

The Torch

Central Church of Christ

May 17, 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.

FAMILY FUN WALK TO BENEFIT LOCAL CHILDREN

The Central Women's Ministry Team is excited to announce their next event! Saturday, June 25, 2016 is the date set for the Family Fun Children's Outreach Walk to be held at Streator City Park from 9:00-11:00 a.m. This walk is planned with families in mind and all proceeds will benefit Guardian Angel Outreach, a local ministry.

A \$25 donation will register your family and one t-shirt is included. Additional t-shirts for your walking group may be purchased for an additional \$7 each.

If you cannot attend the walk, we are accepting donations of baby supplies to bless local mothers and families. Donations will be accepted at the Children's Outreach Walk table in the foyer beginning May 8 and continuing each Sunday until the Walk. Babies need many things that we will collect: diapers, wipes, lotion, bottles, teething rings, onesies, blankets, spoons, bowls, new or gently used clothing, et cetera. A complete list will be available at the Registration Table.



Guardian Angel Outreach is a local faith-based ministry assisting at-risk mothers and their infants from conception through the first two years of baby's life. Guardian Angel has an open-door policy to assist all women facing new-life issues in the City of Streator and surrounding communities. Individuals needing their assistance will find a safe and caring environment for education and support from volunteers and a Registered Nurse. Services offered include pre- and postnatal education, parenting classes, and ongoing assistance and guidance.

Come join us for a fun family morning of walking laps around the City Park! There will be prizes awarded for most laps walked by a child, most laps walked by an adult, creative outfits, family spirit, and more! You and your families can play games like ring toss, duck pond, marshmallow toss, bags, washers, and more! Snacks will be available.

The Women's Ministry Team is excited to plan this event for all to participate and we look forward to seeing you there!



Check out what's going on for kids this summer at Central. These are activities for children going into kindergarten through 7th grade. Parents are welcome to come along. Sign up in the foyer. There is more information in the flyers sent home with parents in May and available in the kiosk.

June 1 - Wild Wednesday Trip to Miller Park Zoo. We leave church at 12:30 p.m. Eat lunch before you com. Cost is \$6 per person.

June 5 - Summer Kids Kick-Off, 12:30 p.m. This is a family event, we will serve lunch, have games, activities, and a kick ball tournament! Families with children can find out about all the things being offered this summer!

June 8 - Wild Wednesday Mini Golf at Hungry Boys. Meet there at 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person. Pickup is at 2:30 p.m.

June 15 - Wild Wednesday Painting Projects. We will be making painting projects at the church 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Things

Happening in



Fellow Co-workers,

Dr. Rory Christensen

There was this quote I was toying with as I thought about the path we're going to chart during the summer. It's one of those Ralph Waldo Emerson gems: "To be great is to be misunderstood" (in "Self Reliance"). It came to mind, because, if being misunderstood is the test of greatness, then we've perhaps known a few great people, and we follow the greatest of them all: Jesus. Twenty years ago *Time*, *Newsweek*, and *US News and World Report* gave us a feel for that application. In 1996, they all featured the same cover story: Jesus Christ. But, the problem is, if you turn past the front cover of these magazines, you're treated to confusion rather than clarity, articles that move more toward personal reflection than historical evidence. If these articles are the test, 2000+ years have passed since Jesus walked the dusty roads of Palestine, and yet misconceptions abound concerning his person and his mission. The past 20 years haven't changed things either. If the test of greatness is being misunderstood, then Jesus is great indeed!

So, who is Jesus, *really*? I like how Mark Moore gets us started:

"You know he's no politician, but he still transforms nations. He's no social activist, but he is the genesis of who knows how many hospitals, orphanages, and innumerable acts of kindness. He's certainly not a pop-celebrity, but whose calendar is more crowded? A psychotherapist? Hardly. But how many of us 'Humpty Dumpties' has he put back together again?! This peasant carpenter has built himself a kingdom immeasurably greater than his earthly enemies could have imagined" (Life of Christ).

In a word, Jesus was "remarkable," he was "unparalleled." But, who is he? "He's the Lord of my life, the Savior of my soul," we say, and that certainly gets us started. "He is the Messiah of Israel and Lord of the Church," we read. "He's the one who died for our sins and rose for our justification," we hear, and it moves us closer still. But who was he, *really*, and why does it matter?

This summer, we're going to take that question to town just a bit. And we're going to let John, a man who had a ringside seat to Jesus' life, help us find the right picture that leads to the right conclusion in the matter. The stated goal of John's Gospel is to guide us to belief in Jesus (a response to who he truly is), a belief that leads us to "life in His name" (John 20:31). To that end, John records acts accomplished, miracles done and claims made by Jesus, things that help us in the search for clarity about him. It's helpful insight. And, this summer, we're going to find it to be useful insight too. This summer we're kicking off a journey to the picture John gives in a series that were calling "Instagramming the Impossible." And, we're together going to find a picture of Jesus . . . beyond misconception.

So, who was Jesus, *really*? You tell me.

Be bold. Stay faithful.

Rory

In Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers go out to:
Kelly Peacher and family at the loss of her husband, David, who died Saturday, April 23, 2016.

Dale (Jody) Ruff and family at the loss of his father, Dean Ruff, who passed away Sunday, May 1, 2016.

Scott (Lisa) Palm and family at the death of his mother, Marjorie Palm who passed away, Monday, May 2, 2016.

Nicole (Ryan) Irving and family and Dusti (Rance) Vaughan at the loss of their grandmother, Edna "Billie" Sullivan who died on Wednesday, May 4, 2016.

Renee Mahan and family, Amanda Irving, Melissa Irving and family, and Ryan (Nicole) Irving and family at the loss of their mother and grandmother, Verla Jesiolowski, who died on Thursday, May 12, 2016.

Funeral Ministry needs 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.



Maddux Scott Johnson

Shaun and Darcy Johnson welcomed a son, Maddux Scott Johnson, born on April 22, 2016. He weighed eight pounds, 11 ounces and was 21 inches long. His grandparents are Art and Sandy Johnson.

Exercise Class for women

Exercise Class for women happens here on Mon, Tues. and Thurs. at 5:15 p.m. and Sat. at 8:30 a.m. If you have any questions please contact Dee Allen or the Church Office (815) 673-1581.

Thank You

Thank you to all the ladies serving and everyone who brought food to our mother's, Verla Jesiolowski's funeral dinner. Thank you Rory for a beautiful service.

-- Renee Mahan

--Brian and Robert Jesiolowski



We are seeking names of our 2016 graduates

If you are graduating from college, high school or promoting from the eighth grade "Class of 2016". We will be publishing a list in the "Torch". Write your name, school and degree on the back of the Connection Card on Sunday, or email the information to Debby Evans at devans@christiscentral.com.

Mark Your Calendars VBS 2016 July 18-22

For children 4 years through those going into 8th grade

9:00 a.m. till Noon

Join us as we dive in to find God's truth below the surface!



Looking for a place to serve?

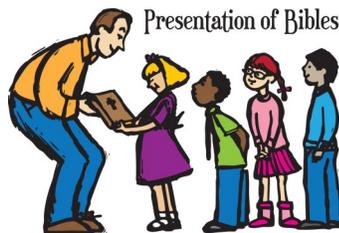
Sign-up sheets are in the South

Hallway on the Bulletin Board for VBS Crew Leaders and Helpers.



Collecting spare change helps our youth

Your spare change will be going towards our summer youth events, specifically CIY Move for our High School students. We will be collecting your change jars we recently distributed on Sunday June 19 and June 26 at the Central Youth table in the foyer. You can also bring them by the office from 9-4:30 Monday through Friday after June 19.



Presentation of Bibles

First Bible Milestone

Kid Central is offering a First Bible Milestone for preschoolers ready to enter elementary classes. A class for parents will be Sunday, June 19, at 9:30 a.m. in West 1, or Monday, June 20, at 6:30 p.m. in room West 1.

At least one parent needs to attend one of these classes with your child to participate in the First Bible Family Faith Celebration Dinner on June 26.

This is a celebration of your preschooler promoting August 14 to Elementary Department and receiving a big kid Bible from the church.

On August 14 your child may attend Primary Worship in the Fellowship Hall (follow the green line) at the 9:30 hour. The teacher is Meghan Ross and for Sunday School at the 11:00 hour in West 4, the teacher is Paula Skaff.

JUNE

High School (WDT) "The Rock" – 14, 28
Jr. High (TDT) "The Sponge" – 8, 22

EVENTS:

Graduation Celebration – 5
Jr. High Chiefs Baseball Game – 11
Children's Walk needs High School Help – 25
Youth Leader/Volunteer Training - 26

THE TORCH

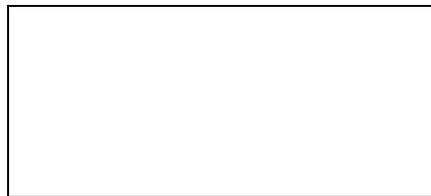
CENTRAL CHURCH OF CHRIST
2001 E MAIN ST
STREATOR IL 61364
PHONE: (815) 673-1581

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

**US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 296
STREATOR IL
61364**

Dated Material

Return Service Requested



Baptized

Austin Graham

Madison Osborn

Jeffrey Henson

Ruth Lechner

Nathan Guest

Melinda Guest

Dan Blanchette

Jennifer Blanchette

Kristina Cunningham



Statistics for April 24, 2016

1st Worship	88	
2nd Worship	265	
3rd Worship	131	Total 484
Bible Classes	187	

Statistics for May 1, 2016

1st Worship	105	
2nd Worship	302	
3rd Worship	163	Total 570
Bible Classes	212	

Offerings

E Giving

Since April 2016
11 givers
\$2825 included in Offerings-to-date



Statistics for May 8, 2016

1st Worship	88	
2nd Worship	276	
3rd Worship	124	Total 488
Bible Classes	159	

June Summer Activities

Cont. from Pg. 1

June 22 - Wild Wednesday Bowling at Bowl Mor Lanes. Meet there at 2:00 p.m. Cost is \$4. Pickup children at 3:00 p.m.

June 30 - Family service project for kids 2nd - 7th grade. "Feed My Starving Children" packing trip to Aurora. There is no cost and lunch will be provided. We leave church at 7:30 a.m., home around 1:00 p.m.

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

\$254,060

Offerings given to-date:

\$279,247

Financial Statement available at the Kiosk in the foyer or the Church Office

Statistics for May 15, 2016

1st Worship	100	
2nd Worship	252	
3rd Worship	110	Total 462
Bible Classes	170	