

Moderators Message

Dear Disciples Family,

What a wonderful season! I know there is a lot to grumble about, and sometimes grumbling is a good thing. Grumbling can get bad feelings out of your system.

Thanksgiving is a time of gratitude. I have been thinking of all the things for which I am grateful. I am glad for my God, his faithfulness, and ever-presence with me. I am grateful for those who love God and show love to me when I need it most.

Here is a very short list of my gratefulness. I love crunching leaves in the fall. The colors take my breath away. The crisp air makes me feel clean inside and refreshed. I love the evergreen trees that relax my eyes when there is snow shining on the ground. I am grateful for all the colors in the snow that are hard to spot. I love all the different animals. (While I am grateful for the insects spiders eat, I can't say I love spiders!) The sounds in nature are often a tender symphony or a raucous overture. And I let nature ease my burdens.

I have learned so much from my own family. My kids help me understand technology and how things are built. My grandkids have introduced me to funny computer memes. My children accept their children for who they are. Easton got his Dr. Phil haircut one summer, and Landon dressed up for Halloween and had a lightsaber fight with his friend. They bring so much joy.

One thing I am most grateful for is this congregation. You show a great deal of courage as we change how we do church. You show compassion and empathy when others are hurting. I really appreciate that we can disagree in our beliefs and the way we are doing things. We can talk to each other, listening to learn from someone who has an idea different than ours. That is truly a gift, a time to learn and grow in spirit and ideology. There is a great deal of faithfulness in this congregation. We stand with each other in our worship through prayers. We all continue to support the church through our finances. We open our doors to others so they can grow in many varied ways.

That is a short list of what I am grateful for during Thanksgiving. A great God gave us each other, people who are different yet very much the same. To God, be the glory.

Blessings all around,

Margaret Houge, Moderator

THE VIEW

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**Rev. David James, Interim Minister
Ruth Lindabury, Church Administrator**

The mission of Central Christian Church is to empower people for Christ's ministries in their daily lives: home, school, workplace, church, and Community.

December 2020

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

VISION STATEMENT

To be an inclusive people living God's radical love that challenges all to grow in faith and mission.



Handicap Accessible

Christmas Special Day Offering

The Christmas Offering supports regional ministries. In 32 regions across the United States and Canada, ministers are nurtured, and congregations are provided opportunities for work and worship. Often recognized for the ministries of camps and conferences, regions also play a critical role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination. Both are key to church leadership and development. Regions partner with congregations to support the work required to call a new minister. Your Christmas Special Day Offering can be mailed to the church. Please give generously to support the Northern Lights Region.

2020 Christmas Offering
REJOICE
A special day offering of
Disciples Mission Fund



First, I hope you all had a great Thanksgiving. That being said, I have to admit I am tired. I am tired of COVID. I am tired of wearing masks. I am tired of not being able to be with family and

friends. I am tired of the continuing struggles our country endures – systemic racism, political vitriol, conspiracy theories, outright lying, violence, and all types of turmoil. My guess is most of you are tired also. Yet in our tiredness, I want to remind you of the words of Jesus found in the Gospel of Matthew:

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Occasionally, we forget to rely upon God in those moments when we are most struggling. We find ourselves amid life's whirlwinds and have difficulty focusing on what is in front of us, let alone the profound presence of God. Another passage I've been thinking about recently is also from Matthew. The disciples are in a boat on the sea of Galilee in the midst of a storm. Peter sees Jesus walking toward them on the water.

Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

It was when Peter took his eyes *off* Jesus that he began to sink.


OUR WORSHIP SERVICES


Sunday, November 29
10:00 Worship
First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 6
10:00am Worship

Sunday, December 13
10:00am Worship

Sunday, December 20
10:00am Worship

Thursday, December 24
7:00pm Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 27
10:00am Worship

We are in a similar situation. Our boat is being beaten by the wind and the rain. Yet, if we look toward the horizon, we too may see Jesus through the storm. Let us strive to keep our eyes focused on Christ. He will journey with us through whatever comes our way. And eventually, the storm will cease, the water shall become calm, and we shall find the peace that only comes through Christ.

Pastor David

PASTOR'S SCHEDULE
Pastor David will be working Sunday to Thursday each week. Saturday is his study/retreat day, and Friday will be his day off. Pastor David is available at all time for emergencies. For urgent matters please call or text him at 510-461-0791. You may also contact him by email at pastor@gfccc.net.

Community Joys and Concerns

We all have to be **extra thankful** for the answered prayers these last few weeks. Joyce Wennerberg has had a stroke and yet she is now in physical therapy fighting hard to get back home. We have had many members recovered from the Covid 19 Virus, Sheena and Yessie Jarvey, Lynn, Keith & Chad Yahraus. Many others have stayed home to quarantine after being exposed to the virus. Barbara Gray is still fighting hard. She is currently in the ICU and is on a ventilator. Please continue you prayers for her. Lynn Compton and Kerri Hiatt are at home recuperating. If others are out there in need of prayers please contact an elder, the minister or the church office so we can put them on our prayer chain and have the elders pray for them.

Splinters from the Board



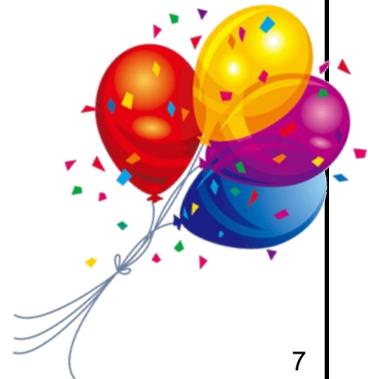
The Board held a meeting on November 12 to approve the 2021 budget and advance it to the Annual Congregational Meeting. They also approved some minor changes to the proposed Constitution and Bylaws. This will also be voted on at the Congregational meeting. A copy of the proposed Constitution and Bylaws is available on the church website.

The Board also held an emergency meeting on November 16 to hear a recommendation from the church's COVID-19 response taskforce. The recommendation was to cease in-person worship beginning November 22 until further notice. The recommendation was approved. The Board also approved increasing Ruth Lindabury's hours by two hours per week to allow her to assist with Sunday morning Zoom worship when needed. Finally, the Board adopted a safety procedure for recording offerings that are mailed to the church while we are not meeting in person.

December Birthdays

Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 8 Chad Yahraus | 18 Alex Louw |
| 8 Brandon McCafferty | 18 Bella Ann Carroll |
| 9 George LaVallie | 23 Liz Magee |
| 10 Craig Hunter | 25 Gary Hill |
| 13 Eloise Chord | 28 James Nieman |
| 16 Connie McDonald | 28 Yessie Jarvey |
| 16 Antonio Jarvey | |
| 17 Margaret Houge | |





Please mark your calendars! The Annual Meeting of Central Christian Church will be held on Sunday, December 13 following worship. We will be voting on a number of items including the election of officers, a new Constitution and Bylaws proposal, and (of course) the church budget for 2021.

Helping Out One Another During the Pandemic

As you are all aware, the COVID-19 pandemic is still raging strong throughout the country and around the world. Cases continue to rise, and with the mingling of flu season, it seems overwhelming. Here at Central Christian Church, we have had a number of members, friends, and family who have either been infected or have needed to quarantine for a period of time. As a community of faith, one who has, time and time again, demonstrated love and concern for one another, let's remember we are here for one another. If you, or someone you know, is sick, in isolation, or quarantine, please reach out for help. There are many in the church who are willing to assist, particularly with grocery shopping, picking up medication and more. This can all be done safely as long as we continue to follow safe practices. We will get through this uncertain time together.



Pastoral Search Committee Report

The search for a new full-time pastor has begun!

The search committee - Ken Palisin (chairman), Sheryl Knowles (secretary), Kevin McCafferty, Yessie Jarvey, Viv Hunter, Elaine Higgins, and Jeremy Comstock - has met three times so far as we begin the process of our pastoral search. Pastor David is currently meeting with us (and will continue to do so until we begin reviewing candidates. We also have met with Sandy Messick, our regional minister, to receive her wisdom and guidance on the process. We are currently in the "Information Gathering and Discernment" phase. This is roughly the second of three search phases (the first calling an Interim Pastor (which is already done) and the third evaluating pastoral candidates).



During this phase, we are tasked with putting together a church profile that will be seen by interested pastoral candidates. This profile contains both demographic and descriptive sections where we describe our church and community to prospective pastors. To help us out, a brief questionnaire that will give us much of the individual demographic information we need for our report is included in this newsletter. Please complete this and return it to the church office at your earliest convenience.

We will also have several essay-type questions to answer who we are as a church and what we are looking for in a pastor. Please watch for this soon. We will be using the information collected through our surveys and small group meetings to aid us in answering these questions. We may offer additional opportunities for input and feedback along the way. Finally, we have also been tasked with developing a "snapshot" of our church that will show our personality and help distinguish us from other congregations who are also in the search process. If you have any ideas, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us to share your thoughts.

Your Pastoral Search Committee

DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10:00am Rock Bottom 6:30pm ACA 	2 10:00am Rock Bottom	3 10:00am Rock Bottom	4 10:00am Rock Bottom	5
6 9:00am Elders Zoom 10:00am Worship 6:00pm ACA	7 10:00am Rock Bottom 1:00pm Alanon	8 10:00am Rock Bottom 6:30pm ACA	9 10:00am Rock Bottom 10:00am Executive and Transitional Joint Meeting	10 10:00am Rock Bottom	11 10:00am Rock Bottom	12 3:00pm MT Blind & Low Vision
13 9:00am Elders Zoom 10:00am Worship 11:30 Annual Meeting 6:00pm ACA	14 10:00am Rock Bottom 1:00pm Alanon	15 10:00am Rock Bottom 6:30pm ACA	16 10:00am Rock Bottom	17 10:00am Rock Bottom 7:00pm Lydia Group	18 10:00am Rock Bottom	19
20 9:00am Elders Zoom 10:00am Worship 6:00pm ACA	21 10:00am Rock Bottom 1:00pm Alanon	22 10:00am Rock Bottom 6:30pm ACA	23 10:00am Rock Bottom	24 10:00am Rock Bottom 7:00 Christmas Eve Service 	25 10:00am Rock Bottom Office Closed Christmas Day 	26
27 9:00am Elders Zoom 10:00am Worship 6:00pm ACA	28 10:00am Rock Bottom 1:00pm Alanon	29 10:00am Rock Bottom 6:30pm ACA	30 10:00am Rock Bottom	31 10:00am Rock Bottom 		