

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, August 12, 2020

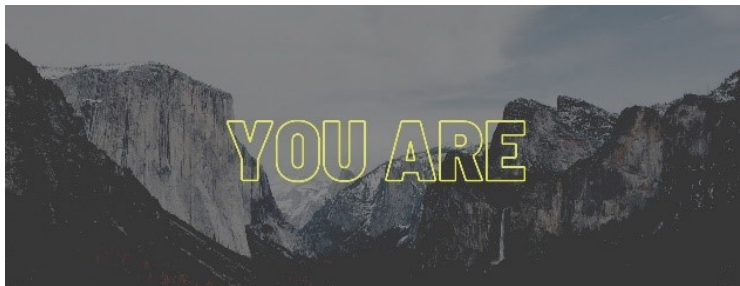
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New Sermon Series – “You Are”

Beginning this Sunday, August 16, and continuing through September 20, our sermon series will focus on the words “You” and “Are.” “You are...” are two very powerful words that can have long-lasting negative or positive effects on our growth as people – and as people of faith. In the world, negative “You are...”-phrases in everyday conversation and on social media, exclude and divide people from one another. The words of Christ, however, use these same words to show that God’s intention is to draw us inclusively toward God and bring us more closely and directly to one another.



August 16	You Are: an Introduction	Matthew 16:13-16
August 23	You are Salt	Matthew 5:13
August 30	You are Light	Matthew 5:14-16
September 6	You are Valuable	Matthew 6:25-26 Hebrews 2:5-7
September 13	You are a Royal Priesthood	I Peter 2:9-10
September 20	You are The Kingdom	Luke 17:21

Additionally, for each day of the series (8/17-9/19) we are encouraging everyone to read through the Sermon on the Mount. This is Jesus’ first main sermon and provides the context for the first three sermons in the series. Each week in The Visitor, we will list the scriptures for the coming week. You can chart your progress by initialing every day that you read the assigned verses. There is no bible reading assigned for Sunday. Your Sunday “assignment” is attending worship (online or in person).

SUNDAY, August 16, 2020

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP LIVE
STREAMED ON
WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG
AND IN-PERSON - SANCTUARY
AT 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

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

You Are: An Introduction

Text: Matthew 16:13-16
Michael E. Karunas

Sermon on the Mount Daily Readings

8/17	Matthew 5:1-6	_____
8/18	Matthew 5:7-12	_____
8/19	Matthew 5:13-16	_____
8/20	Matthew 5:17-20	_____
8/21	Matthew 5:21-26	_____
8/22	Matthew 5:27-30	_____



Bible Verses About Peace

John 16:33 ESV

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

2 Thessalonians 3:16 ESV

Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times in every way. The Lord be with you all.

Isaiah 26:3 ESV

You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Philippians 4:6 ESV

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

1 Peter 5:7 ESV

Casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Colossians 3:15 ESV

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Romans 15:13 ESV

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

(Excerpted from openbible.info/topics/peace)

God in All Things

As you know, I recently spent some days up north in Michigan at the cottage that has been in my family since 1973. Since a child, I have spent some portion of every summer there, on Crystal Lake along the Sleeping Bear National Lakeshore. One of the things I love about being there is the simple fact that I get a lot of reading done! I always have a stack of books I'm trying to work through (both chosen and recommended) and for whatever reason, I read "very well" there. This year was no different. One of the four books I read was *The Universal Christ* by Richard Rohr. Rohr is a Franciscan priest who was also trained as a psychologist. Many in our congregation know the works of Rohr, not the least of whom is Don Martin. He "introduced" me to Rohr in 2012 and since then we have shared a similar respect for his writing.

I find Richard Rohr to write very accessibly when it comes to theology and spirituality. One of the things he does in "The Universal Christ" is to make the distinction between **pantheism** and **panentheism**. Pantheism is the believe that everything is a god – the rocks are gods; the trees are gods; the sun is a god, etc... Pantheism has always been looked down upon in Christian history. For, as we know, there is but one God and, as the 10 commandments tell us, we shall have no other god before God, but Panentheism is the belief that God – the one, true God – is revealed in all things. That in creation, God infused the Spirit into all matter, so that the divine presence is in rocks, trees, sun, etc...

It is always easy for me to recognize the presence of God in all things when I'm up at my "sacred place" on Crystal Lake. The sunsets, coming storms, forests, and water all speak to God's majesty. There is even a family of bald eagles that has taken to nesting near our cottage. I certainly hope each of you has a special place like mine where you feel the presence of God in a close and personal way. As the Sufi poet Rumi put it, "We should all have a place on earth where we kneel to kiss the ground."
(continued next page...)



But the more important challenge is to believe that the presence of God is close in every situation and location, wherever we find ourselves. This means that God is revealed even in those places and situations that are uncomfortable at best and painful at worst. And that God is, furthermore, in *everyone* - which means even in those people different than we are and, if we are honest with ourselves, those with whom it is difficult to find connection or even be around.

The ability to see God in everything and everyone is something that seems especially important today and that those who give themselves to that effort are ones the world needs now more than ever. May we all strive to do just that.

Blessings... Michael

8:00 a.m. In-Person Worship to Resume

Beginning on Sunday, August 16, we will be offering 8:00 in-person worship again. The check-in procedures will be the same as for the 9:15 and 10:30 in-person services. You will still need to come in through the West Entrance doors, *no earlier than 7:50 a.m.*, and be checked-in by the front door hosts. For those not coming back at 8:00 a.m., we will continue to live-stream that service. We will therefore have three (3) online options and three (3) in-person options beginning August 16.

Bowling League update

There will be no CCC Bowling League this fall. With all of the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, along with the restrictions that have been placed on bowling alleys, our league officers have decided that it makes the most sense for us to skip this season. We will plan to start again in the fall of 2021. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact David Martin at demartin@cccdisciples.org. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing everyone back healthy and ready to go next year!



Rick Smith Memorial Gathering Cancelled

The family of Rick Smith has decided to cancel the memorial gathering that had been scheduled for 8/21/2020, due to the pandemic.



August 16 Volunteer schedule

7:45 – 9:30

Front table – Donna Dash, Gregg Foltz, Sandy Garver
Ushers – David Martin, Kathy Matherly, Cheryl Zollinger

9:30 – 11:30

Front table – Gretchen Kirby, Janet Lyman, Christine Lyman-Harm
Ushers – Ron Oliver, Doug Soebbing



Sunday (16)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream

9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall & Facebook Live

10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream

12:00-Praise Team rehearsal, G. Hall

4:00-Youth Group

Monday (17)

10:00-Operations Committee

Tuesday (18)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, Disciples Room

10:30-Support Staff Meeting, Conn. Café

5:00-Women's Group, Connection Café??

Wednesday (19)

10:30-Ministers' Meeting

5:30-Stewardship Comm., Disc. Room

5:30-Koinonia class, Connection Café

Thursday (20)

10:00-Alanon, Disciples Room

4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

5:30-Nomination Committee, Conn. Café

Friday (21)

Saturday (22)

Sunday (23)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream

9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall & Facebook Live

10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream

12:00-Praise Team rehearsal, G. Hall

4:00-Youth Group

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



Counting On You

Sunday, August 9, 2020

Total worshipping (in-person & online) =
462

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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" 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
 Paula Partain.....Preschool Staff
 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

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