

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCIV

Decatur, Illinois, March 23, 2022

No. 12

Holy Week Schedule

Sunday, April 10

Palm Sunday

- 8:00 a.m. Worship as usual
9:15 a.m. Mason Miller will make his confession of faith
10:30 a.m. Jaxon Flower & Jane Osman making their confessions of faith
11:45 a.m. All-church fellowship meal
Menu: Glazed ham, hash brown casserole, southern style green beans, rolls and dessert. RSVP by April 7th. Call Central's office (217-428-4336), email us (central@cccdisciples.org), or click [HERE](#)).

Thursday, April 14

Maundy Thursday

- 6:30 p.m. Dramatic re-telling of the Passion Story of Jesus Christ with Music

Saturday, April 16

Easter Saturday

- 10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt (ages birth through 5th grade)

Sunday, April 17

Easter Sunday

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
9:15 a.m. Contemporary worship
10:30 a.m. Lauren & Joslin McLemore making their confessions of faith
Jaxon Flower, Lauren McLemore, Joslin McLemore, Mason Miller, and Jane Osman will all be baptized

(Though not part of our annual and traditional Holy Week services, the next two events listed are likewise important to keep on your calendar. They are unique to this year's preparation for Easter.)

Sunday, April 3

- 2:00 p.m. Dr. Troy Castle, Millikin University School of Music, will offer a concert as part of our Central Concert Series.

Friday, April 15

- 11:00 a.m. Memorial service for former member, Claudine Nichols.
A visitation will precede the service, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 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

Teach Us to Pray: Not My Will...

Text: Luke 22: 39-46
Michael E. Karunas

Welcome New Member!

We welcomed Laura McCain-Beatty to the Central family this past Sunday at the 10:30 service.

Laura lives on W. Wood (near the church) and regularly uses our Little Free Library with her children (Elijah, age 3 and Tamara, age 1).
Welcome Laura!





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

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Bruce Campbell &
Kevin Wilmot

9:15 - Bruce Campbell

March Prep Deacons: Donna Dash &
Christine Lyman-Harm

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Jane Davis & Mike Munos

10:30 - Mike & Gretchen Kirby

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 - Al & Chris Fagin

10:30 - Carrie & Steve Funk

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash

10:30 - Keith Backes

Thanks from the French family

Many thanks to our awesome Central family and staff for all of your prayers and good wishes. The sunshine in the sanctuary and the many members attending the beautiful service for Jon was very uplifting. The gifts of cards, memorials, food, and visits were so comforting. Sincerely grateful for all your support.

-Jane, Karen, and Nancy French

Thanks from Millikin Faculty

Dear Central Christian Church,
Thank you so much for flexibly hosting us for the Schubertiade for Peace concert on Monday, March 14. We are so grateful to perform in such a beautiful space and to make connections in the community. We raised \$1488 in donations to UNICEF—Ukraine, which I will earmark as our joint efforts. Thank you again. We hope to collaborate again soon. —Warmly, Amy Catron

Take Jesus' Cue

Spring Greetings!

Spring is finally here! Spring brings the opportunity to slow down and appreciate long days and pleasant nights. One goal I have for this Spring is to do just that: *slow down!* I have been thinking about what it means to slow down. I examined the speed of Jesus' activity as it is related in Scripture, and I learned the pace at which he lived. Jesus walked. He did not run. He moved from place to place doing ministry work and service. He stopped to eat, to rest, and to pray. Then, he walked to the next place. He acted with intentionality, firmness of purpose, and resilience. Jesus wants the same for us. How would our own productivity, relaxation, and peace improve if we followed the cue from Jesus's pace.

Slowing down and productivity contradict each other. Jesus had time for both. Jesus only did what he saw God the Father do. His work was intentional and very productive (or fruitful). I ask myself, "Does my activity and hurriedness result in growing good fruit?" If the answer is, "No." Then, I check my heart's intention. "Am I working out of my human strength or am I collaborating with Jesus?" We know that we can do nothing apart from him (John 15:5). Better production of good fruit is a result of following Jesus' cue to slow our pace to match his.

Relaxation may not be a word normally associated with Jesus. Dallas Willard was asked for one word he would use to describe Jesus. His responded, "relaxed." Jesus was relaxed. Please bear in mind the definition of relaxed is *free from anxiety*. Jesus did not allow anxiety to influence his ministry. He wants us to be anxiety free. I like what writer, Amy Swanson said about being anxious for nothing.

Being anxious for nothing means trusting the plan, purpose, and sovereignty of God as His kingdom purposes are fulfilled in all manners of circumstance. It means recognizing that all circumstances can be used by God for His glory and praise (Philippians 4:6).

Better relaxation is a result of following Jesus' cue to be less anxious.

Jesus' is the Prince of Peace. Jesus offers the gift of his peace to us (John 14:27). This peace involves joy, contentment, and spiritual adequacy in Christ. Better peace is a result of following Jesus' cue to receive the gift of peace by faith and walking accordingly.

Be encouraged this Spring season, to move with intentionality, firmness of purpose, and resilience. Slow down, relax, trust God, receive the gift of peace by faith, and enjoy long days and pleasant nights.

Peace,

Tina Miller

Further reading: Fadling, Alan. *An Unhurried Life*. InterVarsity Press.

Small Groups this Week

For the next six (6) weeks – starting March 8 and going through April 17 – the following small groups will be meeting at the following times. All small groups will be discussing the same curriculum – "Teach us to Pray: 40 Days of Prayer." Feel free to join any of the groups (even if you haven't signed up yet). You may still sign up at the Welcome Center, or you can email central@cccdisciples.org, or you may click [HERE](#) to sign up online.

(continued on page 3...)

Sundays	9:15 a.m.	Room 340	Charlotte Ballance and Brian & Kim Maple
Tuesdays	7:00 a.m.	Café	Jim Fitzpatrick and Pastor Michael
Tuesdays	6:00 p.m.	Room 412	Gretchen & Mike Kirby
Tuesdays	7:00 p.m.	Zoom only	David York <i>(call office for the zoom link)</i>
Thursdays	10:00 a.m.	Great Hall	Pastor Tina
Thursdays	4:00 p.m.	Café	Jack Dixon and Paul Gorden
Thursdays	6:00 p.m.	Café	Travis Wilcoxon



Additionally, the following group will also be meeting:

Koinonia (mixed small group)

Thursdays 5:00 p.m. Room 412

Discussing Tony Evans book "Kingdom Disciples" (focus on leading a Christ-centered life and sharing faith with others).

Why Prayer is Important

As our focus during Lent has been on prayer, we wanted to share these thoughts from the highly esteemed Charles Stanley. This came out of one of our small groups and is good spiritual nourishment for all of us when considering the importance of prayer:

Prayer is THE most important thing we do! Prayer...

- *Is the method by which God meets our needs*
- *Comforts us*
- *Strengthens us in time of temptation*
- *Is an opportunity to confess our sins to God*
- *Is a source of guidance*
- *Helps us understand God's Word*
- *Is a shield of anxiety and worry*
- *Gives us courage and confidence when facing life's challenges*
- *Is a source of healing, both emotional and physical*
- *Is the means by which we receive the Holy Spirit*
- *Allows us to affect the life of anyone in the world with the grace of God*

Elderberries Meal on April 13th!

There will be an Elderberries program on April 13th, with the theme, "April Showers Bring May Flowers". Entertainment will begin at 11:30 AM, and the lunch will be start at noon. Menu: Grilled foot-long hot dogs, Cowboy beans, oriental cole slaw, ice cream bars, cookie. \$6.00 donation. RSVP by calling the church office, emailing central@cccdisciples.org, or sign up at the Welcome Center.


Back The Beard Fundraiser: April 16th, 4:30 PM

A fundraiser is being held for Matt Andrews, former principal of Dennis School and former attendee of Central, as he battles brain cancer. It will be 4/16, 4:30 PM, Circle South, in Clinton, IL. Check out this article for more info: [CLICK HERE](#)

Food Collection for Northeast Community Fund for April

For April 3rd, we are collecting donations of cereal. Please put your donations in the shopping cart in the Connection Café. Thank you for your generosity!

Birthdays 3/27 to 4/2: Matthew Baird, Bradley Cain, Christine

 Lyman-Harm, Christen McLeod, Nancy Ellen Taylor, Mac Funk, Luke Kirby, Calvin McLeod, Tatum Little, Janice Woolen

Sunday (27)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall
& Facebook Live & Live Stream
9:15-Maple/Ballance Small Group
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
& Facebook Live & Live Stream
4:00-Youth Group

Monday (28)

5:15-Preschool Board Meeting, C. Café

Tuesday (29)

7:00-Fitzpatrick/Karunas Small Group,
Connection Café
9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 407
6:00-Kirby Small Group, 412
6:00-Concert Series Committee, D.R.
7:00-York Small Group, Zoom

Wednesday (30)

10:00-Ministers' Meeting

Thursday (31)

10:00-Alanon, 340
10:00-Miller Small Group, Great Hall
4:00-Gorden/Dixon Small Group,
Connection Café
5:00-Koinonia, 412
6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples Room
6:00-Wilcoxon Small Group, C. Café
7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Friday (April 1)

Saturday (2)

Sunday (3)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall
& Facebook Live & Live Stream
9:15-Maple/Ballance Small Group
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
& Facebook Live & Live Stream
2:00-Castle & Wang vocal & piano
concert, Sanctuary
4:00-Youth Group

New address for Morris Birkhead!

**Villas at Hollybrook
1815 Towanda Barnes Road, #21
Bloomington, IL 61705**

Counting On You

Sunday, March 20, 2022

Total worshipping online = 154
Total worshipping in-person = 195

Dueling Pianos! March 25th, 7:00 PM

Come enjoy an evening of beautiful music with Herb Buffington, organist, and Randy Frieling, pianist.

Organist Herbert Buffington has performed in major venues including Washington National Cathedral, National City Christian Church, the Peabody Conservatory of Music, Duke University Chapel, the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, the Savannah Music Festival and the Westobou Festival. He won second place and the coveted audience award in the American Guild of Organists National Competition in Organ Improvisation and his work has been featured on Minnesota Public Radio's "Performance Today" and American Public Media's "Pipedreams". His recordings are on the Sonare label.

Herbert was the Organist and Associate Choirmaster at Peachtree Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Atlanta, Georgia for 25 years.

Pianist Randall Frieling has performed throughout North America and Europe as a soloist, accompanist and chamber musician. He has taught piano and organ for 34 years at three Indiana Universities and served as accompanist for the summer program of the American Boychoir School. He has performed on PBS televised broadcasts and was a featured performer on Indiana Public Radio. In addition, Frieling is a regular accompanist for the National Youth Choir at Carnegie Hall.

Randall has been a Director of Music, Organist and Pianist for several Indiana churches including Central Christian, St. Paul's Episcopal and Pendleton United Methodist. Frieling is currently the Director of Music and Worship Arts and Organist at the First Presbyterian Church in Mount Dora, Florida.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Now available online (cccdisciples.org or snap QR code to right) and at the Welcome Center.



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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
Kattina Williams Nursery Attendant
Andrew Evans Caretaker
Cheri Russell..... Caretaker

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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.



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.



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Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
650 West William Street
Decatur, IL 62522

