

# The Central Visitor



Vol. XCIV

Decatur, Illinois, August 31, 2022

No. 33

## Important News about *The Visitor*

Beginning the week of Monday, October 3, Central's weekly newsletter – *The Visitor* – will be printed every other week. This will be true for both the online and the U.S.-mailed paper copies. This change is due to many factors. In the last five years – including the pandemic – our world has changed greatly, as has our staff configuration at the church. We are doing more and more communicating digitally and thus are able to send out information quicker, easier, and in a variety of ways. Since we first began the online option nearly 10 years ago, we have been sending out weekly digital as well as mail-out copies for those who wanted them. In the last several years, however, more people are converting from the paper copy to the digital one. Additionally, since the pandemic, there are many weeks when church staff is working harder to find content for a weekly newsletter. Mostly, however, this change will allow our office staff to work more effectively and efficiently in helping us carry out the ministries of the church.

That said, we are confident that this change will not affect anyone's ability to be informed by whatever we communicate about what is happening within our faith family. To help ensure this is the case:

- We are making this announcement now to provide sufficient time for everyone to prepare for the change;
- We will continue printing and mailing a copy of the every-other-week newsletter to whomever wishes to receive one;
- We will most likely send out brief updates through our email marketing service on the "off weeks" when *The Visitor* is not printed;
- We will make sure two week's-worth of calendar information is in every *Visitor* (and we may utilize the Sunday worship bulletins and Connect sheets in new ways);
- Anyone who receives a mailed copy and feels they are not getting necessary information from the church can contact the church at any time.

## Welcome New Member!

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Jody Sears to the Central family! Jody was a member of Central for many years – having been raised in our congregation. She was even a member of the Cradle Roll as a baby! Life took her in different directions, but she has found her way home and we are thankful she did. Jody is a longtime resident of the West End and the sister of Linda Foltz. She is pictured here with Linda (left). Welcome Jody!

## SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 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

***Walk By Faith: Run By Faith...  
Don't Walk***

Text: Hebrews 12:1-2  
Michael E. Karunas

# Welcome



**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](mailto: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 4:15 p.m.

Conversation led by Jack Dixon or Pastor Michael

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).



**School Supply Donations**

Christian Ed Dept will be collecting school supplies for Franklin/Grove school.

The supplies that are needed are: Crayola crayons, washable markers, colored pencils, glue sticks, bottles of white glue, and ear buds. The black trunks will be placed in the Friendship Center for you to place your supplies. We will be collecting supplies during August and deliver to the school in early September. Thank you.

**Making Meaningful Connections**

I recently joined a clergy devotional group. We meet 90 minutes every other week virtually. Three of us are in Illinois, and two are located in Kentucky. The focus of the conversations is a handbook based on the writings of Thomas Merton entitled, *Bridges to Contemplative Living*. This past week's theme was "Purity of Heart," and Merton believed this was rooted in humility. To be pure in heart, he said, is to "renounce all deluded images of ourselves," as well as "all exaggerated estimates of our own capacities" so that we might obey God's will for us. He then said that meditation is necessary for this to happen:

*Meditation is then ordered to this new insight, this direct knowledge of the self in its higher aspect. What am I? I am myself a word spoken by God. Can God speak a word that does not have any meaning?*

As part of our discussion, each of us was asked to identify the word or phrase that stood out to us in the much longer reading from which I've quoted just a part. For me, it was that last sentence from the quote above: Can God speak a word that does not have any meaning? Clearly, this is a rhetorical question, and the answer is "no." Isaiah 55:11 says, "...My word that goes out from my mouth shall not return to me empty but shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it." And Psalm 139:14 says "I praise you (O God), for I am fearfully and wonderfully made." If each of us is a word spoken by God, of course we have meaning. It says so right there in scripture.

But what is more intriguing for me is how words really only have meaning when placed in context with other words. Alone, a single word merely signifies or represents something or possibly a variety of "somethings." But only when connected with other words does it have the potential to convey many meanings. It is not enough, then, that we exist as a creature "fearfully and wonderfully made" by God. For us to accomplish any kind of purpose at all is to build connections with others. It is in our connections with others that we realize the full potential of what would otherwise lay dormant inside us if we remain isolated or disconnected.



Perhaps this is the "deluded images" and "exaggerated estimates of ourselves" Merton seeks for us to renounce; the feeling that we are somehow great and worthy on our own – simply existing as we are and for ourselves alone. And perhaps that is further why Jesus instructed us to "love our neighbor" as the greatest of all commandments. For love is that divine force that always draws us outside ourselves and seeks to make connections – with others, with our true selves and with God. And perhaps – having a less self-aggrandizing view of ourselves and seeking rather, in humility, to make connections with others – would be a good "cross" for us to "take up" as we seek to follow Christ today.

Blessings – Michael

### **Food Collection for September 11th**

For over 10 years, each month CACS (Christian Action Community Service) department of CCC has collected hundreds of boxes of cereal and cans of non-perishable food for Northeast Community Fund. Your generosity has provided much needed food to our community. Recently our grocery cart has not been filled each month, but the need continues.

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the September collection date will be Sept. 11. As usual, your donations can be placed in the grocery cart in the Connection Cafe at any time. Let's FILL THE CART again!!!

Thank you very much.

### **2nd Monday Good Samaritan Volunteering**

The second Monday of each month, volunteers from CCC help prepare and serve lunch at Good Samaritan Inn. Shifts to work are 9:00a.m. - 11:00a.m. to prepare and 11:30a.m. - 1:30p.m. to serve (standing for 2 hours). It's very rewarding work and much appreciated. If this appeals to you and you have the time to give, call or text Judy Ford at 217-433-1585.

### **Meet, Greet, and Mix-It-Up with Dorcas Disciples!**

All Central women are invited to gather in fellowship and service on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Disciples Room. Meet and greet Melissa Miller, Central's Preschool Director, and then have fun mixing-it-up with other Central women. Enjoy refreshments while learning about Dorcas' 2022-2023 program year.

RSVP by Friday, September 16th to Nancy Ellen Taylor at 217-872-9174 or [xstr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:xstr@sbcglobal.net) to make sure we have enough goodies. Contact Sandy Garver at 217-877-0800 or [revrag@comcast.net](mailto:revrag@comcast.net) for more information about Dorcas Disciples. Hope to see you September 20th!

### **Seeking Hospital Visitors**

Would you like to help Central Christian Church care for our members who are sick or injured? We have a team of members who volunteer to call or visit our members who are hospitalized. Each volunteer takes 1 day of the week (or more if desired) and volunteers to visit or call whoever is in the hospital on that day of the week (if there is anyone in the hospital that day). Right now, we need people to call those hospitalized at St. Mary's for 2 days of the week. If you are interested in this vital ministry to care for our members, please contact either Sue Burkham or the church office at 217-428-4336.



#### **Sunday (4)**

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

#### **Monday (5) - Labor Day Church & Office Closed**

#### **Tuesday (6)**

##### **First Day of Preschool!!**

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:15-Prayer Group, Connection Café
- 9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
- 9:30-Card Ministry, 340

#### **Wednesday (7)**

- 10:15-Preschool Chapel, FC
- 1:00-DOVE Kids' Clothing Room open
- 5:00-PR Committee

#### **Thursday (8)**

- 10:00-Alanon, 340
- 4:15-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
- 5:00-Christian Ed., 340
- 7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

#### **Friday (9)**

#### **Saturday (10)**

#### **Sunday (11)**

##### **Imboden Worship**

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 9:15-Sunday School
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall & Facebook Live & Live Stream
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live & Live Stream
- 4:00-Youth Group



#### **Happy Birthday!! (9/4—9/10)**

Marty Heick, David Miller,  
John Wagner, Julie Martin,  
Avery Martin, Kelly Hildum,  
James Ferrebee, Andrea Shartzter,  
Don Boyd

#### **Counting On You**

**Sunday, August 28, 2022**

Total worshipping online = 156  
Total worshipping in-person = 229



**Serving Schedule — Sunday, September 4, 2022**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Dick Cain & Matthew Swarthout  
9:15 - Matthew Swarthout

**September Prep Deacons:** Carol Bischoff, Susan Bryant,  
Carolyn Sunderlik

**Offering Deacons:**

8:00 - Charlotte Ballance & Carolyn McCall  
9:15 - Sandy Schultz  
10:30 - Cole Shartzter & Kevin Wilmot

**Ushers:**

8:00 - Team 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Jim Bednar  
10:30 - Team 8 - Tom & Diana Ritter, David Sheffer

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Donna Dash  
9:15 - Dave & Cheryl Zollinger  
10:30 - Jean & Jud Pease

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Donna Dash  
10:30 - Keith Backes

**Liturgist:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Tom Ritter  
9:15 - Jodi Downs

**2nd Monday Women’s Book Club**  
**(12:30 PM, Panera) is reading...**

Sept. 12—Wish You Were Here by Jodi Piccoult  
Oct. 10—Black Cake by Charmaine Wilkerson  
Nov. 14—Magnolia Palace by Fiona Davis  
Dec. 12—The Christmas Promise by Richard Paul Evans

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Michael E. Karunas .....Senior Minister  
David Martin .....Youth Director  
Ben Hawkinson ..... Director of Music  
Vicky Woolridge ..... Pastor for Families  
Don Martin.....Visitation Associate  
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  
Jenny Goodman ..... Caretaker  
Sam Hawkinson..... Caretaker  
Cheri Russell..... 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 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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