

The Torch

Central Church of Christ

August 23, 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

Jessica Pastirik,
Director of Involvement
Ministries

Chelsea Davis
Interim Director of
Children's Ministries

Abby Carrow,
Christian Education Intern

SUNDAY WORSHIP

1st Worship:
8:15 a.m.

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

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



Looking for a Small Group to join?

Our small groups will be starting up again in Mid-September. A small group is a group of six to 12 people who typically gather each week in homes or at the church. We encourage you to get connected into a small group, experience life with others and dive into God's Word together. We have a variety of groups in all shapes and sizes – men, women, and married couples. No matter where you are in life, there's a group for you. If you would like help finding the right group for you, please check out the small group table in the church foyer. If you have questions, please give Jessica Pastirik a call at 815-673-1581.

GriefShare Support Group

GriefShare is support group that meets weekly for 13 weeks starting **Tuesday, September 13**. This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD video seminar segment features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. A workbook is given to each participant for journaling and personal study exercises that reinforce the weekly session topics.

Many grieving people find they are only beginning the work of healing when friends or family have returned to their daily life routines. Don't allow fear of what others may think to keep you from what could help you. Confidentiality is very much a part of this program.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. You will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member or friend. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling.

You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future.

GriefShare will be held on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Upper Room of the Ministry Center. Childcare is available with advanced notice. It is facilitated by Jessica Pastirik. **You can register** at the Welcome Center any Sunday prior to September 13 or by calling the church office and asking for Jessica at 815-673-1581.

BETHLEHEM WALK ANNOUNCEMENT

This year the Bethlehem Walk will be December 1-4. Central Church of Christ's Bethlehem Walk is intended to be an outreach event. We want to reach out to the lost and those who are seeking a church home.

The Bethlehem Walk is a dramatic production that takes our guests on a journey back in time to the village of Bethlehem to see, acted out before them, various events that preceded the birth of Christ.

If you would like to participate in this event, but aren't sure where or how you can, there will be a bulletin board in the foyer for sign up and more information.

Fellow Co-workers,

Dr. Rory Christensen

A couple weeks ago, I had an experience that will live on in my memory banks. Every year my dad and I take a week during the summer and go to a Christian convention. But this year, the logistics surrounding getting to the convention were such that we had to give the idea a thumbs down. And that was a problem. Not going on a trip with my dad was an unacceptable scenario. Fortunately, the problem was easily solved. I found out around the same time that one of my mom's lifelong dreams was going to Niagara Falls. A quick planning session later, we set the date for a road trip in the direction of Niagara Falls, New York. Fast-forward to two weeks ago and you find, then, this memory I won't soon forget: the look on my mom's face in front of the Niagara Falls spray (I won't tell you which I enjoyed more).

In the middle of that experience, though, I noticed something that I wanted to share with you. It was this consistent phrase that kept coming to my mind. My wife and I used to live close enough to Niagara Falls to go on day trips. Because that's the case, I know (and knew) this to be true: everything about Niagara Falls is bigger and more impressive than any other waterfall or waterfall system you've seen . . . to a jaw-dropping extreme (and I've seen a few). And, if you start on the American side and keep looking as you walk over to the Canadian side, what I just said is an unfolding reality: it starts bigger and more impressive than anything you've experienced, and then, as you keep walking and looking, what hits your view builds to absolute ridiculousness (can somebody say "Horseshoe Falls!"). And, because I knew what was awaiting us at the end of our journey, and because I knew what we would progressively see as our journey unfolded, I found this phrase driving me: "The best is yet to come."

That phrase and feeling shaped my entire experience. Because I knew the end from the beginning, I didn't want to stay put; I wanted to keep moving to the next stop; I realized that each stopping location was just preparation; I could see whether or not what we were doing would lead us toward that end location. When you know the end from the beginning it changes so much. You can say with authority, "The best is yet to come," and you can guide people confidently in that direction.

Here's my point: every now and then I'm reminded that the God who walks with us is a God who knew the end from the beginning (Alpha and the Omega, anybody?!?). And because of that, when he steps into the Niagara Falls journey that is my life and your life, he's able to see how the pause points of our lives (the moments we feel stuck) combine to move us toward the good he has in store for us (Rom 8:28). Because that's the case, he's able to help us appreciate even the mundane moments, to find the wonder in the routine. Because that's the case, he's able to guide us reliably, and won't let us stay put. And, because that's the case, he reminds us continually that, when we walk with him, it really is true that "the best is yet to come."

Be bold. Stay faithful. Keep following.

Rory

In Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers go out to:
Joyce Missel's family and friends as she died on June 29, 2016.

Sharon (Rod) Garrett, Melanie (Jim) Hersheway, and Lori (Todd) Pedelty and families at the loss of their brother, **James Elias**, who passed away August 1, 2016.

Dale (Jody) Ruff and family at the loss of his mother **Rosalyn Wilking** who passed away on August 2, 2016.

In Sympathy

Betty Mills and family at the loss of her husband, John Mills, who died on August. 12, 2016.

Baptized

Danielle Goodrich

Adrianna Ashlock



Thank You

Words cannot express the blessing I received from all of the fervent prayers sent my way during my recovery. I know, for certain that they were answered in so many ways. Thanks, too for the many cards and lovely sentiments written in each one. A special thank you for the visits while at St. James and to Troy and Larry for bringing communion to me. Vince and Kathy's generosity is so appreciated as well. I love you all so much.

Tom Hallam

Central to get an AED unit

A generous member of Central Church of Christ has donated an AED (automatic external defibrillator) to the church.

The purpose of this machine is to administer a shock to a heart that has stopped beating and establish a stable heart rhythm until the person can receive medical attention.

Any person who comes upon an individual in full cardiac arrest can use the machine. It is self-explanatory. However the staff in the building at all times will be trained in the use of the AED by Troy Dimmig in the near future.

The AED is a piece of life-saving equipment we are thankful to have at our disposal.



Looking for Ministry Partners

As part of our desire to grow and provide a safe and fun environment, we are looking for people who are interested in joining us in Kid Central, the Children's ministry here at Central Church of Christ. Opportunities are available and we would love to talk with you more about them. If you are interested in learning more about them. If you are interested in learning more about some of the positions in Kid Central, please call/text Chelsea Davis at (815) 822-1266 or email her at children@centrallive.net.

Free tutoring begins Sept. 22

All students from 1st grade to 12th grade are welcome for a free one hour tutoring session. Bring any and all homework with which you need assistance. We will provide a free meal at 5:30 p.m. and begin tutoring at 6:00 p.m. Tutoring takes place every Thursday evening starting on September 22. If you are interested in serving in this ministry talk to Jessica Pastirik or Abby Carrow.

Do you have a child who is interested in creative arts?

Sonshine Singers will be starting up soon! This ministry is for all children in Kindergarten through 5th grade. They meet together to practice singing and acting for skits and shows to be performed at church events. This year they will be performing at Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 29. If interested please contact Marlee Reel, Spring Lefler, or Emma Reel. If you have any additional questions, please call the church at (815) 673-1581.



Bethel Class begins

Starting in October, a new class will be offered on Sunday morning at the 11:00 a.m. hour.

Bethel is a study of the concepts (ideas) of the key chapters of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

Jane Cavanaugh and Jim Allen have just completed an intensive two-year training course. They are equipped and excited to reveal God's Word to all those who seek to know God's will and way more deeply.

The class is for new Christians and experienced Christians. If you have never been involved in studying or reading the whole Bible, this is the class to attend.

A sign up sheet will be in the foyer where you can also get more information about the class.

Please join us for the most rewarding informative study of the Bible you will experience.

Check out the women's retreat coming

Girlfriends at Central is hosting a women's retreat this fall. All adult women are invited as we take a journey to the seven continents of the world--all without leaving the church property! We will be exploring some of the "I wonders..." that women have, such as "I wonder if anyone cares about me?" or "I wonder where God is when life gets hard?" You will have the opportunity to join in worship, a service project, impactful discussion, and of course delicious food, fun activities, and laughter. So mark your calendars for November 5 and prepare to experience God's Wonder Full World in a new and exciting way.



THE TORCH

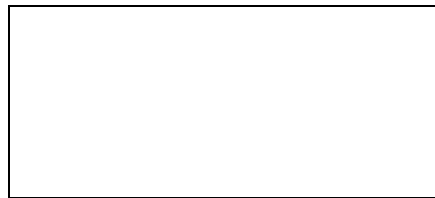
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**Funeral Ministry needs
willing volunteers**

The Funeral Ministry at Central offers comfort to grieving families by providing a welcome place to gather after the funeral services to enjoy a good meal and reminisce with family and friends about their loved one. The meal is prepared by volunteers. Some volunteers furnish prepared dishes for the meal. Others work in the kitchen to serve the meal and help with the cleanup. This wonderful ministry has a long history with our church. It is a way for us to give comfort to those in need. We are in real need of more volunteers. If you are willing to make a dish or if you are able to help in the kitchen when there is a dinner, please call or text Jennifer Taylor (815) 674-8411 or email Jennifer_t.1946@yahoo.com. Your name will be added to a list and you would be called on a rotation basis.

Exercise Class for women

Exercise Class for women happens here in September on Mon. and Thurs. at 6:15 p.m., and Tues. at 6:30 p.m. and Sat. at 8:00 a.m. Class is continuing the 21-day challenge of 21 Day FIX . . Beach body workout at the times listed above. If you have any questions please contact Dee Allen or the Church Office (815) 673-1581.

Offerings

E Giving

Since April 2016

17 Givers

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

\$419,199

Offerings given to-date:

\$438,660

Financial Statement available at the Welcome Center or the Church Office



Statistics for July 31, 2016

1st Worship	91	
2nd Worship	219	
3rd Worship	107	Total 417
Bible Classes	156	

Statistics for Aug. 7, 2016

1st Worship	90	
2nd Worship	231	
3rd Worship	117	Total 438
Bible Classes	178	

Statistics for Aug. 14, 2016

1st Worship	82	
2nd Worship	262	
3rd Worship	109	Total 453
Bible Classes	161	

Statistics for Aug. 21, 2016

1st Worship	77	
2nd Worship	247	
3rd Worship	118	Total 445
Bible Classes	172	