



## **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/>  
MARCH 2019**

In the worlds of literature and mythology, there is a recurrent theme of a "Hero's Journey". There were the "12 Labors of Hercules" and the knights who went in search of the Holy Grail. There's Odysseus of the Iliad and the Odyssey. And there's the testing of Jesus in the Wilderness.

The season of Lent begins on March 6. For some it is an invitation to our own personal Hero's Journey ... our own testing in the wilderness. Some people test their commitment and discipline - others use it as a challenge to study some specific topic or a sacred book. I have an invitation for you to consider.

We recently explored the concept that the early church was tasked with the challenge of removing its filters that limited the flow of God's grace. They had to learn to embrace God's acceptance of "them" - the "other" ,, or more specifically the Gentile. That sacred challenge continues.

So I invite you to consider your personal challenge. Which group of "them" is in front of you on your hero's journey to share God's grace? Where does your own thinking "filter" the grace and draw a line that says "I cannot accept that God loves "them" equally to me?" Or perhaps, some may be burdened with the thought that God cannot love "ME" equally to some other "them". Consider exploring that challenge and see what the journey reveals.

John

Email us at:  
**centralchrist@att.net**

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VISIT OUR WEB SITE

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

For Reverend Dunn's messages click  
YouTube link.

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# MARCH Calendar of Events

CWF MEETING

Tuesday March 5th @7:00pm

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

@ Westminster Presbyterian  
Church; Wednesday March 6th  
Time: 6:30pm

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday March 12th @7:30pm

CHURCH WORK DAY

Saturday March 30th @8am  
Meet in the Friendship room for  
coffee, doughnuts and fellowship

5TH SUNDAY LUNCHEON

Sunday March 31st following  
Worship Service  
Please bring a side dish and/or  
dessert and drink to share.  
CWF will provide chicken, plates  
and silverware.



Don't forget to  
set your clocks  
ahead one hour  
March 10th.

Daylight Savings Time Begins

**\*\*Ladies! save this date\*\***

**9th Ladies Afternoon Tea**  
**Sunday April 28th @3-5pm**  
**Whispers of God's Love**

**Speaker: Rev. Carolyn Reed**  
**Pianist: Roselynn Grubb**

**RSVP by April 24th, 2019**  
**Invite family & friends**



**Lent Begins  
Ash Wednesday**

While I'm sure it's been said before, I recently was reminded of something important in an article by Rebecca Zucker entitled "Why Highly Efficient Leaders Fail" She wrote: "Great leaders are able to balance task-focus (getting things done) with people-focus (inspiring, developing, and empowering others)."

<https://hbr.org/2019/02/why-highly-efficient-leaders-fail>

I suppose the intriguing aspect of that comment is that it comes from an organization that advises corporations—large and small. It's not a church leaders' website or company—but it serves the for-profit companies always looking for ways to get ahead.

Zucker offers: "The irony is that an intense focus on efficiency and getting things done makes these leaders less effective overall. The result is often a negative impact on organizational climate and burnout of team members ."

I wonder if the reason high efficiency fails is because human beings are so inefficient. Even the best of us have noticeable limits. We get confused under stress and crash under pressure. Our social needs and personal lives demand attention. And even for those who seem to handle stress well... it seems that they are often the people who do not manage the human component well. Too often we simply expect other people to be more "like us". The results? Resentment, Lost Enthusiasm, Burnout.

I spent a great deal of time in "mid-career" exploring leadership in the church. Books, workshops, serious training events. All of it was interesting even though churches were going through various fads at the time. Someone wrote a book—offered traveling workshops—and it was all the talk!

Trouble was—the books often described a unique situation where certain forces came together that could not be repeated elsewhere. Even worse, they sometimes used tactics that some of us found unacceptable. After all the dust settled and various techniques tried—I became doubtful that leadership in a church could ever be too effective.

Certainly you could help a congregation establish a vision—and keep that vision in every conversation whenever possible. You could help a few gain some tools—and keep trying to explain the purpose while maintaining transparency about everything. But people's lives get in the way of their "church work". Crisis among us overwhelms our focus and drains us of our energy. The need for empathy, compassion and healing takes center stage—and pursuing a vision can drop out of sight.

This isn't a complaint—just a description of real life. Church projects, events and meetings drop to lower priorities—inconsistencies slow us down—momentum grinds to a halt.

Effective church leadership allows for and prioritizes the human aspects. We offer understanding and compassion and learn to be patient. "It's ok if the meeting has to be rescheduled" "We can work around the fact that we are going to miss a deadline". People and their needs are utmost in our hearts.

These facts make it even more impressive that we get anything done! They make every accomplishment something to celebrate and any progress a sign of remarkable commitment. So next time you see someone doing "anything" to support the work of the church—be impressed! And let them know.

John

From Central Christian:

Last Wednesday (February 13), Dan Renneker, Daniel Sherar and Bob Smith attended Mutual Ministry training in Evansville. The day was eventful as it concluded with the receipt of a grant application—due in July of this year. Central Christian must now work together to complete this application. As long as we match the funds from Center for Congregations (funded by Eli Lilly), we can receive up to \$30,000 for a new ministry. This is an opportunity for us to find new strength to play an important role in our larger community.

As I have been learning the history of Central Christian, I see an enduring legacy. We are long known for the establishment of Feed My Sheep. We have been involved in the Crisis Pregnancy Center, the Power House, Jubilee Christmas, and numerous other ministries. We have a legacy with CWF and Backpacks for Kids. We support addiction recovery meetings, the Mental Health Board and other community efforts. Some of this discussion has been part of our Mutual Ministry Team meetings. I believe we are still discovering a unique sense of purpose as a congregation.

We have also been through very challenging and sad times together. While we may have felt set back in many ways, we can also say we have experienced continual growth and renewal. Pastor John and I have brought a few ideas together for some very productive dialogue in the last couple of years. We have no intention of leaving anyone out. As we approach the completion of our Mutual Ministry training this August, we hope everyone at Central Christian will come to feel a true sense of belonging in this ministry. We pray the new effort with Mutual Ministry will give us all the more confidence to pursue God's purpose in us.

Daniel

## Scripture Readings:

*Looking for inspiration?*

### Week of March 3

Psalm 119:65—72  
SU Obadiah 1:1—4  
M Jonah 3:1—4:11  
TU Nahum 1:1—9  
W Habakkuk 1:1—4  
TH Habakkuk 2:1—14  
F Habakkuk 2:20  
SA Habakkuk 3:17—19

### Week of March 10

Psalm 107:23—32  
SU Luke 8:4—15  
M Luke 8:16—18  
TU Luke 8:19—21  
W Luke 8:22—25  
TH Luke 8:26—39  
F Luke 8:40—56  
SA Luke 9:1—6

### Week of March 17

Psalm 127  
SU Zephaniah 1:1  
M Zephaniah 2:1—4  
TU Zephaniah 3:1—7  
W Zephaniah 3:11—20  
TH Haggai 2:1—9  
F Zechariah 7:1—10  
SA Zachariah 8:1—17

### Week of March 24

Psalm 132  
SU Luke 9:7—17  
M Luke 9:18—20  
TU Luke 9:21—27  
W Luke 9:28—36  
TH Luke 9:37—45  
F Luke 9:46—48  
SA Luke 9:49—56

### Week of March 31

Psalm 73:1—20  
SU Zachariah 9:9—12  
M Zachariah 14:20—21  
TU Malachi 3:1—7  
W Malachi 3:8—18  
TH Hebrews 1:1—14  
F Hebrews 2:1—4  
SA Hebrews 2:5—13

**Our Stewardship Answers God's Call to our Mission**

## **2018 Budget Requirement Averages \$1306 Weekly**

### Tithes & Offerings

January 6 - \$1699	February 3 - \$1592
January 13 - \$1331	February 10 - \$0
January 20 - \$0	February 17 - \$2090
January 27 - \$1496	February 24 - \$2522

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:**

**Week of Compassion, children's "Milk Bottle"**

**Permanent Memorial Fund**

### 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**

2 - Judy Brustkern  
2 - Ray Woods  
13 - Lindsey Woods  
13 - Macie Kane  
14 - Larry Mattes  
16 - Samuel A. Mattes  
18 - Norma Arvin  
18 - Kim Hickman  
22 - Misty Woods  
24 - Katie Snow  
27 - Margaret Lundy  
30 - Amanda Woods

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

15 - Jeff & Cindy McCabe

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 February**

**Elders:** Dan Sherar & Alan Christie

**Deacons:** Elaine Osha, Renee Doscher  
Sam Mattes, Lisa Bland

**Communion Prep:** Debbie & Dennis Breeden

### **Greeters:**

**March 3:** Deb Breeden & Debbie Folsom

**March 10:** Dan Sherar & Eddie Gibson

**March 17:** Ray & Lavone Woods, Janet Dunigan

**March 24:** Terry & Stella Kiefer

**March 31:** Dennis & Jackie Breeden



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