

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCIII

Decatur, Illinois, September 15, 2021

No. 37

"All Hands on Deck" Small Groups (week 2)

For those who are unable to be part of one of our "All Hands on Deck" small groups, but would still like to be part of what the groups are doing, here is the curriculum for week 2. The theme is "Being a Good Neighbor."



Introduction

- *Where did you grow up, and what was your immediate neighborhood like?*
- *When you think of the neighborhood of your childhood (or any neighborhood in which you've lived), who stands out in your mind as an example of a "good neighbor?" What did they do to stand out in your mind in this way?*

Word

- *Read Deuteronomy 15:7-11*
 - *What are the characteristics of a "good neighbor" shown in Deuteronomy 15:7-11? (Make a list as a small group.)*
 - *What are the ways our church could exemplify those characteristics in our immediate neighborhood today? With Millikin students?*

Prayer

Close with a prayer that thanks God for the good neighbors you've known and which asks for the grace to be "good neighbors" as your small group has discussed.

Welcome Rowan Shartzter!!!

We were grateful and delighted to dedicate Rowan Nicole Shartzter this past Sunday. Rowan is the daughter of proud parents Cole and Andrea. Welcome to the Central family, Rowan! (pictured at right)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 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

It Takes a Village

Text: Mark 5: 21-24, 35-43
Michael E. Karunas





Dear church family... Thank you for all the phone calls, prayers and cards in the loss of our grandson, Brandon. Your kind words have helped make this heartbreak bearable. We are so glad to be part of a loving and caring church. Blessings to everyone.

-Bob and Carol Bischoff

The family of Jim Taylor would like to thank everyone who sent cards, flowers, and food, made phone calls, and sent monetary gifts to the church in honor of Jim. We are grateful for all the support from our church family. A special thank you to the office staff for their assistance and also to Michael for the beautiful funeral service.

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 217-877-0800 or revrag@comcast.net for more information about Dorcas Disciples. Hope to see you September 21st!

"Real Life – Real Faith for Families"

Our ministry intern this fall, Vicky Woolridge, is offering a small group experience in October for anyone (parent, grandparent, god-parent) raising children at home. I personally encourage all our families to consider taking part in this. This area of ministry is Vicky's passion. Here is how she introduces it (and herself.) – Michael

A life-long Disciples of Christ, I grew up in Decatur and was a member of Crestview Christian Church. For many years, my husband Scott and I made our home in Eureka, IL, during which time we attended Eureka Christian Church. Upon moving back to Decatur in 2012, we have made Central our church home. My career has been as a teacher of young children. I recently retired from working at Head Start as an educational coach. My love and passion have always been for children and their families.

Over the past 3 years, I have been a student in our Regional Church's School for Ministry, which is a program for lay persons to study and discern their call for commissioned ministry. As a part of my work in this program, I am serving as an intern here at Central. I will be participating in worship regularly over the next three months, as well as preaching one Sunday this fall. As my passion is for children and their families, I'm especially interested in offering support to parents and grandparents as they share faith with their children.

Looking back, what do you remember from when you were first learning about God and Jesus? Was it from singing "Jesus Love Me" or bedtime and mealtime prayers? Did you attend worship, VBS, church camp? Who were the people who shared their love of God and faith with you? Perhaps it's none of these things but something else significant in your life.

I believe that as parents and grandparents, the most valuable gift we can give our children is a firm faith foundation, and that starts with being comfortable talking about our own faith story.

I'm inviting you to join me as I lead a small group experience for parents called Real Faith-Real Faith for Families. We will meet in person (following Covid safety guidelines) for four sessions on **Monday evenings** from **October 4 - 25**, from **6:30-7:45 p.m.**

(continued on page 3...)



Real Life – Real Faith for Families

The most important gift parents can give to their children is a foundation of faith based on the love of God through Jesus Christ.

- small group
- Central Christian Church
- Mondays from 6:30-7:45pm
- October 4 – 25
- Parents, grandparents, or anyone raising children at home

I would love for you to be a part of this journey as we reflect on our personal lives of faith and explore ways to share faith with our children. Please reach out to me with any questions or to let me know you want to join us by calling or emailing the church.

Blessings, Vicky



Faith in 60 Seconds

Last Spring, 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?) As people have taken up that challenge and shared their testimonies in worship, we have then published their words in *The Visitor* the following week. One of our elders, Gail Prince, offered her faith in 60 seconds this past Sunday. Here is what she said:

I've always felt like I was born a Christian. I attended the People's Church in Owensboro, KY, which is where I was born. Then I went to the Christian Church in Warrensburg, and during my teenage

years, I attended Boiling Springs Church of God. There has always been faith in my life. Thirty-four years ago, the invitation to attend Central came from Sandy and Gene Garver, and that has put me on the path that has only strengthened my faith.

My faith has brought me through so many difficult times, among them surviving breast cancer at the age of 41. I believe I survived it because God sent a lady named Karen to my beauty shop (I was a hairdresser for 36 years). One day, while doing Karen's hair, she asked me, "Gail, have you ever had a mammogram?" I replied, "No, I'm not old enough." Karen replied, "You are old enough. Let me make you an appointment." The rest is history. There is no doubt in my mind that the Lord sent Karen into my life that day. I had so many more things to do. I believe every day I wake up that my faith will carry me through anything that comes my way. I always end my prayers with this line, "Lord, wrap your arms around me and hold me close, til I bow at your feet."

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 (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

Monday (20)

5:30-Preschool Board, 201
5:30-Small Group—Ford/Garver, C. Café/
Disciples Room
6:00-Financial Peace University, G. Hall

Tuesday (21)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 207
9:30-Card Ministry, 240
6:00-Dorcas Disciples, Disciples Room
6:45-Small Group—Wade, Conn. Café

Wednesday (22)

10:30-Ministers' Meeting
3:30-Support Staff Meeting

Thursday (23)

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

Friday (24)

Saturday (25)

Sunday (26)

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 12, 2021

Total worshipping online = 135

Total worshipping in-person = 207



Serving Schedule — Sunday, September 19, 2021

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Andy Fulk & Paul Gorden

9:15 - Paul Gorden

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt.,
Jim & Pamela Bednar

10:30 - Team 8 -

Greeters:

8:00 - Gene & Sandy Garver

10:30 - Paul Gorden & Suzie Miller

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash

10:30 - Mike Kirby



Happy Birthday!! (9/19-9/25)!

Lucy Acheson, Bruce Campbell, Jessica Sebok,
Ginger Morgan, Jean Maggioncalda, Jay Smith, Barbara Tyler,
Maria Leaf, Carrie Funk, Katie Beal, Scott Woolridge,
Fran Rutherford, Jensen Rutherford, Ireland Irby,
Luca Morelli, Diana Murray, Blake Murray, Zedekiah Auten,
Lyndzi Bottom, Wesley Murray

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
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.

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

