

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCIV

Decatur, Illinois, September 21, 2022

No. 36

Welcome New Members!

What a great day we had this past Sunday! Four new members joined the Central family! First, Ron and Angie Ingram transferred their membership at the 9:15 service. Ron and Angie had been looking for a church to attend for some time and “visited” a lot of churches online. Central’s was one of them. Attending online led them to begin attending in person this past spring, and they both said they felt “at home” here and appreciated the inclusive spirit at Central. At the 10:30 service, two of our Millikin choir interns, Spencer Domer and Sam Moore, both joined Central. Both are seniors and are beginning their third year of singing with us. They are pictured below with our guest preacher for the day, Alex Ruth. Welcome all!



Congratulations Donna!



Our own Donna Dash has been elected to the Decatur Public Schools Athletic Hall of Fame! In high school, Donna was on two state championship fast pitch softball teams (along with our own Linda Janvrin Zinn, and coached by Don Dobbs, father of Ron Dobbs). As an educator, Donna taught physical education, health, and driver’s education. Along the way, she coached softball, volleyball, and/or track from 1971-2005. She was always an advocate for women’s sports and considers it a blessing to have coached “hundreds of all-around great young ladies.” No doubt Donna Dash was likewise an inspiration in countless ways along the way.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 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

Noticing What Matters Most

Text: Luke 16:19-31
Michael E. Karunas



News from the Preschool...

For all those on Facebook, we encourage you to “like” our preschool’s page. It is “Central Christian Preschool.” Whenever you see something posted there that you like, feel free to share to your own page. Help us get the word out about the great things happening at our preschool!

Small Groups this Week

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 5:00 p.m.
Beginning September 29, we will be studying the Sermon on the Mount as it was originally intended- one cohesive, well-ordered message intended to challenge us to think differently about what it means to be a follower of Christ. Come be exhorted and equipped by the greatest sermon ever preached.

Memorial Service for Karen Baird



We will be confirming more details about this service as the date approaches, but for now you are invited to mark your calendars for Saturday, Oct. 22 at 3:00 p.m. That will be the date and time of the memorial service that the children of Karen Baird are planning for their mother.

Looking in, Reaching Out

When asked about the greatest of all the commandments, Jesus was quick to answer - Love God and love your neighbor. The greatest singular commandment is really two, or at least one in two parts. The life of faith contains an "internal" component – looking inward and discovering the God who seeks to connect with each of us. It also contains an "external" component – reaching out to serve the needs of one's neighbor. This is the theme that will guide our worship for the next month. Our new sermon series is titled "Looking In, Reaching Out." There will be four (4) things you can look forward to as part of this series and worship theme.



Worship

Our sermons will draw from some of Jesus' stories and experiences from the Gospel of Luke. Here is what you can expect us to cover each week:

| | | |
|--------------|---|---------------|
| September 25 | The Rich Man and Lazarus | Luke 16:19-31 |
| October 2 | The Mustard Seed | Luke 17:5-10 |
| October 9 | Persistence in Prayer | Luke 18:1-8 |
| October 16 | The Gratitude of the 10 th Leper | Luke 17:11-19 |

Weekly Challenges

At the beginning of the series, on September 18, we will encourage everyone pick up a workbook that we'll be providing. Each week, the workbook will offer two (2) challenges meant to enhance the theme. First, a "looking in" component will be a invitation to do some self-reflection on an aspect of the scripture for that week. It is not necessarily meant to be shared but rather an opportunity to engage God's call on our lives in a personal way. Second, a "reaching out" component will be an invitation to do some activity with the other members of your household, also suggested by the themes of that week's scripture.

Stewardship and Testimony

This sermon series is meant to coincide with our annual emphasis on stewardship as we think about planning for the 2023 financial year. It will culminate with Consecration Sunday when we will be asking God to bless the Estimate of Giving cards that we will have received. Each week in worship, one of our members will speak – not so much on the theme of why they give to the church, but rather *how they have grown spiritually by their participation at Central*.

Small Group

Every Monday from 5:30 – 6:30 (September 26 – October 17), Pastors Michael and Vicky will jointly lead small group experience at the church. This is meant to be inter-generational and for the *entire family* (children are more than welcome). Each week's experience stands on its own, (*continued on page 3...*)

so feel free to come and go as often as you can and/or whenever it is convenient. There will be a bible study and then a hands-on activity that draws on the “reaching out” theme for the week.



- Week 1 (September 26): Pray for the neighbors in our church’s neighborhood
- Week 2 (October 3): Make birdfeeders
- Week 3 (October 10): Decorate, sign and mail “praying for you” greeting cards
- Week 4 (October 17): Make blessing boards

Blessings – Michael

Reconciliation Offering to Combat Racism

September 25 and October 2, Disciples of Christ congregations are collecting a special offering to support our Reconciliation Ministry. Reconciliation is defined as the action of making one view or belief compatible with another. As we follow the daily news, it seems as though reconciliation is out of reach. Tensions between people, acts of violence, natural disasters – the list goes on and on. We feel more separated than ever. All of creation longs for the revelation of God’s presence. But here is the good news – we are God’s children, loved and entrusted with the sacred responsibility to care for each other and the earth we live on. Out of nothing, God created heaven and earth and breathed life into a separated, broken void. Through God, all we are and everything we know is connected. As God’s people His breath is in us, giving us the same power and authority to connect that which has been separated. In March, 2022 your generous giving to Reconciliation Ministry helped fund the Kirkpatrick Lecture Series of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society. The theme was “Visions of Wholeness: Systemic Racism, Antiracism, and Reconciliation in Our Shared History and Tradition.” More than 250 people, most of whom were supported in their attendance, had the chance to wrestle with the truth of their brokenness and need for healing of our fractured humanity. Reconciliation Ministry strengthens our capacity to be remembered, reconnected, and restored as God’s beloved by disrupting racism and oppression. Your generosity funds grants and education that promote restoration and healing. Your financial gifts allow the mission and ministry of our Church to realize visions of wholeness. Please give generously - we are all the beloved children of God!

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. Mostly, this change will allow our office staff to work more effectively and efficiently in helping us carry out the ministries of the church.

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.

- 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.

Sunday (25)

- 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 (26)

- 1:00-DOVE Kids’ Clothing Room open
- 5:00-Pastoral Support Committee, 401
- 5:30-“Reaching In” small groups

Tuesday (27)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:15-Prayer Group, Connection Café
- 9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
- 4:00-Heritage Renovation Committee, Conference Room

Wednesday (28)

- 10:15-Preschool Chapel, FC
- 11:30-Visitation Group, Disciples Room
- 1:00-DOVE Kids’ Clothing Room open

Thursday (29)

- 10:00-Alanon, 340
- 4:15-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
- 5:00-Koinonia, 412
- 7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Friday (30)

Saturday (October 1)

Sunday (2)

- 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

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. Thurs. 9/29, 5:00 PM in Room 412. Contact Angie Horvath, 217-972-8294, or Liz Campbell, 217-521-5995, by 9/23 to order a book or if you have any questions.

Counting On You

Sunday, September 18, 2022

Total worshipping online = 93
Total worshipping in-person = 217

**Serving Schedule —
Sunday, September 25, 2022**



Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Diana Ritter & David Wagner
9:15 - David Wagner

September Prep Deacons:

Carol Bischoff, Susan Bryant, Carolyn Sunderlik

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Sid & Krista Rohrscheib
9:15 - Steve & Marci Baumann
10:30 - David Martin & Tom Ritter

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 1 - Donna Dash, Capt., Carolyn Sunderlik,
Dianne Devore
10:30 - Team 6 - Mark Kincaid

Greeters:

8:00 - Debbie & Jim Hoffert
9:15 - Andy & Theresa Fulk
10:30 - Dale & Judy Ford

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Pastor Michael
9:15 - Angie Horvath



Happy Birthday!! (9/25—10/1)

Mike Burkham, Ginger Morgan,
Nita Phillips, Susie Turner, Denny Zinn,
Steve Baumann, David Williams,
Jasper Woolen, Elliott Scircle, Hugh Rowden

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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
Emily Elsea Nursery Attendant
Abigail Smith Nursery Attendant
Kattina Williams 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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