

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 18, 2020

No. 11



“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.

Congregational Response to COVID-19

By now, everyone is undoubtedly aware of recommendations by the CDC and now the White House about not meeting in gatherings of even 10 – 50 people. It is with this thought in mind that we have chosen to suspend in-person worship for the foreseeable future. This change will take place this Sunday (3/22). While we are not setting a definitive date when in-person worship will resume, we are prepared for this to be something that lasts several weeks at least.

This is not a decision that was made hastily or without much thought and prayer, nor is it one made out of fear. Instead, as people of faith who are not *of* the world, we nonetheless live *in* the world, and in the world in which we are living now, we believe this decision is the one that best respects the totality of our diverse membership. We understand that not all may agree, but we trust everyone to support the leadership of the church and this decision.

What does this mean for all of us? Several things for sure:

1. We are not cancelling worship. We will simply be offering an online experience only. You have three (3) ways to worship online.
 - At 8:00 a.m. we will offer a Facebook-live service in the sanctuary.
 - At 9:00 a.m. we will offer a Facebook-live service from the Great Hall.
 - At 10:30 a.m. we will offer a standard live-streamed service posted both to our church Facebook page and the website.
2. In keeping with governmental suggestions regarding social distancing, we will have less than 10 people producing the worship experience for you. That said, we will do our best to offer as “normal” a worship experience as possible. In planning for this already, our ministerial staff is confident you will be pleased with the interactive nature of the services.
3. This does mean that people need to be “plugged in” to participate, and that’s where we need your help:
 - If you are not on Facebook already, please open an account. You do *not* need to post any personal information on Facebook ever, but you do need an account to view our Facebook-live services.
 - If you know someone in our church who does not have a Facebook account, we would love to have you help them set one up. If you need our help, please let us know.
 - To view the 10:30 service on our website, simply go to www.cccdisciples.org and click on “Worship” and then “Live Stream.”
 - If you, or someone you know, is *not* already getting our weekly newsletter or Pastor Michael’s all-church direct emails, please let the office know and we can put you on those lists. These are the ways we will be communicating information in this ever-changing time.

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Welcome New Member!



With joy and thanksgiving we welcome Katie Fehrenbach to the Central family! Katie transferred her membership at the 9:00 service this past Sunday. Katie is the daughter of Ann Miller, niece of Laura Chapman and granddaughter of Merle Chapman (all pictured with Katie here). She teaches Chemistry at MacArthur High School. Welcome Katie!!!

Facebook Live—101

Question: What is a Facebook Live? How do I see it?

Answer: A Facebook Live is a quick way to take a video of yourself or something else and share it with an audience on Facebook. It's quick to set up, easy to use and view, and you have the ability to control the size of the audience you want to be able to see the video. It's probably the easiest way to "Live Stream" something.

To view a Facebook Live post from

Central: Log into Facebook. Click on the icon that looks like a magnifying glass ("Search"). Type in "Central Christian Church, Decatur, IL." This will give you options of pages to click on, but ours should be near the top. Click on our listing, and it will take you to our Facebook page. When the service begins recording (which will be VERY close to start time), you'll see a post pop up that says "Central Christian Church is live now," and you'll see the video playing. Click on it, and enjoy your worship experience!

Minister's Article

Obstacle or Opportunity

At the recommendation of a friend toward the end of 2019, I requested (and subsequently received) Jordan Peterson's best-selling book [12 Rules for Life](#) for Christmas. Peterson is a Canadian psychologist and his book is mixture of theological history and philosophy as well as behavioral psychology. Each chapter is dedicated to one of the 12 rules which, themselves, are pretty straightforward (always tell the truth, measure yourself against yourself and not others, etc.), however, their explanation and treatment is quite dense and each chapter therefore long. I say all of that because I just got around to finishing the book this past week. This I found ironic, as the last chapter was titled "*Pet a Cat When You Encounter One.*"



Peterson suggests that petting a dog is easy, predictable, and therefore uninteresting. We know what we're getting with dogs – a human's best friend. Dogs will always approach us with interest, will wag their tails, offer sniffs and licks, and enjoy being scratched and petted. Nothing surprising. With cats, however, we *don't* know what we're getting. A cat might run away from us or arch its back and hiss. It might be completely aloof and not deign to notice our presence, but it might also curl up on our lap, nuzzle into us deeply, and purr loudly. Precisely because we don't know what we're getting with cats, there is the possibility for great disappointment but also for great joy and gratitude.

Peterson compares this to the limited nature of being human. To be human is to have limitations – of knowledge, of ability, longevity, etc. To be human is not to know or do everything. It is to suffer grief, brokenness, injury, and death. This limitedness causes us great stress. We agonize over what we can't understand or control, but it is precisely limitation that allows us to experience transcendence. Only because I have limits, for example, can I ever rise above them. Only because I am not perfect can I experience and recognize glimpses of perfection. Only because there is a goal I have never before accomplished is there the possibility of that goal one day being attained.

Earlier, I mentioned it was "ironic" that I completed this book last week because of how the emergence of the Coronavirus has invaded our lives. If anything reveals to us our human limitation, this is it. There is so much beyond our control right now – from an ability to guarantee our own safety and non-exposure, to assuming that the items I want are on the shelves when I want to purchase them. Situations like these remind us that we cannot control how the next few days will unfold, let alone the trajectory of the rest of our lives.

Which brings us back to cats. For whether you are a "dog person" or "cat

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person” we have a choice. We can view COVID-19 as an obstacle or an opportunity. Focusing on it as an obstacle is easy. It’s the predictable way we usually view disruptions to our schedule, feeling disappointment and aggravation at best or fear and grief at worst along the way. Or we can be surprised by what this time in our history allows us to do; asking “*What is the unique opportunity ‘social distancing’ gives us the chance to explore?*” Is a time of self-quarantine an opportunity to do something at home we’ve been neglecting? Does it invite us to reach out and connect with someone we’ve been putting off because we’ve been “too busy”? Is it giving us a chance to be more “still” – as Psalm 46:10 instructs – and see God in stillness and rest?

I don’t know how you may answer this question, but I do pray we think of cats this week. Life is indeed unpredictable, and in its unpredictability reveals obstacles that bring to light our limited and finite nature, but at the same time, and often in the very same events and circumstances, there are opportunities to be amazed, joyful, and grateful in ways which, because of our limited nature, we may have never before considered.

Blessings... Michael

Congregational Response to COVID-19 (continued from page 1)

4. We will be updating the schedule each week as far as when groups will be meeting. Currently, nearly all in-person meetings, groups, and classes have been suspended through March 30.
5. We are already working on a plan to make sure that every person in our church community is contacted directly, by a pastor, elder, or deacon, once a week and anticipate utilizing video conferencing to carry out other business of the church.
6. For the time being, the office will remain open as normal (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.). You are free to call (217-428-4336) or email (central@cccdisciples.org) and someone should always be there to answer.

The emergence of the Coronavirus is forcing all of us to adapt to new ways of living. The church is not immune. So much of our identity is shaped on physical togetherness and the notion of “two or three” being present, but your executive and ministerial team is confident! Confident that this time in our history is not an *obstacle* to our togetherness, but an *opportunity* to experience new ways of connecting, and confident in our collective ability to endure and come through this an even stronger community of faith than we are already!

In Christ and in one another we put our trust...

Michael Karunas
Gregg Foltz, president

Tina Miller
Brett Swallow, vice-president

Don Martin

Food Collection for April 5th



The food collection for April 5 for Northeast Community Fund is cereal, canned soup, & canned tomato products. You may drop these items off at the church during office hours, Monday—Friday, 8:00AM—5:00PM. Thank you for your help.



Sunday (22)

8:00-Traditional Worship Service, Facebook Live

9:00-Contemporary Worship, Facebook Live
10:30-Traditional Worship Service, Live Stream

6:00-Woolridge Lenten Study Group, Zoom

Monday (23)

6:00-Pastoral Support Comm., Conf. Room

Tuesday (24)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
5:30-Miller Lenten Study Group, TBA

Wednesday (25)

10:30-Ministers' Meeting
5:30-Contemporary Worship Meeting

Thursday (26)

10:00-Alanon, 240
4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

Friday (27)

Saturday (28)

Sunday (29)

8:00-Traditional Worship Service, Facebook Live

9:00-Contemporary Worship, Facebook Live
10:30-Traditional Worship Service, Live Stream

6:00-Woolridge Lenten Study Group, Zoom

Counting On You

Sunday, March 15, 2020

Worship Attendance = 173

Sunday School & Small Groups = 69



Don't let what
you *cannot do*
interfere with
what you *can do*.

JOHN WOODEN

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

March 23 8:30-12:00 - None
 March 24 8:30-12:00 - None
 March 25 8:30-12:00 - None
 March 26 8:30-12:00 - None
 March 27 8:30-12:00 - None

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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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