



In the Loop

Centennial Christian Church
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July 25, 2024

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Listening and Talking . . . by Rev. Tom Cici

During the next five weeks, we will be studying the sixth chapter in the Gospel of John. It begins with a poem of Jesus walking on the Sea of Galilee (also known as the Sea of Tiberias) after he feeds about five thousand people on a mountainside (John 6:1–22). This poem is about the celebration of Holy Communion with Christ Jesus who takes, blesses, breaks and gives his body and blood so that we might be sent out once again this week on a mission of reconciliation and overflowing love to a broken world, a mission of creating One New Humanity in place of the many divisions.

And then the sixth chapter of John introduces a very large poem (John 6:25–59) which contains four (4) interlocking poems. Each poem gives a reflection of what Holy Communion means to various Christians of the first century. I will be reviewing these reflections throughout August in the following way:

<u>Dates:</u>	<u>Scriptures:</u>	<u>Sermon Titles:</u>
August 04, 2024	John 6:24–35	Good Times Require Great Goals
August 11, 2024	John 6:35, 41–50	Forgiving Love Is the Bread of Life
August 18, 2024	John 6:50–59	Food which Gives Us Life Forever
August 25, 2024	John 6:59 – 7:1	Responding to God’s Call and Grace

The poem of John 6:24–35 reminds us that Christ Jesus gives us the Holy Spirit to dwell within us as our means to live God’s Eternal Life now. The reign of God is near and available to us now.

The poem of John 6:41–50 reminds us that we live in Christ. We all make us the One bread of Life; the one body of Christ.

The poem of John 6:50–59 reminds us that Jesus is the Lamb of God – God does not dominate us. Instead, humanity has a tendency to dominate others. Jesus dies on the cross at the hands of people to reveal the violence of humanity, and to help us stop the hatred. Jesus also shows us that God is entirely a self-giving love, completely merciful and non-violent. God invites and receives all people in Christ to be the image of God.

The poem of John 6:59 – 7:1 is a summary of John, chapter 6. Jesus repeats, “I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father” (6:65 repeats 6:37–40).

What does Holy Communion mean to you? Perhaps all of these reasons listed above? Communion has various meanings for different people. Listen to our Elders at the Lord’s Table give their reflections on the meaning of our Holy Communion.

Blessings as we Journey, pray, and serve together in the Resurrection of Christ.



Our Ripple Effect Mission Continues

Sign-up sheets for three (3) Ripple Effect jobs in Bloomington – Normal areas are now available on the long table by the elevator on the Sanctuary floor. There is also a sign-up sheet for those who can help JoAnne Pritchard prepare lunches at the church for the Ripple Effect workers this summer. Please review our jobs in August and sign up for as many as you can. There is also a sheet for you to sign if you do not permit your picture to be on our social media. Other jobs in September and October will be posted soon.



Tentative Dates:

Names and Scope of Jobs

August 2 & 3

Mary Sellmyer: Prepare to paint her front porch – scrape off the loose paint, replace a couple boards, and maybe use their power washer. And then we will start painting her front porch.

August 9 & 10

Mary Sellmyer: Continue painting the front porch.

A significant amount of work is being done behind the scenes in the name of the Ripple Effect. For instance, Debbie Outlaw has been painting the Blessing Box. Sue and Randy Miller are staining and painting a bench for the Pritchard Memorial Garden. Charlotte Leach now has paint and supplies for Debbie Outlaw and Erica Larkin to paint the fence in her front yard. Mark Rupe has supplies for Emi and Chloe to stain our picnic tables in the green space. Joe Peebles and Pastor Tom are preparing to repair and paint one of JoAnne Pritchard's bathrooms. The vision for this Ripple Effect mission is to transform it into a twelve-month ministry helping families in our community as well as forming fellowship within our church family.

Thank You: Many Hands Helped JoAnne Pritchard on July 19 & 20:

Landscaping: Peg and Kip Hayden with their grandsons (Nathan, Lincoln, Hayden), Karen Mitchell, Julie and Will Dawson, Esther and Jim Sengpiel, Sheila Scott. Mark Rupe and Pastor Tom.

Prepare Luncheons: Ruth Valentine, Esther Sengpiel, Kay Carius, Jan Dill, Joe and Gwen Peebles helped JoAnne Pritchard prepare and serve lunches.



Ripple Effect at the Home of
JoAnne Pritchard



Ripple Effect at the home of JoAnne Pritchard



Blessing of the Backpacks on August 25

Soon our students will commit themselves to study and learn in the 2024–2025 school year! So, during the Children’s Moment on Sunday, August 25th, we will bless these students as they go back to school. All students bring your backpacks to church with you this morning and be reminded of the love and care of Centennial Christian Church that surrounds you each school day. May God bless you and protect you!



Centennial Christian Church Website Update

A team consisting of Pastor Tom Cici, Karen Lorack Mitchell, Marla Gaines-Starke and Jerry Fitzgerald are working with Jeff Parker from the CCIW regional office to give our website a make over.

In the next several weeks, you will see some changes on the church website. These may or may not be permanent as the site is updated and re-designed. We will be adding a page for online prayer requests, expanding our Worship, Outreach, Ministry pages as well as our giving page. The hope is our site will be much easier to navigate and will answer first time visitor questions as well as share information regarding Fellowship and Communication which will include our calendar, contact information and our newsletter.

Please have patience as we go through the process.

Please call or email the church office with any questions or comments.

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“The little church with the BIG heart!”



OUR VISION STATEMENT
Spreading the message of God’s Love,
in our church and in our community,
through caring for each other.

JULY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				25 Ladies Luncheon 1130A- Corelife Eatery TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah Men's Dinner 6P-Parkview Inn	26	27
28 Loose Change Offering Adult Bible Study 9A-FH Worship 10:15A	29	30 CWF Crafts 9:30A-FH	31 Adult Bible Study 10:30A-FH Bridge 12P-GH	August 1 Outreach 11A-FH Trustees 11A-*** TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah	2 9A-Ripple Effect Mary Sellmeyer	3 9A-Ripple Effect Mary Sellmeyer
4 Adult Bible Study 9A-FH Worship 10:15A	5	6 CWF Crafts 9:30A-FH	7 Adult Bible Study 10:30A-FH Bridge 12P-GH Webpage 12P-FH	8 Outreach 11A-FH TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah	9 9A-Ripple Effect Mary Sellmeyer	10 9A-Ripple Effect JoAnne Pritchard
11 Second Sunday Food Pantry Adult Bible Study 9A-FH Worship 10:15A	12 Trustees 11A-GH	13 CWF Meeting 9:30A-FH	14 Adult Bible Study 10:30A-FH Bridge 12P-GH	15 Worship Comm 10A-FH Prayer Service 5P-FH TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah Book Club 6:30P	16	17

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

FH-Fellowship Hall GH-Great Hall

*** August 1—Trustee meeting will be at Government Center 115 E Washington St. (Room 201)



Continuing Prayers

Lisa Behl, Tim, Kris Carius, Shelley Lanham, Leonard Bates, Greg Firkus, Nathan Hiatt, Marty Fry, Taylor, Charlie Middleton, James, Neil, Cameron Cook, Angie Simpson, Jackie Steinhilber, Megan Brown, Mannie Martinez, Gery Conlin, Ann Burmaster, 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

The Arc-Rev. Barbara Short, Don Short; Westminster-Anita Poling; Earl McIntyre; Evergreen Village-Pat Kliff; Hopedale Nursing Home-Dick Tarter; Accolade, Pontiac-Ron Geske; The Pointe, Pontiac-Rae Geske; Bickford House - Priscilla (Pry) Stam

Military

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

Prayers for CCIW congregations and ministries: FCC Metropolis, IL; FCC Sullivan, IL; Sherburnville CC, Grant Park, IL; FCC West, Saginaw, MI

August Birthdays and Anniversaries	
Ron Geske	8/4
Rae Ann Geske	8/7
Kip and Peg Hayden	8/9
Dan and Sharon Frizzell	8/19
Jim Sengpiel	8/26
Bill and Sunshine Wetzel	8/29

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

Loving and merciful God, help me to be at peace with myself, with my family, my communities, and nations. Help me to feel good about myself, be respectful of my family, my church, and other communities.

[Listen and receive.]