

Central Christian Church



**(Disciples of Christ)
10 W. Van Trees Street
Washington, IN 47501**

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**Visit our Website at: <http://www.centralchristiandoc.org/>
December 2018**

Rejoice in the Lord always ! (Phil 4)

When Paul asks, invites or commands us to “rejoice” it is not an idle suggestion from a man living the easy life. He has seen great disappointment, rejection, betrayal, and suffering because of his devotion to the gospel. He is just trying to help people understand the enormity of God’s grace and yet he is punished by a blind and obstinate human race. Grief has been his traveling companion.

Many of us have traveled with grief in recent months as well. This latest Thanksgiving and the upcoming Christmas may be the first one for us without one or more of our loved ones. “Rejoice” seems like a stretch. After all , it’s more than an attitude. Our brains may simply not let us rejoice quite yet.

But Paul’s reminder to rejoice assures us that there is reason to rejoice—always. Even if we don’t feel like it. Even if the clouds overshadow our lives, the sun still shines. Even if we are sad, or angry, or temporarily shut-down, God is still faithful and is sending us an abundance of loving care.

I’ve certainly seen such loving care extended to me and to so many others who have lost loved ones this year or struggled through difficult times. Our friends in this church lift us up in prayer and care—and each act of compassion makes a difference.

If you experience days when rejoicing seems to be too much to ask for—that’s ok. Just try to take a moment to at least look for the reasons to rejoice—the grace of God at work in your life—the love that is already bringing healing—the hope that keeps faith alive. Those gifts and more are always there! You may just need to unwrap them.

John

Email us at:
centralchrist@att.net

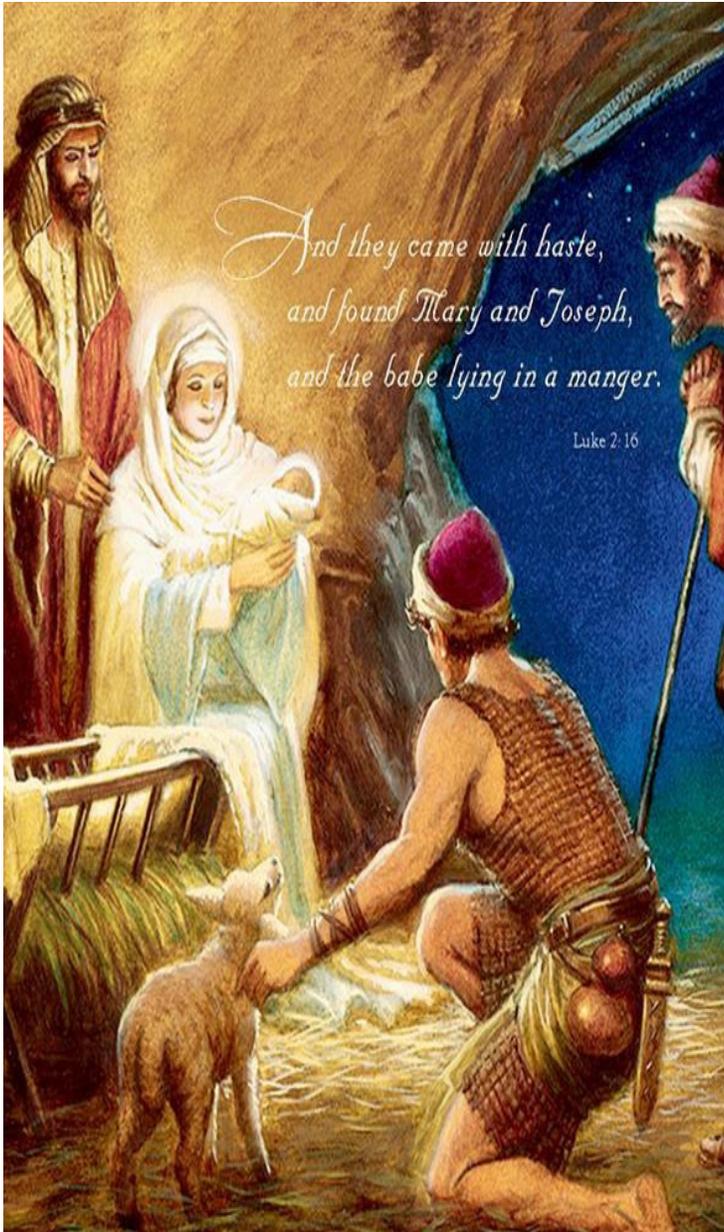
VISIT OUR WEB SITE

<http://www.centralchristiandoc.org>
Please check our updated WEB page.

For Reverend Dunn's messages click
YouTube link.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

From Pastors and Staff of
Central Christian Church



December Calendar of Events

CWF MEETING

Tuesday December 4th @7:00pm

CHRUCH WORK DAY

Saturday December 1st @9am
This special day is to decorate
Sanctuary Tree

CONGREGAIONAL MEETING

Sunday December 9th following
Worship Service

JUBILEE CHRISTMAS

December 2nd return toys
unwrapped with ornament
attached
Sunday December 9th @2pm set up
for Jubilee Event

Monday December 10th @6pm
JUBILEE CHRISTMAS EVENT
(see bulletin insert for all details)

CAROLING PARTY & SOUP SUPPER

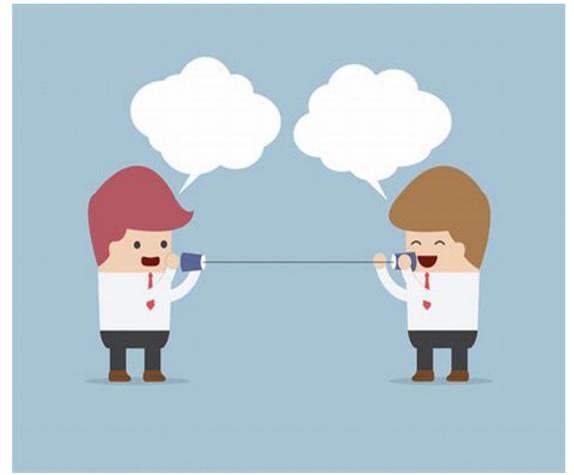
Sunday December 16th @4-8pm
Caroling be at church @3:45 to car pool.
Return to church about 5:30pm
Soup Supper will be at 6pm
Please bring soup and/or side of finger food
or dessert and drink to share.
(if you can't go caroling please join us for
soup and great fellowship).

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Monday December 24th @7pm
[XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX](#)

From the Desk of Reverend John Dunn

You may remember that I shared some thoughts on the "5 Love Languages" some time ago. It's an interesting theory explored by Gary Chapman that identifies specific ways in which people experience communication. The thoughts below come from Dr. Chapman in an email resource I receive on a frequent basis. The possible improvement it may offer to your communication with loved ones may make a great Christmas gift. He suggests:



Have you found yourself in negative patterns of communication with another? Maybe it's a spouse, child, coworker, or parent that gives you the "silent treatment" (or possibly gets unnecessarily defensive) whenever conflict arises. If so, you know these patterns can be difficult to change. However, when you decide to focus less on changing the way the other person is (or isn't) responding and more on how you are communicating, you set an atmosphere that is much more conducive for change.

For example, try the following ideas to help open or foster dialogue:

Cut back on complaining.

Don't interrupt or correct when he or she speaks.

**Talk about how you'd like things to be,
not about your dissatisfaction with how things are.**

Give space when the other person needs it.

Work on developing your listening skills.

Every communication pattern has a recipe. Change the ingredients, and the outcome changes. Change the order or method of preparation, and the outcome changes. If nothing changes, nothing changes.

Why not be the catalyst toward positive communication patterns starting today? You can do this by changing the "ingredients" you bring to the "recipe" of each and every conversation.

These seem like simple suggestions, but actually putting them into practice may be a challenge. Communication seems to be such an easy thing—especially in the 21st Century. But clearly there is room for improvement in almost every relationship. See if trying one or more of Dr. Chapman's suggestions can help you communicate more effectively—and lovingly.

John



Addiction in a Troubled Environment

People who expect a solution to the problem of addiction to be primarily a matter of new funding are really expecting very little. We might expect City, County, State and Federal leadership to fix our broken society while we frequently ridicule government and addiction. We might perceive addiction as a problem which does not concern or necessarily involve us.

We might also blame the plight of a rural environment on the actions of people who hold various powers, as well as the keys to appropriate purse strings. The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD) identifies several economic factors which typically hinder addiction recovery in rural counties: (1) Impact of the 2008 Recession on jobs; (2) Relocation of production jobs overseas; (3) Increasing poverty in rural counties where 15.2% are “persistently poor” (compared to 4.3% in urban areas); (4) Higher rates of chronic pain and fatigue associated with increasing physical demands and danger in rural jobs; (5) Departure of younger adults which increases the strain on the remaining population; and (6) Rural poverty which increases the risk of addiction, as well as mental and physical illness.

Another option is to shift the conversation away from blame, and focus more on responsibility, opportunity, and other positive themes. At the same time, we need to be aware of those effects which were NOT brought on by people who fall short of the proper use of prescription- and other drugs. We may actually see new potential for solutions that require us to better understand our society’s addiction problems.

See:

<https://www.ncadd.org/blogs/addiction-update/what-s-behind-the-addiction-crisis-in-rural-america>

Pastor Dan Sherar

Scripture Readings:

Looking for inspiration?

Week of December 2

Psalm 142
SU John 18:38b–19:16
M John 19:17–24
TU John 19:25–30
W John 19:31–37
TH John 19:38–42
F John 20:1–10
SA John 20:11–18

Week of December 9

Psalm 149
SU 2 Corinthians 8:16–24
M 2 Corinthians 9:1–15
TU 2 Corinthians 10:1–6
W 2 Corinthians 10:7–18
TH 2 Corinthians 11:1–11
F 2 Corinthians 11:12–15
SA 2 Corinthians 11:16–29

Week of December 16

Psalm 66:1–12
SU John 20:19–23
M John 20:24–29
TU John 20:30–31
W John 21:1–14
TH John 21:15–19
F John 21:20–23
SA John 21:24–25

Week of December 23

Psalm 140
SU 2 Corinthians 11:30–33
M 2 Corinthians 12:1–10
TU 2 Corinthians 12:11–18
W 2 Corinthians 12:19–21
TH 2 Corinthians 13:1–4
F 2 Corinthians 13:5–10
SA 2 Corinthians 13:11–14

Week of December 30

Psalm 97
SU Luke 1:1–25
M Luke 1:26–38
TU Luke 1:39–45
W Luke 1:46–56
TH Luke 1:57–80
F Luke 2:1–7
SA Luke 2:8–21

Our Stewardship Answers God's Call to our Mission

2018 Budget Requirement Averages \$1306 Weekly

Tithes & Offerings

October 7 - \$1325	November 4 - \$1437
October 14 - \$2217	November 11 - \$1707
October 21 - \$1312	November 18 - \$
October 28 - \$1360	November 25 - \$

We celebrate every dollar as a witness
to the love and grace of God at work among us.

We also received generous contributions in recent weeks for special ministries like:

Thanksgiving Offering, Reconciliation Offering and the children's "Milk Bottle" gifts that help families in the Congo.

Financial Highlights

Your generous giving continues to keep up with our budget needs—and our spending remains frugal and appropriate to our situation.

Your faithful giving and God's extraordinary grace allows us to make a positive impact on the world. Not only can we rest assured that normal expenses are managed well, but we can look at opportunities to make an even bigger impact on our world.

Thank you for that great sign of life among us!

BIRTHDAYS

3 – Lavone Woods
8 – Steve Strange
11 – Linda Skomp
18 – Rev. John Dunn
18 – Dominic Downey
23 – William N. Lundy
24 – Vicki Willis
26 – Rebecca Mattes
29 – Lori Lundy

ANNIVERSARIES

10 – Nathan and Carmen Kane

If we don't have your birthday or anniversary listed (or if its incorrect) please call or email the church office.



Scheduled to Serve in December

Elders: Larry Lagle & Dan Sherar

Deacons: Jackie Breeden, Dennis Breeden
Lisa Bland, Jake Fox

Communion Prep: Larry & Pam Lagle

Greeters:

December 2: Ray & Lavone Woods & Janet

December 9: Terry & Stella Kiefer

December 16: Dennis & Jackie Breeden

December 23: The Mattes Family

December 30: Anthony & Renee Doscher



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