

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 27, 2020

No. 21



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COVID-19 Updates

We recognize there is growing interest to explore ways for us to "come back" and be church in way that is more physically interactive than we are currently doing. We want you to know that your staff leaders are anxious to do that as well, yet we want whatever we do and however we do it to be thoughtful, respectful and careful and in a way that meets the needs of our entire congregation as a whole. To that end, the church council is looking at a proposal that will help guide us as we open our doors to more in-person interaction. 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).

*When you come to church at Central, what need are you seeking to have filled?
And how is that need met when you are here?*

SUNDAY, May 31, 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.

Tradition and Transformation

Text: Acts 2:1-18

Michael E. Karunas

Wear Red on Sunday

This Sunday is Pentecost. It is the day we celebrate as the "birthday" of the church. On the 50th day after Easter (the word Pentecost means 50), God poured out the Holy Spirit upon the gathered followers of Christ and through that formed them into the church. The liturgical color of Pentecost is red. So dress in red this Sunday, take a picture of yourself in your red clothing, and share it with us on the church's Facebook page!!!





Congratulations to all our students finishing out the school year!
(Pictured: Clara & Nora Damery)

Pentecost Offering

We may not be meeting in person to worship at the moment, but there is still a way to support the annual Pentecost Offering collected by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Find out how your gift to the Pentecost offering supports our denomination here:

<https://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/pentecost/>

Click on this website to give to the Pentecost offering:

<https://disciplesmissionfund.org/give/>

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.

"The Welcome Table"

William Willimon, former bishop of the United Methodist Church and Dean of Duke University Chapel, once related the following story: *I'm driving down a road in South Carolina and I pass a church with one of those sign boards out in front of the church. This sign read, "Repent! Now is the day of salvation!" Just down the road was a church of a different denomination from the first. It also had a sign out front. It proclaimed, "Happy Mother's Day. Virtues are learned at mother's knee, vices at some other joint." I thought to myself, "What does the world, that knows nothing of Christianity except for those signs, think about the Christian faith?"*

Just down the road was another sign (I know what you're thinking, "Still more churches on this road?" I was thinking the same thing). This sign read, "We've got room for you at our table. Hospitality practiced here. Everyone welcome!" Nice thought, I said to myself. The church of the large table. Trouble was, I looked again as I drove past and noted that the sign was in front of the Shady Dale Restaurant, not a church. I really think, though, that the restaurant sign was far more appropriate for any of the churches than any of the signs they displayed themselves.

Over the centuries, the church has been at the forefront of division. There was the dispute over whether humanity has free will to choose salvation or whether salvation is predestined. There was the argument over whether the laity should be served the bread *and* cup during communion or merely bread alone. The official position of the clergy stated the laity would spill the cup (blood of Christ) and, since this would be sacrilege, they should be served only the bread. This dispute led (in part) to the Protestant Reformation. There was the division over whether women should be allowed to preach from the pulpit, or merely teach in Sunday School; and the debate through the mid-19th century as to whether it was God's will that light-skinned peoples own dark-skinned slaves or whether "all men are created equal." Yes, the church has – sadly – been at the forefront of division over the years.

Which is why it is good to remember the Pentecost story from Acts (chapter 2). We will hear it told as we celebrate Pentecost this Sunday. The nature and purpose of the church, seen clearly in the story of its birth, is to bring people together. The church was not formed until the believers had all come together in "one" place. Of course, the idea of "oneness" has to be re-imagined in an age of social distancing. But the "oneness" of the church can never be overcome by the transient, temporary things of this world – even global pandemics. Moreover, as the church was formed, it did so seeking to gather the known world to itself and to God. When we therefore – *as church* – realize the our nature and purpose is not compromised by our very real differences and the competition among us, but rather to gather ourselves to one another to God, we are born anew. Praise be to God!

Blessings... Michael

Virtual VBS coming in June!

Watch future Visitor newsletters and online for details!

**Scripture Challenge for the
Week of May 25 - 30**

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



5/25	JS 5:1-6	_____
5/26	JS 5:7-8	_____
5/27	JS 5:9-11	_____
5/28	JS 5:12-14	_____
5/29	JS 5:15-18	_____
5/30	JS 5:19-20	_____

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

In Sympathy We Mourn

We grieve with Vicky Woolridge, Pam Larrick, and Debbie Santee the passing of their uncle, Rev. Neil Saltee. Neil was a true pillar in this region for many years, during which he was part of some of the region's most important ministry. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, herself an ordained minister who has been an important ministerial presence in the region. For those who know Dorothy and would like to send her a card, she can be reached at:

2025 E. Lincoln St. #3207
Bloomington, IL
61701

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.



Sunday (31) - Pentecost Sunday

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

Monday (June 1)

OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday (2)

OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - NOON

Wednesday (3)

OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - NOON

Thursday (4)

OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - NOON

Friday (5)

OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday (6)

Sunday (7)

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 24, 2020

Total worshipping together online = 413

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)
650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522
Telephone (217)428-4336 FAX (217)428-1700
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" 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

Temporary Church Office Hours:

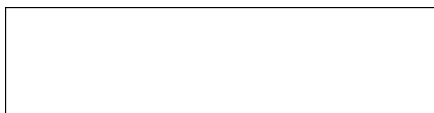
Tuesday through Thursday, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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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