

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, May 26, 2021

No. 21



SUNDAY, MAY 30, 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.

Reconciliation with Self

Text: John 6:60-69

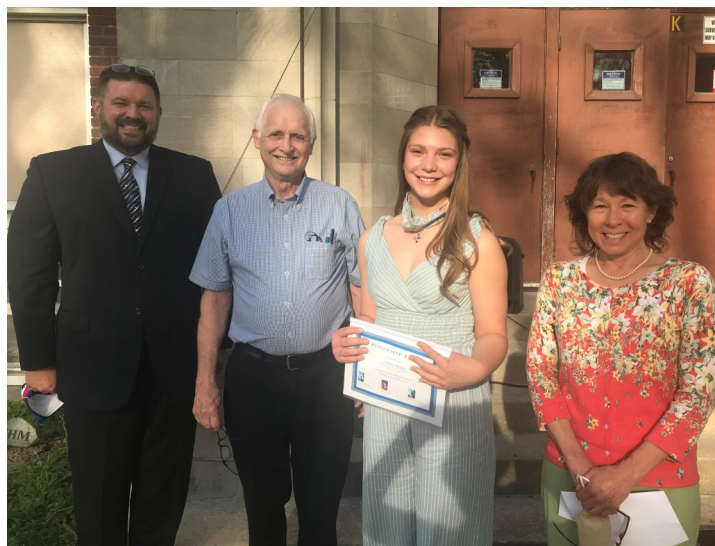
Michael E. Karunas

Congratulations, Luc Longcor!

Help us congratulate and celebrate Luc Longcor on his graduation from Eisenhower High School last week! Throughout the years, Luc has been a consistent member of the youth group, choir, and overall volunteer for Central!

Audrey Miller, Peacemaker Award Winner for 2021!

Central is in its 8th year of sponsoring the Peacemaker Award! This award celebrates the valuable contributions of student peacemakers in Decatur junior high and high schools. It recognizes how the actions of these young peacemakers extend beyond the school setting to benefit the entire community. Award winners act as positive role models by handling disagreements with peaceful means and by participating in school and the community in ways that promote peace and harmony. Peacemakers demonstrate caring and respect for everyone regardless of race, culture, or economic background. Your Peace & Justice Committee is pleased to announce the selection of **Audrey Miller** as the 2021 Peacemaker Award recipient at Johns Hill Magnet School! Her teachers wrote of Audrey, "We chose Audrey for this honor because of her leadership, her dedication to academic success, and her compassion towards others. It is not uncommon to see Audrey helping her peers or lending a shoulder to those in need. She is often the voice of reason and calm. Audrey Miller represents who we are at Johns Hill." Thank you Central for supporting young peacemakers. Congratulations Audrey Miller, and thank you for being who you are!



Summer Fun Ideas for Kids and Parents

Take advantage of long sunny days by exploring the natural world (just don't forget the sunscreen).

- **Go bird watching.** Take photos and keep track of your sightings. Use an app or guidebook to identify feathered friends.
- **Grow fresh herbs in containers.** Use old coffee cans, milk jugs, mason jars, plastic cups, or anything else you have around the house. Keep [your herb garden](#) on a patio or windowsill.
- **Look for shapes in the clouds.** Put a blanket in the grass and stare up at the sky. Take turns talking about what you see in the clouds.
- **Make a bird feeder.** Watch birds visit your yard and add to your list of bird sightings.
- **Make fairy houses.** Use moss, bark, and leaves to create a dwelling fit for Thumbelina.
- **Pick your own.** Find a farm with blueberries, strawberries, raspberries, [veggies](#), or flowers and get picking.

By: [Laureen Miles Brunelli](#)
VeryWellFamily

[100 Fun Summer Ideas for Kids
and Parents \(verywellfamily.com\)](#)

VBS Supply Boards:

Please help us collect VBS supplies. Simply write your name in the box that lists the items you wish to purchase and contribute to VBS. Drop off the items in the black trunk at the top of the stairs in the Friendship Center by May 30.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Harmony Restored

We prepare to celebrate Don Martin's last month of worship with us as Minister of Music and Visitation with a special emphasis in worship. Our theme from March 30 – June 20 will be **Harmony Restored**. When Adam and Eve committed that first act of disobedience in Eden – the "original sin" – the ripple effects were manifold. In particular, that single act created four (4) disruptions, between - humanity and itself; humanity and God; humanity and one another; and humanity and creation. With the coming of Christ, however, we have the possibility of restoration and reconciliation in each of those relationships. The intent of this reconciliation is that the original harmony of the God's original paradise will be realized and experienced by all of us in a new one – that harmony will be restored.



In addition, we will be treated to two (2) special anthems each week at the traditional services. These represent some of Don's favorites – either because of text, melody, or both. Each Sunday's music is meant to complement the themes raised by the scripture and the sermon. We certainly hope you will be able to join us for each of these important Sundays, either virtually or in-person. Though the special music listed below will not be performed at the contemporary service, the praise band will be highlighting the scripture and sermon themes with its own special selections.

May 30	Michael E. Karunas	John 6:60-69
	<i>Reconciliation with <u>self</u></i>	
	"Jesus Loves Me" and "I Stretch out my Hands to You"	
June 6	Michael E. Karunas	John 6:30-35
	<i>Reconciliation with <u>God</u> through Christ</i>	
	"Come to the Water" and "I Must Tell Jesus"	
June 13	Tina Miller (VBS Sunday)	Isaiah 43:1-7
	<i>Reconciliation with <u>others</u></i>	
	"Be Not Afraid" and "We've Come this Far by Faith"	
June 20	Michael E. Karunas	Psalm 148
	<i>Reconciliation with <u>God's creation</u></i>	
	"O Love" and "America the Beautiful"	

- 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. 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. Paul Gorden, regular attendee of all our services, elder and leader of our two (2) Journeymen's bible study groups, offered his faith in 60 seconds this past Sunday. Here is what he said:

I have believed in God and Jesus since I was a youth. What no one told me to do after baptism was to develop an intentional, life-long personal relationship with Jesus. Instead, I tried to do things the way the World tells us, hoping for a fulfilling, successful life. Unfortunately, life going the way you want it to doesn't necessarily happen.



Fast-forward through two-thirds of my life and I'm on the heels of one of the lowest points of my life not knowing that my best journey had already begun. I was at a men's retreat where I read the book "The 365 Days of Christmas" by William J. Bryon, a Jesuit priest. The entirety of the book is forgotten save for one quote that I truly believe I was lead to find and remember. The quote is:

"[Following] Jesus promises you two things: your life will have meaning, and you'll live forever. If you can find a better offer, take it!"

I have learned that doing things the World's way can NEVER, EVER provide you eternal life. Once this mortal life is over, that's it, there's nothing else. There may not be a hell for you, but there's definitely no heaven, either. But, Jesus proves... every day...that with Him, everlasting life is available to everyone who wants it! He demonstrated it through His own voluntary death, and then He returned to physical life, just as we have now sitting here with each other. Sure, you say, that's easy when you're the Son of God, but how is that possible for us?? Jesus' plan is oh so simple: ask Him for it, and then devote the remainder of your earthly life to following His instruction. Good luck finding a better offer than that!

Sunday Door Hosts Needed

While elevator repairs are being made (for about 6-8 weeks), we will need extra sets of hands at the Ramp door to assist members with check in. We also need more volunteers for the West Entrance. Please contact the church office at 217-428-4336 or central@cccdisciples.org if you can help us with this.

Food Collection for NECF



Your generous food donations for our grocery cart last month were graciously received by Northeast Community Fund. For the collection for June 7, cereal, dried or canned beans, & tomato products are needed. Thank you.



Sunday (30)

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

Monday (31) - Memorial Day Church & Office Closed

Tuesday (June 1)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 207
- 9:30-Card Ministry, 240
- 5:30-Women's Group

Wednesday (2)

- 10:30-Ministers' Meeting

Thursday (3)

- 10:00-Alanon, Disciples Room
- 3:00-Decatur Needle Arts, C. Café
- 3:30-VBS Bag assembly, Great Hall
- 4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
- 5:15-Brass Choir, Disciples Room
- 6:00-Choir, Choir Room

Friday (4)

Saturday (5)

Sunday (6)

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



Happy Birthday!! (5/30—6/5)!

Bill Bass, Jackson Baum,
Leighia Cleary, Jim Hoffert,
Harrison Hyde, Hayden Irby,
Herb Knudsen, Joe Morelli,
Madelyn Morgan, Mary Jane Oliver,
MacKenzi Sargeant, Milo Scircle,
Allison Stoddard

Counting On You

Sunday, May 23, 2021

Total worshipping online = 206
Total worshipping in-person = 213



Sunday, May 30th, 2021

7:45-9:30 teams

Front table: Donna Dash, Carolyn Sunderlik

Ushers: Pamela Bednar, David Martin

9:30-11:30 teams

Front table: Janet Lyman, Christine Lyman-Harm

Ushers: David Martin, Doug Soebbing

Elders: Jan Dobbs, Linda Virgil

PA: 8:00 Jim Bednar

10:30 Jim Hinze

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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
Maddie Genz.....Nursery Attendant
Carlee Phillips.....Nursery Attendant
Kattina WilliamsNursery Attendant
Lora WrightLead Caretaker
Jim Denzer.....Caretaker
Andrew Evans.....Caretaker
Toby Jones.....Caretaker

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You will see a list of options pop up.

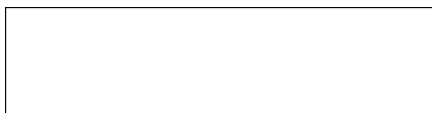
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