



# In the Loop

Centennial Christian Church  
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March 21, 2024  
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## Listening and Talking . . . by Rev. Tom Cici

As followers of Jesus, we are to do our best to follow Jesus' ways. Jesus' entire life was about honoring God, praying to God, serving others in the name of God, and submitting to God's will. So, I ask all of you, as I also ask myself, what does putting God first mean to you? Is it praying more? Is it spending more time giving gratitude to God? Is it sharing the good news about Jesus? Is it inviting others into your life, your community, your church in the name of love? Is it serving others in the name of Christ? Is it giving more of our time and money to those in need and to the church?

I think it's all of those realities. Both God's truest identity and our own True Self are Love. We are to do love because we are love, we are made of God's love, we live in God's love and we are always moving toward love. This sounds so simple that most people don't see or hear it.



As James Finley says, "The greatest teacher of God's presence in our life is our life." We are to be the image of God; we are to live out our Real life – the practice of the presence of God – doing God's Love. When Jesus appointed 70 disciples to pair up and go into every town and place, he told them, "The kingdom of God has come near to you" (Luke 10:9). I think this means that the kingdom of God is here and not yet at the same time. The kingdom of God is now for those who *bear the mystery of God's suffering and God's joy inside themselves*. But the kingdom of God is not yet for those who are self-centered, unwilling to surrender to God's will, unwilling to carry the cross of Christ, and unwilling to accept the inner peace of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' most common name for himself is "the Son of Man." He uses the term dozens of times in the four Gospels. Jesus' reality, his cross, is to say a free "yes" to what humanity daily asks of him. In our Visioning group discussions, we are constantly looking at our experiences. Why? *We do not find God's vision; it finds us. We don't think ourselves into new ways of living. We live ourselves into new ways of thinking.* As Christians, *we are to do the journey of Jesus Christ*; we are to continue Jesus' journey. This is different than simply worshipping Jesus' journey. We are to take up the cross of Christ – that is, to freely say "yes" to what humanity is daily asking of us, and to feel the inner joy of God's Spirit. In doing so, people in our community will see Christ amongst us, want to follow, and join us because they like what we are doing.

Blessings as we serve together in the Resurrection of Christ.



## The Ripple Effect Is Back!

Again, this year, as our summer mission project, Centennial Christian Church (and our friends) is offering to help members of our congregation as well as residents of the local community do small outdoor jobs. Homeowners would need to pay for materials, but Centennial Christian Church will provide labor and small tools. We cannot do roofs, plumbing or anything that requires a license. Work will begin later this summer.

So far, we may have two locations in our Founders' Grove Neighborhood. If you need assistance in doing small jobs such as painting a fence, repairing or painting a wooden porch or garage, cleaning out gutters, pouring concrete, or removing brush from a fence line (to name a few), please contact Mark Rupe or Pastor Tom Cici as soon as possible.

After Pastor Tom and Mark access the job(s), we will place qualifiers on the calendar. Property owners will need to sign a Release of Liability.

## Bent School Supply Results

During the month of February, Outreach held a supply drive for Bent School. You answered the request in Centennial fashion. Six hundred Eight (608) items will be delivered to Bent School.

Thank you for supporting your education community in this manner.

May God continue to bless you and your family.

Your Outreach Group



CWF is collecting supplies to replenish the homeless care kits. These kits are draw-stringed bags that contain basic hygiene items, small clothing items, a bottle of water and a small snack. Once assembled, the care kits will be available to church participants to gift to homeless people we encounter in our daily lives.

Please consider participating by donating items in the box by the elevator or by cash or check to CWF.

## Our Upcoming Worship Services During Holy Week of 2024:

### Dramatic Reading on Palm Sunday: March 24th



The Worship service on Palm Sunday is similar to that of any other Sunday, except we have a gathering of the youth and their families near the steps to the loft for a processional with palms. Additionally, the passion story will be taken from the Gospel of Mark and presented as a dramatic reading by multiple voices reading the parts of Jesus, the High Priest, Peter, Pilate, Servant and Disciples/Bystanders. Please volunteer or say “Yes” if asked to read a part in the dramatic reading. Thank you!

### Maundy Thursday Service: March 28th



This year we are inviting First Christian Church of Bloomington to join us in celebrating the institution of the Lord’s Supper by Jesus Christ. The worship service begins at 7:00 PM, and a meal does not precede it. We will have a dramatized reading of the Upper Room, and each person in attendance will have an opportunity to receive Holy Communion. After partaking of Holy Communion, you are welcome to reflect on Jesus’ commandment, “that you love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12).

### Community Good Friday Service: March 29th

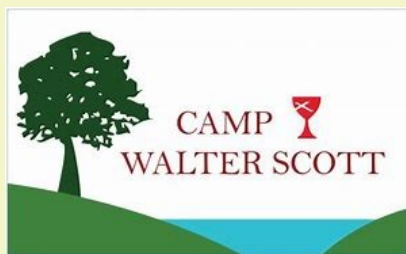


The Bloomington Normal Clergy Alliance is sponsoring a Community Good Friday Service at the First Presbyterian Church in Normal at 2000 E. College Avenue from Noon (12:00) to 1:00 PM. About ten Christian congregations are gathering to celebrate and worship God together. Pastor Tom Cici and several other ministers will help lead and engage our ecumenical worship communities in reflecting on “The Seven Last Words of Jesus.” Please contact Phil Enge of First Presbyterian Church (309) 452-4459, ext. 202 or [penge@firstpresnormal.org](mailto:penge@firstpresnormal.org) if you would like to participate in a combined choir anthem. Hope to see you at our Community Good Friday Service.

### Celebrating a Child Dedication on Easter Sunday



We are planning to have a Baby and Small Child Dedication during our Easter Celebration on Sunday, March 31, 2024. At least one family has expressed interest in having a child dedicated to Jesus Christ on this Easter Sunday at our 10:15 A.M. service. The purpose of this blessing is to welcome with thanksgiving infants or young children into the church’s nurturing life and care, anticipating a time in their lives when they will confess Christ and be baptized. If you also have a baby or small child who you would to be dedicated to Jesus Christ at this time, please contact Pastor Tom Cici by March 24th.



It is time to start thinking about summer church camp at Walter Scott Camp and Learning Center. Our camp is located in Dietrich, IL, which is just south of Effingham. This is a wonderful experience for our children and youth to experience the love of God and make new friendships in a beautiful setting.

Centennial will pay half of the early bird fee. If you register late, the additional cost is the camper's responsibility. When registering online, under the Payment Options choose the "Church (Full payment)". Submit a copy of your registration confirmation and your half of the payment to the Centennial church office by the date listed below and the church will submit one payment to the region.

Here is the link to where you register and for additional information about camp:  
[CCIW Camp – Walter Scott Camp and Learning Center \(campwalterscott.org\)](http://campwalterscott.org)

There are also volunteer opportunities for adults who would like to experience camp. Talk to Joe or Gwen if you are interested.

If you have any questions about camp contact Joe or Gwen Peebles.

Joe - 309-531-2273; [JPeebles67@aol.com](mailto:JPeebles67@aol.com))

Gwen - 309-531-2274; [GwenPeebles68@gmail.com](mailto:GwenPeebles68@gmail.com)

**CYF (High School): June 9-15**

\$375 before May1. \$400 after May1.

Payment and registration confirmation due in the church office by April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Registration closes May 26.

**You & Me (K-5<sup>th</sup> w/ adult sponsor; formerly Grandparents & Me): June 16-19**

\$160

Payment and registration confirmation due in the church office by May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Registration closes June 2.

**Beginners Camp (K-3): June 20-22**

\$140

Payment and registration confirmation due in the church office by June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Registration closes June 6.

**JYF (3-5): June 23-June 29**

\$375 before May1. \$400 after May1.

Payment and registration confirmation due in the church office by April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Registration closes June 9.

**Chi Rho (Junior High): June 30-July 6**

\$375 before May1. \$400 after May1.

Payment and registration confirmation due in the church office by April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Registration closes June 16.

**Young Adult (formerly Post High) July 26-28**

\$175

Payment and registration confirmation due in the church office by July 7.

Registration closes July 12.

# March/April 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>17</b> Adult Bible Study 9A-FH Worship *10:15A	<b>18</b> Visioning Group Discussion 10A-FH PRC 12P-Isaiah	<b>19</b> <b>Primary Election</b> <b>6A-8P</b>	<b>20</b> Adult Bible Study 10:30A-FH Bridge 12P-GH Choir 6:30P	<b>21</b> Worship Comte. 9:30A-FH TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah Elders 6:30P-FH	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24 Palm Sunday</b> <b>Loose Change Offering</b> Adult Bible Study 9A-FH Worship *10:15A	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> Bridge 12P-GH	<b>28</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> Maundy Service 7P@CCC	<b>29</b> <b>Good Friday</b> BNCA Service First Presbyterian Church-12P	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> Adult Bible Study 9A-FH Worship *10:15A	<b>1 April</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Adult Bible Study 10:30A-FH Bridge 12P-GH Choir 6:30P	<b>4</b> Outreach. 11A-FH TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> Adult Bible Study 9A-FH Worship *10:15A	<b>8</b> Trustees 11A-GH	<b>9</b> CWF 9:30A-FH	<b>10</b> Adult Bible Study 10:30A-FH Bridge 12P-GH Choir 6:30P	<b>11</b> TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>

\*Online worship <https://www.facebook.com/pg/centennialcc.org>

FH-Fellowship Hall GH-Great Hall



## Prayer Requests

**Stan Thompson**, a very good family friend of Kip and Peg Hayden, passed away on March 17, 2024, in Taylorsville, Kentucky. Please offer prayers of strength and support for Kip and Peg as well as Stan’s wife Joy and family and friends.

**Ben**, the son of a neighbor of Diane Andres, had surgery on Thursday, March 21 in Springfield. Please offer up prayers for him.

## Continuing Prayers

Celia Middleton, Charlie Middleton, James, Neil, Barb Leach, Cameron Cook, Angie Simpson, Karen Middleton, Jackie Steinhilber, Megan Brown, Mannie Martinez, Gery Conlin, Leonard Bates, Ann Burmaster, Caitlyn, Cole, Ron Geske, Pam, Dick Tarter, Scott Griffith, Janet Keefe, Jessica, Marsha, Pete Rasmussen, Robin, Fern Scaggs, Tammy, Marian Wrinkle

## At Home/Assisted Living

Myerling Home-Ruth Roley; At home-Doris Miller, Frieda Folan; The Pointe (Pontiac) Rae Ann Geske

## Nursing Home

The Arc-Tom (Billy) Robey, Rev. Barbara Short, Don Short; Westminster-Anita Poling; Earl McIntyre; Evergreen Village-Pat Iliff; Hopedale Nursing Home-Dick Tarter; Accolade ( Pontiac)-Ron Geske; Bickford House - Priscilla (Pryl) Stam

## Military

Mark Brienen, Keyla Folsom, Troy Guyran, Benjamin Horn, Michael Iverson, John Thomas, Darrell Walton, Glen Whitecotton, Christopher Wilson-Poston

## Prayers for CCIW congregations and ministries:

Illinois St. Lewiston & Ipava CC, Mackinaw CC; United Church of Wayland, MI

April Birthdays and Anniversaries	
Charlotte Leach	04/03
Chloe Todd	04/12
Janet Keefe	04/18
<b>Kay and Larry Carius</b>	<b>04/26</b>
Aaron Todd	04/26
JoAnne Pritchard	04/28

## Our challenge for the week – Pray this prayer every day –

Infinite and Loving God, help us to be a liberating blessing to all we meet by loving others. May I build community by serving others more than being served by others. For it is in giving that we are receiving.

[Wait in the silence. Listen and receive.]