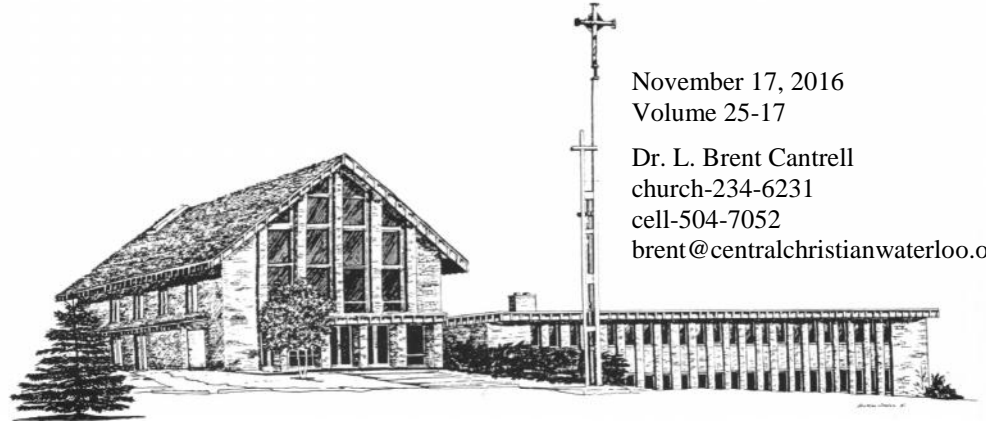




# The CONNECTOR

November 17, 2016  
Volume 25-17

Dr. L. Brent Cantrell  
church-234-6231  
cell-504-7052  
brent@centralchristianwaterloo.org



Email: [central@centralchristianwaterloo.org](mailto:central@centralchristianwaterloo.org)  
Website: [centralchristianwaterloo.org](http://centralchristianwaterloo.org)

Connecting friends and family of Central Christian Church with each other, the community, and beyond.

## From the Pastor

A common phrase I hear around Central Christian Church is "Many hands make for light work." This is about to be a lived reality in the life of Central Christian Church.

It begins Saturday when folks come together to cook the food and decorate the Fellowship Hall for our All Church Thanksgiving Dinner following worship on Sunday. In fact it will be true on Sunday as well as we come together to enjoy the bountiful feast being put on for us by members of the Building God's Kingdom Committee.

Sunday will also be Youth Sunday. Many hands will come together then too

as the children and youth lead us in worship. It will be a service you won't want to miss. Music, song and skits done by the youth will all lead us in worship.

Another big day when the saying, "Many hands make for light work" is on Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 a.m. We will need many, many volunteers to show up to help decorate the church for this upcoming Christmas Season. Come one, come all and answer this plea for volunteers to get the church all fixed up for the season.

The Music Ministries will also be a day of "Many hands make for light work."

They will be presenting their Christmas Cantata on Sunday afternoon December 18<sup>th</sup>. Watch for the announcement of the time on that afternoon. Help in the work by being in attendance and inviting friends and neighbors to be your guest for this annual Christmas musical presentation. It is going to be extra special this year.

These are just a few examples of how we live out the mantra, "Many hands make for light work." Be part of the activity as often as you can. This is another sign of how vital and exciting community of faith we are at Central Christian Church.

Peace and Grace,  
Pastor Brent

### Thanksgiving Dinner Sunday, November 20

Following worship  
Free will offering for  
Building God's Kingdom

### Youth Sunday

November 20th Worship  
Dance, Skits, and More  
From our Children and Youth

### Thanksgiving Community Service, November 22

7:00 pm  
Westminster Presbyterian Church,  
1301 Kimball Ave., Waterloo

### Christmas Choir Presentation

Sunday, December 18—4:00 pm

### Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

Please have your shoeboxes  
back to the church by Monday,  
November 21st.

### F.R.O.G. Pad Caroling and Birthday Party for Jesus

Wednesday, December 7th -5:00 pm

### Advent/Christmas Decorating

Saturday, November 26th—9:00 am

### Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24th—6:00 pm

## Thanksgiving Offering

You will have the opportunity to contribute to the Thanksgiving Special Offering on Sunday, November 20th. The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These learning communities are an extension of the church, challenging students to understand and respond to God's call to serve.

For generations thousands of students have attended the colleges and universities of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), receiving both a quality education and the opportunity to explore our Disciple's heritage. Your financial gift provides scholarships and support for spiritual life offices. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering you are investing in our students and helping keep education costs down.

The Thanksgiving Offering provides direct support to our Disciples related schools to develop leaders for our communities and the church. This offering helps underwrite the education of students attending our 14 member undergraduate institutions and our seven seminaries or divinity houses. It helps ensure that when students from our congregation go away to study they will "come home" to a Disciples institution.

Attending a Disciples College or Theological School is possible through the scholarships and grants that are made available by generous individuals, the Disciples Mission Fund and your gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering.

Please give generously to this Special Offering to support those attending Disciples related colleges and universities.



Higher Education &  
Leadership Ministries  
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



**Operation  
Christmas Child**

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

## Operation Christmas Child—Collection Week November 14-21, for Children 2-14

What to include:

WOW item—something the child will immediately see and grab: stuffed animal, doll, football or soccer ball  
With pump, harmonica, recorder.

Personal Care—comb, brush, washcloth, soap, toothbrush, bandaides, stick deodorant, nail clippers,  
Plastic water bottle, plastic for/spoon/knife

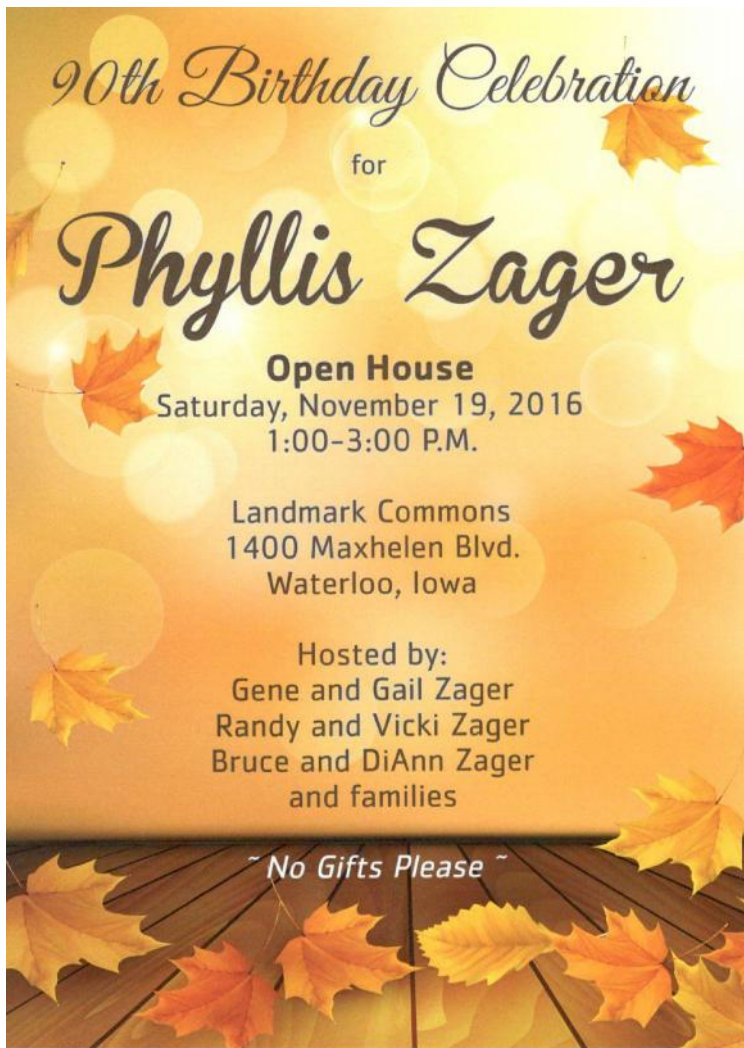
Accessories—sunglasses, hats, scarves, flipflops

School/Crafting Items—pencils and sharpener, crayons, color pads and books, playdough, stickers, markers

Toys—jump rope, foam balls, slinky, yo-yo, deck of cards, hacky sack, fishing kit, garden gloves and trowel, kite,  
Hot wheels, plastic animals.

Do NOT include liquids or war related items





## Thanksgiving Dinner— Sunday, November 20th— And Building God’s Kingdom Update

Come One, Come All to our Thanksgiving Dinner after worship on Sunday, November 20. It will be a fundraiser for our remodeling project; so bring your appetites and a healthy donation to our Building Fund. The BGK Task Force is providing the food. Please join us in fellowship.

Representatives from the task force met with TurnKey people last week as we are seeing a further increase in the costs of this project. Besides the rise in the prices of materials that we were made aware of in June, as the work is being done, we are experiencing the kinds of unforeseen challenges that would be expected in remodeling a 50-year-old building: increased excavation for the elevator, needing to re-design the Gathering Space restrooms because of existing electrical and plumbing lines, revised costs for the elevator, sub contractors not having honored their bids.

We appreciate TurnKey’s efforts in working with us, their sub-contractors, their suppliers to keep the costs low, but the reality of the building world keeps intruding.

We are so thankful for our members who continue to pay their pledges so that the loan we need will be as low as possible. At the end of October TurnKey’s bills totaled \$396,696. Our Building Fund balance is around \$30,000. We also note that we are over the halfway mark in payments. We are drawing on our line of credit at Farmers State Bank to pay the next few months’ bills until the end of construction.

It is encouraging to see in the Treasurer’s report each month that the total does increase; now if we just didn’t have to write checks from it.

We praise God that He has provided the guidance and resources to allow us to find new ways to spread his Word.

Wendy Brudevold and Sharon Gatewood  
Co-Chairs

## Youth Sunday

Be sure to be present in worship on Sunday, November 20th for a special service with our children and youth. We will see plays and hear songs they have been working on. Please join us!

## Community Thanksgiving Service

The Annual Community Thanksgiving Service will be Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1301 Kimball Ave.

Mark your calendars and plan to join with others in the community for this service of thanksgiving.

If you can provide a couple dozen cookies for the reception after the service, that would be greatly appreciated. Bring them to Central on Sunday or Monday. Thanks!!





## Thank You

We thank Judy and Dave McVey for taking care of our recyclables! They are very much appreciated! No one usually sees them come in to pick up and take to recycle but they are very faithful in doing so!

Remember to recycle paper, plastics, cans, glass, and cardboard that is used here at the church by putting them in the containers in the "storage" room next to the custodian's office.

Thank you to Barb Moeller for coordinating the Sunday Snacks/Hospitality Hour. Barb reminds those who sign up and when no one is signed up, provides the snacks herself. She also makes sure there is juice. It has been a challenge this summer and fall with our construction but we still have had refreshments every Sunday!

Thanks also to all who sign up and provide snacks! You are all very much appreciated!

## Tabbers Alert!!

With the recent delivery of 7 gallons of pop tabs to Orange School, Central's contribution for the project is now past 135 gallons. Thanks to all that save and contribute—especially to Rhonda and team for their city-wide pickup!! Keep them coming!

Thanks,  
Linda Sharp, Head Tabber

PS: In Sunday's Des Moines Register the front page featured a man from Altoona that has collected over 5 MILLION tables. Read the article on the church office window.

We are at 675,000 so please keep collecting!

## New Address

A long time member of Central Christian who moved to Waverly several years ago has moved to Cedar Falls. Jeanne Yeager has moved to Bickford Cottage and her new address is 5101 University Ave. Apt. 118, Cedar Falls 50613.

## An Opportunity

A pair of Central's very loyal "Meals on Wheels" workers are becoming Snow Birds in January through April. This gives YOU the opportunity to deliver on one or all of those Mondays. Call me with your choice.

Elda Watson, 235-0939

And here's another available date for you—December 12—2 workers needed.

Another note..... If the Waterloo Schools close because of weather, Meals on Wheels is also closed and no delivery takes place on those days.

## Pastoral Relations Committee Update

The Pastoral Relations Committee has been meeting with Pastor Brent regularly. The members of the committee are Chair Robin Thomas, Bev Olds, Larry Durchenwald and Gary Eliason.

## \$Dollars & Sense\$

October was a good month regarding income and expenses. General Fund income was \$16,976. Total income was \$19,506.10. That does not include the Bazaar. That is shown totally separate. Expenses were \$14,960.43. That's a great difference to be banked for future use. \$4,545.67 to be exact. We have used 30% of the Budget so far. But remember, we did not get pledges and projected income to cover the entire Budget should we spend it, so we do not want to celebrate too ardily, should things go south. If we keep doing what we're doing, we should be okay.

More good news is, starting this month our MidAmerican bill went down \$139 a month. We are on the Budget plan so it will remain at \$875 for at least three months. We will have the new addition added on after the first of the year. \$875 is as low as its been in a long time. With the new LED lights in the sanctuary and soon to be new ones around the outside of the building, hopefully more savings are in the future.

So far this year, total income is \$72,116.70. Total expenses have been \$60,543.11. This does not include income and expenses in our Special Funds and Investment Funds.

As always, we are thankful for that which we receive and pray we use it to the good of God's Kingdom.

Toots Weston, Treasurer

## Prayer Concerns Please pray for.....

Joe Brody	Mike Deters
Linda Sharp	Alice Baker
Chet Fredin	Jeanne Yeager
L. Brent Cantrell	Buzz Blake
Gary Longhorn	Ann Hewitt
Corrinne Brody	Jim Brody
Ron Ewoldsen	Norma Brody
Darrel Baker	Maxine Weichers
Mary Canfield	Tammy Newcomb
Reva Fredin	Sue Geisler
Helen Miller	Bev Donels
Ledger Dalton	Glen Casteel
Ann Kirk	Brad Neessen
Rachel Kahn	Mark Sawyer
Douglas Casteel	Jan Sawyer
Gloria Kammeyer	Benjamin Wellborn
Zeke Bessire	Ramona Adolfs
Jaxton Engstrom	Becky
Shannon	Jan Peetrie
Dale & Bobbie Buhl	
All military personnel	

## Christmas Eve Service

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for the Christmas Eve Service on December 24th at 6:00 pm. This will be a candlelight service filled with carols to celebrate our Savior's birth.



## Tree Trimming and Decorating

The Worship Ministry Team invites you to come and help decorate the church for the Advent Season and Christmas! The decorating will take place on Saturday, November 26th beginning at 9:00 am. Please join us!



## Risk Taking Outreach

We have two projects to offer for the Advent season. We will set up a Mitten Tree in the Foyer to which we can add hats, gloves, scarves, socks. We will then take the items to our Partner in Education, Lou Henry Elementary School.

The "Taking It to the Streets" as part of our Christmas Eve Service has been a popular idea; so we would like to facilitate that again this year. Those attending the Christmas Eve service would take plates of cookies to people who have to work on Christmas Eve.

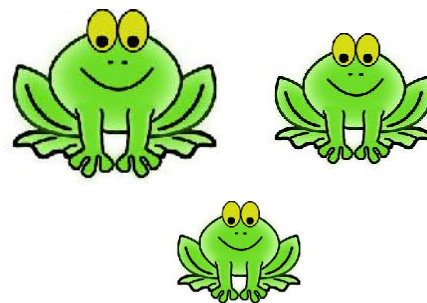
Looking into the new year Kristi Butikofer is going to spearhead a once-a-month collection of items for the Operation Christmas Child boxes and maybe a once-a-month loose change collection for the NE Iowa Food Bank.

We continue to search for opportunities to serve the least, last and lost.

Sharon Gatewood  
Risk Taking Outreach  
Ministry Chair



The FROG PAD Caroling Party/ Birthday Party for Jesus is on December 7th. Leave for caroling at 5 pm; return and then enjoy the Birthday Party for Jesus with dinner, games, cake and more.



## Come on this Silent, Wondrous Night—December 18, 4:00 pm

This time of year has always been a favorite of mine. Between the various holidays exists many traditions that all encompass similar themes: a sense of giving thanks, coming together for fellowship, bountiful harvests, joy, warmth, quiet serenity and endings turning into new beginnings. We snuggle together close to the warm embers of a charcoal fire, banishing the cold and hearing stories of holidays gone past. It is one of those few times of the year where the dark isn't as scary or as bad.

For us, we also recognize this time as the time when God made the decision to send his beloved son to us to show what true love and compassion was. Jesus was sent in a time when the world needed God's love the most; he was sent when the world needed that warmth, joy, love and fellowship. He provided a feast for our hearts and for our souls, and even after he gave his life on the cross, he continued to provide for us from beyond our world. It is due to this that we strive to honor his name and memory by delivering his message and practicing his love every day of our lives.

Unfortunately, many in today's world don't see that kind of love and compassion anymore. On the surface we're more interested in the material gains that we can make rather than enriching our hearts, and even though we secretly want to have that kind of spiritual fulfillment, we're too afraid to ask for it and even more afraid to deliver it. After what we have recently experienced in our country, it is obvious that we need to make that change and start delivering that message of love, but we don't know where to start. In truth, we must start at the source. We must start with God, and with what He sent to us to show us this love.

This year's cantata is centered around the theme of coming to the manger and seeing Jesus in the manger, surrounded by the warmth of the animals, wise men and his family, emitting ideas of love, hope and peace. This year, I both challenge and invite you to come to the manger on this silent, wondrous night and have that love rekindled in your heart, that you might take its flame out into the world and be the warmth that we seem to lack. Be the love of God for those in the dark, and be the light for Christ as we dutifully follow in his word.

Peace, love and hope, friends.  
-Judson Lee

## Choir Cantata—Sunday, December 18, 4:00 pm

## CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

"Disciples of Christ"  
3475 Kimball Avenue  
Waterloo, IA 50702  
(319) 234-6231

## Touching Others For Christ

### EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN NOVEMBER

#### **Saturday, November 19, 2016**

1:00-3:00 pm Open House for Phyllis Zager at  
Landmark Commons

#### **Sunday, November 20, 2016**

9:30 am Worship—Youth Sunday  
Wiggly Worship  
Thanksgiving Dinner in Fellowship Hall

#### **Monday, November 21, 2016**

Meals on Wheels Delivery

#### **Tuesday, November 22, 2016**

7:00 pm Community Thanksgiving Service  
at Westminster Presbyterian  
Church

#### **Wednesday, November 23, 2016**

NO F.R.O.G. Pad



#### **Thursday, November 24, 2016**

Thanksgiving Day—Give Thanks!

#### **Friday, November 25, 2016**

Church Office Closed

#### **Saturday, November 26, 2016**

9:00 am Decorating for Advent

#### **Sunday, November 27, 2016**

9:30 am Worship—First Sunday of Advent  
Wiggly Worship  
Hospitality Hour

#### **Monday, November 28, 2016**

Noon Connector Articles Due  
6:30 pm DOEs Group Meeting

#### **Wednesday, November 30, 2016**

5:45 pm F.R.O.G. Pad

