

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, April 15, 2020

No. 15



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COVID-19 Updates for Central

Earlier this month, we announced that we were cancelling all programming in the church building through March 30. It should come as no surprise that this date is now being extended. All church programming scheduled to take place within the Central Christian Church building are being suspended indefinitely. In particular:

The **Sanctuary Concert Series Organ Concert** scheduled for May 1 will be moved to the Fall.

Heart and Soul programming will be postponed until the Fall.

The **Opus 24** concert scheduled for May has been cancelled.

As soon as we are able to open the building to congregational and public events, we will do so. Be sure to tune in for online worship every Sunday for traditional worship at 8:00 and 10:30. [Click here](#). Be sure to visit our [church Facebook page](#) every Sunday for live worship at 9:00. Be on the lookout for new ways to connecting via Zoom. This past week Pastor Tina held a women's group and a lunch meeting with children on Zoom, and every Wednesday at 10:15, the pastoral staff will lead a preschool chapel (15 minutes) that all young children will find interesting on the church's Facebook (live) page.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Request an email from 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 in 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.

Deadline: May 1, 2020 @ 3 pm

****Pastor Tina will not be holding Zoom meetings this week.****

SUNDAY, April 19, 2020

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP LIVE STREAMED
ON WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG

AT 8:00 a.m.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP ON
FACEBOOK LIVE AT 9:00 a.m.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP LIVE STREAMED
ON WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG

AT 10:30 a.m.

What's Next???

Text: John 20:19-23

Michael E. Karunas

Two "thank yous"!!!

A heart-felt thank you goes out to **Keith and Jeannie Backes** who provided soup for pick-up and delivery on Saturday, April 11. A beautiful day provided the backdrop for some much-appreciated face-to-face contact (albeit behind masks) for those who received the soup and all the volunteers who came out to help hand it out, along with Easter-in-a-Bag.

I would like to thank the staff and my friends at Central Christian for all the phone calls, emails, and cards after my shoulder replacement surgery. Your prayers and good wishes were greatly appreciated. I'm making good progress, and look forward to things getting back to normal and seeing you soon. We've all certainly had our trials and challenges this spring. Thanks again.

- Carolyn McCall

A joyful heart is good medicine...
Proverbs 17:22

The effects of the virus in our world can be difficult to endure. I hope this bring a smile to your face and reminds you to welcome laughter in your homes.

Do you remember the last time you laughed? I'm not referring to a half-hearted smile or a light chuckle. I'm thinking of those big, loud, deep belly laughs that make your stomach hurt and leave you breathless. Think about it. When was the last time you laughed hard?

Laughter is a biproduct of a joyful heart and it **turns out laughter is good medicine!** I found the following information on *Organic Facts* website:

- By seeking out humorous situations or participating in activities that will stimulate laughter, you are giving your body a chance to exercise the diaphragm, as well as facial, leg, back, and abdominal muscles. Cortisol and adrenaline levels in the body, which are considered stress hormones, can be reduced through laughter, thereby adding to overall health. Also, the increase in respiration aids in the oxygenation of blood flowing to the brain and the rest of the body.
- The number of Gamma-interferon and T-cells, which are the disease and tumor hunters of the body, are increased through regular amounts of laughter, and other sicknesses like respiratory infections and the common cold can be inhibited and decreased if laughter is a regular part of a person's life.
- In a very general sense, laughter is a painkiller and reduces the stress and anxiety of physical ailments.

Maybe it is time to laugh again?!

Peace,
Tina Miller

<https://www.organicfacts.net/health-benefits/other/health-benefits-of-laughter.html>

The Significance of "Not being Afraid"

"Do not be afraid!" Are there any more comforting words in all of scripture? Throughout the New Testament the voice of God speaks these four words repeatedly through the mouth of Jesus – or through those of angels when speaking *about* Jesus. More often than not, they are spoken when big news is about to be delivered. When the angel Gabriel came to Mary to inform her that she was to give birth to the Son of God, he began by saying, "Do not be afraid." When Jesus gave his final address to his disciples, the night before his crucifixion, he said, you need not be "afraid," for I have overcome the world.



Furthermore the gospel of Matthew is book-ended by two such utterances of the phrase. In Matthew 1, Joseph is preparing to dismiss his fiancée Mary. Already engaged but not yet having consummated their marriage, she is found to be with child. This doesn't sit well with Joseph, and he plans to end the relationship; but in that moment an angel comes to him in a dream and tells him, "Do not be afraid" to take Mary as your wife; and in Matthew 28, as we heard this past Sunday, an angel greets Mary and Mary Magdalene at the tomb of the resurrection with the words "Do not be afraid." From the beginning to the end – from Christmas through Easter – "Do not be afraid" gives us a framework within which the story of salvation is told.



It is noteworthy that in Matthew 1 and 28, the people encountered only had part of the picture in view. Joseph knew Mary was with child, but that's where his vision stopped. Similarly, Mary and Mary Magdalene arrived at the tomb assuming Jesus was gone because bodies put in tombs *stay* in tombs. In both

(continued on page 3...)

cases, because of their limited vision, they were prepared to follow their own plans for the future. Joseph prepared for a life without Mary. Mary and Mary Magdalene were content continuing in their sadness and grief. In neither case would we blame any of them for the feelings they might have been experiencing. Had Joseph felt betrayed and angry, and had the two Marys felt depressed and downtrodden, we would understand. Yet in both cases, the words “Do not be afraid” signify a reality greater than that constructed by feelings.

The words “Do not be afraid” indicate that everything we see from our perspective is not all there is to see; and that the full picture of what we see at any given time is not the full reality of what God sees. “Do not be afraid” is God’s way of saying that regardless of our feelings in any given moment, God’s plans transcend even the deepest of our emotions. St. Ignatius said that the way things seem to be in any given situation in life is not necessarily the way they really are. That is what I hear when I read the words “Do not be afraid.” Even if we don’t have the full picture of the future in view, it is okay, because God does, and not only does God have that full picture in view, God sees a role for us – a vital one – in the unfolding of that future. After all, Joseph was needed to provide protection and provision for Jesus as he grew, and Mary and Mary Magdalene were needed to proclaim the resurrection to the rest of the disciples.

“Do not be afraid.” These are not just words to invoke comfort, but the power, presence, and providence of God – and our participation in the work of God. From the beginning of our lives. To the end of them. And beyond...

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 2000, nine (9) youth were baptized? The parents of many of these fine young people are active in Central today. Do you recognize their offspring?
- This week in 1990, Roy and Rachel Schilling (parents of Susan Bryant) established the Schilling scholarship. In the past 30 years that scholarship has helped many of our young people receive their higher

Pastors Class 2000

The nine youth of this year’s Pastors’ Class made their Confession of Faith on Palm Sunday and were baptized on Easter Sunday, April 23rd. Pictured at left is Debra Fulk, daughter of Andy and Theresa Fulk.

Pictured left to right are Jeffrey Doxsie, son of John and Julie Doxsie, Alex Harm, son of Thomas and Christine Lyman-Harm, Brandon Stock, son of Lloyd and Susan Stock, Andrew Rutherford, son of Gary and Penny Rutherford, Zachary Martin, son of Don and Julie Martin, Amy Funk, daughter of Steve and Carrie Funk, Laura Potter, daughter of Dr. Paul and Terrie Potter, and Jordan Backes, son of Keith and Jeannie Backes.





Schillings Establish Scholarship

Roy O. Schilling recently celebrated the tenth anniversary of his coming to work as



Sunday (19)

8:00-Traditional Worship Service,
Facebook Live
9:00-Contemporary Worship,
Facebook Live
10:30-Traditional Worship Service,
Live Stream

Monday (20)

OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday (21)

OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - NOON

Wednesday (22)

OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - NOON

Thursday (23)

OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - NOON

Friday (24)

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday (25)

Sunday (26)

8:00-Traditional Worship Service,
Facebook Live
9:00-Contemporary Worship,
Facebook Live
10:30-Traditional Worship Service,
Live Stream



Counting On You

Sunday, April 12, 2020

Total worshipping together online – 402

2020 Easter Lily Memorials and Honorariums

Donna Dash in memory of
Oren L. & Etta B. Dash
Donna Dash in honor of
Grandparents Dash & Mosser
and All Creatures Great & Small

Gregg & Linda Foltz in memory of
our parents, Lee & Percy Sears and Ruth & Harlan Foltz

Dean & Janet Gray in memory of
all our loved ones who have died

Ken & Julie Jacoby in honor of
the hardworking healthcare providers, officers, grocery
store workers, delivery truck drivers, and teachers who are
still teaching from home

Michael Karunas in memory of
Thomas Michael Karunas and
Michael Joseph Charles Kairunas

Mark & Nancy McAfee in memory of
David & Kay Ditmars
Robert & Phyllis McAfee

Claudia Quigg & Claudine Nichols in memory of
David Nichols & C. William Nichols

Tom & Diana Ritter in memory of
William Ritter

David & Cheryl Zollinger in memory of
Cobe McLeod
Charles & Ann Carnock

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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" GainOrganist
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 WilliamsNursery Attendant
Kattina WilliamsNursery 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 WrightLead 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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