



In the Loop

All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them.
II Corinthians 5:18-19

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Listening and Talking . . . by Rev. Tom Cici

Throughout October, as the fall season commences, we will also begin a new five-week sermon series. "Grateful for the Things that Unite Us" is designed to celebrate some of the good things that we are thankful for, and to open up our thinking about transformation in the church, in our lives, and our community/world. For instance, we might celebrate that we are broken, and yet this realization allows us to love all others and be loved. Also, we can be thankful for the opportunity to invite everyone to the Banquet, and yet experience the heartache of waiting for many others to accept the invitation and come to the Banquet.

As God says through the prophet Isaiah, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (Isaiah 43:19 NRSV). I am quite certain that God is at work in us, through us, and as us. The only question is whether we can perceive what God is calling us toward and let go of those things that hold us back from pursuing that call with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength.



If you have participated in church-life for any length of time, you may have certainly heard of at least one "new thing" that God would like to do in our midst. For instance, on more than one occasion and from several people, I have heard the interest in doing a perpetual mission trip right here in Bloomington/Normal which could include youth and adults. This ministry would be similar to other far away mission trips to Haiti or closer mission trips to Rippling Hope in Detroit, Michigan. The voices I hear from interested people say, 'We only need someone or a group to organize this local ministry. It won't cost as much as other mission trips and many more people can participate in it. We have hands and feet to do the jobs.'

What is most important is that this "new" call of interest is growing out of an "old" call of interest. There is a scripture passage we often think about during Advent: "A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch will grow out of his roots" (Isaiah 11:1 NRSV). We begin to see that God doesn't plant a new tree but grows something new and vital from what has been as the foundation for what can come. What about our past can be the soil for our new growth as the people of God?

What forgotten dust can become the soil from which the beloved community of God can grow? I hope this new five-week sermon series, "Grateful for the Things that Unite Us," throughout October 2 – 30, will open the door for conversations about transformation in our lives, our church, and our community. May we be aware of God's continuing call to renewal and hope as we proclaim and live out God's transforming love for the world.

Blessings on all as we Journey together.

Adopt-A-Family 2022



Greetings Christian Brothers and Sisters!

You've always been the little church with the BIG heart. We know you'll continue your generosity this year with our Adopt-A-Family program because the need is greater than ever before.

Our efforts to support a three or four person family have become increasingly difficult; therefore, like last year, we are teaming up with Tinnervin Family Foundation to help support 60 plus families through their Adopt-A-Family program.

Centennial's Adopt-A-Family program will begin September 15th and conclude October 15th. You may contribute to this cause by designating your donation to Adopt-A-Family and dropping it in the offering plate or mailing it to our office.

We were very successful with this program last year and we look forward to being equally successful this year. Thank you in advance for helping your less fortunate Christian brothers and sisters.

Keep us rooted in love as we support one another.



TRUNK OR TREAT

Centennial will host its annual Trunk or Treat on Monday, October 31 from 5:30-7:30 PM. Along with candy, hot dogs and hot chocolate will be served.

There will be a box in the lobby by the elevator to collect candy starting Sunday, Sept 25th.

There will be a sign up sheet by the elevator for those bringing their cars.

September 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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 Elders 6:30P	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
***2 Adult Bible Study 9A-Isaiah Worship *10:15A	3	4 CWF Crafts 9:30A-FH	5 Adult Bible Study 10:30A-Isaiah Bridge 12P-GH Choir Practice 6:30P-Choir Loft	6 Outreach 5P-FH TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah	7	8
9 2nd Sunday Food Pantry Adult Bible Study 9A-Isaiah Worship *10:15A	10 Trustees 11A-FH	11 CWF 9:30A-FH	12 Adult Bible Study 10:30A-Isaiah Bridge 12P-GH Choir Practice 6:30P-Choir Loft	13 TOPS#559 5:15P-Isaiah	14	15

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

FH-Fellowship Hall GH-Great Hall

***Reconciliation Offering

New Sermon Series: Grateful for the Things that Unite Us

DATE:

October 02, 2022

October 09, 2022

October 16, 2022

October 23, 2022

October 30, 2022

SCRIPTURE:

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Genesis 2:7-9, 15-25

Romans 8:31-39

1John 4:7-18

Isaiah 51:1-8

SERMON THEME:

Inviting Everyone to the Banquet

We Are Broken and Beloved

We Are More Than Conquerors

God's Love for Us

God's Salvation to All



Prayer Requests

Continuing Prayers

Diane Armstrong, Terry Foland, Ron and Rae Geske, Scott Griffith, Janis, Barb Leach, Tammy Leonard, Marilyn, Lexi Peterson, Pete Rasmussen, Fern Scaggs, 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 Brienen, 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: Reconciliation Offering, Park Manor CC Chicago, Church of Christ, Cadillac, MI

Our challenge for the week –

Pray this prayer every day –

Gracious God, all I receive is from you. You love and provide with an awesome self-giving love. Help me to love others with the same self-giving love of compassion and mercy. Stop in the silence. Listen and receive.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries		October Birthdays and Anniversaries	
Anita Poling	10/01	Mark Rupe	10/15
Donald Short	10/02	Kip Hayden	10/20
Julie Hatten	10/06	Elaine Rustemeyer	10/22
Pastor Tom and Marian Cici	10/08	Jack Keefe	10/26
Michael Schoeninger	10/10	Aaron and Katie Matej	10/29
Sue Miller	10/12		