

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCIII

Decatur, Illinois, September 22, 2021

No. 38

"All Hands on Deck" Small Groups (week 3)

For those that 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 3. The theme is "Being a Good Neighbor."



Introduction

- *Who, outside your immediate family, played the biggest role in shaping the person you are today? What did they do that was so influential?*

Word

- *Read Mark 9:42 and Mark 10:13-16 Jesus seems to give preference to children. Why would it be important to do so?*
- *Read mark 5:21-24, 35-43. Make a list of all the people who were cared about the girl's healing.*
- *What could we be doing at Central to reach out to children more effectively?*
- *What would we need to have, or start doing differently, in order for that to happen?*

Prayer

- *Close with a prayer that thanks God for the role models that influenced us and ask God for the grace to be that same kind of person in someone growing up today.*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 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

Striving for Excellence

Text: Acts 1:15-26
Michael E. Karunas





**Serving Schedule — Sunday,
September 26, 2021**

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Gerri Munos &
Jan Dobbs

9:15 - Gerri Munos

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 4 - Hazel Perry, Capt.,
Jerry & Susie Bean,
Karen Penn

10:30 - Team 9 - Kim Miller, Capt.,
Audrey Miller, Bill Modlin

Greeters:

8:00 - Dianne Devore &
Carolyn Sunderlik

10:30 - Brett Swallow

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Pat Penhallegon

10:30 - Jim Hinze



Happy Birthday!! (9/26-10/2)!

Mike Burkham, Christina Doxsie,
Nita Phillips, Jeanette Soebbing,
Susan Turner, Denny Zinn,
Kim Downey, Steve Baumann,
Carys Boehme, Austin Econie,
David Williams, Thomas Karunas,
Jasper Woolen, Kent Helgemo,
Elliott Scircle



Expressing Gratitude

It seems fitting that our focus in worship this past Sunday was, in part, our Central Christian Preschool. First opened for the 1965-66 school year, we celebrated 50 years of continual service to the Decatur community on April 24, 2016. I say, fitting, because a week ago I happened to get a message to call Dorothy Rueff. This request caught me surprise, as I have only met her once and have never been asked to call on her.

For many years Dorothy Rueff was a member of Central. In 1965 she was one of the first teachers of the preschool and after a year-and-a-half in that role, she assumed the position of director of the preschool. She held that position for the next 23 ½ years so that when she retired – in 1990 – she had been serving the preschool for a quarter century! The pictures you see here are of Dorothy (and others) at our 50th celebration in 2016. Long before I arrived, Dorothy moved to a retirement facility in Jacksonville, which is where she has resided since. Now 95 years old, she told me that she felt compelled to call me to “express gratitude.”



First she told me that since the pandemic she has been watching our traditional service, live-streamed, every Sunday. She wanted me to know how grateful she is that we provide this opportunity, because every week it allows her to feel like she is “home.”

Next she told me that she was moved by our worship two weeks ago, when the focus was on the 4 friends who carried a paralyzed man on a mat to Jesus. At the end of the sermon, I encouraged us to give thanks for someone – or some community – who “carried you” through a difficult time in your life. It is for this reason that she called. “I have a story to tell you,” she said, and then proceeded to convey the following:

In 1964, Dorothy and her husband Lawrence had a daughter – Darla – who around age 12 was diagnosed with Leukemia. There were many trips to be made for doctors’ visits and the Rueffs’ car was not in good shape. The family was not sure it could take the travel required to provide the care Darla needed. Just about that time, some church members showed up at their house with a check – which happened to be in the amount they needed for a “new” used car. The family was able to do everything they could for Darla, Dorothy said. And even though after nine more months Darla passed away, Dorothy said she never forgot the kindness of the church family. Like many other church members with whom I have spoken over the years, Dorothy told me during the

(continue on page 3...)

phone call, "I don't know where our family would have been without the church." But then she added this, "It was almost as though our church family anticipated our needs even before we were fully aware of them ourselves." Fifty-seven years later Dorothy said she felt compelled to share this story with me as a way "expressing gratitude" to Central.

It is likewise with great gratitude that I share this with you today – trusting that it might be the inspiration for some act of kindness which will, in turn, be conveyed with gratitude to Central's pastor 57 years from now.

Blessings, Michael



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

Monday (27)

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

Tuesday (28)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 207
5:30-Concert Series Committee, Disc. Rm.
6:45-Small Group—Wade, Conn. Café

Wednesday (29)

10:30-Ministers' Meeting
2:30-Prayer Shawl Ministry, C. Café

Thursday (30)

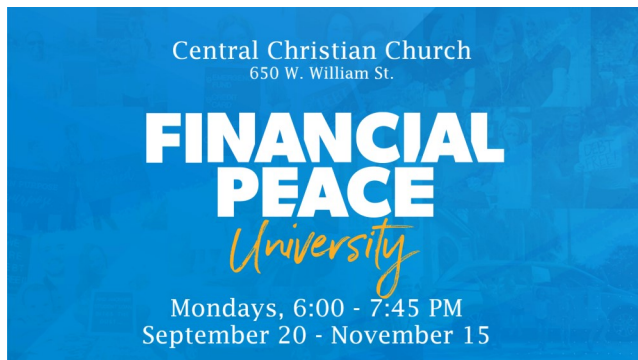
10:00-Alanon, Disciples Room
10:00-Small Group—Trej, Conn. Café
4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
5:00-Christian Ed Committee, 240
5:30-Small Group—Campbell, 212
7:00-Choir, Choir Room

Friday (Oct 1)

Saturday (2)

Sunday (3)

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
4:00-Concert Series: Castle & Wang



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** on **Mondays at 6:00 p.m.** You can still sign up at fpu.com/1139844.

Thank You from the family of Howard Cravens

Dear Central Friends,

Thank you so very much for all the cards, and calls we received following my father's passing. Thank you to Michael, all staff who helped us, friends who attended his Celebration of Life service, and to all who prepared and served the wonderful luncheon following his service. We were deeply touched by your thoughtfulness and are truly grateful.

- Chere and Steve Peters and family of Howard Cravens

Food Collection for Both Oct. & Nov. First Sundays



Let's fill the shopping cart for Northeast Community Fund for both Oct. & Nov. collections with the following: cereal, canned meats, food & snacks with pull-ring lids. A particular need is food in easy open containers & no heat or stove needed. Thanks!



Counting On You

Sunday, September 19, 2021

Total worshipping online = 114

Total worshipping in-person = 202

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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.



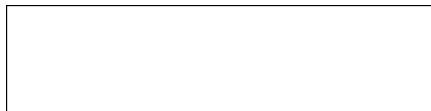
Prayer Request Text-In!

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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