



# CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

July 16, 2023, 9:15 AM  
Central Christian Church

## About our service:

We want worship to be comfortable for you. Feel free to bring your **coffee** with you into the worship area.

You are welcome to leave an **offering** with us if you are motivated. Simply deposit your offering in the box on the south wall of the worship area or follow prompts to text-to-give or to give online.

## MEDITATION TABLE:

### STONES & VASE

Use the stones as a physical representation of your burden. Put the stones in the vase and leave the burden with God.

### CANDLE

Light a candle for any praise or prayer concerns you have.

### COMFORT CROSS

Feel free to pick up a cross and take it with you as a reminder that Jesus loves you unconditionally. His comfort, care, and transformative power is at work for you, in you, and through you today and always. Receive it. Praise God and share His never-ending love with others.

### PRAYER WALL

Stop by our prayer wall and leave a prayer for others to offer with you or to pray for those already posted.

## SCRIPTURE CARDS

Feel free to read and take one of the Scripture cards with you. You are encouraged to place it where you will see it throughout your week as a reminder of God's message for you.



Wifi= CCCGuest  
No password  
needed.

## Upcoming Church Community Event

July 22 – 6:00 to 7:00 pm

An Evening of Speed-Tasting - a fun way of "getting to know you," brief conversations to meet new friends and share one another's stories. There will be wonderful desserts! And it's just an hour.

## Damage Assistance

Did you have damage to your home/property in the most recent storms? Our denomination's ministry called Week of Compassion may be able to help. Let us know of the damage and the cost of repair and there may be some funds sent to our congregation to share. Please call the church office or email Pastor Scott at: [scottwoolridge650@gmail.com](mailto:scottwoolridge650@gmail.com). This is just another way of saying - "We're all in this together!"

## Bingo & Ice Cream Social

All Central women are invited to Dorcas Disciples' fun evening at a local senior living facility. We will meet at Primrose Retirement Community on Tuesday, July 18th at 5:30 p.m. to play bingo with residents, enjoy ice cream and make new friends.

Let us know that you're coming so we have plenty of ice cream! Mark your calendars for July 18th and make your reservation by contacting Sandy Garver by July 15th at 217-877-0800/217-454-2111 or [revrag@comcast.net](mailto:revrag@comcast.net).

## Many Thanks To Scott and Vicky!

As Vicky mentioned Sunday, we have completed eight weeks of our sabbatical journey. The time is flying by, and we hope you are finding joy, rest, and connection during Michael's time away. We are so thankful to Scott and Vicky for their service throughout our sabbatical! They have guided us, challenged us, and cherished us by providing unfailing leadership and wonderful sermons. Their love for this church and God is evident in all they do.

To celebrate and thank Scott and Vicky, we invite you to a reception in the Welcome Center Sunday, July 30th, after third service. Light refreshments will be provided. We hope to see you there!

## Are you interested in joining Central?

The only thing required to be a member of Central Christian is having faith in Jesus Christ. If you are moved during the service to confess your faith, or transfer your membership to Central, simply come up to the minister at the communion table **during the communion time**. If you wish to talk with a minister more about membership, simply let Pastor Vicky or Pastor Scott know after worship.

**Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 NRSVUE**

<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> If you have ears, hear!"

<sup>18</sup> "Hear, then, the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. <sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup> But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

**A Prayer for Sabbatical - One God, One Church**

God of Oneness,

In this time of sabbatical, may we rest in you, finding quiet that connects us with you in deeper ways.

May we be present to you with open hearts and minds, trusting you to show us the way to peace.

May we be present to one another with gentleness and understanding, seeking to be more loving and authentic.

May we hold Michael in our love and prayers, that he may commune with you, O God, and find what you have already prepared for him to receive.

May our time of distance be one of renewed commitment to our shared ministry.

We pray with thanksgiving and hope, in Your holy name.

Amen.

**Responsive Reading**

Leader: God has abundantly cast seeds of love and hope upon us.

**People: May we be fruitful soil for the planting and growing of those seeds.**

Leader: Come, let us praise God who is so generous with us.

**People: Let us sing songs of joy and offer our grateful prayers.**

Leader: Hallelujah!

**All: Hallelujah! Amen!**

**Serving Today**

Elder - Susan Bryant

Deacon - Randy Trei

Greeter - Angie Horvath

Liturgist - Cheryl Zollinger

Snacks - Susie Turner

**Serving Next Sunday, 7/23**

Elder - Jeannie Backes

Deacon - Laura Moma

Greeter - Randy & Deb Trei

Liturgist - Marci Baumann

Snacks - Angie Horvath