

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCIII

Decatur, Illinois, June 16, 2021

No. 24

COME JOIN OUR

BIBLE Study

purchased online. If you have any questions, please contact Liz Campbell or Angie Horvath.

New Koinonia Bible Study Series

The Koinonia group began a six-week study of Romans on June 10, and is inviting all members and friends of Central to join us. We meet Thursday evenings at 5:30 in Room 212. We are using Max Lucado's "40 Days Through the Book: Romans." We are using the accompanying DVD each week as well as using participant study guides, which can be

New Prayer Request Text-In!

Have a prayer request? Text it to 217-212-2173, or use the QR code to the right. We would love to pray with you and follow up, if you wish.



24/7 Prayer Event for Decatur



Do you feel a call to pray for our city? 24-7prayer.com (via the Decatur House of Prayer) is sponsoring a week-long prayer event for Decatur from July 12-19. You can sign up for times to pray [HERE](#), or use the QR code to the left. For more information, you can contact Cindy Grgurich (cindygrgurich@mailfence.com) or Jeanine Snearly (snearlyjeanine@gmail.com).



SUNDAY, JUNE 20, 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.

**Harmony Restored:
Finding God in All Things**

Text: Psalm 148
Michael E. Karunas

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.



Greetings in Christ!

32 children/youth, and 21 adults participated in VBS this year.

I wanted to take this opportunity and write a note to thank you so much for providing supplies and volunteering to serve at our 2021 Vacation Bible School, Knights of the North Castle.

While it seems like we tend to ask for volunteers quite a bit here at the church, rest assured, we are always thrilled when someone steps up to "answer the call" and get involved. It is exciting to see people grow in their faith as they reach out to be a blessing to others! Serving at VBS is hard work but it is the kind of hard work that brings such a sense of fulfillment, especially when you are well prepared and ready to go as the children arrive. You all ROCK at preparedness! My prayer is that you enjoyed the time spent here serving God and others last week. Please rest and be assured that this year's VBS was well executed –

thanks to you!

Once again, thanks for serving!

Peace,

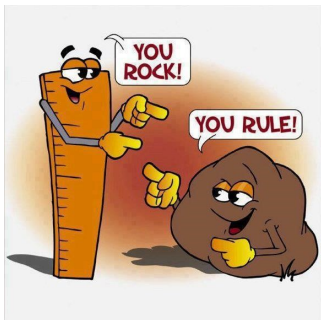
Tina Miller

Associate Minister

CE & Family Life

Central Christian Church

Decatur, IL



Fathers Day Tribute

(From Elder Gail Prince, delivered as a devotion at the June elders meeting)

With Fathers Day being this Sunday, June 20, it caused me to think of my dad's favorite scripture. I'm not sure I knew it was dad's favorite when I was a child, but once mom and dad passed away, I inherited my mother's bible. They carried this bible to every church they attended since I had given this bible to my mom on Mothers Day in 1985. They loved to share the Word and sit close in church. What a treasure it was to find scribbled above Proverbs 22:6, in my mom's tiny handwriting, "H.P.'s favorite." The reason my dad used his initials is because his mom named him Hazel Pratt! He said that when he was growing up he was teased about his name. The kids would sing a song, "*Red headed Pratt, sittin' on a fence, tryin' to make a dollar out of 15 cents.*" He knew that if ever he grew up, he would be called anything but Hazel Pratt.

I always knew dad was a Christian. He was born in 1925 and registered for the Army at age 17 and served in Germany during WWII. Dad only had an 8th grade education because he had to quit school to help provide for his mom. My grandmother (we called her Mammy), was divorced and forced to raise two ornery boys in Owensboro, KY. Mammy liked to tell about how out of control her sons were. They liked to run off to the Ohio River and swim (that is... skinny dipping). Finally, one day, she just walked to the river and took their clothes out of the bushes, forcing them to walk home in the dark with leafy branches in front of them. A lesson was learned. My folks married in 1943. They were 19 years old when I was born. I was 9 months old before my dad saw me, because he was serving in Germany.

Dad moved us all to Illinois in 1950 and he worked different jobs. I can still hear him saying things like, "That garden will grow when Jesus sends us rain," or "You need to learn this task to get into heaven." Dad was eventually hired at Caterpillar and after years in the factory, he became president of the Local 751 Union Hall. When he retired, he was an international union representative for the UAW. Dad would tell us that "Jesus gave him his hard work ethic and his smarts and how this wasn't too bad for a kid with an 8th grade education."



I don't think I had any idea how many sacrifices dad made for our family until I became a parent myself. And the older I get, the more I catch myself acting like him. Dad loved life and he loved people. Dad was always upbeat and happy. But the greatest thing he taught me was his love for Jesus and his favorite scripture – Proverbs 22:6. "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it."

Commit this Number to Memory

217-212-2173. This is our “church texting number.” To this number you can text the word “GIVE” (all caps) and you will be able to give online (doing this will direct you to the our online giving site). To this number you can also text the word “PRAY” (all caps) and you will be able to share a prayer request which will be added to our prayer list. If you choose, we will follow up with you as well. Finally, a visitor to Central can text the word “VISITOR” to this number and will be able to sign in and let us know if they would like a follow-up thank you from one of ministers or church members. We anticipate this number – and the texting features that accompany it – to play a bigger role in our congregational life in the future. So... go ahead and commit it to memory now.

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. Diana Ritter, a very active member of Central since she and her husband joined in 2016 and currently an elder, offered her faith in 60 seconds this past Sunday. Here is what she said:

My faith began as an infant; I was baptized at Zion Chapel Methodist Church as an infant. I made my confession of faith in 8th grade after completing several weeks of study. My faith journey continued as a youth. Sunday evenings was for one thing only- youth group. We not only continued to learn about what it was to be a Christian, we were also taught to be a leader in our church. I also was very lucky to have Sunday School teachers that lived a life of faith that I wanted to model. Now, my faith has been a roller coaster depending on what is going on in my life. But that being said it has always been there for me and a major part of raising our 3 boys and a major part of a Christian marriage for 41 years. Tom and I have often said, we couldn't have gotten through certain situations if it hadn't been for our faith. I do feel those low points in my roller coaster of faith have made me a stronger Christian. I do talk with God more often and find comfort in my devotions. I also know that, at times, I do take my faith for granted when I am coasting on the roller coaster of faith. As my faith has matured, I do know when God is talking to me, and I do pay more attention to those moments. I have learned over the years to listen, to what I call, the God things.



In Sympathy We Mourn

In sympathy, we mourn the loss of Bill Maple, Brian Maple's father, who passed away June 1st. Funeral services were held Sunday, June 6th, in Kokomo, IN. Please keep Brian's family in your prayers.



**Remember to bring
your bottle caps!**



Sunday (20) - Father's Day

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

Monday (21)

Tuesday (22)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 207

Wednesday (23)

10:30-Ministers' Meeting
2:30-Prayer Shawl Ministry, Conn. Café
4:30-Dorcas Planning meeting

Thursday (24)

10:00-Alanon, Disciples Room
4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
5:15-Brass Choir, Disciples Room
5:30-Koinonia, 212
6:00-Choir, Choir Room

Friday (25)

Saturday (26)

Sunday (27) - Don's Celebration

NO 8:00 SERVICE

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



Happy Birthday!! (6/20—6/26)!

Sean Beal, Glen Dalluge,
Norm Lienemann, Ann Miller,
Emmy Osman, Paul Potter,
Gail Prince, Paul Stanley,
Carol Stoddard, Ron Ware

Counting On You

Sunday, June 13, 2021

Total worshipping online = 129
Total worshipping in-person = 187



Sunday, June 20, 2021

7:45-9:30 teams

Front table: Donna Dash, Carolyn Sunderlik

Ushers: Pamela Bednar, David Martin

9:30-11:30 teams

Front table: Gregg & Linda Foltz

Ushers: David Martin, Doug Soebbing

Elders: Kevin Miller or David York

PA: 8:00 David Martin

10:30 Mike Kirby

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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
Bri Lockwood.....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.

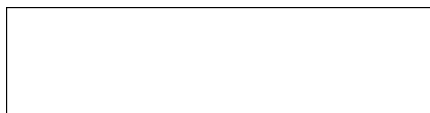
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