



In the Loop

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

25 August, 2022
<https://www.centennialcc.org>
email: people@centennialcc.org

Listening and Talking . . .

We have started a new sermon series entitled **Avenues of The Holy Spirit**. Two weeks ago, we discussed how we can be released from a prison of negativism and feeding on defeat. I stated that “we are already with God and in God. Jesus Christ came to show us that God is all love and mercy. We are victors, not victims. It’s the greatest news ever heard . . . and the greatest promise ever given! It’s the promise of victory!”

A week ago, we discussed how we can be freed from a cage of hatred involving jealousy and resentment. Most importantly, we emphasized that “love burns out hatred, and if we love each other enough, we will forgive.”

This past Sunday, August 21, we discussed how totally obeying God’s law of Love and ‘Letting Go and Letting God’ can free us from addictions such as, prejudice, envy, bad temper, worry, drugs, caffeine, food, possessiveness and other appetites we find ourselves engaged in. Love is the only solution to our problems!

Our natural instinct is trying to fix pain, to control it, or even, foolishly, attempting to understand it. The ego insists on understanding. That’s why Jesus praises a certain quality even more than love, and he calls it *faith*.

The full life of faith becomes a life of deep joy and rest (prayer). Once we are ‘attached to the Vine (Christ)’ to use Jesus’ words (see John 15:4-5), we don’t have to be anxious about many things (see Luke 10:41). We don’t have to be worried about the next moment or about tomorrow (see Matthew 6:34). We can trust that we are being guided; in fact, almost everything is seen as guidance! Basically, we switch from the fixing, fully understanding, and controlling mode to the trusting, listening, and allowing mode.

This does not mean we do nothing: quite the contrary. “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is much closer to our words “trust” and “confidence” than it is about believing doctrines to be true. Holding confidence that *God is good, God can be trusted, and God can be actively involved in my life* are the practical features of biblical faith. Faith-filled people are, quite simply, usable for larger purposes because they live in and listen to a much Larger Self.

When we can experience God in the moment and see God’s guidance in the events of our lives, our heart’s and soul’s response to God is a “yes.” If there are changes and fixes that have to be made, we can now take care to them in an appropriate, calm, and positive way. We can trust in God’s way of love. That is what characterizes a mature believer.

Blessings on all as we journey together,
Pastor Tom Cici





CWF is in need of plastic grocery bags to make mats for the homeless. The mats will be placed under blankets or sleeping bags on the ground for some cushioning for them. Each mat requires several hundred bags. Please bring to the church and put in Fellowship Hall or bring to office.

Thank you!



Prayer Chain Participation

We are updating our prayer chain procedure and list. You have the option to be on the email list, telephone list, or both lists. If you are part of the telephone list, you will have an obligation to pass the prayer request to the next person. To ensure that you are on our updated list, please contact Jerry between Monday – Thursday, 8 am-2pm. We ask that your request be submitted **no later than 2 pm August 31, 2022.**

To make a prayer request, please contact Jerry via email at people@centennialcc.org or 309-828-2185. If you wish to make a request after office hours or on the weekend, you may contact Bill at 309-828-6621.

We look forward to your participation as a prayer chain participant.

Bill, Elder

Weiner Roast - October 2 at 5:30 PM

Christian Women's Fellowship (CWF), along with Joe and Gwen Peebles, are hosting a wiener roast at their residence, 1005 Lake Fork Road. It will be on October 2 at 5:30. CWF will provide drinks, condiments, and table service. If you plan to attend, please bring hot dogs and buns, a dish to share, and a lawn chair if you can.

There will be a sign-up sheet on the table by the elevator. You don't have to sign up to come, but it will give us an idea of how many to plan for. Hope to see you there!



September 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28** Loose Change Offering Adult Bible Study 9A-Isaiah Worship *10:15A	29	30 CWF Crafts 9:30A-FH	31 Adult Bible Study 10:30A-Isaiah Bridge 12P-GH Choir Practice 6:30P-Choir Loft	September 1 Outreach 5P-FH TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah	2	3
4 Adult Bible Study 9A-Isaiah Worship *10:15A	5	6 CWF Crafts 9:30A-FH	7 Adult Bible Study 10:30A-Isaiah Bridge 12P-GH Choir Practice 6:30P-Choir Loft	8 TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah	9	10
11 2nd Sunday Pantry Adult Bible Study 9A-Isaiah Worship *10:15A	12 Trustees 11A-FH	13 CWF 9:30A-FH	14 Adult Bible Study 10:30A-Isaiah Bridge 12P-GH Choir Practice 6:30P-Choir Loft	15 TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah Book Club 6:30P-home of Sue Miller	16	17
18*** Adult Bible Study 9A-Isaiah Worship *10:15A	19 Property 11A-FH	20 CWF Crafts 9:30A-FH	21 Adult Bible Study 10:30A-Isaiah Bridge 12P-GH Choir Practice 6:30P-Choir Loft	22 Ladies Lunch 11:30A TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah Men's Dinner 6P	23	24 Becky Longstreth Wedding-4P
25 Loose Change Offering Adult Bible Study 9A-Isaiah Worship *10:15A	26	27 CWF Crafts 9:30A-FH	28 Adult Bible Study 10:30A-Isaiah Bridge 12P-GH Choir Practice 6:30P-Choir Loft	29 TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah	30	October 1

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

FH-Fellowship Hall GH-Great Hall

**** August 28 Youth Workday beginning at 5:30P**

*****September 18 Denny Pritchard Birthday Party after Worship**



Prayer Requests

Tim Larkin passed away on Tuesday, August 23rd. Please keep Tim’s family and friends in your prayers.

Continuing Prayers

Diane Armstrong, Claudia, Brenda Foland, Terry Foland, Ron and Rae Geske, Scott Griffith, Janis, Barb Leach, 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: FCC Rockford, CC of Abingdon, FCC Albion; Northwestern CC, Detroit, MI

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

Thank God for the insights you already know about God’s love. Ask God to keep you from being self-centered and help you to be more self-giving in your faith life. Stop in the silence. Listen and receive.

September Birthdays and Anniversaries		September Birthdays and Anniversaries	
Esther and Jim Sengpiel	09/01	Denny Prichard	09/14
Harrison Matej	09/05	Sandee Simmons	09/16
Lucerne Brienens	09/07	Sarah Todd	09/21
Brenda and Bret Foland	09/11	Brenda Stockum	09/29
Barbara Short	09/11	Bill Wetzel	09/29
Jan Dill	09/12		