

The Torch

Central Church of Christ

Nov. 17, 2015

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STREATOR, IL
61364

(815) 673-1581

EMERGENCY
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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.

Annual Congregational Meeting is Sunday, December 6

Following all morning services on Sunday, December 6 the congregation will vote on two items. The first item to be voted on (by members over the age of 16) concerns those who will be selected to serve in leadership for 2016. The ballot will include the names of the men who were nominated by the congregation, approved by the elders and who have accepted to serve as Elders or Deacons.

The second item to be voted on is the 2016 budget. The 2016 budget is also available at the kiosk in the foyer. If you have any questions, they can be addressed at the meeting.

Members have received information by mail about the Elders and Deacons who are on the ballot as well as a copy of the 2016 Budget as approved by our Elders.



You will have two opportunities to join us in viewing Frank Capra's 1946 Classic "*It's a Wonderful Life*" starring James Stewart and Donna Reed on Saturday, December 5th.

We will have a matinee in the worship center at 1:30 p.m. and an evening show at 6:30 p.m. This is a free event. A sign-up sheet is located at the welcome center.



Everyone is invited to:

Kid Central Childrens' Christmas Program and
Sonshine Singers Musical

Sunday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m.

Come and here about Jesus' birth in a way that only children share!

The program will include:

Jumpin' Jungle and Beginner Classes,
Kindergarten – 6th Grade Classes,
Children's Worship Kids, and Awana Kids.

Sonshine Singers Musical

Christmas time is here and all the toys are so excited! They all want to know what is the Best Christmas Gift. Join the Sonshine Singers as they sing and tell you the story as only they can. What is The Best Christmas Gift?



Fellow Co-workers,

Dr. Rory Christensen

A couple weeks back, I walked into a conversation that was impactful, to say the least. I had just enjoyed Central's version of a good old fashioned Hee Haw (it was excellent . . . and fun!), and sat down with my daughter, Miya, to enjoy a meal, courtesy of Young at Heart. We were seated at a table with some members of the group, to enjoy quality conversation before and during our lunch (We even got to choose the topic of discussion). So, I asked the ladies at the table to sound off on one of my daughters' favorite topics: stories of "when you were younger." In this case, because Miya is 10-years-old, I asked the ladies if they wouldn't mind sharing a story or two from when they were around the same age. I won't soon forget the opening lines: *"When I was 10 there was a Depression on. We didn't have a radio or a T.V. For Christmas, we didn't get more than a pencil . . . or a candy bar, if we were lucky."* I knew from that moment that Miya was in for an educational experience. An hour came and went and . . . I wasn't disappointed. What followed was a lively discussion of experiences well lived, years well filled, and of memories close at hand. We hit topics ranging from the Great Depression to American development to being a part of the WWII war effort.

It was that last topic that came and that comes to mind as I anticipate where we are heading this Christmas season. We're planning our Christmas sermon series around themes we lifted from the movie "It's a Wonderful Life." We're borrowing them for a reason. If you look at the movie itself, you notice it's one of those that is tied so tightly to Christmas that it's become a tradition in its own right. It ranks in the top ten of any list of the greatest movies of all time. Yet, at the time of its release, in the shadow of WWII (1946), it garnered very little initial fanfare. The passing years have, however, seen its popularity grow. I personally believe that it has risen to its present heights due to its insight into the human condition. It speaks quite eloquently to the dreams and struggles, the aspirations and difficulties, the joys and losses of those found living on both sides of "the war."

This Christmas season, we're going to zoom in on those insights. And as we do, I think you'll find that your eyes lift quite easily from that screen to another story, a story lived out because of the human condition "It's a Wonderful Life" illuminates so well. You know the one. It's the story of a manger and a Messiah, of God-with-us, Emmanuel, the Son of God, come to guide us to the wonderful life God has for us. I hope you're ready for it. I can't wait.

Be bold. Stay faithful. Get stoked.

Rory



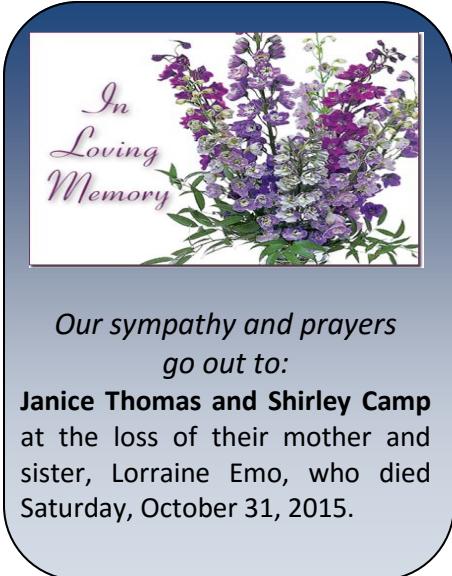
Program starting January 7

This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. Past participants have related how helpful the information and follow-up discussions were to them.

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 starts Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Central Church of Christ, 2001 E. Main Street, Streator. This program features biblical, Christ-centered teaching that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. Whether your loss is recent or not so recent, you are welcome to come. You will find encouragement, comfort and help in grieving the death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, other family member or friend. Any questions, contact Central Church of Christ at 815-673-1581.



4/19 Sessions: Move-Magnify-Multiply

All interested are invited to participate in the sixth of Central Church of Christ's leadership training initiative, "The 4/19 Sessions." These sessions will be held once a month on Tuesday evenings. The 4/19 Sessions are Central's catalyst for living out and leading others to follow Jesus' Matthew 4:19 command. Through them we are challenging each other to learn and live as leaders: those who know the way and show the way. "Everything rises and falls on leadership." This statement is true in marriage, in the home, in the workplace. Raise the level of leadership and you elevate the situation. Therefore, this 4/19 Session will focus on how to develop in this direction, as a humble leader. Join Dr. Christensen and other ministry leaders as we think strategically in this direction. Class is at 6:15-8:15 p.m. on Tuesday, December 1. Child-care is provided if you would please call the Church Office (815) 673-1581.



Children's Worship Children don't forget your **November** Challenge. Do your daily Bible study at home every day for the month of November, have a parent or other adult you are working with sign their name on page 39 (the last blank page in the book) and bring it back to Children's Worship on **December 6**, for your Challenge Award!

In **January** we will be starting a unit on the life of Moses in the book of Exodus. Children bring home weekly take home pages that you can work with your child on to help continue the Bible learning that was started with your child on Sunday.

Don't Forget Awana Clubs

Awana is a mid-week Bible Club

For children 3 years through 6th grade
We meet every Wednesday evening from
6:15 till 8:00 p.m.

If you have never tried club come and check it out. We learn about God's Word and have a blast doing it!

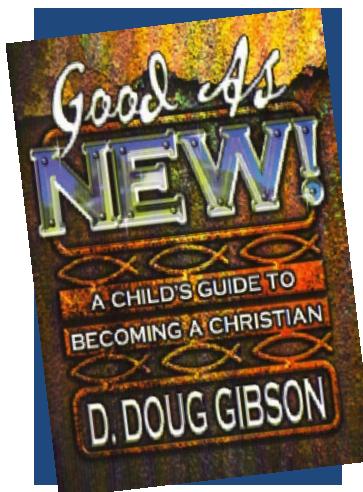
GOOD AS NEW

Is your child asking questions about becoming a Christian or being baptized?

We will be offering the Good As New Class on Saturday, January 16, here at the church in West 7 for children 2nd-6th grades from 9:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m.

This class will answer questions for your child so that you and your child can decide if the time is right for them to make their decision to make Jesus the Lord of their life.

There is a sign-up sheet on the South Children's Bulletin Board. We will serve lunch.

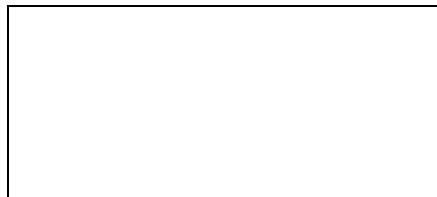


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Thank You

Central Church of Christ,

It is with a heavy heart that we send our deepest thanks to all of you who were so gracious in sending Mom cards, delivering food, and praying fervently for her healing. We know that she walks the streets of gold now with our Savior who she was so ready to meet face to face. We were all so touched by the out-pouring of support at her service by those of you from Central and know that she will be missed greatly there as she served so faithfully in your funeral ministry and elsewhere.

With loving appreciation to all,

--Tammy Sanders, daughter of MariLou Cusac on behalf of Chuck Cusac, Tonya Krone, Chad Cusac, Cari Schultz and Casi McKay

Transferred Membership

Paula Evans



Baptized

Logan Robinson



Offerings

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

\$565,650

Offerings given to-date:

\$584,456

Financial Statement available at the Welcome Center or the Church Office

Statistics for Oct. 25, 2015

1st Worship	85
2nd Worship	255
3rd Worship	143
Bible Classes	182

Total 483

Statistics for Nov. 1, 2015

1st Worship	111
2nd Worship	303
3rd Worship	165
Bible Classes	224

Total 579

Statistics for Nov. 8, 2015

1st Worship	86
2nd Worship	287
3rd Worship	150
Bible Classes	193

Total 523

Statistics for Nov. 15, 2015

1st Worship	101
2nd Worship	285
3rd Worship	98
Bible Classes	188

Total 485