

# The Central Visitor

*A weekly visitor to your home bringing you news from Central Christian Church  
Our mission ... Sharing Christ,  
Changing Lives, Delivering Hope*

Vol. XCII

Decatur, Illinois, March 25, 2020

No. 12



**“Like” and “Follow” us on Facebook** To “like” hit the thumbs-up icon. To “follow” click on the ellipse icon (...). You will see a list of options pop up. Find the option marked “follow” and click on that.

## **COVID-19 Updates for Central - New office hours beginning March 23**

In accordance with the Governor’s directives from March 20, Central will only be open so that “essential” work can be done. There is no reason for anyone physically to come to the church during these hours, but should you want to speak to someone, the phones will be answered from **8 a.m. – 12 noon, Tuesday – Thursday**. You can call the office anytime and leave a message. Otherwise, all staff will be working from home. You may contact pastoral staff at any time with pastoral care needs and/or emergencies – [mkarunas@ccdisciples.org](mailto:mkarunas@ccdisciples.org) (972-0326); [tmiller@ccdisciples.org](mailto:tmiller@ccdisciples.org) (972-5335); [dmartin@ccdisciples.org](mailto:dmartin@ccdisciples.org) (519-9308).

## **Praises from the People**

We celebrate with Trent and Brittney Moran the newest member of their family. Miss Blair Renee Moran arrived at 12:48 PM Saturday March 21, 2020. She weighed in at 8 pounds 9 ounces and 20 1/2 inches long. Mother and baby are doing well and so is dad!!



## **Thank You, Central!**

My dear friends at Central Christian Church, thank you so much for the prayers, food, cards & kind thoughts during my knee surgery & the recuperation. It is so appreciated. God Bless You! -Judy Ford

## **Attendance Update**

We will still be tracking attendance during this time of on-line worship only. Every Monday we are able to see statistics of how many devices tuned in to our 8:00 and 10:30 services. We are then using a formula to calculate an approximate number of total viewers. For the 9:00 service we are providing an estimate based on the number of likes and comments. The good news is that our digital attendance did very well this first week. Remember to invite your friends to join you in turning into our services wherever they may be!

8:00 – 77

9:00 – 112

10:30 - 132

**Facebook Live—101**

**Question:** What is a Facebook Live? How do I see it?

**Answer:** A Facebook Live is a quick way to take a video of yourself or something/someone else and share it with an audience on Facebook. It's quick to set up, easy to use and view, and you have the ability to control the size of the audience you want to be able to see the video. It's probably the easiest way to "Live Stream" something.

**To view a Facebook Live post from Central:** Log into Facebook. Click on the icon that looks like a magnifying glass ("Search"). Type in "Central Christian Church, Decatur, IL." This will give you options of pages to click on, but ours should be near the top. Click on our listing, and it will take you to our Facebook page. When the service begins recording (which will be VERY close to start time), you'll see a post pop up that says "Central Christian Church is live now," and you'll see the video playing. Click on it, and enjoy your worship experience!

**Livestream 101**

**Question:** How do I access the Live Stream of Worship?

**Answer:** Go to this website:  
<https://www.cccdisciples.org/worship/live-stream/>

This link will go to Central Christian Church's live stream page on the website. When the service is being streamed (during service hours), you will see the video playing. Click on the box in lower right to magnify to full screen. Enjoy your worship experience!

**Remaining Connected**

As you well know, connection is a core value for us at Central. We value connections with the next generation; with our neighborhood; with Christ; and with each other. That last one is certainly difficult during the forced physical separation and social distancing necessitated by the Coronavirus outbreak. The pandemic notwithstanding, we remember our call from Romans 12:5 – *"...we, who are many, are one body in Christ."* It is our goal that we not only remain "one body in Christ" for however long we live under these current conditions, but that we even grow stronger through them. To that end, we will be doing the following things to help us stay connected.

First, our newsletter will be formatted a bit differently. Without as much space needed to advertise upcoming events, we will offer two new features for content: a "This Week in Central's History" which will remind us of some of the significant things of our past that have shaped us; and "Praises and Petitions from the Community." If you would like to share with your fellow church members good news you've experienced in your life or a concern for which you would like prayer, let us know and we will seek to work them in.

Second, if you are on Facebook, you should know that I am going to try and provide a 3-4 minute video devotion every weekday that is based on one of the "scriptures for the day" of our Lenten Spiritual Challenge. I am cross-posting this on both the church page and my personal one. I will also post videos of my son Thomas playing a religious or inspirational song. For those of you not on Facebook, you should know that you can open up a Facebook account and never have to put personal information on it. Consider it a "ticket for admission" to things like these videos (and other wonderful content on our church page) that will certainly help you feel more connected to your church family.

Most importantly, we are going to be instituting a "Calling Program" this week. It is my goal that every family unit in the church is called by telephone once a week for however long we are living in physical separation. It is important that we have some kind of "check in" whereby you know we are here, thinking of you and concerned for you; and likewise, that you have the opportunity to talk to someone who is there to listen and to share any specific needs you might have. Those calls should be starting something this week, so do not be surprised if you get one. If you do not want to be called every week, simply let the person know and there will be no hard feelings.

Those are some of the things we will do to reach out to you, and there is something important you can do for us. You can take care of each other. You can make periodic contact with those in your small groups and those

*(continued on page 3....)*

that sit in your same area during worship. Romans 12:5 also says: "Individually we are members of each other." As members "of" each other, we are in this together, and whatever we have to endure, we will endure it together when we are committed to staying connected.



Blessings... Michael

### This Week in Central's History...

Since we are not advertising as many upcoming events at Central during this time of physical separation, we thought we would share with you a "look back" at significant things that happened this week in our shared history. Did you know that this week in 2019, David King was baptized? Or that this week in 2012 we debuted a Children's Message in worship for the first time (in at least a long time)? It was also this week in 2014 that we were preparing to have a Seder Meal for our annual Maundy Thursday service. Here is what that announcement looked like in *The Visitor* on March 24, 2014:



### Sign up for Maundy Thursday Seder Meal

*Our Maundy Thursday service will be special this year. It will consist of two parts. The first part will be a version of the Seder meal (Passover) that Jesus celebrated at his Last Supper, during which he instituted what we know as communion. This will begin at 6:00 p.m. Children are welcome, though the nursery will be open for young ones. This part of the service will last over an hour. Then, we will move immediately to the sanctuary for the breaking of bread in communion. The whole service (both parts) will last about 90 minutes.*

### In Sympathy We Mourn

We grieve with David Ash and his family the passing of David's sister, Nancy Gruber of Orlando, FL. She was very much loved by the entire family. Thank you for keeping the Ash and Gruber families in your prayers.

### Easter Offering 2020: Rejoice

April 5th & 12th, 2020

"This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalm 118:24 NRSV

Across the US, Canada, and beyond, Disciples are rejoicing in all that the Lord has made. This Easter, we rejoice together as one church, as the One Body of Christ. We rejoice in all that we accomplish together, and the work God accomplishes through us. Let us rejoice that the Easter Offering, through the Disciples Mission Fund, makes this ministry - and so much more - possible. Through the general ministries of our Church, lives are changed and our world is transformed. Will you rejoice with us and give to this special day offering? This Easter season, let us rejoice in all the ways our wider Church embodies the Spirit of Resurrection, through life-giving ministry. *(Excerpted from Disciples Mission Fund flyer, Easter 2020.)*

### **Sunday (29)**

8:00-Traditional Worship Service, Facebook Live

9:00-Contemporary Worship, Facebook Live  
10:30-Traditional Worship Service, Live Stream

6:00-Woolridge Lenten Study Group, Zoom

### **Monday (30)**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

### **Tuesday (31)**

**OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - NOON**

### **Wednesday (April 1)**

**OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - NOON**

### **Thursday (2)**

**OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - NOON**

### **Friday (3)**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

### **Saturday (4)**

### **Sunday (5)**

8:00-Traditional Worship Service, Facebook Live

9:00-Contemporary Worship, Facebook Live  
10:30-Traditional Worship Service, Live Stream

6:00-Woolridge Lenten Study Group, Zoom

ALMOST EVERYTHING  
WILL WORK AGAIN IF  
YOU UNPLUG IT FOR A  
FEW MINUTES...  
INCLUDING YOU.

ANNE LAMOTT

**Counting On You**

**Sunday, March 22, 2020**

Live Streamed Worship Together = 321



**Current Information on Coronavirus**

For more information on the Coronavirus, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT  
CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
or request an email from [tmiller@cccdisciples.org](mailto:tmiller@cccdisciples.org)

Higher education is important and valuable in today's society. A college education opens possibilities and helps students discover and foster unique gifts and talents. It also demonstrates a person's willingness to make an investment his/her own future! Central Christian Church supports those pursuing higher education, and we understand the challenges of meeting its cost. Scholarships are open to all high school graduates as well as anyone who is currently attending a college or university, technical and vocational schools, or is planning to attend one during the 2020-2021 academic year.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DATES:**

Available: March 29, 2020  
Deadline: May 1, 2020 @ 3 pm

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522  
Telephone (217)428-4336 FAX (217)428-1700  
[www.cccdisciples.org](http://www.cccdisciples.org)  
e-mail: [central@cccdisciples.org](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org)

- Michael E. Karunas.....Senior Minister
- Don Martin.....Minister of Music
- Tina Miller..... Associate Minister of CE & Family Life
- David Martin.....Youth Director
- Cordelia "Dee Dee" Gain .....Organist
- David Williams.....Organist
- Kathleen Dudley.....Administrative Assistant
- Yvonne Boyd.....Administrative Assistant
- Hannah Brimmer.....Social Media Coordinator
- Gabrielle Coulthard.....Nursery Attendant
- Maddie Genz.....Nursery Attendant
- Cheryl Williams .....Nursery Attendant
- Kattina Williams .....Nursery Attendant
- Jennifer Van Dyke.....Preschool Director
- Paula Partain.....Teacher Assistant
- Lisa Coates.....Preschool Teacher
- Amber Marshall.....Preschool Teacher
- Diana Murray.....Preschool Teacher
- Stephanie Nihiser.....Preschool Teacher
- Kay Villarreal.....Preschool Teacher
- Lora Wright .....Lead Caretaker
- Jim Denzer.....Caretaker
- Andrew Evans.....Caretaker
- Toby Jones.....Caretaker
- Donté Morgan.....Caretaker

**Temporary Church Office Hours:**

**Tuesday through Thursday, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

Reminder: Please do not come to the church during these hours. These are the hours in which someone will be available to answer phone calls.

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