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December 2021
Our Church Family

Please remember the following in your prayers:

Joann & Deb Barnes & family as Joann continues to work with her doctors and she and Deb navigate their current financial situation as Jo is not able to work at this time.

Cheryl Bedwell’s great-grandson, Kenzo, and his mom, Wilson. Kenzo is home from the NICU and prayers for his continued good health and growth are appreciated.

George & Angie Hammond & family as George waits for test results regarding a spot found in his lung.

Priscilla Hammons as she experiences a difficult time physically and emotionally.

Ray Ripple’s sister and brother-in-law, Sue & Mike Higer, as Mike receives treatments for pancreatic cancer.

Leah Jones, daughter of Larry & Linda Jones, as she continues treatment for breast cancer.

Brie Bolton’s friend, Crystal McCullough, and her 9-year-old son, King. King is undergoing tests and consulting with doctors concerning a tumor he has on his sternum.

Mary Beth Ripple as a tendon in her arm heals.

Laura Steele’s pregnant sister and her nephew who were in a recent car accident.

Paige Tevlin’s grandmother, Dorothy Tevlin, as she waits for test results to confirm pancreatic cancer.

Andrea Todd’s brother, Fred, is home from the hospital after having pneumonia. Prayers for Fred and his family as they recover from being ill are appreciated.

Betsy Wallace as medical personnel try to keep her diabetes and blood pressure at healthy levels.

Marilyn West, Joe’s mom, as she continues her recovery at home after a recent hospitalization.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Roger & Lois Schultz & family. Roger’s brother, Steve, came home to find that his wife, Amy, had died. Please continue to pray for Roger as he also deals with cancer and for Lois as she may need to have hernia surgery in the near future.

Congratulations to Mackenzie McKee at the birth of her daughter Charlotte Joanne on November 15! Little Charley is the granddaughter of Chrissy McKee and her great-grandparents are Ray & Mary Beth Ripple. (Aunts Michaela & Molly are also very excited with the newest addition to the family!)

One of CCC’s own has been named Professor of the week at Indiana State University! Congratulations, David Vogel!

Please report items for Our Church Family to the church office and to Rev. Zelensky.

Due to Patient Privacy Laws, hospitals are no longer able to contact pastors if a church member is admitted for treatment. If you or a loved one is in the hospital, please call the church office or Rev. Rebecca.
It Takes A Village…

Our Advent/Christmas worship series this year is *it Takes a Village.*

“It takes a village to raise a child” is an African proverb that means an entire community of people must provide for and interact positively with a child for that child to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment.

Many cultures across the globe, across the ages, have known the truth of this proverb since…well, always! This applies to Jesus as much as it does for any child.

During Advent, Christmas and on Epiphany Sunday we will hear dramatic readings from characters who are part of the Birth Stories of Jesus. Each has her own part to play in his life. The same is true for all of us. Because of the impact Jesus has in each of our lives, each of our own stories is woven into his larger one.

As part of our worship from now until Jan 2, feel free to send an updated photo of yourself (or your loved ones) to the church office. They will be incorporated in a special visual project our Worship Ministry Team is creating.

“God calls Central Christian Church to be a welcoming and open faith community where Christian love, action, and discipleship unite.”
Vision Statement of Central Christian Church (DOC), Terre Haute, IN
Outreach will once again have an “Angel Tree.” The Angel Tree will be located in the back of the sanctuary and be adorned with gift tags. Members of the congregation will be able to select a gift tag and purchase Christmas gifts based on the information on that person’s card. The information included is the person’s initials, gender, age, shirt/blouse size, pants/slacks size, socks size, shoe size and pajama size. There is also a section for other items that the person might like such as a football or toy, favorite sports team, TV character item, favorite games, or even a gift card for a particular store. We would also like to purchase Christmas Stockings filled with candy and a small stocking stuffer for each of the younger children. There is a $25.00 limit on gifts. This is necessary in order to insure that children within the same family receive gifts of approximate equal value. There will also be tags for gift cards or monetary donations as well. Sometimes a parent might need to purchase gasoline, a special food item, another item for a family member, or just a little something special for themselves. Gift cards can also be given to older children who might be more difficult to buy for. If choosing to make a monetary donation, please note on your check or donation that it’s for the Angel Tree.

A sign-up sheet will be located near the Angel tree. Each Angel Tree Tag will have a number assigned to it. If you wish to participate, select a tag or tags, find that tag number on the sign-up sheet and write your name next to each tag that you take. After purchasing your gifts, return your wrapped gift with the Angel Tree gift tag attached to it and check your name off the sign-up sheet to indicate that your gifts have been purchased. Your gifts can then be left under the Angel Tree.

Thank you for your assistance in helping to make the spirit of giving and Christmas special for those who might not otherwise be so blessed.
Mike & Andrea Ditto
In Memory of
Robert A Ditto, Mary Frances Ditto, Frank P Walters, Nettiereid Walters

Kim Faught
In Honor of
Dr. Margaret Pappas
In Memory of
Viola and Frank Armpriester

Marilyn Fisher & Linda Snider
In Memory of
Mr & Mrs Lowell Fisher, Carolyn, Mr & Mrs Andy Carr

Susan Goode
In Memory of
Roy and Carol Goode

Will & Betsy Hine
In Honor of
Our children & grandchildren
In Memory of
Maynard, Harriet, and Kip Hine.
Bruce, Frances, and Alice Nash

Melanie Hurst & Twyla Edinburgh
In Memory of
Nancy Hurst, Cecil & Ellen Hurst, Wilbur & Gertrude Barrett, Henry & Charlieveen Edinburgh, Lillian & Ella Edinburgh

Charlie & Mary Ellen Jackson
In Memory of
Charles, Theresa, and Terry Jackson

Dianne Mansfield
In Memory of
Jerry Mansfield

Greg & Sherrie Mansfield
In Memory of
Jerry Mansfield and Richard Maher

Ray & Mary Beth Ripple
In Honor of
Our grand & greatchildren
In Memory of
Our parents

Doug & Carol Sloan
In Honor of
Our Church Family
In Memory of
Judy Hill
Outreach would like to give a BIG SHOUT OUT and THANK YOU to the wonderful congregation of Central Christian for their very generous donations for our holiday food baskets! We filled eight baskets with enough food and other items needed so that families could or can prepare an entire holiday meal. Four baskets were given for Thanksgiving and four additional baskets will be given for Christmas. All of the non-perishable items have been purchased and bagged. We will still need a few donations of perishable items for the Christmas baskets. These items will need to be purchased and returned to the church by Wednesday, December 15th so that baskets can be completed and distributed to families before Christmas. The perishable items needed are as follows:

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<th>Need</th>
<th>PERISHABLES</th>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Sour Cream (16 oz.)</td>
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<td>Eggs (1 Dozen)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Cool Whip (8 oz.)</td>
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<td>Onions (3 lb. bag)</td>
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<td>Pie Crusts (2 pack)</td>
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<td>Potatoes (5 lb. bag)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>1 lb. Butter/Margarine</td>
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<td>Hams (Shank, Butt or Spiral Cut)</td>
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Below is a collage of pictures of the incredible amount of food that CCC donated! For Thanksgiving, each family received three stuffed grocery bags of non-perishable items and an additional bag filled with perishable items as well as a bag of onions, potatoes, rolls a roasting pan and a whole turkey.

WOW! GREAT JOB!

❤️❤️❤️❤️
The Vigo County Vocal Chords, who meet on Tuesday evenings at Central Christian, will entertain us with their Christmas show.

Join family and friends on Sunday, December 19 at 6PM for an evening of fun and music!

Socks for the homeless will be collected to help spread joy and warm toes. There will also be a time for the singing of carols and the sharing of friendship.

O come all ye faithful!

Thursday, December 9, at 6 pm

Christmas Dinner

Big Willies Townhouse

The Disciples Women will host their annual Christmas Dinner with $5 gift exchange. The dinner is open to all women of the church. For more information, please contact Susan Edmondson at 812-240-2717 or booksandbutterflies@yahoo.com.

MAT MAKERS

On Sunday, December 5, immediately after worship, Central Christian Church will have a congregational meeting to approve the 2022 Operating Budget.

All church members and friends are invited to stop by and see what the Mat Makers are doing any Saturday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. There are a variety of “jobs” to do, everything from crocheting to cutting plastic bags (some can even teach you how to crochet if you are willing to learn!). This has become a very important ministry of CCC that has touched many lives and allows for much connection and evangelizing. Please help us keep this group alive, well and growing.
Rebecca’s Revelation

Now after the magi had left, an angel of God appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod.

Matthew 2:13-15a

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ! A Blessed Advent to all CCC members and friends. Advent, the first season in the Christian year, is a separate time from the season and celebration of Christmas. During Advent we observe a time of waiting, anticipation and preparing for Christ to be born anew into our lives and into our world.

Sadly, in many ways things have not changed all that much for certain people since the days when the human Jesus was born two thousand years ago. The writer we know as Matthew writes that immediately after the Magi’s visit, Joseph was instructed by an angel of God to take his small family and flee to Egypt. Because of the political situation, Joseph, Mary and Jesus had to escape to another country in order to save the little one’s life. We continue to live in a world where such things happen.

As we get ready for the holidays, many Afghan families have been forced from their homes with only the few possessions they could carry with them. After building careers and houses and contributing to their communities throughout their adult lives, they have had to leave all behind just to survive the takeover by the Taliban.

Countless Afghans who remain in their country are at risk of being targeted for their past work or association with coalition forces – which includes helping U.S. troops in any way during the past twenty years – as well as their connection to Afghanistan’s former government, international development programs, media, civil society, and other organizations promoting human rights. Women and girls and their families are also fearful now that they can no longer work or study in their homeland.

A group of people here in Terre Haute, including individuals of various religious traditions, is compiling a list of needs for Afghan families who will be relocating to our city. A number of CCC members have already become involved. At a recent meeting the question was raised, “Is there something Central Christian can do for these Afghan refugees?” And one of our members responded, “How can we not?”

As more information becomes available, we will definitely be sharing very concrete things we at Central Christian can do for those who have left Afghanistan. In fact, this may be the best way we all celebrate and honor the birth of Jesus this year.

Peace and many blessings to you,

Rev. Rebecca Zelensky
We imagine God’s love revealed when Jesus called disciples to follow him

And we imagine God’s love revealed when our Region nurtures persons for ministry preparing them for ordination and commissioning.

We imagine God’s love revealed when Jesus drew his disciples into retreat

And we imagine God’s love revealed when our Region gathers children, youth, and adults in summer camps.

We imagine God’s love revealed when the Apostle Paul cared for congregations and helped them find their leaders

And we imagine God’s love revealed when our Region provides care for our pastors, encouragement to lay leaders, and support in transitions.

We imagine God’s love revealed when the early church found ways to break down racial, political, and economic barriers to form true community.

And we imagine God’s love revealed when our Region assists pastors and congregations to honestly confront racism in our own time.

We imagine God’s love revealed when a young couple in Bethlehem, overwhelmed by God’s love, gave birth to one in whom they could see God’s face

And we imagine God’s love revealed when we see the face of God in our neighbor, the stranger, and the refugee.

We invite you to share your gift to the Christmas offering supporting the ministries of our Region as we continue our witness to God’s love in our midst.
CCC Social Justice will be collecting hygiene products throughout the year. These include such items as shampoo, toothpaste, body wash, combs, deodorants, feminine hygiene products, etc. in sizes that are easy to carry (ex. trial/travel size).

These items will be handed out to the homeless – or others in need – at various times during the year. A basket will be available at the back of church to place these items in.
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<td>10:45a Congregational Mtg</td>
<td>9a Bible Study</td>
<td>12:15p Elders Mtg</td>
<td>2:30p Social Justice Discussion</td>
<td>6p Disciples Women Christmas Dinner at Big Willie’s Townhouse</td>
<td>9a MATS</td>
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<td>9a Bible Study</td>
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<td>9a MATS</td>
<td>7p Live Nativity Play</td>
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<tr>
<td>9a Bible Study</td>
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<td>Clarion Articles Due</td>
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<td>7p Candlelight Communion Service</td>
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**December 2021**
HOPE
PEACE
JOY
LOVE

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Communion
7 p.m.