

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 21st, 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. Contact Sandy Garver at 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.



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

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Michael E. KarunasSenior Minister
 Tina Miller Associate Minister
 David MartinYouth Director
 Ben Hawkinson Interim Director of Music
 Cordelia "Dee Dee" Gain..... Organist
 David Williams Organist
 Kathleen Dudley..... Administrative Assistant
 Yvonne BoydAdministrative 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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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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