

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCIV

Decatur, Illinois, January 19, 2022

No. 3



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, 6th 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). Above is a picture from the Faith Quest 2021 class.

Thank you from our youth!

Thank you so much for the support of our Art Auction Fundraiser we held in December! Through the sale of artwork and donations received, we raised almost \$900 that will go towards the cost of our mission trip to Memphis in June! Thank you again for your continued support of Central's youth program and be on the lookout for information about a dinner theater fundraiser coming later in the spring!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 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

First Things First: The First Sermon

Text: Luke 4:14-21
Michael E. Karunas



Happy Birthday!! (1/23 - 1/29)!

Pamela Bednar, Jan Baird,
Sue Ann Cain, Mary Waldmier,
Debbie Foster, Reese Mahannah,
Aden Batts, Jane Hickman,
Nola Redden



Funeral Services for Carol Wade

There will be a visitation for the family of Carol Wade this 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.



Patience: more than a Virtue

There are many wonderful discussion-worthy aspects of our scripture reading this past Sunday. Jesus' first sign: turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana. One of them, which might not be recognized as quickly as others, has to do with patience. So important to us in our life of faith, probably because nearly all of us could stand to practice it more. Think about it, how many people have you met in your life who have said, "My spiritual gift is patience," or "Patience comes so easily to me?" So for all our sakes, patience makes an appearance at the wedding in Cana.

When Mary says to Jesus, "They have no wine," she implies that he can do something about it. Of course, Jesus does do something about it. He turns water into wine. But Mary seems to imply something more; something about Jesus revealing his full identity as the son of God. We know this because Jesus answers, "My hour has not yet come." Jesus is not referring here to time as we keep it with watches and calendars. He's not wanting Mary to know that he'll get to it later in the evening, or after he's finished eating. When Jesus speaks of his "hour," he's referring to time in the largest sense; the divine, universal sense. He's referring to something more akin to his moment in history. And we know this, because at the end of the gospel, when Jesus is arrested in the garden of Gethsemane, he tells his disciples that his time *HAS* come. The moment in history was then right for him to reveal his true mission and purpose through the crucifixion and resurrection.

This tells us that the intervening three years – between the wedding in Cana at the beginning of his ministry and his arrest at the end of it – were necessary to Jesus' plan and process of salvation. Mary wanted something to happen in the moment. But Jesus' answer was "not yet," because there were still things that needed to happen in order for God's plans to be fulfilled. This is where we come in, because we often come before God asking for some action or intervention *now*, on our time. But God's answer might actually be "not yet," because the moments that lie ahead of us might be necessary to our redemption and healing.

(continued on page 3...)

The ancient Greeks – especially from the Aristotelian school – were fond of stating the “patience is a virtue.” It was one of the characteristics that, when practiced, contributed to the ideal person. For people of faith, it is more than this. It is a vital part of our redemption and salvation. As the Gospel shows, there may be things in our future that are necessary for our spiritual growth and well-being that we would not experience if not for patience. So even though the words “Have patience” are ones that not many of us want to hear, and words which can come across as condescending at times, they are nonetheless true from a spiritual perspective.



One of the best ways I heard stated the value of patience was from a Carthusian monk. He said something to this effect – *We, who walk through life with hurried steps, ask God to come to us and walk alongside us. Better is to pray to for the strength and courage to walk*

beside God, who is never in a hurry.

Blessings – Michael

Small Groups this Week

Let us know what your small group's focus is this week, and we'll let others know about it! If you would like to attend any of these groups, simply show up! If you would like more info before attending, let us know (central@cccdisciples.org).

Tuesday Journeymen (men's bible study) Connection Café at 7:00 a.m.
Conversation led by Pastor Michael on John 2:1-11

Thursday Journeymen (men's bible study) Connection Café at 4:00 p.m.
Conversation led by Pastor Michael on John 2:1-11

Koinonia (mixed small group) Room 312 at 5:30 p.m.
Discussing Tony Evans book “Kingdom Disciples” (focus on leading a Christ-centered life and sharing faith with others).



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

Monday (24)

5:30-Women's Ministry Planning, D.R.
5:30-IT Committee, Connection Café
6:00-Pastoral Support Committee, 401

Tuesday (25)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 407
5:00-Décor, Connection Café
6:00-Concert Series Committee, D.R.

Wednesday (26)

10:00-Ministers' Meeting

Thursday (27)

10:00-Alanon, 340
4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
5:30-Koinonia, 312
6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples Room
7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Friday (28)

5:00-Wedding rehearsal

Saturday (29)

9:00-Faith Quest
3:00-Wedding

Sunday (30)

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

Sunday, January 16, 2021

Total worshipping online = 196

Total worshipping in-person = 154



Serving Schedule — Sunday, January 23, 2022

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Paul Gorden & Matthew Swarthout
9:15 - Matthew Swarthout

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 1 - Donna Dash, Capt., Carolyn Sunderlik,
Dianne Devore
10:30 - Team 6 - Mark Kincaid

Greeters:

8:00 - Debbie & Jim Hoffert
10:30 - Carrie & Steve Funk

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash
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
Bri Lockwood Nursery Attendant
Kattina Williams Nursery Attendant
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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