

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

Decatur, Illinois, March 11, 2020

No. 10



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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 phone the church office, 217-428-4336.

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.

More
Information



Current Information on Coronavirus

For more information on the Coronavirus, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

SUNDAY, March 15, 2020

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

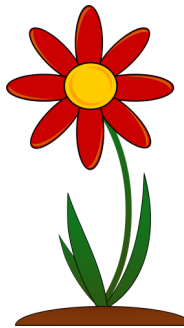
Spiritual Practice #3: Study

Text: Psalm 19:1-9

Michael E. Karunas

Preschool News

The theme of the week was SPRING in the preschool wing. As I passed through the classrooms, I saw children making robins and rainbows. The rainy weather was discussed, and a tornado drill was even requested by one of our students. The 3's class and Pre-K class ended their week by celebrating St. Patrick's Day. We will be on spring break next week when the real St. Pat's Day comes along. We are all looking forward to the warmer days that spring will bring us.



-Jennifer Van Dyke
Director



Thank You!

A special thank you to everyone who donated Girl Scout Cookies and monetary gifts to Operation Enduring Support. We appreciate your generosity. Our military will enjoy a loving box from Decatur. -Carol Bischoff

COLLEGE CARE

It is College Care package time again! This semester we are asking for gift cards to send out to the young adult college students who attend our church. The end of the semester will be here before we know it, and we want to give them a smile at the mailbox to remind them that they are still in our hearts.

We are asking for donations of \$10 gift cards to any of the following places: Target, Walmart, Taco Bell, McDonalds, Casey's General Store, Starbucks.

If you are unable to get a gift card and would rather donate money, we will gladly accept that as well. **Please turn gifts into the church office by March 23, 2020.**

Thank you for your help in sending our support to our college kids! If you have any questions, contact **Gretchen Kirby 217-433-8099.**

Mark your calendar and invite your friends!
Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 11
10 am
Birth through 5th grade.
3000 eggs!



Maintaining Communal Connections

The current conversation surrounding the coronavirus is undoubtedly news to no one, but it does call into question many of our worship practices, both from a customary and a theological standpoint. It is clear that a primary way the illness is communicated is through hand to hand contact, hand to surface contact, and an individual bringing their hand in contact with their face. To this end, "social distancing" is a term used to refer to withdrawing from public places and/or from others in public places so as to reduce the possibility of such contact.



Yet consider the impact of "social distancing" on our worship life when the primary way we greet one another in society is through the shaking of hands. We even designate time at the beginning of all three services for this purpose. Technically, we call this a "greeting" time and not a "hand-shaking" time, but it is understood that the socially acceptable method of greeting is by touching hands. Consider also that at all three services, we pass around sign up sheets and Friendship Registers (from hand to hand) to check in and register our attendance, and consider that at two of our services, the method of serving communion is by individuals passing trays to one another. There is strong theological precedent for this. Our Disciples of Christ founder, Alexander Campbell, said that when individuals serve their neighbor in the pew, they are communicating by their action, "You are my brother (sister) in Christ. As Christ has welcomed me into his arms, I embrace you with mine." To practice the very faith we profess includes a whole lot of hand-to-hand contact. By our very actions, we encourage *social closeness*, not distancing.

How do we maintain the core values and practices of our communal and corporate worship, yet also help guard against the spread of germs (be they linked to coronavirus or any other public health risk)? Here are a few thoughts:

- First, there is no easy answer, and we trust individuals to work out for themselves what makes them most comfortable.
- Second, we do not wish fundamentally to change our practices and traditions. We would like to retain the things we value as best we are able.
- Third, should you feel it safer to remain at home and watch the 10:30 live-streaming, we certainly respect that decision.
- Fourth, we believe that there are some steps we can take now, to help ensure safety. These include:
 - gloves are worn by those preparing the communion elements for Sunday morning.

(continued on page 3...)

-we have installed 6 large, industrial-sized hand sanitizers in our main areas (Café, Friendship Center coffee counter, Welcome Center, entrance to sanctuary, entrance to Great Hall, within the Great Hall). You are encouraged to use them as often as you feel necessary.

-we will continue to have a greeting, but it will be shorter and instead of being "encouraged" to shake hands (as we sometimes state or imply), you are now encouraged to wave or give some other non-hand-to-hand gesture that feels right.

-for my part, as I am probably the one who touches the most hands, I am going to make it a practice not to shake hands before and after worship and to have hand sanitizer around me at all times.

- Lastly, we remember with compassion and empathy those affected by this outbreak already, and trust that in spite of this threat and scare, we can nonetheless experience a robust and lively sense of community and communal fellowship.

[Click here](#) for a Ministries Statement from our denomination about the Coronavirus and links to other related information (or visit www.disciples.org and search "general ministries").

Blessings... Michael

In Sympathy We Mourn

Central member Marjorie Alyce Fitch (formerly active) passed away recently. Funeral services will be Friday, March 20, 2020, at 11:00 a.m., at Brintlinger and Earl Funeral Home, Decatur, IL, with visitation one hour prior to service time at the funeral home. Burial to follow services at Fairlawn Cemetery, Decatur, IL. Pastor Tina will be presiding at Marjorie's service. We thank you for keeping the Fitch family in your prayers.

Save the Date: Special Events & Worship Services

March 19th: 6:00 PM, The College of Wooster Chorus, First Presbyterian Church
March 20th: 7:30 PM, Compos(Her), Millikin University, Kaeuper Hall
April 9th: 7:00 PM, Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary
April 10th: 5:30 PM, Good Friday Service, Great Hall
April 11th: 10:00 AM, Easter Egg Hunt
April 12th: Easter
April 13th: Church & Office Closed

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Philippians
4:6 (niv)



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

Monday (16)

Preschool Break

10:00-Operations Committee, Conference Rm.
5:30-Beg. Spanish Conversations Class, 240
6:00-Girl Scouts Troop #3262, Disciples Room

Tuesday (17)

General Primary Election Day

Preschool Break

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:00-Stitchers, 207
9:30-Card Ministry, 240
10:30-Staff Meeting, Conference Room
1:00-Martin Lenten Study Group, 240
5:30-Miller Lenten Study Group, 240
5:30-Preschool Board Meeting, Conf. Room
6:30-Heart & Soul Choir, Choir Room & Connection Café

Wednesday (18)

Preschool Break

10:30-Ministers' Meeting
4:15-Peace & Justice Committee, 240
5:00-Church Council Committee Meeting, Disciples Room

Thursday (19)

Preschool Break

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

Friday (20)

Preschool Break

Saturday (21)

3D Ministry Trip to American Passion Play

Sunday (22)

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 8, 2020

Worship Attendance = 254

Sunday School & Small Groups = 69

Serving Schedule—Sunday, March 15, 2020

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Krista Rohrscheib & Kim Maple
 9:00 - Kim Maple

Outreach Communion:

Bruce Campbell, Kevin Miller, Gail Prince, Claudia Quigg, Krista Rohrscheib, Linda Virgil, Vicky Woolridge

Deacons:

8:00 - Team 1 - Pamela Bednar, Al & Chris Fagin, Gene & Sandy Garver*, Debbie Hoffert, Gary Horvath, George & Pearl Jones, Gail Prince, David Wagner
 9:00 - Kim York
 10:30 - Team 2 - Pam Ferguson, Dale Ford, Roberta Gorden, Erik Harm, Thomas Karunas, Kathy Kauzlarich, Christine Lyman-Harm*, Janet Lyman, Audrey Miller, Ron Oliver, Jeannie Rade, Steve Swarthout

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 1 - Donna Dash, Capt., Carolyn Sunderlik
 10:30 - Team 6 - Mark Beal, Capt., Mark Kincaid, Susan Bryant

Greeters:

8:00 - Greg & Jo Carter
 9:00 - Cheryl Zollinger
 10:30 - John & Linda Hill

Acolytes:

10:30 - Julina & Jordan Lindsey

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash
 10:30 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

Larry & Michele Bafford, Christine Lyman-Harm*

Ride Share Drivers:

8:00 & 9:00 Services & Sunday School - Mark Beal 433-6081
 Sunday School and 10:30 service - Doug Soebbing 875-1836

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Gail Prince
 9:00 - Tina Miller

Hospitality:

9:00 - Cheryl Zollinger

Tech:

9:00 - Jodie Walwer & Mike Tanzyus

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 16 8:30-12:00 - Betty Chapman
 March 17 8:30-12:00 - Carol Bischoff
 March 18 8:30-12:00 - Karen Keller
 March 19 8:30-12:00 - Sandy Garver
 March 20 8:30-12:00 - Cindy Soebbing

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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www.cccdisciples.org
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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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