

**Central Christian Church**  
**Disciples of Christ**  
**June 2024**



Pastor's Ponderings June 2024

Greetings!

Wow it is hard to believe it is June already.

In the Song of Solomon 2:10-13 it says "My beloved speaks and says to me: 'Arise, my love ,my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away'."

We have celebrated the arrival of spring with planting and sprucing up the church yard. We have cheered on our graduates as they venture into the future. We have celebrated our mothers', aunts', grandmothers'. We are celebrating the arrival of the Holy Spirit!

Are we on fire for the Lord or are we dying embers? Are we shouting and dancing in the streets or are we hiding in the building? I see excitement in the ranks of this congregation. We are working together to love, laugh and build a great future. Now is the time to encourage ourselves in reaching out to our church families and our own families to get on fire for the Lord. Get involved! Bring the kids to church!

Blessings and Love,  
Pastor Mike

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God."  
John 1: 1

From the Board Chair

Jesus asks to what can we compare the Kingdom of God? “It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown in the ground, is the smallest of seeds. Yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in the shade.” Matthew 4:26-34

The Pastoral Search Committee is up and running and we are having great discussions about who we are. It is quite evident that who we are *now* is who we have always been, and *who we hope to continue to be*. But who is that? I’d say, we are a group of faithful followers of Christ who seek to worship God and know God better, engage in ministry, and take care of one another. I hear this over and over again throughout the congregation, so I know it’s true.

The committee revisited the Congregational Goals for the next five years. The consensus was that the goals we had previously written during the last search committee still hold true today. We revisited these goals and embellished them just a tad to reflect what we really mean when we state those goals: Goal Number One: We will call a minister who shares our vision. Number Two: As a congregation, we will engage in mutual support and partnership with our sitting minister. Numbers three and four went something like this: Grow in membership and sustain our membership. We had a good discussion about numbers three and four, and we found that they work together to create one idea. Growth does not start with getting bigger -- having more people here, but growth is what takes place when members engage in the spiritual practices such as worship, prayer and Bible study. Through our own spiritual growth, we develop strong leadership and engage more in building relationships and encouraging each other in our faith journey and personal lives. The hope is that as we grow in our relationships with God and with each other, we become more welcoming to the people who come through our doors. We are pretty good at that already, but like a mustard seed, we can become so much more.

The good news is that we have help. Christ’s love and God’s power and the Spirit's guidance is with us every step of the way. Like the banner in the stairwell says, Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches. Please continue to pray as we continue our search for a sitting pastor. In the meantime, we are blessed to have Pastor Mike to help lead us on our journey!

## Central Christian Church Board Meeting Tidbits May 15, 2024

Meeting was called to order by board chair Glenda Hughes. 12 members plus Pastor Mike were present.

Carolyn Thompson gave the opening prayer. April minutes were approved & June calendar events were reviewed.

**Property-** *Jeff Sommerlot* – sprayed weeds, reported on options for railing for sanctuary ramp, water meter has been replaced

**Personnel** – *Pat Sommerlot* – Becky is taking vacation June 14 & Sept. 3-6

**Finance** – *Ruth Pearson* – no report

**Treasurer-** *Mary Hazelwood* – reviewed the financial report. We need to think about ideas for Stewardship.

**Deacons-** *Carolyn Thompson* – everything is still going well.

**Elders-** *Vickie Judkins-Mickolas* – they finished the first session of Elders Together

**Congregational Representative** – *Jan Bringman* - no report

**Missions-** *Judy Osgood* – took lots of items to Triumph Center & diapers to CAPS. List of items for May mission is in Gathering area. June mission- collecting items for Beth's trip to Nicaragua.

**DWF** - *Sarah Sade* – Quilters made fleece blankets for 2 seniors. Coming to the end of another year for group meetings. We continue to send cards to members when they are in the hospital. During the past 2 months we have given 4 quilts to nursing home residents. Group Rebecca filled a grocery cart with food items for the HOC to use for their clients. Group Rebecca has been studying the 2<sup>nd</sup> book in the series of Bad Women in the Bible. Group Lydia enjoyed their study from the magazine Just Women. They meet at Judy Osgood's home instead of the church.

**Worship Team** – will be working on organizing a "paint party" for the Fellowship Hall. Will discuss Stewardship pledges.

**Pastor's report** – prepared prayer & Sunday morning sermons, attended Elders, Worship Team & church board meetings, officiated funeral service for Rev. Charles Fry, prepared Pastor's Ponderings for June newsletter. He's looking forward to a growing relationship with us.

**Old Business** - none

### **New Business**

\*Board approved the purchase of office computers & sanctuary microphone

\*Discussed painting the Fellowship Hall in the fall

Pastor Mike gave the closing prayer

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Colette Bengé, 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 Chair** Jeff Sommerlot

**Property:** Allen Miller, Steve Huseboe, Bob Cook

**Personnel Chair:** Pat Sommerlot

**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, Beth Judkins-Mickolas

**Honorary Elder:** Dietta Nevins



## June Birthdays

- 8 Richard Nicholson
- 10 Jim Gossett
- 10 Avery Osgood
- 12 Lois Brown
- 13 Maggie Schwarck
- 16 Renee Phillips
- 16 Glenda Hughes
- 18 Norma Smith
- 19 Mary Koshak
- 24 Madison Sogge
- 26 Janet Smith

**June Greeters: Donna McNamee and Janet Swanson**

**June Deacon: Rhonda Spence**

**June Pastor Mike Carlson**

**June 2**

Elder: Andy Burt

Worship Leader: Andy Burt

Scripture: Mark 2:23-3:6

Hymns:

#709 "Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken"

#480 "I Love to Tell the Story"

#393 "One Bread, One Body"

#344 "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

**June 9**

Elder: Mary Abens

Worship Leader: Mary Abens

Scripture: Mark 3:20-25

Hymns:

#22 "All Creatures of Our God and King"

#99(CP) "Make Me A Servant"

#495 "Weave"

#477 "Pass It On"

**June 16**

Hymns: #

Elder: Mary Jane Hazelwood

Worship Leader: Mary Jane Hazelwood

Scripture: Mark 4:26-34

Hymns: #65 "A Mighty Fortress is Our God"

# 59 "This is My Fathers World"

# 274 "I Love Our Church, O God"

#528 "Give Thanks"

**June 23**

Elder: Mary Abens

Worship Leader: Mary Abens

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41

Hymns: #27 "Come Thou Almighty King"

#561 "It is Well With My Soul"

#566 "Be Still, My Soul"

#530 "I've Got Peace Like a River"

**June 30**

Elder: Glenda Hughes

Worship Leader: Glenda Hughes

Scripture: Mark 5:21-43

Hymns: #638 "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

#628 "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

#578 "I Need Thee Every Hour"

# 49CP "Sanctuary"



PRAYER CONCERNS

Please be in prayer for the following:



Please pray for our members and families. Hold in prayer the following:  
Dakota Davis, Jim Maxted, Jerry Miller (Allen Miller's father).

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



# Elders Meditation



PRAYER AWAKENS YOUR HEART TO THE LOVE OF CHRIST.  
IT REMINDS YOU THAT THERE IS MORE TO THIS LIFE.  
- KEVIN SHORTER

I'm sitting in my car near Iowa Methodist on the west side of Des Moines, waiting to pick up a friend's granddaughter. As I checked my email I came across a reminder from Becky that it is my time to write the Elder's meditation for JUNE. It's storming and flooding. Memorial Day, a family wedding and other meetings are fast approaching (and maybe tornadoes).

So, looking for inspiration of course I jumped onto the internet..... On this website, <https://henrinouwen.org/meditation/> Henri Nouwen talks about our individual relationships with God. He suggests that the way to nurture this relationship is to pray...praying and listening to "Jesus who dwells in the very depths of your heart." Taking time often to be in prayer can help us better hear His voice. These messages are quiet and gentle and easily covered up by things on the outside. Hearing them takes persistence and practice. It isn't easy to calm ourselves and pray for ten minutes! Nouwen assures us that sticking to this practice and making it a daily habit can help us sort out God's message from those that don't come from Him.

Reading Nouwen's meditations made me think of the act of meditation, and I was curious about the difference between meditation and prayer. They aren't the same thing, but neither excludes the other, (at least in my interpretation.) Rachel Sharpe is a writer with a website called "Declutter the Mind." The title itself caught my attention because decluttering is something that I need to attend to in many ways!

Sharpe's focus is mental health and she points out that there are many differences between prayer and meditation, even though they do have some things in common. Meditation is more becoming in touch with ourselves and acceptance in the moment. Prayer is communicating with our deity, God, asking for help and listening to His voice. Prayer is more about hope.

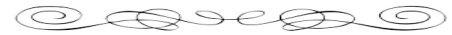
...do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

May your June be blessed,



If you would like to donate flowers for the service, there is a sign-up sheet in the gathering room.



Revenues for April: \$14962.00

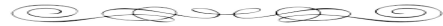
Expenses for April: \$9069.00

Year to date revenues: \$43179.00

Year to date expenses: \$41001.00

Nothing unexpected in April.

Mary Jane Hazelwood



## May Church Attendance In Person

May 5, 2024      37

May 12, 2024    42

May 19, 2024    35

May 26, 2024    35



# Announcements

Gathers will meet on Friday  
June 14th at 5:30pm at Smokin  
G's.

This event will be hosted by Bob  
and Marla Cook.

Please let Pat or Carolyn know  
by noon Wednesday June 12, if  
you would like a reservation.

Bible/Book Study

Wednesday June 5th at  
1:00pm.

We will meet to discuss  
details for the upcoming  
study.

## June Mission

Where has May gone? We have wrapped up May's mission project for YSS/IMPACT. Thank you for your donations!

One of our favorite projects is Nicaragua. Yep! Beth is going there again in July so June will be Nicaragua! Stay tuned to learn what Beth will be needing to take with her.



# June 2024

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10:00 Church Service In-person/online		6:30pm Heart of Iowa Chorus	1:00pm Bible/Book Study 4:00pm Worship Mtg			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
10:00am Church Ser- vice in-person/online Food Box		6:30pm Heart of Iowa Chorus	4:15pm Elders  ir			
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
10:00 am Church Service in- person/online Fathers Day Refreshments		6:30pm Heart of Iowa Chorus	4:00pm Board	9:15am Quilters		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
10:00am Church Service in-person/ online		News Articles Due			Newsletter Published	
30						

# CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH



*Disciples of Christ*

**300 West Main Street  
Marshalltown IA  
50158**

Phone: (641) 753-3129

Website: [www.centraldoc.org](http://www.centraldoc.org)

Email: [Chalice@centraldoc.org](mailto:Chalice@centraldoc.org)

Facebook: Central Christian Church (Disciples of  
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**

## 2024 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.**