

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCIV

Decatur, Illinois, September 7, 2022

No. 34

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.

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.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 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 15:1-10
Michael E. Karunas

New Koinonia Bible Study

The Koinonia Bible Study invites you to join us as we begin our exciting new Bible study, "Sermon on the Mount" by Jen Wilkins. We will be navigating the first three chapters of Matthew as they were originally heard: as one cohesive, well-ordered message intended to challenge us to think differently about what it means to be a follower of Christ. We hope you will join us as we begin this study on Thurs., 9/29, 6:30 PM in Room 412. Contact Angie Horvath, 972-8294, or Liz Campbell, 521-5995, by 9/23 to order a book or if you have any questions.

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@cccdisciples.org).

Sundays - Ecclesia

(mixed Sunday School class)

Room 340 at 9:15 a.m.

Study and lively discussion of scripture based on the "Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum.

All are welcome.

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 "Sermon on the Mount" by Jen Wilkin: Most of us have only encountered the Sermon on the Mount in fragments--a study on blessedness; a reflection on the Lord's Prayer; a discussion of religious devotion, money, ambition, and relationships. But what if we navigated these three chapters in Matthew as they were originally heard: as one cohesive, well-ordered message intended to challenge us to think differently about what it means to be a follower of Christ? This nine-session study invites you to do just that. Come be exhorted and equipped by the greatest sermon ever preached.

Preaching and Worship in 2023

In early October, I will be taking a few days of private study to plan worship themes for the entire 2023 year! Currently, we plan worship themes about 2-3 months in advance, but I've always wanted to be more advanced and organized in planning the overall shape of worship. So I'm very much looking forward to this opportunity to get away and think of little else but this. The context is a workshop that is being led by two pastors in our region. I will be one of a dozen participants. From what I gather, each of us will plan for the upcoming year in a way that is unique to our own ministry situation and thus different from everyone else's.



As I prepare for this event – and this planning – I want to invite you to be part of it along with me. Below, you will see several questions. When I attend the workshop a month from now, I will be prepared to incorporate answers to these questions in my preaching and worship planning for 2023. So, I would truly love to have as many of you as possible answer these questions and send me your responses (mkarunas@cccdisciples.org). Write as much or as little as you would like. I cannot promise I will preach exactly what you wish to hear in 2023, but I can promise I will read everything you share with me and consider it a worthy gift. Should you share anything personal, I will protect your confidentiality or will consult you first before mentioning anything specific.

What is it about our congregation that you appreciate most?

What do you think our congregation (and Decatur community) is most anxious about?

What big life events will you be observing in 2023 (e.g. milestones, significant changes, anniversaries)?

If I, Michael, were to preach on a topic in 2023 that would inspire you to invite a friend to worship, what would it be?

What is one (1) question you wish you could ask God right now?

What is one (1) book of the bible you would like to know more about ?

What is one part of your life you are struggling with?

Blessings – Michael

Sing-With-the-Choir-Sunday!

As our choir director Dr. Hawkinson announced last week, Sunday September 18 will be "Sing-With-the-Choir-Sunday" at the 10:30 service. The goal is to double the size of the choir for one day, experience what great fun it is to sing with others, and to sing with some wonderful people! If you've thought about singing, "used" to sing but now no longer do, or if you just want to try something new, this day is for you! Everyone – existing choir members and guests for the day – will gather in the sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. to a rehearse a piece that no one has seen before! That part is important. Everyone will be starting out on equal footing. After rehearsing for a bit, there will be a break for some breakfast refreshments in the Connection Café before singing during worship at 10:30.

In Sympathy We Mourn

We grieve with the family of Karen Baird her passing on Thursday, Sept. 1st. According to her son, Karen – who had been in hospice for some time now – spent her last few days in conversation with close friends and her last few hours with her son and daughter by her side. A memorial service will take place sometime in October – Karen's favorite month. We will let you know more about the specifics as we have them. Thank you for keeping Karen's family in your prayers.

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.

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

All Central women are invited to gather in fellowship and service on Tuesday, September 20th 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 to make sure we have enough goodies. Contact Sandy Garver at 217-877-0800 or 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 (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

Monday (12)

- 9:00-Good Samaritan volunteering
- 12:30-Women's Book Club, Panera
- 1:00-Golden K, Disciples Room
- 1:00-DOVE Kids' Clothing Room open
- 3:00-Support Staff meeting
- 5:00-Elder Planning

Tuesday (13)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:15-Prayer Group, Connection Café
- 9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
- 5:30-Women's Book Club, Panera
- 7:00-Millikin Heights, Disciples Room

Wednesday (14)

- 10:15-Preschool Chapel, FC
- 1:00-DOVE Kids' Clothing Room open
- 5:00-Elders, Great Hall

Thursday (15)

- 10:00-Alanon, 340
- 4:15-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
- 5:00-Koinonia, 412
- 6:00-Concert Series Comm., C. Café
- 7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Friday (16)

Saturday (17)

Sunday (18)

- 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

Counting On You

Sunday, September 4, 2022

Total worshipping online = 105

Total worshipping in-person = 212



Serving Schedule — Sunday, September 11, 2022

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Bruce Campbell & Kevin Wilmot
9:15 - Kevin Wilmot

Imboden Creek Worship Elders:

Jeannie Backes & Charlotte Ballance

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

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - David & Nancy King
9:15 - Kim York
10:30 - Roberta Gorden & David Wagner

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 4 - Hazel Perry, Capt., Karen Penn,
Charlotte Ballance
10:30 - Team 9 - Kim Miller, Capt., Audrey Miller

Greeters:

8:00 - Donna Dash & Gail Prince
9:15 - Deb & Randy Trei
10:30 - Gregg & Linda Foltz

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Jim Bednar
10:30 - Mike Kirby

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Diana Ritter
9:15 - Isabella Karunas



Happy Birthday!! (9/11—9/17)

Chris Fagin, John Gill, Deonne Orvis,
Doug Soebbing, Shirley Swarthout,
Matthew Swarthout, Karen Thomas, Dan Brintlinger,
Linda Rowden

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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

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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 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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