

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCIII

Decatur, Illinois, September 29, 2021

No. 39

"All Hands on Deck" Small Groups (week 4)

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 4. The theme is "Organization."



Introduction

- One a scale of 1 (not very) to 10 (very), how "organized" would you say you are as a person?
- What is an example of how you are very organized and another of how you are more dis-organized?
- Of all the volunteer work you've done (not limited to this church), what was your favorite experience and why?
- If you have one hour to spend volunteering, serving on a committee or attending a meeting of any kind, what do you need to feel that the time spent was "worth it?"

Word

- Read Acts 1:15-26
 - What was the process the disciples used to decide who would replace Judas?
 - Make a list of all the steps in that process
 - Would you say this is a good example of a "intentional" process? Why or Why not (explain your answer)?
 - How similar to this process are the ways:
 - You make decisions in your life?
 - We make decisions here in the church?

Prayer

Close with a prayer that thanks God for the ministry of the disciples and the good example they set for us, and which seeks the grace to emulate their intentionality in the ways we organize ourselves as a church.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 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

Making a Splash

Text: Acts 2:41-47
Michael E. Karunas



Narcan Training #2

We will host another Narcan training on Tuesday, October 19th, at 7:00 PM. Narcan is a life-saving medication that can be administered to a person experiencing an opioid overdose. Mike Burkham of Decatur Ambulance and the Macon County Health Department will be here to answer your questions about the opioid epidemic in Decatur and the nation and to train participants on how to administer Narcan. Narcan can be dispensed as an inhalant, and each person who attends the class will be given emergency doses of Narcan to keep with them in case they encounter someone having an overdose. This is yet another way we can "serve our neighbors". We hope you will take advantage of this class.



Happy Birthday!! (10/3 - 10/9)!

Erik Harm, Amy Funk,
Stephanie Stewart, Jim Whitaker,
Sara Beyer, Larry Foster,
David Bottom, Ashely Sparks,
Larry Bafford, Karen Wade,
Andrew Evans, Charlee McLeod,
Jodie Walwer, Hailey Holt,
Laura Moma, Katie Fehrenbach



Thank You, Central

The family of Keith and Jeannie Backes would like to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, prayers and kind words following the passing of Jeannie's mother Betty Mellott. We were greatly touched by the outpouring of love during this difficult time.

"Offering Prayers and Being Prayerful"

Last week at our staff meeting, we discussed a distinction between "prayer" and "prayerful." Prayer is something we *do*, but prayerful is someone we *are*. Prayer is *external*, while prayerful is *internal*. Prayer has a beginning and an end, while prayerful is *ongoing*. This is why we think of prayer as something we *offer* (an action that is outside us) and why we think of prayer as *being* prayerful (in internal way of orienting the person we are in the world). Being prayerful is a way of living out the words of I Thessalonians 5:17: "Pray without ceasing." As one of our staff people suggested (my paraphrase), "None of us can sit with hands folded and heads bowed all the time (i.e. without ceasing)." But we can live in an ongoing way such that our orientation in the world is prayerful.

Being prayerful is, more specifically, seeking the presence of God in all things. If it is true – as scripture instructs – that God created all things, then everything in creation bears the imprint of God's presence. That means God is present in every person, place and thing; every situation, circumstance and relationship.



In order to seek the presence of God in all things, several things are necessary:

- First, being **open**. We must be able to willing to entertain the idea that God *could* be present in everything we encounter and experience.
- Being open requires **attentiveness**. Being prayerful is about **listening** more than speaking. And it is about "listening" (observing, receiving) with all our senses and not just our ears.
- Listening is also about **removing distractions**. While prayer is an action that we "do," being prayerful is taking things *away* and moving more slowly through life so that we don't miss God's presence when it is revealed to us.
- Finally, being prayerful is about **humility**. Everything we hear, observe and receive from the outside world comes to us through the filter of our own desires, hopes and anticipations. The humility of being prayerful is acknowledging these filters and asking God to be revealed through them. Otherwise we might confuse God's revelation with our own comfortable interpretation.

While all of us may not feel confident or gifted in the external action of offering prayers, we all can live lives of prayerfulness.

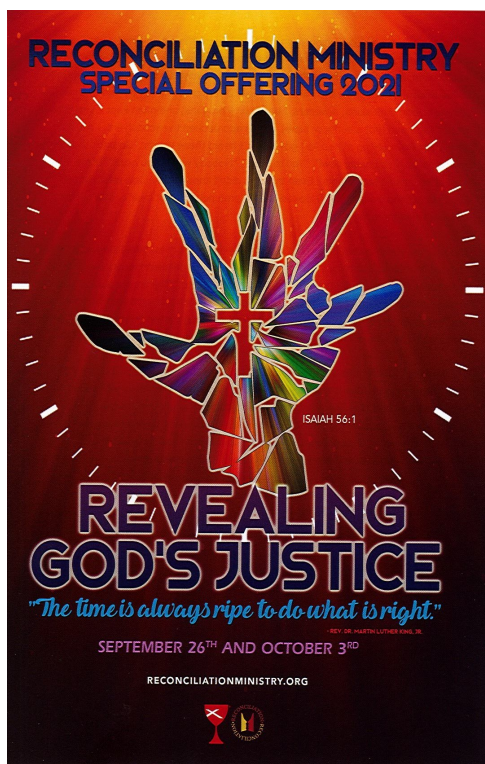
Blessings, Michael



What Motivates you to be Generous?

Our Stewardship Department is preparing financially for 2022. We would love to have everyone send us a few words about "What motivates you to be generous?" In particular, the group is looking for some testimonies to include in it's upcoming fall campaign. So... when you think about your relationship to Central, what motivates you to support it in the ways that you do? Feel free to email your responses to: central@cccdisciples.org. Or mail them to the church if that is your preference. Many thanks in advance.

Reconciliation Offering Collected this Sunday



The prophet Isaiah admonishes God's beloved in Isaiah 56:1 to, "Maintain justice and do what is right, for soon my salvation will come, and my deliverance be revealed." Frequently, Dr. MLK, Jr reminded us that, "The time is always ripe to do what is right." The message is clear: We are to do what is right with the time God has given us. It is a precious gift like the gift of reconciliation through Christ Jesus. The Ministry of Reconciliation offers each of us the opportunity to "do what is right." Our giving supports diversity and inclusion efforts through leadership development in our colleagues and provides grants to ministry partners to further the work of anti-racism. It creates opportunities to heal our brokenness by promoting relationship-building and by equipping congregations to be advocates for racial

justice in their communities. This Sunday, October 3, in addition to our regular offerings, we will be collecting for our denominations' Reconciliation Offering. If you wish to give to this offering, you may do so in all the usual ways – in person (we have special Reconciliation Offering envelopes), online or by texting (217-212-2173).



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!

In Sympathy We Mourn

In sympathy we mourn with Norm Lienemann and family for the loss of Darla. She passed away on Sunday, September 26th. Her funeral service will be at 12:30 PM, on Thursday, September 30, 2021 at Brintlinger and Earl Funeral Home, Decatur. The visitation will be from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM, on Thursday, at the funeral home.



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

Monday (4)

5:30-Small Group—Ford/Garver, C. Café/
Disciples Room
6:00-Financial Peace University, 212
6:30-Real Life Real Families

Tuesday (5)

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

Wednesday (6)

10:30-Ministers' Meeting

Thursday (7)

10:00-Alanon, Disciples Room
10:00-Small Group—Treil, Conn. Café
3:00-Decatur Needle Arts, Disciples Room
4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
5:30-Small Group—Campbell, 212
6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples Room
7:00-Choir, Choir Room

Friday (8)

Saturday (9)

Sunday (10)

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 @ the Munos' home

Counting On You

Sunday, September 26, 2021

Total worshipping online = 100

Total worshipping in-person = 202



Serving Schedule — Sunday, October 3, 2021

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Krista Rohrscheib & Linda Virgil
9:15 - Linda Virgil

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Gerri Munos,
Brad Munos, Brittney Moran,
Bobby Munos
10:30 - Team 10 - David Martin, Capt., Gretchen Kirby

Greeters:

8:00 - Julie & Ken Jacoby
10:30 - Jeannie & Keith Backes

P.A. Operator:

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

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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.

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.



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US POSTAGE
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650 West William Street
Decatur, IL 62522

