

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, July 7, 2021

No. 27

Important Change to Sunday Worship On-line Schedule

Beginning Sunday July 11, there will be an important change to our in-person and on-line worship programming.

- 1) The chancel choir will sing at the 10:30 a.m. worship service, but not at 8:00 a.m. We will, however, return to the practice of having special music at 8:00 a.m. Our new choir director, Ben Hawkinson, will provide the special music on July 11, Thomas Karunas will follow on July 18, and Christian Jackson and Alicia Rosier will offer a duet on July 25. Lots of great things to look forward to.
- 2) We will no longer be live-streaming the 8:00 a.m. service. We will continue to live-stream both 9:15 contemporary and 10:30 traditional. Our Sunday program will look like this:

8:00 a.m.—Traditional, in-person only

9:15 a.m.—Contemporary, in-person

Live-stream: www.facebook.com/CCCDECATUR

10:30 a.m. Traditional, in-person

Live-stream: cccdisciples.org/worship/live-stream, AND
www.facebook.com/CCCDECATUR

Narcan Training Available at Central

On July 13th, Mike Burkhram from the Macon County Health Department will be coming to Central Christian to present a free training on how to administer Narcan and will present an opportunity to get Narcan into the hands of those who may need it (or who would like to have it on hand to help others). Narcan is a life-saving medicine that reverses opioid overdoses. If you would like to participate in this training, please RSVP to 217-428-4336 or email central@cccdisciples.org. This training is also open to those outside Central, so spread the word! The Macon County Health Department has a grant to offer this training to our community and would love to get Narcan into the hands of those near to at-risk homes and populations.

Thanks from the Martin family

Dear Church, Our hearts are filled with gratitude for all the gifts, cards and well-wishes we received honoring our ministry among you at Central. Your generosity is amazing. The warmth with which you bid farewell displayed the love of God with which you fill your lives. Blessings to you all as you continue your ministry.—Don, Julie, Zach, David, Avery, & Seth

SUNDAY, JULY 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.

Summer Favorites #1 - Backyard Barbecue

Text: I Kings 18:20-39
Michael E. Karunas

WE APPRECIATE OUR STAFF!

Dorcas Disciples will host a Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Tuesday, July 20th at 12:00 noon in the Great Hall. We will recognize our staff, who have worked through an especially challenging year. Individual invitations are sent to church staff.

Dorcas ladies will meet in the Great Hall for a brief meeting at 11:00 a.m. prior to the luncheon. Please make your luncheon reservation by Thursday, July 15th by contacting Nancy Ellen Taylor at 217-872-9174 or xstr@sbcglobal.net. REMEMBER! All Central women are invited to be Dorcas Disciples. If you have questions about our mission, please contact Sandy Garver at 217-877-0800 or revrag@comcast.net.



Sunday, July 11, 2021

7:45-9:30 teams

Front table: Carolyn McCall,
Gail Prince

Ushers: Dianne DeVore, Pamela
Bednar, David Martin

9:30-11:30 teams

Front table: Paul Gorden,
Brett Swallow

Ushers: David Martin,
Doug Soebbing

Elders: Bruce Campbell, Tom Spry

PA: 8:00 - Donna Dash

10:30 - Mike Kirby



In Sympathy We Mourn

In sympathy, we mourn with the family of Ray Batman, who passed away on June 29th, 2021. Please join us in prayer for his wife Missy and the rest of the family during this time.

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).



Psalms Expedition Videos

This Summer, my Friday Thoughts videos will be a Scripture Study on some of the Psalms. I am calling the series, Psalms Expedition. Here is what you can expect to see:

Each video could be different. We will focus on passage themes, literary context, and/or specific words found in the Psalms.

- We might walk through the Psalm and talk about it meditatively.
- We could look at parallel passages where a psalm is stated somewhere else in Scripture, or the same event is described somewhere else in the Scriptures.
- We will probably find a life application point – look at how we might apply our lives to the Bible and live out the theme. This is something we can take with us and actively use.
- I might talk about insights I learned through thinking upon the Passage.

Every successful expedition begins with planning and preparation. Ours is no different. Part of expedition planning involves determining a question you want to answer. For this expedition, our question will be:

“How might my life be changed for the better after having learned about this Psalm?”

- Am I inspired?
- Am I encouraged?
- Can it help me grow in fellowship with God and others?

Did you know...

The book of Psalms is the largest book in the Bible. It is comprised of:

- 150 Psalms
- 2,461 verses
- 43,743 words

The book of Psalms is in the middle of the Bible. Psalm 103:1-2 are located in the most middle point of Scripture with 15,500 verses before and 15,500 verses after them.

Psalm 103:1-2- “Bless the Lord, O My soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits.”

The central figure in the Psalms is God. Three names are used for God in the Psalms.

- Elohim (344 times): Depicts God as the Omnipotent (almighty, all-powerful God) Creator
- Yahweh (676 times): Personal name of the covenant God of Israel, Yahweh refers to God as the self-existing, covenant God.
- Adonai (53 times): This name signifies, honor, majesty, and sovereignty. Adonai refers to God as the Sovereign Ruler.

We read about the needs of God's people and about God's mercy and goodness in the Psalms.

(continued on page 3...)

The Psalms:

- provide support and comfort and sometimes warning.
- proclaim God's law as a guide for right living, direction, and true prosperity.
- reflect healthy, good morality, wisdom, and philosophy for life.

These are just some of the reasons I chose to journey through the Psalms this Summer. I hope you watch the Psalms Expedition videos. They will be available on our Facebook Page every other Friday throughout the Summer.

Peace,
Tina Miller

Congregational Update on Central's Strategic Plan (SP)

This year has been a whirlwind of activity here at Central not only because of continued efforts to keep us together as well as safe from the coronavirus, but also due to the great work of our Visioning Team which began their assignments in January. Several Saturday mornings from 9-12 in the past 6 months were devoted to creating a 3-5 year vision (SP) for making Central an even better place to worship, build new relationships, study scripture, grow our faith, enjoy the friendships we have with one another, as well as improve an already attractive facility and campus for present and future new members.

We are pleased to report the work of our Visioning Team is now completed and we pass along a well-deserved thank you to Donna Dash, Sandy Garver, Kim Maple, Pastor Tina, Kristi Niles, Jessica Wilcoxon, Greg Barnes, Pastor Michael, Mike Kirby, Kevin Miller, David Wagner, and David York. We also pass along a grateful thank you to Bruce Nims who brought a lot of great experience to us in the areas of Visioning-Governance-Strategic Planning and led our Saturday mornings to a successful conclusion. We couldn't be as far along at this time without the efforts of this team.

The past 6 months has brought us closer together in developing Core Values we plan to use in all that we do and defined in the words Acceptance, Openness, Altruism, and Intentionality. The basis of our SP will be the four Focus Areas entitled Our Neighborhood...Families...Operational Excellence...and Generosity. All of this work can be found in the (draft) Central's Strategic Plan and located on our website at www.cccdisciples.org.

Michael and I have begun to work closely with the church council in sharing the knowledge we have gained earlier this year and to allow council to begin to absorb all of this information over the course of the next few months. We are hopeful council will be able to approve this SP for all of us at our October council business meeting.

While our work with council continues, we also want to mention again that we have gained significant input from many in our congregation during this process and will continue to accept input from all of you during the next few months. You may send your input to Michael (mkarunas@cccdisciples.org) and myself (g55foltz@gmail.com).

We appreciate your input and interest in the future of Central!

Gregg Foltz

Vision Team Chair



New Prayer Request Text-In!

Have a prayer request? Text "PRAY" (all caps) 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.



Sunday (11)

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

Monday (12)

- 5:00-Elder planning
- 5:30-Women's Book Club, Panera
- 6:00-I.T. Committee, Connection Café

Tuesday (13)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 207
- 10:00-Support Staff
- 1:00-Narcan Training

Wednesday (14)

- 10:30-Ministers' Meeting
- 5:00-Elders

Thursday (15)

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

Friday (16)

Saturday (17)

Sunday (18)

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



Happy Birthday!! (7/11—7/17)!

Jerry Bean, Wayne Rutherford,
Marilyn Ward, Linda Foltz,
Kay Villarreal, Ffion Boehme,
Gay Helgemo, William McCoy,
Bellamy Schrock

Food Collection for NECF

Your generous food donations for our grocery cart last month were gladly received by Northeast Comm. Fund. For July 11's collection, cereal, dried or canned beans, & tomato products are needed. Thank you.

Good Samaritan Inn Cookoff!



*Join us for a night of food, music,
& friendly competition*

8.10.21

*Social 5:30 • Dinner 6pm
Hickory Point Golf
Course Pavilion*



Competitive Tasting - Local Chefs
You Vote - Winning dishes served at Empty Bowl
Dessert Table • Wildflower Bakery



Silent Auction • Featuring Local Art & Experiences
Open Bar • Soda, Beer, Wine, Cocktails
Dessert Dash • Prizes



Emma Taylor Trio • Classic Jazz
90's Daughter (Duo) • Acoustic Set



21+ • Age Limit
\$75 • Individual
\$580 • Table of 8
Sponsorships • Available



GoodSamaritanInn.org/cookoff • Director@GoodSamInn.org • 217-429-1455

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 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 the 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.

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Telephone (217)428-4336 FAX (217)428-1700
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
Bri Lockwood.....Nursery Attendant
Carlee Phillips.....Nursery Attendant
Kattina WilliamsNursery Attendant
Lora WrightLead Caretaker
Jim Denzer.....Caretaker
Andrew Evans.....Caretaker
Toby Jones.....Caretaker

“Like” and “Follow” us on Facebook

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.



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 central@cccdisciples.org or 217-428-4336 or if you can help us with this.

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