

# 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, June 3, 2020

No. 22



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## **Jade Flournoy, Peacemaker Award Winner for 2020!**



Central is in its seventh year of sponsoring the Peacemaker Award! This award celebrates the valuable contributions of student peacemakers in Decatur junior and high schools. It recognizes how the actions of these young peacemakers extend beyond the school setting to benefit the entire community.

Award winners act as positive role models by handling disagreements with peaceful means and by participating in school and the community in ways that promote peace and harmony. Peacemakers demonstrate caring and respect for everyone regardless of race, culture, or economic background.

Your Peace & Justice Committee is pleased to introduce to you a young woman at Johns Hill Magnet School,

**Jade Flournoy**, as one of the 2020 Peacemaker Award recipients!

In nominating Jade her teachers wrote, “Jade is often the voice of reason and calm ... students seek her advice ... she leads with tough love and always sees the best in people ... students trust her and her advice. Jade is a peacemaker.”

Thank you Central for supporting young peacemakers.  
Congratulations Jade Flournoy and thank you for being who you are!

**SUNDAY, June 7, 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.  
Tina Miller



**VIRTUAL VBS THIS YEAR!**

**BOLT VBS** is coming to your house on **JUNE 22-24!** It's 3 days full of fun and games with a purpose.

Watch your email and Central Christian Church Facebook page in the coming weeks for details.

**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](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.

**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.

**"Opening Our Doors"**

As has been announced during the last two online worship services, Central's church leadership is working on procedures that will allow us to "open our doors" to in-person gatherings beyond what is currently happening. Since mid-March, only essential personnel (both staff and volunteers) have been accessing the building. We recognize there is great desire to move forward and open our doors wider, a desire made all the greater by the Governor's decision to allow more businesses to open this past weekend. Additionally, the governor has allowed that in-person worship is now permissible, though this was accompanied by some suggested guidelines for modified procedures to help ensure social distancing. I want to take this opportunity to share what the church leadership is thinking when it comes to "opening our doors."

Above all, we are guided by the desire to be safe – where "safety" is understood as care and concern for the "least of these" (Matthew 25:31). We also understand that every aspect of how this pandemic is perceived is saturated with the political division that has plagued our country for far too long, but we seek a plan that is as *a*-political as possible. We furthermore believe that there is value in honoring the great desire you have expressed to be in one another's company again. Your pastoral staff surely wants you to know that it misses you as well. Yet we do not want this desire – important as it is – to overshadow the need to keep one another safe.

This means that our interaction with one another in the building when we initially come back will not look like what it did prior to March 22. There will be new procedures to follow for entering the building and how and where to move throughout the building. These procedures are being informed by a team of church members who are also professionals in the science and/or medical fields; recommendations by our regional church; and guidelines proposed by our insurance provider. Our ministers are also in conversation with other clergy in the area, though Central's plan for coming back will be our own. We understand that every congregation is unique and therefore its plan for coming back should reflect that uniqueness.

Some of what makes Central unique are our three (3) distinct worshipping services and our building layout. Our plan must account for things like entering the building, traffic flow within the building, seating within rooms that accommodate social distancing, and the ability to clean adequately before and after individuals (groups) use parts of the building. From the onset of the pandemic, we have acknowledged that this is an ever-changing situation. We want you to know that our "coming back" to being an in-person community will be gradual. In all likelihood, we will publicize a list of procedures that will themselves be transitional, until we begin a next phase of coming back. Just because we will begin with a certain set of guidelines does not necessarily mean that they will be permanent. Above all, we do not want to take steps backward. We want to be careful in our coming back so that we are not contributing either to your personal compromised health or to the reason why our state goes back into self-quarantine.

As a Disciple pastor friend of mine recently posted, "We all get to choose what  
(continued on page 3...)

we regret.” Our leadership is choosing to be better safe than sorry and in doing so, we believe there is less likelihood we will have grave regrets in the future.

There is no point in going into great detail here about the particulars of the proposal the leadership is considering, but some of the highlights include the following:

- A plan for what to do if someone who has been in the building contracts the virus;
- Allowing small groups (of under 10) – committees, bible studies, etc... - to hold their gatherings at the church;
- Offering an opportunity for individuals, couples, and/or family units to have personal prayer and vigil time in the sanctuary or downstairs worship space.
- Limiting the parts of the building that can be used so as to allow for easier cleaning;
- Check-in procedures (some of which are already in place for those currently accessing the building) which include:
  - A sign recommending those of over a certain age and/or those experiencing health difficulties not enter the building;
  - Signing in and washing hands;
  - Showing proof of mask (with one being provided if necessary).

Finally, integral to whatever plan we promote is the continuation of online worship. We do not want those who are not able to come back physically – either due to personal choice or reasons beyond their control – to feel less a part of our community. Every person who helps make up our Central family is important, and we do not want to lose sight of that.

If there are any questions, I know that our president Gregg Foltz ([g55foltz@gmail.com](mailto:g55foltz@gmail.com)) and vice-president Brett Swallow ([Brett.Swallow@hickorypointbank.com](mailto:Brett.Swallow@hickorypointbank.com)) would not mind your contacting them with comments and/or questions; nor, of course, would I ([mkarunas@cccdisciples.org](mailto:mkarunas@cccdisciples.org)). In the meantime, thank you for your continued patience and support.

Blessings... Michael

### 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 (7)**

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

#### **Monday (8)**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

#### **Tuesday (9)**

**OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - NOON**

#### **Wednesday (10)**

**OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - NOON**

#### **Thursday (11)**

**OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - NOON**

#### **Friday (12)**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

#### **Saturday (13)**

#### **Sunday (14)**

- 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 31, 2020**  
Total worshipping together online = 320

**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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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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