for 2023.

Through 2023, we received donations of \$2675.00 in memorial monies, honoring the following:

John Osgood Jim Hemphill

Greg Ellcey Robert Breno

Louise Holubar Don Swanson

Harold Kelling Iona Austin

Some folks are using online giving, making their offering automatic.

Financial concern: Our insurance premiums have increased.

It's hard to express "Thank You" for your generosity...may our donations find their way to do God's work!

Mary Hazelwood

February Mission

In February we will focus our Mission on raising money for the Week of Compassion which is February 18th and February 25th. Special giving envelopes will be provided. Also, coin boxes, where you can put your loose change. Every penny helps!

The Mission Team

Thank You!



Thank you to the Board, the Elders, Deacons, Musicians, Nominating and By-laws committee, and Becky, and everyone working behind the scenes---for your commitment and hard work. I am continually amazed by all of you and your love and devotion to this place. May God's love bless us and keep us, and smile upon us as we continue to serve in Christ's Name. Glenda Hughes

A Thank You card was received from Jacqueline Steveson. "Thank you for giving me red blossom flower! They remind me of my friends at Church. Love You All!"

Thank you for your prayers and encouraging words, and cards over the past few months. To be honest, I am joyful for having witnessed my mother's faith in knowing she would know peace and that she would hold hands with Jesus. I am grateful for my sister and brother-in-law who tended to her needs in her final months. May we all be so blessed. Thank you for your love and support. Glenda Hughes

Thank you so much for the pretty rose cube from DWF. I smiled every time I looked at it! I really appreciated all the cards and prayers for my recovery. There is power in prayer. God is good!

Colette Bengé

Thank you for the generous use of your water for the House of Compassion garden. Water is life. Especially with the dry conditions this year. We delivered 44 lbs of vegetables and 10lbs of peaches to the House of Compassion, 5lbs of peaches to the Marshall County Extension pantry. We guess-timate over 20lbs picked by people from the community. I hope some of you picked raspberries and blackberries and peaches. This spring we will add more top soil and compost to expand the garden plots and reduce the grass area. Thank you Mary for mowing the grass! Each year the soil improves and vegetables increase. Jesus said "feed the hungry". So on behalf of Karla, Sally, Nancy, Reed, and other Master Gardeners, again thank you for helping with this Ministry. Respectfully, Gary W. Fulton

Dear Church Friends,

The Emergency Food Box in Marshalltown would like to express our sincere appreciation to your congregation for their many donations of food during the year 2023. Your generous donations make it possible for us to help meet the emergency food needs of people throughout Marshall County. On behalf of those persons who benefit from the generosity of your congregation, we again say "Many thanks for your help!" Sincerely Emergency Food Box Staff.

We donated 590 pounds

Circle DEMF-Thanks for your donation of Kleenex. You know we go through a ton especially this time of year. Thanks. Nurse Megan at Hoglan Elementary

THE SEASON OF LENT

Fasting

Matthew

16 “When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show others they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full.

17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face,

18 so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

This Lenten Devotional will be available for purchase. The cost is \$5.



Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:20

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Refreshment Sunday this month is February 11, if you would like to share some goodies, there is a sign-up sheet in the gathering room.

Rev. Joshua Patty will be at Central Christian Church will visit with the congregation on Thursday February 1, at 1:45pm. Rev. Patty will meet with the Elders then hold an open forum with church members to talk about moving forward at CCC. He will then talk with those who are interested in more information about forming a search committee for an interim pastor. More about this visit will be announced as the details are finalized.

Gatherers-hosted by Jeff and Pat Sommerlot will take place Friday February 16th, 5:30pm at Mama DiGrado's. Please let Pat or Carolyn know by noon on February 14th if you would like to make a reservation.

Our Church will be hosting the Farmers Market, which will be held in our Fellowship Hall on the following Saturday's January 27, February 10 and 24, March 9 and 23, April 6 and 20. The time will be from 10-2.

**CARTWRIGHT
WINTER
MARKET**

**At Central Christian Church
300 W Main ST, Marshalltown**

Please use South entrance

**Market is held from 10am - 2pm on the
following Saturdays:
January 27 • February 10 & 24
March 9 & 23 • April 6 & 20**



February 2024

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
				1	2	3
				Elders Meeting 12:15 pm 1:45 josh Patty MEET WITH CONGREGA- TION.		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:00 Church Service In-person/online		6:30pm Heart of Iowa Chorus	1:00pm Worship Team 5:00pm Vocal Choir 6:00pm Bell Choir	1:00pm Group DEMF		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:00am Church Ser- vice in person/online Refreshment Sun- day/Food Box		6:30pm Heart of Iowa Chorus	Ash Wednesday 5:00pm Vocal Choir 6:00pm Bell Choir	9:00am Quilt- ers	5:30 Gatherers Mama DiGrado's Hosted by Jeff and Pat Sommerlot	9:00am Group Lydia Judy O's house
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10;00 am Church Ser- vice in-person/online Week of Compassion		5:00pm Group Rebec- ca 6:30pm Heart of Iowa Chorus	5:00pm Vocal Choir 6:00pm Bell Choir			
25	26	27	28	29		
10:00am Church Service in person/ online Week of Compassion		6:30 Heart of Iowa Chorus News Articles Due	5:00pm Vocal Choir 6:00pm Bell Choir	1:30pm Board Mtg Newsletter Published		

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Disciples of Christ

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Christ) Marshalltown

and
Marshalltown Central
Christian Church

Board Chair: Glenda Hughes

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.