

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCIII

Decatur, Illinois, July 14, 2021

No. 28

Hannah Fitch Ordination

Many of you remember that Hannah Fitch (MU grad) was a youth ministry intern with us from 2011-2015 before she left to attend the Divinity School at the University of Chicago. Having received her Masters of Divinity, she will be ordained into the Christian ministry on August 1, 2021. As you can see by the announcement below, the event will be live-streamed on Facebook. At present, we are curious as to how many people from Central might be interested in making the trip to Peoria for that important occasion. If you are planning on attending, would you be so kind as to contact Kathleen in the church office? Many thanks.



You are invited to the
ORDINATION
of Hannah Fitch

Sunday, August 1st
3:00pm

To be followed by light refreshments

First Christian Church
6400 N. University St. Peoria, IL 61614



Livestreamed at facebook.com/FCCPeoriaIL

Congratulations,
Hannah!!

SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
IN-PERSON (SANCTUARY)
AT 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
AND LIVE STREAMED ON
WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG
AND FACEBOOK LIVE
AT 10:30 AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
IN-PERSON (GREAT HALL)
AND LIVE STREAMED ON
WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG
AND FACEBOOK LIVE
AT 9:15 AM

Summer Favorites #2 - Back to Nature

Text: Numbers 9:15-23
Michael E. Karunas





Sunday, July 18, 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: Gretchen Kirby,

David Martin

Elders: Andy Fulk, Paul Gorden

PA: 8:00 - David Martin

10:30 - Keith Backes

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).



Tradition and Transition

Certainly we all enjoyed a tremendous send-off for Don Martin two weeks ago. It was wonderful to see so many people at both weekend events, and I have no doubt Don felt our love in all that transpired. As we read in the Farewell Liturgy on June 27, Don's retirement is but another example of the reality that things change as we move through life – both as individuals and as a congregation. With every change, there is the opportunity to do what Pastor Tina suggested in her sermon on July 4: look backward and forward. Looking forward is about acknowledging the changes that come. Looking backward is about determining what we want to carry with us as we move into a changing future.

In that spirit, I want to share with you an update on our ministerial staff configuration. Don's retirement clearly creates a void that needs to be addressed. Moreover, as we continue to think strategically about the future, other opportunities are emerging. So I would like to announce that Pastor Tina's portfolio will change somewhat. She will be moving from a primary focus on children and Christian Education to ministries that involve older adults. These will include leading our visitation programs, pastoral care ministries, bereavement, and the 3D ministry (formerly Elderberries). This will entail some corresponding change in committee involvement as well. She will continue to work with women's groups. This move creates a temporary void in the area of staff-led children's ministries. We clearly want to make this area of church programming a priority and envision bringing someone on staff to help provide leadership in the future. But I believe it is important not to rush into hiring someone for the sake of filling a position, so there may be a period where we are going to ask all of you to help us meet the challenges and opportunities this transition presents.

I believe these transitions are going to be most beneficial to the church in the long run and am extremely grateful to Pastor Tina for accepting this opportunity and being willing to embrace this transition. While no one we love is replaceable – Don Martin included – Pastor Tina brings gifts and talents of her own that can help our ministry to older adults not only be maintained but grow in the future.

In the meantime, we don't want our children, their families, and the programming designed for them to feel abandoned. That is why Pastor Tina will be gradually "phasing from" ministry to children and "phasing to" ministry to older adults. This is new territory for all of us, and I don't intend for anything to be unnecessarily sudden. The first thing for Pastor Tina and I to do together is to meet with the Christian Education committee and ensure that the Fall programming that coincides with the start of a new school year takes place as planned. Following this, Pastor Tina will begin focusing on getting to know the older adults and planning programming for them. For my part, I will also be offering whatever presence and involvement I can to ensure that there is as much seamlessness to these transitions as possible.

As I've said in conversations with Pastor Tina, she and I – as ordained ministers – are called to serve the whole church. This means sometimes our energies and attention are focused in one area, while for another time they are focused in

(continued on page 3...)

other directions. But our hearts forever seek to hold all “the flock” in deep care and concern. I am confident that these moves can be a great blessing to Central in the unfolding future, and that Pastor Tina and I can provide the necessary leadership to make that happen.

No matter what transitions our congregation undergoes – whether staff-related or otherwise – I hope that what we never lose is your feeling that the ministers of this congregation love you, care for you, and are available to you. When I listen to the stories about the leadership provided by the great ministers of Central’s past, these are the characteristics I hear those “saints” displayed for you. What I hope to convey to all our staff members – ministerial and otherwise – is this same culture of caring.

If you have any questions about any part of this, please don’t hesitate to reach out. And I thank you for your continued support of Central and your confidence in our congregation.

-Blessings, Michael

DON'T MISS OUR DORCAS MEETING & STAFF APPRECIATION LUNCHEON!

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.

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 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 877-0800 or revrag@comcast.net.



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.

Online Directory Discontinued

Earlier this week, we were made aware that our Life Touch online directory service was discontinued by the company. We are sorry for the inconvenience. If you need assistance, you may always call the church office at 217-428-4336.

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.



Sunday (18)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream

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

10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream

Monday (19)

Tuesday (20)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 207

9:30-Card Ministry, 240

12:00-Dorcas Staff Apprec. Luncheon

5:00-Trustees, Disciples Room

Wednesday (21)

10:30-Ministers’ Meeting

5:30-Church Council Business Meeting

Thursday (22)

10:00-Alanon, Disciples Room

4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

5:30-Koinonia, 212

6:00-Choir, Choir Room

Friday (23)

Saturday (24)

Sunday (25)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream

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

10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream



Happy Birthday!! (7/18—7/24)!

Susie Bean, Jan Dobbs,
Dave Zollinger, Dale Penn,
Collin Swallow, Bob Smith,
Debbie Santee, Jenny Baumann,
Dave Wagner, Gary Horvath,
Nigel Adams, Amila Bradfield,
Ron Miller, Matt Clark,
Stephani Sargeant

Counting On You

Sunday, July 11, 2021

Total worshipping online = 110

Total worshipping in-person = 191

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

**GET
TICKETS
NOW**



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

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.

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522
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.



The Central Visitor (USPS 098-520) is published weekly by Central Christian Church, 650 W. William, Decatur, IL 62522.

Periodical Postage paid at Decatur, IL.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Central Visitor,
650 W. William St., Decatur, IL 62522.



NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
DECATUR, IL
PERMIT NO. 80

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

650 West William Street
Decatur, IL 62522

