



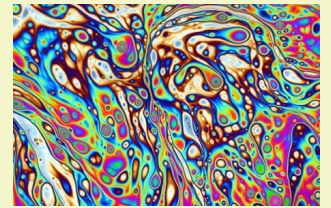
In the Loop

Centennial Christian Church
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April 18, 2024
<https://www.centennialcc.org>
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Listening and Talking . . . by Rev. Tom Cici

This Doxology, “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow,” is sung in the worship service at Centennial Christian Church every Sunday morning. I find the “fidget spinner” toy a helpful illustration to understand the oneness of God as the Trinity (Creator; Christ; Holy Spirit). When still, a fidget spinner clearly has three different lobes; however, when it spins, we lose sight of the distinct wings and simply see unbroken movement or flow. Even more significant than the qualities of the individual members of the One Trinitarian God is the flow of love between them.



God is a flow more than a substance. God is relational love more than a thing. And we live naturally inside that flow of love – if we do not resist it. This pattern is hidden in every atom (proton, electron and neutron), in our ecosystem, and in every aspect of our lives.

Infinite love is planted within humans and all of creation. “God is love” (1 John 4:16). Everything is attracted to everything. Life is attracted to life. Love is attracted to love. God in you is attracted to God in everyone and everything else.

Prejudice, vengeance, hatred, violence, and harshness toward other people are sinful. They hide and destroy the connectedness between people and God, and destroy the connectedness between people and God’s creation. They are spiritual poisons. If we want to serve God, if we want to do the work of Christ, if we want to live in the Spirit, then our calling is to join forces with the One Trinitarian God in knocking down the dividing walls of pride, prejudice, blame, and hostility. Instead, we are to build bridges of love, compassion, understanding, forgiveness, reconciliation, acceptance, harmony, and healing as core values. Build good relationships.

When we accept Christ’s message that God is all love and mercy, we can have eternal life now. To be sure, the gospels tell us of a heavenly afterlife, and yet Jesus proclaims that the “kingdom of heaven” is at hand. The “kingdom of heaven” is a term Jesus uses to describe humanity being inseparable from God and from one another. We live in the kingdom of heaven when we abide in God’s love and allow God’s love to flow through us to a hurting world. We are encouraged to see the flow of God’s love, and live in it.

Blessings as we serve together in the Resurrection of Christ.



We Are Celebrating Earth Sunday on April 21st

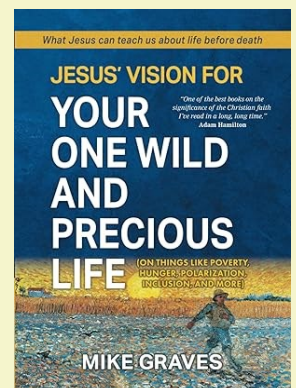
Besides Christianity, we will use Native American religions and other nature-based systems to focus on Earth Sunday: April 21, 2024. Various styles of prayers and the sermon during our 10:15 A.M. worship service will focus on the blessings and restoration of our planet Earth. Afterward – weather allowing – please join Pastor Tom as we cultivate a new plant near the water spicket on the southside of the building. Members of our worship committee are also growing wild flowers from seed for you to bring home. Please mark your calendars and plan to celebrate Earth Sunday at Centennial Christian Church on April 21st.

A New Adult Study

A new 9:00 A.M. Sunday school program and 10:30 A.M. Adult Bible Study will begin on Sunday, May 5th and Wednesday, May 8th respectively. These sessions will use Mike Graves' book, Jesus' Vision for Your One Wild and Precious Life: on things like poverty, hunger, polarization, inclusion, and more (Market Square Publishing, 2023). Hope to see you in one of these adult Bible study classes.

Rev. Kip Hayden nominated this book for our study. The book comes highly recommended by a group called, "Word & Way," and individuals whom Kip trusts totally. The book has larger print than most, and is very readable. At the end of each of the nine (9) sections are good reflective questions for discussion. "One of the best books on the significance of the Christian faith I've read in a long, long time. I really enjoyed the book!" states Rev. Adam Hamilton. "Graves' writing style is conversational, his insights meaningful, and the content rich and rewarding."

The cost of each book is \$20. If you are unable to pay full price, CCC will find a way to supplement the cost. If you have not already, please notify Pastor Tom Cici by Tuesday, April 23 if you would like a copy of this book. Hope to see you in one of these adult Bible study classes.



Center for Hope

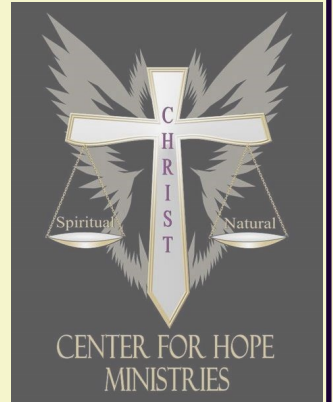
May's food pantry designate is Hope Food Pantry. The director of Center for Hope Outreach Programs, Patrice Gentry, passed away from her terminal illness.

To honor Patrice, the Center is having a special drive for high-demand items. The items needed follow: toilet paper, paper towels, laundry/dish detergent, soap, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and grocery store gift cards (any amount).

We hope you'll consider participating in this worthwhile request by bringing items listed above during **food pantry Sunday, May 12th**.

Thank you for helping to support Center for Hope.

Outreach

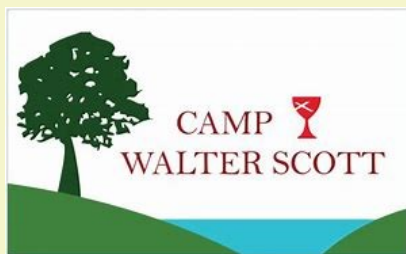


National Day of Prayer Local Observance

PRESENTED BY



**At: College Park Christian
Church
116 N Cottage, Normal, IL
May 2, 2024 6:30 to 8 p.m.**



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)

Gwen - 309-531-2274; 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 28th.

Registration closes May 26.

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

\$160

Payment and registration confirmation due in the church office by May 26th.

Registration closes June 2.

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

\$140

Payment and registration confirmation due in the church office by June 2nd.

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 28th.

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 28th.

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.

April/May 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
14 Second Sunday Food Pantry Adult Bible Study 9A-FH Worship *10:15A	15 PRC 12P-Isaiah	16	17 Adult Bible Study 10:30A-FH Bridge 12P-GH Choir 6:30P	18 Worship Comm. 9:30A TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah Book Club 6:30P	19 Elder Retreat Camp Walter Scott	20 Elder Retreat Camp Walter Scott
21 Earth Sunday Adult Bible Study 9A-FH Worship *10:15A	22 Earth Day	23 Elders 6:30P	24 L/M Cluster 10:30A-FH Bridge 12P-GH Choir 6:30P	25 Ladies Luncheon 11:30A- Cracker Barrel TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah Men's Dinner 6P-Hacienda Leon	26	27
28 Pastor Tom vacation begins Loose change offering Worship *10:15A	29	30	1 Bridge 12P-GH Choir 6:30P	2 Outreach. 11A-FH TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah	3	4 Pastor Tom vacation ends
5 Adult Bible Study 9A-FH Worship *10:15A	6	7	8 Adult Bible Study 10:30A-FH Bridge 12P-GH Choir 6:30P	9 TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah	10	11
12 Second Sunday Food Pantry Adult Bible Study 9A-FH Mother's Day Worship *10:15A	13 Trustees 11A-GH	14 CWF 9:30A-FH	15 Adult Bible Study 10:30A-FH Bridge 12P-GH Choir 6:30P	16 Worship Comm. 10A-FH TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah Book Club 6:30P	17	18 Worship Comm. 11A-FH

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

FH-Fellowship Hall GH-Great Hall

Sunday, April 28th——Early bird pricing for this camp at Camp Walter Scott ends.

CYF (High School): June 9-15

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

Payment and registration confirmation due in the church office by April 28th.

Registration closes May 26.



Prayer Requests

Diane and Tracy, from Cincinnati, are having blood clots and heart issues. May God grant them strength and healing.

Tom "Billy" Robey passed away on Monday, April 15, 2024. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

The husband of **Tori**, granddaughter of Gwen Peebles' cousin, died. Please pray for Tori, family, and friends.

Continuing Prayers

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

At Home/Assisted Living

At home-Doris Miller, Frieda Foland; The Pointe (Pontiac) Rae Ann Geske

Nursing Home

Hickory Point Christian Village(Forsyth)-Ruth Roley; The Arc-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: Glenn Oak CC, Peoria, Il; Mosaic Christian Church, Peoria, Il; FCC Rushville, IL; Woodgrove Brethren Christian Paris, Hastings, MI

April /May Birthdays and Anniversaries	
Kay and Larry Carius	04/26
Aaron Todd	04/26
JoAnne Pritchard	04/28
Diane and Ike Andres	05/11
Melissa McCoy	05/12
Sharon Frizzell	05/17
Kay and Geoff Davis	05/25
Will Dawson	05/27
Kay Carius	05/28

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

Loving God, in harmony may I walk. With harmony underneath my feet, upon the earth, may I walk. With harmony all around me – before me, behind me, above me – may I walk. It is done in harmony.

(Based on A Navajo Prayer)