

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. XCII

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No. 9



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Get Involved

All Central women are invited to the March 24th business meeting of Dorcas Disciples. We will meet in the Disciples Room at 5:45 PM for devotions, CWF Liaison Report, and important updates.

The powerful "**Human Trafficking - What to Know**" program will follow at 6:30 PM in the Great Hall and is open to **ALL Central members**. Sara Sefried, Director of Human Trafficking Services, Peoria Center for Prevention of Abuse, will share how her department is caring for victims of modern-day slavery, people exploited through force, fraud, or coercion into involuntary labor or the commercial sex trade. **DON'T MISS THIS IMPORTANT PROGRAM!**

Please contact Nancy Ellen Taylor at 217-872-9174 or xstr@sbcglobal.net to let us know that you'll join us for the March 24th meeting.

Good Samaritan Saturdays

Volunteers from Central Christian Church will prepare and serve lunch at the Good Samaritan Inn on four Saturdays this year: March 14, May 9, July 11, and Oct 17. On each of these dates the crew consists of 5-6 workers from 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. for food preparation and 12-14 workers for serving from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. A volunteer sign-up sheet for the March 14 meal will be available at the church this coming Sunday. If you can help, please sign up at the church or contact Dave Wagner or Shirley Swarthout, who together head up Central's volunteer team. You may also phone the church office, 428-4336.

Beginning Conversational Spanish Class

We are hosting another Beginning Spanish Conversations Class. This class will start on Monday, March 16th, and will run every Monday night from 5:30 - 7:00 PM until the summer in room 240. For more information, call the church office at 217-428-4336.



SUNDAY, March 8, 2020

WORSHIP AT 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

Spiritual Exercise #2: Prayer

Text: Mark 1:35

Michael E. Karunas

Preschool News

It was fitness week for our 4 year old classes this week. Pastor Michael lead the students in yoga on Monday. On Tuesday, the 4's class and pre-k class went to CrossFit Enhance for a fun, healthy workout. They also did obstacle courses in the Great Hall.

Not only was it fitness week, it was also Dr. Seuss week for the preschool. Each classroom read Seuss books, made crafts, and had table time activities related to our Seuss theme. One class even had a birthday party in honor of Dr. Seuss.

Next week is public registration for the preschool. If you know anyone who may be interested in enrolling, please send them our way!

*-Jennifer Van Dyke
Director*

Cookies for Troops

Operation Enduring Support is collecting Girl Scout Cookies to put in packages being sent overseas to our military. We will be packing 150 boxes on March 30th. There is a red box in the Connection Café for the cookies. Thank you for your generosity. -Carol Bischoff

From Tina's desk....

The past couple of weeks brought many surprises. Not the least of which was losing my voice due to illness. I had great opportunity to listen in the silence of pain and healing. So, listen I did! I listened to the still, small voice of God that told me to trust His guiding hand and to fear not as I made a third trip to the doctor's office in one week. I listened to health care professionals as they quickly determined the best course of action for an unexpected surgery. I listened to my family pray with me before surgery and again as I awakened. I listened to nurses give soft direction and care throughout my two-day hospital stay for recovery. I listened to sentiments of hope and encouragement from my church and friends. Your words spoken on my behalf filled the atmosphere of my home, the surgery room, and the hospital room. Your words spoken on my behalf stormed the gates and stood in faith for my healing. I listened. They encouraged me. God listened. He heard your prayers, and He responded with grace and mercy. I will make a full recovery. I will return to work part-time for the next two weeks according to doctor's orders, and I should be on my regular hours beginning March 16th. I plan to keep listening, and I'm excited for new, happy surprises to appear and fill our lives with joy and love! Thank you for covering me!

Peace,
Tina Miller

**Remember this coming
Sunday, March 8 to...**



Through the Lens of Home

I went home last weekend. A funeral beckoned. The pastor of my home church passed away. Mr. Fuller had served at Memorial Christian Church for 40 years. He dedicated me as an infant; baptized me as a teenager; used his contacts to help me get a job as an overseas missionary after college; encouraged me to attend his alma mater, the University of Chicago; spoke words at my father's funeral; and gave the pastoral prayer at my ordination. I simply cannot tell the story of my life without speaking about him.

RUSSELL MAXEY FULLER
1924-2020



*The eternal God is your dwelling place,
and underneath are the everlasting arms.*
Deuteronomy 33:27

The memorial service last weekend was followed by a long reception. There was no other "visitation." Both events, therefore, were great reunions. Mr. Fuller had mentored 20 people into the ministry, and many of those ministers were in attendance. So were a generation of kids and youth with whom I grew up, all of us now in our late 40s to late 50s. Our youth leaders and Sunday school teachers were there, too, many of them now in their 70s and 80s. My kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Ballard, was even there! The conversations were frantic and endless, accompanied by loud laughter and tearful hugs, as people were scrambling to check in with each other and attempted to cover 30 years' worth of activity over a plate of finger food.

Funerals are paradoxical in that way. They are simultaneously sorrowful, in that the occasion that brings people together is one of loss and deep sadness, and yet there is joy at rekindling the relationships that were the bedrock of vibrant community. So it was last Saturday. Though the service was bracketed by raucous laughter and loud conversation, during the worship itself, more than a few voices cracked when speaking about Mr. Fuller's impact on the world. As I reflected on that day on my drive back to Decatur, it strikes me that going home, itself, is paradoxical. For it is our "home" community – the one that raised us – that knew us before the world did, and probably knows the "real" us best. When Jesus went to his hometown (Mark 6), the townspeople were more than a bit amazed that Jesus became who he did. They remembered him when he was the son of a carpenter. When I was "home" last weekend, among that crowd that watched me grow up, no one reminded me of any past "mistakes" I

(continued on page 3...)

might have made, and yet I was aware that they knew me for the silliness and immaturity I might have displayed during my years among them; but on the other hand, the hometown community also knows the promise we held within us years ago and the potential we had to become someone special; and they are the ones who are most proud to hear and learn of how far we have come since we left them. I definitely felt that more than once at the reunion taking place after Mr. Fuller's service, especially in the squeeze Mrs. Ballard gave me.



So it is with our faith. By nature, to be a believer is to be both saint and sinner at the same time. We are simultaneously sinners (broken human beings living in a world marred by the Fall) and saints (redeemed by a Christ who assures us though we are *in* the world we are not *of* the world). It is during the season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes with Maundy Thursday, that this "saint-sinner paradox" is revealed like at no other time in the year. On our journey with Jesus to the cross, we are reminded of our culpability in the demise of Christ. With Judas we betray. With Peter, we deny. With the rest of the 12, we run away and desert; and yet, we are also reminded that we matter; that the gift of sacrifice and salvation is for us – even in the midst of our cooperation in the crucifixion.

To live in a state of paradox - to be humbled by the reality of death and inspired by the power of community to sustain us through it; to be confronted by our sinful tendencies, yet comforted by a love that is not threatened by them, is sometimes awkward and at other times painful and difficult; but as I think back on last week, and forward to the rest of the Lenten season that awaits, there is no place I would rather stand.

Blessings... Michael

Just Flicks presents: "Flint: The Poisoning of an American City"

On Sunday, March 8th, at 6:00 PM, "Flint: The Poisoning of an American City" will be shown at First Presbyterian Church, presented by Just Flicks. The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program funded the making of this film. Norm Jensen, a faithful Just Flicks attendee and a retired biology professor at Millikin University, will serve as our discussion leader. As always, we serve refreshments before the film.



Sunday (8)

- 8:00-Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:00-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall
- 9:00-Fellowship Coffee
- 9:00-Youth Sunday School Classes
- 9:15-Adult Sunday School Classes
- 10:30-Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 12:00-Praise Team Rehearsal
- 4:00-Youth Group
- 6:00-Woolridge Lenten Study Group, C. Café
- 6:00-Just Flicks, First Presbyterian Church, "Flint: The Poisoning of an American City"

Monday (9)

Preschool Public Registration, 8:00 AM-Noon

- 9:00-Good Sam pickup
- 12:30-Women's Book Club, Panera
- 6:00-Girl Scouts Troop #3262, Disciples Room

Tuesday (10)

Preschool Public Registration, 8:00 AM-Noon

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:00-Stitchers, 207
- 1:00-Martin Lenten Study Group, 240
- 5:30-Women's Book Club, Panera
- 5:30-Miller Lenten Study Group, 240
- 6:30-Heart & Soul Choir, Choir Room & Connection Café
- 7:00-Millikin Heights, Disciples Room

Wednesday (11)

Preschool Public Registration, 8:00 AM-Noon

- 10:15-Preschool Chapel, Friendship Center
- 10:30-Ministers' Meeting
- 5:00-Elders' Meeting, Disciples Room

Thursday (12)

Preschool Public Registration, 8:00 AM-Noon

- 10:00-Alanon, 240
- 4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
- 6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples Room
- 7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Friday (13)

Preschool Public Registration, 8:00 AM-Noon

Saturday (14)

- 8:00-Good Samaritan serving

Sunday (15)

- 8:00-Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 9:00-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall
- 9:00-Fellowship Coffee
- 9:00-Youth Sunday School Classes
- 9:15-Adult Sunday School Classes
- 10:30-Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary
- 12:00-Praise Team Rehearsal
- 4:00-Youth Group
- 6:00-Woolridge Lenten Study Group, C. Café

Counting On You

Sunday, March 1, 2020

Worship Attendance = 259

Sunday School & Small Groups = 72

Serving Schedule—Sunday, March 8, 2020

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Janet Lyman & Gail Prince
 9:00 - Gail Prince

Deacons:

8:00 - Team 3 - Jane Davis, David & Nancy King, Carolyn McCall, Bobby Munos, Mike Munos, Bob Muschal, Pat Penhallegon, Sid & Krista Rohrscheib*
 9:00 - Josiah Agar
 10:30 - Team 4 - Keith & Jeannie Backes*, Shelby Baum, Mark Beal, Jon French, Mike & Gretchen Kirby, David Martin, Seth Martin, Ron & Gwen Miller, Brittney Moran, Doug Soebbing, Matthew Swarthout

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Moran, Bobby Munos
 10:30 - Team 10 - David Martin, Capt., Matthew Swarthout, Gretchen Kirby

Greeters:

8:00 - Gene & Sandy Garver
 9:00 - Maxine Koenig/Barb Leihser/Cheryl Zollinger
 10:30 - Larry & Michele Bafford

Acolytes:

10:30 - Kellan Niles-Cox & Zedekiah Auten

P.A. Operator:

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

Preparation of Communion:

Larry & Michele Bafford, Christine Lyman-Harm*

Ride Share Drivers:

8:00 & 9:00 Services & Sunday School - Andy Fulk 454-9838
 Sunday School and 10:30 service - John Baird 429-5651

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Paul Gorden
 9:00 - Sandy Schultz

Hospitality:

9:00 - Deb Trei

Tech:

9:00 - Jodie Walwer & Mike Tanzys

Sunday School Classes	Floor	Room
Koinonia	2	212
Ecclesia	2R	240
Chalice	2	207
6th grade - 12th grade	2R	280
Kindergarten - 5th grade	2R	230
Nursery (Birth - 5 years old)	1R	150

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

March 9 8:30-12:00 - Sandy Garver
 March 10 8:30-12:00 - Gretchen Kirby
 March 11 8:30-12:00 - Pearl Jones
 March 12 8:30-12:00 - Nancy Taylor
 March 13 8:30-12:00 - Cindy Soebbing

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Michael E. Karunas.....Senior Minister
 Don Martin.....Minister of Music
 Tina Miller..... Associate Minister of CE & Family Life
 David Martin.....Youth Director
 Cordelia "Dee Dee" GainOrganist
 David Williams.....Organist
 Kathleen Dudley.....Administrative Assistant
 Yvonne Boyd.....Administrative Assistant
 Hannah Brimmer.....Social Media Coordinator
 Gabrielle Coulthard.....Nursery Attendant
 Maddie Genz.....Nursery Attendant
 Cheryl WilliamsNursery Attendant
 Kattina WilliamsNursery Attendant
 Jennifer Van Dyke.....Preschool Director
 Paula Partain.....Teacher Assistant
 Lisa Coates.....Preschool Teacher
 Amber Marshall.....Preschool Teacher
 Diana Murray.....Preschool Teacher
 Stephanie Nihiser.....Preschool Teacher
 Kay Villarreal.....Preschool Teacher
 Lora WrightLead Caretaker
 Jim Denzer.....Caretaker
 Andrew Evans.....Caretaker
 Toby Jones.....Caretaker
 Donté Morgan.....Caretaker

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