

# 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, September 2, 2020

No. 35



**“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.

## To the Members of Central Christian Church

August 30, 2020

Dear Church,

I have come to the decision that I would like to retire from ministry here at Central Christian Church. I have been contemplating this for some time and feel that the time has come for me to step down. Michael and I have been in conversation and he agrees that retirement is a logical next step for me.

It is my desire to retire on June 30, 2021. Details of the process of my retirement have not been worked out yet.

I thank you all for this extraordinary opportunity I have experienced in service to this exceptional congregation. I have always felt great support and wonderful affirmation for me and my work here. I am also grateful for the way you welcomed and nurtured my family.

I wish you all well and hope to use the remaining 10 months with you in ways that are beneficial to us all.

Blessings,  
Don Martin

### New Sermon Series – “You Are”

**September 6** You are Valuable **Matthew 6:25-34**

**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, September 6, 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... Valuable**

Text: Matthew 6:25-34

Michael E. Karunas

### Sermon on the Mount Daily Readings

9/7 Matthew 7:6-11 \_\_\_\_\_

9/8 Matthew 7:12-14 \_\_\_\_\_

9/9 Matthew 7:15-20 \_\_\_\_\_

9/10 Matthew 7:21-23 \_\_\_\_\_

9/11 Matthew 7:24-27 \_\_\_\_\_

9/12 Luke 6:20-26 \_\_\_\_\_



**HELLO PARENTS,**

We planned to mail out back to school letters, compasses, and carabiners last week. We decided to hand deliver most of the packages. We look forward to dropping off envelopes in-person this week. We hope to see you soon!

In other news:

The CE Team will offer **Children/ Youth Sunday School PDF files and packet pick-ups** soon! **Look for emails** from Pr. Tina and Mr. David.

Due to the Pandemic, **we will not offer in-person Sunday School or nursery care for this school quarter.** The CE team will meet in October to determine Sunday School plans for the remainder of 2020.

Stay safe and healthy!  
Pastor Tina, Mr. David, and The Christian Education Team



**Un-Changed... a Preview**

It would be the greatest of understatement to say that things have changed in 2020. The first global pandemic in 100 years led to a long list of cancellations in late Spring, from in-person worship and preschool end-of-year celebrations, to all but essential activity within our church building. Because of this, we learned how to use Zoom and hold meetings virtually. While we did offer an online worship experience before the pandemic, now it has become increasingly vital to our sense of togetherness. For even though, nearly six months later, we have begun offering programming opportunities on an in-person basis, many of our members are still “sheltering in place.” Through it all, we have learned how to be community without relying on many of the ways we have defined being a community in the past. Yes, so much as changed in 2020!

But some things have remain un-changed as well. Our love for Central has not been compromised by the virus. Our generous support of the ministries of our congregation are immune to the pandemic. And... perhaps most importantly... our sense of oneness will not change. We will continue to be One family of believers, with One faith in One Jesus Christ and held together by One Holy Spirit. Sure, where we used to see that Holy Spirit moving through hands held in welcoming fellowship on a Sunday morning, now we see it moving through the “airwaves” and connecting us through Facebook and YouTube, but it is the same Holy Spirit, merely taking whatever form necessary to keep our connection unchanged in a changing world.

That theme of **Un-Changed** will be our focus from September 27-October 18, as our Stewardship Department leads us through our annual fall campaign. This is when we consider the role Central plays in our lives and what kind of contributions we feel called to make to it in the coming year. Even though the events of 2020 may have caused us to think of generosity differently, the desire to be generous remains unchanged within us.

To that end, the Stewardship Department and I are seeking your help:

1) We would like to hear from you as we seek to tell Central's story over this past year during the fall campaign. Specifically, we would like you to hear your answers to one or both of the following questions:

- **What have you learned to appreciate about Central in the last six months?**
- **How have you felt connected to Central during the last six months?**

You can write as much or as little as you would like. But please email them to [central@cccdisciples.org](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org) or mail them to the church (c/o Michael Karunas).

2) Be on the lookout each week over the next two months in *The Visitor* for a new “Stewardship Corner.” In that “corner,” the Stewardship Department will offer different and interesting “factoids” about how your generosity impacts our world through gifts given to Central. You will notice that the first “factoid” in this week's Stewardship Corner is the questions for which we would like you to send answers (I have printed them above).

*(continued on page 3...)*

That fact that your continued support of Central's ministries in 2020 has remained Un-Changed through the ups and downs of the last eight months is something for which we all give thanks and by which we are all humbled and honored.



Blessings... Michael

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

As the Stewardship Department looks ahead to 2021, we want to take a moment to reflect on the meaning of church and the role it plays in our lives. We would like your help in telling the story of Central by answering one (or both) of these questions:

***What have you learned to appreciate about Central in the last six months?***

***How have you felt connected to Central during the last six months?***

Please send your responses to [central@cccdisciples.org](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org).

### **Little Free Library (LFL) Update**

As you may know, our youth group at Central has joined the Millikin Heights neighborhood to put up ten Little Free Libraries throughout the neighborhood. One of these libraries is going to be on Central's property. As a host for one of the LFL's, it is Central's responsibility to maintain and restock the library on a regular basis. We have been given books to get the LFL going and are now taking donations for the library. **We are asking for children's and young reader books (toddler-8<sup>th</sup> grade) that are new or in good condition.** Our goal is to get books in the hands of children and families in the neighborhood.



The reason I am reaching out is, **we are looking for a team of volunteers to do the following...**

- Restock library when books are low
- Make sure books are age appropriate (children's and young reader)
- Ask for donations when needed
- Maintain appearance of LFL (area around is clean/garbage free, no graffiti/vandalism)

We do not want this to become a burden for any of our volunteers. We are asking that our volunteers check the LFL at least once every other week. When we have our team, we will create a monthly schedule. The LFL will be available starting the week of September 7<sup>th</sup>, but you can bring in your books any time during church office hours.

If you are interested in helping with the LFL, or if you have any questions, please email me at [demartin@cccdisciples.org](mailto:demartin@cccdisciples.org).

Thank you,  
David Martin

### **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 Zoom Meeting

### **Monday (7)**

**CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED**

### **Tuesday (8)**

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, Disciples Room

10:30-Youth Staff Mtg.

### **Wednesday (9)**

10:30-Ministers' Meeting

5:00-Elders, Zoom

### **Thursday (10)**

10:00-Alanon, Disciples Room

4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

5:15-Brass Choir, Disciples Room

5:30-Koinonia, Connection Café

### **Friday (11)**

### **Saturday (12)**

### **Sunday (13)**

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 In-Person

### **Counting On You**

**Sunday, August 30, 2020**

Total worshipping online = 208

Total worshipping in-person = 130



**September 6th Volunteer schedule**

**7:45 – 9:30**

Front table – Sandy Garver, George & Pearl Jones

Ushers – David Martin, Mike Munos

**9:00 - 10:00 Usher**

Cheryl Zollinger

**9:30 – 11:30**

Front table – Gregg Foltz, Diana & Tom Ritter

Ushers – David Martin, Doug Soebbing

Elders– Bruce Campbell, Kevin Miller

**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](mailto: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” 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  
 Paula Partain.....Preschool Staff  
 Lora Wright .....Lead 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

