



The Call

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

Volume 60, Issue 10

May 11, 2021



Thank you for the many prayers that have been sent to me during the past two weeks. I am making good progress in the knee replacement recovery but it seems slower than I wanted it to be. All the cards/notes, phone calls, text and messenger messages, delicious food, and flowers are greatly appreciated. Your showers of love and care in all these wonderful ways have encouraged me in my recovery!

LOVE,
Shirley

Youth News

Congratulations to Luc Deeds and the rest of the Fair Grove High School Scholar Bowl Team after winning State on May 7! The team finished second in the Ultra Small Schools division at Nationals and seventh in the Small Schools division; due to some scheduling peculiarities, Nationals were held at the end of April. Luc is a sophomore member of our youth group. He can often be found contributing to Sunday morning worship in the sound booth.

If you have a child or grandchild in middle school or high school who would like to contribute to worship on Sunday morning and earn a little bit of money, please contact the church office.

Now registering: Campers of all ages

NEOLAMUP Camps, Camp Jo-Ota, Clarence, MO

CYF (completed 9th-12th grade)	June 6-11
Elementary/ Junior Camp (completed 2nd-5th grade)	July 12-16
Chi Rho (completed 6th-7th grade)	August 1-6
Try-It (Pre School-1st grade, must be accompanied by an adult family member)	August 6-8

Canoe Camp at Shannondale

Grades 6th through 12th	July 11-15
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Our Bodies/Our Faith at Shannondale

Completed 8th or 9th grade	July 11-16 (ends at 2 p.m.)
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Faith Adventures Camp, Camp Galilee, El Dorado Springs, MO

One Day Camp event on **July 24** from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., for all ages

NorthWest Camps, Crowder State Park, Trenton, MO

CYF (completed 9th-12th grade)	June 29-July 4
Chi Rho 1 (completed 6th-8th grade)	July 6-10
Junior 1 (completed 3rd-5th grade)	July 12-16
123, Go! (completed K-2nd grade)	July 19-21
Combo Camp (completed grades 3rd-8th)	July 23-27

Men's Rites of Passage, Audubon Society Center of North Woods, Sandstone, NM

A life-loving, faith-fixing outdoor experience for adult men	June 23-27
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Central Christian Church will cover registration fees. Please contact the church office if you plan on attending camp and need assistance with registration.

Congregational Concerns

Hattie Penland The friends and family of Mary Pering, on her passing Shirley Musser Paul Martin
Glendon Walker Ann Simon John Thurman Greg & Paula Walton Linda McCoy Howard McCoy
Elaine Spradlin, mother of Alyssa Spradlin Dana Powell Karen Hahn Joyce Mallard James Willingham
Dan Hicks Lisa Lynch Diana Criger Lorene Murray Virginia Thomas Vicky Claborn
Debra Gleghorn Beth Taylor Barbara Gard, daughter-in-law of Lorene Murray Jaden Willingham
Rosa Lee Butts Karen Sunderwirth Barb Rossetter Victoria McIlwain Traci Vargas & children
Joyce Prince, sister of Wilma Frazier Isaac Ferguson, friend of Karen Sunderwirth
Barbara Richardson, mother of Vicky Claborn Scott Biggs, son of Marilyn (Starnes) & Rex Bigg

(Please notify the office when a concern can be removed)

FINANCIALS & ATTENDANCE

5/2/2021

General Fund
Contributions: \$5,310.88
Attendance: 99
Online service views: *33

5/9/2021

General Fund
Contributions: \$5,930
Attendance: 96
Online service views: *31

*At the time of publication

Livestream our Sunday morning

service—starting at 9:30—at

www.centralchristianspringfield.org.

Connect with us on social media:



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



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

Water bottles for Crosslines

Central Christian Church now has recycling bins for empty water bottles, to be shared with Crosslines. Those bottles will be used to distribute laundry soap and other household liquids to our neighbors in need. If you'd like to help disinfect those bottles, please contact the church office. **We will also have a collection bin water bottles from home that have already been sanitized.** This is a great opportunity for neighbors to each other while being good stewards of creation.

Collecting for our unsheltered neighbors—List for mid-May

If you are interested in helping our friends at The Connecting Grounds address the needs of our unsheltered neighbors, please consider donating items from this list, or financial support with which to purchase them:

- AAA batteries
- Rain Ponchos
- Sunglasses
- Men's pants size 28-32
- Men's tennis shoes (especially sizes 10, 10.5, 11)
- Tarps
- Sunscreen
- Bug Spray
- Belts

Thoughts from the congregation

As some of you know, I am a runner. Some would say more of a jogger; however, I compete in races throughout Springfield and at times in surrounding towns.

The apostle Paul, in his farewell to the elders of Ephesus in the book of Acts as he was departing for Jerusalem, said; ***“And now, compelled by the Spirit, I am going to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there. I only know that in every city the Holy Spirit warns me that prison and hardships are facing me. However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God’s grace.”*** (Acts, 20:22-24, NIV) As we can see from this quote, the apostle Paul was well aware of the dangers he could, and did, encounter on his journeys. Despite knowledge of those dangers, he prevailed. ***“...my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me...”***

As a runner our goal is to “complete the task” at hand. Mainly to finish the race. To that end we train for the distance we are going to compete in, whether it be a 5K (3.1 miles), 10K (6.2 miles), 15K (9.3 miles), half-marathon (13.1 miles), or marathon (26.2 miles) or longer. Often runners discover the amount of training was not sufficient to allow them to finish their goal without struggling. You can train for a marathon, but when you encounter the Boston Marathon you soon realize how inadequate your training back home was. Twenty-six point two miles is 26.2 miles, right? Not necessarily. True the distance from start to finish is the same; however, it is what you experience in between those two points that makes all the difference. Running 26.2 miles, 13.1 out and back, on the Frisco Highline Trail will not compare to running the streets of Boston nor the bridges of the New York Marathon.

Similarly we can study the Scriptures for our Sunday class and be fully prepared to participate actively in the discussion, but that same preparation will not equip you to present the message to the congregation on Sunday morning. Likewise delivering 20-minute sermons at your local church will not adequately prepare you for missionary work in an inner-city environment or in a third-world country. But in all cases the Holy Spirit will equip you to “finish the race and complete the task.”

From what we can gather the apostle Paul was approximately 33 years old when he encountered Christ Jesus on the road to Damascus. He died, probably in Rome, at the approximate age of 64. During those intervening 31 years we know Paul made at least three missionary journeys covering many miles from Jerusalem throughout the Roman Empire. One could say Paul completed several marathons, completing his task of delivering the news of salvation throughout the first-century world.

Life as a Christian, as a believer and follower of Christ Jesus, is not a sprint. It is not even a 5K. Commitment to a life with Christ, as a disciple of Christ, is a marathon of spreading the Gospel, witnessing to all we encounter with more than mere words. Our lives should be so, as we approach the “finish line,” we can say as Paul did in 2 Timothy 4:7-8, ***“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”*** (NIV)

————— Luther Young

**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, in person
and via our Livestream**

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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