



The Call



CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)
Volume 59, Issue 30
December 21, 2020

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

December 24

6:00pm

Please contact the church office with the number of people who are planning to attend the service.

Who: You and your family bubble. Please call the office to let us know how many of you are coming, to make sure that we can gather together, safely apart, but not alone.

What (to expect): Celebrating the arrival of the coming Christ child; singing *Silent Night*, *Holy Night* (with social distancing and masks on); lighting the Christ Candle on the Advent wreath and hearing the story of Mary, Joseph, and the child Jesus as they were by themselves that night, but not alone.

When: Thursday, December 24, at 6 p.m.

Where: McGinnis Fellowship Hall, Central Christian Church

Why: To welcome the coming Christ child

Live-stream only worship in January

As the virus has gotten worse and is expected to continue in the winter months, out of concern for our members and the community of Springfield, we have decided to hold **only live-stream services for January which can be seen every Sunday at 9:30am**; the video will be available at any time after. We will hold **an in-person service on Sunday, December 27** to celebrate the birth of Christ and the anticipation of the new year.

Help transition the sanctuary

On Sunday, December 27, we will be **transitioning our sanctuary from the Advent season**. If you are able to help, we will be preparing our sanctuary for the new year after worship service and welcome any and all help in this endeavor.

Office closed

The church office will be closed the week between Christmas Day and New Year's Day. We will monitor the church email and voicemail, if you need one of the ministers.

Take poinsettias home

If you sponsored one of the **poinsettias** that beautify our worship space, you are welcome to take it with you following the Christmas Eve service. **Please plan on taking it with you** following the December 27th service.

Congregational Concerns

The family of Mac McCoy, brother of Howard McCoy and Lisa Lynch, on his passing Karen Hahn
Family and friends of Bill McGee, on his passing Family and friends of Paul Hunt, on his passing Joyce Mallard
Linda McCoy Lisa Lynch Diana Criger James Willingham Greg & Paula Walton Hattie Penland
Lorene Murray Vicky Claborn Evelyn Looney Debra Gleghorn Anna Marie Walker Mary Pering
Virginia Thomas Beth Taylor Traci Vargas & children Victoria McIlwain Jaden Willingham Ann Simon
Barbara Richardson, mother of Vicky Claborn Joyce Prince, sister of Wilma Frazier Ginger Williamson Dan Hicks
Rosa Lee Butts Karen Sunderwirth Scott Biggs, son of Marilyn (Starnes) & Rex Biggs John Thurman
Barb Rossetter Barbara Gard, daughter-in-law of Lorene Murray Isaac Ferguson, friend of Karen Sunderwirth
(Please notify the office when a concern can be removed)

**Livestream our Sunday morning service—starting
at 9:30—at www.centralchristianspringfield.org.
Connect with us on social media:**



Like us on Facebook at Central Christian Church DOC - Springfield, MO



SUBSCRIBE to our YouTube channel at Central Christian, Springfield, MO

Crosslines Needs Hygiene Items

Many thanks to all the folks who leave food and hygiene items in the Crosslines grocery cart! Items most needed are shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, and toothbrushes. Hygiene items are not available through Ozark Food Harvest, so we rely completely on private donations of these things. We always run out of hygiene items and cannot fulfill requests for them on our work day. Central volunteers work at Crosslines on the second Tuesday of every month.

Thank you!

Your Crosslines Team

Newborns in Need needs you

Can you sew? If so, Newborns in Need can use your help. The organization needs people to sew quilt pieces together for baby quilts. You can do this at home or at the Newborns in Need office, 1940 S. Glenstone, Suite S.

Attention!!!

Please turn in Best Choice labels to CWF. Thank you!

FINANCIALS

12/13/2020

General Fund

Contributions: \$3,937.46
In-person attendance: 65
Online service views: 77*

12/20/2020

General Fund

Contributions: \$4,808.75
In-person attendance: 74
Online service views: 24*

*At the time of publication

Christmas in Bethlehem



Inside the Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, Palestine, January 7, 2020; by Rev. Alyssa Spradlin

In January, I had the incredible opportunity of spending 11 days in Israel and Palestine with a couple dozen of my classmates from Phillips Theological Seminary. We visited Hebron, ancestral home and burial site of Abraham and Isaac. We visited the Galilee region, and toured Jericho and the Kidron Valley. We dipped our hands or toes in the Jordan River and the Dead Sea. We spent a lot of time in Jerusalem. For the first six days of the trip, we stayed at an inn in Bethlehem, just a block off Manger Square, where there was—thankfully—plenty of room.

While Protestant and Roman Catholic expressions of Christianity celebrate Christmas Day on December 25, our Orthodox Christian siblings observe a different liturgical calendar. Most of the Christians in Bethlehem are Orthodox Christians, and we landed in their town on Christmas Day, January 7. We visited Shepherd’s Field (Luke 2:8) and the Church of the Nativity. After dinner we were given time to walk around and explore. There’s not much to compare to Christmas night in Bethlehem, roaming around Manger Square with classmates and friends, trading pleasantries with other pilgrims and tourists, and practicing the few phrases we’d learned in Arabic— “Hello,” (*Merhaba*), “Thank you,” (*Shukran*), and “Merry Christmas” (*Eid Milad Majid*).

This **Sunday, December 27**, we’ll revisit the Gospel texts related to the birth of Jesus. I’ll share with you some of the pictures I took of the places in those texts, and how seeing them for myself affected the way I read those texts now. I’ll share with you the stories of the people who maintain those sacred spaces, what it means for them to be generational, living memory of Bethlehem—birthplace of Christ, pilgrimage destination for Christians for two millennia.



Please join us for “**Christmas in Bethlehem,**” Sunday morning at 9:30, in person or through our livestream at www.centralchristianspringfield.org.

*Merry Christmas,
Alyssa*

Left: Just hanging out in Nativity Square, Bethlehem, on Orthodox Christmas Day, as one does.

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

1475 N. Washington Ave.
Springfield, MO 65802

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI
PERMIT NO. 1332

Return Service Requested

Specially prepared for:

Sunday Mornings

9:30 am Worship

10:30 am Sunday School

Ministry Team

Bill Fischer, Board Moderator
Rev. Geoff Weinman, Senior Minister
Rev. Alyssa Spradlin, Associate Minister
Dr. Mark Bowdidge, Music Director
Vicky Claborn, Organist
Shirley Musser, Visitation Director
Joyce Thomas, Children's Director
Ken Hillen, Church Caretaker

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