

# The Central Visitor



Vol. XCIV

Decatur, Illinois, April 6, 2022

No. 14

## Spring Events for Children, Youth and Families

Sunday, April 10 Palm Sunday  
10:30 a.m. - We're bringing back the Palm Parade! Children and youth of all ages are invited (parents too)! We'll gather in the Gallery at 10:15 and then process into the sanctuary on the opening hymn!

Saturday, April 16 Easter Saturday  
10:00 a.m. – Outdoor Easter Egg Hunt! (Games and crafts as well)

Sunday, May 15  
12:00 p.m. – All-church picnic with outdoor games and activities

Sunday, May 22  
8:00, 9:15 and 10:30 services – Graduation Sunday. We will celebrate the end of the school year for all students of all ages!



## Outdoor Clean Up

Help us get our campus and neighborhood cleaned up for Easter! There will be an all-church outdoor clean-up on **Saturday, April 9**. We'll begin at **9:00 a.m.** and continue until we are done (usually by around 11 a.m. or so).

## Easter Lilies

Central will be selling Easter lilies on Sunday, April 10th. Each lily is \$20.00. You may email the church office [central@cccdisciples.org](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org) or call (217-428-4336) to reserve your lily and mail or bring in a check or cash. Lilies may be picked up after the 10:30 AM Easter worship service. If you are unable to make the pickup time, they may be picked up from the church on Tuesday, April 19th or Wednesday, April 20th, in the Connection Café (the church is closed on Monday April 18th).



## SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 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**

## *Teach Us to Pray: In God's Hands*

Text: John 17:20-26  
Michael E. Karunas



## Happy Birthday!! (3/27 - 4/2)!

Hilary Critchfield, Mike Munos,  
Bobby Munos, Nancy King,  
Joan Smith, Steve Swarthout,  
Steven Brooks, Sally McLemore,  
Frances Grizzle, Kathy Kauzlarich,  
Melissa Scircle, Clara Damery,  
Hannah Brimner, Hadley Fultz



**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](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org), or sign up at the Welcome Center.



**GoFundMe Opportunity to Support Choral Interns**

Two of our Millikin choral interns – Spencer Domer and Sam Moore – have been invited to sing with Faith Community Lutheran Church of Las Vegas for an 8-day choral residency in the St. Alban's Cathedral (England) this summer. The experience will consist of daily evensong and anthems under the direction of Dr. Joe Svendsen. They are looking to raise funds to offset their expenses. If you would like to offer your support, you may donate to their GoFundMe campaign. [CLICK HERE](#) to see their GoFundMe page.

**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](#)

**Looking Inward**

This past Sunday our focus on worship was the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:5-13). As Jesus introduced us to this prayer, the larger point he was making had to do with how prayer is something that is personal – between God and us. Whatever words we utter in prayer must be our own. It is not important that they impress others or that they meet any criteria of "rightness." What matters is that they are genuine, honest and spoken from our hearts.

It is appropriate that we explored that passage during the season of Lent. The weeks leading up to Easter have always been an opportunity for believers to look inward; inside themselves. For the path to Christ, as well as the indwelling of Christ, is found within us. It is only there that we see ourselves as we truly are – in all our broken woundedness, along with our potential for redemption.

This past week, I pulled a book off my bookshelf from Thomas Merton and wanted to share some of his thoughts with you today. They connect with this idea of looking inward. Merton was born in 1915 in France but was raised the United States and attended college in New York City. As a young man, he converted to Catholicism in the late 1930s and shortly thereafter entered a Cistercian monastery where he would spend the remainder of his life. The Cistercians followed the Benedictine Rule and maintained a strict vow of silence. Despite his commitment to silence, Merton was a prolific writer on many topics, not the least of which was the Spiritual Life.



*(From "Through the Year with Thomas Merton")*

*Let there be someplace in which you can breathe naturally, quietly, and not have to take your breath in continuously short gasps. A place where your mind can be idle and forget its concerns; where it can descend into silence and worship the Father in secret. There can be contemplation where there is no secret...*

*For the great temptation of the modern person is not physical solitude but immersion in the mass of others... escape into the great formless sea of irresponsibility which is the crowd. There is actually no more dangerous solitude than that of the one who is lost in a crowd; who does not know they are alone and who does not function as a person in the community either. They do not face the risks of true solitude or its responsibilities, and at the same time the multitude has taken all other responsibilities off their shoulders...*

*(continued on page 3...)*

*But we cannot truly be ourselves until we know ourselves. And self-knowledge is impossible when thoughtless and automatic activity keeps our souls in confusion. To know ourselves, it is not necessary to cease all activity in order to think about ourselves. That would be useless, and maybe even harmful. But we have to cut down our activity to the point where we can think calmly and reasonably about our actions. We cannot begin to know ourselves until we can see real reasons for why we do the things we do, and we cannot be ourselves until our actions correspond to our intentions. But that is enough. It is not necessary that we meet some external standard of success in everything we do. A person can be perfect and still reap no fruit from their work, and it may happen that a person who is able to accomplish very little is much of a person than another who seems to accomplish very much.*



**Sunday (10) - Palm Sunday!**

**Imboden Creek Worship**

- 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
- 11:45-Fellowship Meal
- 4:00-Youth Group
- 5:30-Maundy Thursday Practice, Sanct.

**Monday (11)**

- 12:30-Women’s Book Club, Panera
- 1:00-Golden K, Disciples Room
- 5:00-Elder Planning
- 5:30-Maundy Thursday practice, Sanct.

**Tuesday (12)**

- 7:00-Fitzpatrick/Karunas Small Group, CC
- 9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 407
- 5:30-Maundy Thursday practice, Sanct.
- 5:30-Women’s Book Club, Panera
- 6:00-Kirby Small Group, 412
- 7:00-York Small Group, Zoom
- 7:00-Millikin Heights, Disciples Room

**Wednesday (13)**

- 10:00-Ministers’ Meeting
- 11:30-Elderberries program & luncheon
- 5:00-Elders, Great Hall

**Thursday (14)**

- 10:00-Alanon, 340
- 10:00-Miller Small Group, Great Hall
- 4:00-Gorden/Dixon Small Group, C. Café
- 5:00-Koinonia, 412
- 6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples Room
- 6:00-Wilcoxon Small Group, C. Café
- 6:30-Maundy Thursday service
- 7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

**Friday (15)**

- 10:00-C.Nichols visitation & funeral

**Saturday (16)**

- 10:00-Egg Hunt

**Sunday (17) - Easter!**

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

Blessings – Michael

**Small Groups this Week**

*Through April 17th, 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](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org), or you may click [HERE](#) to sign up online.*

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).

**In Sympathy We Mourn**



We share sympathy with the family of Warren Berner, who passed away last week. Warren, and his late wife Azalee, were longtime members and faithful supporters of Central and its ministries. He was well into his 99<sup>th</sup> year and remained his humorous self until the very end. A graveside memorial service for Warren in his hometown of Marshall, IL is being planned for sometime later this Spring.

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

Now available online ([cccdisciples.org](http://cccdisciples.org) or snap QR code to right) and at the Welcome Center.



**Counting On You**

**Sunday, April 3, 2022**

Total worshipping online = 121  
Total worshipping in-person = 227



**Serving Schedule — Sunday, April 10, 2022**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Jack Dixon & Paul Gorden  
9:15 - Paul Gorden

**Imboden Worship Elders:**

Randy Trei & Gretchen Kirby

**April Prep Deacons:** Donna Dash and Gregg & Linda Foltz

**Offering Deacons:**

8:00 - Bob Muschal  
10:30 - Audrey Miller & Andrea Shartzter

**Ushers:**

8:00 - Team 2 - Becky Johnston, Capt., Bruce & Liz Campbell  
10:30 - Team 7 - George Virgil, Capt., Linda Virgil, Hugh & Linda Rowden

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Donna Dash & Karen Penn  
10:30 - Jean & Jud Pease

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - TBD  
10:30 - Mike Kirby

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
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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  
Abigail Smith ..... Nursery Attendant  
Andrew Evans ..... Caretaker  
Cheri Russell ..... 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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