

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

Jan. 1 Duane Eveland, Paiven Knoot
Jan. 3 Brynn Shaul
Jan. 4 Suzy DeJong
Jan. 5 Janese Smallwood
Jan. 6 Shirley Pitman, Daniel Foster
Jan. 8 Gary Gordon
Jan. 10 Sandy Bailey
Jan. 11 Greg Gordy, Meghan Moorman
Jan. 13 Angela Hyland, Shannon VanRheenen
Jan. 14 Curt Legvold, Lisa Vohoska
Jan. 18 Kay Russell, Sage Scott
Jan. 20 Steve Van Rheenen, Rachel Strong
Jan. 21 Renee Parker
Jan. 23 Lauren Herr
Jan. 24 Irene Hoyt, Erin Godden
Jan. 25 Jeff Greenhalgh, Taylor Scott
Jan. 26 Jill Dursky, Maddie Hamilton, Avery Alexander
Jan. 30 Mike Terpstra, Deb DeJong, Betsy Luck
Jan. 31 Sondra Bottenfield



The Finance Committee report:



November 2022 income	\$21,194
November 2022 expense	\$28,361
	\$ -7,167
Total yearly income	\$288,165
Total yearly expense	\$314,509
	\$ -26,344



Attendance Report:

Nov. 27 Worship Attendance – 107
 Dec. 4 Worship Attendance – 157
 Dec. 12 Worship Attendance – 187

Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.”
 (1 Thess. 5:23-24)

Sanctification is a difficult concept to grasp, because it's hard to believe that Christian perfection can be achieved in any real way. But as the scriptures remind us, God will finish what He has begun in us. What is impossible apart from God is very possible with God.

John Wesley describes it well in this quote concerning gradual sanctification: “From the time of our being ‘born again’ the gradual work of sanctification takes place. We are enabled by the Spirit to mortify the deeds of the body, of our evil nature, and as we are more and more dead to sin, we are more and more alive to God.”

In another quote, Wesley reminds us that it is God who makes us holy: “What God has promised, he is able to perform. Admitting, therefore, that with men it is impossible to bring a clean thing out of an unclean – to purify the heart from all sin and to fill it with all holiness – yet with God all things are possible.”

The process of sanctification can be experienced or even seen by the growth in grace of the individual or a body of believers. I believe our church has certainly been growing in grace this past year. I have witnessed the personal spiritual growth of many specific individuals who have felt God's call on their life toward holiness. I have also seen many signs of positive growth in the church as a whole this year and I believe we are hearing and responding to the call of God on this particular body of believers. Perhaps you have seen the signs as well.

We still have a long way to go toward sanctification, both individually and corporately, but God is faithful and will carry us on toward the ultimate goal. Let's keep our eyes fixed on Jesus Christ and keep pushing forward in the direction that God is leading us. In 2023, the best is yet to come!

–Pastor Chad



Bridge Events!

What is a bridge event? Bridge events are events that are held outside the church walls, preferably off church grounds entirely, specifically designed to meet and connect with people in the community.

After a two-year hiatus, we are once again hosting the Winter Carnival! It will be on January 29 at the Penn Central Mall from 2-4 p.m. This is a huge event that our church hosts and many volunteers are needed. We will need people to host a variety of carnival games and food. You come up with your idea and bring what you need. There will also be games we already have that need someone to host them. The church will provide small prizes. Ideas like a Cake walk, Duck pond, ladder golf, Twister, Gaga Ball, 9 Square in the Air, Popcorn machine, etc. Sign up in the narthex soon for your first choice! Please indicate what you plan to do or where you would like to help.



Change A Child's Story

Wow! We had 53 little book tags to pick from and on the first day most of them were gone! Thank you for buying the books for children at the elementary! And thank you to the Mahaska Stitch 'N Quilt Guild and several ladies in our church who made the book pillows! The children are going to love this!

Discipleship Pathway

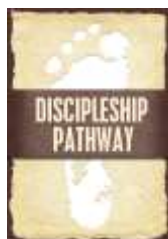
Women's Bible Study: Watch for details of upcoming studies.

The Men's Bible Study led by Pastor Chad meets on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Cornerstone Room. This is an ongoing men's group and all men are welcome to join anytime.

Adult Classes on Sunday Morning!

Join the **Christ Connection Adult Sunday School** class in the Blue Room. They will not meet December 25 or January 1. On January 8, they will be starting season 2 of The Chosen, the groundbreaking television series about the life of Jesus. The theme is Blessed Are the Chosen with a focus on the Sermon on the Mount. There is no book to purchase. They view an episode and then discuss highlights of the teachings of Jesus and Bible study questions. They have coffee and usually someone brings treats to share. Anyone is welcome to join the class. This session is 8 lessons.

Join the **Going P.L.A.C.E.S.** (Parents Learning About Christ Every Sunday) Adult Sunday School class in the Wesley Room, directly below the nursery. This class is geared towards parents who have children in Sunday School. They are studying the book and video called "Raising Kingdom Kids" by Tony Evans. Childcare is provided!



To receive credit for 2022 on your church giving statement, all donations need to be delivered to the church office by noon on Friday, Dec. 30th.

Please take note of the following chart to ensure your 2022 and 2023 contributions are credited properly...

Your End-of-Year Contributions to Central UMC:

	Report for 2022	Report for 2023
Checks written in Dec. 2022 and deposited in church offering in January 2023		X
Checks written and deposited in church offering in January 2023 BUT "BACKDATED" TO DEC. 2022		X
Checks written and deposited in church offering in Dec. 2022 BUT "POSTDATED" TO JAN. 2023		X
Checks written in Dec. 2022 and deposited in the mail and POSTMARKED IN DEC. 2022, BUT NOT RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH UNTIL JANUARY 2023	X	
Checks written in Dec. 2022 and deposited in the mail in Dec. 2022 but not postmarked until Jan. 2023 AND NOT RECEIVED BY THE CHURCH UNTIL Jan. 2023		X

IMPORTANT NOTICE: To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2022 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN 2023

Have you received your Stewardship Campaign letter and commitment card? If not, please contact the church office.



What a blessing to share the Christmas story through our "Lights of Christmas" program. We appreciate all the kind comments we have received about the program. We have amazing and talented children and youth in our church!

Thank you to the Education Committee for helping with the goodie bags for all the children and youth. Thank you to Bill Ludwick for making the buildings and Sharon Shaulis for painting them along with making the star. Thank you to the anonymous church member who made the beautiful wooden star ornaments and to Rita and Darrell Hoogheem and helper, Marlene Maxwell for the bags for the congregation.

Thank you to the George Daily Auditorium for the use of their risers and the street lamp and to Craig Alexander for helping to pick them up and returning them. Thanks to our sound engineers and to Kelly Asperheim for help during our rehearsal

A very special thank you to Denise Morris for writing the program from inspirations of Joy Lierman and Jan Dodd! Their work on the program committee was so appreciated and made for a very meaningful program!

Sunday School There will be Sunday School on December 18. There will NOT be Sunday School on December 25 or January 1.

Participation in Sunday School, Outstanding Attendance and Perfect Attendance will be recognized at the end of the year. Those who have attended Sunday School 80% of the Sundays will be recognized for Outstanding Attendance. If you are out of town and attend another church, bring back a bulletin, give to your Sunday School teacher and it will be marked as present.

Substitute teachers are also needed. Please let the office know if you would be willing to be on the list. You can always say no if you are not available. It's nice to have a variety of names to call.

Children to sing/ring in Church: The children will be singing and/or ringing in church on January 29 after the children's message. Please have your children meet at 9:15 a.m. in the chapel to practice.

Noisy Offering: The next noisy offering will be Sunday, January 29 and will support Change A Child's Story. Thank you for helping to "make a change" in someone's life with our noisy offering.

"We Three Kings" Epiphany Party: Jackson Lahner is planning the Epiphany Party for Friday, January 6 from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Children and families are invited to attend. Please let the office know how many in your family plan to be there. Who will find the hidden piece in the King's Cake!?

Teacher Encouragement Lunch: Tentative date is Sunday, March 5. Teachers, please mark your calendars to attend!

E.P.I.C. (Experiencing Possibilities In Christ)

Youth Group for 6-12th graders

E.P.I.C. will meet on Sunday nights from 6:00-7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. The Sign Up Genius has been sent out to help with the meals. Thank you!

Sunday, December 18: E.P.I.C. CHRISTMAS PARTY! Bring a white elephant gift and wear your fun holiday gear!

E.P.I.C. will start back in 2023 on January 8. On Sunday, January 15 E.P.I.C. will have Lazer Tag!

Leaders and second adults are always needed for E.P.I.C! If anyone would like to work with our amazing youth, please let us know!

JUMPSTART your morning! Thursday mornings from 7:15 a.m. to 7:45ish a.m. for High Schoolers (and middle schoolers if you can find a ride). Light breakfast will be served.

As always, invite your friends and especially those that may not have a church home to any of these events!

We have E.P.I.C. t-shirts for anyone, youth and adults, who would like to support our youth. They are \$10.

Can Drive: Thank you to Scott DeJong and all the helpers! Thanks to everyone for bringing in your cans and bottles! The proceeds will go to the New Hope School in Guatemala. Be watching for the next date for a can drive and continue to save your cans and bottles.




Winter Jam is on Friday, February 10, 2023 at Wells Fargo Arena. Please let Karen know if you are interested in going.

Souper Bowl: Our youth will be hosting a "Souper Bowl" lunch on Sunday, Feb. 12 beginning at 11:15 a.m. to help raise funds for upcoming youth events. The youth will be serving a variety of soups and samples too! Youth families, please watch for the Sign Up Genius. There will also be a Valentine's Day Bake Sale that day!

Seven Oaks: We are heading to Seven Oaks for a day of skiing, snowboarding and tubing on Sunday, February 26! Thanks to Rick and Connie Bryan for hosting us! Watch for details on deadlines for signing up and payment.

Acolyte Schedule:

Dec. 25	Charley Johnson & Drew Johnson
January 1	Lilia Morris
January 8	Jackson Lahner & Asher Edel
January 15	Nolan Bollinger & Andrew Hersom
January 22	Charley Johnson & Drew Johnson
January 29	Lilia Morris & Mia Luck

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Dec. 29 Offices open 8am-noon only	Dec. 30 Offices open 8am-noon only	Dec. 31
1 9:30- Worship/KMZN 10:30- Fellowship Time 	2	3 10- Men's Study 7- Al Anon – Library	4 8:30- Little Creations P.S. 6:30- Staff Parish Relations Committee – Blue Room 7- Choir Rehearsal	5 7:15- Jumpstart (youth) 8:30- Little Creations P.S. 6:30- Bridge Committee	6 8:30- Little Creations P.S. 6:30- Epiphany Party	7
8 9:30- Worship/KMZN 10:30- Sunday School/Fellowship 6- E.P.I.C.	9 8:30- Little Creations P.S.	10 8:30- Little Creations P.S. 10- Men's Study 7- Al Anon – Library	11 8:30- Little Creations P.S. 6- Finance Committee 6:30 – Board of Trustees 7- Choir Rehearsal	12 7:15- Jumpstart (youth) 8:30- Little Creations P.S.	13 8:30- Little Creations P.S.	14
15 9:30- Worship/KMZN 10:30- Sunday School/Fellowship 6- E.P.I.C.	16	17 8:30- Little Creations P.S. 10- Men's Study 7- Al Anon – Library	18 8:30- Little Creations P.S. 6:30- Administrative Council 7- Choir Rehearsal	19 7:15- Jumpstart (youth) 8:30- Little Creations P.S.	20 8:30- Little Creations P.S.	21
22 9:30- Worship/KMZN 10:30- Sunday School/Fellowship 6- E.P.I.C.	23 8:30- Little Creations P.S.	24 8:30- Little Creations P.S. 10- Men's Study 7- Al Anon – Library	25 8:30- Little Creations P.S. 7- Choir Rehearsal	26 7:15- Jumpstart (youth) 8:30- Little Creations P.S. 9:30- 4C's	27 8:30- Little Creations P.S.	28
29 9:30- Worship/KMZN 10:30- Sunday School/Fellowship 2- Winter Carnival	30 8:30- Little Creations P.S.	31 8:30- Little Creations P.S. 10- Men's Study 7- Al Anon – Library				

“FELLOWSHIP NIGHT” (formerly known as Family Game Night) Sunday, February 19 from 4-6 p.m. Bring games to play and food to share! Bring your friends! This is for all ages in our church to come play together, enjoy munchies and have fun!

Thank you to Pastor Chad for his comforting and personal service, to Jan Dodd for the beautiful organ music, to all of those who helped in the audio and video booth, to all persons who prepared and served refreshments and to anyone else who helped with Don's funeral service. Also thank you to those who brought meals for me while he was hospitalized. It means so much to have a close church family.
Judy Parks and family