

The Torch

Central Church of Christ

Oct. 20, 2015

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.

Surviving the Holidays- Nov. 12

Help and hope as you navigate the Christmas season

Wondering how you will survive the weeks surrounding Thanksgiving and Christmas? Are you dreading these holidays, knowing that everything has changed and that happy memories from past years can't be recreated?

Our Surviving the Holidays seminar is especially for people who are grieving a loved one's death. You'll learn:

- How to deal with the many emotions you'll face during the holidays
- What to do about traditions and other coming changes
- Helpful tips for surviving social events
- How to discover hope for your future

November 12, 2015 in the Upper Room of the Ministry Center from 6 – 8 p.m. No sign up is necessary. Child-

care will be *provided with advance notice by calling the Church Office at (815) 673-1581.*



The 'Not-So-Newlywed' Game will entertain us

The Women's Ministry Team would like to offer a date night event for couples. We invite you out for an evening of fun Saturday November 14, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

Remember the Newlywed Game and the crazy questions contestants answered? This game is a twist on that once popular show. Come join us as well known and loved couples within our church try to match their spouses answers to questions about their marriage. You'll be impressed by the answers that match and share many laughs over those that may not.

We would like to celebrate and honor marriage and the evening wouldn't be complete without the wedding reception! We'll serve finger foods and YES, even WEDDING CAKE!

Babysitting will be available, please call the church if you will be needing services. Visit the foyer to sign up and for more information.



Fellow Co-workers,

Dr. Rory Christensen

Ask my family and they'd tell you that somewhere near the top of our "favorite things" list has to be that word "travel." I think it's always been that way. We enjoy the anticipation of it and the memories from it. We relish the sight of familiar faces and the vision of new spaces in God's creation. Even long distances don't detract from the way we enjoy striking out for new (or infrequent) territory. We like to travel.

But as much as we (and I!) enjoy traveling, there is this one part of it that doesn't sit well with me personally. Before the *bon voyage* and the rush from "conquering the highway" comes that other piece of it, the infamous packing-the-luggage piece. You know how it goes. First you gather what you will need given the amount of time you will be gone. Then you add or subtract based on the time of year and any destination plans you have. After that, you take measures to cover for any emergencies, incidentals, and *in transit* "essentials" (I use this word loosely). And then you step back and assess the damage. And . . . that's when it hits. Because, if you're like me, you had every intention of packing light, but that isn't what happened. And now you're staring at a pile of luggage that includes plenty that you could do without, baggage you'll be lugging around for the foreseeable future.

As irritating as that scenario is, the real issue with the whole "lugging-extra-baggage" bit is that it doesn't stop with travel. No, the Bible tells us that we have a sin problem that creates a whole manner of problems for us. And many of those problems show up as dead weight that we lug around: the briefcase of guilt, the parcel of doubt and the overnight bag of discontent that you grab before leaving in the morning; the backpack of regret, the duffel bag of weariness, and the trunk of loneliness you shoulder throughout the day. With this unwelcome baggage comes that familiar feeling: the deep desire to live free of the excess baggage that you've accumulated.

Look in the Bible and you find that in the face of that deep desire, good news abounds. Unlike my travel scenario (where you're stuck with what you brought for the remainder of the trip), the Bible tells us that in Christ God has provided and now invites us into a life that's baggage free. "Come to me," he says, "all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest" (Matt 11:28, NLT). He doesn't stop there. Keep reading, and you find that he shows us how to live beyond our baggage; he "guides us in paths of righteousness" (Ps 23:3).

This November, we're going to keep pace with God as he does that. We're kicking off a sermon series we've entitled "No Regrets." It's a study on the book of Philippians, and the way God teaches us to travel light, to live beyond baggage. As we do, it's my prayer that you'll hear and respond to Jesus' invitation, and let him guide you into his rest, a life free from unwelcome baggage. Because, after all, that's the life we were created for.

Be bold. Stay faithful. Travel light.

Rory

Transferred Membership



Sarah Fulkerson

Thank You

I would like to thank all the wonderful people who came to my 90th Birthday Party. It was a complete surprise!

God Bless you all,

--Virginia Missel

Ring the Bells for the Salvation Army

Central Church of Christ has committed to Ring the Bells for a full day for the Salvation Army at Walgreens, Kroger, and Walmart on Saturday, December 19 from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Central has done this for a number of years and wants to carry on our commitment to help the needy in the Streator area. Many people ring the bells with a smile, but some have even chosen to do so with a flair. No matter how you do it, it's all to help the Salvation Army care for the needy. You can choose to give a special gift this year by calling the Office (815) 673-1581, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or sign up at the Welcome Center on Sundays starting in November.





Ladies Crafting Retreat at Rock River Christian Camp Friday, November 6 through Sunday, November 8

Ladies! Would you like time to craft, read, laugh, play games, relax, worship and fellowship? Along with all of that there will be a Massage Therapist, Mary Kay consultant, and Creative Memories Consultant there to help you relax, pamper you, or supply you with things you may need. (Additional costs)

The cost is \$79, which includes lodging at Earth Lodge or White Oaks Lodge (up to 4 per room), all meals, and table space for your craft

Bring your favorite craft to work on. Be sure to indicate on your registration form how much table space you will need. Also bring your own bedding, toiletries and towel.



Operation Christmas Child

Central Church of Christ is a Relay Center for Operation Christmas Child (OCC). So in addition to filling boxes, we will be the drop-off site for Streator and the surrounding areas. Please visit the OCC table in the foyer. We will be happy to answer any questions you might have. The goal for our location has been set for 1,496 shoe boxes. We look forward to you as you fill and pray over your shoeboxes! If you would like to help during National Collection Week, please see Jessica to sign up for training and get scheduled to help.



Does your child like to sing?

Do they love drama?

SonShine Singers is the place to do both! This is a children's singing and drama group that meets on Sunday Evenings from 6 p.m.- 7 p.m. Kids Kindergarten through 5th grade are welcome to come and check it out.



**In the Parking Lot
@ Central
from 6-8 p.m.
Kids go car to car
to get candy!**



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

MOTHER/SON GAME NIGHT

6:30 P.M.

DINNER AND GAMES!



Don't forget about Awana!

Awana Club is a mid-week Bible Club where children have fun learning about God's Word! It is for children 3 years old (2 years till Kindergarten and potty trained) through 6th grade. Awana meets every Wednesday evening from 6:15 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Come and check out how to learn about God's Word and have a blast doing it!

THE TORCH

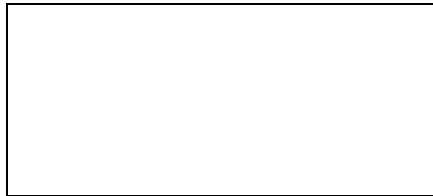
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2001 E MAIN ST
STREATOR IL 61364
PHONE: (815) 673-1581

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Community Thanksgiving Dinner offered to all

The Streator-wide Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be held Thursday, November 26 at noon at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 509 E Broadway, Streator.

This meal is provided for those who would otherwise be alone on Thanksgiving. Reservations are required for the sit-down meal, carryouts and delivered meals. Information about how to place a reservation or to volunteer will be available in the worship guide on Sundays or call the Church Office (815) 673-1581.



In Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers go out to:

Chuck Cusac and family at the loss of his wife, MariLou, who passed away Sept. 27, 2015. Our sympathy includes her siblings, Sharon (Rod) Garrett, Jim Elias, Melanie (Jim) Hershey and Lori (Todd) Pedelty.

Offerings



Offerings needed to meet Budget-Y-T-D for 2015:

\$414,810

Offerings given to-date:

\$434,791

Financial Statement available at the Welcome Center or the Church Office

Statistics for Sept. 27, 2015

1st Worship	84	
2nd Worship	278	
3rd Worship	144	Total 506
Bible Classes	189	

Statistics for Oct. 4, 2015

1st Worship	91	
2nd Worship	270	
3rd Worship	96	Total 457
Bible Classes	204	

Statistics for Oct. 11, 2015

1st Worship	87	
2nd Worship	242	
3rd Worship	148	Total 477
Bible Classes	276	

Statistics for Oct. 18, 2015

1st Worship	78	
2nd Worship	284	
3rd Worship	139	Total 501
Bible Classes	179	