

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCIII

Decatur, Illinois, October 6, 2021

No. 40

"All Hands on Deck" Small Groups (week 5)

For those that are unable to be part of one of our "All Hands on Deck" small groups, but would still like to be part of what the groups are doing, here is the curriculum for week 5. The theme is "Generosity."



Introduction

- *Who taught you the most about what it means to be "generous?" What did they do?*
- *When you think about your own life, is it more natural for you to be generous with:*
 - *Your time? Your finances? Your work (service)? Other?*

Word

- *Read Acts 2:41-47*
 - *Make a list of the characteristics of the early church. What were the specific things they were doing? What defined them as a church?*
 - *How many of them do we practice today? Give examples of where we see them in our congregational life today.*
 - *What do you think it means that their "hearts were generous" (v. 46)?*
- *When you make financial donations, what motivates you to do so?*
 - *Do you like to see how your gift makes an impact?*
 - *Are there other reasons that motivate you to give?*
- *When we, as a church, make financial donations, what should be our guiding motivation? Make a list of as many as you can think of.*
 - *If you have more than one item on your list, how would rank them in terms of importance?*

Prayer

- *Close with a prayer that gives thanks for God's generosity toward us and which asks for the grace to be generous toward others.*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
IN-PERSON (SANCTUARY)
AT 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
AND LIVE STREAMED ON
WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG
AND FACEBOOK LIVE
AT 10:30 AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
IN-PERSON (GREAT HALL)
AND LIVE STREAMED ON
WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG
AND FACEBOOK LIVE
AT 9:15 AM

Teamwork!

Text: Neh. 3; 1 Cor. 12: 4-7, 12-13
Tina Miller



Happy Birthday!! (10/10 - 10/16)!

Jon French, Bob Keller, Mike Sperry,
Don Martin, Jane Latshaw, Joy Potter,
Michelle Econie, Shelly Challans,
Ryan Campbell

Ideas from "101 Fun Fall Activities for Kids"

1. Visit an apple orchard.
2. Build a scarecrow stuffed with newspaper.
3. Make a [classic apple crisp](#).
4. Have an apple cider "tea" party.
5. Bake apple chips.
6. [Make super-easy crafts](#) — using only three supplies or less.
7. Paint wooden crafts.
8. Make [handprint leaves](#).
9. Create [leaf rubbings](#).
10. Read some autumn-themed children's books.
11. Make popcorn balls.
12. Stuff leaves into bags and decorate them like pumpkins.
13. Take a hayride.
14. Decorate stationery with [homemade leaf stamps](#).
15. Play "I Spy" during a nature walk.
16. Collect and identify leaves.
17. Visit a zoo.
18. Get lost in a corn maze.
19. Press leaves into a photo album.
20. Check out a haunted house.
21. Gather twigs, seedlings and fall leaves and make [nature crafts](#).
22. Enter your decorated pumpkin into a local contest, or have your own contest!
23. Visit a pick-your-own pumpkin patch.
24. Create a holiday centerpiece out of gourds.
25. Toast the [pumpkin seeds](#) from your carved pumpkin.
26. Make [acorn people](#).
27. Decorate pumpkins with paint, markers or stickers.
28. Have a backyard pumpkin-carving party.
29. Roll down hills and listen to crunching leaves beneath you.
30. Bake seasonal [cookies](#).

(excerpted from <https://www.care.com/c/101-fun-fall-activities-for-kids>)

Following the Lead of the Early Christians

This past Sunday, our worship focus was the early church. In the days following Jesus' ascension into heaven, having left the disciples to continue their mission without him, the church began to grow. However, this was not because the disciples' *primary* goal was to "grow the church." Their primary goal was living a Christian lifestyle. If they were to fulfill the mission Christ gave them (to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth), what kinds of things would they need to be doing in order for that happen? That was the question before them. Those early Christians settled on five – 5 spiritual practices – as the answer to that question:

The Apostles' Teaching (the Word of God)

Fellowship (coming together and gathering together)

Breaking Bread (sharing meals)

Prayer

Generosity

Our most recent sermon series, which concluded this past Sunday, was based on the Strategic Plan the council is considering adopting to guide our ministry over the next 3-5 years. The plan happens to have four (4) focus areas – Neighborhood; Faithful families; Organization; and Generosity. As I was preparing the sermon for October 3, and as I read over those 5 spiritual practices from Acts 2, I was struck by how closely they align with our 4 focus areas.

The Apostles' Teaching refers to how the early Christians devoted themselves to the Word of God as communicated by Jesus. Our focus on Faithful Families is designed (among other things) to encourage greater participation in activities and programs that help us grow in our biblical knowledge and understanding.

Fellowship refers to how the early Christians overcame regional and individual differences to come together in faith. Our focus on the Neighborhood hopes to reveal how, through faith, earthly differences and distinctions can be transcended.

Overall, these 5 practices of the early church were an intentional way of giving organization to a movement that was becoming "the church." They helped turn an otherwise disparate 3,000-plus group of people into the organization we know today as the church. Our focus on Organization similarly asks us to think intentionally about the best way to organize the church in our day and age, just as our ancestors did in theirs.

Finally, the early Christians made an incredibly lasting impact on the world because of their way of generous living. Similarly, our focus on Generosity asks us to consider what kind of impact we might make on the world today. Granted, our impact will invariably pale in comparison to that of the earliest disciples. But like theirs, we hope ours is lasting.

Whether or not the Council approves this Strategic Plan, I hope you have enjoyed this recent series – not only each of the individual Sunday messages and biblical passages on which they were based, but also thinking about how these scriptures speak to our life as a church today. Moreover, these kinds of

(continued on page 3...)

things – striving to be good neighbors; supporting families and growing in our biblical knowledge; being intentional about how we are organized; and how we are generous will always remain as important things for us to consider.

Blessings, Michael



What Motivates you to be Generous?

Our Stewardship Department is preparing financially for 2022. We would love to have everyone send us a few words about “What motivates you to be generous?” In particular, the group is looking for some testimonies to include in it’s upcoming fall campaign. So... when you think about your relationship to Central, what motivates you to support it in the ways that you do? Feel free to email your responses to: central@cccdisciples.org. Or mail them to the church if that is your preference. Many thanks in advance.

Narcan Training #2

We will host another Narcan training on Tuesday, October 19th, at 7:00 PM. Narcan is a life-saving medication that can be administered to a person experiencing an opioid overdose. Mike Burkham of Decatur Ambulance and the Macon County Health Department will be here to answer your questions about the opioid epidemic in Decatur and the nation and to train participants on how to administer Narcan. Narcan can be dispensed as an inhalant, and each person who attends the class will be given emergency doses of Narcan to keep with them in case they encounter someone having an overdose. This is yet another way we can “serve our neighbors”. We hope you will take advantage of this class. Please RSVP to the church office by emailing central@cccdisciples.org or calling 217-428-4336 so that our trainer can plan.

Food Collection for Both Oct. & Nov. First Sundays



Let’s fill the shopping cart for Northeast Community Fund for both Oct. & Nov. collections with the following: cereal, canned meats, food & snacks with pull-ring lids. A particular need is food in easy open containers & no heat or stove needed. Thanks!

Thank you, Central

The Lienemann family wants to thank all of those from church for the cards and prayers for Darla during her illness and passing. Your thoughtfulness will be remembered during this very trying time.



Serving Schedule — Sunday, October 10, 2021



Elders:
8:00 & 10:30 - Gretchen Kirby & Gail Prince
9:15 - Gail Prince

- Imboden Creek Worship:** Tom Spry
- Ushers:**
 - 8:00 - Team 1 - Donna Dash, Capt., Carolyn Sunderlik, Dianne Devore
 - 10:30 - Team 6 - Mark Kincaid, Susan Bryant
- Greeters:**
 - 8:00 - Al & Chris Fagin
 - 10:30 - Karen Baird & Paul Gorden
- P.A. Operator:**
 - 8:00 - Donna Dash
 - 10:30 - Jim Hinze

Sunday (10)

Imboden Creek Worship

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall & Facebook Live & Live Stream
- 9:15-Small Group—Virgil, 240
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live & Live Stream
- 4:00-Youth Group @ the Munos’ home

Monday (11)

- 12:30-Women’s Book Club, Panera Bread
- 5:00-Elder Planning
- 6:00-Financial Peace University, 212
- 6:30-Real Life Real Families, Friendship C.

Tuesday (12)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 207
- 5:30-Women’s Book Club, Panera Bread
- 7:00-Millikin Heights

Wednesday (13)

- 10:00-Ministers’ Meeting
- 5:00-Elders

Thursday (14)

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

Friday (15)

Saturday (16)

Sunday (17)

4H Bake Sale

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall & Facebook Live & Live Stream
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & Facebook Live & Live Stream
- 4:00-Youth Group

Counting On You
Sunday, October 3, 2021
 Total worshipping online = 112
 Total worshipping in-person = 212

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 Tina Miller Associate Minister
 David MartinYouth Director
 Ben Hawkinson Interim Director of Music
 Cordelia “Dee Dee” Gain..... Organist
 David Williams Organist
 Kathleen Dudley..... Administrative Assistant
 Yvonne BoydAdministrative Assistant
 Hannah Brimmer Social Media Coordinator
 Bri Lockwood..... Nursery Attendant
 Carlee Phillips..... Nursery Attendant
 Kattina WilliamsNursery Attendant
 Lora WrightLead Caretaker
 Jim Denzer..... Caretaker
 Andrew Evans Caretaker
 Toby Jones Caretaker

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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.



Prayer Request Text-In!

Have a prayer request? Text “PRAY” (all caps) to 217-212-2173, or use the QR code to the left. We would love to pray with you and follow up, if you wish.

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