

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, February 3, 2021

No. 5

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/>



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 manglers leftover from Advent.

Please email or call the church office and let us know if you would like one! central@ccdisciples.org 217.428.4336

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 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 Trust

Text: Jeremiah 17:5-8

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.



IRON SHARPENS IRON 2021 NATIONAL MEN'S ONE DAY **EQUIPPING CONFERENCES**
SPRINGFIELD, IL MARCH 20TH
Tabernacle Baptist Church - Decatur, IL 8:30 AM - 4:55 PM
Registration starts @ \$47 per man for groups of 10 or more.
RPMFM.ORG

Did the Groundhog See a Shadow?

February 2

Groundhog Day is celebrated every year on February 2nd. The official groundhog lives in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. His name is Punxsutawney Phil. According to legend, if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow (the day is bright and sunny), there will be six more weeks of winter weather. If he does not see his shadow (the day is overcast), there will be an early spring.

On February 2, Punxsutawney Phil comes out of his burrow at Gobbler's Knob - in front of thousands of followers from all over the world - to predict the weather for the rest of season.

The celebration of Groundhog Day began with Pennsylvania's earliest settlers. It stemmed from a combination of religious beliefs and facts associated with hibernating animals. They brought with them the legend of Candlemas Day.

*If Candlemas be fair and bright,
Come, Winter, have another flight;
If Candlemas brings clouds and rain,
Go Winter, and come not again.*

Source: Groundhog's Day Activities - Groundhog Day Unit of Study (apples4theteacher.com)



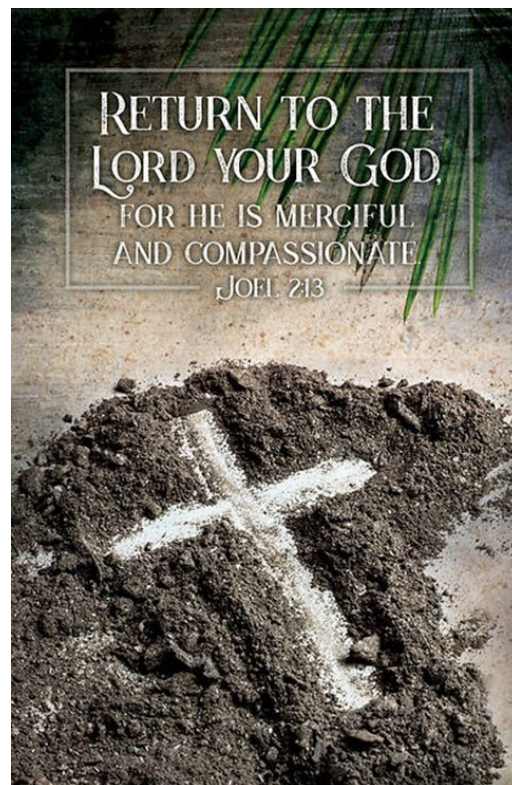
Blessing Boxes

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.

Lent 2021

Lent is the season of the church year that precedes Easter. It is a time of "spiritual re-focusing," as we consider with greater intentionality what it means to follow Jesus... to his cross and beyond. Lent is 40 days long, and with Easter landing on April 4 this year, Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday on February 17. At this time, I wanted to share with you two (2) important announcements about Lent 2021.

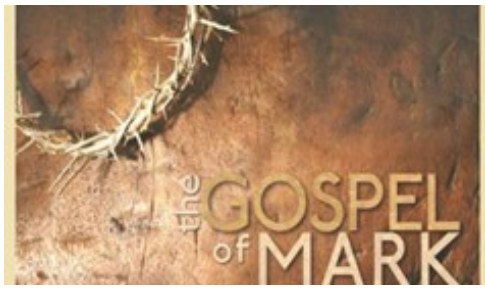
First, we will offer **one (1) service** for Ash Wednesday. It will be **in-person only** and will last about 30 minutes. We will have self-serve communion (as normal during the pandemic). We will also be imposing ashes for those who wish to receive them. Pastors Don and Tina and myself will come to those where they are sitting and impose them on forehead or back of hand. We'll wear masks and use a q-tip to impose the ashes.



For those who are uncomfortable with in-person worship, we will not be offering a virtual option. Rather, we are inviting you to drive by the church at **12:30 p.m. or 5:30 p.m.** and drive through the West Entrance. We will impose "drive thru" ashes and offer a **Lenten prayer** for you and your household as you drive through. If I am not outside exactly at 12:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., go ahead and form a line of cars. I will be there as soon as I can. I will be present for **30 minutes** (so... from 12:30 – 1:00 p.m. and then from 5:30 – 6:00 p.m.).

Second, I am happy to announce a brand-new small group experience for Lent! **Telling Mark's Good News!** As you know, I do a lot of memorizing scripture. What you probably don't know is what a deeply spiritual experience it is for me and how much it helps me grow in my own connection to scripture.

(continued on page 3...)



I want to share the gift of memorizing and reciting scripture with you!!! Every week during Lent, I will meet with all those interested for one hour. We will spend 6 weeks memorizing sections of the **Passion Story** of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Mark (**Mark chapters 14:1 – 16:8**). At the end of the class, **students will perform a memorized section of the story**. It will be filmed and the video will be shown during Holy Week (the week before Easter). This has the potential to be an amazing gift – both to you, if you choose to participate, and to the whole church which will be able to see the videos during Holy Week. We will spend the 6 weeks of the small group picking our sections of the story to tell; memorizing; workshopping; discussing ways of acting out the words we memorize; and more!!! I've never done this before, but am really looking forward to it. Each person will be responsible for as few as 10-12 verses (but can do more if they choose). I will work with however many are interested – from 2 to 12 or more...

More details will be forthcoming on this class but for now, if you are interested, please email me (mkarunas@cccdisciples.org). This class is designed to be in-person and will we will meet in the Friendship Center where we can spread out (masks required as well – except when workshopping your memorized piece).

Blessings - Michael

Welcome New Members

We experienced a true FIRST in the long and illustrious history of Central Christian - our first virtual transfer of membership by Zoom!!! With great joy and thanksgiving, we welcomed **Travis and Jessa Wilcoxon** and their sons, **Baron (5)** and **Braylon (3)** to the Central family. Both Travis (Biology) and Jessa (Arts Technology and Administration) are professors at Millikin. Braylen was dedicated a year ago in December, and Baron is an "alum" of our preschool. Moreover, Travis was consulted regarding our COVID-19 procedures, and Jessa is a member of our newly-formed visioning team. Here is a 5 minute video of us welcoming the Wilcoxens!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noIRU45Fy4U&feature=youtu.be>



Sunday, February 7th, 2021

7:45-9:30 teams

Front table: Carolyn McCall, Gail Prince
Usher: David Martin

9:30-11:30 teams

Front table: Christine Lyman-Harm, Tom Ritter
Usher: David Martin, Ron Oliver
Elders: Janet Lyman, Diana Ritter
PA: 8:00 Pat Penhallegon/10:30 Jim Hinze



Sunday (7)

- 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
- 2:00-Youth Group

Monday (8)

- 6:00-Pastoral Support Comm., Zoom

Tuesday (9)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 5:00-Christ. Edu. Comm., Conn. Café

Wednesday (10)

- 10:30-Ministers' Meeting
- 5:30-Elders, Great Hall/Conn. Café

Thursday (11)

- 10:00-Alanon, Disciples Room
- 4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
- 5:30-Koinonia, Connection Café

Friday (12)

Saturday (13)

- 9:00-Faith Quest

Sunday (14)

- 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!!

(2/7—2/13)!

Calvin Andrews, Janet Carpenter,
Janet Deakins, Jack Dixon,
Gene Garver, Chloe Hoaglin,
Amy Lester, Bob Logan, Clara Monroe,
Tom Ritter, Peyton Swarthout,
Kent West, Rachel West Seidel

Counting On You

Sunday, January 31, 2021

Total worshipping online = 311
Total worshipping in-person = 117



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 www.cccdisciples.org
 e-mail: 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" 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



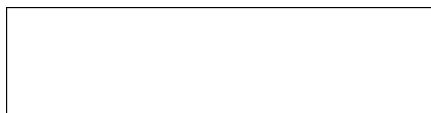
"Like" and "Follow" us on Facebook

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.

Temporary Church Office Hours as of
February 1st, 2021:
Monday through Friday
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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