

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, March 10, 2021

No. 10



All Church Boxed Lunch Picnic

March 28, 2021

12 noon

West Parking Lot

**Please call or email the church office
for reservations**

By March 21

Bring a lawn chair

Southern Fried Chicken, Hash Brown Casserole,
Vegetables, Roll, and Cookie



ATTENTION PARENTS!

Please see the link below to register your children for the upcoming
Craft Gathering. Be sure to register your children by March 19th!

We will gather for an hour to enjoy crafting and
individually wrapped snacks and drinks.

Safe social practices will be observed. Masks are required. Thank you!

<https://www.cccdisciples.org/childrens-craft-workshop-registration-page/>

SUNDAY, MARCH 14, 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.

Change Lives

Text: Philippians 4:8-9

Michael E. Karunas

**Remember to change
your clocks this Sunday,
March 14th!!**



Covid Vaccine Info

Since Feb 21st, the vaccine eligibility has opened up to a wide variety of people, which includes almost anyone who has any kind of chronic health issues including:

- Cancer
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Smoking
- COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease)
- Diabetes
- Heart Condition (possibly including high blood pressure?)
- Immunocompromised State from a Solid Organ Transplant
- Obesity (many people qualify for this if they have a BMI over 30, which isn't really very high).
- Pregnancy
- Pulmonary Disease
- Sickle Cell Disease

There is a site called vaccinefinder.org, and it lets you see what places are giving vaccinations. In Macon county there are 11 places! Krogers, Walmart, & Walgreens for sure. I would like to offer help in any way I can for people to receive the vaccine. If you would like assistance with obtaining your vaccine, you can email Marci Baumann at marcibaumann@comcast.net.

**Stopping and Starting**

One of my favorite “church stories” comes from the secretary who worked at First Christian Church in Centralia when I was pastor there. She was not a member of our congregation, but faithfully attended a Lutheran church in a nearby town. She also had 3 small grandchildren and gladly took them with her to worship anytime she had the chance. When she did, she would bring two things with her. First, a small baggie of cookies (in case the kids got restless). Second, a dollar bill for each of them to give at offering time. One Sunday, she told me later, her granddaughter was getting antsy and wiggly right around the offering time. She had already handed the child a dollar, which the girl clutched in one hand. To appease her and keep her quiet, she then handed her a cookie as well so that when the offering trays were passed, the child was holding both a cookie (in one hand) and a dollar bill (in the other). As the tray came to the secretary she held it in front of the child. Nothing happened. So she whispered (in what I can only imagine was a semi-aggressive tone), “Put it in the tray!” At which point the child looked nervously from one hand to the other and then... put the cookie in the offering tray!

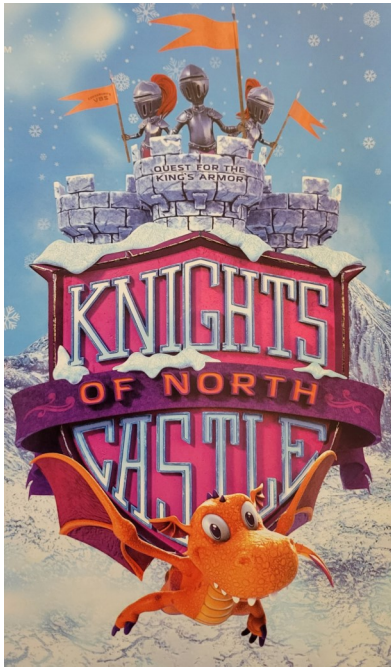
I love this story as a simple reminder of how hard it is to give up something; something we love; something that makes us feel comfortable. And yet, as our story from scripture this past Sunday reminds us, letting go is necessary for our spiritual growth and development. In Mark 10:46-52 Jesus heals the blind man Bartimaeus. As Jesus calls Bartimaeus to him, Bartimaeus leaves behind his cloak and after he is healed, doesn’t go back and retrieve it. Instead, he follows Jesus. That cloak represented Bartimaeus’ old life as a blind beggar and in leaving it behind, Bartimaeus shows us that we cannot encounter Jesus without being changed; without changing something about our lives. And all change is based on letting go of one thing (as Bartimaeus did his cloak) so we can grab hold of something else (in Bartimaeus’ case, the hand of Jesus). It is about starting to do something we haven’t done before (or doing more of something we already are) and stopping to do something we currently do (or doing less of it).

As we continue our sermon series called “WWW.” (where the Ws stand for Who we are, What we do and Why we do it), the story of Bartimaeus is an appropriate reminder that if we are going to share Christ more effectively with the wider world, we must be prepared to ask the following questions:

What is something we should start doing (or do more of)?

What is something we could stop doing (or do less of)?

Our vision team is continuing to meet in order to prepare a strategic plan to present to the council and wider congregation for its approval. As it does, I know that we would love to hear your answers to these two questions. We have gathered your responses to the question from two weeks ago about how we can be more hospitable to “strangers” and will gladly add your responses to these questions to them. Please feel free to share your responses to the questions for this week with me directly (mkarunas@cccdisciples.org) or Gregg Foltz, our vision team leader (g55foltz@gmail.com).



June 11-12, 9 am through 12 noon

2-day, in-person VBS!

Ages 5 years through 5th grade

Pre-registration required: capacity 40 children.

Registration forms will be available later.

Look for updates.

Central Christian Church will host a two -day VBS this year. We need your help. Please write tmiller@cccdisciples.org or call 217.428.4336 if you would like to serve with us as we explore the Armor of God!

Social distancing and safe practices will be exercised.

If you aren't available to volunteer at VBS, you can also support VBS by:

- Donating items when lists are published.
- Helping assemble children's bags (the week of VBS).

Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor, invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of God's power by exploring how we put on the armor of God. Kids will take on the role of brave Knights and begin their quest each session by opening the King's Book (the Bible). They'll explore Old and New Testament stories and discover different pieces of armor—the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Justice, the Shield of Faith, and the Helmet of Salvation—at work in the lives of familiar Bible characters, and explore how that armor works in their own lives as they follow and serve God.

In Sympathy We Mourn

In sympathy, we mourn with the family of long-time member Irwin Soliday. He turned 103 years old on February 24th and passed away on March 2nd. His services were last Friday and Saturday.



Sunday, March 14th, 2021

7:45-9:30 teams

Front table: Sandy Garver,

George & Pearl Jones

Ushers: David Martin & Mike Munos

9:30-11:30 teams

Front table: Jeannie & Keith Backes, Linda Helton

Ushers: Gretchen Kirby & David Martin

Elders: Andy Fulk & Paul Gorden

PA: 8:00 David Martin

10:30 Jim Hinze



Sunday (14) - Nursery re-opens!

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

Monday (15)

5:00-Mark's Gospel group, Sanctuary

Tuesday (16)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:00-Christcare Stitchers, Disciples Room

10:30-Support Staff Meeting

5:30-Women's Group, Disciples Room

Wednesday (17)

10:30-Ministers' Meeting

5:30-Church Council—Committee

5:30-Koinonia, Connection Café

Thursday (18)

10:00-Alanon, Disciples Room

4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

Friday (19)

Saturday (20)

Sunday (21)

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!!

(3/14—3/20)!

Keith Backes, Dick Cain, Megan Carter, Robin Ferrebee, Sarah Jennings, Luke Karunas, Gregory Luckett, Katie Miller, Allyson Thicksten, Randy Trei

Counting On You

Sunday, March 7, 2021

Total worshipping online = 268

Total worshipping in-person = 160

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
February 1st, 2021:
Monday through Friday
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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