

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCIV

Decatur, Illinois, January 5, 2022

No. 1

Welcome New Members

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Jim and Vicki Fitzpatrick to the Central family! Jim and Vicki transferred their membership at the 8:00 a.m. service on Sunday, December 26th. The Fitzpatricks first worshipped with Central online during the spring of 2020; the early days of the pandemic. Once we re-opened to in-person worship in July of that year, Jim and Vicki have been mainstays at the 8:00 a.m. service. Additionally, Jim has become a regular part of the Tuesday Journeymen Men's Bible Study group. We are delighted to have Jim and Vicki part of our faith community and are grateful for the ways God has brought out lives to intersect.



Covenant Sunday

Sunday, January 2, was a special day in the life of the church. As you may remember, our church – the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) – is organized into some 30 regions across the United States and Canada. Two of those are ours (the Illinois and Wisconsin) and another is the Michigan Region. These two regions began a new venture on January 2. Our region entered into a covenant partnership with Michigan region. The two regions will continue to function as two separate regions, but will partner with each other under the leadership of one regional minister (our current regional minister, Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker. Within this covenant there will be the opportunity to more freely share resources, talents and programming in ways, it is hoped, that will broaden and enlarge the ministries provided. During worship on Sunday, January 2nd, we offered special prayers for this covenantal partnership. As our General Minister and President, Rev. Teresa Hord Owens states it, *"We pray for this partnership that it might call each congregation, each minister, to consider your limitless love, O God, as a call to bring forth the kingdom of God on earth.... May we be for one another strength, comfort, encouragement, challenge and peace as we live out our calling as followers of Jesus the Christ."*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 2022

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

**Three things to
start the year off right**
Text: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Michael E. Karunas



Happy Birthday!! (1/9 - 1/15)!

Sharon Andrews, Philip Bateman,
Dave Phillips, Sid Rohrscheib,
Penny Rutherford, Carole Holbrook,
Joyce Johnston, Gwen Miller,
Miles Kappler, Cohen Irby

In Appreciation

Thank you for your acts of kindness and generosity this Christmas season. I am honored that you would give a portion of your own gifts, talents, and resources as Christmas gifts and in appreciation for my service here at Central Christian Church. I deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness. As always, I am humbled by your love, your prayers, and your support.

May the Peace of Our Lord, Jesus Christ be with you.

Tina Miller



Prayer List Updates

We have a prayer list! Please remember to call the office with prayer list updates.



Let Central Celebrate with You!

Are you celebrating a milestone birthday or anniversary or other achievement? Let us know! We love sharing good news, praise reports, and special pictures on our Welcome Center screens!

Hope

Hope.

Hope is a very prominent theme for our church and an important theme for this Christmas Season. The anticipation of the coming Messiah through Advent services and Christ's arrival celebrated at Christmas is always in light of the hope we have in his return. Just as the Israelites hoped for their deliverance, we too look forward to the final deliverance, Jesus Christ's return in glory where he will create new heavens and a new earth (Isaiah 65:16-17; Revelation 21:1-4).

But what do we do in the meantime? We live in a world which seems dark, and our circumstances might seem to be a bit too much to manage a times. We know there is hope in the Lord's return, but we live in the NOW, and NOW could be filled with strife, conflict, illness, dread, loneliness, sadness, and doubt.

God promised he will deliver us. He encourages us by his Holy Spirit to cling to his promises, to love his word and to cherish his statutes. He makes clear paths for our feet so that we continue to press forward with victory over that which impedes peace.

We eagerly anticipate the coming of our Lord, who "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (Jn 1:4). Until then we trust that God's love for us, his presence with us, and his power in and through us is more than enough to live peaceably in the NOW.

God loves you with an everlasting love and draws you to him with kindness.

Jeremiah 31:3

God is present, NOW! He rejoices over you.

Zephaniah 3:17

God empowered you with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19



Let us rejoice in the hope of our Lord and trust in his faithfulness.

Peace,

Tina Miller

Hospitalized?

When you enter any hospital, please phone the church so that ministers and elders can pray for you and visit you. Regulations to protect your privacy as a patient prohibit hospitals from notifying your pastors as they previously did. For the hospital to release this information requires your specific permission, and often your permission is never even requested, especially if you enter the hospital through the Emergency Room. Any time you are in the hospital more than forty-eight hours and no one from Central has been in contact with you, you may be sure that the church does not know you are hospitalized. Help us provide good pastoral care!

In Sympathy

In sympathy we mourn with Bob Wade on the passing of his wife Carol, who died on December 21st, 2021. Bob and Carol joined Central in October of 2006. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Thank you for joining us in prayer for the family.

2022 Offering Envelopes are Here!

Please remember to pick up your 2022 offering envelopes. They are located in the hallway of the Education wing. If you are not able to pick them up, don't worry! We will mail the remaining envelopes next week. The Financial Team greatly appreciates the use of offering envelopes, as it helps us post your contribution quickly and correctly. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to the church office. Thank you for your generous support of Central Christian Church!

Sunday (9)

Imboden Creek Worship

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall & Facebook Live & Live Stream
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live & Live Stream

Monday (10)

- 12:30-Women's Book Club, Panera
- 1:00-Golden K, Connection Café
- 5:00-Elder planning

Tuesday (11)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 407
- 5:15-Preschool Board Meeting
- 5:30-Women's Book Club, Panera
- 7:00-Millikin Heights

Wednesday (12)

- 10:00-Ministers' Meeting
- 1:30-Prayer Shawl Meeting, C. Café
- 5:00-Elders, Great Hall

Thursday (13)

- 10:00-Alanon, 340
- 4:00-Journemen 2, Connection Café
- 7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Friday (14)

Saturday (15)

Sunday (16)

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall & Facebook Live & Live Stream
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live & Live Stream

Counting On You

Friday, December 24, 2021

Total worshipping online = 129
Total worshipping in-person = 212

Sunday, December 26, 2021

Total worshipping online = 135
Total worshipping in-person = 137

Sunday, January 2, 2021

Total worshipping online = xxx
Total worshipping in-person = xxx



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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 Boyd Administrative Assistant
 Bri Lockwood..... Nursery Attendant
 Kattina WilliamsNursery Attendant
 Jim Denzer..... Caretaker
 Andrew Evans Caretaker
 Toby Jones Caretaker

Serving Schedule — Sunday, January 9, 2022

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Gretchen Kirby & Krista Rohrscheib
 9:15 - Krista Rohrscheib

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 - Charlotte Ballance & Donna Dash
 10:30 - Jan Dobbs & Suzie Miller

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - David Martin
 10:30 - Mike Kirby

"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

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 Decatur, IL 62522

