

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCIII

Decatur, Illinois, April 28, 2021

No. 17

Summer Planning – Your Help is Needed!

As the Easter season comes upon us, the days become longer and the temperatures slowly rise, we are already beginning our summer planning for worship at Central. And you can help us out. Please answer these four (4) simple questions with as much or as little detail as you wish and email me your responses! Or just answer the one(s) you want to. We will use your responses in our planning! Blessings...

- 1) What are your favorite things to do in the summer? Favorite summer activities?
- 2) What is your favorite summer vacation spot?
- 3) What is a scripture that always gives you HOPE?
- 4) What is your favorite Psalms?



Food Donations for Northeast Community Fund



Let's fill up the shopping cart again! We will collect food on the first Sunday of each month. As when we did this before the pandemic, cereal is always in demand. Also pasta & pork & beans are needed. Bring your donations for May 2 to the shopping cart in the cafe. Thanks for your Christian generosity!

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!



Bottle Cap Collection Deadline

The last day for collecting bottle caps will be May 16th.



SUNDAY, MAY 2, 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.

Priests: Re-Connecting With God

Text: Matthew 21:28-32

Michael E. Karunas



Sunday, May 2nd, 2021

7:45-9:30 teams

Front table: Carolyn McCall, Gail Prince

Ushers: Dianne DeVore, David Martin

9:30-11:30 teams

Front table: Janet Lyman, Christine
Lyman-Harm

Ushers: David Martin, Ron Oliver

Elders: Jeannie Backes, Vicky Woolridge

PA: 8:00 Jim Bednar

10:30 Keith Backes



Mark your calendar:
GRADUATION SUNDAY

May 16, 2021

ALL SERVICES

Bring your children to celebrate
another year of school,
“in the books!”

Join us in-person as we celebrate
your achievements and announce
scholarship winners!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Available Online and
at the Welcome Center

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

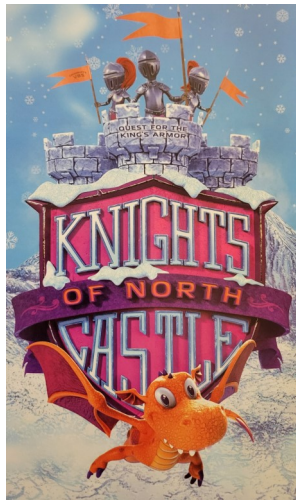
DATES:

Available: now!

**Return Deadline: May 7, 2021 @
3:00 pm**

Click [HERE](#) for the fillable PDF.

Click [HERE](#) for the printer-friendly
version.



VBS Registration

VBS registration is now open!

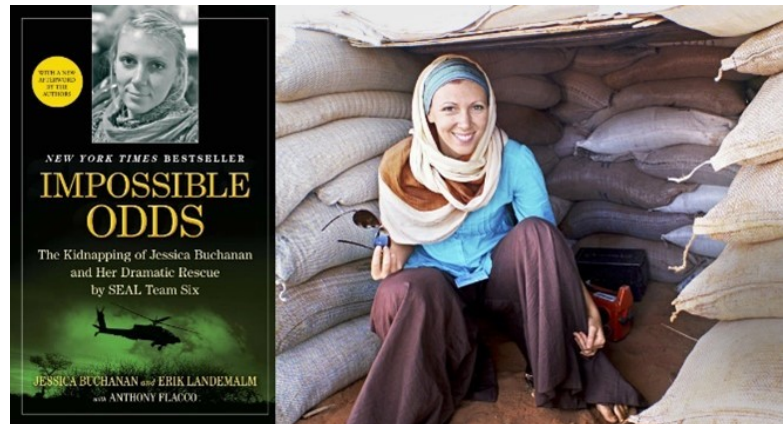
Go to [https://www.cccdisciples.org/
vbs-registration-2021/](https://www.cccdisciples.org/vbs-registration-2021/)

Minister's Article

Gratitude: The Antidote to Despair

In this past Sunday's sermon, I shared that when I read I am most likely to pick up something non-fiction. That probably doesn't come as too much of a surprise, considering that many of you know I am a fan of all things historical. So when it comes to listening to podcasts (which I do with great frequency and regularity), the genre of “true stories” is guaranteed to capture my attention. I have always been drawn to real-life stories of adventure and survival. In my sixth-grade class, for example, there was a bookshelf full of Reader's Digest magazines along the back wall, and when we had “free reading” time, I would take a stack of those back to my desk. I wouldn't read anything in them except the one article in every issue called “Drama in Real Life.” I am still a sucker for a good “drama in real life” story all these many years later.

One such story was told in Season 2 of “Against All Odds,” by the Wondery production company. It tells the story of Jessica Buchanan, of Ohio, who worked as an NGO aide in Somalia in 2011. She was there with her husband, Erik. One day in October, however, on a mission with a Danish colleague Poul, she and Poul were kidnapped by land pirates. For 93 days she and Poul were held in captivity until U.S. soldiers from Seal Team 6 rescued them both. The podcast walks the listener through the days leading up to the capture, how both Jessica and Poul endured their captivity, and the details of the harrowing rescue. At the end of the season, as is common in Wondery podcasts, the final episode contained an interview between the host and Jessica Buchanan herself. Buchanan talked about many things – the book she published; her speaking engagements; how she handled the trauma of PTSD; the family she now has with Erik; etc... Toward the end of the interview, however, she mentioned something not initiated from a question by the host, but which came across to me as the most important part of the conversation.



Throughout the 93 days, she and Poul were often held in areas separate from each other. But whenever they were together, they obviously did what they could do to encourage each other. One of the things they did in that regard early in their captivity was to agree together that they would do two things they felt necessary for survival. First, they would allow themselves to feel any emotion except one. They would allow themselves to feel anger, rage, sadness, even happiness. The only emotion they would *not* allow themselves to feel was despair. Secondly, in order to prevent themselves from feeling despair, they would identify 5 things for which they were grateful every day, and spend the day thinking only of those things.

(continued on page 3...)

I couldn't help but think of how often we, in the safe and comparably cloistered life of the church, talk about the importance of thanksgiving; how vital it is to practice saying "thank you" to our creator, and cultivating gratitude through such practice of thanksgiving. And here is the proof of just how vital and important it is. Hopefully, none of us reading these words will ever have to face the kind of trauma that Jessica and Poul did, and yet the encouragement is nonetheless there for us as well. Whatever our present life circumstances may be, let us also focus on identifying on a handful of things every day for which we are grateful. It is not just a noble and polite thing to do. It is the antidote to despair. And in that sense, it is truly life-saving.

- Blessings, Michael

Your Faith in 60 Seconds

During the weeks preceding Easter, we introduced a challenge to everyone: Describe why you are a Christian in 60 seconds. There is nothing "magical" about 60 seconds. But this number does help to give focus. Moreover, the purpose is to get us all thinking about "why we are here?" (and not somewhere else)? Why we believe in Christ and not something (someone) else? Many have taken us up on this challenge and have shared their testimonies with us. As they do, we are asking them to share them in worship. We will then publish the testimony in *The Visitor* the following week. Karen Wade, member of the choir and regular attendee of the 8:00 and 10:30 services, shared her faith in 60 seconds this past Sunday. Here is what she said.



I am a Christian because I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God and I accept Him as my Savior. My love for God grew even more during Functional Anatomy class in college. I was amazed at how each cell in our body is made perfectly and comes together in such a mighty way to create a human being. No human could do that---it has to be God. The "bigness" of God is why I am a Christian. Finally, I am a Christian because I know that God is in control. He knows what the future holds. As a Christian, I know that my future is full of His glory.

BLUE SKIES FOR DORCAS DISCIPLES!

All Central women are invited to share in the re-starting celebration of Dorcas Disciples on Tuesday, May 18th, at 5:30 p.m. in the Great Hall. Join in an evening of fellowship, food, and fun, with a moment of remembrance and a "look to the blue skies of the future". Come together safely to explore new ways to Share Christ, Change Lives and Deliver Hope as Dorcas women.



Mark your calendar for May 18th and RSVP by Thursday, May 13th to Nancy Ellen Taylor at xstr@sbcglobal.net or 217-872-9174 or Sandy Garver at 217-877-0800 or revrag@comcast.net. Hope to see you there!



Sunday (2)

- 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 (3)

Tuesday (4)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 207
- 12:00-Evaluation Team, Disciples Room

Wednesday (5)

- 10:30-Ministers' Meeting

Thursday (6)

- 10:00-Alanon, Disciples Room
- 4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
- 5:15-Brass Choir, Disciples Room
- 5:30-Koinonia, Connection Café
- 6:00-Choir, Choir Room

Friday (7)

Scholarship Application deadline

Saturday (8)

- 9:00-Visioning Team, Great Hall

Sunday (9) - Mothers' Day

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall & Facebook Live
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream



Happy Birthday!! (5/2—5/8)!

Nick Baum, Mark Beal,
Ronda Burcham, Judy Ford,
Debra Fulk-Clark, John Hill,
Nancy McAfee, Crosby McLeod,
Giuliana Morelli, Brenda Tankersley,
Mike Tanzyus, Stephen Turner,
Bob Wade

Counting On You

Sunday, April 25, 2021

Total worshipping online = 230
Total worshipping in-person = 196

CCC ARTS IN THE PARKING LOT!

COME OUT AND ENJOY A FUN AFTERNOON
FULL OF ART. WHETHER YOU WANT TO
PARTICIPATE OR JUST APPRECIATE, THERE
WILL BE A LOT TO SEE AND DO! THERE WILL
BE DRAWING, CRAFTING, PAINTING, AND EVEN
COOKIE DECORATING. WE WILL ALSO HAVE A
MUSIC STATION WHERE YOU CAN TRY OUT
(OR SHOW OFF) YOUR MUSICAL TALENT.

SUNDAY, MAY 16

12:00-2:00

North East parking lot next to the playground

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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



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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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