

THE

# Caller



WEST DES MOINES  
Christian Church

July 30, 2019 Vol. 23, Issue 7

WEST DES MOINES CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS AND INFORMATION

## FREE OUTDOOR MOVIE EVENT FOR ALL AGES! Saturday, August 3—beginning at 6:30 PM

**G**rab your picnic blankets and lawn chairs and join us for an outdoor movie and much more beginning at **6:30 p.m.** on **Saturday, August 3. All are welcome**—bring your family and friends to enjoy walking tacos, hot dogs, chips and cold beverages. Plus, we'll have a bounce house for the kids, lots of fun yard games and everyone's favorite: B-I-N-G-O with prizes!

Thanks to everyone who voted for their choice of movie in our Facebook poll! *By popular vote...our feature presentation is...**Mary Poppins Returns**. Decades after her original visit, the magical nanny returns to help the Banks siblings and Michael's children through a difficult time.*



At **8 p.m. or sunset**, we'll start the movie and offer popcorn and freezer pops. Freewill donations will be accepted to defray food costs. **We hope you can join us!** *The Church Growth Committee*

## Join Us At The Well!

During our summer worship series *Beautiful Things: The Art of Creation*, we have encountered God through worship and art with fun hands-on activities and fellowship. There are two more opportunities to join us for outdoor worship at The Well (*weather permitting*) at **6:30 p.m.** *If it's too hot or raining, we will still meet indoors.*

• **Thursday, August 1**

*Make A Joyful Noise*

Activity: Open Mic Night

• **Thursday, August 8**

*The Image of God*

Activity: Photography and Dinner Celebration

## Back-To-School Supply Drive Continues

The Social Concerns Committee is collecting school supplies for eligible households in West Des Moines. Please bring donations of basic school supplies on **August 4 and 11**. Place them in the collection box in The Gathering.

### Items Needed Include:

- Pencils & Pens
- Crayons
- Markers (reg. & dry-erase)
- Colored Pencils
- Highlighters
- Glue
- Scissors
- Post-its
- Rulers
- Paper
- Dividers
- Folders
- Notebooks
- 3-Ring Binders
- Index Cards
- Calculators
- Kleenex
- Hand Sanitizer
- Backpacks
- Earbuds



In August, all items will be delivered to WDM Human Services for distribution to kindergarten—Sr. High students. If you prefer to give a cash donation, write "School Supply Drive" on the memo line of your check made out to WDMCC *or donate online*. Thank you for giving and making a difference in our community!

## Fall Kick-Off 2019!

Join us for an exciting Fall Kick-off "*The Pursuit of Happiness*" on **Sunday, September 8** at the church. We'll start at **4:30 p.m.** with some happy Olympic fun! Create your team of 4-8 (*6 would be ideal*) people of **all ages**. There will be some friendly competition between teams playing a variety of yard games and pinball. We will then have dinner and some great musical entertainment. There will be fun for all ages so we hope to see you there! More exciting details will be coming soon! **Mark your calendars!**

## Volunteers Needed for Children's Worship Service

**What:** CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER

Ages 3 years – 2nd grade

**When:** 10 a.m. service during the school year

**Who:** Greeters and Storytellers

As a **Storyteller**, you're not only the worship leader, but also the Bible storyteller. Worship and storytelling materials are provided.

*Every storyteller needs to participate in the training.*

As a **Greeter**, you function more as a behind the scenes person. You bring the children from the sanctuary to the worship space in the gym building, help them with name tags and prepare the feast. *A short training is also needed.*

With enough volunteers, each would be scheduled for a few Sundays in the fall and again in the spring. Please prayerfully consider helping to shape the faith formation and spiritual lives of our children.

To volunteer, contact Martha McDanel – Children's Ministries Director, through the office or email [martha@wdmcc.org](mailto:martha@wdmcc.org) for more details.

## Blessing of the Backpacks—Sunday, August 25

School can be fun, scary, awesome and tough. To kick off the school year right, West Des Moines Christian Church is sending students back to school with prayer and blessings.

All students and educators are invited to bring their school bags or lunch boxes to the 10 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, August 25**, as we celebrate and bless the start of another school year.

Students of all ages (along with their educators, bus drivers, lunch and teacher aides, etc.) come to be lifted in prayer and dedication for a blessed school year.

Backpack tags will be handed out as a reminder of the support that follows them from their church family and God's blessings.

## Shop With SCRIP For Back-To-School

The next opportunity to order SCRIP gift cards is **Sunday, August 11** (pickup by August 25). It's a great way to buy back-to-school clothes and school supplies for the kids! Order forms and lists of 750+ participating retailers (*Wal-mart & Target included*) are available at the kiosk and Fellowship Hall brochure rack. Fill out an order form and return it, with your check, to the office or kiosk. Orders are usually taken on the 2nd Sunday of the month, with pickup within the following two weeks.

**All proceeds are applied to the building fund.** For more info, see Stephanie Murphy at the kiosk on Sundays or call the office.



## Purchase Global Greens Produce

*Beginning Farmer Anezia* is in The Gathering on **Sundays mornings** for your summer produce shopping. We are grateful for the opportunity to continue our support for *Global Greens Farm* through *Lutheran Services in Iowa*.

## Share Your Musical Talents This Summer

Do you sing or play an instrument, but are unable to commit to being a part of the choir or ensemble during the year? The regular musical programming is on hiatus during the summer, but there are plenty of opportunities to share your gifts with the church. If this is something you'd be interested in, contact Choir Director John Cook ([john@wdmcc.org](mailto:john@wdmcc.org)) to discuss the various options.

## Disciples Dining around Des Moines

Do you like to go out to eat? Do you enjoy the company of fellow Christians? We have two monthly dining out ministries for you! This fun is for all ages (*working or retired, couples & singles*). Don't miss out on the fellowship, food and fun! Sign up at the kiosk in The Gathering, call the office or email Martha McDanel ([martha@wdmcc.org](mailto:martha@wdmcc.org)) by the Sunday before so reservations can be made. You can also request to be included on an email reminder list.

- 1. MUNCHING WITH MARTHA** is a monthly **LUNCH** get-together. Whether you come alone or with a friend, you are sure to have a great time! On **Tuesday, August 20**, we'll dine at *Maxie's* (1311 Grand Ave. – WDM). Sign up to carpool from church at 11:15 a.m. or meet at the restaurant at 11:30.
- 2. DELISH** is a monthly **6 p.m. DINNER**. On **Tuesday, August 27**, we'll meet at *Granite City* (12801 University Ave. – WDM).

## YOUTH MINISTRY

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING

On August 16-18, our Chi Rho & CYF youth will be traveling to Decorah (NE Iowa) for a fun weekend of camping/canoeing! We'll leave church @ 2 p.m. on Friday and return by 1 p.m. Sunday. If you're able to pitch in \$25, that would help offset the cost of the trip. Pay attention to your emails for information on a packing list and schedule. Contact Mark or Luke with any questions.

### Youth Fall Kick-off Event

**When:** Sunday, August 25

**Where:** Raccoon River Park (Biddle Shelter).

**What:** We'll have dinner, fun games, and get to know each other! Open to all youth grades 6-12. Contact Mark, Luke or Randy Ehrhardt in the office for more information.

*Some portions of this newsletter have been removed to protect the privacy of our congregation.*

## SMALL GROUPS, BIBLE STUDIES, AND ADULT MINISTRIES

*Small groups are a great way to get connected to other people and build lasting relationships at WDMCC! New members are always welcome!*

**ADULT CHOIR** resumes Wednesday, September 4 at 6:30 p.m. in the Music Room behind the Sanctuary. See Summer Choir opportunities on page 9. Questions? Contact Choir Director John Cook (john@wdmcc.org).

**CONNECTIONS Church School Class** will resume September 8. This discussion class looks at current issues from a faith and scriptural perspective and is led by Dr. Randy Ehrhardt and other class members.

**Craft and CREATE** meets Thursdays at 9 a.m. in gym bldg. #112. This group is for all who like to have fun while helping others. The focus is mission projects along with crafting and creating. You're welcome to join in having crafting experience or none at all! Supplies are furnished; ideas are welcomed. To be included on an email list, contact Martha in the office. *Helping others is good for the soul!*

**CROSSROADS Church School Class** will resume September 8. This member-led class is for those seeking ways to live their faith beyond the church pew. Whether you have kids at home, or still feel like a kid yourself, we can all learn and laugh with one another as we figure out how to bring our faith to life in our busy, everyday lives.

**DELISH!** For all ages (*working or retired couples & singles*) wanting to dine with fellow Disciples will meet at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, August 27 at **Granite City**. See more details on page 2.

**GAME DAY** meets monthly on the 3rd Tuesday (August 20) at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall bldg rm 302. Enjoy fellowship and refreshments and play a variety of fun games (*Cribbage, Skip-Bo, etc.*)

**GOOD FELLOWSHIP BIBLE STUDY** will resume September 8. This multi-generational Bible study class meets on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Library. Led by Rev. Mike Armstrong. All adults are welcome!

**HELPING HANDS** This volunteer group meets on Mondays at 8 a.m. in the kitchen to do light housekeeping and enjoy fellowship.

**MEN'S CURRENT ISSUES DISCUSSION GROUP** meets Mondays @ 7 a.m. at **Panera Bread** (4150 Westown Pkwy Ste 202). Contact the office for more information. All men are welcome!

**MONDAY BIBLE STUDY** resumes in September. All women are welcome!

**MUNCHING WITH MARTHA** This monthly lunch group is fun for all! On Tuesday, August 20 at 11:30 a.m., they will meet at **Maxie's** on Grand in WDM. See page 2.

**WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP** resumes in September, broadening their outlook by reading about women from all over the world. Jan Stump (440-1293).

**WOMEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP** meets on the 1st Friday each month. On August 2 at 9 a.m., meet at **Perk Up** (2700 University—WDM). All women are welcome! Contact: Phyllis Clark (225-2181).

**Y.E.S.** (Young Energetic Seniors) Sunday Church School class will resume September 8. They also meet for social/mission events, and breakfast on the 1st Saturday of each month (August 3) @ 7:45 a.m. at Hy-Vee (N.E. corner I-35 & Mills Civic). Contacts: Karen/Ron Townsend (225-0464).

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2019  
Des Moines, IA JULY 20-24

Wells  
Fargo  
Arena

# Abide in Me

John 15: 1-5

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
in the United States and Canada

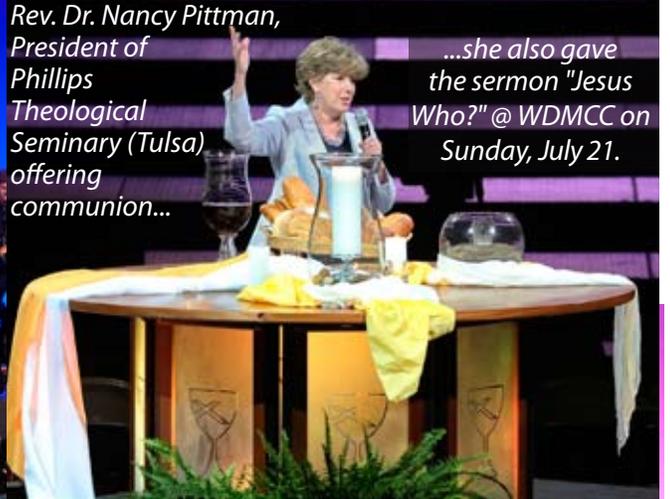


Saturday evening  
Speaker: Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President



About to hear Rev.  
Justo Gonzalez II  
preach the Word at  
Downtown Disciples.  
#Abide2019





*Rev. Dr. Nancy Pittman,  
President of  
Phillips  
Theological  
Seminary (Tulsa)  
offering  
communion...*

*...she also gave  
the sermon "Jesus  
Who?" @ WDMCC on  
Sunday, July 21.*



*Wednesday morning Celebration and Sending Out  
Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II.*

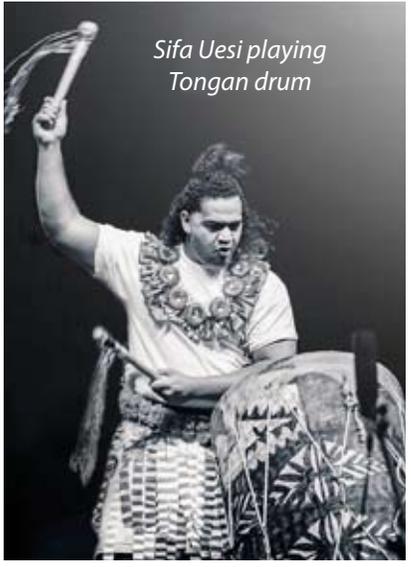


The Butter Chalice!



Let the song arise.  
Oh hallelujah

left: Luke Ehrhardt, Leo Davis, Minister of Music/Worship Leader @ Mississippi Boulevard CC (Memphis), & Mark Ehrhardt, who were responsible for recruiting and supporting the General Assembly Choir.



Sifa Uesi playing Tongan drum



So many gifted speakers and musicians in one place!



Some of our WDMCC children led the Assembly praising God on Monday night! We're so proud of their leadership and faith!



## Join Us In Thanking...

...those who served during 2018/19 and to the new officers, elders, committee chairs, deacons, and ushers commissioned.

...other weekly or monthly volunteers: Care Connection, Children and Youth, Chore Corps, Communion and Visitation prep, Helping Hands, laundry, office, and plant care.

...weekly worship service volunteers: bus drivers, deacons, elders, greeters, ushers and sound techs.

We value our volunteers, who give many hours of their time to make WDMCC such a wonderful church. If you know of a person or group that should receive a thank you, please let the office know.

*Consider volunteering a little of your time. The rewards are heavenly!*

*Some portions of this newsletter have been removed to protect the privacy of our congregation.*

*37 pounds of lettuce, radishes, onions, cabbage, tomatoes, and zucchini were delivered to DMARC Food Pantry so far this summer.*

## WDMCC Garden Benefits DMARC Food Pantry



*Many thanks to this dedicated crew for weathering the storm that almost cancelled the WDM Independence Day Parade! Due to all the rain, our church float could not be fully completed, so we took the church bus instead. Thanks to everyone who donated candy and to everyone who walked or rode along representing WDMCC to the community! Below are some of the participants.*



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### **OPERATING INCOME**

Received year to date as of July 14, 2019...\$430,093.73  
Expected year to date as of July 14, 2019...\$449,066.69

### **Memory Garden Update**

Engraving is now up to date and includes 1 new Memory Marker and 4 new Memory Bricks, added last spring. To be a part of this ongoing beautiful project, contact a Memory Garden Trustee through the office.



**2019 CYF TRIP**

31 CYF youth and sponsors traveled to Colorado to experience God's handiwork in the mountains, serve in soup kitchens, clean up graffiti to help restore important landmarks, and grow closer together in Christian fellowship.

**SUMMER SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
(through September 1) ONE 10:00 Worship Service

**AUGUST 4**

*Out of Storage*  
Luke 12:13-21

Pastor Mark Ehrhardt

**AUGUST 11**

*Invitations & RSVPs*  
Luke 14:16-24

Pastor Luke Ehrhardt

**AUGUST 18**

*Peace and Division*  
Luke:12: 49-56

Pastor Alice Bolen

**AUGUST 25**

*Spiritually Equipped*  
Jeremiah 1:4-10

Pastor Luke Ehrhardt



**WEST DES MOINES  
Christian Church**

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Christian Church (*Disciples of Christ*)  
www.disciples.org  
Christian Church in the Upper Midwest  
www.uppermidwestcc.org

If you no longer wish to receive the Caller newsletter, please notify the office. To receive this newsletter electronically, send your email address to stephanie@wdmcc.org. Thank you.

**FALL KICKOFF** WORSHIP SCHEDULE STARTING SEPTEMBER 8  
8:30 & 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP 🌻 9:30 Church School (All Ages)

**We are Disciples of Christ,**

A movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ, we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.

• Disciples of Christ Statement of Identity



**WDMCC STAFF**

Dr. Randy Ehrhardt	Senior Minister	randy@wdmcc.org
Pastor Mark Ehrhardt	Associate Minister	mark@wdmcc.org
Pastor Luke Ehrhardt	Associate Minister	luke@wdmcc.org
Rev. Mike Armstrong	Pastoral Minister	
Rev. Alice Bolen	Pastoral Minister	
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Lisa Lewis	Accompanist	
Sheryl Neal	Accompanist	
Kelley Ridgway	Food Hostess	

The *Caller* newsletter is published monthly by West Des Moines Christian Church.

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Submit articles to joy@wdmcc.org.

The next issue of this newsletter will mail out on **August 27**.  
Deadline to submit info: **Monday, August 19**.