

# 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, February 23, 2022

No. 8

## Week of Compassion Offering Collected this Sunday

In addition to our regular offering on Sunday 2/27, we will be collecting a special offering for the Week of Compassion for our denomination – the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Week of Compassion began in the wake of the two World Wars in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when many different peoples were forced to relocate and became refugees. It was decided that a week should be taken every year to raise money to help those displaced from their homes find safe places to relocate. Since then, Week of Compassion has branched outward and is the leader in our church's response to disasters, as well as people who continue to be displaced from their homes around the world due to war and violence. Personally, my (Pastor Michael's) life has been changed greatly by Week of Compassion. First, as a pastor in Baton Rouge, Week of Compassion came to our congregation's aid in the wake of two devastating hurricanes – Katrina (2005) and Gustav (2008). And long before that, when I was a missionary in East Germany from 1991-1993, it was Week of Compassion that paid my stipend which allowed me to be there. The pictures below depict myself and some of the refugees with whom I worked to process their requests for asylum in Germany. Were it not for my being there, I would never have ended up here. So if you would like to give to this special offering, we will have an opportunity to do so this Sunday at in-person worship. Or you can give on-line and simply look for "Week of Compassion" in the drop down menu option – Pastor Michael



## SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 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 9:28-36  
Michael E. Karunas



## Congratulations Travis Wilcoxon!!

Central member and Millikin University Biology professor Travis Wilcoxon has recently been promoted to the position of Full Professor at Millikin! We celebrate with Travis and his wonderful family this joyful news.

**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!

**Lent 2022 – Take Two**

Lent is a six-week season in the church year that precedes Easter. It's name comes from a medieval term that refers to the "lengthening" of days which occurs in the springtime. As stated in this column in last week's *Visitor*, Lent is an time to focus on our spiritual growth; to consider what it means to follow Jesus to the cross of his crucifixion and empty tomb of his resurrection. Lent always begins with Ash Wednesday (March 2, this year). It concludes with Holy Week, which begins with Palm Sunday (April 10), continues with Maundy Thursday, when Jesus held the Last Supper with his disciples (April 14) and concludes with Easter Sunday (April 17).



For Ash Wednesday, we will offer **two (2) services – 12:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.** At both services, we will impose ashes (on the back of the hand or the forehead) for anyone who wishes to receive them. We will also have communion. The only difference between the noon and evening services is that we will have music and singing during the 5:30 service but not at noon. Both services are in-person only. Additionally, we will offer "**drive thru**" ashes and a **Lenten prayer** between **12:30-12:45**. Simply line up in the West Entrance driveway. As soon as Pastor Tina and I are done with the 12:00 service, we will meet you under the West Entrance canopy.



For our **Maundy Thursday** service on **April 14**, we are planning a service that includes a dramatic re-telling of Jesus' passion interspersed with music from the choir and our musical staff. The passion story of Jesus is found, among other places in the Gospels, in Mark 14:1-16:8. It tells of the last events in Jesus' life up to his crucifixion, death and burial. We are looking for **8-10 people** who would be willing to memorize a section of that passion story and then – with a group of other storytellers - present it dramatically during the service on Maundy Thursday. We did a version of this last year, and **5 of our "actors" from 2021** are ready to encourage others to join in this year! If you are interested, you will be asked to memorize 10-12 verses of scripture and work with myself and other storytellers to present a service that is sure to be meaningful for all who attend. Though the idea of memorizing scripture can

*(continued on page 3...)*

seem intimidating, for those who embrace it, it always becomes an exercise that reveals the power of scripture in a new and memorable way! If you are interested, please email me ([mkarunas@cccdisciples.org](mailto:mkarunas@cccdisciples.org)).



Finally, our worship services during Lent will be based on a series called “Teach us to Pray: 40 Days of Prayer.” Each week, our emphasis will be one of the prayers Jesus prayed during his ministry – from his prayer in Gethsemane (“Not my will but thine be done”) to his prayer from the cross (“Father, Forgive them...”) along with others as well. Here is a sneak-peak at what to expect:

March 6	Luke 22:14-20	Pastor Michael	Theme: Thanksgiving
March 13	John 11:38-44	Pastor Michael	Theme: Dead things to Life
March 20	Luke 23:34	Pastor Tina	Theme: Forgiveness
March 27	Luke 22:39-46	Pastor Michael	Theme: Not my will...
April 3	Matthew 6:5-13	Pastor Michael	Theme: The Lord’s Prayer
April 10	John 17:20-26	Pastor Michael	Theme: Unity

**Leave Winter Behind and Move Forward with Dorcas Disciples!**

All Central women are invited to gather for warm fellowship, yummy refreshments and an opportunity to learn how we can make a positive impact on our environment. We will meet on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Disciples Room.

Please RSVP by Friday, March 11th to Nancy Ellen Taylor at 217-872-9174 or [xstr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:xstr@sbcglobal.net) to make sure we have enough delicious dessert! Contact Sandy Garver at 217-877-0800 or [revrag@comcast.net](mailto:revrag@comcast.net) for more information about mission-inspired Dorcas Disciples.

Hope to see you March 15<sup>th</sup>!

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

**will be Available Online and at the Welcome Center**

Higher education is important and valuable. It opens possibilities and helps students discover and foster unique gifts and talents and demonstrates a person’s willingness to make an investment his/her own future! Central Christian Church supports those pursuing higher education and we understand the challenges of meeting its cost. Scholarships are open to all high school graduates as well as anyone who is currently attending a college, university, technical school, vocational school, or is planning to attend one during the 2022-2023 academic year.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DATES:  
 Available: March 20, 2022  
 Return Deadline: May 6, 2022 @ 3 pm  
[www.cccdisciples.org](http://www.cccdisciples.org)

**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

**Monday (28)**

- 4:00-Small Group Leader Training, C.C.
- 5:00-Pastoral Support Comm., 401

**Tuesday (March 1)**

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

**Wednesday (2)**

- 10:00-Ministers’ Meeting

**Thursday (3)**

- 10:00-Alanon, 340
- 1:00-D.A.R., Disciples Room
- 3:00-Decatur Needle Arts, Disciples Room
- 4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
- 5:30-Koinonia, 412
- 6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples Room
- 7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

**Friday (4)**

**Saturday (5)**

**Sunday (6)**

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

**Food Collection for Northeast Community Fund for March 6th**

For March 6th, we are collecting donations of cereal. Please put your donations in the shopping cart in the Connection Café. Thank you for your generosity!

**Counting On You**

**Sunday, February 20, 2022**

Total worshipping online = 133  
 Total worshipping in-person = 213



**Serving Schedule —  
Sunday, February 27, 2022**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Randy Trei & David York  
9:15 - Randy Trei

**Ushers:**

8:00 - Team 1 - Donna Dash, Capt., Carolyn Sunderlik,  
Dianne Devore

10:30 - Team 6 - Mark Kincaid

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Al & Chris Fagin  
10:30 - Andy & Theresa Fulk

**P.A. Operator:**

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

**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 Pastor 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).

**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

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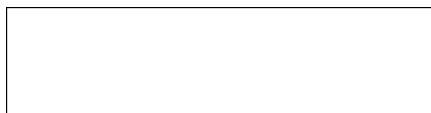
To "like" hit the thumbs-up icon.  
To "follow" click on the ellipse icon (...).  
You will see a list of options pop up.  
Find the option marked "follow" and click on that.



**Prayer Request Text-In!**

Have a prayer request? Text "PRAY" (all caps) to 217-212-2173, or use the QR code to the left. "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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