

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 15, 2020

No. 28



"Like" and "Follow" us on Facebook To "like" hit the thumbs-up icon. To "follow" click on the ellipse icon (...). You will see a list of options pop up. Find the option marked "follow" and click on that.

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).
- Finally, if you have any questions about anything at anytime, please don't hesitate to let us know.

July 19 Volunteer schedule

8:45 – 10:15

Front table – Sandy Garver, Carolyn McCall
Ushers – Cheryl Zollinger, Kathy Matherly, David Martin
Elder – Kim Maple

10:00 – 11:45

Front table – Gregg Foltz, Janet Lyman, Christine Lyman-Harm
Ushers – Doug Soebbing, Ron Oliver, Brett Swallow
Elder – Kim Maple

SUNDAY, July 19, 2020

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP LIVE
STREAMED ON
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
AND IN-PERSON - SANCTUARY
AT **10:30 a.m.**

A Hero is.... Inspiring!!

Text: Acts 8:18-24
Michael E. Karunas



Thank you!

I appreciate you so much!! If I had a thousand tongues, I couldn't thank you enough for your prayers & thoughtfulness. Love you ALL!! I'm forever grateful. God be with us all!! Until we meet again! Hopefully soon. Please take care of yourself & stay safe.
Evelyn Sanders & family

Central Women are ready to serve again!

After listening to Michael's sermon Sunday, in which he highlighted Dorcas as another example of biblical heroes, I decided it is time to share that our Dorcas women here at Central are patiently waiting to receive direction as to when and how we can safely re-start our meetings and service projects.

Dorcas Disciples continues to be a vibrant group of women of all ages and all Central women who share the church's mission - "Change Lives, Share Christ, and Deliver Hope" are invited. If you enjoy mission-based messages, service projects, and fellowship, please contact Sandy Garver at (217) 877-0800 or revrag@comcast.net for more information about Dorcas Disciples.

As soon as it is possible, program information will be shared.



On the Road... Away from Idolatry

I find it apropos that this past month we have twice encountered the theme of idolatry in worship. First it was King Josiah's discovery in 2 Kings 22 that the Judeans were worshipping the idols of Ba'al and Asherah. The following week, the Apostle Paul was addressing the question of eating food that was offered to Greco-Roman pagan idols. I say "apropos," because on the recommendation of a friend, I have been reading On the Road with St. Augustine by James K.A. Smith this week in which idolatry is a theme.



Augustine (354 – 430 A.D.) is undoubtedly the most important figure in western civilization. One cannot discuss theology, philosophy, ethics, biblical exegesis, or political theory today without invariably encountering what he had to say about the topic. He is also credited with writing the first "autobiography" in history. This would be his short, but profound work entitled Confessions, which details his coming to Christ and the meandering path he took to get there (though as Smith says in On the Road, it can't really be called an autobiography, for we read an autobiography to learn more about the author, but in the Confessions, we read about Augustine's journey to learn more about *ourselves*). I first read the Confessions as a first-year student in graduate school, which is like asking a toddler to grasp advanced calculus, but in the intervening 20-plus years, I find myself coming back to this classic work through books such as On the Road.

Today, I have a much richer appreciation for how Augustine challenges us to think about idolatry and how we encounter it in our lives. Idolatry is much more sophisticated than statues and animal sacrifice. In fact, according to Augustine, it is not a conscious or intellectual decision we ever make to believe a falsehood. No one ever makes the decision to be idolatrous. It is therefore not so much "taught" to us as much as it is "caught" by us. Through inattentiveness to our habits and customs, we end up sliding away from God without realizing it, let alone desiring it. Idolatry is asking something to do what it is not meant to do – which is to satisfy our deepest longings. Only God can truly do this, but idolatry is turning to anything – money, status, physical intimacy, rituals, narratives, etc. – and hoping it will bring meaning and fulfillment. Of course, all it does is leave our hearts restless and longing all the more. The Apostle Paul termed this (Rom. 1:25) worshipping the "creature over the creator" (treasuring the things God gives us over God who gave us the things themselves). For Augustine, this is idolatry. Asking something that is *not* God to do the job that only God can do.

(continued on page 3...)

Augustine never leaves us hopeless. The antidote for idolatry, according to Smith, is intentional rituals that cultivate the kind of habits that keep things ordered properly in our spiritual lives. It is by intentionally developing the kind of habits that worship, honor, and adore God as the author of our true fulfillment.

In ruminating on these thoughts this past week, I can't help but think about how the pandemic has thrown all our traditional rituals and spiritual customs into disarray. In the just the last 4 months, we have been forced to abandon worshipping in a building that has been home to us for over 60 years. We have learned to broadcast worship online to an enormous number of small worshipping communities, rather than lead worship for an "enormous" community of worshipping individuals. During this time, you probably developed your own routines and habits about how you received worship in your homes instead of the sanctuary. Now that we are coming back together, we have new procedures for how we are doing much of what takes place on Sunday morning, and still we continue to exist in fragmented fashion, with some of us worshipping in person and many more continuing to participate from home.

Which underscores the importance of being intentional about our habits- the rituals we undertake. Otherwise, we may end up embracing the habits and customs we have "slid into" and wondering why are left unfulfilled. I know we are all fatigued by this pandemic, and though what our lives look like after having come through it may be forever different than what they looked like prior to March of this year, we will get through this. In the meantime, however, effort is required from all of us to pay attention to our habits, so that we can be sure we are on the road away from, and not toward, idolatry.

Blessings... Michael

2020 Scholarship Recipients

Don and Bonnie Sauer Peace and Justice Scholarship Karma Carpenter & Toby Jones

This scholarship is awarded to deserving young people who demonstrate peace and justice ideals by active involvement with college, church, community organizations.

Cocoa and Lilabelle Traylor Memorial Scholarship Hannah Brimner & Drake Niles-Cox, & Megan Swim

This scholarship is awarded to deserving young people who wish to pursue a career in teaching, public service, or other fields.

Roy O. and Rachel R. Schilling Scholarship Jennifer Baumann & Bradley Munos

This scholarship is awarded to deserving young people who wish to enter the fields of ministry, teaching, nursing, or other fields.

Walter & Inabelle Kirby Memorial Thomas Karunas

This scholarship is awarded to deserving young people who wish to pursue a career in music, international affairs, or other fields.

Dr. Barbara Tyler Scholarship Drake Niles-Cox

This scholarship is awarded to a person who has actively participated in Central's youth or young adult programs, has been baptized at Central Christian Church, and a current member of Central Christian Church.



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

Monday (20)

- OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - 1 PM**
- 4:00-Trustees, Zoom

Tuesday (21)

- OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - 1 PM**
- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, Disciples Room
- 10:30-Support Staff Meeting, Conn. Café
- 5:30-Stewardship, Connection Café

Wednesday (22)

- OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - 1 PM**
- 10:30-Ministers' Meeting

Thursday (23)

- OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - 1 PM**
- 10:00-Alanon, Disciples Room
- 4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

Friday (24)

- OFFICE OPEN 8 AM - 1 PM**

Saturday (25)

Sunday (26)

- 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

Give Now, at ShelbyGiving.com

Scan the QR code to be directed to our Give Now page:



Counting On You Sunday, July 12, 2020

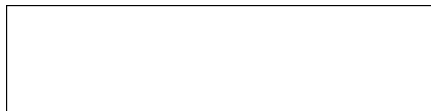
Total worshipping (in-person & online) =
300

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 as of
July 20th, 2020:
Monday through Friday
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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.



NON-PROFIT ORG
 US POSTAGE
 PAID
 DECATUR, IL
 PERMIT NO. 80

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

