

# 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, May 13, 2020

No. 19



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## **COVID-19 Updates for Central**

With the recent directive of the governor to continue shelter-in-place through May 30, all programming in the building will be suspended through this time and the office hours (for phone calls only) will be Tues-Thurs from 8 a.m. – 12 noon. The Illinois-Wisconsin region announced a change to the summer camp schedule. The CYF camp (grades 9-12) has been rescheduled for July 12-18. The Chi Rho camp (grades 6-8) will also be held that week, July 12-18, and JYF (grades 3-5) will be held July 19-25. There will still be Vacation Bible School in June, though it is shaping up to be a Virtual (online) VBS experience. Finally, the deadline to turn in applications for Higher Education Scholarships from Central until May 15. 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.

## **"What you symbolically do in worship, you are to put in practice the rest of the week."**

**Have a pencil or pen and paper for worship this Sunday, May 17, 2020.**

Worship elements are physical representations for spiritual realities. They help you reflect on the theme of the worship service. The call to worship, praise hymns and songs, prayers and meditations, Scriptures, communion, and the sermon are all important parts of worship as they each hold a specific role in our gathering time. God speaks through all the parts of a worship service. Different parts of the service may speak to you each week. That's part of the beauty of the Gospel! God speaks in the language he knows you need in the moment!

**This Sunday we invite you all to gather pencil or pen and paper to be used during the worship service.**

Quotation from [www.comingcloser.org](http://www.comingcloser.org)

## **SUNDAY, May 17, 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.

Text: James 4:13-16

Michael E. Karunas

## **Grape Juice Available**

Stop by the church any Tues. – Thurs. from 8 a.m. – 12 noon. You may buzz the buzzer at the door for entry. In the breezeway at the West Entrance, you will find unopened quart bottles of grape juice for your home use. Please limit 1 bottle per household; as long as supplies last.

## **Special Online Resources from The Upper Room Publication Online**

Visit [www.upperroom.org/covid-19](http://www.upperroom.org/covid-19) for a list of all resources specific to the pandemic, along with special articles, daily prayer at 11:00 AM Central Time, "Every New Morning" with daily video, "Freedom From Worry" ecourse, other half-price ecourses, a prayer wall, and other free resources.

**SHOUT OUT TO PARENTS****YOU ARE DOING A GOOD JOB!!!**

As we continue to navigate through these difficult times, I wanted to take a few moments to give a "shout-out" to all parents.

When I hear the term "essential workers," it doesn't take long to consider the work parents do, especially at this time! Yes, they are far more than this, but for sure, they are ESSENTIAL! With changes in school schedules and cancellations, many parents have added to their job description in ways they never thought possible! Some are now teaching or at least facilitating a learning environment for their children. While some have already been home-schooling their children, many others have not.

This educational experience is all brand new. It would be impossible to cover all the new challenges you are facing in one short note, but rest assured, YOU are appreciated and quite ESSENTIAL. Homes that are healthy in spiritual, physical, and emotional ways are so needed as we move on to hope and healing in the days and weeks ahead. I would encourage you somehow to make sure to take some time for yourself to get alone with God at least for a few moments each day for encouragement and renewal. While that may seem impossible, it is essential to allow the Holy Spirit to keep you sharp spiritually as you navigate these times. Isaiah 40:31 – "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." We WILL get through this together! Six feet apart, of course! Whatever the case, remember that we love and appreciate you and are so thankful for you as you continue to work on the "front of the front lines."

Peace, Tina Miller

**For Your Quiet Thoughts...**

As we mentioned a few weeks ago in our online worship, we are still in the season of Easter. The season of Easter lasts 40 days after Easter Sunday. During that time, Jesus revealed himself as resurrected to more of his followers before he ultimately ascended into heaven. Before we leave the season of Easter 2020, I wanted to share something special here. Betty Chapman was going through some old things during this time of shelter-in-place and found something that Dr. Bill Nichols (senior minister at Central from 1973-1991) had written. During the season of Easter 1989, this was printed in the Sunday worship bulletin and titled "For Your Quiet Thoughts."

*At first sight, it would seem that the Creator has been partial to pots and pans, stone buildings, and even chinaware, for by scores of years these creations may well outlast the substance of which our fragile bodies are made. A carpenter builds a house, and his grandchildren live in it. Some sculptor leaves a masterpiece in stone or marble that rises up to mock the brief life of its creator. The spoon with which you stirred your coffee this morning will probably be here long after you are gone. But surely this cannot be all of the truth!*

*If God be God, surely there must be something more lasting to human beings, God's greatest masterpiece, than flesh and bones. If this were not true, then the material world would possess a degree of immortality denied of us, who are its masters! I am convinced that the Easter message of the risen Christ brings to us the whole truth about immortality. This good news declares that the spirit that hopes and strives within its feverish, fleshly temple is eternal, and that that spirit will be living and working and loving somewhere long after its earthly creations of paper and wood and stone have crumbled into dust.*

*This is the message of Easter. It is a message that proclaims the mastery of mind over matter, spirit over flesh, light over darkness, good over evil. And it is in this sense that the resurrection of Jesus makes the hope of immortality a living force in the motives and habits of people. In His risen company, we dare to believe in the infinite potential of every soul and that all of us who have called upon His name are pilgrims of eternity merely sojourning in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, on a small planet called earth. We do not belong to Here and Now, but to Forever!*

*Easter is the soul's sweet spring singing into the night, and thawing the winter chill of doubt, despair and discouragement with its pure warm life. Easter takes the question marks of life and straightens them out into exclamation points. Easter does not talk about death. It speaks to death... and says "Good morning... Forever."*

Blessings... Michael

**Graduation Celebration in the Visitor Next Week**

Be on the lookout in next week's Visitor for pictures and words from all of our 5 high school graduates and one college graduate.



### **Welcome to our World**

With joy and thanksgiving, we join with Clint and Christen McLeod and their children Calvin and Charlee, the arrival of baby brother

Crosby Luke, born on Friday, May 8. All are healthy and happy, and we look forward to seeing Crosby in person when that occasion is made available to us. The rose and cradle cross on the communion table during 9:00 worship was in honor of Crosby.

### **Scripture Challenge for the Week of May 11 - 16**

Join us in reading the Book of James, one chapter per week, over the course of our 5-week sermon series. Here are the readings for week three (*Chart your progress by initialing every day that you read the assigned verses*):

5/11	JS 3:1-5	_____
5/12	JS 3:5-8	_____
5/13	JS 3:9-12	_____
5/14	JS 3:13-16	_____
5/15	JS 3:17-18	_____
5/16	JS 3:1-12	_____



### **Text Giving Now Available**

Giving by text is the newest way to make contributions to Central. If you are already familiar with online giving through Central's website, you will find the process is similar:

- Text "GIVE" to (217) 212-2173. You will receive a secure link to [www.ShelbyGiving.com](http://www.ShelbyGiving.com), which directs your contribution to Central.
- Choose "Give Now" and follow the prompts to select the fund, donation amount, and your payment information, then tap 'submit.'

The system will automatically save your personal information and payment source, so you do not need to re-enter it when you make subsequent gifts. Text and online giving offer new ways that Central members and friends can contribute to the church's many ministries. Many people prefer to donate by writing a check or, for those who use online banking, by setting up direct payments from their bank. Like online giving, direct payments from your bank can be one-time or recurring donations.



### **Sunday (17)**

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

### **Monday (18)**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

### **Tuesday (19)**

**OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - NOON**

### **Wednesday (20)**

**OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - NOON**

### **Thursday (21)**

**OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - NOON**

### **Friday (22)**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

### **Saturday (23)**

### **Sunday (24)**

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

**Ladies: if you're interested in the  
Wednesday Zoom meeting with Tina,  
email her at [tmiller@cccdisciples.org](mailto:tmiller@cccdisciples.org)  
for more information.**

### **Counting On You**

**Sunday, May 10, 2020**

Total worshipping together online = 308





**Gail Prince & Donna Dash distributing carnations  
for Mothers' Day  
Saturday, May 9th, 2020**

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522**  
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**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

**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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