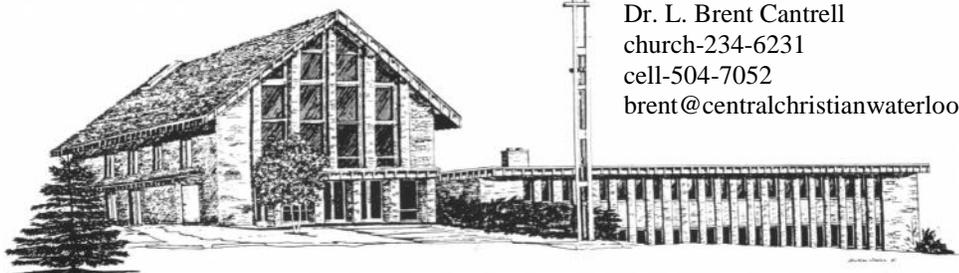


The CONNECTOR



**Central
Christian
Church**
(Disciples of Christ)

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November 30, 2016
Volume 25-16

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

From the Pastor The Christmas Double Down

If you've been looking ahead at the calendar for Advent and Christmas this year, you already know that Christmas Eve is on Saturday and Christmas Day is on Sunday. This means we will have Christmas Eve Service on Saturday night...then turn around twelve hours later for worship on Sunday, Christmas Day.

The Christmas weekend double down why many churches have chosen not to hold services on Christmas morning when it falls on a Sunday. The idea is that it would be good to skip church in order to have more "family time." They believe that most families will skip church anyway since they went the night before. The carols have been sung, Mary and Joseph have already made it to Bethlehem, the angels have already sung to the shepherds, the gifts have been distributed, and, really, why rehash it all again in less than 12 hours?

I can see why people might buy into it. But I say in response, "No."

The thing is, Sunday is about reminding us that we are part of a larger

family called the church. Whether it's the middle of July or Christmas Day, we come to worship together because it's Sunday -- the Lord's Day -- the day when we celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Christ together each week. Regardless of what happened the night before or whatever other familial obligations or temptations we might consider, Sunday stands as a day set apart for giving our full attention to the Lord. If Christmas Eve is all about pageantry, welcoming guests and seekers, and pulling out all the stops, Sunday morning is about the faithful gathering for the regular rhythm of worship. Yes, the crowd will be smaller on Christmas Sunday, maybe even depressingly so, but it's not about the crowd; it's about Christ.

So, go home and grab a few Z's after Christmas Eve. Get up with the kids and open those presents. But then, go and give your best to God as we celebrate Sunday's Good News which is extra special this year since it is Christmas Day!

Christmas Greetings,
Pastor Brent

It's Almost Ready

I am so excited I can barely contain myself. The new addition/remodeling of our church is near completion. In just a matter of a few days we will be occupying the new space and waiting eagerly for the installation of the elevator slated for January. It has been a most invigorating process. Despite a few set backs here and there, including the flooding of the building, it is about ready to be used.

I for one am really excited about what this means for Central Christian Church. Not only will be we handicapped accessible, we will have ample room for gathering and fellowship. It is going to be awesome.

We do have some continued challenges. Like most construction processes do there were cost overruns. It was more expensive to accomplish than originally anticipated. This unfortunately means we are having to borrow more money than originally planned. This makes me a little nervous. I am concerned about the finances of the church. But this has all been a faith-focused process. I know we can work together with fund raisers, increased giving and continued interest in the project to make sure our financial obligations are achieved. It has been worth every ounce of effort by committees and individuals and the congregation as a whole. Let us not loose focus of the excitement we feel and use that excitement as a catalyst to address our finances as well.

Peace and Grace,
Pastor Brent



Thanksgiving Dinner—Sunday, November 20th

What a wonderful time of great food and fellowship at our Thanksgiving Dinner on November 20th!! Thanks so much to the Building God's Kingdom Task Group for preparing all the food! And thanks so much to everyone who attended (90 plus!). We are very grateful for the \$1118.00 raised to go toward our Building Fund.

We are blessed in so many ways at Central Christian and we thank God for those wonderful blessings we have received from Him.

[There are sheets (yellow) in the foyer for you to pick up that have cost projections and money paid for our construction project.]

In Sympathy

We express our sincere sympathy to Glen Casteel and his family in the loss of Glen's son, Douglas Casteel. May God's comforting presence be with the Casteel family during this difficult time.

Prayer Concerns Please pray for.....

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

Thank You

Dear Friends,

Your kind-hearted gift of \$71.21 has arrived. Thank you! I am deeply grateful for your faithful, generous support for The Salvation Army.

Because of you, broken lives are restored. People who are facing hunger...homelessness...abuse... receive compassionate help here. No one needs to face life's problems alone.

For almost 150 years, the Salvation Army has been coming to the rescue of people who are overwhelmed by life. It started in the backstreets of London, when William Booth began sharing God's love with needy souls. Thanks to kind and compassionate friends like you — people with a heart for their struggling, suffering neighbors — that tradition continues just as strongly today in our community.

So again, thank you for sharing so generously from your hard-earned resources with us. May God bless you for your compassion.

With gratitude,
Major Harold Poff
Corps Officer
Salvation Army

Tree Trimming and Decorating

Thanks to all who came to help decorate the church on November 26! It was great to have so much help! The church looks like Christmas! And so beautiful!

Youth Sunday

Thank you to the children and youth of Central Christian for adding to our worship on November 20th with their skits, songs, and dance. They were all wonderful! What good and talented young people we have! Also thanks to the adults for their great leadership!

Thank You Note Received

Thanks to all of you young people for the wonderful worship experience you shared with us this morning. You all did a great job. You should be proud.

Blessings,
Alice Baker

Christmas Special Offering

Help support the Christmas special offering which supports Regional Ministries. In 32 regions across the U.S. and Canada, ministers are nurtured and congregations are provided opportunities for work and worship.

Often recognized for the ministries of camps and conferences, regions also play a critical role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination. Both are key to church leadership and development. Regions partner with congregations to support the work required to call a new minister.

Please support the Christmas Special Offering which will be taken December 11 and December 18. You can use the special envelopes in the pew racks and mark your check for Christmas Special Offering.



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.



Come on This Silent, Wondrous Night Choir Cantata with Handbells Sunday, December 18, 4:00 pm

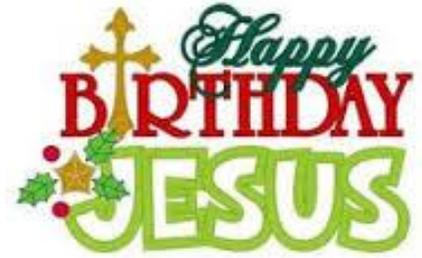
This year's cantata is centered around the theme of coming to the manger and seeing Jesus in the manger, surrounded by the warmth of the animals, wise men and his family, emitting ideas of love, hope and peace. This year, I both challenge and invite you to come to the manger on this silent, wondrous 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 world.

Judson Lee, Director of Music Ministries



Mitten Tree

Bring mittens, gloves, scarves, hats and socks to put on our Mitten Tree this year. They will all then be donated to Lou Henry School and organizations that will distribute them to those needing these warm items this winter.



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.



Christmas on the Radio

Pastor Brent has recorded some radio spots to be aired during Advent on 93.5 The Mix, KCVM 1650 The Fan, KCNZ, and KCFI Cruisin' 105.1 FM. They will air at random during the day and night. Listen to those radio stations and hopefully you will hear them!

Christmas: A Time of Sharing and Giving

"TAKE IT TO THE STREETS"

Christmas Eve 2016

So many give of themselves all through the holidays to ensure that we are safe and well cared for: police, sheriff deputies, fire fighters, hospital and nursing home staff, hospice workers, restaurant and store staff – all whom we have come to depend upon.

Christmas Eve we, at Central, have an opportunity to say 'Thank You!' Here are ways you can help:

1. Share 2-3 dozen homemade cookies/candies for 'Christmas Plates' (Bring to the church on Friday 12/23 morning or between 1:00-3:00 Saturday 12/24 afternoon)
2. 3:00 on 12/24 help assemble plates at the church
3. After Christmas Eve Service on Saturday, 12/24 deliver a plate to a 'caring location' of your choice.

THANK YOU!





DECEMBER 2016



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 10:15 am Worship Review 6:00 pm Bell Rehearsal 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	2 	3 8:00 am Men's Bible Study
4 9:30 am Worship Wiggly Worship Hospitality Hour FOOD BANK SUNDAY	5 4:30 pm Building God's Kingdom Mtg.	6 7:00 pm Elders Mtg.	7 5:00 pm F.R.O.G. Pad Caroling and Birthday Party for Jesus	8 8 am PIE Mtg. at Lou Henry School 10:15 am Worship Review 6:00 pm Bells 7:15 pm Choir	9 	10
11 9:30 am Worship Children's Message Hospitality Hour	12 Noon - Connector Articles Due 6:30 pm DOEs Meals on Wheels Delivery	13 7:00 pm Finance and Facilitites Mtg.	14 	15 10:15 am Worship Review 6:00 pm Bell Rehearsal 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 6:00 pm Small World Winter Concert	17 4:00 pm Choir and Bell Choir Rehearsal
18 9:30 am Worship Wiggly Worship Hospitality Hour 4:00 pm Choir Presentation	19 Meals on Wheels Delivery	20 	21 	22 10:15 am Worship Review 6:00 pm Bell Rehearsal 7:15 pm Choir Rehearsal	23 	24 6:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 
25 9:30 am Worship Wiggly Worship Hospitality Hour CHRISTMAS DAY	26 Noon - Connector Articles Due	27 	28 	29 10:15 am Worship Team	30 	31

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

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

Touching Others For Christ

SERVING IN DECEMBER

COMMUNION FILL & WASH

4 Nan Kane
11 Nan Kane
18 Nan Kane
25 Kim Cantrell

DOOR GREETERS

Upper: Dave & Nan Kane
Lower: Kim Cantrell

ELDERS SERVING

4 Elda Watson
11 Mike Deters
18 Sharon Longhorn
25 Gary Eliason

2nd VISITING ELDER

Robin Thomas
Linda Sharp
Jerry Thordsen
Elda Watson

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Nicole Walker	14 Ann Kirk
3 Charlie Mims	15 Gordon Hekel
3 Gary Arnold	20 Beverly Donels
5 Ann Hewitt	22 Ila Ury
8 Norma Brody	22 Tonya Fuller
8 Peggy Moore	24 Julia Kuhlmann
9 Judy Hughes	24 Margaret Olds
9 Barbara Hadley	25 Alice Ramsey
10 Wendy Brudevold	28 Luke Linsey
10 Amie Newcomb	29 Shelley Rose
11 Bruce Zager	31 Jennifer Rigdon
13 Brent Thomas	31 Adrienne Fuller
	31 Trent Hageman

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

20 Jack & Kay Bullock
28 Jeremy & Cathy Helmke

