

# 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, July 8, 2020

No. 27



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## **A Word About Worship Schedules**

From having read *The Visitor* over the years, you have undoubtedly noticed that we print a schedule of worship assignments for the coming week's worship service. Given that we are gradually introducing in-person worship again, in the midst of the ongoing pandemic, we wanted to share some important information with you.

- First, all existing schedules (deacons, greeters, liturgists and ushers) have been temporarily suspended.
- Second, a new schedule has been made with some new volunteer titles (e.g. "Front Door Check-in"). This is the schedule that will be printed in *The Visitor* each week. For the foreseeable future, a smaller group of volunteers will be handling these new volunteer roles. Since not everyone on the original schedules published in early 2020 feels comfortable coming back to in-person worship, this was thought to be the most efficient way to proceed for the time being.
- Third, should we return to more "normal" Sunday morning practices, we may very well re-institute the schedules first published in early 2020.
- Fourth, should you be interested in helping out with these new in-person worship volunteer opportunities (and are not yet on the schedule), please let us know and we can add you to the roster of volunteers ([central@cccdisciples.org](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org)).
- Finally, if you have any questions about anything at anytime, please don't hesitate to let us know.

### **July 12 Volunteer schedule**

**8:45 – 10:15**

Front table – Gregg Foltz, Carolyn McCall, Christine Lyman-Harm  
Ushers – Cheryl Zollinger, Kathy Matherly, Paul Gorden  
Elder – Janet Lyman

**10:00 – 11:45**

Front table – Gregg Foltz, Brett Swallow, Donna Dash  
Ushers – Gretchen Kirby, Ron Oliver  
Elder – Janet Lyman

### **SUNDAY, July 12, 2020**

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP LIVE  
STREAMED ON  
[WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG](http://WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG)  
AT **8:00 a.m.**

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP ON  
FACEBOOK LIVE  
AND IN-PERSON - GREAT HALL  
AT **9:15 a.m.**

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP LIVE  
STREAMED ON  
[WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG](http://WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG)  
AND IN-PERSON - SANCTUARY  
AT **10:30 a.m.**

### ***A Hero is.... Humble!!***

Text: Acts 9:36-42  
Michael E. Karunas



**Covenants and Transactions**

There are many ways to think about the connections we make with one another in life. One way is that of covenants and transactions. Transactional relationships dominate much of our lives. In such arrangements, two people are in relationship because of a transaction that brings them together. Think of going shopping. At check-out, we are in a "relationship" with the person at the register. We exchange goods, based on each of us seeking our best interest. In transactional relationships, we are free to look for the best deal, or that which is most advantageous to us. Aristotle called these arrangements "relationships of utility." The only reason we are in relationship is because there is something useful to both of us that brings us together. However, such relationships, and the fulfillment they provide, are temporary. They exist only as long as the transaction is useful. The moment that particular store doesn't offer what we desire, or we find a better deal somewhere else, the relationship ends.

Covenantal relationships are different. As the name suggests, they are based on covenants (or promises). In a covenantal relationship, we put more value on the relationship itself than on the transactions that occur. We promise to be in relationship with someone, who likewise promises to be in relationship with us. We are mutually bound together in this way and neither of us abandons the relationship if the individual transactions that take place along the way happen to displease us. In a covenantal relationship, it is not important that "I" am happy (my best interest is met) or that "you" are happy (your best interest is met), but that we find happiness together. Covenantal relationships are long-lasting – they have the potential of even being eternal - and the fulfillment we derive from them is anything but temporary.

The truth is, we long for covenantal relationships in our lives, because at a core part of our being, we desire meaningful interactions with others. Over time, all transactional relationships will leave us wanting something more. It's not surprising, therefore, that the Apostle Paul was all about covenantal relationships. When he said "All things are lawful, but not all things are beneficial" (I Cor. 10:23), he meant that the strength of the community of which we are part is a greater contributor to our fulfillment than simply the pursuit of our own comfort and convenience, which is why he also said (I Cor. 12:7), "Each of us has been given a manifestation of the Holy Spirit for the building up of the common good" (and not the pursuit of our individual happiness).

In all our relationships, we get to decide what kind they will be. We can make our marriages and friendships relationships of transaction. We can make the other person into an object who exists solely to make us happy, and we can seek to make even the ordinary relationships more covenantal. We could even turn the relationship we have with the check-out employee at Kroger into more of a covenant than a transaction. The choice is indeed ours. However we decide will not change the truth that the more covenantal relationships we create, the more meaning and fulfillment we will experience – and the meaning and fulfillment the world will experience through us.

Blessings... Michael

Parents,

Are you looking for summer fun ideas? I found this blog. ENJOY!

<https://feelslikehomeblog.com>

-Pastor Tina

**SUMMER FUN IDEAS**

- do some learning outside
- make sun catchers
- chalk paint
- explosion bags
- catch fireflies
- make a balance beam
- go see fireworks
- throw whirlybirds off the deck
- make a leaf scrapbook
- go on a hike
- water blob
- miniature golf
- make root beer floats
- wash the car by hand
- summer reading program
- scavenger hunt
- make a map of our backyard
- go for a boat ride
- pick raspberries & make jam
- play bocce ball
- glow stick hide & seek
- see a drive-in movie
- make root beer sherbet
- paint the lawn
- make flag t-shirts
- paint with ice cubes
- make banana splits
- make a nature collage
- tie-dye shirts
- make dirt pudding
- bake something with fresh cherries
- play in the creek

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For more Summer fun ideas or how-to links for this list see:

<https://feelslikehomeblog.com>



### In Sympathy We Mourn

We mourn with Claudia Quigg and her family the passing of her husband Leo. Leo was diagnosed with cancer two months ago and had entered hospice a few days before his passing. As yet, no arrangements for commemorating Leo's life, death and eternal life have been made. We will share them as soon as we are able. In the meantime we greatly covet your spiritual support and prayer for Claudia and her family.

We also mourn with Nancy Ellen Taylor the loss of her cousin Harriet Ray. We pray for comfort and peace for the whole family.

### A Note of Appreciation

We returned from Central's re-opening in-person service yesterday (July 5th) and want everyone to know that we are truly blessed. The entire service, from the team greeting, signing-in and ushering people to their seats, the participatory nature of the responsive readings, "hymns" and communion, the "heroic" message about patience, all the way to the orderly, but friendly exit was memorable. We were extremely pleased that the friendliness of our Centralites continues to come through loud and clear and proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that we can be flexible and trusting of God and our church leadership. "Hats off" to Michael, his staff, and others who are leading us all through this challenging and changing time.

-Sandy and Gene Garver



#### **Sunday (12)**

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Live Stream ONLY
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall & Facebook Live
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream
- 12:00-Praise Team rehearsal, G. Hall

#### **Monday (13)**

**OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - 1 PM**

6:00-PSC, Connection Café

#### **Tuesday (14)**

**OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - 1 PM**

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, Disciples Room
- 10:30-Support Staff Meeting
- 5:00-Personnel, Connection Café

#### **Wednesday (15)**

**OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - 1 PM**

- 10:30-Ministers' Meeting
- 5:00-Church Council, Zoom

#### **Thursday (16)**

**OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - 1 PM**

- 10:00-Alanon, Disciples Room
- 4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

#### **Friday (17)**

**OFFICE CLOSED**

#### **Saturday (18)**

#### **Sunday (19)**

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Live Stream ONLY
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall & Facebook Live
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream
- 12:00-Praise Team rehearsal, G. Hall

#### **Prayer List Updates**

We have a prayer list! Please remember to call the office (217-428-4336) or email us ([central@cccdisciples.org](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org)) with prayer list updates so that we may keep that list as updated as possible.

#### **Counting On You**

**Sunday, July 5, 2020**

Total worshipping (in-person & online) =  
462

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522  
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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:**  
**Monday through Thursday**  
**8:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

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