

# 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, September 8, 2021

No. 36

## Small Group Invitation

To coincide with our new sermon series – “All Hands on Deck” (September 5 – October 3) – we are inviting everyone to be part of a small group experience for 5 weeks. The groups will meet for one (1) hour each week and follow a uniform “curriculum” that will be based on the themes of the sermons. The intention of these small groups is to have everyone join us in: a) thinking about the strategic plan in concrete ways; b) share any ideas you have that we could work into the strategic plan before we formally embrace it. These small groups offer an opportunity not only to engage with the strategic plan, it is a chance to spend a little more time in God’s Word and... an opportunity to get to know one another a bit better as well!

***It is not too late to sign up for the small group that best fits your schedule. You will not be “behind” if you begin attending on week 2.***

Here are the small group leaders and the dates and their times their groups will meet:

George and Linda Virgil			
Sundays	9/12 – 10/10	9:15 - 10:15 a.m.	Rm. 240
Judy Ford and Sandy Garver			
Mondays	9/13 – 10/4	5:30 – 6:30	Connection Cafe
Karen Wade			
Tuesdays	9/7 – 10/5	6:45 - 7:45 p.m.	Connection Café
Randy and Deb Trei			
Thursdays	9/9 – 10/7	10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Connection Café
Bruce and Liz Campbell			
Thursdays	9/9 – 10/7	5:30 – 6:30 p.m.	Room 212

## **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 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

***Like a Good Neighbor***  
Michael E. Karunas



## **Happy Birthday!! (9/12-9/18)!**

Dennis Downey, Chris Fagin,  
John Gill, Deonne Orvis, Bess King,  
Krista Rohrscheib, Helen Ryan,  
Shirley Swarthout, Matt Swarthout,  
Karen Thomas, Elizabeth Strate,  
Dan Brintlinger, Andy Boehme,  
Kelsey Gannett, Eddreana Lindsey

Thank You



for your Kindness

**Thank you, Central!**

The family of Lawrence Turner would like to thank everyone who sent cards, flowers, phone calls, and monetary gifts to the church and Sangamon Valley School. Thank you for all the support from our church family. A special thank you to Michael for the beautiful funeral service.

- Nancy, Steve & Susie, Kevin & Amy



**Serving Schedule—**

**Sunday, September 12, 2021**

**Imboden Creek:**

TBA

**Elders:**

TBA

**Ushers:**

- 8:00 - Team 2 - Becky Johnston, Capt., Bruce Campbell
- 10:30 - Team 7 - George Virgil, Capt., Linda Virgil

**Greeters:**

- 8:00 - Carolyn McCall, Gail Prince
- 10:30 - Jud & Jean Pease

**P.A. Operator:**

- 8:00 - Jim Bednar
- 10:30 - Keith Backes

**What's Your Story?**

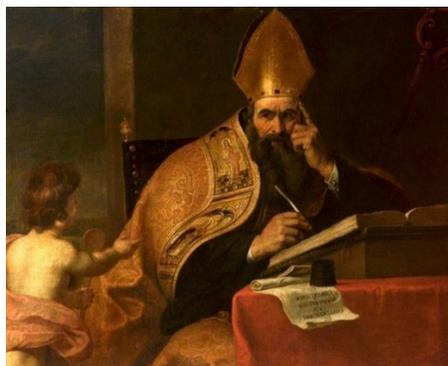
There is a difference between the words *biography* and *autobiography*. A "biography" (from the words *bios* – life and *graph* – write) is writing that is done about someone's life. Of course, anyone can write a biography. Anyone can write – or tell – a story about someone else. But "autobiography" is different. *Auto* means self, and refers to oneself. Thus, an autobiography is writing about one's own life. It is the story that one tells about oneself. That means no one can write an autobiography but the keeper of that life themselves. With autobiographies, it is we ourselves who decide what details our told in our stories.



This is especially true with *secular* autobiographies. In them, we – the teller of our story – are the main focus. When we tell our secular autobiographies, we usually include things like where we were born and raised, what education we received, what our hobbies and interests are, what kind of work we performed, what families we helped raise, and then something of our achievements and accomplishments. We attempt to communicate to the world the impact we had on the world through the life we lived.

*Spiritual* autobiographies, however, are different. Even though it is we who tell our spiritual autobiographies, we are not the primary focus. God is. A spiritual autobiography tells the story of *God's* activity in our lives – what we did, where we went, with whom we interacted because of *God's* movement and action. A spiritual autobiography seeks to convey how the world is different, not because of what "I" achieved, but because of what *God* achieved through me.

The great St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo in north Africa (354-430) is said to have written the first spiritual autobiography in western history. It was in the form of the book we know as "The Confessions," which traces Augustine's search for meaning and how he ultimately found it – by the hand and grace of God – in Jesus Christ.



(continued on page 3...)

When it comes to our own lives, it is probably fairly easy to rattle off the basic “statistics” of our lives – hometown, family of origin, level of education, jobs held, locations called home, favorite sports team and vacation spots, etc... But what if we were to write our own spiritual autobiographies? What would our stories sound like if we answered questions like:

- *Where was a time I attempted to go in one direction, but God led me in another? In what ways did my life change because of that change?*
- *What role did God play in leading me to the people with whom I am closest today?*
- *What event in my life most shaped the way I think about God today?*

St. Augustine’s “Confessions” is still read by countless students of religion and divinity today. While that will likely not be the case with our own, it is never a wasted effort to remind ourselves who we are – who we truly are – as God’s beloved. So I encourage us all to give thought to questions like the three (3) posed above and journaling about them or sharing them with someone. Simply clarifying our answers to questions like these for ourselves is a testament to our reliance on, and obedience to, God. And the world will always be different whenever reliance and obedience is performed and encouraged in others.

Blessings – Michael

#### **In Sympathy We Mourn**

- We mourn with the family of Billie Harmon her passing last week. A private service was held for Billie on Wednesday, September 8.
- We also join Nancy Taylor and her family in their grieving the passing of Jim Taylor on September 5. As of the time of this printing, arrangements for Jim are pending.
- We also pray for the Backes family with the loss of Jeannie’s mother, Betty Mellott. Betty resided at Imboden Creek but was from Mt. Vernon.
- We thank you for your prayers and spiritual support for all these families.

#### **Make Room for Dorcas Disciples!**

Join other Central women when we gather in fellowship, fun, and service on Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00 p.m. in the Disciples Room. Enjoy refreshments and listen to Dan Watkins, Executive Director of God’s Shelter of Love, share the timely subject of how “Careage House Cares” for our community’s homeless women and children.

RSVP by Friday, September 17th to Nancy Ellen Taylor at 217-872-9174 or [xstr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:xstr@sbcglobal.net). Contact Sandy Garver at [revrag@comcast.net](mailto:revrag@comcast.net) or 217-877-0800 for more information about Dorcas Disciples. Hope to see you September 21st!

#### **Financial Peace University Coming to Central!**

Planning for the future is hard when you’re still paying for the past! Listen—there’s a better way! Join our Financial Peace University class, and we’ll learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future together. Our own Gerri Munos will be leading this nine week class. Join us here at **Central Christian Church** starting **Monday, September 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** You can sign up [fpu.com/1139844](http://fpu.com/1139844).



#### **Sunday (12)**

##### **Imboden Creek Worship**

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall & Facebook Live & Live Stream
- 9:15-Small Group—Virgil, 240
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live & Live Stream
- 4:00-Youth Group

#### **Monday (13)**

- 12:30-Women’s Book Club, Panera
- 5:45-Small Group—Ford/Garver, C. Café

#### **Tuesday (14)**

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 207
- 5:30-Women’s Book Club, Panera
- 6:45-Small Group—Wade, Conn. Café
- 7:00-Millikin Heights

#### **Wednesday (15)**

- 10:30-Ministers’ Meeting
- 5:30-Church Council—Committees

#### **Thursday (16)**

- 10:00-Alanon, Disciples Room
- 10:00-Small Group—Trei, Conn. Café
- 4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
- 5:30-Small Group—Campbell, 212
- 7:00-Choir, Choir Room

#### **Friday (17)**

#### **Saturday (18)**

#### **Sunday (19)**

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall & Facebook Live & Live Stream
- 9:15-Small Group—Virgil, 240
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live & Live Stream
- 4:00-Youth Group

#### **Counting On You**

**Sunday, September 5, 2021**

Total worshipping online = 108

Total worshipping in-person = 203

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522**  
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Michael E. Karunas ..... Senior Minister  
 Tina Miller ..... Associate Minister  
 David Martin ..... Youth Director  
 Ben Hawkinson ..... Interim Director of Music  
 Cordelia "Dee Dee" Gain ..... Organist  
 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 Williams ..... Nursery Attendant  
 Lora Wright ..... Lead 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.



**Prayer Request Text-In!**

Have a prayer request? Text "PRAY" (all caps) to 217-212-2173, or use the QR code to the left. We would love to pray with you and follow up, if you wish.

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