

The Torch

Central Church of Christ

January 18, 2016

2001 E. MAIN
STREET
STREATOR, IL
61364

(815) 673-1581

EMERGENCY
PHONE

(815) 257-1582

STAFF

Dr. Rory Christensen,
Lead Minister

Tony Ross,
Creative Arts Minister

Trenton Klebba,
Student Minister

Evelyn Taylor,
Director of Children's
Ministries

Jessica Pastirik,
Director of Involvement
Ministries

SUNDAY WORSHIP

1st Worship:
8:15 a.m.

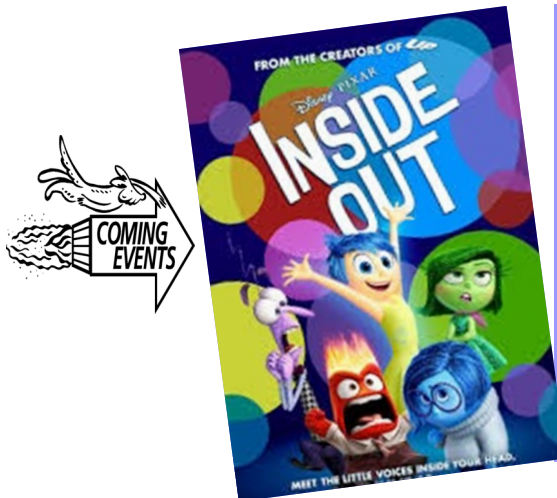
2nd Worship
& Bible classes:
9:30 a.m.

3rd Worship
& Bible classes:
11:00 a.m.

Financial Peace University offered

We all need a plan for our money. *Financial Peace University* (FPU) is that plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more!

FPU classes meet for around an hour and a half each week for nine weeks. Starting Monday, February 8, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. Kyle Decker is the Coordinator and \$93 covers cost of materials. You can register on Sundays between services or contact: Jessica Pastirik, Involvement Director at (815) 673-1581.



Family Movie Event

Friday, February 19,
at 6:00 p.m.

&

Saturday, February 20,
at 1:30 p.m.

There will be fun games to play and neat snacks 15 to 20 minutes before the movie starts.

Come join the fun and learn about your feelings.

Valentine's Day Dinner

Central Youth & Missions are teaming up to present to you a very special **Valentine's Day Dinner** on Friday, February 12, 2016.

Donations will help defray the cost of upcoming trips for Central Youth such as CIY Move, or CIY Believe (both are life-changing events for our youth) and future Mission Trips. The youth work very hard setting up, decorating, serving, providing childcare, and clean-up. This is a great way for them to work alongside one another and provide you with an amazing and tasty evening. We have been told year after year that this is on-par or above restaurant experiences for this special day.

It's a celebration of all the different kinds of love that we experience. Whether it is romantic love or friendship love, come out and celebrate. It's a fun night to dress up with your spouse, bff's, or small group members.

Reservations will start Sunday, January 24 in the foyer for either the 5:45 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. time slots. Please be sure to leave your phone number as well when you sign-up so we can call you for your menu selection.

Fellow Co-workers,

Dr. Rory Christensen

This month's article is an homage to the Gospel of Mark. There's a reason for it. Read through the Gospels, and you'll notice that Mark is distinct. Sift through an old capsule/summary sentence and you get a feel for it: "Mark is an action-packed Gospel for Roman readers, about the serving Son of God bearing Peter's stamp." As the story goes, Mark was a disciple who worked closely with Peter during his ministry. And, as Peter spoke and preached about Jesus, Mark wrote down what he said about Jesus. When he wrote, he kept a particular audience in mind. He wrote for the Roman mind. Ask any biblical scholar and they'll tell you that there are a number of distinctives that bring this out: Mark is fast-paced (comically enough, he pulls this off in part by using what we call the contagious conjunction [over 400 times]; like a four-year-old telling a story, he begins sentence after sentence with the word "and," to keep you hooked and to keep you with him while he's telling his story); Mark is engrossing (he uses the historical present tense 150 times [contra Luke's single use], to create an "on-the-spot," lifelike effect); and, Mark is action oriented (45% of his Gospel deals with the works of Jesus; more proportionately than the other Gospels).

But the thing that gets me the most about the Gospel of Mark, what drives my mention this month, is the reason behind writing in this manner. Mark is written not just so that you will hang tight for the whole ride (and want to take it again!), but so that you feel like you have "seen" and can relate to Jesus. To this end, Mark takes great pains to show you the emotion of Jesus. Go to Mark and you will see Jesus get angry (3:5), exasperated (8:12), annoyed/frustrated (10:14). You will also see him expressing love (10:21) and dealing with pain (14:33-34). Go to Mark and you'll see the one who came, "taking the nature of a servant" (Philippians 2:7), and you'll know what the servant went through. You will witness the one who was "tempted in every way, just as we are" (Hebrews 4:15), and you will see him struggle. Mark gives an account from a perspective that is close enough to Jesus to see into his eyes . . . because we need to.

This month, we're going to lean into this aspect of the story of Jesus. We're kicking off a new sermon series that tracks with a movie that recently hit stores everywhere. It's Pixar's latest animated hit, *Inside Out*. If you've seen the movie, you know it's an intelligent take on the manner in which change, circumstance and situation impacts our emotions. For our purpose, it will provide talking points we'll let Jesus take us through, as we interact with this all important area called "emotions." As we do, I'm thankful that God motivated and superintended the work of a man named Mark, so we have a relatable and reliable guide for the conversation.

Until then. Be bold. Stay faithful.

Rory

Life Recovery Program

If you are or have struggled with: Alcoholism, Divorce, Codependency, Drug Addiction, Food Addiction, or Gambling Addiction, please join us from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. starting Thursday, February 4, at Central Church of Christ in the lower level of the Ministry Center Room #4. The Life Recovery Program is 13 weeks. This is a 12-step program about transformation: from death to life, from addiction to recovery. Although the path of recovery involves hard and sometimes painful work, it will be worth the effort. God will meet us on this path as we become willing to take each step toward new life. We pray this program will help your process and you will find healing, serenity and peace of mind. This group is facilitated by Ronna McAllister, B.A.,D.A.D.C. For more information call Jessica Pastirik at (815) 673-1581.

Thank You

The Family of Mary Cheatham would like to thank Rory for giving the sermon at the funeral. Also we would like to thank the women of the church for the wonderful funeral dinner. Thank you very much for all the sympathy expressed to us, it was greatly appreciated.

Pat and Ken Melrose and family

Children's Worship Update



For the month of February our Children's Worship children will be learning about what happened to the Israelites after they left Egypt. About the 10 Commandments, the Old Testament Tabernacle, sacrifices, and worshipping God only.

All of this, as we finish up the book of Exodus, Leviticus, and start in Deuteronomy. Children's Worship is offered for children Kindergarten – 2nd graders at the 9:30 hour in the fellowship hall (green line). Junior Worship is offered for children 3rd – 6th grades at the 11:00 hour in the fellowship hall (green line).



Awana Clubs are running full steam ahead as we have entered 2016! If you are not familiar with Awana Clubs it is our midweek Bible club for children 3 years old (2 years from Kindergarten and potty trained) through 6th grade. At club we have a fun time learning about God's Word (the Bible) through large group (lesson time) and small group (handbook time) and an active game time.

If you would like more information you can contact (815-673-1581) or email (etaylor@christiscentral.com) Evelyn. If you have never given Awana a try, come out and join us any Wednesday, at 6:15 p.m.

KROGER REWARDS CARDS CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST

Central has always offered the Kroger Fundraiser program to benefit and support Central Youth Ministries. This program allows our students to receive scholarships for events that help them into a growing relationship with Jesus. Thank you for being a part of that. The New Year has come which means it is time to renew your program with Central Youth Ministries if you are already signed up. The Kroger Company should have sent an email to you. If not please log into your account at <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards#/>! and renew your rewards with Central's Youth Ministries. If you have any questions please see the Central Youth table in the foyer or contact the Church office.

Transitions is designed for young adults

Life is full of transitions especially after you graduate high school and college. We are starting our young adult ministry called "TRANSITIONS" for people who have graduated high school and are into their twenties. This group will not only engage Scripture and learn how we can apply it to culturally relevant topics, but we will also worship our God as we do life together and serve the world around us through mission trips, special events, and our small group times together. Sunday school is at 9:30 downstairs in the Ministry wing, Room #3 and the Small Group will meet on Thursday nights, every other week from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the "Klebba's" house just behind the Church building. Our next Thursday night meeting is February 4. Even if you can't come every week you are still welcome!

High School Encampment
February 19th-20th
7PM- 1PM
\$40

Come join us here at Rock River Christian Camp for a winter experience you will not want to miss! There will be food, games, lessons, worship, and if weather permits lots and lots of fun in the snow!

16486 W. IL. Route 64, Polo, IL. 61064
815.493.6622
815.493.2374 (fax)
www.rockrivercc.net
rrccoffice@gmail.com

THE TORCH

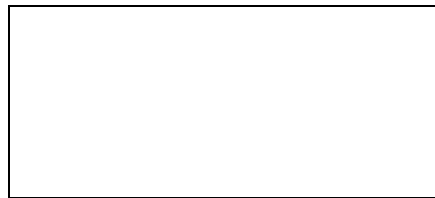
CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
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In Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers go out to: **Henry Hart** and family at the loss of his wife Beverly Hart who passed away December 20, 2015.

Jeff (Staci) Horner and family at the loss of his mother, Marcia Horner, as she died on December 20, 2015.

Tiffany Missel's family and friends as she died on December 22, 2015.

Megan (Kyle) Decker and family at the loss of her stepfather, Michael Palko who passed away December 26, 2015.

Patricia (Kenneth) Melrose and family at the loss of her mother, Mary Cheatham, who died December 28, 2015.

Chris (Debra) Clayton and family at the loss of his brother, Daniel Clayton, who died January 2, 2016.

Don (Cheryl) Cinnamon and Nancy Cinnamon and families at the loss of his mother and her mother-in-law, Opal Cinnamon, who passed away January 4, 2016.

Statistics for Dec. 20, 2015

1st Worship	91	
2nd Worship	280	
3rd Worship	132	Total 503
Bible Classes	181	

Statistics for Dec. 27, 2015

1st Worship	93	
2nd Worship	244	
3rd Worship	100	Total 437
Bible Classes	164	

Baptized

Rebecca Minick

Lyta Carter



Statistics for Jan. 3, 2016

1st Worship	86	
2nd Worship	310	
3rd Worship	276	Total 572
Bible Classes	188	

Statistics for Jan. 10, 2016

1st Worship	65	
2nd Worship	233	
3rd Worship	109	Total 407
Bible Classes	157	

Offerings



Offerings needed to meet Budget-Y-T-D for 2016:

\$38,109

Offerings given to-date:

\$37,967

Financial Statement available at the Welcome Center or the Church Office.

Statistics for Jan. 17, 2016

1st Worship	77	
2nd Worship	253	
3rd Worship	123	Total 453
Bible Classes	159	