

Central Christian Church

Disciples of Christ



November 2020



2nd Jan Bringman
 5th Anne Fiscus
 11th Ruth Pearson
 11th Gloria Wood
 13th Ian Osgood
 17th Rolly Danner
 20th Lanese Thompson
 24th Ronnie Manis
 25th James Hemphill
 26th Larry Southard
 29th Mary Abens

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Board Splinters

The October 15, 2020 Board Meeting was called to order by Colette Bengé, board chair. 12 members and 1 guest were present. Judy Osgood gave the opening prayer.

The September minutes were approved as written.

Property - *Allen Miller* -working on insurance. Having trouble finding a roofer. Steeple will probably be put up next year. Water leak repair near 3rd street could be costly.

Personnel - *Pat Sommerlot* - A winter sub has been found for the janitor position.

Update on progress of Nominating Committee - we need another meditation Elder.

Treasurer - *Mary Hazelwood* – gave financial report. She and Ron Bengé will get together to figure out the budget for 2021.

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

Elders - *Beth Campbell*- they will continue doing a meditation for the mid-month newsletter. She will set up the schedule for November and December.

Search Committee Update - *Carolyn Thompson* – we’ve had good feedback about Andy. She

moved to issue a Letter of Calling to Andy Elliott after the congregational vote. Beth seconded the motion. Board approved.

New Business

The board discussed several questions that Karen Nablo, Office Manager, had.

Even though October is Pastor Appreciation Month, we will honor him November 8th. People can send cards to Andy in care of Central Christian Church.

Churches have been asked to send a gift to the new Regional Minister. Beth will take care of this.

Jim Gossett shared information about online ministry. The board voted to purchase the needed equipment. Congregation may contribute to this project. Some of the cost will come as a grant from the Region.

The board voted to resume inside services for a 4-week trial beginning November 8th.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Jacobson, board secretary

Introduction

Good Day to you all,

I am Pastor Andy Elliott. I have been serving Central Christian church the past few months as your pulpit supply minister. Let me tell you about myself and my family. I was born and raised in Newton, where I currently live with my wife Amber and our 2 daughters, Gracie (12) and Lexi Jo (10). I have a 16-year-old daughter, Justine, who lives with her mom and stepdad in Ohio during the school year. I met Amber the summer of 2005 at the Christian Conference Center, where she was a summer intern and I was the cook in the kitchen. Camp was a special place for both of us as we both grew up in Disciple of Christ churches - Amber at First Christian Church, Spencer, Iowa and myself at Howard Street Christian church in Colfax. We were happily married August of 2006, with our wedding on holy ground at the camp.

I currently work at TPI Composites as a Process Engineering Leader. TPI is the world's largest independent wind blade manufacturer. I have worked at TPI for 12 years, where I worked my way up through different positions, starting as a production associate. If you have visited the Christian Conference Center, you may know or recognize Amber from there. She worked at the Conference Center for 15 years and was the operations manager from 2015-2019. Amber now works at UnityPoint Health in Grinnell where she is the Annual Giving Coordinator for the foundation. She has been there for 1 year now and is welcoming the new challenges and changes that the job brings.

Justine, who lives in Ohio, spends time with her horse, River. She is a sophomore in high school and starting to look at different colleges. She, of course, is oping to go to a college with an equine club and classes. Gracie is in 7th grade in Newton. She spends time after school playing different sports like soccer, volleyball, track, and basketball. Gracie also enjoys choir and playing her trumpet. Lexi Jo is a 5th grader in Newton. She enjoys soccer and choir. Lexi Jo has just started playing a joyful noise at home with her saxophone. She also enjoys crafting by creating new things or improving objects - future engineer . . . maybe!?

Our family has a great passion for travel and learning about different parts of the country. Amber and I take pride in that we have taken the girls to 26 different states in 10 years. We are hoping by the end of 2021 we will increase our total to 30! When we are not traveling out of state, we enjoy time together camping at campgrounds throughout Central Iowa. Our family also loves helping others. One of our favorite things to do before Christmas is to make a bunch of Christmas goodies and candies. We will spend Christmas Eve putting goodies on plates or little boxes. Then on Christmas Day, we will take the goodies around to different businesses or essential services to wish them a Merry Christmas and thank them for working on Christmas Day away from their families.

I started the commission of ministry education program (CMEP) through the Upper Midwest Region in 2015 and completed in 2018. After completion, I began working towards my bachelor's degree, so I could go to seminary and further my education and desire to learn

more. In May of 2020, I graduated with my bachelor's in organizational leadership from Buena Vista University and started my seminary journey in August at Phillips Theological Seminary out of Tulsa, OK. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in seminary thus far and appreciate 90% of online learning to balance my work, family and education. (2 weeks a year I will attend in person classes)

I have a great passion and love for missions. Missions start right here in the church and missions can help our next door neighbor or our neighbors overseas. Missions are the church's hands and feet to help those inside our walls and beyond our doors. It is important to me to be involved in the community, state, and the world, by spreading Christ's love and blessings to all. In addition to missions, I absolutely love our Christian Conference Center. This place has changed so many lives and I am proud to say that I am one of those loves. The need for our camp ministry starts within our own church and is not limited to just youth. I think that everyone young and old should experience camp.

I hope you can soon learn more about me and I learn more about you. Our family is excited to call Central Christian Church our home and grow together in being the church.

Peace & Blessings,

Andy Elliott

Nominating Committee

We are still in need of meditation elders. If interested please contact Karen in the church office as soon as possible. Thank you!

Decorating Committee

Due to the COVID pandemic and the uncertainty about meeting in person, we will not be collecting for poinsettias this year. The sanctuary will not be decorated for advent and the Christmas season.

Elders

Pastor Elliott’s sermons lately have helped explore Psalms 23. This is a passage very familiar to most of us. We have seen the many layers of meaning that can be found in just a few verses. When we explore other translations of the Bible, there is even more.

Writings about the Hebrew translation open up some interesting things found in this passage. Many cultures explore numerology more than ours. According to Chad Bird, a scholar of Hebrew, when looking at Psalm 23 in Hebrew, there are 55 Hebrew words. It is relatively brief, though the shortest Psalm has 17 Hebrew words. The longest has 1065 Hebrew words.

In the middle of Psalm 23 are the words “For Thou art with me.” There are exactly 26 Hebrew words before that phrase and exactly 26 after. In the verses before that phrase, the writer speaks of God in the third person: “he” does this or “he” does that. After the numerical center, the author speaks to God directly in the second person: for “Thou” art with me, “Thy” rod and staff, “Thou” dost prepare. In Hebrew, the message is that the abiding presence of the Shepherd is the heart of this poem.

In verse 6, we read, “Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life.” The verb for “follow” is *radaph*. A more accurate translation, according to one author,

would be “chase after or pursue.” He says that goodness and mercy of God do not follow us like a good little puppy. Rather they “gallop after us like a celestial stallion.” As in the famous poem by Francis Thompson, the Lord’s goodness and mercy chase us down labyrinthine paths like the Hound of Heaven. They stay on our heels. The divine grace and love *radaph* us all the way to heaven’s gate and into the arms of our waiting Father.

We are pursued by mercy. We are chased by grace. We are not merely followed.

Elder Chair,

Beth Campbell

From The Triumph Center:

We are writing to thank you for our Christmas bags in 2019 and the use of your basement for us to meet.

We are now located at: 204 E Linn St, Suite A, Marshalltown, IA 50158

We also want to thank you for your continued support that helps us with projects and our recovery.



Pastor Appreciation Sunday

The Board voted to observe Pastor Appreciation on November 8th. (October is Pastor Appreciation month) Pastor Andy is OK with this alternate date.

If you would like to send him a card you can send it to him in care of Central Christian Church.



Indoor Service

Inside services will resume November 8th. This is a 4-week trial. We will then assess whether or not to continue. If you prefer to listen on your radio in the parking lot, please do so. The FM headsets we use transmit from the sanctuary. ***Worship in the way that you are most comfortable.*** We hope to have the option of an online service ready sometime in November. We will keep you updated!

Here are the guidelines we will follow for inside worship:

Disinfecting will be done before each gathering.

(A specific list will be provided to those doing the disinfecting.)

In the sanctuary, immediate family units may sit together. Seating for each family unit should be 6 feet apart, spread throughout the sanctuary. Areas for seating & not seating will be marked.

Everyone is required to wear a mask, except the one speaking from the pulpit or Lord's Table.

No singing.

Hymn books, Bibles and attendance pads will be removed from the pews.

No handshakes, embracing, or hugging.

Offering plates will be in the back of the church.

Communion- the bread and juice will be in individual plastic cups on the communion table. There will be baskets on the front pews for disposal of the cups.

Greeters will wear disposable gloves to open the doors for people.

People will be dismissed by rows after the service.

Hand sanitizer will be on the tables in the gathering area.

Board Chair,

Colette Bengte



Daylight Savings Time

The 2020 Daylight Savings time will end at 2:00 a.m., Sunday, November 1, 2020. Mark your calendars to turn your clocks back one hour before retiring on Saturday, October 31, 2020.



News from the Congregation

Carl and Judy Osgood Wow the end of the summer/fall sure came fast! After all our repairs were made from the Derecho, I started working on our deck. It had been freshly power washed and it was time for resurfacing and resealing! Due to my old age and creaky bones, I was not able to work on it for long periods of time. It took quite a while to complete. Towards the end it was a battle between me and those tiny black bugs that bite! It looks so nice now that it was completely worth the effort! The next project I tackled was exterior painting on windows and around the garage doors. That was completed the day before our first Sunday snow! I have finally taken my last load (I hope!) to the compost facility. Around all of this was all the normal chores associated with daily living and household/yard care and maintenance.

We were doing pretty good health wise around here till Carl broke out with shingles on the back and left side of his head last week. He's doing a pretty good job of handling them. Thank you to everyone who has sent messages, called or sent cards to him. He appreciates that. Hopefully they will heal quickly.

We are looking forward to coming back INTO the church. I know everyone at Central will be very good about wearing masks, spacing and using the hand sanitizer so we will all stay healthy. Even though things will be very different, it will still be nice to see everyone. Take care all!

Ed and Renee Phillips - Their son, Nate, and Abbie Takes got married August 28th. It was an outdoor wedding at Ames. Due to Covid, instead of having a larger wedding, it was just attended by family.

Ken and Anne Fiscus – Anne has been moved to Oakview Nursing Home, 511 E Center St, Conrad, IA 50621. Ken will be moving to an apartment in the Conrad area shortly.

Rhonda Spence – She and her husband, Ken, are still working in their yard a lot. They planted a hedge. Ken made her a cute greenhouse. This summer Ken golfed a lot and she took walks and bike rides. Recently, they drove to Faulkner, NY to visit his sister and family. The leaves were really pretty there.

Connie Cooper – She has appreciated the prayers for her son-in-law, Brian Fitzpatrick, who lives in Everett, WA. This week (October 26th) he started a 6-week plan for Chemo and radiation. Connie asks for continued prayers for the family.

Janet Stubbs – She does get out to the grocery store. Last winter was so bad that she used the drive through service for some meals – she is still doing that. Jan enjoys doing counted cross stitch. Her present project is making snowflake bookmarks all stitched with red floss.

Brandon Ruopp- He's been working long hours. In December, he will give a presentation at the Tax school for lawyers. His wife, Jeana, is supervising the online schooling of their 2 older children.

Prayer Concerns

Brian Fitzpatrick, Stan & Jan Hatch, Caleb's Great-Grandfather, Dennis (Stone Sanitation), Tim Ebersole, Joyce Grogan, Gail Halsted, Dennis Paxson, Marjorie Cobb, Shelly Wogan, Gracie Overton, Mary Horn, Marilyn Denton, Jackie Fiscus, Tammy Losing & Family, Lorin Miller, Loren Nickel, Mark Weaver, Linda Aschan, Terry Graves, Jan Bringman, Gloria Morrison, Rich Matherly, Allen & Jamie Smoldt, Chuck Netolicky, 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, Lisa Smith, Karen Barret, Leanna Bowers, AnnaMarie Charloft, and those who are homebound

2020 Thanksgiving Offering

From the very beginnings of the movement, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning, encouraging students in their intellectual pursuits. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education.

On November 15 and 22, Disciples churches across the US and Canada will collect the Thanksgiving offering. In the midst of national and global challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, our higher education institutions are facing unprecedented challenges and need our support now, more than ever. Even as they work diligently to ensure safe and healthy learning environments, the financial realities faced by many of our schools is adding additional stress to students, faculty and staff.

This November, please give generously to this year's Thanksgiving offering. Your gifts make a world of difference as Disciples continue our legacy of supporting education and our institutions of higher learning.



Higher Education & Leadership Ministries

of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Colleges & Universities

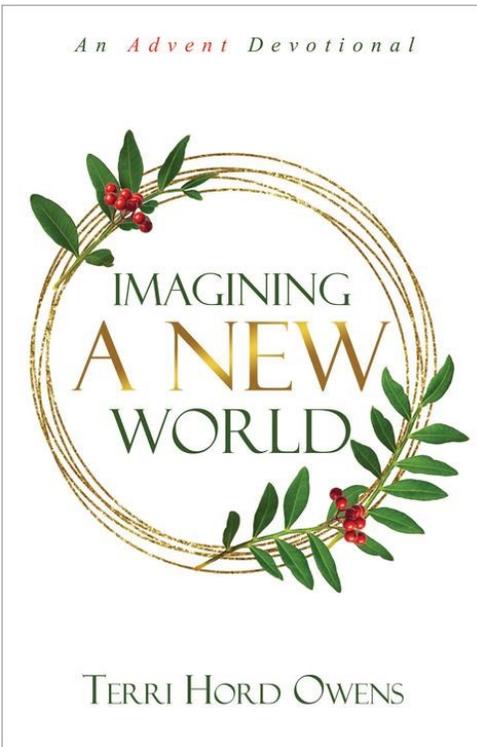
Seminaries & Divinity Houses



2020 Thanksgiving Offering

REJOICE
A special day offering of
Disciples Mission Fund

Advent Devotionals



Pause from the whirlwind of the holidays to imagine God's vision for a new world in Christ's coming. Inspired by the "peaceable kingdom" scripture from Isaiah 11, these daily, five-minute devotions include scripture, reflections, and a prayer.

"The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them." -Isaiah 11: 6. In this Advent devotional centered on the beloved scripture on the "peaceable Kingdom," reflect on God's vision for a new world and what it means for us today.

Daily, five-minute devotions explore the courage to imagine, permission to change, and freedom from fear. A scripture verse and prayer round out each devotion. Written by Terri Hord Owens, the leader of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), *Imagining a New World* offers an inspiring pause during the day to reflect more prayerfully on what the season of Advent inspires in you and your community.

Advent Order Form

Due by Tuesday, November 17

Please reserve _____ devotional(s)

Enclosed is \$5.00 for each devotional ordered.

My

name _____

Phone: _____



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10am Worship	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Pastor Appreciation Sunday 10am Worship Resume Indoor Service	9	10	11	12 6:30pm PP&F	13	14
15 Thanksgiving Offering 10am Worship	16	17 Advent Devotional Orders due	18	19 6:15pm Elders 7pm Board	20	21
22 Thanksgiving Offering 10am Worship	23	24 Newsletter article deadline	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving	27 Office Closed	28
29 1st Sunday of Advent 10am Worship	30	December 1	2	3	4	5

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Disciples of Christ

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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

November 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