



The Call

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

Special Edition

June 1, 2021

Going forward

Worship Committee making recommendations to move services toward pre-pandemic norms

The Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Executive Committee has asked the Worship Committee to consider several elements of worship that were modified or eliminated in response to Covid-19 last spring. The Worship Committee is scheduled to meet after the deadline for this newsletter to be mailed, but we wanted to let you know that those conversations are taking place—always with the best interest of our church community in mind and always asking for God to guide our hearts and our minds.

The recommendations of the Worship Committee will be forwarded to the Executive Committee for consideration and approval. We are working to communicate these changes in every manner possible so there are no misunderstandings about expectations. Please email the church office at office@centralchristianspringfield.org if you have any comments, concerns, or questions about any of the following issues:

Congregational singing: We have recently added one verse of a Hymn of Praise back to worship. We have maintained the Gloria Patri throughout the pandemic, though as our closing song—the only song we’ve been singing as a congregation. At issue are the Hymn of Prayer, the Doxology, the Communion Hymn, the Hymn of Response/Invitation, and Benediction Response, and how quickly to add those elements back to our Sunday morning worship service.

Elder/Deacon/Lay Leadership: While elders have been reading scriptures and praying during our moments of Stewardship and Communion, they have been doing so from the chancel with a minister at Table. We will discuss the timeline for returning elders to the minister’s side at Table. We will be discussing the use of deacons to pass plates and trays during those moments of Stewardship and Communion as well; for the last year, collection plates and trays of spaced out, pre-sealed packages of communion elements have been available at most entry points to the sanctuary. The minister has been delivering the Invocation and the Call to Stewardship; the Worship Committee will consider a timeline for bringing volunteer Worship Leaders back to the chancel.

Other issues: Social distancing (seating, orderly dismissal); post-worship fellowship (coffee and donuts).

The Executive Committee is following the guidance of the City of Springfield and the Springfield-Greene County Health Department in regards to masking. Masking is optional for anyone who has been fully vaccinated; individuals—of any age—who have not been fully vaccinated will still be required to wear a mask. Not everyone is able to be vaccinated; some members of our beloved community are immunocompromised or regularly interact with someone who is, so they may opt to continue wearing a mask.

We will communicate plans as they are hammered out and finalized, in this space, on the church website and Facebook page, and on Sundays. We may also utilize VoiceShots and email blasts to ensure everyone has access to expectations as we transition through the summer.

Congregational Concerns

Bev Vestal	Hattie Penland	Paul Martin	Glendon Walker	Ann Simon
John Thurman	Greg & Paula Walton	Linda McCoy	Howard McCoy	Dana Powell
Elaine Spradlin, mother of Alyssa Spradlin		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 Biggs	

(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:



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



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

Elder Serving Schedule

Offering

Communion

June 6	Mark Bowdidge	Marilyn West
June 13	Bob Thurman	Larry Graham
June 20	Jim Ferguson	Bill Fischer
June 27	Cheryl Horton	Joe Pyles
July 4	Carol Pyles	Philip Brown
July 11	Luther Young	Carolyn Deeds
July 18	Dorothy Thurman	Shirley Musser
July 25	Everett Deeds	Kay Parrish
August 1	Gwen Thomas	Michael Olmsted

FINANCIALS & ATTENDANCE

5/16/2021

General Fund
Contributions: \$1,805
Attendance: 101
Online service views: 49*

5/23/2021

General Fund
Contributions: \$4,190.76
Attendance: 92
Online service views: 30*

5/30/2021

General Fund
Contributions: \$4,931
Attendance: 98
Online service views: 13*

*At the time of publication

Sabbatical...What will it accomplish?

As a follow-up to Geoff's letter in *The Call* last week, I would like to interject my opinions on this subject. To begin, if you read Genesis 2:2-3 where God ceased His work on the seventh day, this day he called the Sabbath. Leviticus 25 teaches about the "Sabbath Year" where all work ceases and also the work animals and even the land was given a rest. A sabbatical is very commonplace in the career of a tenured minister. The one reason today's church does not see more of this is because many pastors don't stay long enough to enjoy the purpose of a sabbatical. We have been blessed to have Geoff leading our congregation for six years, and involved in the life of Central Christian Church since 2009. The events of 2020 have been enough to put an additional gray hair or two in Geoff's head, and he has been with us through this whole pandemic ordeal, offering leadership, guidance, creativity, and, most of all, a calming demeanor when the world around us was far less than calm.

Pastor Bob Thune, senior minister in Omaha, Nebraska lists 5 reasons for ministers to take sabbaticals:

TO REST – Everyone needs a rest from their work but in regards to ministers, they are on 24/7 for anything that takes place with their flock. Rest and renewal is crucial for maintaining a vital communion with the Holy Spirit.

TO RECHARGE – A pastor is on the frontlines in the battle against spiritual forces of wickedness and like any soldier, a pastor becomes weary and needs to be pulled from the frontlines to recharge the batteries so as to go back and fight the good battle.

TO REFLECT – A sabbatical provides time and space for extended reflection and internal evaluation.

TO REFOCUS – A sabbatical releases a minister from the pressures of the events of the present to focus his energy on the road ahead.

TO RENEW – The ultimate goal of a sabbatical is individual renewal in the pastor's soul which spurs broader renewal in the church as a whole. Renewed worship, Renewed joy, Renewed purpose, Renewed energy. Renewed love for God and for others. **WHOLESALE RENEWAL!**

This sabbatical should have taken place last year at this time but Pastor Geoff approached me and voluntarily said that he would feel better staying the course of the pandemic with our congregation. He went on to say if things improved in 2021 then he would look at taking the sabbatical then. Well things have improved and now we are in the midst of a plan to bring our church back to varying degrees of normalcy. It is mind boggling what has transpired in the space of 14 months. We are also blessed to have an associate minister, Reverend Alyssa, who has just completed her degree and ready to lead us through this sabbatical. What an exciting time for Central Christian Church! Let us wish Geoff well over the next three months and continue to move CCC forward with God's guidance.

Bill Fischer
Board Moderator

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

1475 N. Washington Ave.
Springfield, MO 65802

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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
Erin Frazier, Office Administrator**

Office Phone: 417-869-7241

E-mail: office@centralchristianspringfield.org

Website: www.centralchristianspringfield.org

