

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. XCIII

Decatur, Illinois, January 20, 2021

No. 3

Free Virtual Women's Conference

You are invited to attend the free Virtual Women's Conference on February 19-20, 2021, hosted by the CCIW Disciple Women's Ministry Leadership Team. The theme is "New Times, New Wineskins". We will examine change, old practices, and move beyond our comfort zones to engage God in a new, refreshed spiritual wineskin. To register for this free event, click on the link below:

<https://cciwdisciples.org/portfolio/new-times-new-wineskins/>

Blessing Boxes

The CCIW Disciple Women are collecting funds for the Blessing Box offering once more. Please send in your contributions by February 7th for the Blessing Box offering.

Journeyman Men's Bible Study Underway



Both the men's bible study groups have re-convened for in-person meetings in 2021. The Tuesday group meets from 7 – 8 a.m. The Thursday group convenes from 4 – 5 p.m. Both groups are studying the scriptures and themes of the current

sermon series, "A New Heart for a New Year." All men are invited to join us!

Mark your calendar

February 21, 2021

**Valentine's Craft and Cookie Pick-up
Until 12:30**



**Items will be available for pick up after all
three services.**

If you cannot make a service, please drive up to the West Entrance after 11:45 am and we'll hand your bag to you.

We have a few mangers leftover from Advent.

Please email or call the church office and let us know if you would like one!

central@cccdisciples.org

217.428.4336



SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021

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

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

Lord of My Heart, Give Me Wisdom

Text: I Cor. 1:18-28

Michael E. Karunas

Youth Singers

Hello parents of Central! The music department is looking for various ways to get some younger voices involved (especially those in junior high and high school). This could include some hymn singing, anthem involvement, and even some opportunities for a youth-only special music number. If you have youth in your family who would be interested, please reach out to Christian Jackson at chjackson@millikin.edu.

Thank You!

Recently, Pastor Tina sent messages to those watching the live stream of our 9:15 service on the church's Facebook page, thanking them for their support and participation. She received some wonderful notes of encouragement and gratitude in reply and we wanted to share some of them here:

- The online services are truly a blessing. Thanks to the church staff for making virtual worship possible.
- We are so happy to have online worship with our church...
- We are very thankful for online services. We appreciate all the work done to you and the band and to all who do the technical part as well...
- All the glory to God!!! I believe our church will be stronger than ever within time!
- We have really enjoyed the online services, especially since the church we normally attend does not offer an online option. Thanks for all you do for helping us feel connected during these crazy times!
- Thank you for reaching out. We enjoy the digital service and look forward to it. We appreciate the work it takes to provide it.



THERE IS
always, always,
ALWAYS
something
to be thankful for

Minister's Article

A New Vision for a New Year

Toward the end of 2020, at the November council meeting, the church council voted to engage in a Visioning Process, beginning January 2021, led by a Leadership Team which will work in conjunction with guidance from outside the congregation, including Bruce Nims.

In some ways, this was a long time coming. Way back when... one year ago before the pandemic arrived... our council leadership was discussing undertaking a vision process to chart the course for the next phase of our church's history. I was approaching my eighth year as your senior minister and, as I shared with the council leaders at that time, every 7-10 years a congregation is wise to undertake a process that offers an intentional opportunity to ask, "Why are we here?" What will be our focus in the next phase of our congregation's history as we seek to live out our mission to "Share Christ. Change Lives. Deliver Hope?"

Of course, the pandemic caused nearly everything to be put on hold, but as the months of 2020 rolled on, it became clear that we did not want to "table" this vision undertaking indefinitely. Thus, the decision at the end of 2020 to make it a priority. As we begin 2021 with a sermon series entitled "A New Heart for a New Year," we might consider this "A New Vision for a New Year."

The expectation of this Visioning Process is that the congregation emerge united behind a handful of specific ministry focuses, around which our resources are aligned, and our programming is oriented; that this process infuses us with new enthusiasm and sense of togetherness; that it furthermore energizes participation in our committees, our membership, and our overall congregational life.

We have agreed to work with Bruce Nims in this process. It is recommended that someone from outside the congregation, with extensive experience working with non-profit boards and strategic planning, help lead the overall process. Bruce, a long-time active consultant in the Decatur and on the faculty

(continued on page 3...)

of Millikin, fits that bill. Working with Bruce will be a leadership team representing the congregation. This is an intentionally diverse team, including council members with long tenures in the church along with non-council members very new to Central (not to mention representing all three services). The team will work with Bruce over the next several months at monthly meetings. Opportunities to learn of what the team is doing and provide feedback will be provided. Obviously, this kind of work is best led by a small group, yet whatever results are derived need to be supported by as many of us as possible. We want everyone to feel that their voice is represented in the process, though understandably and for the most part, a small group is called upon to represent those voices.

The leadership team's first meeting is next Saturday, January 23, and I hope to use this column space in The Visitor to provide updates after each meeting so that the wider congregation knows the kinds of things that are shared and discussed. For the time being, however, I wanted to introduce the leadership team to you here.

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Gregg Foltz | Brett Swallow | Kim Maple | Tina Miller |
| Donna Dash | Sandy Garver | Kevin Miller | Kristi Niles |
| David York | Jessa Wilcoxon | Greg Barnes | Mike Kirby |
| David Wagner | | | |

Blessings - Michael

In Sympathy

We extend our sympathies and spiritual comfort the way of Gerri Munos and her family. Gerri's father, Charles Buettgen, passed away last week on January 12. Thank you for remembering the Munos family in your prayers.



Sunday, January 24th, 2021

7:45-9:30 teams

Front table: Hannah Brimmer, Donna Dash, Carolyn Sunderlik

Usher: Karma Lynn Carpenter, David Martin

9:30-11:30 teams

Front table: Paul Gorden, Brett Swallow

Usher: David Martin, Doug Soebbing

Elders: Jan Dobbs/Linda Virgil

PA: 8:00 Donna Dash/10:30 Mike Kirby



Sunday (24)

- 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

Monday (25)

Tuesday (26)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

Wednesday (27)

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

Thursday (28)

- 4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

Friday (29)

Saturday (30)

Sunday (31)

- 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



Happy Birthday!!

(1/24—1/30)!

Aden Batts, Pamela Bednar, Yvonne Boyd, Karen Browning, Sue Ann Cain, Debbie Foster, Reese Mahannah, Nola Redden, Tina Shambaugh, Hannah Swim, Mary Waldmier

Counting On You

Sunday, January 17, 2021

Total worshipping online = 303
Total worshipping in-person = 80

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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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



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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.

Temporary Church Office Hours as of
January 4th, 2021:
Monday through Friday
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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