

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 20, 2020

No. 20



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COVID-19 Updates

As the pandemic moves into its third month, we recognize there is growing interest – among our congregation and our wider Decatur community – to explore ways for us to “come back” and be church in way that is more physically interactive than we are currently doing. We know there are some churches in the Decatur area who have opened their doors to some kind of modified worship already, and that others are likely to do so in the coming weeks. We want you to know that your staff leaders are anxious to do that as well. We know that doing so can go a long way to building morale among us. Yet we want whatever we do and however we do it to be thoughtful, respectful, and careful. To that end, we want you to know that our president and vice-president (Gregg Foltz and Brett Swallow respectively) along with the ministerial staff have been working on a proposal for opening the church for small gatherings. That plan will be shared with the council. While there is no current timeline for a change to our current procedures, we hope to be able to announce very soon some ways that we might begin to come together in new (and modified) ways. Whenever we have something more definitive to share, we will do over a variety of platforms to ensure that the word is communicated broadly. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact central@cccdisciples.org. 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.

Thinking About the Future

We believe this Pandemic is an “opportunity” to think about what it means to be Central Christian in the future. In fact, we had begun thinking about our vision for the future as a congregation before the mid-March and we don’t see any reason why the Pandemic should change that. We also believe that these past few months have likely given you time to think about what you love about Central and what you hope we are able to do once we reach a “new normal.” Therefore, we are looking for your input as we start thinking about our future. Over the next several weeks, we will post one (1) question in The Visitor and we would love for your to email your responses to central@cccdisciples.org (or mail them in if you prefer, c/o Michael). *What do you miss most about being at church? What program or group do you miss the most?*

SUNDAY, May 24, 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.

Back to the Basics

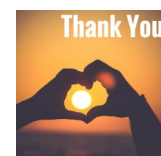
Text: James 5:13-16

Michael E. Karunas

Thank You Central!

Dear friends, I write with appreciation to Central Christian Church for your card ministry, and your on-line presence, with the participation of the ministers, Christian Jackson’s singing, Dee Dee’s playing, and the energy of the praise band. Thank you!

Blessings to all – Rosalie Karunas



I want to thank Donna and Gail for giving us, women in our Church, beautiful carnations last Saturday in Honor of Mothers' Day. They were very much appreciated and it is things like this that are keeping us connected during the virus.

-Nancy Ellen Taylor

HEY KIDS!!!!

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!

You have worked hard all schoolyear long. **We are proud of you for a job well done.** Look for a special surprise to arrive in the mail late this week or early next week! The Christian Education Committee and your Central Christian Church family want to **celebrate your accomplishment with a \$5.00 McDonald's gift card.** ENJOY!!!

Cross in Worship

This week we invite you to have a cross with you during Sunday worship. We have about 50 small wooden crosses at the church. If you need one or if you would like one to give away, they will be available in the breezeway for pick up W – TH 8 a.m. – 12 noon.

A Message About Offerings

The entire congregation thanks you for your continued financial support of Central during this time of isolation and distant worshiping. Presently, offerings are counted twice a month. As one member of the offering counting team, I want to offer a suggestion that may save both time and expense. Many write separate checks for different purposes in making contributions to Central. Likewise, some use a separate check for each week's offering. This is fine and you are welcome to continue your preferred method of tracking your giving. But you are also welcome to write just one check for different purposes or for multiple weeks' giving. The church only asks that the distribution of your gift be reflected on your offering envelope (or memo line of your check) or on a note sent with your gift. Again, thank you for your continued support. I hope and pray we will soon be worshipping together.

Stay Safe, Doug Soebbing

Congratulations Seniors, 2020!!!

Together we celebrate our graduates in 2020 – both high school and college. We are proud to share them with you here!!!

Drake Niles-Cox - Drake is a graduate of Mt. Zion High School. During his time in high school, Drake participated in many extracurricular activities including hockey, drumline, marching band, and much more. He was also a member of the National Honor Society. His senior hockey season ended with his team winning the "triple crown" which is winning all three league championships (Lincoln Land, Peoria, State). In the fall, Drake will be attending the University of Illinois where he will be majoring in Majoring in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences which is part of the College of Applied Health Sciences. His plan is to become an Anesthesiologist.



Thomas Karunas - Thomas is a graduate of MacArthur High School. While at MacArthur, Thomas was a four-year member of Elite Energy Show Choir. Thomas has won numerous vocal and performance awards and scholarships. He has stayed busy during the summers as an intern at Lakeside Shakespeare Theater and a constant participant on our church mission trips and church camp. Next year, Thomas will be attending Eastern Illinois University where he will major in Vocal Performance and minor in Audio and Video Production.



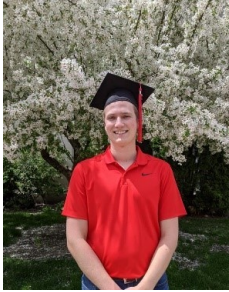
Levi Horvath - Levi is a senior at Warrensburg-Latham High School. During his years at WLHS, Levi has operated lights and sound in the school's drama productions. During his junior and senior years, he attended Heartland Tech Academy as well as working part time at Decatur Ace Hardware. He spent his summers volunteering at Rock Springs Nature Center. Levi's future plans include going into the field of HVAC and working on heating and cooling units.



Michael VanUytven - Michael is a home school student who has stayed remarkably busy with many class projects and work that he has done during his free time. Some of the activities on his long list include being the 4-H club planning committee leader, helping his friend build a house for Habitat for Humanity, and working at Rock Springs Center. Michael enjoys mountain biking and video/photography. He has documented our mission trips with pictures and interviews each of the last three summers. He has won an award for his photo editing. In the fall, Michael will be attending Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin. He will be studying Outdoor Education.

(continued on page 3...)

Griffin Irby - Griffin is a graduate of Mt. Zion High School. While at Mt. Zion, Griffin participated in track and was a member of Swingsations Show Choir. In the fall, Griffin will be attending Illinois State University.



Luke Kirby - Luke is graduating Cum Laude from Bradley University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Civil Engineering.

Blessings... Michael

Scripture Challenge for the Week of May 18 - 24

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 four (*Chart your progress by initialing every day that you read the assigned verses*):



5/18	JS 4:1-3	_____
5/19	JS 4:4-6	_____
5/20	JS 4:7-8	_____
5/21	JS 4:9-10	_____
5/22	JS 4:11-12	_____
5/23	JS 4:13-17	_____

Weekly Video Schedule

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Michael has regularly posted short video devotionals most mornings of the week on the church's facebook page. In recent weeks the "morning devotional time" has also included meditations from Tina and Don, as well as songs from the praise band. These video devotionals (both spoken and sung) have met with widespread interest and will be continued in the weeks ahead, but with a new schedule. It will be as follows:

Sunday morning	online worship
Monday morning	off
Tuesday morning	music video by the praise band
Wednesday morning	devotional from Michael
Thursday morning	music video from the choir/ensemble from traditional worship
Friday morning	devotional from Tina or Don
Saturday morning	devotional (preview of coming Sunday worship) from Michael



Sunday (24)

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

Monday (25) - Happy Memorial Day! CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday (26)

OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - NOON

Wednesday (27)

OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - NOON

Thursday (28)

OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - NOON

Friday (29)

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday (30)

Sunday (31) - Pentecost Sunday

- 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 for more information.



Counting On You
Sunday, May 17, 2020
 Total worshipping together online = 406

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 breeze-way 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 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.

Text Giving Now Available

Giving by text is the newest way to make contributions to Central. If you are already familiar with on-line 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.Shelby Giving, 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 on-line 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.

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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www.cccdisciples.org
e-mail: 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.

The Central Visitor (USPS 098-520) is published weekly by Central Christian Church, 650 W. William, Decatur, IL 62522.
Periodical Postage paid at Decatur, IL.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Central Visitor, 650 W. William St., Decatur, IL 62522.



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

