



# In the Loop

Centennial Christian Church  
1219 E Grove Bloomington, IL. 61701  
Ph. 309-828-2185

August 8 2024  
<https://www.centennialcc.org>  
email: [people@centennialcc.org](mailto:people@centennialcc.org)

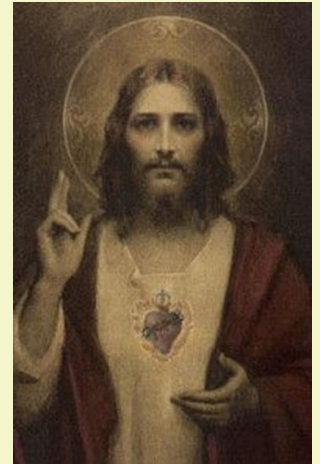
## Listening and Talking . . . by Rev. Tom Cici

For most Christians today, Jesus is totally divine, but not really human. Many Christians simply believe in a Supreme Being who made all things; that Supreme Being happens to be Jesus Christ. He was the available God figure in Europe, so we pushed him into that position, while avoiding Jesus' living message that the human and the divine coexist in him. Jesus may even be a model for something new.

John's Gospel proclaims, "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of a father's son, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). I personally believe that "glory" or "glorified" means united as one. So, the gospel is saying that human and divine are united together as one! "Flesh" is not a bad word!

Being both human and divine – united to God – is hard for many to grasp, because it seems to be an irreconcilable paradox. In the earlier Byzantine art and many later icons, Jesus is shown holding up his two fingers, indicating, "I am fully human and I am fully divine at the same time." We were struck dumb by this paradox.

When we deny what Jesus holds together, we can't put it together in ourselves! Jesus' favorite name for himself is "son of man" meaning that he is the new model of humanity. And that's the whole point: you and I are also daughters of heaven and daughters of earth, sons of God and sons of this world. But we need a model, an exemplar, a promise, and a guarantee to imagine such a far-off impossibility. For us, that model is Jesus.



This is how Jesus is "causing" our salvation. It is not a magic act accomplished by moral behavior; rather, salvation is a gradual realization of who we are – and always have been – and will be eternally: our True self is our union with God. This is the heart of Jesus' healing message. There is no animosity between the Spirit and the body.

In fact, it is the new and lasting temple of God, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19-29). Your body is the very hiding place of God – so only the humble and the humbled will find such a Treasure. Once you find this Treasure, listen and do the will of God who desires only mercy and love.

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

## **Our Ripple Effect Mission Continues**

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. There are many people to thank for their work in the past few weeks.



### **Thank You: The Blessing Box Has a New Look**

Debbie Outlaw gave the entire blessing box a fresh coat of white paint – inside and out. She claims to have met quite a few of our neighbors as they walked their dogs or jogged down the sidewalk. Chloe and Emi Todd painted the words “BLESSING BOX” on both sides with purple paint (Laurel’s favorite color). Chloe may paint a flower on the back.

### **Thank You: Many Hands Worked Together on August 3rd.**

- A. Sarah, Chloe and Emi Todd stained the tops of our picnic tables while their Papaw supervised. This is the same day Chloe and Emi painted words on the blessing box.
- B. Julie Dawson, Pastor Tom, Kip and Peg Hayden, Mark Rupe, Sarah, Chloe and Emi Todd painted a primer on the chain-linked fence at Charlotte Leach’s house.
- C. JoAnne Pritchard, Ruth Valentine, Kay Carius and Jan Dill served lunches.

### **Thank You: Behind the Scenes Unscheduled Work**

- a. Sue and Randy Miller sanded and painted the bench for the Pritchard’s Garden
- b. Marian and Tom Cici cut baseboards for JoAnne Pritchard’s bathroom.
- c. Sheila Scott has begun weeding the Pritchard’s Garden.
- d. Jim Sengpiel repaired a portion of Mary Sellmyer’s front porch.

### **Tentative Dates:**

### **Names and Scope of Jobs**

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>August 9</b>  | Charlotte Leach: Apply the finishing paint to chain-linked fence. |
| <b>August 10</b> | Kathie Keller: Power washing her wooden fence.                    |

Other jobs in September and October will be posted soon. For instance, Chloe and Emi will finish painting words and designs on the Blessing Box under Mark Rupe’s supervision; Joe Peebles and Pastor Tom are preparing to repair and paint one of JoAnne Pritchard’s bathrooms; Apply stain and wood sealer to Kathie Keller’s fence, and adjust the gutter on her garage; and possibly replace Audrie Harper’s back step with a ramp. Please watch for signup sheets as they become available.

## Our Ripple Effect Mission Continues



Mark Rupe and Pastor Tom



Julie Dawson



Chloe Todd



### SPECIAL REQUEST

We can't say it often enough. Thank you for the many ways you support your Outreach group.

During the month of August, Outreach is requesting your help. We are requesting personal items for the CWF Blessings Box. Some examples include but are not limited to the following:

- Paper Towels – no jumbo rolls
- Toilet Paper
- Diapers – size 2 or 4
- Feminine Products
- Personal Hygiene Items

You may place your gifts in the basket in the south foyer. Thank you for your participation.

## 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 25<sup>th</sup>, 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

The team continues to work on our website make over and will continue with updates for you.

A test home page will be activated this week. Please take a look and let us know what you think. The colors and fonts for the site are still being discussed. As was mentioned before, there will continue to be changes and adjustments.

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

Ph: 309-828-2185

Email: [people@centennialcc.org](mailto:people@centennialcc.org)

“The little church with the BIG heart!”



## Monthly Prayer Service: August 15



In June, we began having monthly prayer services on the third Thursday of each month. Centennial Christian Church has had monthly prayer services in the past. This month, our prayer service will be held on August 15 in our Fellowship Hall beginning 5:00 P.M. Do you have something that can use God’s assistance? Many feel better after prayer. Perhaps you can pray for others.



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

# AUGUST 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>4</b> Adult Bible Study 9A-FH Worship 10:15A	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> CWF Crafts 9:30A-FH	<b>7</b> Adult Bible Study 10:30A-FH Bridge 12P-GH Webpage 12P-FH	<b>8</b> TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah Board meeting 6P-FH	<b>9</b> 9A-Ripple Effect Charlotte Leach	<b>10</b> 9A-Ripple Effect Kathy Keller
<b>11</b> <b>Second Sunday</b> <b>Food Pantry</b> Adult Bible Study 9A-FH Worship 10:15A	<b>12</b> Trustees 11A-GH Christian Ed Mtg 4P-FH	<b>13</b> CWF Crafts 9:30A-FH	<b>14</b> Adult Bible Study 10:30A-FH Bridge 12P-GH	<b>15</b> Worship Comm 10A-FH Monthly Prayer Service 5P-FH TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah Book Club 6:30P	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Adult Bible Study 9A-FH Worship 10:15A	<b>19</b> PRC 12P-Isaiah	<b>20</b> CWF Crafts 9:30A-FH Clergy Cluster 3P-GH	<b>21</b> Adult Bible Study 10:30A-FH Bridge 12P-GH	<b>22</b> Ladies Luncheon 11:30A TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah Men's Dinner 6P- Shannon's	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>Backpack Sunday</b> <b>Loose Change</b> <b>Offering</b> Adult Bible Study 9A-FH Worship 10:15A	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> CWF Crafts 9:30A-FH Elders 6:30P-FH	<b>28</b> Adult Bible Study 10:30A-FH Bridge 12P-GH Choir Potluck 6P-Peebles' 1005 Lake Fork Rd	<b>29</b> TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

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

FH-Fellowship Hall GH-Great Hall



**Do you enjoy singing?  
Come join the choir!**

We are kicking off the 2024-2025 choir season with a potluck at Joe & Gwen Peebles' 1005 Lake Fork Rd, Bloomington on August 28 at 6 PM. Anyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join us. No previous experience is necessary. Chicken & Noodles and drinks will be supplied. Regular rehearsals will begin on September 4 at 6:30 in the choir loft. If you have questions contact Joe Peebles at [JPeebles67@aol.com](mailto:JPeebles67@aol.com) or call/text at 309-531-2273).



**Prayer Request**

**Bridget Pleines, Randy Seibert, Greg Firkus, and Sarah Hiatt** have had surgeries this past week. Please pray that all these surgeries be procedures to cure our friends and family members with God's healing presence, and may they recover quickly with little pain.

**Continuing Prayers**

Tammy, Lisa Behl, Tim, Kris Carius, Shelley Lanham, Leonard Bates, , 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, Bickford House - Priscilla (Pry) Stam

**Military**

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

**Prayers for CCIW congregations and ministries:** Vine St. CC, Arthur, IL; Grace CC, Aurora, IL; Bethany Park CC, Detroit MI; Journey of Faith CC, Ann Arbor, MI; Women’s Retreat @ Crystal Lake, MI

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

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

Loving and merciful God, when we make mistakes, your overwhelming never-ending merciful love comes after each of us. We ask that you inspire, motivate, and call upon us to extend that loving kindness to all we meet.

[Wait and listen]