

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, October 28, 2020

No. 43



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Day of Scripture and Prayer

We are calling ourselves to a "Day of Scripture and Prayer" on **Wednesday, 10/28 (TODAY)**. Today, we ask you to join us in spending whatever time you can (5-15 minutes) and offer a prayer for our nation and our world. In an age where division and difference seem to be present everywhere and where spiritual matters seem to have been super-ceded by secular self-interest, we ask you to join in praying for unity, wholeness and togetherness. To assist in this regard:

- We are offering several scripture passages you may read as part of your prayer time.
- The sanctuary will be open at 5:30 p.m. **TODAY (10/28)**. Our pastors will lead a time of scripture and prayer. This will likely last about 10-15 minutes. Following this, you will be invited to remain in silent prayer of your own in the sanctuary until such time as you are ready to depart. Usual Sunday morning procedures (social distancing, sign in, masks until seated, etc...) will be in place.

Scripture passages:

2 Chronicles 7:11-16

I Timothy 2:1-4

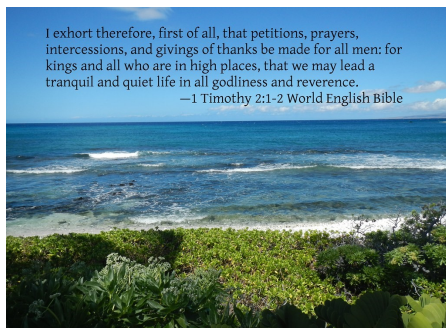
Psalms 33:10-12

Micah 6:6-8

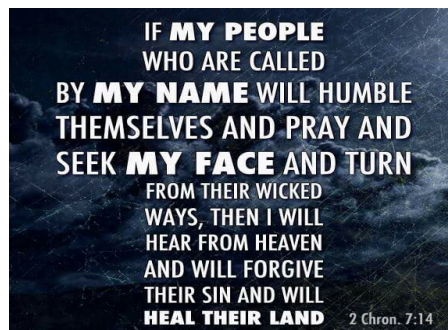
John 15:9-17

Romans 13:10

I Peter 2:15-17



I exhort therefore, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and givings of thanks be made for all men: for kings and all who are in high places, that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and reverence.
—1 Timothy 2:1-2 World English Bible



IF MY PEOPLE
WHO ARE CALLED
BY MY NAME WILL HUMBLE
THEMSELVES AND PRAY AND
SEEK MY FACE AND TURN
FROM THEIR WICKED
WAYS, THEN I WILL
HEAR FROM HEAVEN
AND WILL FORGIVE
THEIR SIN AND WILL
HEAL THEIR LAND
2 Chron. 7:14

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2020

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP LIVE
STREAMED ON
WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG
AND IN-PERSON - SANCTUARY
AT 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP ON
FACEBOOK LIVE
AND IN-PERSON - GREAT HALL
AT 9:15 a.m.

Across the Great Divide

Text: John 14:1-7
Don Martin

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Many thanks for your continued support of Central Christian Church! If you have not had an opportunity to return your Estimate of Giving card, it's not too late to do so via mail or in-person. Alternatively, you can submit your pledge online at cccdisciples.org > Stewardship Pledge 2021.



Tips for a safe and healthy Halloween!

(Excerpts are from the article, *Your Guide to a Safe and Happy Halloween* by Robert Preidt, *Healthday Reporter*)

"Many kids look forward to Halloween all year, and it's typical to feel some disappointment as we see how the pandemic has affected our milestone events," said pediatrician Dr. Shelly Vaziri Flais, an AAP spokesperson.

"But we can be flexible and creative, and model this for our kids, too. Halloween is not always the same," she noted. "If parents model a positive and creative spirit this year, children are more likely to pick up on those emotional cues."

Residents who plan to hand out treats should wear a cloth face covering, and consider sitting outdoors and handing out individually prepacked treat bags, the AAP suggested in a news release.

If your child goes trick or treating, wipe packages of their goodies with a sanitizing cloth or let them sit for a couple of days before letting your child dig into them.

It's also important to practice good hand hygiene -- such as washing hands or using hand sanitizer -- before and after trick-or-treating.

"This is a good time to teach children the importance of protecting not just ourselves, but each other," Flais said. "The decisions we make on this one day can have a ripple effect on our family members. We can find safe ways to celebrate and create magical memories."

More information

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has more on [holiday celebrations during the pandemic](#).

Original Article from US News and World Report, 10.26.20

<https://www.usnews.com/news/health-news/articles/2020-10-10/your-guide-to-a-safe-and-happy-halloween>

Regional Assembly Update

Every even-numbered year, our region – the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) – meets for its biennial regional assembly. This year, the even-numbered 2020 - was no different. In recent years and decades, however, this has been a multi-day event held at one of our "centrally" located cities (i.e. Bloomington, Peoria, Springfield, Champaign), and that is what made 2020's regional assembly – held last weekend – much different. It covered the duration of a single morning and... it was entirely virtual, but this past weekend's 2020 CCIW regional assembly was no less powerful.

The theme of the event was, fittingly (for a pandemic year), *"We're All in This Together."* The day began with a Zoom business meeting, where over 90 people participated. The primary item of business was electing officers and board members for the next biennium. This vote was merely a foretaste of how Central was well represented throughout the event. Mother of Central member John Neumann, Rev. Keela Neumann of First Christian Church Quincy, was named the next moderator, and our own Zach Martin was named an at-large regional board member.

Following the business meeting was a nearly two-hour virtual worship service that seemed like anything but two hours long. It was that well orchestrated and produced. Central's Zach Martin began things with a Call to Worship (note: though Zach is already the pastor of Carlock Christian Church, we still claim him as our own). The Regional Youth Council members, including one of our youth, Isabella Karunas, shared the scripture for the day. Following the sermon, Central was highlighted as first in congregational giving to Disciples Mission Fund, and perhaps the highlight of the service was a tribute given to Rev. Scott Woolridge who, as we know, is retiring at the end of this year. Scott is both a member of Central and someone who devoted the last 31 years of his life to our region as an associate regional minister. Scott was awarded a plaque with a golden hammer and the inscription, "Building God's Kingdom." Finally, his daughter Allison – opera singer and music staff member of First Christian Church, Decatur GA – sang "Be Thou My Vision."

The whole event was a good reminder of what it means to be part of the wider Disciples of Christ family and that it is true that "We're all in this Together!"

Blessings... Michael

Two Spiritual Growth Opportunities During "On the Road" Sermon Series

Accompanying the new "On the Road" sermon series will be two (2) opportunities with you to further your own spiritual growth and connect more deeply with the theme.

- Every **Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m.**, Scott and Vicky Woolridge will be hosting a virtual (Zoom) small group called **"Sharing the Journey"** (see more info elsewhere in *The Visitor*).
- Every **Tuesday evening at 5:30 p.m.**, our pastors will present a **10-minute** bible lesson on the scripture passage from the previous Sunday. This will be a **Facebook Live** presentation.

Hope you can participate in as much of these opportunities as you are able.

A few key points about the scripture will be highlighted and then 1-2 "questions for reflection" will be offered to encourage further meditation on the theme.

Virtual Small Group (Sharing the Journey)

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Matthew 18:20

We are called by Jesus to gather in his name. As we live in these days of being separated for the sake of physical safety, we are challenged to find creative ways to gather. Here's an invitation. On Sunday, Oct. 25, we offered our first gathering of *Sharing the Journey*, a small group focused on spiritual growth. This ministry is about creating community and offering opportunities for people to offer care and concern for one another. It's about living a fuller life of faith. This small group will meet virtually, on the Zoom platform, on Sunday evenings from 6:30-7:30, going through Nov. 22. It will be led by Scott and Vicky Woolridge. Each session will follow this format:

- Open with prayer.
- Read the scripture from the morning's worship service
- Reflect and discuss the scripture and sermon
- Share prayer concerns and joys, and close with prayer.

The focus and the goal is for spiritual growth, spiritual deepening, learning how to live in community, one with another, to be more vulnerable in our faith, more intimate with what we share and what we hear from one another, and ultimately to say, "To what degree does this look like the realm of God?" To join the small group discussion for any of the Sundays, simply contact the church office for the Zoom link the week prior.

Central Access Cards are now Active

Central Christian Church access cards have been reactivated but with different times & days. Access cards work at the West (main) Entrance only during the following times:

Monday thru Thursday 7:30am – 7:00pm

Friday 7:30am – 4:45pm

Cards are not active on Saturday or Sunday (with exceptions).

Please remember to follow Central's entrance protocols of Masks, Sign in, and Hand Sanitizing.

Just Flicks Zoom Conversation coming soon

Just Flicks Fans - We're having another Zoom film discussion! It will be **on Sunday, November 8 at 7:00 p.m.** We will discuss the wonderful new release, "A Most Beautiful Thing." You can stream it on NBC Peacock, which is a free service and is now available on all Comcast/Xfinity customers' television sets. Everyone else can sign up for free at <https://www.peacocktv.com> or by downloading the app. Please watch the film in advance. We are proud to have Dr. Alice Virgil as our discussion leader. You'll be interested to know that she is the daughter of Linda & George Virgil, who are Just Flicks regulars. If you are interested in participating in this Zoom conversation, email the church office at central@cccdisciples.org, and we will send you the Zoom meeting information and password.

In Sympathy We Mourn

In sympathy we mourn with the Berner family for the loss of Azalee Berner, who passed away on October 23rd, her 91st birthday. She and Warren were married for 68 years. The service (for family only) will be Saturday, October 31 at 11:00 a.m. and will be available to watch on Facebook Live on the church's Facebook page.



Sunday (November 1) - All Saints Day!

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall & Facebook Live
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream
- 12:00-Praise Team rehearsal, G. Hall
- 4:00-Youth Group In-Person

Monday (2)

Tuesday (3) - Election Day

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, Disciples Room
- 10:30-Support Staff Meeting, Conn. Café
- 5:00-Women's Group, Disciples Room

Wednesday (4)

- 10:30-Ministers' Meeting
- 5:30-Koinonia, Connection Café

Thursday (5)

- 10:00-Alanon, Disciples Room
- 4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
- 5:15-Brass Choir, Disciples Room

Friday (6)

Saturday (7)

Sunday (8)

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall & Facebook Live
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Live Stream
- 12:00-Praise Team rehearsal, G. Hall
- 4:00-Youth Group In-Person



Counting On You

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Total worshipping online = 198

Total worshipping in-person = 139



November 1st Volunteer schedule

7:45 – 9:30

Front table – Donna Dash, Carolyn Sunderlik
Ushers – Karma Lynn Carpenter, David Martin

9:00 - 10:00 Usher

Cheryl Zollinger

9:30 – 11:30

Front table – Gregg Foltz, Brian & Kim Maple
Ushers – David Martin, Ron Oliver

Elder - Brett Swallow

PA - 8:00 - Pat Penhallegon; 10:30 - Keith Backes



Happy Birthday!!

Birthdays this coming week (11/1-11/7)!

Jeannie Backes, Jahala Demoulin, Bob Linton, Mark Linton,
Carolyn McCall, Kaeden McCoy, Nolan Murray, Justin Reed,
Bryan Rutherford, Linda Virgil, Carol Withrow

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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
Paula Partain.....Preschool Staff
Lora WrightLead Caretaker
Jim Denzer.....Caretaker
Andrew Evans.....Caretaker
Toby Jones.....Caretaker

Temporary Church Office Hours as of

July 20th, 2020:

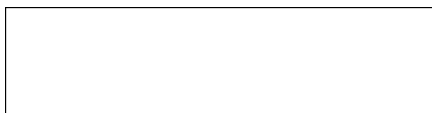
Monday through Friday

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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