

Central Christian Church
Disciples of Christ
September 2023



Pastor's
Ponderings
September 2023

Today, as I rest in my comfortably air-conditioned office, it's forecast to be 99* outside with a feels-like temperature of 110-115*. Whew, now that's hot! I am eternally grateful that I have an inside job in a lovely setting and that, as far as I know, all of my friends and family are also comfortable in the air conditioning today (and tomorrow and Thursday, when it's supposed to be even hotter!).

In the news early this morning, I watched as our brothers and sisters in the southwest waded knee deep in thick, muddy sludge and had to be rescued out of flashfloods that carried away their homes and businesses. I watched, again horrified, as reporters covered the tragedy of a fast-moving fire that decimated so many homes and people in Maui. I heard that there were still hundreds missing, presumed dead, and that identification may never be possible due to the intense heat. When I arrived at the office, I read through the latest headlines and learned the loyal Russian troops are continuing their bombing of civilians and that the ones who rebelled were banished as a group, but seemingly went "on vacation" overnight. It's unknown at this time if they ran away on their own, or if they were extinguished (I hope the former). Locally, there were the usual arrests and car accidents, some horrific in and of themselves.

I look at all of it as I hear good people, weary from all of the destruction in the world, say things like, "Where's God in all of this?" and "Why doesn't God intervene?" Fair questions.

We are a people who believe that God is within us, yes?, and that we are the heart, hands, and feet of God, so another good question is, “Why are we hiding in our lovely, air-conditioned settings instead of becoming more active in the world?” It’s easy to tick our tongues and shake our heads, and retreat further into our own comfortable spaces, but it’s much more difficult to become actively involved in the lives of others. Sincerely involved, and without invoking a lot of judgment.

In Matthew 7: 1-5, we are told not to judge others or we ourselves will be judged with the same scales we have used and given with the same measure we have given others. Lately, I’ve seen and heard a whole lot of judgment of others, all the way from the way they’re living their lives (and thus deserve everything they’re going through) to the casual, “Well, s/he should _____,” and, “It’s supposed to be done this way. That’s the way it’s always been done!” That last one chases a lot of new ideas and fresh perspectives away.

I recently re-connected with a decades old friend. This friend is in a very difficult situation at home. Over the course of many weeks, they’ve unburdened their hearts on me and shared everything they’re going through. What I heard through all of it was, “but I don’t want to leave.” So, after being asked, I began telling them ways they could make the situation they’re in better. They were shocked! They shared that everyone else they’ve tried to get help from has simply told them to LEAVE. (This person isn’t in any danger, don’t worry!) They thanked me for respecting their choices and asked why no one else had really heard them and what they wanted. I had 1 word for them: judgment. So many problems in the world are caused by that action word.

If we’re asked our opinions of what they should do, we can make suggestions (and only if we’re asked, but even then, expect frustrated blow-back if their method of working through something is by complaining and they don’t really want our suggestions), but their choices (and consequences) are theirs. It’s not our place to tell others what they should or should not do, nor tell them that they *must* do something (that worked for us). The situations of others simply aren’t our situations. Their walk through life, their experiences, are different than ours were. The details and emotions, supports and pitfalls are different. Their faith-walk is on their own path through life, not ours. Finally, today- this day- is simply different than yesterday. How does that saying go- “You can’t touch the same water twice in a river?” You can’t, but a lot of people try really hard to hold on to the water with their fists.

That leads me to a question: have we become the Inn Keepers, shaking our heads “no” when hurting people come to us requesting our help? Are our lives so full of our own messes and stresses that the thought of adding just one more issue or one more new person to get to know is almost overwhelming? I understand that heavy lift because there *IS* a lot going on in the world and so many people *HAVE* had a series of unfortunate events, but that doesn’t make them any less worthy of receiving God’s Love through our help in this, whatever situation that they’re in. God picks us up over and over again from our many falls (praise God!) and expects us to help others through their many falls as well.

In the famous words from Rev. Fred Rogers, when tragedies of life strike, look for the helpers. Better yet, let’s go beyond the comfy, antiseptic *looking* (only to return to our air-conditioned spaces) to *being*. Meaning, let’s open up and share our lives again without judgment and with hearts full of God’s Love. It can make all the difference in the world.

See you in Church!

Love,

Pastor Dianna

Central Christian Church Board Tidbits August 16, 2023

Lindsey Van Wyk presented information about Job Corps.

Deb Lakey, board chair, called the meeting to order. 8 members were present plus Pastor Dianna who gave the opening prayer.

July minutes were approved as corrected (Deacon report) to read that the Deacons request that Pastor & Elders need to wait to re-cover the plates until the Deacon has been served.

Property- *Jeff Sommerlot* – got the plumbing cleaned out

Personnel – *Jan Bringman* – talked with Becky & with Val

Treasurer- *Mary Hazelwood* (via email) – will forward the July report when she gets it from the bookkeeper

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

Missions- *Judy Osgood* – school supply deadline was the end of July. She doesn't know who is in charge of the August donations. Pastor Dianna, Glenda & Deb will deliver August donations to Woodbury

DWF - Sarah Sade – 6 cards were sent during the past month. 5 quilts were given to Southridge Nursing home.

Worship Team – *Glenda Hughes* – we discussed the committee purpose & goals & ways to meet those goals. Visibility team is making plans for October Fest. We'll pass out water at the parade. Discussed what aspects of the newsletter to put on the Church Web Page. Mary Jane Hazelwood will be taking pictures after church for the directory.

Pastor's Report- *Dianna Clark* – prepared sermon for & preached at 4 regular Sundays. Met with the Music Ministry Team, the Worship Chair, the Worship Team, the Elders, the Board Chair, the Visibility Team and a DOC AV consultant. Led the Elders in a book study, led the Prayer group, participated in the Coffee group & Gatherers. Made 1 home visit, 1 hospital visit & 1 nursing home visit. Maintained contact with various members through multiple pastoral calls, texts & cards sent.

Old Business - Picture directory – hope to start talking pictures the 20th.

New Business - Sound booth quote – discussed this project. Will form a committee. Mary Abens is chair.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Colette Bengé, Board Secretary





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-AI 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



September Birthdays

- 2 Sharon Huseboe
- 6 Beth Judkins-Mickolas
- 8 Jeff Sommerlot
- 13 Jim Antcil, Sharon Swope
- 18 Melissa Osgood
- 19 Sherry Judge Eggers
- 20 Robin Antcil
- 21 Autumn Thompson
- 22 Peyton Levis, Bev Swearingen
- 24 Ed Phillips, Wade Muir
- 25 Don Swanson
- 27 Jill Herink, Jody Maxted
- 29 Steve Huseboe



September Greeters: Donna McNamee**and Janet Swanson****September Deacon: Deb Lakey****September 3rd**

Elder: Beth Campbell

Worship Leader: Sarah Sade

Scripture: Romans 12:9-21

Hymns:

#286 This Is the Day Sing Twice

#566 Be Still My Soul

#609 Take My Life

#433 Blest Be the Tie That Binds

September 10th

Elder: Mary Abens

Worship Leader: Mary Abens

Scripture: Romans 13:8-14

Hymns:

#494 They'll Know We Are Christians

#2 Joyful Joyful, We Adore The

#16 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

#613 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

:

September 17th

Elder: Marla Cook

Worship Leader: Vickie Judkins-Mickolas

Scripture: Matthew 18:21-35

Hymns:

Love Love Love (Love Canon)

#344 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

#99 O How I Love Jesus

#72 To God Be the Glory

September 24

Elder: Andy Burt

Worship Leader: Allen Miller

Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16

Hymns:

#66 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

#99 CP Make Me A Servant

#528 Give Thanks

I'm Going to Sing



PRAYER CONCERNS



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

Carl Osgood; Darin Groenveld; Valerie Sondag; Eugene Hines; Michelle Gilmore; Dixie Johnson; Cathy Hickok; Mary Jane Hazelwood; Dorothy and Frank Borton; our elders as they prepare for Retreat next month.

- ◆ Prayers for those affected by acts of violence
- ◆ Prayers for our nation that we may come together as one.

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

The prayer group meets on the first and third
Wednesdays at 9 am.

Come join us!





Elders Meditation

Many times we make the mistake of thinking that Christ's help is needed only for sickness or in times of overwhelming sorrow or suffering. This is not true. Certainly, God is with us in times of distress, and that is a comforting truth. But, Jesus wants to be a part of your everyday life, to be there for every moment. When we look back at our life we are going to be absolutely amazed at how God took care of us and blessed us even in the storms of our life. God is also with us in the good times too. We should thank Him just as we did during the hard and bad times.

And His love for us surpasses our very being and comprehension. He loves without any strings attached - He just loves. We in turn should love Him with all our being. And, we should love each other as He loves us. All of us!!! Not just people you know. The world is in need of love and compassion so desperately. With that, go into the world and spread the Good News of our Lord Jesus the Christ. And may His peace be with you forever. Amen!

Beth Judkins-Mickolas

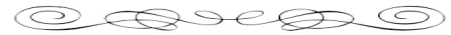




We are currently in need of volunteers for the A/V booth on Sunday mornings.

Volunteers are needed to be a driver to those that need a ride to church

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.



On July 31, 2023

July total revenues: \$12477.00

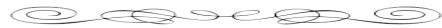
July total expenses: \$9289.00

Year to date revenues: \$89814.00

Year to date expenses: \$76193

Bank account balance: \$182,488.21

Mary



Farmers Market

We have had an abundance of produce this year! Several of us continue to enjoy sharing the bounty from our gardens!

We no longer set our a free will offering container. If you would like to make a contribution, please write a check to the church and put "Farmers Market" on the memo line. A cash donation can be put in an envelope and marked "Farmers Market" All the contributions go into the parking lot fund.



Food Box

I delivered 60 pounds of groceries to the food box last week. They weighed them and put them directly on the shelves. They are very short of food to hand out to the community so please continue to fill our cart.

Beth Campbell

September Mission Every Sunday is Food Box Sunday !

The Emergency Food Box is in dire need of food. Their shelves are constantly empty. Most of us go to the grocery store once a week (I go more because I always forget something) and if we all purchase one extra item for the Food Box each week, we could collect a lot of food. It would be great if we collected enough to go every Monday! Let's fill the grocery cart for the Emergency Food Box!

Thank you, Judy

School Supplies!

August School supplies- 15 bags of School supplies were taken to Woodbury Elementary. They were very grateful for this gift! Thank you!





Nicaragua Report

I thought you would like to know how your generous gifts were spent in Santa Emilia this January. Our project this time was to fix up the bathrooms. We tiled the bathrooms and showers as well as the hallway in front. Well really we paid for all the tile and supplies and Eric and a helper did the tiling. There was not really enough room in the bathrooms for more than 1 person. Some of the men from the community worked on getting eaves put up on the church and tied the down spouts into the drainage pipes to help from having a muddy ditch around the church during the rainy season. The non Nicaraguans watched as they tied ladders together to make them long enough and as they spliced extension cords together so they would reach the roof. It was definitely not OSHA approved. Manuel the carpenter made 2 desks and a set of book shelves for the church and his daughter and I stained them. Those projects cost around \$2000. We took the Social Worker from the school to town and she spent \$500.00 on needed supplies for the school. I delivered 2 nebulizers and a blood pressure cuff to the clinic. They were so excited because they only had 1 nebulizer and 8 communities shared it. If you needed to use it you had to travel to the clinic and bring your medicine and use the machine there. I gave \$500 dollars to the water committee to fix some leaks and replace some pipes. Soon they will need to clean and repair the water holding tanks as 1 seems to be leaking. The children were overjoyed with Barbies, power rangers, soccer balls cars and monster trucks. One night we all wore glow bracelets and sang songs in the dark. We have a list for the next trip already and I have purchased my ticket for Jan. 28th 2024!! Thank you all so much for supporting the community of Santa Emilia.

Beth Campbell

Gatherer's enjoyed an evening out on August 25 at Mama DiGrado's. Great time for some fun and fellowship!



ANNOUNCEMENTS!

- Gatherer's for September will be on Sunday, Sept. 24th, immediately following church services at El Portal. Hosting will be Valerie Sondag. Please let Carolyn or Pat know by Thursday, Sept. 21st by noon, so reservations can be made. Come and join us for a luncheon of great food and great fellowship, everyone is welcome!!! Thank You, Pat
- Vocal and Bell Choir will begin practice Wednesday September 13th. Voice from 5-6, and bell from 6-7.
- Group Lydia will begin their new year on Saturday, September 16th at 9 AM at the church. I look forward to being with all of the "Lydia Ladies" again! Judy
- Group DEMF begins Thursday September 14th at 1:00pm at church
- Pastor Dianna will be at continuing Education Training on Tuesday September 12th, 5pm-8pm, and Wednesday September 13th, 9am-4:30pm.
- Prayer group meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month, all are welcome.
- Please pray for our Elders. In October they will be going on a retreat and appreciate the church-wide prayer support!
- Our library/meditation room is now open for all to enjoy. We have a wide selection of books for your enjoyment! Everyone is encouraged to come, spend some quiet time to reflect and check out a book.

Historical Tidbits- taken from "Forward Through the Ages", by Hazel Van Allen Price, Central Christian Church, Marshalltown.

On October 13, 1924, the Myrtle Whaley Division of the Women's Missionary Society was organized with Miss Pearl Groover as secretary. Miss Whaley was our first missionary to Africa.



September 2023

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
					1	2
					3	4
10 am Church services in person and online Mission-Food Box Sunday Romans 12:9-21	Pastor's Sabbath	6:30 pm Heart of Iowa Chorus	9 am Prayer Group 10 am Coffee Grp 11 am worship chair 1:00 pm Worship team	12:15 Elders meet		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Second Sunday Refreshments 10 am Church services in person and online Food Box Sunday Romans 13:8-14	Pastor's Sabbath	6:30 pm Heart of Iowa Chorus Pastor Dianna-Continuing Ed Training 5-8 pm	9:00am Visibility Team 5:00 pm Vocal Choir 6:00 pm Bells Paster Dianna Continuing Ed Training 9am-4:30pm	1:00pm Group DEMF/at church		9:00 Group Lydia/at church
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
10 am Church services in person and online Greet your neighbor Mission-Food Box Sunday Matthew 18:21-35	Pastor's Sabbath	6:30 pm Heart of Iowa Chorus 5pm Group Rebecca/at church	9 am Prayer group 10 am Coffee grp 11:30 am TLC 1:30 pm Board meeting 5:00pm Vocal 6:00pm Bell	9:00 am Quilters		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
10 am Church services in person and online Mission-Food Box Sunday Matthew 20:1-16	Pastor's Sabbath	6:30 pm Heart of Iowa Chorus News Articles Due	9:00am Music Team 5:00 pm Vocal 6:00 pm Bell			

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH



Disciples of Christ

**300 West Main Street
Marshalltown IA
50158**

Phone: (641) 753-3129

Website: www.centraldoc.org

Email: 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.