

# 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. XCIV

Decatur, Illinois, January 12, 2022

No. 2



## **Welcome Cohen Moma!**

With joy and thanksgiving, we celebrate the dedication of Cohen Brent Moma. Cohen is the son of Matt and Laura Moma, married at Central in March of 2019. Welcome Cohen!

## **Faith Quest to Begin January 29th**

With the start of a new year, a new Faith Quest class is set to begin. Faith Quest is:

- A class for youth, 6<sup>th</sup> grade or older
- A chance to talk seriously about faith in God; Jesus Christ; the meaning of baptism...
- About learning to write a faith statement and confess faith in the presence of the church
- About making the decision to be baptized

The Faith Quest class is scheduled to meet every other Saturday (from January 29 – April 9) from 9-11:30 a.m. For those youth who are ready, baptisms are planned for Easter Sunday, April 17. If you have a child or grandchild who would like to be part of Faith Quest 2022, we would love to hear from you. Please email Pastor Michael ([mkarunas@cccdisciples.org](mailto:mkarunas@cccdisciples.org)). Here is a picture from the Faith Quest 2021 class.



## **SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 2022**

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP  
IN-PERSON (SANCTUARY)  
AT 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM  
AND LIVE STREAMED ON  
[WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG](http://WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG)  
AND FACEBOOK LIVE  
AT 10:30 AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP  
IN-PERSON (GREAT HALL)  
AND LIVE STREAMED ON  
[WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG](http://WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG)  
AND FACEBOOK LIVE  
AT 9:15 AM

## ***The First Miracle***

Text: John 2:1-11  
Michael E. Karunas



### **Funeral Services for Carol Wade**

There will be a visitation for the family of Carol Wade next Friday, January 21st, at 10:00 AM, with funeral services at 11:00 AM. Both the visitation and the funeral service will be held at Central Christian Church.



### **Food Collection for NECF**

The food collection for Northeast Community Fund for February will be cereal. Please put the donations in the grocery cart in the Connection Cafe by Feb. 6. As always, thank you for your generosity.

*Thank  
You*

A very warm and sincere "Thank You" to the hard working group of volunteers that took down & stored all of Central's beautiful Christmas items. You answered the call; well done, good & faithful servants.  
- Blessings, Angie Horvath & Donna Dash

### **Still Holy**

In light of our scripture reading this past Sunday, describing the baptism of Jesus, I was reminded of my visit to that sacred place. As I have shared on other occasions, one of the highlights of my ministry has been a 2008 trip to the Holy Land (modern-day Israel/Palestine). During it, Amy and I visited many of the holy sites where some of the most significant events from Jesus' life and ministry took place. Amid all that was beautiful, sacred, awe-inspiring, and moving on that trip, there were two things that consistently caught me off-guard. The first was the "ordinariness" of the holy sites. The geographical territory of that part of the world is so small and dense – and the population so condensed within it - every day life happens right next-door to the holiest of places. Before I left, I had some expectation this would be the case, but it was still jarring to be in worship in Jerusalem and hear the pastor announce (for example), "the youth volleyball game will take place this Tuesday on the Mount of Olives." What??? A volleyball game? Right next to the Garden of Gethsemane? It still doesn't quite seem right; quite holy enough.

The second was the commercialized nature of the holy sites themselves. Though in retrospect it shouldn't have been shocking, it still somehow was – the fact that nearly every holy site had a gift shop selling pictures, postcards, and t-shirts on the premises. Nowhere were both of these more obvious than at the recognized site of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River.

In some places of the country, the Jordan River is so narrow it would more accurately be called a stream which, with a good running start, might even be jumped over. At the site called "Yardenit" however, the river widens and deepens a bit, though would still rightly be called an oversized creek or at the very most, a small river. Not more than a few hundred yards from the holy site was a bridge on which traffic zoomed back and forth, while on the other side of the bridge was a bank of office buildings in and out of which people continuously streamed.



(continued  
on page 3...)



On the day our tour group visited Yardenit, there were dozens and dozens of buses lining parking lot. Of course, Amy and I took off our shoes and got a picture standing in the water. But there was a long line of people from their own tour groups, and from countries around the world, waiting in line to stand in the water and baptize one another. In the requisite gift shop, one could purchase a baptismal robe with an ironed-on image of Jesus on the front. A videographer would record your baptism and have a DVD of it ready for you by the time you dried off. And from a wagon right outside the door, holy water from the River Jordan could be purchased in various sizes.



After Amy and I had our picture in the water, we stood above the river and next to the gift shop. As we took it all in – the bridge with traffic in the background, the Jesus-iron-on baptismal robes, the holy water sellers hawking their wares – “surreal” was the word that came to mind. The holy site seemed too contrived; too secular; too influenced by capitalism; too plain and ordinary and not “holy” enough. And yet, even in the midst of all that my mind was judging, it was still holy. And truthfully, probably as accurate a representation of what Jesus’ ministry looked like. Jesus came to bring holiness to *all* of life; to pronounce all that life has to offer holy; to make the plain, special and the profane, sacred. And that if it is up to anyone to see that and recognize it, it is not Jesus, but us.

Blessings – Michael



#### **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

#### **Monday (17)**

**Church and Office Closed**

#### **Tuesday (18)**

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café  
9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 407  
9:30-Card Ministry, 340

#### **Wednesday (19)**

10:00-Ministers’ Meeting  
2:00-Hospital Visitation Team Mtg., D.R.  
5:30-Church Council Business Mtg.

#### **Thursday (20)**

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

#### **Friday (21)**

10:00-Wade visitation

#### **Saturday (22)**

#### **Sunday (23)**

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



#### **Happy Birthday!! (1/16 - 1/22)!**

Karen Keller, Felicity Williams,  
Kaylene Beal, Audrey Miller,  
Ty Hildum, Nancy Hanover,  
Alyssa Bottom, Penny Kappler,  
Parker Campbell

#### **Counting On You**

**Sunday, January 9, 2021**

Total worshipping online = 205  
Total worshipping in-person = 145



**Serving Schedule — Sunday, January 16, 2022**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Jeannie Backes & Charlotte Ballance  
9:15 - Charlotte Ballance

**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 - Jim & Pamela Bednar  
10:30 - Bob & Mary Jane Linton

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Jim Bednar  
10:30 - Jim Hinze

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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  
Bri Lockwood ..... Nursery Attendant  
Kattina Williams ..... Nursery Attendant  
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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