



*A church that feels like Home,
A congregation that feels like Family...*
Central Church
Jefferson City, MO

December 2021/January 2022

Volume 75, No. 10

“TOWER”

Newsletter of Central Church

Christmas Giving

I once had a Muslim friend of mine mock the giving of Christmas gifts to children as mere manipulation or bribery. It was a very cold winter's day before Christmas, and we sat across from one another in a cozy, little café while sipping some delicious, dark coffee. I said I was excited for Christmas and all of its festivities. Then he responded: “Oh, Christmas! When you give children gifts so that they'll believe in Jesus.”

This didn't offend me. (I don't think my friend meant it to be offensive.) Yet, I did find it fascinating. I found his Muslim perspective quite revealing, and I could also see why he would think that way. You see, he wasn't making distinctions between the general American celebration of Christmas, with all of its greedy consumerism, and an authentically Christian observance of it. He saw America as a Christian nation—just as he viewed Jordan or Saudi Arabia as Islamic nations. Thus, he viewed Christmas as a lifeless, manipulative exercise to keep people connected to (in his view) a lifeless manipulative religion. And, it truly made me sad to think of all the evidence he regularly saw in our culture to support that view.

Central Church Family, during all the hustle and bustle of Christmas, during all the holiday parties and all the shopping, during all the traditions and festivities which you look forward to each year, don't neglect your witness to the world around you—to people like my Muslim friend. Our gift giving (as followers of Jesus) is merely a reflection of God's generous gift-giving to us. For, the Lord is the giver of all good and perfect gifts (James 1:17)—the love of family and friends, the joy of rest and relaxation, the delight of good food and fine drink. We give generously because we've received generously from our Creator.

Yet, far more importantly, we give gifts during Christmas because it's the season in which we commemorate God's greatest gift to us—the coming of his Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Indeed, Jesus is the real and true reason to celebrate and give gifts!

Pastor Jason

Verse of the month – Luke 2:10-11 ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

UPCOMING DECEMBER/JANUARY DATES

TROLLEY RIDE

Tuesday, December 14

5:30p.m. — 7:00 p.m.



The Mission and Outreach Ministry is sponsoring a trolley ride to view Christmas lights on December 14, 2021. The trolley will leave from church at 5:30 p.m. and return at 7:00 p.m. This year we have the front facing trolley. Refreshments will be served in the Friendship room after the tour. The cost is \$10 per person. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. It is on a first come first serve basis.



“HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS” PARTY

Saturday, December 18

1:00 p.m. — 2:30 p.m.

It's a very special birthday party! There will be games and activities, cake and ice cream, and cookie decorating. No gifts are necessary ... He wants our presence, not our presents. Bring a friend and come join us. And then hopefully you can join us for the all-church caroling afterwards! This special party is for all kids up through 5th grade, so even our younger friends who aren't in kindergarten yet can share in celebrating Jesus'

birthday. At 2:00 p.m., there will be a “No rehearsal Christmas Pageant.” Invite your family to come see our pageant and join us for cake and ice cream.

ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Saturday, December 18

2:30 p.m. — 5:00 p.m.

O come all ye faithful. Christmas caroling is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. We are going to piggyback onto the end of the kids' “Happy Birthday, Jesus party” and head out for an afternoon of melodies. If you know someone homebound who would appreciate a visit, please contact Rene Miserez at 573-694-6022.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Friday, December 24

6:00 p.m.

Watch for more information as plans come together for this beautiful Worship Service as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Save the date for the Annual Meeting which will take place on Sunday, January 30, following worship.

DECEMBER BENEVOLENCE

Rape and Abuse Crisis Service

Jefferson City's Rape and Abuse Crisis Service (RACS) center is a comforting secret place tucked out of harm's way, providing shelter to abuse victims and their children, when their homes are no longer safe. At the RACS center, those temporary residents get counseling and shelter until they can return to a safer, happier world. A tutoring program developed with Jefferson City School District, for after-school help with children's homework, is in place. A pet care program developed with a local veterinarian and a foster care organization helps residents cope. Your contribution to RACS will help fund many of the supply expenses that are needed by the center's families for daily living.

JANUARY BENEVOLENCE

Have-A-Heart

The Have-A-Heart offering supports members of Central's congregation that have a one-time need for a helping hand. This was designed to help those church members who are going through a rough patch because of a family emergency, health crisis or something of that nature. Your contribution to Have-A-Heart shows you have a heart for those in our church who may need a helping hand.

BLOOD DRIVE

Mission and Outreach would like to thank everyone who came out to Central Church for the Blood Drive! It was a huge success. Right now there is an Emergency Blood Shortage. We had 11 total units donated at our event with a couple of additional donations just short of the full pint. Each pint can save up to 3 lives so we helped over 33 lives with our time. Thank you everyone!

FESTIVAL OF SHARING REPORT

January Kit

People who have to go to shelters because of floods, fires, tornadoes or other natural disasters greatly appreciate receiving the CSW Hygiene Kit. Affordable wide-tooth combs can be found at discount suppliers such as sallybeauty.com or at Dollar General. Search for "wide-tooth pastel comb" to see an example of combs that meet the kit requirements. All items need to fit inside a one-gallon Ziploc type bag. You can bring a complete kit or any part of the kit to drop in the Festival of Sharing box in the Narthex.

CWS HYGIENE KIT

- 1 nail clipper (remove packaging)
- 1 toothbrush in original package
- 1 bath-size bar of soap in package
- 1 washcloth
- 1 hand towel
- 1 wide-tooth comb (remove packaging)
- 10 standard size Band-Aids

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The offering envelopes for 2022 were already ordered prior to our church changing its name. We order them early every year to take advantage of the "early order" discounts. We have also added some local charities to the benevolence envelopes. The 2022 offering boxes will be available for pickup in the narthex later in December. If you have any questions after picking up your offering box, please contact the Mission and Outreach Ministry.

**Deadline for turning in articles
and pictures for the
February "Tower" issue:
SATURDAY, JANUARY 15**

85+ BIRTHDAYS



DECEMBER

Laverne Baker (12/06)
1526 Lake Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Paul LePage (12/25)
1003 Rock Hill Road
Jefferson City, MO 65109

Patty Johnson (12/27)
Heisinger Bluffs
1024 West Main, Apt. 230
Jefferson City, MO 65109

JANUARY

Jane Stumpe (1/17)
1110 Major Drive
Jefferson City, MO 65101

Bertie Spalding (1/18)
1809 Devonshire Circle, #A
Holts Summit, MO 65043

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Sometimes we question, "What is the Women's Fellowship," so I would like to share the history and our purpose.

On May 17, 1876, twelve women got together and started the Ladies' Aid. In 1942, they changed the name to the Women's Guild following the formation of the Evangelical and Reformed Church. In 1964, following the formation of the United Church of Christ, it became the Women's Fellowship. It wasn't until January 6, 1915 that women received the right to vote at church meetings. Designed to be creative on the local level, every woman by virtue of her membership in the congregation is also considered a member of Women's Fellowship.

When they started, they placed a rose on the pulpit for each child born, placed his/her name on the nursery roll, and stayed in close contact with the family for two years. Pamphlets were sent out on a schedule to help parents understand the physical and spiritual growth of their child. Women's Fellowship also supports several organizations with proceeds from the rummage sale.

This is an organization for all women of the church. Please let us know what you would like to do.

Faye Rinaldi
Women's Fellowship President

BROTHERHOOD HIGHLIGHTS

November 2, 2021

- Rev. Abbott gave the blessing.
- The treasurer reported a balance of \$3,031.32.
- Discussed having a fish fry after church on November 21, and having a breakfast on November 27.
- Discussed lining up programs again for our meetings.
- David Kohler closed the meeting with a prayer.

Carl Ernst, Secretary

THANK YOU

Thank you for the lovely flowers that were brought to my room.

Wilburn Rowden

Thank you for your gift of \$530.81 to The Food Bank which helps provide nutritious food to families, children, veterans and senior citizens in need.

Lindsay Young Lopez
President & CEO

YOUNG YOUTH

Wednesdays after school ... Kids in K—5th grades share a 20-30 minute Bible lesson or faith-building activity, enjoy playtime and building friendships, and share dinner together. The kids are really adding some great input to our discussions about our Bible lessons this year. Supervision begins at 3:00 and we end at 6:00 so come whenever your school lets out.

Note: No Young Youth activities on Dec. 22 or Dec. 29 due to school break.

Rene Miserez, Young Youth Director
694-6022 cell/text

MESSAGE FROM CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

We have had a busy but exciting few months in our church! The Congregational Life Committee is looking for new ideas for fellowship for our church

members, and broadening our horizons to attract new members. If you have ideas to help us, please share them with our committee.

Currently, we are responsible for the Coffee Hour on Sunday mornings, all receptions, planning the monthly Sunday meals held on the third Sunday of each month, communion for our shut-ins, card games on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, and other special events. We still need a volunteer group for the third Sunday in February. If interested, please contact Karen Howser. Your group can collect a free-will offering to use for your projects.

Some ideas that have been shared with the committee include a square dancing event, dinner and a movie, "paint a picture" event, and a trivia contest. Blessings to all from our committee.

Karen Howser, Chair
573-680-5011



Christkindlmarkt

Saturday, Nov. 27 8:00 – 2:00

Craft Show Market

over 20 booths of handcrafted items

Baked Goods

Cookies, breads, and pastries for your sweet tooth, featuring traditional Christmas and German favorites.
"Select-your-own-variety" cookie trays.



Breakfast Bonanza 8:00 – noon

Buffet: \$10 adults, \$5 kids 6-12, kids 5 & under free

Made-from-scratch biscuits Gravy
Pancakes Scrambled Eggs Bacon Sausage

Please come support our crafters who are supporting us, satisfy your sweet tooth at the bake sale, and enjoy a hearty breakfast.

Baked Goods ... If this reaches you in time, it takes everyone's help to fill tables of baked goods. We are looking for YOUR special homemade cookies, candies, breads, and pastries ... those favorite recipes that you only pull out at Christmastime. Baked goods may be dropped off on Friday, November 26, from 10:00am – 2:00pm. Please list nuts or other allergens.

Crafts ... We have a wide variety of crafters joining us:

- * woodcarving
- * wreaths
- * gnomes
- * hairbows/bowties
- * bottle art
- * crochet
- * cutting boards
- * ornaments
- * wall decor
- * button crafts
- * windchimes
- * jewelry
- * snap charms
- * doll clothes
- * MORE!

See you there! Contact Rene with questions at 694-6022.

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

USHER SCHEDULE

2021 Schedule:

January/July	Mary Ann Wippermann Team
February/August	(Leo & Harold)
March/September	Carl Ernst Team
April/October	Monty Schmutzler Team
May/November	Russell Rottmann Team
June/December	(David, Dennis, Gary, Warren)

DECEMBER:

David Kohler, Dennis Kuebler, Gary Woodward, Warren Witt

2022 Schedule:

January/November	Monty Schmutzler Team
February/July	Carl Ernst Team
March/August	Mary Ann Wippermann
April/September	Russell Rottmann Team
May/October	In Need of Team Leader (David, Dennis, Gary, Warren)
June/December	Gary Woodward Team

JANUARY: (Monty Schmutzler, Team Leader)

Mark Mueller, Allen Schmutzler, Roger Schneider, Roland Warmann

COMMUNION

December 5 — Patti Schmutzler
January 2 — Mary Ann Wippermann

SALVATION ARMY MEAL

December 9 — Bell Choir
January 13 — Rene Miserez

MEALS ON WHEELS

December 15 — Women's Fellowship
January 19 — Brotherhood

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

October 21, 2021

- Work is continuing on the updating of the signs on our church to 'Central Church'.
- Work on the 2022 budget is continuing. The General Fund is doing well.
- We plan to take care of the termites rather than hire someone.
- Changes have been made to the Constitution and By-Laws and will be voted on by the congregation.
- The Christkindlmarkt will be held this year on Saturday November 27th along with the Breakfast Bonanza.
- Totenfest will be November 7th.
- Rev. Abbott is working on a Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Motto for Central Church. These will be used on signs, flyers and the website letting people know what we are about.
- More Sunday School teachers are needed. Please contact Jeanie Woodward if you can help.
- On November 13th, there will be a drive-thru meal of spaghetti, bread and dessert for the residents in the group homes instead of serving them a meal and playing bingo here.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joyce Mutert
Council Secretary



Breakfast Bonanza
Central Church
118 W. Ashley, Jefferson City

SECOND SATURDAYS
Saturday, Dec. 11 7:00 – 11:00am
Saturday, Jan. 08 7:00 – 11:00am
Saturday, Feb. 12 7:00 – 11:00am

Made-from-scratch Biscuits Gravy Pancakes
Scrambled Eggs Sausage Bacon Coffee/Milk/Juice
All-You-Can-Eat
\$10 Adults; \$5 Kids 6-12; Kids 5 & under free
centralchurchjcmo.com

December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00am Quilting 1:00pm Dominos 3:00pm Young Youth 6:15pm Bell Choir	2	6	4
Second Sunday of Advent 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship 10:15am Children's Sunday School 11:00am Congregational Meeting 12:00pm Elenor Circle Lunch	5	7 5:30pm Brotherhood	8 9:00am Quilting 1:00pm Card Games 3:00pm Young Youth 6:15pm Bell Choir	9 4:30pm Salvation Army Meal	10	11 7:00am Breakfast Bonanza
Third Sunday of Advent 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship 10:15am Children's Sunday School	12	14 5:30pm Trolley Ride	15 9:00am Quilting 10:00am Meals On Wheels 1:00pm Dominos 3:00pm Young Youth 6:15pm Bell Choir	16	17	18 1:00pm Young Youth "Happy Birthday, Jesus" Party 2:30pm All-Church Caroling
Fourth Sunday of Advent 9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship 10:15am Children's Sunday School 11:00am All-Church Luncheon	19	21 6:00pm Mission/Outreach Ministry 7:00pm Council Meeting	22 9:00am Quilting 1:00pm Card Games 6:15pm Bell Choir	23	24 6:00pm Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY
9:00am Coffee Hour 10:00am Worship 10:15am Children's Sunday School	26	28	29 9:00am Quilting 1:00pm Dominos 6:15pm Bell Choir	30	31	

CENTRAL CHURCH
118 West Ashley Street
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

OUR MISSION

To be a Christ-centered community of faithful disciples
who are called to grow in faith, and share God's love
as we reach out to each other,
to our community, and to our world.

Central Church

118 W. Ashley St.
Jefferson City, MO 65101

centralchurchjcmo.com
office phone: (573) 635-1041
office email: office@centralchurchjcmo.com

Senior Pastor.....Rev. Dr. Jason Abbott
Ministers.....Every Member
Young Youth Director.....Rene Miserez
Organist.....Shirley Klein
Bell Choir Director.....Rene Miserez

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE:

9:00am Coffee Hour
10:00am Worship Service
10:15am Children's Sunday School