

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, May 18, 2022

No. 20



Welcome Ben Hawkinson... For Good this Time!

A year ago, as we were anticipating the retirement of our Minister of Music, Don Martin, we hired Dr. Ben Hawkinson to serve as an interim choir director. Over the past 10 months and through many conversations and wonderful worship experiences, it has become clear that both Ben and the congregation would like this arrangement to continue. As an added blessing, we have been able to get to know Aubrey (both musically and otherwise) and their wonderful children, Liam and Eli. Thus it is with great pleasure

that we announce that Ben Hawkinson is no longer the "interim" choir director at Central, but rather just our choir director, a position we look forward to him occupying long into the future! Welcome Ben ... again!

Youth Announcements

First, I want to say a big thank you to everyone for all of the support and donations on Sunday at our Lip Synch Battle. We had a lot of fun and raised over \$900 to put towards our mission trip this June! A special thank you to Keith and Jeannie Backes and Travis Wilcoxon for preparing the food.

Second, our stockpile of books for the Little Free Library has run out. We will be collecting children's books and young adult books for the next two Sundays (5/22 and 5/29).

Finally, the last day that we will be collecting bottle caps is Sunday, 5/29. After that, we will finish sorting the caps and place our order for the benches.

If you have any questions, please contact David Martin.



Spring Events for Children, Youth, and Families

Sunday, May 22nd at 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!

SUNDAY, MAY 22, 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

Getting Unstuck from Grief

Text: Luke 24: 28-35
Michael E. Karunas



Happy Birthday!! (5/22 - 5/28)!

Cheri Russell, Kirsten Kilday,
Cindy Funk, Ben Quigg, Jean Pease,
Kelly Swallow, Christine Swim,
Linda Zinn, Douglas Taylor,
Julie Jacoby, Kristi Niles,
Kate Matherly



Volunteer Opportunities

The **Good Samaritan Inn** is seeking volunteers on specific dates in May and June. Shifts are 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and 11 a.m.-1 p.m. You can volunteer for one or both shifts. If you can help on any of the dates below, please contact Good Samaritan directly, (217) 429-1455 or Outreach@GoodSamInn.org

Saturday, May 21
 Monday, May 23
 Tuesday May 24
 Wednesday, May 25 (a.m. only)

Friday, May 27
 Sunday May 29
 Tuesday, May 31

Saturday, June 4
 Sunday, June 5
 Saturday, June 11
 Wednesday, June 15
 Saturday, June 18
 Sunday, June 19
 Wednesday, June 22
 Friday, June 24
 Monday, June 27
 Tuesday, June 28

Also, **The University of Illinois Extension office** is looking for groups to assist with gardening and other outdoor work at **Crossings Healthcare** every 2nd Saturday during the growing season for things like planting, mulching, winterizing, cleanup, etc. For more information, email Allison at ARaiha@crossinghealthcare.org.

And... As always, cereal is still needed at **Northeast Community Fund**. Also in the summer time, we try to collect foods that kids can prepare for themselves. Please help fill the grocery cart in the Connection Café. The next collection will be June 5. Thanks for your generosity.

Vacation Bible School – Looking for Volunteers

After a couple years of fits, starts, and abbreviated programming due to the COVID pandemic, we are looking forward to a Vacation Bible School in a way that feels like what we have traditionally done. This year's VBS will be held: Monday – Thursday (4 days), June 20-23 from 9 – 11 a.m. The theme is Passport to Peace, and things are beginning to take shape as we speak. The overall director of VBS this year will be David Martin. Alongside David, our Christian Education committee has been hard at work laying the groundwork for what we anticipate being a great week!



What we are want to share with you now is our list of Volunteer Opportunities. In the coming weeks, there will be a chance to donate snacks and craft supplies (if that is your gift). And for the programming part of VBS, we have already secured Team Leaders for each of our key areas. Beside their names (below) you will see the number of “assistant volunteers” those team leaders would like to have join them. If you would like to join a particular team leader, please contact the church office and let us know. You will also see a space marked “Other.” If you are happy filling in wherever you might be needed – or cannot commit to being an assistant for one of the team leaders – feel to free to let us know that as well. You may also sign up online by clicking [HERE](#).

Pre-K children	Ellen Damery	(1-2 volunteers)
Opening worship	Pastor Michael	(2 volunteers)
Games	David Martin	(2 volunteers)
Snacks	Gretchen Kirby	(3 volunteers)
Crafts	Diana Ritter	(3 volunteers)
Bible Story Time	Zach Martin	(1 volunteer)
Crew Leaders	Ashley Swallow	(6 volunteers)
Other		

Blessings – Michael

“Right in Front of Our Eyes”

On Mother's Day this year, Jeannie Backes gave the elders meditation at the communion table. The sermon theme for that day focused on how sometimes that answer we are looking for is right in front of our eyes. Jeannie's meditation tied in the sermon, Mother's Day and communion so well, I wanted to share it with you here.



(continued on page 3...)

I read again the words of Jesus: "I have told you and you do not believe me." It brings to mind, on this Mother's Day, the many times my mother would say something like, "Open your eyes. It's right in front of you." Or my favorite, "If it had been a snake, it would have already bitten you!" I guess we are a lot like the unbelievers in Jesus' day. We can't see sometimes what is right in front of us. And like Jesus, our loving mothers would get frustrated trying to teach us to see what is right in front of us. But now let us pause and see this communion table and remember the word of Christ – "Do this in remembrance of me." Let us humble both our hearts and minds to reflect on his deep love and great sacrifice for our salvation. As we eat this bread and drink this cup, may we carry this moment – which is right in front of us – with us throughout this week.



INVITATION TO ATTEND ECCLESIA/FELLOWSHIP

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Room 340, 9:15—10:15 a.m.

During the pandemic, the Ecclesia/Fellowship Adult Sunday School Class suspended meeting as a class. We are reorganizing and would like for you to join us. We enjoy fellowship and Bible study using the "Seasons of the Spirit" Revised Common Lectionary materials. We would love to have you join us. Just show up and you will be warmly welcomed! Hope we see you there!

Small Groups this Week

If you're in a small group, let us know what your small group's focus is for the 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 information before attending, let us know (central@ccdisciples.org).

Sundays - Ecclesia (mixed Sunday School class)

Room 340 at 9:15 a.m.

Reading through the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum.

Tuesday Journeymen (men's bible study)

Connection Café at 7:00 a.m.

Conversation led by Brian Maple, Jim Fitzpatrick, or Pastor Michael

Thursday Journeymen (men's bible study)

Connection Café at 4:00 p.m.

Conversation led by Jack Dixon or Paul Gorden

Thursdays - 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).

Summer Job Opportunity



Dickson Valley Camp and Retreat Center in Newark, IL, is seeking summer staff. DV is a Christian organization that runs summer camps for kids. They are looking for summer camp

counselors and other staff, generally older high school students as well as college students home for the summer. These are paid positions! For more information on open positions, job descriptions, compensation, and more, contact dicksonvalley.com/workdv.

Sunday (22) - Graduation Sunday!

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 (23)

5:15-Preschool Board Meeting

Tuesday (24)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R

Wednesday (25)

10:00-Ministers' Meeting

Thursday (26)

10:00-Alanon, 340

4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

5:00-Koinonia, 412

6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples Room

7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Friday (27)

Saturday (28)

Sunday (29)

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, May 15, 2022

Total worshipping online = 159

Total worshipping in-person = 231



Serving Schedule — Sunday, May 22, 2022

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Bruce Campbell & David York
9:15 - David York

May Prep Deacons: Carrie & Steve Funk, Linda Zinn

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Sid & Krista Rohrscheib
10:30 - Dale Ford & Steve Swarhout

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt.,
Jim & Pamela Bednar
10:30 - Team 8 - Need help

Greeters:

8:00 - Gene & Sandy Garver
10:30 - Brett Swallow

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash
10:30 - Mike Kirby

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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
Bri Lockwood Nursery Attendant
Andrew Evans Caretaker
Jenny Goodman Caretaker
Sam Hawkinson 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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