



# The Call

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

Volume 60, Issue 21

October 12, 2021



We embrace in Christian sympathy the family of **Phyllis Carlson**, who passed away on Sunday, October 10, 2021.

## ***Breakfast with Santa is coming***

We are starting to prepare for Breakfast with Santa, which will be held on December 11, 9-11 a.m. Due to ongoing concerns about Covid-19, we will plan on doing another drive-through event like we did last year. Please contact the church office or Patsy Tipton if you are interested in volunteering. Financial contributions can be designated "Breakfast with Santa."

## Children and youth to Sight and Sound in December



The elementary and youth kids will be going to Sight and Sound theatre on **December 18th!** This will be our first outing since COVID. We are excited to start doing things as a group again, but we still need to be careful. Usually during these outings, we would allow members and their family to join us. This year we are going to have to keep our group small so we can follow COVID guidelines.

If you would like to make a donation to help fund this trip, you can put it in the offering plate on Sunday or turn it into the office. Please put **Sight and Sound** in the memo. Thank you for your support of the children's program.

*Joyce Thomas*  
Children's Director

To our dear friends at Central—

The new pastor at University Heights has invited me to bring the 75th Anniversary sermon for my old church. In addition he has graciously invited me to return as part of the congregation. After much prayer and consultation with my children I am accepting the invitation.

You have warmly accepted Nan and I, and provided a much needed home in these painful months of dementia's cruelty. I shall always pray for God's blessings on Central and for both of your pastors. If I can be of any help in the future please do not hesitate to call.

These are challenging days for the church when our nation is suffering from both Covid and political turmoil, but God is still God and his grace can overcome all obstacles.

*Blessings!*  
*Michael K. Olmsted*  
*Isaiah 26:4*

***Volunteers needed for Fellowship prep. Please consider signing up for a Sunday or two. Responsibilities include cutting the donuts and putting them on plates, and serving coffee/tea after morning worship.***

### Congregational Concerns

The family and friends of Phyllis Carlson, on her passing

Betty Jo Gardner

Greg & Paula Walton

Shirley Musser

Lisa Lynch

Don Nix

Frank & Pat Dodd

Paul & Sharon Martin

Chris Cobb

Hattie Penland

Nan Olmsted

Gary Wright

Bev Vestal

Glendon Walker

John Thurman

Linda McCoy

Dana Powell

Karen Hahn

James Willingham

Dan Hicks

Diana Criger

Beth Taylor

Lorene Murray

Vicky Claborn

Debra Gleghorn

Jaden Willingham

Rosa Lee Butts

Victoria McIlwain

Karen Sunderwirth

Barb Rossetter

Traci Vargas & children

Joyce Prince, sister of Wilma Frazier

Isaac Ferguson, friend of Karen Sunderwirth

Elaine Spradlin, mother of Alyssa Spradlin

Barbara Gard, daughter-in-law of Lorene Murray

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](http://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

October 17

Cheryl Horton

Cal Wise

October 24

Linda Zweerink

Gwen Thomas

October 31

Gary Morris

Marilynn West

November 7

Dorothy Thurman

Wilma Frazier

November 14

Mark Bowdidge

Shirley Musser

November 21

Cheryl Horton

Larry Graham

November 28

Jim Ferguson

Phillip Brown

December 5

Luther Young

Joe Pyles

December 12

Carolyn Deeds

Bill Fischer

### FINANCIALS & ATTENDANCE

10/3/2021

General Fund

Contributions: \$6,671.25

Attendance: 67

Online service views: 89\*

10/10/2021

General Fund

Contributions: \$2,748

Attendance: 83

Online service views: 24\*

\*At the time of publication

# *Thoughts from the congregation*

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## *In Church, or Church?*

Think about the title for just a minute. What ideas come to mind? I recently saw an illustration which got me to thinking about the statement “in church.” More on that later. When asked by someone you’ve just met or someone you know only casually, “Are you Christian? Where do you go to church?” What’s your response? Think about it for a minute. I bet your response would be similar to mine. “Yes, I’m a Christian.” I go to Central Christian Church.” Am I right? So, what’s the deal? You are now probably asking. At what am I getting? What is my point?

One of the things I remember from my childhood is the expression, “Say what you mean, mean what you say.” With that in mind I have been pretty conscious of the meanings of the words I choose. Particularly when speaking publicly or when writing anything such as this article. As you are aware, many words can have more than one usage, and can be interpreted differently. That being said, what do the words “in,” “at,” “to,” or “attend.” mean? Used along with the word “church,” is there a difference in their meaning? Is there a difference between in church, at church, to church, attending church and being a church?

In his letter to the church at Colosse the Apostle Paul writes, “He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.” (Col 1:18; NASB) And further he says, “Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church, in filling up what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions.” (Col 1:24; NASB) In his letter to the Ephesians Paul states, “And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” (Eph 1:22, 23; NASB) In Ephesians chapter 5, verse 23 Paul says, “Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.” To the church of Corinth, Paul also says, “Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?” (1 Cor, 6:15a: NASB) Also to the Corinthians Paul likens Christ to a body, “For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ.” (1 Cor 12:12; NASB)

Using the above scripture references we have heard the Church referred to as the body of Christ. That while we, his followers are the eyes, ears, arms, hands, shoulders, back, legs, and feet of the body, Christ Jesus remains the head, and the Holy Spirit is the heart.

The Apostle wrote to the church in Galatia saying, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.” (Gal 2:20: NASB)

If the crucified Christ, the head of the body (the church) lives with us, His body (the church); when we figuratively say we are “in” church, we are actually saying we are in the body of Christ.

Now, that being said, let me tell you what set me off on this tirade. I recently came across a characterization of people entering a church set on a precipice and then falling through the floor into an abyss. The caption said, “Being in church will not save you from going to hell.” Well the wheels started turning and the gears started grinding. Just what does “in” church mean? I guess if it only means just physically sitting in a pew or on a chair inside a building or structure of some kind one to three hours a week, then I guess there is something to that caption. However, if being in church means living in Christ and Christ (the Savior of the body) living within us then that caption is totally wrong.

**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 Fellowship**

**10:45 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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