



the Clarion

December 2017

of Central Christian Church (DOC)

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Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time.

~Laura Ingalls Wilder

May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through!

~Author Unknown

He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.

~Roy L. Smith

God calls Central Christian Church to be a welcoming and open faith community where Christian love, action, and discipleship unite."

Serving...

GREETERS

December 3

Twyla Edinburgh
Melanie Hurst

December 10

Jimetta Mankin & Paige

December 17

Betsy Wallace

December 24

Jimetta Mankin

December 31

Jimetta Mankin & Paige

PRAYER CARDS

ATTENDANCE PADS

Marsha McQueary

COUNTERS

December 3

Twyla Edinburgh
Dick Hunt, Melanie Hurst

December 10

David Rose
Carroll Vasbinder

December 17

None Scheduled

December 24

None Scheduled

December 31

None Scheduled

Deadlines...

The deadline for the Clarion is the next-to-last Wednesday of the month at 10AM

Deadline for the bulletin is Tuesday mornings at 10AM.

Prayer List:

Submit names by filling out a Prayer Request form located in the Pew Pads, and placing it in an offering plate, or by contacting the church of-

Diana Chavis

Bettie Davis

Brock Gonthier

Vic & Carol Mullen

Paul Myers

Jane Siebenmorgen

We Are God's Angels, Doing Random Acts of Kindness

The theme for advent this year is Angels Among Us: #DoNotBeAfraid. It occurred to our evangelism committee that we are indeed God's Angels – every day. We want to encourage each of you to do random acts of kindness – as God's Angels – and share them here in the presence of our church. And so we have another “angel tree”, a green cardboard tree mounted and waiting for you to select one of the angels by that tree, write your random act of kindness down, and post it on the tree during our prelude to worship. Let us together keep track of and celebrate the random acts of kindness we do as God's Angels! Let us celebrate God's gift to us – Jesus– and share gifts of kindness as we go throughout our days as God's ambassadors.

Phil Ewoldson

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CWF Christmas Progressive Dinner

Sunday, December 10, beginning at 4 pm.

Appetizers: Shelly and John Manning's home

Salads: Phil Ewoldsen and David Rose's home

Main Dish: Church,
Marybeth Ripple, Susan Edmondson,
& Marsha McQueary will be hosts

Desserts: Doug and Carol Sloan's home.

Cookie Trays will be assembled Saturday and available for sale on Sunday, December 17 .

CWF Christmas Dinner is Thursday, December 21 at 6:30.

All women of the church are invited.

Susan Edmondson

Our Church Family.....

Please report items for Our Church Family to the church office, and please remember the following in your prayers:

Serving...

Central Christian Church (DOC) and all our ministries as we strive to live God's vision for us.

Kim Berry, Melanie Hurst's sister, who is recovering from a stroke and loss of sight in one of her eyes.

Aletha Carter sends her greetings and deep thanks for recent prayers on her behalf. Aletha had 5 radiation treatments and will be returning to the doctor to determine if they took care of the cancer.

Sally Criss, Susan Edmondson's sister, who has been diagnosed with ALS.

Janice Fields as she continues chemotherapy.

Angie Hammond who will have a hysterectomy on December 27, and her husband, **George**, who may need surgery on his shoulder.

Priscilla Hammons as she has been diagnosed with kidney failure.

Will & Betsy Hine as Will continues to recover from a very traumatic fall he had while they were in North Carolina.

Don & Kathy Iliff as Don focuses on gaining weight and strength.

Christine Kennedy as she deals with depression and overwhelming pressures at work.

Sally Leonard & Karie Tharp ask for CCC friends to pray for them to have healing and peace.

Sherrie Mansfield as she recovers from cataract surgery.

Sean Mullen's dad, **Vic, & their family**; Vic is working with his doctor to slow the progression of his cancer.

Jo Anne Seybold & her family as Jo Anne is currently at St. Vincent Seton Hospital in Indianapolis.

Kimberly Schodlatz as she recovers from a recent surgery.

Amanda, niece of Traci Tucker & Sarah Wilson, who has been diagnosed with severe pulmonary hypertension.

Paul & Tambra White as Paul continues to recover from a stroke and aneurysm. Tambra is Norma Plascak's niece.

Due to Patient Privacy Laws, hospitals are no longer able to contact pastors if a church member is admitted for treatment. If you or a loved one is in the hospital, please call the church office or Rev. Rebecca.

ELDERS

December 3
David Rose
Shelly Manning

December 10
Betsy Hine
Susan Edmondson

December 17
Sherrie Mansfield
Brenda Waltermire

December 24
Susan Edmondson

December 31
Shelly Manning
Susan Edmondson

COFFEE HOUR

Please sign up at the Information Center if you can bring a snack, healthy or sweet & decadent. Any tidbit of food will be well received to go with coffee, tea, and hot chocolate.

If you can provide a treat but can't do the clean up, let a member of the Evangelism team know, or note it on the sign up sheet. The person bringing food for coffee hour will be the hero/heroine of the day!

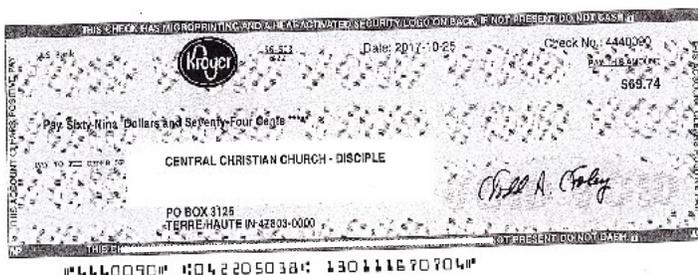
We look forward to wonderful tasty surprises at coffee hour this winter.



The Evangelism Team

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

None Scheduled for December



Check received from Kroger's Community Rewards Program for \$69.74.

If you have a Kroger Rewards card, please get online & make CCC your chosen charity.

REBECCA'S REVELATION

“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.” (Luke 1:30)

“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife...” (Matthew 1:20)

“Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people...” (Luke 2:10)

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ! On Sunday, December 3, a new Christian year begins with the season of Advent. Advent begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and is a season of waiting, anticipating, and preparing for Christ to come to us anew. This year, our theme for Advent and Christmas is *Angels Among Us: #DoNotBeAfraid*. According to the scriptures, angels are messengers of God and very often the first thing they say to those they address is: Do Not Be Afraid.

Do you ever think much about fears – your fears? What are you afraid of? My daughter, Lexi, and I recently had a conversation about fear. I told her that my biggest fear is that something bad will happen to her. Some of this fear comes from experiencing the loss of loved ones at a young age; some of this fear is simply part of being a parent. Still, I hope my faith has taught me that regardless of my fears, I am to live my life as fully as possible. I am to allow Lexi freedom to live her life (within reason and appropriateness of age). I am to live the call God has placed upon me even if it leads me into situations in which I would rather not go.

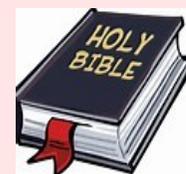
Our world can often feel like a scary place (turn on the news for ten minutes if you don't believe me). And yet, we have been given such good news to share – the best news! God loves each and every human being unconditionally! God wants the very best for all of humanity! God wants all of creation to live in a state of hope, peace, joy, and love! Our world is in desperate need of this good news.

December fills up quickly with extra chores, busy calendars, and important deadlines. In the midst of holiday craziness, don't forget the One we celebrate. Make time for worship every week as we prepare our hearts and minds for Christ to come anew to us. Come every Sunday eager to hear the messages of the angels. Gather with sisters and brothers in Christ who yearn to know that God's love is greater than all our fears.

Many blessings and great peace to you throughout Advent.
Rev. Rebecca

Ending 2nd Year of CCC BIG Read

Can you believe the CCC BIG Read has been going for TWO years now? For all who have undertaken the practice of reading the scriptures on a regular basis – good for you! I know it can be a challenge some days to find even ten minutes for bible study & prayer, but it is very important as people of faith. Furthermore, if you haven't kept up, you will not be sent to Bible Jail; simply start anew with the next book.



In December we will be reading the books of Daniel and Hosea. The book of Daniel combines prophecy, history, and apocalypse (end things - cosmically and politically). Daniel begins with Babylonian King Nebuchadnezzar conquering Jerusalem and bringing back to Babylon the best and the brightest of the Israelites (who will now be known as “the exiles”.) The book tells how Daniel and his friends demonstrate their faithfulness to the God of Israel in the midst of serving in Nebuchadnezzar's court.

The book of Hosea takes place around the fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel (a time actually way before the timeline of Daniel). The prophet Hosea harshly warns the people against worshipping any god other than Yahweh, the God of Israel. He compares Israel's unfaithfulness to God to a wife unfaithful to her husband (I know, very sexist). Hosea uses his relationship with his wife, Gomer, as a parallel for the relationship between the people and God, and (thanks be to God!) ends the book with a hopeful note of reconciliation.

Daniel has 12 chapters and Hosea has 14, so read 1 chapter a day.

Worship

Advent Season 2017

Advent 2017 begins December 3. This is one of 2 seasons in the Christian year that are periods of preparation, waiting, watching and praying. The colors are dark blue or purple, and each Sunday we will light an Advent Wreath Candle that will lead us to the birth of our Lord Jesus the Christ. On the first Sunday of Advent we will prepare the sanctuary by "Hanging the Greens." This is a good time for all to reflect on just what this "coming to," waiting period means to each of us. As we hang the greens on Dec 3, watch for symbols used specifically for this season.



Advent Wreath. The origins of the Advent wreath are unknown. Pagan rituals often included lighting candles in a wreath to signify hope for the return of the sun in the midst of winter. Christians in the Middle Ages borrowed this custom, incorporating it into their Christmas celebrations. The Catholic and Lutheran churches were the first to formally adopt the Advent wreath; it is made of evergreen boughs, symbolizing everlasting life. The circle represents the continuous love of God, with no beginning and no end, as well as the soul's immortality. Each of the four Advent candles represents a Sunday leading to Christmas. Traditionally, three of the candles are purple and one is pink. The final candle, the white Christ candle, is placed in the center of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Christmas Tree. The evergreen tree has been used to celebrate winter festivals for thousands of years. Pagan homes were decorated with branches during the winter solstice as a reminder of the spring to come. Romans used fir trees to adorn their temples for the festival of Saturnalia. No one is certain when fir trees were first used as Christmas trees, but a good guess is about 1000 years ago in Northern Europe. The first person to bring a tree into a house the way we know Christmas trees today may have been 16th century German preacher Martin Luther. For Christians, fir trees are a sign of everlasting life with God.

Nativity Scene/Creche. The first recorded Nativity scene was created by St. Francis of Assisi circa 1223 A.D. St. Francis was concerned that the meaning of Christmas was becoming lost as most people were focusing on gift giving rather than the message of Christ's birth. He fashioned a scene to remind his people of The Nativity Story. It was built in a cave near Greccio, Italy, and involved real people and animals making it a truly living Nativity. Nativity scenes/sets as we know them have their roots in the 1300's, and were display pieces for Italian churches. Often made out of terracotta, these early Nativity sets were displayed year round.

Moravian Star. The Moravian star originated in two towns in Saxony, Germany in the 1830s. The stars were used to demonstrate geometry lessons to boys attending Moravian school. The stars were quickly adopted by the Moravian Church as a representation of the Bethlehem Star. Traditionally, the star is hung the first Sunday of Advent and remains until Epiphany, January 6, the time of the Magi's visit. The Moravian star at Central comes from Old Salem, N. C., a Moravian settlement founded by Moravians from Bethlehem Pennsylvania.

Chrismons. The word, "Chrismon" is a combination of two words, "Christ" and "monogram." Chrismons were first developed by Frances Kipps Spenser in 1957 specifically for a church Christmas tree. All Chrismons are combinations of white and gold; white is the liturgical color for Christ's purity and perfection; gold refers to His majesty and glory. There are various combinations of these crosses, monograms and symbols on the Chrismon tree.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION EVENTS

On Sunday, December 3 we will go Christmas caroling at the Cannon Inn where Paul Myers and Bettie Davis are residents. We will gather for lunch after Sunday School and be at the Cannon Inn by 1:30pm. We will have soup and chili. Bring something to add to the meal and share with others. All ages are welcome to join us! The residents especially enjoy seeing the children, but we need stronger voices to join them. We will be singing carols we all know and love. You don't need to be in the choir or have an outstanding voice to join us. Please sign up at the Information Center to let us know you are joining us for lunch.



Mary Beth Ripple and Dianne Mansfield are directing our Christmas play to be presented during worship on Sunday, December 17. Practice will be held during Sunday School on December 3 and 10. Final rehearsal will be at 10:00am on Saturday, December 16. Children and youth who wish to participate should plan to attend on those dates. If you don't wish to have a speaking part we need help with other jobs.

Several of our children and youth met recently and decorated paper placemats to be donated to the KAIROS Prison Ministry. We were able to donate 50 placemats to be used on the meal trays of inmates at the Rockville or Putnamville facilities. We also enjoyed making our own individual pizzas for lunch.

We recently celebrated Thanksgiving early with our All-American Thanksgiving dinner. It was a great evening with lots of good food and fellowship. We were happy to have several guests join us. Thanks to everyone who helped with set up or cleanup. Special thanks to the Christian Education members for providing turkey, other delicious dishes, and for all the work that goes along with having an event.

Christian Education will meet on Monday, December 4 at 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome to join us as we plan for the new year.

Theresa Vaughn

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT CCC

Volunteer to be a Sunday morning GREETER or FELLOWSHIP HOST. Both are great ways to get better acquainted with members of the congregation AND are important services to our church. Sign-Up sheets are on the bulletin board at the Information Center.

December 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9AM-noon Mat Making <hr/> LIGHT-your-way parade
3 Elders –Noon Congregational Mtg. Lunch & Caroling at Cannon Inn	4 9AM Bible Study <hr/> 10:30AM Communion at Bethesda & Wyndmoor <hr/> 6:30PM Chr Ed	5 10:30AM Communion at Providence Healthcare 6:30PM CWF-M Ripple's	6 6:30 PM Choir	7	8	9 9AM-noon Mat Making
10 <u>Worship-noon</u> 4PM Progressive Dinner	11 9AM Bible Study	12 7PM Taizè	13 6:30 PM Choir	14 6:30PM Faith & Giving	15	16 9AM CWF Cookie Trays <hr/> 10AM Xmas Play Rehearsal
17 Christmas Play Board at noon CWF Sale of Cookies	18 9AM Bible Study	19	20 6:30 PM Choir <hr/> Clarion Deadline	21 6:30PM Women's Xmas Dinner	22	23 All Day MJ Brown Use of Bldg
24 Christmas Eve 9:30AM Worship 7PM Candlelight Service 		26	27 NO CHOIR	28	29	30
31 9:30 Worship						

Happy Birthday

Happy Anniversary

1 Vicky Clark	13 Betsy Hine	28 Paula Johnson
7 Cathy Kurtz	15 Paula Switzer	28 Jarrod Michael
8 Jeff Zelensky	17 Mary Deal	28 Jaryn Strong
8 Sara Zachariah	21 Pam Long	
9 Sara Ritter	26 Michael Barrett	
11 Joe West	27 Kathy Iliff	

Dec 11—Brenda & Rick Waltermire
 Dec 23—Karen Moore & Sara Ritter
 Dec 26—Theresa & Bruce Vaughn
 Dec 31—Jeff and Rebecca Zelensky
 Dec 31—Sarah Wilson & Traci Tucker

**Central Christian
Church
(Disciples of
Christ)**

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Terre Haute Indiana
47803

Phone: 812-877-9959
Email:
centralchristianchurch@
frontier.com

We're On The Web
www.ccethdisciples.org

Worship Services
9:30 AM
(Nursery for Infants & Toddlers
Open 9 AM -12Noon)
Sunday School for
all ages 11 AM

Building God's Realm through Mission

We have a number of wonderful ways at Central Christian for you to help build God's realm as we prepare for Christ to be born anew among us!

- * We will collect **Hats, Mittens, and Gloves** for Fuqua Elementary School students
- * We will have **Angel Tree** tags available to purchase Christmas gifts for a family connected to CCC
- * We will gather and dedicate our **Christmas Special Offering** on Sunday, December 24. 100% of this offering stays in the Indiana region of the Christian Church (DOC) for ministries and mission throughout Indiana
- * The making of **Mats for the Homeless** will continue on Saturday mornings in December

Also, looking ahead to January, we will again collect small LEGO sets for *Aaron's LEGOCy*. These LEGO sets will go to patients in the Heart Step Down Unit of Riley Children's Hospital in Indianapolis. This outreach project was founded by Randy & Andrea Todd in honor of their son, Aaron. Although Aaron is no longer with us, his love of LEGOs and creativity lives on. Keep your eyes open as you are Christmas shopping, as the smaller LEGO sets are often on sale at this time.