

Fall Issue 2023



CENTER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN, LOUISVILLE

# Center Church News

## From Pastor Mark

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Brothers, Sisters, Family,

*“For I am the LORD, I do not change” Malachi 3:6.*

Where do we find our rest in a weary world? Where do we find stability amidst the shifting sands, the tumultuous waves of this life? In a quiet place, alone with the Lord we can feel it, we can taste it.

I’m learning to pray these days in a fresh new way. I’m finding more and more that this world is too much for me, the changes come to fast and I’m all too often slow to adjust. I need solitude, just me and God. Before the day begins, as the day ends, I need Him. The world has gone dark, the tasks have yet to start or they’ve been set aside for the night. There my praise is, there my peace is, there my rest is found in the reality that He is always there. He does not change.



The Lord is faithful, ever true, steadfast. There is one whom I can count on, one who gives calm assurance in the storm. There is one who is my Rock and Cornerstone, firm and immovable against the raging winds. I love the Lord for it. He is my praise. He is worth it. He is worthy.

My prayer for you is that you feel this too and you find daily time to go there, to a quiet place, alone, away, to be with Him, to speak with Him and experience what only He can offer. He’s been there beyond ages past and beyond the age to come. Let us go together. I’m praying for you.

In the Love of Christ,  
Pastor Mark Kell



Mark Your  
Calendar  
Dec 2 and 9  
Advent Bible  
School For Kids

Mark Kell, Pastor 330-495-6023  
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### Weekly Schedule

Sun. 8:30 am ~ Prayer Time  
Sun. 9:30 am ~ Worship  
Junior Church (1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays)  
Sun. 10:45 am ~ Bible Study  
Tuesday Workers ~ Mornings  
Wed. 6:30 pm ~ Bible Study  
Thurs. 7:00 pm ~ Choir Rehearsal  
Sat. 5:30 pm ~ Prayer & Worship

**Men’s Breakfast**  
1st and 3rd Saturdays 8 am

**Women’s Fellowship**  
2nd Thursdays 6:00 pm

# Center Church Parsonage/Rental Update

Thank you to the Center Church members' patience as we work through the process of decisions on what to do with the church "parsonage/rental."

A little background

- ◆ Built in 1951.
- ◆ Housed 9 different pastoral families.
- ◆ Fire occurred in 2005.
- ◆ Started Renting in 2007.
- ◆ Congregation vote at October 2022 meeting to sell building.
- ◆ Waiting Northern Ohio District Board Approval for Sale.

Recent Update: In preparing for that sale to make sure the property is in good condition, it was determined that the church septic tank is located on the house parcel and that the system for the house has been connected to the discharge line for church septic, probably due to failure of house leach field. The current setup was done without a permit and there is no record of either system on file at the Health Department (not uncommon for older systems). Systems do not meet current requirements. Based on these findings it has been determined that it is necessary to install a new system for both properties prior to listing the house for sale.

As the cost of this project is very high priced (could be between \$35,000 and \$50,000), on Sunday, August 13, the Congregation had a mini-meeting to discuss this capital improvement. We voted to "give the housing committee approval to paid what expenditures needed to get the correct permits, testing etc." They have moved forward with getting quotes and looking into financing options and bring updates to the next Congregational Meeting.



If you have specific questions, feel free to contact Pastor Mark, Sandy Humphrey, David Send, or Anne Couch.

**Center Church Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, October 8, 11:30 am, Lunch  
Meeting to follow including election of  
board members and cemetery committee,  
vote on annual budget, and team updates.**



**BID BID**

**SUMMER**

**CHICKEN BBQ • LIVE BENEFIT AUCTION • GAMES HAYRIDES • AND MORE**

**inspiration hills camp fall festival**

**SATURDAY**  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2023  
10AM-3PM

**INSPIRATION HILLS CAMP**  
4819 W. EASTON RD  
BURBANK, OH 44214

**www.inspirationhillscamp.org**

## Fellowship At Center Family

Saturday, October 21  
Fall Festival (5-8 pm)

Sunday, November 5, 11:30 am  
Center Thanksgiving Dinner



Saturday  
Oct. 14, 2023  
10 am – 3 pm



You are invited to the  
Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren  
**SISTERS' Fall Women's Retreat**  
at Richland Church of the Brethren, Mansfield Ohio  
Speaker: Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford  
Director of News Service for the Church of the Brethren

## Witnessing To Our Community

We have been so encouraged by the faithfulness of God and our church this past year when it comes to serving our community and telling people about Jesus Christ. This summer we had our biggest turnout for the Louisville Summer Lunches for Kids Program. While working with seven other local churches we were able to serve an average of 119 children each distribution and provide them with a week's worth of groceries.

We also have done neighborhood in nursing home visits where we provide care packages to those right near our church with information on the gospel and happenings at Center.

Our team has attended equipping sessions both on how our church can support foster families in the area and how we can better evangelize right here in our community and through mission trips abroad.

This Christmas we will be sponsoring families through the Domestic Violence Project in Canton to fill Christmas wish lists. Stay tuned for more information and if you are interested in making a monetary donation you can send a check to the church with Christmas Outreach in the note.

We are looking forward to all the upcoming events at Center Church as a way to share God's love and the Gospel of Truth to our family, friends, and community. If you are interested in being involved in Center Church witness programs we would love to have you join us. Remember you can be used by God wherever

you may be in life. Thank you for help shining His Light.

For His Glory, Laura Kell, Witness Chair

On **Sunday, September 24** (2:00 pm), the members will participate in the **Louisville Community Constitution Day Parade** and share some hellos... and of course candy.

**Saturday October 21, Fall Festival 5—8 pm**  
Simple gathering for church family and friends and public is welcome. Includes pumpkin decorating, games, hymn sing. Bring a crockpot pot luck (examples) assorted soups/chili, mac and cheese, pulled port, green beans, baked beans. Provided desserts, cider, coffee.

**Saturday, November 4**, we will go to neighbors and/or Center shut-ins and do **leaf raking** (9 am—11 am)

**November 18 (10 am)** we will visit a community nursing home and share thanksgiving care baskets. (Baskets will be assembled by the Women's Fellowship.)



Each month that there are five Sundays we select a special project to support. Sunday, October 29, 5th Sunday Offering *Made for This Ministries* (raising funds for sound equipment for street preaching).



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Contributions for the newsletter are always welcome. Next Deadline, November 15 (For Winter Issue)

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### Blessed With Work

In the movie Return to Me, Grace works for her grandfather, Marty, in his restaurant, and the two live upstairs. After closing time one night, Grace looks through the apartment window and sees Marty cleaning tables. She yells down to ask if he wants help, and he replies, "No, dear, that's okay. I'm blessed with work."

Here's a man well past retirement age laboring extra hours after his staff has clocked out. Marty simply continues to delight in his work, despite the late hour.

Although this snippet had little to do with the movie's plot, I've always remembered Marty's words. But I don't think I've ever claimed to be "blessed with work." By contrast, I often sigh as I'm dealing with messes or long to-do lists. I can get so caught up in tasks that I overlook the incredible people around me. I miss out on the blessing - the joy - of work.

Ecclesiastes 5:19 (NLT) says, "To enjoy your work ... is indeed a gift from God." In what ways are you "blessed with work"? (—Janna Firestone)



WORLD COMMUNION  
SUNDAY

## Gathered As One Body

On World Communion Sunday, observed this year on October 1, Christians across the globe gather at the Lord's Table for the sacrament of Holy Communion. The Lord's Table stretches around the entire earth. Catholic Christians, Coptic Christians, Orthodox Christians, Reformed Christians, Evangelical Christians, Lutheran Christians, Baptist Christians, Anglican Christians, Methodist Christians, Christians who worship in churches bearing names that are unfamiliar to us — all join in worship and do what Christ asked his friends to do: remember him!

"This do in remembrance of me," Jesus said during the Last Supper with his disciples. Then he broke bread as a reminder of his sacrificed body and lifted

the cup of wine representing his blood. The sacrament is a vivid symbol of Christ's sacrifice, love and forgiveness for each of us.

As we gather as Christ's family around that table of grace, remember that we are united in Christ with our brothers and sisters around the world. "In Christ now meet both east and west, in him meet south and north. All Christly souls are joined as one throughout the whole wide earth" (John Oxenham).

**Center Church will observe the Love Feast and Communion service on Sunday, October 1 at 7:00 pm. All members in Christ are invited to participate.**

*We thank thee, Lord, for the glory of the late days and the excellent face of thy sun. We thank thee for good news received. We thank thee for the pleasures we have enjoyed and for those we have been able to confer. And now, when the clouds gather and the rain impends over the forest and our house, permit us not to be cast down; let us not lose the savor of past mercies and past pleasures; but, like the voice of a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memory survive in the hour of darkness. If there be in front of us any painful duty, strengthen us with the grace of courage; if any act of mercy, teach us tenderness and patience.*

Robert Louis Stevenson

