

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCII

Decatur, Illinois, December 16, 2020

No. 50

Sign-up for Household Devotional Time at Central

From Monday (12/21) through Christmas Eve, the Sanctuary and Great Hall worship spaces will be open to welcome families and households to come and spend devotional time as Christmas approaches. We know how important being in the building is this time of year, and how many Christmas memories it holds for everyone. We therefore hope that you can "Come and find the quiet center" sometime that week. Here are the logistics:

- Families and/or households can sign up for 30 minute time slots.
- The 30 minute time slots will be available:

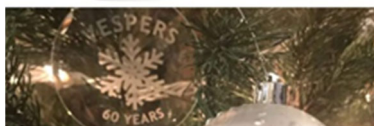
Monday 12/21 – Wednesday 12/23	9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Thursday 12/24 (Christmas Eve)	9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Call the office between 8 a.m. and 12 noon beginning Monday 12/14 to reserve a spot.
- After checking in at the West Entrance (sign in, wash hands, masks), pick up a written Christmas devotional from Pastor Don and self-serve communion.
- Leave a note at the "Christmas Connection Corner" and read the greetings left by others.
- Take a family picture in front of the Friendship Center Christmas tree.



Millikin University Vespers Anniversary CDs and Ornaments for Sale



Stop by the church daily between 8 a.m. and 12 noon to purchase a special 60th anniversary edition Vespers CD and ornament. The CD is a double disc set including the performance from 2019 along with a "best of" collection. Purchase the CDs for \$25.00, the ornament for \$20.00 or... both for \$35.00! The proceeds will be shared 50/50 between Millikin University vocal music programs and Central's choir intern program.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2020

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP LIVE

STREAMED ON

WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP ON

FACEBOOK LIVE

AT 9:15 a.m.

From Darkness to Light:

The Light Saves us For...

Text: Isaiah 9:2-9; John 1:1-5, 10-14

Michael E. Karunas

This Week in Advent

There is a lot happening this week in Advent (December 11 - 18).

- Keep building Advent Prayer Chain.
- Light the fourth advent candle on your advent wreath on Sunday, December 20.
- Sign up for a 30-minute time slot and spend some centering, devotional time as a family and/or household.
- Check out the church Facebook page every evening (Monday 12/14 – Saturday 12/19) at 6:30 to watch a staff member read a favorite Christmas story.



Merry Christmas Parents,

Please check your email for lessons and Facebook links with videos that I created to connect with your children this holiday season.



Traditional Carols That Tell the True Story of Jesus' Birth

You've sung these Christmas carols - Now discover their rich stories! This four-week, multi-media curriculum reintroduces kids to the story of Christmas through these beloved carols. Each interactive lesson reveals God's plan: Jesus!



Sunday, December 20th, 2020

Front table: Paul Gorden,
Keith & Jeannie Backes
Elder: Gail Prince
PA: David Martin

Welcome Dr. Ben Hawkinson

We are pleased to announce that Dr. Ben Hawkinson has agreed to fill the position of Interim Director of Music at Central Christian Church beginning July 1, 2021. The addition of Ben to our staff is due to the retirement of long-time Minister of Music Don Martin, effective June 30 of the coming year. Ben has been the Associate Director of Choral Programs, Vocal Jazz Area Coordinator, and Assistant Professor of Music at Millikin University since 2018. He comes to Central highly qualified, having amassed significant conducting experience both in academic and church settings. Ben received his B.M. from Northern Arizona, his M.M. from Westminster Choir College, and his D.M.A. from Texas Tech. Prior to moving to Decatur, Ben served as Director of Music at Sunrise Church of the East Valley (AZ) and Guest Conductor at Bayshore Community Congregational Church (CA). Since moving to Decatur, he has considered Central Christian his church home and was the guest conductor of our "Come Home for Christmas" traditional worship celebration in 2019.



One of his references says of him: *"(Ben) is not only a gifted individual with tremendous knowledge and skills, he is one of the nicest people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing... he radiates an outgoing and friendly persona, which rings true in everything he does. What's more, he invests fully in everything he does..."*

Ben is married to Aubrey Hawkinson, herself on the voice faculty at Millikin University. Together, they have a son, Liam, who is turning two this month, and the live in Decatur's West End. We

very much look forward to welcoming Dr. Ben Hawkinson to our staff beginning July 1, 2021!

Here are some words of greeting from Ben himself:

Central has been where Aubrey, Liam, and I, have called our church home since arriving in Decatur nearly two years ago. Between the excellent messages, welcoming community, and the high musical quality, we knew we had found a place that would support the spiritual needs of our young family. It has always been my opinion that as a church choir our charge is to "Joyfully bring the sacrifice of praise." As such, church music is a balance of building community and reaching for the excellence that the divine inspires. The musical possibilities (at Central) are many and incredibly exciting. A great debt of gratitude is owed to Don Martin who has faithfully served and led this choir for many years. In the times that Don and I have worked together, our shared love of music and savior quickly became apparent. I look forward to the opportunity to get to know you, to allow our lives to become entangled in a community of faith, and to working toward great musical moments, both large and small. There will be more in the coming weeks, but for now I leave you with a verse that both inspires and reminds me to go practice – Psalm 33:3 "Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy." – Ben Hawkinson

Blessings... Michael

Hope for the Holidays on December 16

Though the holiday season is thought of as a happy one – with families making great effort to get together and celebrate together – for those who grieve the loss of a loved one, the holidays can remind us that our family bonds have been broken; that an important person in our family traditions is no longer here. Moreover, 2020 has been a year like none other. Throughout this year, we have been asked to give up and let go of so many things that have otherwise defined us. So many events and gatherings have been cancelled this year. Even during this month, many families may be “losing” one another – not able to reunite at Christmas (or choosing not to).

For this reason, Pastor Don, Tina and Michael will be offering a Hope in the Holidays virtual only service on Wednesday, December 16 at 5:30 p.m. The service will be hosted by means of Facebook Live on the church’s Facebook page.

This is for anyone and everyone who is hurting this holiday season – either because of grief over a loved who may have died recently or long ago, or because of grief over something important lost in 2020. The service will be no longer than 30 minutes. If you can’t watch it live, it will continue to be posted to our Facebook page.

Together in Prayer

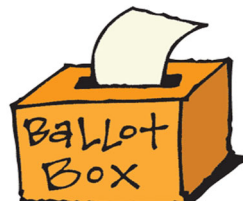
“Where two or three are gathered, I am there among them.” These familiar words of Jesus, recorded in Matthew 18:20, may have us wondering, during these days of separation, about how and when we can gather. With this promise from Jesus, let’s get creative.

You are invited to join with the Central Christian Church family for prayer by calling this number – (516) 387-8842. We will gather Monday through Friday evenings at 7pm, starting November 30 and going through Wednesday, December 23. Time will be given to share joys and concerns, and then the host will offer a prayer. It will be a 5-10 minute gathering.

During this season of Advent, as we await the coming of Christ, we can be together in prayer. You are welcome to call the prayer number every day or when your schedule allows. We hope this offering of time to pray with your church family is one more affirmation that we are in this together.

Congregational Vote Results

Thank you to all who participated in the “drive thru” congregational vote on Sunday, December 13. Both the proposed operating budget for 2021 and the nominating committee’s report were approved unanimously. The voter turnout was very high and your church leadership is particularly appreciative of this fact given that there was no in-person congregational meeting following an in-person worship as is normally the case.



Sunday (20)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Live Stream
9:15-Contemporary Worship,
Facebook Live
10:30-Traditional Worship, Live Stream
12:00-Praise Team rehearsal, G. Hall

Monday (21)

10:00-Operations Committee

Tuesday (22)

Wednesday (23)

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

Thursday (24) - Christmas Eve!

5:30-Christmas Eve Service—
Contemporary, Facebook live
7:00-Christmas Eve Service—
Traditional, Live Stream

Friday (25) - Merry Christmas!

Church & Office closed

Saturday (26)

Sunday (27)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Live Stream
9:15-Contemporary Worship,
Facebook Live
10:30-Traditional Worship, Live Stream
12:00-Praise Team rehearsal, G. Hall



Happy Birthday!!

Birthdays this coming week

(12/20-12/26)!

Jarrett Bednar, Brandon Brewer,
Trajan Campbell, Mallory Hawbaker,
Kaite Konoplisky, Dean Larrick,
Maverick Luthy, Gerri Munos,
Brandon Potter, David Scott,
Debbie Seaberg, Crystal Thicksten,
Jaydi Wagner

Counting On You

Sunday, December 13, 2020

Total (online and worship leaders) = 323

Christmas Offering received Dec. 20th



On December 20th, we will have the opportunity to give to the Christmas offering for our denomination. Our gifts support the work of regional ministries this Christmas. Your regional ministry works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our regions.

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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Telephone (217)428-4336 FAX (217)428-1700
www.cccdisciples.org
e-mail: central@cccdisciples.org

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



"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.

Temporary Church Office Hours as of
December 1st, 2020:
Monday through Friday
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

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