

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. XCIII

Decatur, Illinois, October 27, 2021

No. 43

Why I Support the Church...

This past Sunday, Andrea Shartzter shared a testimony about why she and her family give to support the ministries of Central. We are clearly blessed to have a family such as the Shartzters (Cole, Andrea, and Rowan) in our faith family.

Cole and I are so thankful to be members of Central Christian Church. I was able to join along with my parents, Mike and Gretchen Kirby, and brother Luke in 2016. Cole joined after we settled back in Decatur in 2019, and our daughter Rowan was dedicated here just a few weeks ago. Despite living hours away for a few years and then a global pandemic, we have still always felt welcome and supported by our church. One of the reasons that we give to the church is because of the outreach and all of the ways that the church supports our local community. When we give to Central, we aren't only giving to the church- we are giving to our neighborhood. Working jobs in public service, we both see the struggles that people face day in and day out, and we know the church has programs and practices to support those in need, whether they be fellow members, local neighbors, or the surrounding Central Illinois area. We see how our gifts are used to help others when their funds are low, host events that encourage community engagement, and help the church support other philanthropic organizations in the area. The church events recruit people of all ages to be involved, thus encouraging every generation to be involved in community outreach. We are looking forward to hopefully becoming more involved in the church and setting an example for our daughter, so she can also discover each of the ways that the church gives back.

Get Ready for Dorcas Disciples' Fall Meeting!

It's time for all interested Central women to meet on Nov. 16th at 6 p.m. in the Great Hall. We'll enjoy a yummy soup dinner (\$5), followed by a program about the international student services at Millikin and how we, as disciples, can support those students while they're away from home. We'll have an opportunity to volunteer our help with the annual Soup-to-Shut Ins mission on November 20th, answer the call for information about the history of women at Central, and donate to Dorcas Disciples' local Christmas charity, God's Shelter of Love. Please RSVP by Thursday, November 11th to Nancy Ellen Taylor at 217-872-9174 or xstr@sbcglobal.net. to make sure we have enough delicious soup! Contact Sandy Garver at 217-877-0800 or revrag@comcast.net for more information about Dorcas Disciples. Hope to see you November 16th!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31, 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

What's #1?

Text: Mark 12:28-34
Michael E. Karunas



Happy Birthday!! (10/31 - 11/6)!

Carol Bischoff, Jahala Demoulin,
Bob Linton, Mark Linton,
Claudine Nichols, Bryan Rutherford,
Linda Virgil, Jeannie Backes,
Justin Reed, Nolan Murray,
Kaeden McCoy

Central Concert Series!

Save the dates!

All concerts will be held
in the Sanctuary.

Monday, Nov. 22, 2021, 7 p.m.

Decatur Youth Symphony
Orchestra concert

Friday, Dec. 24, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Harp concert
Julia Jamieson, harpist
Followed by 7 p.m.
Christmas Eve worship

Friday, Dec. 31, 2021, 7 p.m.

New Years' Eve organ concert
with silent movie
Andrew Peters, organist

Sunday, Jan. 23, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Millikin University Collegiate
Chorale tour finale concert

Friday, March 25, 2022, 7 p.m.

Piano and organ concert
Herb Buffington, organist, and
Randy Frieling, pianist

Sunday, April 3, 2022, 2 p.m.

Vocal concert
Troy Castle, baritone, with
Pei-I Wang, pianist

Sunday, May 1, 2022

Millikin University Spring Concerts

2 p.m. – Mothers and Mentors
concert, Millikin Women

6 p.m. – Spring Sing, University
Choir, Collegiate Chorale,
Millikin Men

Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 7:30 p.m.

Opus 24 Spring choral concert



Real Life – Real Faith for Families

During the month of October, a small group, representing five families in the church, has met to focus on sharing faith with our children. We know that for us to share faith with our children, we first need to be secure in our own faith. This doesn't mean having all the answers, rather it means being comfortable enough to explore the questions.

Each week we highlighted one aspect of our faith journey. These included:

- sharing parts of our faith stories with one another,
- talking about our understanding of God and how that has changed over our lifetime,
- our approach to the Bible, and
- spiritual practices.

Through reflection and discussion, we have become better acquainted with one another. We've found that we have some common faith experiences and that each of us wants to help our children develop a firm faith foundation for themselves.

One practice that we shared each time we gathered was to take turns lighting small battery-operated candles, and saying, "God is with us." We acknowledged that God is always with us, and seeing the flickering light reminded us of this truth. Each family took a candle home to share this practice with their children. We pass along the faith to our children by living faithful lives. They watch us and listen to us and look to us for guidance. When we are intentional about strengthening our own relationship with God, we are showing our children how to be faithful.

There are valuable resources to support families as they share faith with their children. Some that we shared in our small group include:

- Making a Home for Faith by Elizabeth Caldwell
- What is God Like? By Rachel Held Evans and Matthew Paul Turner
- In God's Name by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso
- Children of God Storybook Bible by Archbishop Desmond Tutu
- Faithful Families – Creating Sacred Moments at Home by Traci Smith
- Faithful Families – For Advent and Christmas by Traci Smith (looking ahead)

I believe that the most valuable gift we can give to our children is to help them develop a firm faith foundation. This takes intention, time, energy, patience, and practice.

Families need the support and care of their church family as they put their intentions into action. One of the focus areas that Central will concentrate on in the upcoming years is to provide support to families as they nurture their children in the faith.

How will we as a church community care for our families? First, let's pray with our families, that they may sense God's ever-present love through our kind, welcoming words and ways. Then, let's ask families what would be helpful as we walk this journey with them.

I'm passionate about this sacred ministry of the church. If you would like to join the conversations and prayers for our children, youth, and families, please let me know.

Let's honor Jesus' words when he said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Blessings,
Vicky

All Saints Day November 7

On Sunday, November 7, we will be commemorating All Saints Day in worship. At the 8:00 and 10:30 services, we will be reading the names of, and lighting a candle for, our church members who have passed away since last November. Additionally, we will *all* be given an opportunity to light a candle for any of our loved ones whose passing we grieve. This year's service will have a slightly different tone and order than in previous years. We will light candles for the saints of the church at the beginning of worship. The music and message of the service will then build to a celebratory crescendo as we consider the joyful reunion with Christ, who welcomes those saints into the kingdom. As we close with communion, we will all be invited to light candles for our loved ones whom we look forward to be reunited with around the communion table. At the 9:15 service, we will follow this same format. However, instead of lighting candles for our deceased church members, we will present a video of their name and picture.

Specifically this year, we will be remembering:

<i>Ray Batman</i>	<i>Judy Beaman</i>	<i>Joan Bird</i>
<i>Louise Boline</i>	<i>Howard Cravens</i>	<i>Helen Crew</i>
<i>Loren Glasscock</i>	<i>Billie Harmon</i>	<i>Max Johnson</i>
<i>Shirlee Johnson</i>	<i>Joyce Leach</i>	<i>Darla Lienemann</i>
<i>Anne Raddatz</i>	<i>Dottie Scholes</i>	<i>Roe Skidmore Sr.</i>
<i>Irwin Soliday</i>	<i>Laura Jane Sperry</i>	<i>Eleanor Spracklen</i>
<i>Jim Taylor</i>	<i>Lawrence Turner</i>	<i>Madlyn Van Praag</i>

Council Approves Strategic Plan

At last week's Council meeting, the Strategic Plan that has been discussed this fall (and on which the All Hands on Deck sermon series was based) was approved. So what is next? The plan has nine (9) goals. We would begin by putting teams people together around each of those goals. These would likely be a combination of existing committees and anyone from the congregation interested in the conversations each goal area would be having. So be on the lookout, either in late November or early January, for opportunities to engage in the new work that we'll be starting in the new year.

3D Meals Return on November 10th

Reservations must be in by Thursday Nov 4!

Entertainment or a game will be at 11:30, lunch at 12:00.

Gail and her crew look forward to gathering together.

We promise good food and fellowship.



Menu:

Ham Loaf
Loaded Mashed Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables
Pretzel Salad
Pumpkin Bars
Rolls



Food Collection for November

Let's fill the shopping cart for Northeast Community Fund 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!



Sunday (31)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall
& Facebook Live & Live Stream
9:15-Ecclesia Sunday School, 412
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
& Facebook Live & Live Stream

Monday (November 1)

5:15-Stewardship Comm., Conn. Café
6:00-Financial Peace University, 412

Tuesday (2)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
8:00-Christcare Stitchers, 407
9:30-Card Ministry, 340
9:30-All Saints Candle set up, C. Café

Wednesday (3)

10:00-Ministers' Meeting

Thursday (4)

10:00-Alanon, 340
1:00-DAR Meeting, Disciples Room
3:00-Decatur Needle Arts, Disciples Room
4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
5:00-Koinonia, 412
6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples Room
7:00-Choir, Choir Room

Friday (5)

Saturday (6)

Sunday (7) - All Saints Sunday

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall
& Facebook Live & Live Stream
9:15-Ecclesia Sunday School, 412
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
& Facebook Live & Live Stream
4:00-Youth Group

Volunteer Opportunity

The Salvation Army is looking for bell ringers. For more information, contact the church office.

Counting On You

Sunday, October 24, 2021

Total worshipping online = 144
Total worshipping in-person = 175



Serving Schedule — Sunday, October 31, 2021

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Tom Spry & Matthew Swarhout
9:15 - Tom Spry

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 4 - Hazel Perry, Capt., Jerry & Susie Bean,
Karen Penn

10:30 - Team 9 - Kim Miller, Capt., Audrey Miller, Bill Modlin

Greeters:

8:00 - Julie & Ken Jacoby
10:30 - Andy & Theresa Fulk

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash
10:30 - Jim Hinze

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www.cccdisciples.org
e-mail: central@cccdisciples.org

Michael E. Karunas Senior Minister
Tina Miller Associate Minister
David Martin Youth Director
Ben Hawkinson Interim Director of Music
Cordelia "Dee Dee" Gain Organist
David Williams Organist
Kathleen Dudley Administrative Assistant
Yvonne Boyd Administrative Assistant
Hannah Brimmer Social Media Coordinator
Bri Lockwood Nursery Attendant
Carlee Phillips Nursery Attendant
Kattina Williams Nursery Attendant
Lora Wright Lead Caretaker
Jim Denzer Caretaker
Andrew Evans Caretaker
Toby Jones Caretaker



Wed., Nov 10, 2021
4:30pm -7pm
Good Samaritan Inn

- \$5 dinner
- Family-Friendly
- Live Music
- Artisan Bowls
- Good Sam Gear
- Dine-In or Carry-Out
- Pre-Order or Pay In-Person
- Guided Tours
- 50/50 Raffle & Games

CONTACT
director@goodsaminn.org
217-429-1455

 GoodSamaritanInn.org/emptybowl

"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.



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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