

THE

Caller



November 27, 2018 Vol. 22, Issue 13

WEST DES MOINES CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS AND INFORMATION

THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS

The world and our lives can be a dark place. The daily grind of work, life schedules, and all the negative stimuli we pick up in the world can often make our lives feel like they are anything but jolly. Our days are filled more with negativity, doubt, and struggle than with the merriment and brightness of a holiday season. This suffering, this struggling, this monotonous daily grind is sometimes the reality of our daily lives. We face difficult situations that never let up. It's the diagnosis that comes at the worst imaginable time. It's the compounding sense of meaninglessness. It's the grief that comes with being let down or left out. Sometimes the struggle, the darkness of it all, seems to have the upper hand.

And then something miraculous happens... God speaks into the darkness. God says, *"Let there be light; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness"* (Genesis 1:3-4). The most remarkable part of the Christmas story – the part that overwhelms the heart and is almost unfathomable – is that God actively chooses to break into this very darkness, the very struggle of our lives, to sit in it with us. God comes to us as the Christ Child so we may encounter Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy. This coming, this in-breaking has the power to reinvigorate life in such a way that it can never be extinguished. *"What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it"* (John 1:4-5).

Join us this Advent season for our series *"The Light Shines in the Darkness"* as we journey from the darkness of the broken world toward the light of Christ's meeting us in it.

- December 2** *God Came Near* Christmas Cantata
- December 9** *Let There Be Light* Genesis 1:1-5
- December 16** *Led by the Light* Isaiah 9:2-7
- December 23** *The Light Shines in the Darkness* John 1:1-14

Together, may we experience Christ's light shining in the darkness! *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined"* (Isaiah 9:2). We invite you to celebrate the Light of the World with us this Christmas!



All are invited to join us for the annual Christmas Luncheon **Sunday, December 9**, right after the 10:30 service. Enjoy delicious Pot Roast, Roasted Vegetables, Rolls with butter, and Caramel Chocolate Cake. Immediately following the meal, enjoy some special holiday music, including a preview of the upcoming children's musical, *Sheep in Heavenly Peace!*

Christmas Wonderland Returns December 15

Celebrate the joy of this holy season at our annual *Christmas Wonderland* event on **Saturday, December 15**. Bring family and friends to this free community-wide event!

Special events include:
5:30-7 PM Live Nativity Scene portrayed by our youth
7:00 PM *Sheep In Heavenly Peace* presented by the *Friends in Faith* Children's Choir, followed by a reception in The Gathering featuring Christmas sweets and treats!

MEET WDMCC'S NEW CHOIR DIRECTOR ON PAGE 2.

Christmas Eve Worship Services

5:30 p.m. Family Candlelight and Communion Service

6:30 p.m. All-Church Dinner* (Fellowship Hall)

8:00 p.m. The Christmas Story by Scripture and Music with Candlelight & Communion

11:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols with Candlelight and Communion

* Menu: *Ham Balls, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Cinnamon Applesauce, and Christmas Cookies*



54th annual Live Nativity

DECEMBER 14, 15, 16

(Fri-Sat-Sun) 5:30 - 7 PM

Share our joy as we celebrate the birth of Christ...experience our beautiful tradition as the youth portray this miraculous event!

Christmas Angels Program Is Underway!

Again this year, WDMCC is sponsoring several families in our community by providing gifts and food baskets to help make their Christmas season brighter. The Social Concerns committee invites everyone to participate in this annual Christmas Angels ministry.

In The Gathering, you'll find angels displayed on a tree that bears gift requests from our sponsored families.

Here's how it works:

1. Purchase the gift listed on your angel.
2. Wrap the gift (*gift tags will be added later by Social Concerns*).
3. Attach the angel tag to the outside of the package with tape to identify the contents.
4. Bring the gift to church on **Sundays: December 2, 9, and 16.**

Decorated gift card holders are available in The Gathering.

You may also make a monetary donation (earmark checks for "Christmas Angels"). The money will be used to purchase food for the Christmas baskets and any gifts not purchased by members. For more information, call the office.

Welcome To Our New Music Director!

Our new Music Director, **John Cook**, was introduced at the 10:30 worship service on Sunday, November 25. John will work half-time beginning in January. His duties will include: Adult and Children's Choir, supervising music staff and overseeing music programs.

John is currently Executive Director of the Iowa Youth Chorus. His most recent church music experience includes Minister of Music and Fine Arts at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Des Moines.

John has planned and executed services in the style of traditional worship, alternative worship, contemporary worship and hymn festivals. John sees himself as a student as well, and promises to devote himself to serving God in the context of our community. We welcome John to our church family.

We also thank Pam Redford for her devoted service to the music program of WDMCC. We will be honoring Pam at a January reception.

Thursday Night Advent Worship Services

On Sunday, November 25, our new worship community gathered for the first time. It was a night of fellowship, music, prayer, and communion as we took the first step into Advent together. Between now and Christmas, we'll gather for three more services you won't want to miss in the basement:

- **Thursday, Dec. 6 @ 6:30 p.m.**
- **Thursday, Dec. 13 @ 6:30 p.m.**
- **Thursday, Dec. 20 @ 6:30 p.m.**

This isn't just a new service; it's a worship community... a community of worshipers who are wanting to be intentional about showing up in one another's lives and encouraging one another to grow in faith. We hope you'll consider joining us for this chance to go deeper in faith this Christmas season.

365 Days of Christmas Tree

Along with our Christmas Angels, Social Concerns also offers you the opportunity to share Christmas joy throughout the year. Our *365 Days of Christmas* tree features Angels to be used beyond the holidays. When a family comes in needing groceries, gas, or a bus pass, the gift cards from these Angels will be there to help. You may also choose an Angel to provide a lunch for students in the WDM Public Schools.

Note: All 365 Days of Christmas Angels must be returned in their original Angel envelope on these **Sundays: December 2, 9, and 16.**

THANK YOU!



December Food Drive

All food items collected in December will be used in the food baskets for our Christmas Angels adopted families, and for DMARC Food Pantry. Baskets will be organized and delivered to the families on December 21 by the Social Concerns Committee.

Nonperishable food items for preparing holiday meals are needed by **Sunday, December 16**. Lists of needed items are at the kiosk. Bring donations to The Gathering collection box.



Help Needed Delivering Poinsettias

We are looking for 25-30 volunteers to help deliver poinsettias to some of our church members. The poinsettias will be available for pick up on **Sunday, December 16** and can be delivered anytime that week. If you would like to help with this special ministry, email claudette@wdmcc.org or sign up at the kiosk.

Harmony Central and Pride of Iowa Christmas Concert

Ring in the holiday season with "Christmas Stories" presented by Harmony Central Sweet Adelines and Pride of Iowa Barbershop choruses. Shows will be presented at **2:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 8** in our sanctuary. Adults \$20; Students \$10 and ages 5 and under are free. Tickets may be purchased at the door or online at <https://tinyurl.com/HCCChristmas18>. In the spirit of the giving season, you are invited to drop off a non-perishable food item or monetary donation to support the DMARC Food Pantry.

Young Adults (ages 19-29) Christmas Party

'Twas 4 nights before Christmas and all through the house, a bunch of fun people were busy hanging out. The cookies were decorated and eaten with care, and presents were exchanged among all the friends there. Then from the theatre room there arose such a clatter, everyone rushed to the room to see what was the matter...turns out nothing was the matter, it was a Christmas movie playing, and everyone there started cheering and "hooraying." With movie and food and party games galore, all the Christmas guests left wanting more. *So, join us for some Christmas delight...Merry Christmas to all and let's have a fun night!*

WDMCC young adults... make plans now to join us on **Friday, December 21 at 6 p.m.** at the Ehrhardt home (255 S 41st St. Unit 154)

We'll be hanging out having Christmas themed fun from 6:00 until we stop. Come for the whole time or drop in whenever you're able as we celebrate the season together! Bring a \$5 gift for a gift exchange, and feel free to bring friends!

The Memory Garden "Forever Gift"

As you make your Christmas shopping list, consider giving the "Forever Gift" by purchasing a brick or marker in memory of and/or to honor a loved one in WDMCC's beautiful Memory Garden, located between the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall buildings. For more info, contact the Trustees through the office.



Women's Book Group Christmas Party & Potluck

Women's Book Group will meet at **6 p.m. on Thursday, December 6** in Fellowship Hall for their annual potluck Christmas party. Need details? Call Jan Stump (440-1293).

YES Christmas Event

Everyone is welcome to join the YES group for *The Joy of Christmas* event on **Friday, December 14 at 5:30 p.m.** in the Mills Civic HyVee Club Room. Enjoy a delicious meal including appetizers, beverages, two-entrée buffet, and dessert. In addition, there will be special holiday entertainment! \$22.50/person, payable to WDMCC. Sign up at the kiosk, church office or with Karen/Ron Townsend (225-0464).

Sign up by December 7. And remember to bring a wrapped \$1 exchange gift.

SCRIP Christmas Shop

December 2 is the last date to order gift cards to receive in time for Christmas! You can buy these cards as gifts or for your own use. They work great for Christmas Angels too! There are over 650 participating retailers from which to choose. No order is too small!

Since beginning the SCRIP program in March of 2012, we have raised almost \$6000 to put towards the Sanctuary Debt. Help us end the year strong and place an order! It's so easy!

Questions? Contact Stephanie in the office during the week or at the kiosk.

In Case Of Inclement Weather

- Sunday morning cancellations for WDMCC will be announced on our website (wdmcc.org), WHO-TV13, KCCI-TV8, and WHO-1040 AM radio.
- If there are extreme conditions on Wednesdays and WDM schools cancel or dismiss early, the **Friends in Faith children** will not meet.

Important Year-End Tax News

If you wish to deduct your 2018 contributions to WDMCC on your federal tax return, do not file before you receive your statement from WDMCC (*to be mailed mid-January 2019*). Some contributions may not be deductible if you file before receiving the statement.

Contributions received in the offering or the church office by December 31 may be deducted for 2018. Contributions received in January 2019 may not be claimed even if backdated to 2018.

Exception: Contributions postmarked in 2018 may be claimed even if they arrive at WDMCC in January 2019.

Contact Claudette Sederburg, Financial Secretary, any time for information about your contributions.



Stewardship Commitment Cards

We are now in the final stages of our "Moments of Generosity" stewardship campaign for the 2019 General Operating Budget. Thanks to everyone who has returned a commitment card! If you're planning to make a commitment to support the 2019 General Operating Budget, the Stewardship Committee encourages you to return your card to WDMCC at your earliest convenience.

Every commitment is important! Together, we can make amazing ministry in 2019!



Thursday Therapy ladies recently had fun making "Troll" head bands for Children's Cancer Connection.



Poinsettia Order For Advent

Will you furnish a poinsettia for the church to display on December 16 and 23? Plants **given** to the church will be delivered to members just before Christmas. Plants **loaned** to the church may be picked up following the 10:30 a.m. worship service on December 23.

Complete this order form and return it with cash or check for \$10.00 per plant, payable to WDM Christian Church. **Orders are due December 12.**

To achieve uniformity, poinsettias are ordered by the church from one florist.

I am ordering _____ poinsettia(s) at \$10.00 each.

In MEMORY of: _____

In HONOR of: _____

You are welcome to take your plant home after worship on December 23 or leave it for others to enjoy.

Name(s) _____ Phone _____



Family Movie Event Coming January 20

The Church Growth Committee is planning a fun family movie event on **Sunday, January 20** in the gym. From **3-4 p.m.**, enjoy hot dogs and walking tacos, play games and jump in the Bounce House! The movie will begin at **4:00** in Fellowship Hall. Watch for more details coming soon and how you can help select the movie!

Life Line Screening Coming February 4

Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings will be at WDMCC on **Monday, February 4**. Ultrasound screenings to identify risk factors for Cardiovascular disease include: Carotid Artery, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, Peripheral Arterial Disease, a Heart Rhythm Screening, and an Osteoporosis Risk Assessment for men and women. Being proactive about your health by knowing your risks helps you and your doctor address problems early. Register online TODAY at www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle and receive your "Community Circle" discount and your Preferred Appointment!

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

Warm Up At The Chalice Coffee Corner

Brrrrr! It's cold! Stop by the Chalice Coffee Corner (gym bldg) for a hot beverage on Sunday mornings! The French Vanilla Cappuccino and Hot Chocolate are delicious! You'll also find regular brewed coffee, hot tea, water, pastries and rolls, and maybe a new friend!

WINTER SPORTS



Sign Up For Coed Volleyball

If you like to play semi-competitive volleyball, join our co-ed teams! The Monday night league will begin **January 7 and ends on February 21 (for ages 16 and older)**. Sign up at the kiosk or call the office by December 16. Teams will be assigned and we'll play against other area churches. If you can't commit to the whole season, but would like to sub, sign up as such. *Childcare will be provided if needed – please note that on the signup sheet.* Questions? Contact the office.

Pickleball Continues

Grab a friend and come play Pickleball at **1 p.m. – Thursdays** in the gym. All are welcome and we'll teach you how to play. Equipment is provided, or bring your own. No signup necessary – just come have fun!



Scenes from Youth Sunday, November 11



Mark Your Calendars!

- November 25 Ministry Teams
- December 2 "Let's Talk _____"
- December 9 Ministry Teams
- December 14 and 15 Live Nativity

- December 16 Live Nativity and Christmas Eve Practice
- December 23 Christmas Eve Practice and Parties
- December 24 Christmas Eve Service
- December 30 No Youth Activities



Two Christmas Parties

Chi-Rho and CYF will have two separate Christmas parties on **Sunday, December 23 from 5 - 7 p.m.** Bring a wrapped \$5 gift that would be appropriate for either a boy or girl for the gift exchange. **We hope you'll join us!**

CYF Retreat January 25-27

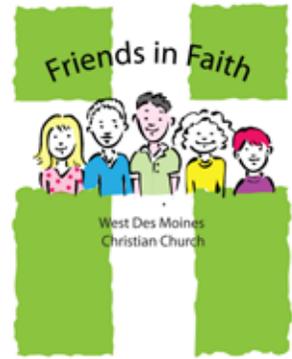
CYF will hang out at church and have activities away from church from **Friday, January 25 to Sunday, January 27**. Activities will include playing sardines, worshiping, cooking, watching movies, and just hanging out. We'll meet at WDMCC at 7 p.m. on Friday (*eat beforehand*) and stay until we attend worship together Sunday morning. Cost is \$25 or \$15 if you can only make it one night. Please sign up by Sunday, January 20.

2019 Summer Youth Trips

- CYF is headed to Colorado June 23–29. We'll spend part of the week in a large cabin in Winter Park, and the rest of the week in the Loveland/Fort Collins area. With outdoor mission opportunities, hiking opportunities in Rocky Mountain National Park, and time to shop in Downtown Estes Park, it's going to be a fun week with friends!

- Chi-Rho is headed to Crystal Lake in Frankfort, Michigan June 4–9. We'll spend the week helping the campgrounds prepare to open for the summer, playing on the lake and at a theme park, shopping, and checking out Sleeping Bear Sand Dunes National Lakeshore. It's going to be a week of fun with friends you won't want to miss!

Details for both trips are currently being worked out—info will be sent to you in the mail soon. **Please note: Your commitment is needed by December 23 with a \$50 non-refundable deposit so we can finalize reservations, get tickets and book lodging/transportation.**



Friends in Faith Holiday schedule:

The next three weeks, **November 28, December 5 and 12** will be devoted to the Children's musical practice. There will not be alternative activities for K–5th graders that are not in the program.

On **December 19**, we all come back together for a Christmas gathering.



We will not meet on December 26, but will resume on January 2.



Chi-Rho and CYF spent time cleaning up around the pond by the WDM Library.





2018



Join Us In Thanking...

...Highway clean up volunteers.

...Drama troupe for leading the November 18 worship services.

...all who donated to the Thanksgiving food drive.

...to the youth and their families for organizing and bagging up the Thanksgiving holiday food donations.

...Men of Chore Corps for putting up the snow fence.

...Volunteers for assembling the Christmas tree in The Gathering and hanging wreaths.

...Geisler's for donation of snack items to the youth.

...Volunteers who helped with the community Thanksgiving meal.

...Russine Morris for donating two prayer shawls.

...Terry McDanel for helping get the basement ready for *Covenant – A Way Deeper* worship services and more to come.

...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 needs thanking or for more information on any of these groups, please contact the office.

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



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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 always welcomes new members! *All experience levels are welcome*—enjoy rehearsal, fellowship, and the beauty of sharing music with our wonderful congregation. Contact Pam Redford (pam@wdmcc.org).

CONNECTIONS This Sunday Church School (9:30 a.m.) discussion class is led by Dr. Randy Ehrhardt & other members looks at current topics/issues from a faith/scriptural perspective. Join us in Gym Bldg. #113 to discuss how our daily practices can animate our faith. **Topics:** Christian perspectives on food, prayer, worship, sacraments, service, community, and money.

CROSSROADS is a Sunday Church School (9:30 a.m.) member-led class 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. Join us in the Gym Bldg. #110.

DELISH! For all ages (*working or retired couples & singles*) wanting to dine with fellow Disciples. DELISH resumes in January—*details coming soon!*

FRIDAY BIBLE STUDY meets in the Chapel (Fellowship Hall bldg.) All women are welcome as the group begins a new study on Ruth & Esther by Max Lucado. For more info, contact Janice Cord @ 222-2279.

GAME DAY (*Dominos, Cribbage, cards, etc.*) will take a break through winter and resume in March. Questions? Call Stephanie in the office.

GOOD FELLOWSHIP BIBLE STUDY is a Sunday Church School (9:30 a.m.) multi-generational Bible study led by Pastors Mike Armstrong and Alice Bolen. It is open to all adults and meets in the Library (Fellowship Hall Bldg.) The group is currently studying the book of Philippians.

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: Cliff Rood @ 537-0598 or Jim Kratz @ 865-7505. All men are welcome!

MUNCHING WITH MARTHA This fun monthly lunch group is for all! This fun group will resume in January—*details coming soon!*

THERAPEUTIC THURSDAYS resumes **January 17**. This fun group is for anyone who like to have fun while helping others. Their focus is mission projects along with crafting/creating. You are welcome with any level of craft experience or none at all! Supplies are furnished; your ideas are welcomed. *Helping others is therapeutic!* To be included in a reminder email list, call or email Martha in the office.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP reads about women all over the world to help broaden their outlook. Mary Armstrong will review *Operation Bonnet* by Kimberly Stuart on **Thursday, Dec. 6 at 7 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Contact: Jan Stump (440-1293).

WOMEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP meets monthly on the **1st Friday**. On **Fri., Dec. 7 at 9 a.m.**, they will meet at *Perk Up* (2700 University—WDM). **All women are welcome!** Contact: Phyllis Clark (225-2181).

Y.E.S. (Young Energetic Seniors) is a Sunday Church School class (9:30 a.m.). The group also meets for social and mission events, and breakfast on the **1st Saturday** each month (**Dec. 1**) @ **7:45 a.m.** at the Hy-Vee (N.E. corner of I-35 & Mills Civic Pkwy). Contacts: Karen/Ron Townsend (225-0464). See info on page 3 re: Christmas event.

YOUNG ADULTS See page 3 for info on the Christmas party.



U.S. Adult Mission Trip '19

This spring, we are going to Marshalltown and Newton **February 24 – March 1** to help rebuild after the tornados and to work on the Chi-Rho shelter. If you are interested in going, pick up a registration form at the kiosk or email Stephanie@wdmcc.org. Cost is \$75 and registration forms are due by December 16.



Be A Sunday Greeter

Greeters are needed every Sunday morning—½ hour prior to each service. All you need is a friendly smile & handshake to make all who enter feel welcome! To volunteer, contact Joy in the office.

Custodial Help Needed

We're looking for someone to cover custodial duties during the week of the mission trip, **February 24-March 1**. **This is a paid position** for age 16 & up. Contact Stephanie in the office.

Church Bus Ministry Seeks Volunteers

WDMCC's bus provides rides to and from 10:30 Sunday worship. Our list of dedicated drivers is short, and we need a few more volunteer drivers. All drivers must have a Commercial Drivers License (CDL). CDL study manuals are available in the office and WDMCC will reimburse any cost to you.

For more information or to volunteer, call the office today!



ThanksLIVING Sunday

November 18 was a memorable day at WDMCC, filled with Moments of GRATITUDE and GENEROSITY! Beautiful music was provided by the Adult Choir, accompanied by Lisa Lewis, and Abby and Luke Nelson. Our new Drama Troup gave the sermon in a heartfelt skit, as well as an entertaining Children's sermon. **Drama Troup members:** Nichole Benge, John Bolen, Ralph Bowman, Sharon Dady, Randy Ehrhardt, Judy Harvey, David Kilpatrick, Roger Nebergall, Kathy Nutt, and Deb Stewart.



Hat & Mitten Collection

The 19th annual Hat & Mitten Collection began November 4. Donations of new or clean gently used hats, mittens, scarves and other winter items are needed to help keep local area children and adults warm in this winter.

In this season of giving, remember those in need of some of the basic things we take for granted.

Please put your donations in the red wagon in The Gathering area by **December 2**.

For more info, contact Martha McDanel in the office. *Sponsored by the children of WDMCC.*



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DECEMBER USHERS

DECEMBER SOUNDTECHS

DECEMBER GREETERS

DECEMBER DEACONS

OPERATING INCOME
Received year to date as of November 18, 2018...\$676,020.35
Expected year to date as of November 18, 2018...\$765,678.85



*Covenant (The Well) Worship Service on Sunday evening November 25—
Dillon Frost sings, accompanied by Mark and Luke Ehrhardt.*



WDMCC is on Instagram!
Follow @wdmcc
for exciting images and
stories featuring our life
together as church!

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Worship Services
9:30 a.m. Church School

DECEMBER 2 (Advent 1)

God Came Near Christmas Cantata
Adult Choir and Ensemble

DECEMBER 9 (Advent 2)

Let There Be Light Genesis 1:1-5
Pastor Mark Ehrhardt

DECEMBER 16 (Advent 3)

Led By The Light Isaiah 9:2-7
Pastor Luke Ehrhardt

DECEMBER 23 (Advent 4)

The Light Shines In The Darkness John 1:1-14
Dr. Randy Ehrhardt

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES - DECEMBER 24

5:30 p.m. Family Candlelight & Communion Service

6:30 p.m. All-Church Dinner* (Fellowship Hall)

8:00 p.m. The Christmas Story by Scripture and Music
with Candlelight & Communion

11:00 p.m. Lessons & Carols with Candlelight & Communion

* Menu: *Ham Balls, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans,
Cinnamon Applesauce, and Christmas Cookies*



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www.disciples.org
Christian Church in the Upper Midwest
www.uppermidwestcc.org

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



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

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