



# *The Call*

CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

Volume 62, Issue 18

September 19, 2023

*Sermon Title and Scriptures*

*September 24, 2023*

*Matthew 16:21-28*

*"For What?"*

*Sermon Title and Scripture*

*October 1, 2023*

*Romans 13:8-14*

*"Nearer Now"*

## Chancel Choir and Bell Choir are back!

Our choirs are back from the summer break and are rehearsing again. If you are interested and would like to be a part of either, or both, of our choirs, please let our Choir Director, Marvin Murphree, know of your interest. These two choirs help bring life and music to our worship services, giving us one more way to give thanks and to worship God. They are a source of pride for our church, a wonderful way to express yourself, and great way to share the gifts God gave you.

We do hope that you can be a part of these two groups and bring the glory of God, through music, to all who can hear.



**Men's Fellowship will meet this  
Monday, September 25th at 9:00am.**

Everyone is invited to come and join us for coffee, for conversation, and for friendship and fellowship.

## *Endowment Fund Wisdom*

*Since death is still universal, and since we all die with something tangible we leave to others, the church supported in our life time could be supported in our last Will and Testament.*

- Pastor Robert W. Bohl

### **Congregational Concerns**

**Greg Walton Cheryl Horton Jim & Elaine Spradlin Kitty Manary Wilma Frazier Lisa Lynch**  
Ginger Williamson Virginia Thomas Howard McCoy Mike & Robin Shirley, Friends of Ray & Sharon Lowry  
Todd & Karen, Son & Daughter of Kay Corder Larry Graham Vicky Claborn Glendon Walker  
Annie Anderson, Daughter of Charlie & Carol Mabry Gary Wright Rebecca Ebert, Daughter of Ray & Sharon Lowry  
Howard Gayles Patty Soukup Rex Biggs Frank & Pat Dodd Betty Jo Gardner Duane & Dana Powell  
Lynda McCoy Greg & Paula Walton Gloria Brown and family Steve Vestal Victoria McIlwain Dan Hicks  
Jean Hagerman Winnie Young Don Nix Greg & Teresa Turso Robert & Beth Taylor William Francis  
Shirley Potter Evelyn Looney Nan Olmsted Paul Martin James Willingham Barb Rossetter  
Karen Hahn Karen Sunderwirth Diana Criger Zach D., Friend of Jayden W.  
Tammy Larimore, friend of Carol Pyles Joyce Prince, sister of Wilma Frazier Barbara Richardson & Leslie Clements,  
mother & sister of Vicky Claborn Scott Biggs, son of Marilyn (Starnes) & Rex Biggs

**Livestream our Sunday morning  
service—starting at 9:30—at  
*www.centralchristianspringfield.org.*  
Connect with us on social media:**



SUBSCRIBE to our YouTube channel at  
**Central Christian, Springfield, MO**



LIKE us on Facebook at  
**Central Christian Church DOC - Springfield, MO**

### **FINANCIALS & ATTENDANCE**

**9/10/2023**

General Fund  
Contributions: \$6,203.00  
Attendance: 75  
Online service views: 50\*

**9/17/2023**

General Fund  
Contributions: \$2,577.00  
Attendance: 85  
Online service views: 55\*

\*As of 9/18/2023

	<u><b>September 24</b></u>	<u><b>October 1</b></u>	<u><b>October 8</b></u>
<b>Elders</b>	Gwen Thomas Phil Brown	Carolyn Deeds Kay Parrish	Everett Deeds Joe Pyles
<b>Deacon Team Leader</b>	Bill Fischer	Everett French	Patsy Tipton
<b>Invocation and Offering</b>	Sharon Lowry		Carol Pyles
<b>Communion &amp; Fellowship Prep.</b>	Youth	Joe & Kay Parrish	Darrell & Linda Zweerink
<b>Usher</b>	Ginger Williamson		
<b>Greeter</b>			

# FOR SUNDAY MORNING

There is a new sign-up sheet on the desk outside of the church office for our Sunday mornings. If you are able to help us out for our Sunday worship we are very grateful and thankful. There are opportunities for you to be a reader in our worship service, to welcome those who join us on Sunday morning, to pass out our bulletins. There are also a couple of blank spaces to prepare our communion and fellowship time after church. If you think you might be interested in helping us out in any capacity, please sign up for any date in this last quarter. And if you have any questions, please talk to Rev. Geoff and he will answer them as best he can.

## SEPTEMBER 24

Then Jesus told his disciples,

*'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'*

- Matthew 16:24

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## OCTOBER 1

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*Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.*

- Romans 13:11a





# Celebrations!!!



## September

9/6 – Linnea Deeds,  
Susan Haynes

9/7 – Carol Pyles,  
Jeremiah Williamson

9/9 – Kathy Osborne

9/13 – Ginger  
Williamson

9/15 – Pat Dodd,  
Martha Williams

9/16 – Ellen Grier

9/17 – Nan Olmsted

9/19 – Marilyn Biggs

9/20 – Isabel Deeds,  
David Lane,  
Shirley Musser

9/21 – John Hicks,  
Kitty Manary

9/26 – Karen Fischer

9/27 – Lisa Lynch



## October

10/01 – Carolyn Deeds

10/2 – Vicky Claborn

10/3 – Bailey Deeds

10/6 – Ian Frazier

10/7 – Sandy Wingo

10/8 – Luther Young,  
Elizabeth

Bermond

10/9 – Stephen Powell

10/12 – Michael

Penland

10/15 – Bob Thurman

10/16 – JB McCoy

10/17 – Bob Newman

10/19 – Isaac Thomas

10/20 – Anna Marie  
Walker

10/23 – Virginia  
Thomas

10/24 – Lisa Monkres

10/26 – Maryann  
Wakefield

10/27 – Bob Lynch,  
Betty Roberts

10/29 – Julie Ferguson

10/31 – Paula Walton



# Around the Church

The work on our church steeple has begun! They will be cleaning, repairing, patching, and making sure that our steeple can last another 100 years!





# Thoughts from the congregation

.....  
“*So Far Away*” is the title of a popular song recorded by the British rock band Dire Straits. The chorus goes like this. “*You’re so far away from me. You’re so far I just can’t see. You’re so far away from me. You’re so far away from me.*” “*So Far Away*” is the opening track on their fifth studio album, “*Brothers in Arms*,” released in 1985.

“*Have You Ever Been Lonely?*” is a song with music by Peter De Rose and lyrics by Billy Hill (writing under the name of George Brown). It has been recorded by many artists, but probably the most familiar version is a duet, though they never recorded together, by Patsy Cline and Jim Reeves. The electronically created duet was released in the fall of 1981.

So, what do these two songs have in common? Absolutely nothing. Bear with me, I’ll try to make a connection.

As Christians we’re taught to pray, to seek God’s guidance and strength not just in times of trials but daily. In the book of 1 Chronicles, chapter 28, verse 9b we are told by the prophet Ezra, “*If you seek him, he will be found by you....*” (NIV) The prophet Jeremiah in chapter 29, verses 12-13 tells us God has said “*Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all you heart.*” (NIV) In the Gospel of Matthew verses 32b-33 we are told Jesus said, “*...your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*” (NIV) These are but three Scriptures through which we’re told to “seek” God and we’ll find him. That he will “listen.” Again in the Gospel of Matthew it is recorded that Jesus promised, “*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*” (Matt, 28:20b, NIV)

So, you and I “seek” God daily and yet at times we don’t see or feel any results, any solutions. We feel ignored, lost, lonely. We begin to think we’ve been forgotten. That God or his emissary the Holy Spirit are “so far away” neither hear the petition of our needs, or they are not being acknowledged. Why is that?

Could it be we are too self-focused, too self-centered, too self-absorbed? How many times in our communication with God do actually seek God’s will? Are our prayers more akin to an Amazon wish list rather than an open communication with The Creator? Does our “thank you,” rather than actually expressing gratitude, sound more like a child expressing thanks simply because he or she was told to do so? We seek relief from pain, from heartache, for a safe journey, for someone’s return to good health. Yet we still suffer painful bodies, heartache of a lost loved one, become injured while traveling, and/or a close friend’s or family member’s health never seems to improve. We ask, why? Why has this happened? Why is this child not getting well? Why was this child’s parent allowed to die? Why would it be God’s will that such a thing occurred?

During such times it is entirely possible to feel all alone. To feel that God is so far away, too far removed. Have you ever felt like telling God, “*You’re so far away from me, you’re so far I just can’t see?*” Have ever been lonely because you felt God’s absence? Even Jesus asked God, “*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*” (Matt, chapter 27, verse 46b, NIV) If Jesus can feel “lonely” and that the love of his father is “so far away from me,” we should not be surprised if we also do sometimes. But, just because we feel God is so far away, doesn’t mean that God is not always with us.

**Central Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)**

1475 N. Washington Ave.  
Springfield, MO 65802

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U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI  
PERMIT NO. 1332

**Return Service Requested**

**Specially prepared for:**

***Sunday Mornings***

**9:30 am Worship, in person  
and via our Livestream**

**10:45 am Fellowship**

**11:00 am Sunday School**

**Ministry Team**

Bill Fischer, Board Moderator  
Rev. Geoff Weinman, Minister  
Marvin Murphree, Music Director  
Vicky Claborn, Organist/Pianist  
Shirley Musser, Visitation Director  
Joyce Thomas, Children & Youth Director  
Curtis Thomas, JYF/Chi Rho Shepherd  
Hunter Mayo, Worship & Wonder Shepherd  
Ken Hillen, Church Caretaker

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