

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, April 7, 2021

No. 14



Welcome to our World...

With joy and thanksgiving we celebrate with Matthew and Denise Swarhout the birth of their son, Archer. Archer was born on Friday, March 26, weighing 4 lbs, 8.3 oz and over 18" long. He arrived earlier than his due date so he is still at St. John's in Springfield. But all reports indicate that Denise and Archer are doing well. Congratulations Swarhout family! We give God thanks for this new addition to our – and our church – family!

SUNDAY, APRIL 11, 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.

The Kingdom of God

Text: Matthew 6
Tina Miller

Central Men at Iron Sharpens Iron, March 20, 2021



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

We give thanks for a \$25,000 memorial gift received from the Helen Grace Crew estate at the end of 2020. This gift was distributed in January according to policy: one third to the Endowment for Operations, one third to the Building Fund, and one third to the Mission Permanent Fund.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

**Available Online and
at the Welcome Center**

Higher education is important and valuable. It opens possibilities and helps students discover and foster unique gifts and talents and demonstrates a person's willingness to make an investment in his/her own future!

Central Christian Church supports those pursuing higher education and we understand the challenges of meeting its cost. Scholarships are open to all high school graduates as well as anyone who is currently attending a college, university, technical school, or vocational school, or who is planning to attend one during the 2021-2022 academic year.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

DATES:

Available: now!

**Return Deadline: May 1, 2021 @
3:00 pm**

www.cccdisciples.org

OPEN NURSERY CARE

STAFF POSITION

Are you happy, energetic, and patient? Do you have good communication skills? If so, I have the perfect opportunity for you! We are looking for individuals who want to engage with infants and toddlers as part of our nursery care staff. The position includes minimal hours (five to twelve hours per month): perfect for college students. Please pass this along to anyone who might be a good fit for the position. Send resume' to:

Tina Miller

(tmiller@cccdisciples.org)

Thanks in advance!

LISTENING

Tina Miller

The future seems to be at the forefront of conversation here at Central Christian Church, and questions about our future path arise. Not the least of which is, "What might we (as a church) do to carry out our mission in an everchanging world for both now and the future?" I think we could find an answer through listening: Active Listening and Double Listening.

First, Active listening is important. An article from mindtools.com describes active listening as follows: Active listening is where you make a conscious effort to hear not only the words that another person is saying but, more importantly, the **complete message** being communicated. Active listening is not judgmental, it seeks to understand. To do this, we must pay attention to the other person very carefully. Active listening is only part of the listening equation to solving our problem though. Second, we could practice double listening.

John Stott was an Anglican priest, theologian, and author who wrote about double listening. Double listening is the practice of listening to two voices at once. In this case, the voice of God as it is revealed through Scripture, and the voices of men and women (living in the world) around us.

Stott wrote,

These voices will often contradict one another, but our purpose in listening to them both is to discover how they relate to each other. Double listening is indispensable to Christian discipleship and Christian mission.

I believe we are called to the difficult and even painful task of "double listening." That is, we are to listen carefully (although of course with differing degrees of respect) both to the ancient Word and to the modern world, in order to relate the one to the other with a combination of fidelity and sensitivity.

As we reach out to embrace others (within the church and outside the church)

with God's love, as we practice active and double listening, the end goal of bridging the gap between the two voices is not only doable but probable. So, what does this have to do with the question posed earlier, "What might we (as a church) do to carry out our mission in an everchanging world for both now and the future?"

The world in which we live is ever-changing. God is unchanging. As we listen—truly listen—with a mind towards reconciliation, then act toward that reconciliation, God's love will be evident in our actions, words, and deeds. God's love draws people together in connectedness, relationship, and mission.

[Active Listening - Communication Skills Training from MindTools.com](#)

Chester, T. (2020). [Stott on the Christian Life: Between Two Worlds](#). (S. J. Nichols & J. Taylor, Eds.) (pp. 52–53). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

In preparation for this week's sermon

please read and meditate on Matthew 6.

Jesus was born as King. He died as King, He rose as King, and He lives as King. Every King has a Kingdom. When Jesus walked the earth, he asserted his kingship as one of love and peace. His Kingdom method of living and teaching was all about love and peace. He left us instructions to living out Kingdom systems and practices.

Matthew 6 relates standards of practice or methods of Kingdom living. As we read and study the text, we see Jesus showed how *not* to do something, and then explained *how* to do it. He also gave contrast between the world's philosophy of life and the philosophy that disciples are to adopt.



In Sympathy We Mourn

In sympathy, we mourn with the family of Shirley Johnson, who passed away on April 1st. Shirley had been a member of Central since 1958. She was 92 years old. Thank you for joining us in prayer for Shirley's family.



Sunday (11)

Faith Quest Baptisms

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream

9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall & Facebook Live

10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream

4:00-Youth Group

Monday (12)

Tuesday (13)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:00-Christcare Stitchers, Disciples Room

3:30-Support Staff Meeting

5:30-Women's Group, Disciples Room

Wednesday (14)

10:30-Ministers' Meeting

5:00-Elders

Thursday (15)

10:00-Alanon, Disciples Room

4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

5:15-Brass Choir, Disciples Room

5:30-Koinonia, Connection Café

Friday (16)

Saturday (17)

Sunday (18)

Faith Quest Baptisms

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream

9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall & Facebook Live

10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream

4:00-Youth Group



Happy Birthday!! (4/11—4/17)!

Gilbert Baumann, Liz Campbell, Hilary Critchfield, Clara Damery, Hadley Fultz, Tanner Heick, Nancy King, Sally McLemore, Mike Munos, Bobby Munos, Melissa Scircle, Betty Scott, Steve Swarhout

Counting On You

Sunday, April 4, 2021

Total worshipping online = 319

Total worshipping in-person = 316



Sunday, April 11th, 2021

7:45-9:30 teams

Front table: Carolyn McCall, Gail Prince

Ushers: Dianne Devore, David Martin

9:30-11:30 teams

Front table: Jeannie & Keith Backes, Linda Helton

Ushers: David Martin, Ron Oliver

Elders: Janet Lyman, David Wagner

PA: 8:00 Donna Dash

10:30 Keith Backes



Reminder:
Remember to pick up
your Easter lily if you
ordered one.

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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.

Church Office Hours as of
March 15th, 2021:
Monday through Friday
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

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