



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

The CONNECTOR



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Volume 20-1

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Connecting friends and family of Central Christian Church with each other, the community, and beyond.

From the Pastor

A BAD CASE OF THE “CANT’S”

There is a wonderful spiritual I have heard called “Ain’t Got Time To Die”. It was written by Hall Johnson, and it has these joyfully dramatic words:

*Been so busy praising my Jesus,
Been so busy working for the Kingdom,
Been so busy serving my Master...
Ain't got time to die.
If I don't praise Him,
If I don't serve Him,
The rocks gonna cry out
Glory and honor, glory and honor..
Ain't got time to die.*

In this inspiring and wonderful spiritual, the composer is underscoring and celebrating the joy and excitement of being a Christian, the joy and excitement of serving our Lord in gratitude for what he has done for us.

It is not a call for “more things to do” or extra busy-ness in our already “too much” addicted culture. It is a call for less - by claiming *more* from our God. It is truly about *claiming* and *living* our *spiritual priorities*. God first, then “others”.

You see, when you are a Christian, you get a strong case of the “can’t help its”. You can’t help but be *grateful*, you can’t help but be *confident*, you can’t help but be *loving*.

The point that this spiritual is trying to drive home to us with great enthusiasm is that...

when we really **claim** our Christian identity,
when we really **commit** our lives to Christ,
then, we **can't sit still...**

we become so **excited**, so **thrilled**, so **grateful** for our new life in Christ that we can’t help but **love Him, praise Him, serve Him, and share Him with others.**

As the old Sunday School or VBS song concludes, “I’ve got the joy, joy, joy... in my heart to stay”.

Blessings,
L. Brent Cantrell

...let us make a joyful noise...to the God of our salvation. Psalm 95:1

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Faith Fund Committee asks you to prayerfully consider supporting the Capital Campaign with a financial pledge. The Campaign that we are beginning is really a five-year journey of faith that we see as Building God's Kingdom.

Our church building is the place from which ministries are launched and lives are touched. Facilities and functions are intertwined, and we need a building that supports our mission to preach, teach, and demonstrate the Good News of the Gospel.

Over the next five years, we will be seeking funds to provide an elevator, improve restroom accessibility to better accommodate individuals with disabilities, and to build a new Fellowship Hall that will encourage creative ministry opportunities.

Please consider that this journey is about faith and hope, spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ, and about revitalizing our spiritual community.

Completed pledge cards are requested by February 13. Questions about the Building God's Kingdom Campaign may be directed to the members of the Steering Committee.

*Wendy Brudevold Sharon Gatewood Jane Griffith
Julianne Kahn Lisa Walker Alan Asher
MariLynn Pierce*

WANTED:

A Servant of the Lord, possessing the special God-given gift to organize **Prayer Warriors**, specifically targeted at encouraging prayerful support for the **Building God's Kingdom Campaign**.

The **benefits** are plentiful and of far greater value than silver and gold.

The **job requirements** are simple: (1) Work closely with the Master in seeking out those individuals who will commit to daily lifting up in prayer this faith journey that has begun; (2) seek God's grace, mercy and guidance as we move forward.

We're certain you are out there, and we need the leadership that only **YOU** can bring to this crucial element in our endeavor, because, "Unless the **Lord builds** the house, **they labor in vain** who build it." (Psalm 127)

Should YOU hear in your heart that *still, small voice* encouraging you to accept this assignment, please call the **Church Office, 234.6231**, and may *God bless you!*

GOD'S GREETERS

Transform ministry. This is one of the two goals of our current campaign, and hospitality is an important part of transforming people with whom we come in contact. Every event in our building should have specific people at our doors meeting and greeting those attending. God's Greeters will be a group of people who believe that this is an important part of their service to God.

This group would be a list of people that we could call on whenever the need arises. I would assume that many of our Sunday morning greeters would want to be part of this. However, I know that there are others of our members who will be willing to be "on call" to reach out to people in this way.

If you are one of those whose passion is hospitality, please let Sharon Gatewood know, either by phone 230.1763, or e-mail sbgatewood@cfu.net.

Sharon Gatewood, Chair -- *Extravagant Hospitality*

PETALS OF PRAISE /LEAVES OF THANKSGIVING

Our garden collected many Petals of Praise & Leaves of Thanksgiving for December -- no wonder, for we were very busy during Advent!

1) Praises for all those who helped put up the Christmas decorations -- and now have taken them down: Alice and Darrel Baker, directing the project; Fredins, Diane Forney, Judy McVey, Wendy Brudevold, Linda Sharp, DiAnn Zager, Steve Yates, Nan Kane, and Sharon Gatewood. Yes, lots of work, but certainly an outreach to all those who came into our building during Advent. What an addition to our own worship celebrations!

2) Nan Kane and Kim Cantrell for the beautiful Christmas Tea -- festive food, beautiful decorations/dinnerware, and entertainment by the La Porte City Union Singers. WOW!

3) Wednesday night youth program that decorated our F.R.O.G. tree and created the "what we are thankful for" display board. Sharon/Gary Longhorn continue to spearhead this, ably assisted by Bob Mayfield, MariLynn Pierce, Robin/Brent Thomas, Carrie Neesen, Joar Kennison, Kim/Brent Cantrell, Pete/Destiny Miles, Ashley for child care, and Jane Griffith who enthusiastically led our youth in song. Central Christian certainly was a place our children meaningfully experienced the Christmas Story.

4) Annual Celebration of Life -- the choir's gift to us! Supporting them were readers, decorators, PA/video system operators, Christmas refreshments, band members and greeters. Plus the people who participated in our Advent worship for Advent wreath, candlelighters, placement of Nativity figurines, special music and soloists.

5) Carol Mayfield, loving caregiver to Ann Bradfield; all who deliver Meals on Wheels -- sharing smiles with lunch, and so much more -- wonderful contributions in our ministry.

Please add your written thanks to our garden (upper hall, across from Wiggly World room).

F.R.O.G. PAD GETS HOPPIN' AGAIN IN 2011

After a great night of tubing on Jan. 12th and a return to our weekly activities on Jan. 19th, we are pleased to announce that the F.R.O.G. Pad is hoppin' again in 2011!

These weeks in the midst of the winter months will be focused on God's Word -- The Bible. Come discover how the Word of God is not just a great story -- but a story that is relevant in all of our lives. It gives us direction. It helps us make good choices. It directs us in the pursuit of happiness and contentment.

There are age-appropriate groups for all folks from birth through high school. For the adults of the Next Generation, Pastor Brent will be leading a group just for you.

F.R.O.G. stands for Fully Rely On God. That is the purpose of the F.R.O.G. Pad each Wednesday. Discovering why and how faith in Jesus can make our lives truly hoppin'!

We begin with dinner at 5:30 PM (cost \$1.00 per person). We are inished and heading home by 7:30 PM. Child care is provided. Adult care, too, as far as that goes.

Hop on in and join the fun, food, fellowship and faith formation at the F.R.O.G. Pad each Wednesday evening.

*Let everything that hath breath
praise the Lord.*
Psalm 150:6

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FROM THE DECEMBER CONNECTOR

>**Weather Cancellation:** If weather would cause Central to cancel worship on Sunday morning, we would announce it through KWWL, and through our e-mail blast. Have a question? Please call the church office, 234.6231. While it is important that we gather for worship, inclement weather necessitates individuals taking caution and making their own decision about travel based on their own comfort level and well being.

>**Medical Equipment Recycling:** If you have wheel-chairs, shower chairs, benches or other such equipment and are willing to share it, please call Larry Durchenwald, 277.4101. He will catalog, retrieve, and keep track of requests/donations for use by members of our congregation, and will assist in helping others get what they need for medical issues. If you are in need of medical equipment/accessories, contact Larry or the church office, 234.6231, church office, 234.6231, for availability.

>**Tuesday Morning Bible Study** will resume in March.

>**Church Office Hours: January and February.** While Lani is on vacation, the Church Office will officially be open 9 AM to 1 PM Mon.-Fri. Linda Slattenow will be answering phone and doing other tasks. There is frequently someone here after 1 PM, but do call ahead to make sure before you come.

>**February Connectors:** There will be only one issue this month. The deadline for articles in February's issue is Monday, February 7th.

>**Church Insurance Policy Update:** The Office needs a copy of your Drivers License and auto insurance on file to comply with our liability insurance. We can make the copies at the church office, so if you provide transportation as a ministry of the church, please bring in the documents requested. *Thank you!*

SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY: FEBRUARY 6, 2011!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: Delicious homemade soups will be prepared for your winter eating enjoyment! Keep a couple of quarts in your freezer for an easy, quick meal. Think about selling to family and friends, too. Soup(s) of your choice: **\$5.00 per quart.**

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW!

Vegetable Beef: _____ qts. Potato: _____ qts. Chicken/Noodle: _____ qts.

NAME: _____

CHECK ONE: I will pick up my soup order... ___ Saturday, February 5th ___ Sunday, February 6th

___ Please deliver to my home Sat., Feb. 5th Delivery Address: _____

Please complete form...place it in the morning offering on Jan. 30, leave it in the church office, mail it to the church, OR call the church office (234.6231)... **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4th** (or you'll be very sorry!)

Notes of Thanksaivina

Dear Friends in Christ:

The holiday season is a time when those in the community most need your support and the blessings that you share. The joy in the eyes of a child when receiving a toy, the relief on the face of a parent when there is food for the family, and shelter... these are priceless gifts that you help make possible.

The Christmas season can become a time of joy and hope to these struggling people. On behalf of all those for whom your kindness has made a difference, please accept our sincere thanks for your recent gift of \$175.

May the gifts of Peace, Joy, and Hope be yours this Christmas Season.

Best Wishes & God Bless,
Salvation Army

Captain Rob Whitney
Corps Officer

Sue Hennings
Development Director

Prayer Concerns

Please pray for...

Mary Canfield	Bev Donels
Buz Blake	Bob Donels
Elda Watson	Linda Sharp
Robin Thomas	Darrel Baker
Gary Longhorn	Dorothy Mueller
Ann Kirk	Violet Casteel
Sue Geisler	Dorothy Anderson
Jan Mathys	Donita Blood
Barb Rose	Dale Elliott
Ann Hewitt	Scott Richter
Ben Wellborn	Joleen Jungling
Rachel Kahn	Rev. Wil Dilsaver
Hunter Jungling	Ella Mae Pelton
Russ Watson	Nicholas Brudevold
Damon Baker	Matt Soriede
Jared Brody	Matthew Helmke

Ledger Dalton (*Robin Thomas' cousin's son*)
Larry Baker (*Darrel Baker's cousin*)

All Military Personnel
The Peosta Worship Center

Missionaries

Dick & Sharon Mueller, missionaries
(Sharon is the daughter of John Loeb)
e-mail - Mueller @c.net.gt

Terry & Carole Tufts & family, missionaries
(Terry is the brother of Judy Hughes)
e-mail - 103236.2645@compuserve.com

Dear Friends of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank,

On behalf of the Board, staff and volunteers of the NE IA Food Bank, I would like to thank you for your recent contribution of \$125.00 to the NE IA Food Bank. Our mission is to provide nutritious food and grocery products to nonprofit organizations and individuals in NE IA, while offering hunger education programs to the community and those in need.

Your donation helps our neighbors and friends. One in eight residents in our 16-county service area seeks assistance from a Food Bank agency each year.

Because of you, we have been able to meet a growing need throughout NE IA. Together, we are making a difference on a daily basis in people's lives.

With Sincere Appreciation,
Barbara Prather, Executive Director

Dear Central Friends,

Thank you for your continued support in the form of the "Christmas surprise" gift. Your generosity is much appreciated, and I hope you don't mind that I have directed your gift back to your Music Program to continue the good things happening there.

You are in my thoughts and prayers, and I wish you all a Happy New Year.

With appreciation,
Laurie Braaten-Reuter

Our Thanks to the faithful donors of the 33 lbs. of food that Charlie Howard transported to the NE IA Food Bank this month! *And thanks to Charlie for his cheerful service!*

Keep your eyes open to your mercies. The man who forgets to be thankful has fallen asleep in life.
-Robert Lewis Stevenson (1850-1894)

In Sympathy

On January 13, member Violet Hanna went to be with her Lord after a short stay at Hospice House. At her request, she was buried soon after with a private family burial.

On January 17, Pearl Eliason, mother of Gary Eliason and his wife Karen, passed away at Allen Hospital. Pearl's memorial service was Friday, Jan. 24, at Zion Lutheran.

On January 21, Mary Ella Shorter went to be with her Lord. Her memorial service will be Thurs., Jan. 27, at Central Christian, with burial in Elmwood Cemetery. A lunch will follow in the Fellowship Hall.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to the families and friends of these dear souls, praying that God will comfort them in this time of loss and, in time, replace their sorrow with treasured memories.

FEBRUARY 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
January <u>See below for Feb 6 announcement</u>	31 5:30 pm Faith Fund Task Group	1	2 5:45 pm F.R.O.G. Pad	3 6:00 pm Bell Rehearsal 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	4	5 NOODLE ZOO 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM--ish
6 9:30 am Worship Wiggly Worship Faith Development "SOUPER" SUNDAY FOOD BANK SUNDAY	7 5:30 pm Faith Fund Task Group Noon - Connector Articles Due	8	9 5:45 pm F.R.O.G. Pad	10 6:00 pm Bell Rehearsal 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	11	12
13 BUILDING GOD'S KINGDOM CELEBRATION 9:30 Worship Wiggly Worship Faith Development	14 Meals on Wheels Delivery	15 6:30 pm Elders Mtg.	16 5:45 pm F.R.O.G. Pad	17 Connector Mailing 6:00 pm Bell Rehearsal 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	18	19
20 9:30 am Worship Wiggly Worship Faith Development	21 6:30 pm Ministry Council Meals on Wheels Delivery	22 Small World Preschool Winter Concert 6:30 PM	23 5:45 pm F.R.O.G. Pad	24 6:00 pm Bell Rehearsal 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	25	26
27 9:30 am Worship Wiggly Worship Faith Development Family/Board Meeting	28	February 6th -- Conversation & Coffee Clache -- 8:30 a.m. (before) and 10:30 a.m. (after) to share information and recieve ideas and solutions for the Building God's Kingdom Campaign. Goal: How to get it done....and what we aim to aet done!			Sunday Faith Development Opportunities Hospitality Center Challengers Class In the News	

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
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SERVING IN FEBRUARY

COMMUNION FILL & WASH

6 Reva Fredin
13 Reva Fredin
20 Sue Geisler
27 Carrie Neessen

DOOR GREETERS

Upper Door: Brent Thomas Family
Lower Door: Roger & Donna Romine

ELDERS SERVING

6 Mike Deters
13 Peggy Moore
20 Sharon Longhorn
27 Alice Baker

FEBRUARY

1	Russell Watson	18	Keith Clark
2	Charlotte Parks	18	JoLyn Lennox
3	Christie Sapp	19	Gary Longhorn
6	Raeven Forney	20	Norma Wyatt
8	Sarah Williamson	20	Ashley Reynolds
10	Annette Ehlers	21	Ralph Hocken
11	Rosalie Tisue	22	Sheila Garwood
11	Odin Helmke	24	Rowan Miller
12	Karen Tansey	25	Adam Arnold
14	Molly Hanson	25	Rose Marie Wood
16	Victoria Kollmann	26	Clemie Marken

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARI

10	David & Nicole Derifield
11	Glen & Violet Casteel
14	Adam & Ashley Arnold
14	Kevin & Shelley Rose
16	Randy & Victoria Kollmann
25	Dr. Edwin & Jane Griffith
