

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

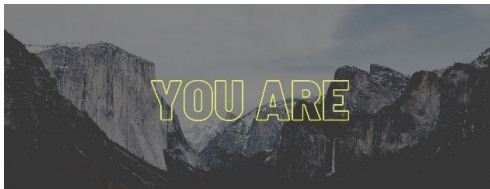
Decatur, Illinois, August 26, 2020

No. 34



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New Sermon Series – "You Are"



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 30, 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... the Light of the World

Text: Matthew 5:14-16
Michael E. Karunas

Sermon on the Mount Daily Readings

8/31	Matthew 6:16-18	_____
9/1	Matthew 6:19-21	_____
9/2	Matthew 6:22-24	_____
9/3	Matthew 6:25-29	_____
9/4	Matthew 6:30-34	_____
9/5	Matthew 7:1-5	_____

Sidewalk Art Show

Come out and see the beautiful and creative designs of Central's Youth Group!

August 30th, 4:00-5:00 pm
Central Christian Church

Walk the path with family and friends, When you reach the end, add your best design!

**Remember
to bring
your
masks!**



Hello Parents.

It's time to make your way through the new school year.

Education might look different now. Nevertheless, it is undoubtedly very rewarding as you watch your children grow in learning.

I believe the most significant education is learning to enjoy the presence of the Spirit of God.

Matthew 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

I know beyond a shadow of a doubt that God's presence is always with us, leading, guiding, protecting, and helping us to do the right thing. We want your children to know and remember that too.

Every year we gift your children with a carabiner, compass, and tag that reads, "I am with you always." The gifts are to help children and youth remember that God is with them through all their school days – and every day!

Though we chose not to have an in-person back to school Sunday, we want to be consistent in our support and encouragement. Please look for incoming mail that will include: a carabiner, compass, and tag that says, "I am with you always."

Here at Central Christian Church, our heart desires that God's peace and presence will overshadow all you do and say within your home and school during this school year. I pray this year will exceed even your highest expectations and that your experience will be one of great encouragement both for you and your children.

May God richly bless you!

Tina Miller, David Martin, and the Central Christian Church Education Department

Preaching and Teaching...

Our sermons from this past Sunday and this coming one are taken from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. That's how Matthew, chapters 5-7, have come down to us... as Jesus' first "sermon." In fact, there is a good chance that the bible you're reading these days has a heading or footnote (or both) that calls this section of the bible the "Sermon" on the Mount. Technically, however, I wonder if we shouldn't put quotes (" ") around the word sermon, because Jesus never said it was a "sermon." Neither did Matthew. We did. Matthew (5:2) says that when Jesus went up the mountain with his followers, he sat down and "*taught*" them, and therein lies the question. Are preaching and teaching the same? Or is there a difference, more than mere semantics?



If there is a difference, it might be found in this distinction. Preaching is primarily one-way communication. Its function is to convey and impart information. Think of the typical Sunday. Other than the occasional head-nod-of-agreement when the preacher is speaking, or perhaps the intermittent "*Amen!*" or "*Preach on, brother!*," preaching is one-way communication. And Jesus certainly preached, as when he read from the scroll of Isaiah in Luke 4 and informed and conveyed that the scripture was fulfilled in the communicating of these words.

But teaching is different. It is both about imparting information *and...* the listening, absorbing, and understanding of that information. Teaching is a more dynamic, back-and-forth activity. Students ask questions. Teachers provide clarification. Questions and answers lead to further discussion and deeper involvement with the topic at hand. This is the essence of Jesus' ministry with his disciples. There was constant back and forth with them... questions, answers, clarification, discussion. No wonder Jesus was known – from beginning to end of his ministry – as "*Rabbi*" (teacher). Likewise no wonder that Matthew chose the phrase "*he taught them*" and not "*he preached to them*" or "*he lectured to them*" for a reason.

Teaching was important for Jesus because he wanted followers. It is

(continued on page 3...)

noteworthy that Jesus never said “*worship* me.” He said “*follow* me.” He was not looking for a relationship with us in which he would pontificate from on high and we, the masses, would bow down and adore him for such heavenly wisdom. When we do worship Jesus it is as the second person of the trinity; the manifestation of the divine presence; God in human form. But the carpenter’s son from Galilee? He was looking for followers. Which is why he worked so hard to “teach” us. He wanted us not just to hear his word, but absorb it and understand it. That was the only way to follow in his footsteps and carry on his God-with-us presence in his absence.

I may continue to refer to Matthew 5-7 as the “Sermon” on the Mount in everyday conversation. There is something familiar about that title that, should it be changed, would cause confusion. But privately, I will continue to enjoy thinking of this part of the bible as the “Teaching on the Mount.” For it serves as reminder of the importance of the kind of relationships that only teaching can cultivate and how integral these relationships were to Jesus’ ministry.

Blessings... Michael

Blanket Sunday offering to be collected August 30th



A blanket is an essential item in an emergency. After a disaster, it can keep you warm, provide shelter (as a temporary tent) and even become a satchel for carrying your belongings. Blankets also symbolize God’s love as they cover us and protect us. Because of donations from congregations like ours, last year, Church World Service was able to distribute over 174,000 blankets and kits to victims of natural disasters throughout the world. CWS

seeks our help again for the annual Blanket Sunday offering, to be collected August 30th. Please consider giving generously. You can also go online to donate: www.cwsblankets.org/donate

Congratulations Zach Martin!!!

Our own Zach Martin (recent graduate of Christian Theological Seminary with a Masters of Divinity) has been called to, and accepted, the position of full time pastor at Carlock Christian Church. He will begin his service there next month. In the meantime, he continues to complete his requirements of ordination.

Blessings to you, Zach and the Carlock congregation!

Welcome to our World

We celebrate with Nick and Shelby Baum (and big brother Jackson) the arrival of Libby Danielle to their family. Libby was born on August 23, weighing 7 pounds 13 ounces and measures 20 inches long. The report is that Libby is “perfect” and “all is well.”



Sunday (30)

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

2:30-Sidewalk Art Show

Monday (31)

5:30-Preschool Board, Connection Café

Tuesday (1)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, Disciples Room

10:30-Support Staff Meeting, Conn. Café

5:00-Women’s Group, Disciples Room

Wednesday (2)

10:30-Ministers’ Meeting

Thursday (3)

10:00-Alanon, Disciples Room

4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

5:00-In-Person Worship Training

Friday (4)

Saturday (5)

Sunday (6)

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

Counting On You

Sunday, August 23, 2020

Total worshipping online = 268

Total worshipping in-person = 111



August 30 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

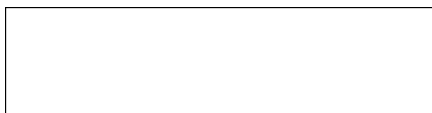
Front table – Jeannie Backes, Carolyn McCall, Mike Munos
Ushers – Gretchen Kirby, Ron Oliver
Elder - Brett Swallow

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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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