

# The Central Visitor



Vol. XCIV

Decatur, Illinois, February 16, 2022

No. 7

## From Pastor Tina's Desk

Valentine's Greetings!

This is the month so many people do their best to share their love with one another in so many ways as we celebrate Valentine's Day.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the example of perfect love. I want to take a minute and thank you for exhibiting this kind of love.

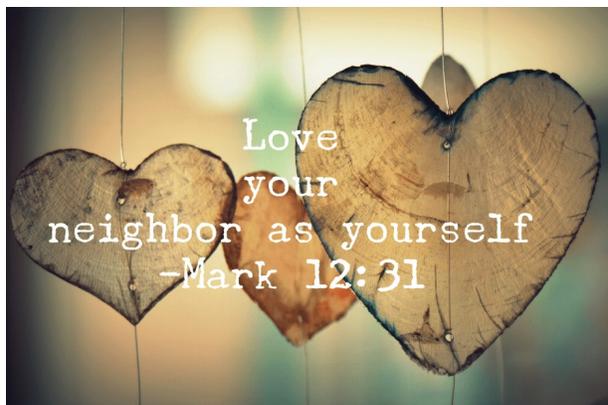
John 15:12-13 (KJV) 12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. 13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

"To love one another even as He loved us" is an action! It is a choice we make in our hearts. You all exhibit this kind of love – this unconditional, supportive, and caring love. I see it all the time as I watch and participate in worship and service here at Central Christian Church. In affection and actions, in teaching and serving, you live out John 15:12-13. You lay down your agendas and plans. You sacrifice for others. You go out of your way to make sure those around you are comfortable and cared for.

I want to encourage you during this time of year and special celebration of love, continue to appreciate and love the family of God. The family of God is a gift from God. One that we cherish and hold dear. So, THANK YOU! Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with each other and the community!  
Happy Valentine's Day!

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

Tina Miller



## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 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

Text: Luke 6: 27-38  
Michael E. Karunas



## Happy Birthday!! (2/20 - 2/26)!

Celia Johnston, Linda Shambaugh,  
Jessica Stoddard, Pat Penhallegon,  
Dianne Kirtley, Scott Gannett,  
Stacey Gannett, Clint McLeod,  
Ella Redden, Ethan Clark

**How to "Text to Give" vs. Texting for Forms/Registrations/Event Sign Ups/Etc.**

Hi everyone!  
I've had some questions about using our text number service, so I thought I'd do a quick "how to" for some clarification.  
-Kathleen :)

**Our Text Number for Giving and Forms:**  
**217-212-2173**

**"Text to Give"**

The First Time– Text GIVE to the number above– only GIVE (all caps)! You will then receive a link where you can set up your online giving account (or sign in with your text number, if you've already set up an online account). You can then tell it what you want to give and when.

Every time after that– You can text GIVE XX (where XX is the amount of money you wish to give). No need to set up the account again.

**Receiving a Form via Text/Event Sign-Ups/Prayer Requests/Visitor Forms/Etc.**

Look for the word promoted for the event or form. For example, our prayer request form's word is PRAY. The Visitor form's word is VISITOR. (These words are case-sensitive, and we try to choose words with all caps.) Text only the word we promote for the event or form (nothing else!) to our text number above. When you send this word to the text number, it sends you a link to the form for the event/ prayer request/ registration/etc., where you can fill in the information needed. If you text any additional words, the system gets confused and it will send you the Giving form instead.

Hope this helps! Have a great week!  
-Kathleen :)

**Lent 2022**

The season of Lent begins on March 2 this year (with Ash Wednesday) and culminates with Holy Week, including Palm Sunday (April 10), Maundy Thursday (April 14), and Easter Sunday (April 17). Lent is a six-week season that prepares us for the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Just as Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of Christ, Lent is a time to focus ourselves spiritually on the significance of the Jesus' sacrifice and triumph over death.

There will be many opportunities to participate in Lenten activities this year. Next week we will share more about our annual Ash Wednesday service. Additionally, we are already working with 5 youth who will be confessing their faith and getting baptized during Holy Week! Today, however, I wanted to share with you the theme for Lent 2022.



- Each Sunday for the 6 weeks of Lent, our worship emphasis will be one of the prayers Jesus prayed during – from his prayer in Gethsemane (“Not my will but thine be done”) to this prayer from the cross (“Father, Forgive them...”) along with others as well.
- We will also be asking everyone to participate in a 6-week small group during Lent. One of the focus areas of our Strategic Plan is growing small groups. This is an opportunity to do so. The small groups will follow a curriculum that goes along with the Sunday sermons. There will be a chance to get to know the other members of your small group and dig deeper into the scripture for the week. Most importantly, there will be a prayer focus for each week. The small groups will provide opportunities to share personal experiences about each prayer practice.
- Finally, we want to encourage everyone in the church to strengthen their personal prayer life. All that is preached about on Sundays and all that is discussed in the small groups is meant to support our personal prayer at home. So... we are going to set a goal and issue a challenge. For the season of Lent, we want to have our church – collectively – pray 750 hours! Where does that number come from? 150 people praying for 10 minutes a day, 5 days a week for the 6 weeks of Lent!!! We will be recording our progress in the Friendship Center every week of the Lenten season.

(continued on page 3...)

- As you can see, there will be multiple opportunities for you to commit yourself to spiritual growth during Lent 2022. And we hope you will participate as much and as often as you can. Right now, however, need your help: ***We are looking for individuals (or partners/couples) to be small group leaders.*** The curriculum is already prepared and small group leaders simply need to guide the group through the material. Small group leaders can choose the day and time of the week their small group meets. There will be a training session for all leaders once we have them in place. If you are willing to be a small group leader please contact me ([mkarunas@cccdisciples.org](mailto:mkarunas@cccdisciples.org)).

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](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org)).*

**Tuesday Journeymen** (men's bible study) Connection Café at 7:00 a.m.  
Conversation led by Brian Maple and Jim Fitzpatrick

**Thursday Journeymen** (men's bible study) Connection Café at 4:00 p.m.  
Conversation led by Michael E. Karunas

**Koinonia** (mixed small group) Room 412 at 5:30 p.m.  
Discussing Tony Evans book "Kingdom Disciples" (focus on leading a Christ-centered life and sharing faith with others).

### **Service opportunities at Good Samaritan Inn**

For the calendar year 2022, Central Christian Church has reserved five Saturdays at Good Samaritan Inn:

March 19, May 14, August 13, October 15, November 12

On each of these dates, Central will provide the food, and Central volunteers take full responsibility for preparing and serving lunch for Good Samaritan diners. If you can help, please note the dates and watch for a sign-up opportunity closer to each date. On each of these Saturdays, workers are needed 8 a.m.-10:30 a.m. to prepare the meal and 11 a.m.—1 p.m. to serve lunch. Volunteers also shop for the needed grocery supplies one or two days in advance.

If you would consider helping but would like to know more about what is involved, talk with co-chairs Dave Wagner, (217) 433-2367 or Shirley Swarthout, (217) 620-3246.

Workers from Central also volunteer at Good Samaritan on the second Monday each month, assisting the staff with preparing food and serving the meal for that day. Shifts are 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and 11 a.m.-1 p.m. For more information or to volunteer, contact Judy Ford (217) 433-1585.

The Good Samaritan Inn serves a hot, nutritious, mid-day meal to all those who need it seven days a week, year-round. All are welcome; no questions asked.

Whether on a Monday or a Saturday, new volunteers are always welcome!



### **Sunday (20)**

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 (21)**

### **Tuesday (22)**

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café  
9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 407

### **Wednesday (23)**

10:00-Ministers' Meeting

### **Thursday (24)**

10:00-Alanon, 340  
4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café  
5:30-Koinonia, 412  
6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples Room  
7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

### **Friday (25)**

### **Saturday (26)**

9:00-Faith Quest

### **Sunday (27)**

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

### **Evening Meeting Adjustments Notice**

Do you have a meeting after 4:30 PM on a week day at Central? If so, please plan to have one of your group participants be prepared to answer the door for your group members. Due to staffing issues, the church may not have anyone available to answer the call box at the West Entrance.

### **Counting On You**

**Sunday, February 13, 2022**

Total worshipping online = 287  
Total worshipping in-person = 142



**Serving Schedule —  
Sunday, February 20, 2022**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Diana Ritter & Linda Virgil  
9:15 - Diana Ritter

**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 - George & Pearl Jones  
10:30 - Dick & Sue Ann Cain

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - David Martin  
10:30 - Jim Hinze

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
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e-mail: [central@cccdisciples.org](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org)

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  
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. "PRAY" is the only word you should type. Your phone then sends you a link to the prayer request form to fill out. We would love to pray with you and follow up, if you wish.

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