



In the Loop

Centennial Christian Church

<https://www.centennialcc.org>

June 16, 2022

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Listening and Talking . . .

Many of you who listen to my sermons know that I enjoy the practices of contemplative prayer. This prayer is also known as meditation or centering prayer. Besides silent, solitary approach to contemplative prayer there are many other styles of practice.

Another approach to contemplative prayer is writing about your present moment. Contemplation is simply openness to God's loving presence in "what is" right in front of you. Here is an example of writing about an experience.

This story began about six weeks ago when Marian and I received six (6) Hosta plants from Sue Miller. We carefully preserved these plants by giving them sunlight and water every day until we could clean out the existing landscape on the east side of our house.

I dragged out various garden tools and a partial bag of planting soil. Then I dug six shallow holes about fifteen inches away from the house so the rain could water the plants. We have good, dark soil so our local garden nursery suggests we use only a root starter. Marian said, "Now the plants will grow to be even more beautiful in the ground."

As I carefully held the root-ball of each plant, I realized that God is in these plants just as God's Spirit is within me. I imagine God saying, "I'm so touched you want to spend this time with me. Really, I am! It just means the world to me. The thing is, I just can't bear how much I love you. It's too much! And so, at a certain point, I rush into these plants because I want to know what it feels like to be held by you."

Yes, the interruption is the presence of God who comes to us disguised as the presence of our very lives. I begin to recognize the preserving of plants, digging in soil, covering the roots with planting soil, watering the plants ... all of it, as the startling stunning infusion of infinite love colliding into the small shape of my finite and ordinary reality. There, at the intersection of everything, is God with us ... wanting to be touched, noticed, nurtured ... held by us. All we have to do is behold.

How do we serve God? We serve God by loving and serving God's people and all God's creation. The God-Self is the Great Love that we abide in and lives in each one of us. If I am fully known by God, and loved by God, and seen for what I am – warts and all – and accepted and forgiven by God, then all I can do is return the compliment to all God's family. All you can do is love God's people the way you have been fully known by God.

As I conclude this writing, I hear Another say to me, "We will laugh and create. We will always have permission to be ourselves with each other. The greatest gift that I can give to you is to always live and love you with my whole heart."

I cannot love God perfectly or show God anything perfectly. But I will always let God and others see me for who I truly am. Now it's your turn to write your experience.

Blessings on all as we Journey together,
Pastor Tom Cici

**Our challenge for the week –
to pray these two prayers –**

1. How can we, at Centennial Christian Church, “show” those around us that we care about them?
2. How can we, as a church family, move outside our current boundaries to expand our ministry and outreach to others?

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The outreach Back 2 School Alliance project was a huge success thanks to all of your generosity. We collected: 4 - 24 pack crayons, 9 - 3 ring pencil pouches, 28 back packs, 26 composition notebooks, 57 dry erase markers, 96 pens, and 416 pencils. A total cash donation of \$200.00 was also given. Thanks again for your generosity and support for underprivileged children in our area.

Outreach Reaching Out

Has inflation eaten more of your grocery money? Centennial has frozen meat items to help you with your meals. If you're interested in obtaining food from Centennial, Janet or Bill can help you on Monday or Thursday from 8 am to 2 pm.

Stop in or give us a call. We welcome the chance to help you.

Sincerely,

Your Outreach Committee



CWF NEWS MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

We are excited to be planning a few ALL CHURCH ATIVITIES this year. Our homemade ice cream social will start us off JULY 17 from 4:30 to 6:00 on the Green Space East of the Church. There will be a sign up sheet for those wishing to make a freezer of ice cream or dessert to share.

Please bring a lawn chair. Table service will be furnished. Hope you all will be able to attend. Guests are always welcome.

Deacon Emeritus Recognition

We are recognizing three members of the Centennial Church family as Deacon Emeritus during our 10:15 a.m. worship service on Sunday, June 19, 2022. We are honoring Ruth Valentine, JoAnne Pritchard and Barb Leach as Deacon Emeritus. Please come and help us thank all our Deacons for their many years of service.

June 2022

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|---|--|---|--------|--|
| 12 —Note* Adult Bible Study 9A-Isaiah Worship *10:15A 2nd Sunday Food pantry | 13 | 14 CWF Crafts 9:30A-FH | 15 Adult Bible Study 10:30A-Isaiah Bridge 12P-GH | 16 TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah | 17 | 18 Bridge 12P-GH Youth Activity 1PM-Pony Field |
| 19 Adult Bible Study 9A-Isaiah Worship *10:15A Graduation Reception | 20 Property 11A-FH | 21 CWF Crafts 9:30A-FH | 22 Adult Bible Study 10:30A-Isaiah Bridge 12P-GH | 23 Ladies Lunch- 11:30A TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah | 24 | 25 Bridge 12P-GH |
| 26-Note* Adult Bible Study 9A-Isaiah Worship *10:15A | 27 | 28 Primary Election CWF Crafts 9:30A-FH Elders 6:30P-FH | 29 Adult Bible Study 10:30A-Isaiah Bridge 12P-GH | 30 TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah Men's Dinner 6P-Garden of Paradise | July 1 | 2 Bridge 12P-GH |
| 3 Adult Bible Study 9A-Isaiah Worship *10:15A | 4 4th of July Office Closed | 5 CWF Crafts 9:30A-FH | 6 Adult Bible Study 10:30A-Isaiah Bridge 12P-GH | 7 Outreach 5P-FH TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah | 8 | 9 Bridge 12P-GH |
| 10 Adult Bible Study 9A-Isaiah Worship *10:15A | 11 | 12 CWF Crafts 9:30A-FH | 13 Adult Bible Study 10:30A-Isaiah Bridge 12P-GH | 14 TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah | 15 | 16 Bridge 12P-GH |

*Online worship

FH-Fellowship Hall GH-Great Hall

Note* June 12-18-Camp Walter Scott CYF

June 26-29-Camp Walter Scott Grandparents and Me

Change for Youth Event Saturday, June 18

Youth, family and friends will meet at the Pony Bronco Field at 4007 Ireland Grove Rd. Bloomington to watch Michael Giese play baseball at 1PM. Because it will be a doubleheader, **the pool party at the Todd's is being postponed.** Be sure to come out and support Michael and our youth!



Prayer Request

Barb Leach fell and was admitted to OSF. She has now been moved to Heritage Manor in Normal. Please pray that she is able to accept the new living arrangements.

Janis, daughter-in-law of Marla Gaines-Starke, is in the hospital with health issues. Please pray for improved health.

Continuing Prayers

Diane Armstrong, Calista, Cole, Dana, Muriel Dawson, Brenda Foland, Terry Foland, Ron and Rae Geske, Scott Griffith, Janet Keefe, Tammy Leonard, Marilyn, Lexi Peterson, Mary Margaret Poston, Pete Rasmussen, Fern Scaggs, Cindy Schroeder, Joe Schroeder, Kathy Scott, Marian Wrinkle

At Home/Assisted Living

Anita Poling (Westminster)

Nursing Home

Heritage Manor-Tom (Billy) Robey, Rev. Barbara Short, Don Short; Martin Health -Earl McIntyre

Military

Mark Brienens, Keyla Folsom, Troy Guyran, Benjamin Horn, Michael Iverson, Adam and Angie Lienhop, Clay Short, John Thomas, Darrell Walton, Glen Whitecotton, Christopher Wilson-Poston

Prayers for CCIW congregations and ministries: Second CC Rockford, Bethany CC, Detroit, MI; Summer Camps at Camp Walter Scott, Crystal Lake Conference Center

| June Birthdays and Anniversaries | |
|---|--------------|
| Darla Hummel | 06/05 |
| Gwen Peebles | 06/07 |
| Julie and Jeff Hatten | 06/10 |
| Peg Hayden | 06/19 |
| Doris Miller | 06/22 |
| Barb Leach | 06/30 |