

**Central Christian Church**  
**Disciples of Christ**  
**November 2023**



**Pastor's**  
**Ponderings**  
**November 2023**

Recently I posed the following question to our congregation: “If money and power were no object (remember that we serve God Almighty), what would you like to see our church do in this community and beyond?” Several people came up with some very good answers and we then discussed them as a congregation.

One person said that we are very good at gathering food to be donated, but she once witnessed someone get angry at another person who took food from our donations and wondered why that had happened. Isn't that why we are gathering food- to help those who need it? She thought that perhaps food insecurity exists at a deeper level than we realize and we need to not only get to the bottom of why it is occurring, but then do something even more impactful about it such as either house our own food pantry or even stock a little “free library” box with food outside of our church.

Another person noticed that there are no longer any shelters in Marshalltown- homeless or for those impacted by domestic violence. I shared that we had had a family come to us with several small children who had been sleeping in a tent because they found themselves suddenly homeless. We had to call Ames to try to find them housing and even then would have been unsuccessful had it not been for the fact that the family was fleeing domestic violence so we were able to find them something through ACCESS in Ames. That member asked if we might not contribute to the creation of a local shelter. As I type this newsletter, I had another young mother fleeing domestic violence with small children call our church for help. She was recently injured and could no longer work so was evicted (yesterday) and needing shelter for herself and her children. I made the referrals- but both were in Ames. I could only get her in off the streets after the first of the month. I do not know if the second referral could help her. Did I mention that she, too, had small children?

Another member noticed that recently a large day care had closed abruptly leaving many working parents scrambling trying to find good, safe daycare for their children. She then wondered aloud about all of our empty rooms upstairs. Could we house a daycare here?

All good questions. All good visions. All very Christian thoughts.

At a recent board meeting, it was voted on to test the crumbling areas within our building for asbestos and lead. The desire to protect all who gather is also a very Christian pursuit. Let's hope that the testing gets done quickly and isn't side-railed for any reason.

What are the things that you vision for our church? Where would you like to see and contribute to us being a vital and influential member of our community again?

3 members and myself recently went to our All Congregational Gathering in Newton. Many of our sister churches and their members attended as well. It was really fun, AND it was also informative. The keynote pastor, Rev. Ashley Dargai, bluntly talked about how if our churches, our denomination, doesn't change, just like every other living thing, we will die. She also mentioned life's cycle and pointed out that even if we do die, we believe in a resurrected God and so, perhaps in different form, we will come back to life again at some point. Good morning!

Folks, it's not just me "with my big ideas," it's the truth, and so many other pastors are saying the same thing...yet many of their people are listening and doing things now to stop the decline. Fresh breath, fresh life into the church? How do we do that? Well, for one, we need to listen to our visionaries. Not just listen to them but try some of their ideas out. We also need to strongly support people in leadership positions who may just have the right ideas to pull us forward into the future for our next generations.

When I first arrived at Central, I told you that I am also a chaplain and if you choose to die as a church, I'll walk with you, grieving, to that death. The other option is to stop doing the things that have been done all along and led God's Church to this point. Those choices are yours to make. I've shared with you (as have many of our own members) so many ideas for bringing us to a thriving life again, but we're getting so much push-back that I fear for this church. That's sad.

What are some ministries that are "new" and which we can get behind? Here's only a few places that need your prayerful support: the Sunday School class for kids aged 5 to 12 years old; the AMOS gatherings (next one is November 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall- all are invited!); Holiday Stroll soup supper (not really a new endeavor, but Deb and Della are new chairs so could benefit from our support!); and we still have the Prayer and Coffee groups which benefit everyone! And then there are those new ideas that our visionaries came up with... Are you listening? What will your choices be?

I understand that change is difficult, yet whether we want it to or not, change WILL happen. It is the natural cycle of life. I hope and pray that we move with the changes that lead to abundant life, not against them, and that we will live.

It's up to you, Central.

See you in Church!

*Love,*

*Pastor Dianna*



Next month is Christmas, and I would like to invite anyone who feels inspired, to share a personal Christmas story, or a family tradition, etc. I will publish those in the next newsletter. Becky



## HOLIDAY STROLL-SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18

We are planning on providing a free will offering soup/chili meal. The menu will be Chicken Rice soup, Chili, Corn bread muffins, dinner rolls, crackers, cookies, cupcakes, apple cider, coffee. We do have sign up sheets in the gathering room if you can help in any way. Get in touch with Co-Chairs, Deb Lakey or Della Klar if you have any questions. Thank you!

Central Christian Church Board Meeting Tidbits , October 18, 2023

Meeting was called to order by Deb Lakey, board chair. 5 members were present plus Pastor Diana who led the board in prayer.

September minutes were approved. November calendar of events was reviewed.

Property- Jeff Sommerlot – boiler room inspection and parking lot stripes will be painted this week

Deacons- Carolyn Thompson – everything is still going well

Missions- Judy Osgood - will continue contributing items for HOC supply closet

Worship Team – Preparing paper leaves for the sanctuary in November.

Pastor's Report- Dianna Clark – prepared sermons for & preached at 4 regular Sundays. Led Elders' Retreat. Led 1 funeral intake, performed 1 funeral, and performed 1 graveside service, Led Worship Team, Met with Music Ministry Team and Board Chair, Led two prayer groups, Participated in 2 Coffee Groups, Gatherers, and helped organize and label books for library, Met for practice and sang in choir, Helped hand out water at Oktoberfest parade, had 2 meetings with local pastors, met with 2 reps from Amos, Hosted Amos group at CCC, Made a public health referral, Made multiple pastoral calls, texts, and messages to members and non-members, Volunteered for All Congregational Gathering,

#### Old Business

\*Quilting Guild has decided not to use Fellowship Hall for their retreat

\*Holiday Stroll - will be a sign-up sheet for making chili/chicken and rice soup, desserts and rolls. Concern about using hot spices and jalapenos.

#### New Business

\*Children's programs – there will be a sign-up for helpers on month-to-month basis

\* Judy appreciated all the help cleaning up after Carl's 80th birthday celebration

\*Joyce Grogan and Deb Lakey will serve as delegates for All Congregational Meeting

\*Board members took a tour of the inside of the church to assess damage to walls. Property Team will contact someone about testing for asbestos.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Hughes, Board Vice Chair





2023

**Church Board and Committee members**

**Board Chair:** Deborah Lakey

**Vice Board Chair:** Glenda Hughes

**Board Secretary:** Colette Bengé

**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

**TLC Team-**Al Miller, Mary Abens, Mary J Hazelwood

**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



**November Birthdays**

- 2 Jan Bringman
- 11 Ruth Pearson
- 20 Lanese Thompson
- 20 Pastor Dianna
- 25 Jim Hemphill
- 26 Nash Daniel
- 26 Larry Southard
- 28 Cathy Hickok
- 29 Mary Abens

November Greeters: Carolyn Thompson and  
Sarah Sade

November Deacon: Carolyn Thompson

# Praise!

## November 5

Elder: Andy Burt

Worship Leader: Andy Burt

Scripture: Matthew 23:1-12

Hymns: #86 Great is Thy Faithfulness

#198 Were You There

#351 Fill My Cup, Lord

#99(CP) Make Me a Servant

## November 12

Elder: Beth Campbell

Worship Leader: Beth Campbell

Scripture: Matthew 25:1-13

Hymns: #39(CP) Shine Jesus Shine

Insert Give Me Oil in My Lamp

#66 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Insert This Little Light Of Mine

## November 19

Elder: Mary Hazelwood

Worship Leader: Sarah Sade

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

Hymns: #276 We Gather Together

#714 For the Fruit of All Creation

#718 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

# 635 Faith of Our Fathers

## November 26

Elder: Glenda Hughes

Worship Leader: Ruth Pearson

Scripture: Matthew 25:31-46

Hymns: #286 This Is the Day

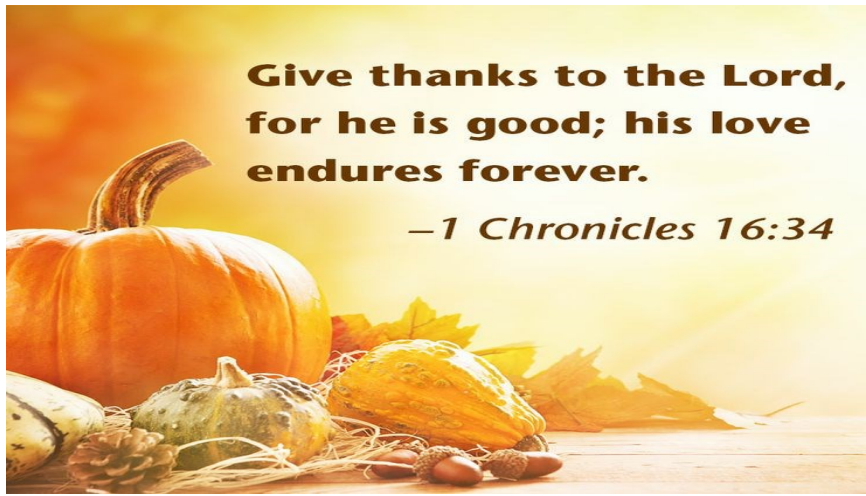
# 192 All Glory, Laud, and Honor

#234 Crown Him with Many Crowns

#4 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

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Hymns are in the Chalice Hymnal unless otherwise noted.



**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; Collette Benge; Clara(Della Klar’s granddaughter); Don Swanson; Jim Hemphill; Rev. Dan Adolphson.

- ◆ 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

The prayer group meets on the first and third

Wednesdays at 9 am.

Come join us!





# Elders Meditation

When I think about the month of November, I think about the word “Thanksgiving.” Not so much about the turkey dinner to come, which we all surely look forward to, but about the “thanks” given to God. Psalm 95:2 says: “Let us come before His presence with Thanksgiving.” No matter where we are in our lives, we have so much to thank God for. The true beauty of our Iowa landscape this time of year could have only been created by God. When I was very small, my dad had his pilot's license and we would fly quite often to Glidden, Iowa where his family lived. And even though I was probably no more than 3 or 4 years old, I can vividly remember looking down at the plowed fields along the way. Those black and brown squares flanked by the cluster of bright red, yellow, and orange trees. It made such a profound impression on me that I remember it to this day. The awesome beauty that I saw below me could have only been created by God. I am sure all of you can think of some of God's beauty that remains in your hearts and memories as well. Let us honor God with our thanks this month for all he has done for us, for all he has provided for us, and all the times he has remained close to us. I also want to thank God for you, my church family, and wish each one of you a blessed Thanksgiving.

Marla Cook





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. If you have any questions ask Pastor or any worship team member. Glenda is team chair.



**For the month of September:**

Revenues: \$5800.00

Expenses: \$7755.00

Deficit: - \$1955.00

Year to date:

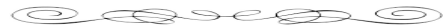
Revenues: \$101972.00

Expenses: \$90125.00

+ \$11847.00

No unexpected expenses for September.

Mary Jane Hazelwood



**November Mission  
House of Compassion**

In November we will continue to collect nonfood items for the Supply Closet at the House of Compassion. These items cannot be purchased with their state food cards. Please help the HOC help others.



*Thank You*

**Dear Church Family,**

**Thank you for the many cards and gifts, and for the wonderful reception (including my favorite- white cake!) to celebrate my ministry amongst you!**

**What a warm and generous outpouring of love and appreciation! I very much appreciate each of you and your tender loving care!**

**Thank you also for the \$50 Casey's gas card and the \$50 grocery card! Both will be put to good use and are so helpful and very thoughtful!**

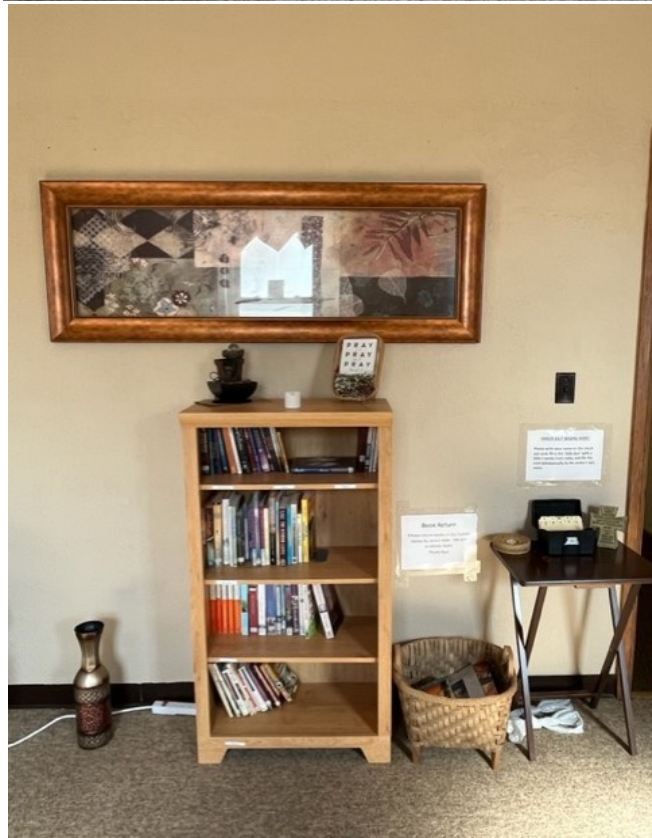
**Thank you from my heart!**

**Love, Pastor Dianna**



# Library Meditation Prayer Room

The Library Meditation/Prayer room is now open and available for use. Feel free to come take a look, check out a book, come for some time of meditation, prayer, and reflection.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS!

There is a sign-up sheet in the gathering room for anyone who would like to bring fresh flowers for our Sunday Worship service.

Refreshment Sunday this month is November 12th, if you would like to share some goodies, there is a sign-up sheet in the gathering room.

The following are our needs for Advent and Christmas Services:

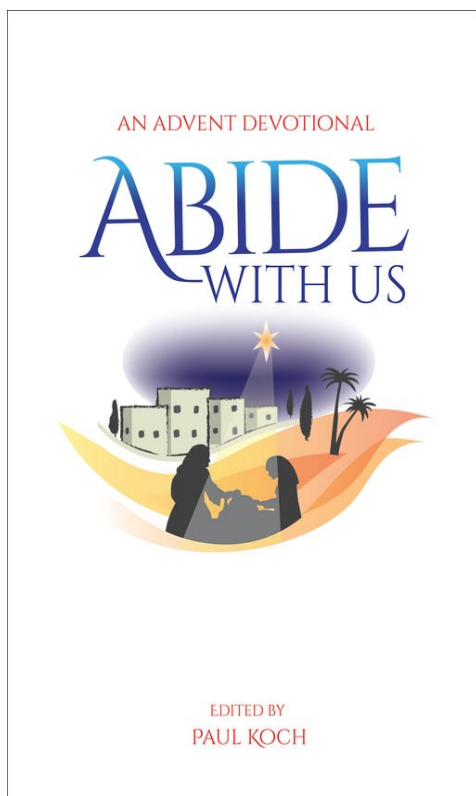
Advent-12/17(Joy) Reader

Christmas- Readers for (Hope) and (Joy) and (Christ)

Two Greeters

Soloist or Duet to Sing either “What Child Is This” or “O Holy Night”

Other activities can be found throughout this Newsletter!



New for Advent 2023

Our God is always with us every time, even in the most unlikely of places

**Abide With Us** is a daily devotional walks us through the four weeks that lead to Christmas, reflecting on what we can do to create a welcoming space for God in our hearts and our world. Each devotion contains scripture, a short reflection, and a prayer.

Available for a cost of \$5.00



# November 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
			9 am Prayer Group 10 am Coffee Grp 1:00 pm Worship team 5:00pm Vocal Choir 6:00pm Bell	12:15 Elders Meeting		
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
10 am Church services in person and online	Pastor's Sabbath	6:30 pm Heart of Iowa Chorus	11:30 am TLC  5:00pm Vocal 6:00pm Bell	1:00pm Group DEMF  6:30pm AMOS presentation	Gatherers 5:30 pm hosted by Pat and Jeff at Zeno's	
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
10 am Church services in person and online Refreshments/Food Box	Pastor's Sabbath	9:00am Visibility Team 6:30 pm Heart of Iowa Chorus	9 am Prayer Group 10am Coffee Grp 1:30pm Board Mtg 5:00 pm Vocal 6:00 pm Bell	9sm Quilters		9:00 Group Lydia  Holiday Stroll
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
10 am Church services in person and online Greet Your Neighbor	Pastor's Sabbath	5:00pm Group Rebecca 6:30 pm Heart of Iowa Chorus	5:00pm Vocal 6:00pm Bell			
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		
10 am Church services in person and online	Pastor Sabbath	News Articles Due 6:30pm Heart of Iowa Chorus	9:00am Music Committee 5:00pm Vocal 6:00pm Bell	<b>Newsletter Published</b>		

# CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH



*Disciples of Christ*

**300 West Main Street  
Marshalltown IA  
50158**

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