

# 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 16, 2020

No. 37



**"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.

## **Central Christian Church**

### **Outdoor Picnic**

**September 20, 2020**

Directly after 10:30 service.

Bring a lawn chair.

Sit, relax, enjoy the entertainment.

Please call the church office and let us know  
you'll attend!



#### **Church Picnic This Sunday**

This Sunday, September 20, after 10:30 worship (approximately 11:45 a.m.) we will gather on the west and southwest lawns for a church picnic. We are asking everyone to bring their own lawn chair. We will be sitting in distanced family groupings. The fellowship committee will be bringing the food to us. Even though we are outside, we ask you to wear a mask when visiting with those outside your family grouping. Parking will look a little different, due to the tent positioned in the parking lot. We will have some musical entertainment from our Millikin choral interns, and Pastor Tina will be presenting the elementary school-aged children with their first bibles. Hope you can make it.

#### **SUNDAY, September 20, 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 Kingdom***

Text: Luke 17:20-21

Michael E. Karunas

#### **COMING SOON: NEW SECTION!!!**

#### **Birthdays this coming week!!!**

We are excited to start including the next week's birthdays in the Visitor!!!

Things to know:

1. If your birthday isn't listed, it's because we don't have your birthday on file. Just call the church office to let Kathleen know when it is. :)
2. If you do NOT want your birthday listed (we are only listing month/day), please call the office to let Kathleen know.





Hello Parents,

I hope this finds you well! We miss you; however, we realize it is best to wait for a while to meet in-person. In the mean-time, the Central Christian Church Christian Education team chose to offer Sunday School curriculum for home use. Please look for an email from me this week with attached dated zip folders. Each folder includes a Sunday School lesson (complete with instructions for parents), a take-home page (which would be ideal for drawing pictures and taking notes), and a video link page with dated hyperlinks to Vimeo videos (that bring home weekly lessons). Printed curriculum is available too. Please let me know if you would like copies. Please let me know if you have questions. ENJOY AND STAY HEALTHY!

Mr. David will send out 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum soon too!

Peace,

Tina Miller  
Associate Minister  
CE & Family Life

### **Making the Visitor and Bulletin Accessible**

Do you know someone who has visual impairment who might enjoy the Visitor or our bulletin? We may be able to help! We can send out an email with plain text of the Visitor and bulletin to them. Have them contact the office at 217-428-4336 or email [central@cccdisciples.org](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org).

## Minister's Article

### **A Holy Nation**

In our scripture reading from I Peter last Sunday (2:4-10) we heard Peter tell the churches in modern-day Turkey that they were a "holy nation." In the same breath he called them a "chosen race" as well. Words like "nation" and "race" certainly conjure up manifold images and emotions in us today, though Peter intended them to be received differently and in a way that can help us today.

First, the concept of "race," for Peter, would have referred more broadly to ancestry – the place and people from you one descended. In fact, it is where our word "genealogy" comes from. It would not have meant the more narrow way we have come to think of race in terms of skin color. The word used for "nation" by Peter is where our word "ethnicity" comes from, but the original word in Greek could mean everything from "tribe" to a more general "company of people gathered together." It would not have referred to a nation-state as we understand in the modern sense.

Additionally, many Christians in the churches Peter was addressing were "Gentiles." Though Christian at the time, they did not convert to Christianity from Judaism but from paganism. Jews had a name for everyone who was not Jewish. It was "Gentile." In the Jewish worldview, one was either Jewish or non-Jewish, and all non-Jews were Gentiles, but that's a pretty wide lane isn't it? The concept of Gentile (non-Jew) would encompass a vast range of tribes and, what we could call today races and ethnicities. Consider if we divided the world today into, say, Germans and non-Germans. The gigantic mass of non-German people would represent 200 countries, 6,500 languages and every skin tone from very light to very dark. Most interestingly, Gentiles were *not* considered by Jews to be "one nation" at all. In fact, the casual way of referring to them in scripture was "the nations" as in plural; with an "s" at the end. Nations!

Therein lies the revolutionary thing Peter does. He creates one nation out of many, and he makes as the basis of that oneness not geographical borders and boundaries; not a common spoken language; not a set of laws or governing constitution; and not skin tone or ancestral affiliation, but faith! In Christ! To be a holy nation is to stand on the precious cornerstone that is Jesus and build a spiritual dwelling upon him... for him! All who do this, regardless of whatever other distinguishing characteristics identify them, are part of that "chosen race" and "holy nation." In other words, faith in Christ transcends every other way we might distinguish ourselves from one another.



(continued on page 3...)

When I lived in Germany, there was poster hanging on the wall of the youth room of our parish. It had a black and white photo of two people hugging with some words overlaid. They read, "What would the world be like if Christians agreed to stop killing each other." The phrase was a holdover from WWII and the Cold War. But I wonder today – in our country with so much polarization... what things might be like if Christians agreed to *talk* with each other; *listen* to each other; share stories of life experiences *with* each other? What if our starting point when engaging one another was our common faith and not our un-common differences? We might still have over 200 distinct Christian congregations in Decatur as we do now, but might we not also realize more of that oneness, which Peter references, than we do now? I want to believe that would be the case.

Blessings... Michael

### **Birthday Card Shower for a 99<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

Howard Cravens, out-of-town member of Central who now lives in Peoria but whose heart has always remained at Central, is turning 99 this week! Everyone from Central is invited to send him a birthday card. To send Howard a card, please use this address:

Howard Cravens  
7072 N. Aycliffe  
Peoria, IL 61614



## **STEWARDSHIP CORNER**

Did you know... that Central's highest general operating fund category is personnel costs, which are typically around 60% of the budget. Property is second, and our tithe to the Disciples Mission Fund is third.



**TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW!**

**CHICKEN DINNER • DRIVE-THRU**

**FUNDRAISER**

*benefiting*

**Dove, Inc.  
50th Anniversary!**

<https://nelsonscatering.com/dove-inc/>

Link above to help Dove!

Make your dinner plans now for Friday, September 25!  
Drive through the parking lot of First Evangelical Lutheran Church  
between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. to pick up your dinners!  
(FELC, 250 W. Decatur Street, Decatur, just South of  
Dove's Anna B. Millikin Home, on Union, Decatur)  
The last day to order online is 9/18/2020.

This 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraiser supports all the programs and events at Dove!  
Learn more about Dove at [www.doveinc.org](http://www.doveinc.org).



### **Sunday (20)**

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary &  
Live Stream  
9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall  
& Facebook Live  
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary &  
Live Stream  
11:30-Church Picnic  
12:00-Student Bible Presentations  
4:00-Youth Group In-Person

### **Monday (21)**

10:00-Operations Committee, C. Café

### **Tuesday (22)**

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

### **Wednesday (23)**

10:30-Ministers' Meeting  
5:30-Koinonia, Connection Café

### **Thursday (24)**

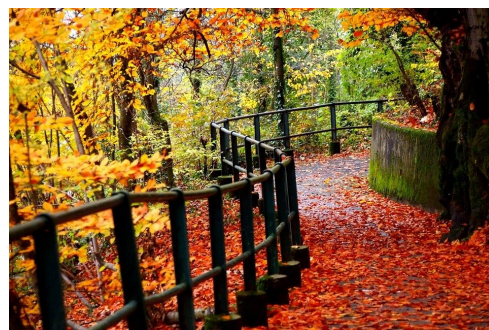
10:00-Alanon, Disciples Room  
4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café  
5:15-Brass Choir, Disciples Room

### **Friday (25)**

### **Saturday (26)**

### **Sunday (27)**

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



### **Counting On You**

**Sunday, September 13, 2020**

Total worshipping online = 144  
Total worshipping in-person = 275



**September 20th Volunteer schedule**

**7:45 – 9:30**

Front table – Hannah Brimner, Donna Dash,  
Carolyn Sunderlik

Ushers – Karma Lynn Carpenter, David Martin

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

Cheryl Zollinger

**9:30 – 11:30**

Front table – Hannah Brimner, Linda Helton, Gretchen Kirby

Ushers – Ron Oliver, David Martin

Elders– Gail Prince & Janet Lyman

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522**  
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**www.cccdisciples.org**  
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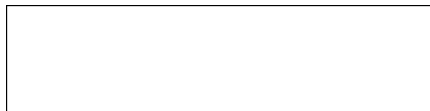
Michael E. Karunas.....Senior Minister  
Don Martin.....Minister of Music  
Tina Miller..... Associate Minister of CE & Family Life  
David Martin.....Youth Director  
Cordelia “Dee Dee” Gain .....Organist  
David Williams.....Organist  
Kathleen Dudley.....Administrative Assistant  
Yvonne Boyd.....Administrative Assistant  
Hannah Brimner.....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**

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