

# 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. 46



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## **Obtain your Advent Candles (and Wreath) Now...**

Advent 2020 begins on Sunday, November 29 (the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend). This is the season that encompasses the 4 Sundays prior to Christmas and helps us prepare spiritually for Christ’s coming. For Advent at Central Christian 2020, we are asking you to pay attention to the following:

1. Order NOW your own advent wreath with candles OR just the advent candles. See the box to the right for a few links to show you some options. There should be 4 candles (3 purple and 1 pink). You may or may not include a wreath with those candles, and you may prefer votives to tapers, but either way, make your plans to purchase your own. During this pandemic of 2020, we have some creative ways of uniting our congregation around the advent candles (both the in-person and the on-line) with some activities that you can do at home with your household as you prepare for Christmas.
2. We plan on supplying you (the church family household) with a litany that you can recite and pray each weekend of Advent! This will be the SAME litany that we will be speaking during worship that Sunday morning! This way, you and your household can:
  - a. Participate in the litany on Sunday morning as you watch online worship
  - b. Or... if you are attending in-person worship that day, you can re-create that litany with your household at some other time that weekend.

**Note:** *The important thing is that you purchase your advent candles and/or wreath now (due to possible back-orders). We (the church) are only offering these links (to the right) as suggestions for the kinds of things to have ready by 11/29/20 (the first Sunday of Advent), and if you already have your own advent candles and/or wreath, feel free to use them.*

**Another note:** *if you have difficulty ordering things online, feel free to call Kathleen in the church office and she can assist you...*

## **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 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.

### ***On the Road: All Roads Lead Home***

Text: Matthew 25:31-40  
Michael E. Karunas

### **Advent Wreath Examples:**

- Advent wreath with candles ([click here](#))
- Advent votive candles (without holders) ([click here](#))
- Advent votives (with holders – flameless) ([click here](#))
- Advent tapers ([click here](#))

### **Hat & Glove Donations**

**The CACS committee is collecting hats and gloves in all sizes for Dove, Inc. this year.** Dove has teamed up with the Salvation Army and the Northeast Community Fund to most efficiently meet the high volume of need for assistance this year. Please drop off hats and gloves at the church. **Place them in the black trunks located at the top of the stairway in the Friendship Center before Friday, December 4th.** Thank you!

**2020 Thanksgiving Offering**

On November 22, Disciples churches across the US and Canada will collect the Thanksgiving offering. In the midst of national and global challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, our higher education institutions are facing unprecedented challenges and need our support now, more than ever. Please give generously to this year's Thanksgiving offering. Your gifts make a world of difference as Disciples continue our legacy of supporting education and our institutions of higher learning.

**Bottle Cap Update**

The youth are still collecting plastic bottle caps and lids for the recycled bench project. So far we have collected 140 pounds! We are only 60 pounds away from our goal of 200. If you have any caps or lids to donate, you can drop them off at church any day during office hours.

**COMING SOON!**

**Children's Craft Pick-up Day!**

In lieu of the Children's Craft Workshop the CE committee purchased craft bags for each child. Each bag contains:

- An Advent Calendar
- A Manger Scene Door Hanger
- Favors
- Christmas Tree Ornaments for painting including all supplies!

**Manger Bags:**

Central Christian Church Education Committee worked with Claudia Quigg, Bob Keller, and Gene and Sandy Garver to provide mangers for families with children. It comes complete with instructions. It is a nice way to remember to share the love of Christ at Christmas.



**Easter in November???**

Since the pandemic arrived in early Spring, I have spent a lot of time in our sunroom. When we moved into our current house in early summer 2016, we didn't know exactly how we would utilize a ground floor room that the previous owner added as an addition. Since it has many windows and receives plentiful sunlight through all seasons, we have called it "the sunroom," and during the shelter in place, this room became my "home within a home." It is where I held my morning devotions (as opposed to my office) and where I recorded daily devotions which were posted to Facebook. It was the place I prepared sermons and made pastoral phone calls, and it has long become my favorite location for Zoom meetings.

Through all this activity in the sunroom, I have been able to observe – first hand – the changing of the seasons from a new vantage point. At the beginning of the pandemic, there were no leaves on the trees (our sunroom backs up to a park), and our garden was void of any life at all, but over the past eight months, I have enjoyed witnessing the magnolia's petals come to life; the lilies awaken; the wildflowers rise and bend toward the sunlight; and the butterflies and bees return as the vegetable garden brought forth its growth. (Bear in mind, in no way do I have a "green thumb" nor worthy of even the title "apprentice gardener," but I have always loved having greenery and colorful flowers around me and enjoy contributing the ecosystem's flourishing in whatever way I can).



Sadly, though, as the weeks and month of the pandemic continued, that same sunroom perspective allowed me to see – first-hand – decline and decay. Today, in mid-November, the trees are just as bare as they were at the onset of shelter-in-place, and the garden is just as barren, and still, we live amid the coronavirus pandemic.



*(continued on page 3...)*

But the other day, something caught my eye. Lining the back wall of the sunroom are about 10 potted plants that have slowly created a “green wall” for my viewing enjoyment. Nestled underneath the tall, arching plants in big pots is a small plant in a small pot. Most of the year it is easily overlooked and overshadowed by its bigger siblings, but it is a Christmas Cactus, which means that is just now coming into bloom. Technically, it is a variety of *Schlumbergera*, a plant indigenous to Brazil and, as a flower of the southern hemisphere, blooms in the northern hemisphere’s falls and winters. I happened to notice my Christmas Cactus the other day, and I’m glad I did, for as the world outside was in the midst of decay and decline, here was an example of life and re-birth in the midst of death. It was a reminder of God’s desire to find new life from places in our lives that reveal only dormancy.

Easter will never be celebrated in November. But God’s ability to bring forth life from death, hope from despair, flourishing from decay, and abundance from dormancy is not bound to seasons or hemispheres. Thanks be to God!

Blessings... Michael

### Work Day this Saturday

On Saturday November 21, beginning at 9:00 a.m., we will have a work day to clean up our church lots and the block in which we reside. Everyone able to come is invited. We will provide basic equipment (lawn bags, garbage bags, rakes...) but you are welcome to bring your own equipment as you see fit. Stay for as long as you like, though in general these work days don’t take more than two hours or so. The more the merrier!



### Two Spiritual Growth Opportunities During “On the Road” Sermon Series

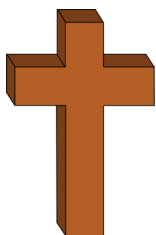
Accompanying the new “On the Road” sermon series are two (2) opportunities for you to further your own spiritual growth and connect more deeply with the theme.

- Every **Sunday evening at 6:30 p.m.**, Scott and Vicky Woolridge are hosting a virtual (Zoom) small group called “**Sharing the Journey.**” To join the small group discussion for any of the Sundays, simply contact the church office for the Zoom link the week prior. Please let us know if you would like to join this journey or have questions.
- 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.

## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Did you know... that MAX (Macon County Assistance Exchange) has been renamed DFA – Dove Financial Assistance. DFA assisted 144 households from July through October. Central’s CACS (Christian Action and Community Service) team helps fund this organization.



### In Sympathy We Mourn

In sympathy, we mourn with the family of Judy Beaman, who passed away on Monday. Judy is a former member and choir member of Central who moved to Clinton within the past 5-6 years. Please join us in prayer for her family.



### **Sunday (22)**

- 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 (23)**

### **Tuesday (24)**

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, Disciples Room
- 10:30-Youth Staff Meeting

### **Wednesday (25)**

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

### **Thursday (26) - Happy Thanksgiving!**

**CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED**

### **Friday (27)**

**CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED**

### **Saturday (28)**

### **Sunday (29) - Advent begins**

- 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

### Mark your calendars

**Vespers at Millikin** will be available for

livestream viewing:

Dec. 5 at 7 p.m.

Dec. 6 at 2 p.m.

No ticket is required.

To attend the concert go to:

<https://millikin.edu/> Or  
<https://www.facebook.com/MillikinUniversity/>

### Counting On You

**Sunday, November 15, 2020**

Total worshipping online = 317

Total worshipping in-person = 120





**November 22nd 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 – Paul Gorden, Brett Swallow  
Ushers – David Martin

**Elders** - Krista Rohrscheib, Kim Maple

**PA** - 8:00 - Pat Penhalegon; 10:30 - Keith Backes



**Happy Birthday!!**

**Birthdays this coming week (11/22-11/28)!**

Jon Backes, Nedra Brintlinger, Lisa Campbell-Hein,  
Merle Davis, Roberta Gorden, Carol Graham, Unique Hess,  
Rachel Howie, Griffin Irby, Eric Lester, Carole McClarey,  
Tripp Potter, Denise Swarhout, Brooke Swinford,  
Nancy Taylor

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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” Gain .....Organist  
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 Williams .....Nursery Attendant  
Kattina Williams .....Nursery Attendant  
Paula Partain.....Preschool Staff  
Lora Wright .....Lead Caretaker  
Jim Denzer.....Caretaker  
Andrew Evans.....Caretaker  
Toby Jones.....Caretaker

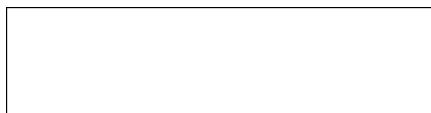
**Temporary Church Office Hours as of**

**July 20th, 2020:**

**Monday through Friday**

**8:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

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