

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, November 17, 2021

No. 46

DORCAS DISCIPLES ARE IN THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT!

ALL Central women are invited to celebrate this holiday season in the Great Hall on Saturday, December 4th at 11:30 a.m. Mari-Mann Herbs will cater a delicious lunch of their famous herbal crepe sandwich, fruit salad, chocolate mousse, cookies, and drink for \$18. Gather for fun, fellowship and an up-close-and-personal look at "The History of Women at Central." At the luncheon we'll have an opportunity to make monetary donations to this year's Dorcas Christmas recipient, God's Shelter of Love, a vital local ministry that cares for our homeless women and children, as well as supports the Blessingdales Thrift Shop. Donations can also be placed in the Dorcas mailbox in the church office, with checks made out to God's Shelter of Love. Dorcas will forward donations after the December 4th luncheon. Thank you in advance for your caring donations. Please contact Nancy Ellen Taylor at 217-872-9174 or xstr@sbcglobal.net by Saturday, November 27th, to make your reservation for the Christmas Luncheon. HOPE TO SEE YOU!

Christmas Care and Share

Decatur is coming together for Christmas. Let's do our part.

Christian Action Community Service (CACS) and the Prayer Shawl Ministry are joining together to collect for the Dove, Inc., *Christmas Care and Share!* Christmas Care & Share is the Annual Christmas Basket Drive sponsored by Dove, Inc.

This is a combined effort with the Northeast Community Fund, Salvation Army, and Dove, Inc., and is supported by hundreds of churches, businesses, and groups throughout the community. A Dove and NECF partnership started in 1972 and Salvation Army joined in 2020. Traditionally the drive provided food and gifts to **over three hundred** households each holiday season. They became the **local distributor for Toys for Tots in 2019**.

CACS will collect items and The Prayer Shawl Ministry is making hats. Please join them in coming together with our community to support those in need!

Here is a list of items to be dropped off in the Connection Café between November 28th and December 8th:

Gloves, mittens, scarves (infant to adult sizes), toys, gifts, books, board games (for kids up to 17 years old), wrapping paper, rolls of tape, large garbage bags, Ziplock bags, toiletries (toothbrushes, shampoo, lotions, etc.).

THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 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**

The Meaning of "Thank You"

Text: Luke 17:11-19
Michael E. Karunas



Holiday Food Collection

For the holidays, Northeast Community Fund continues to need cereal, canned meats, and food & snacks with pull-ring lids. Let's load the shopping cart in the Connection Cafe! Thanks for your generosity.



Christmas Decorating at Central Christian Church!

On Monday, November 22nd at 9:30 AM, anyone and everyone who enjoys decorating for Christmas is invited to come to Central and meet in the Disciples Room. We will start getting all of our greenery, bows, and poinsettias out to prepare for our Hanging of the Greens Service on November 28th.

On Saturday November 27th, we need volunteers to put our Christmas Trees, wreaths (inside & out), and nativity scenes in their proper places.

It's two great days of fun & fellowship with your friends & family at Central. "Many hands make light work." Blessings to all.

-Donna Dash, Worship Committee



In Sympathy We Mourn

In sympathy, we mourn with Claudia Quigg and family on the death of her mother, Claudine Nichols, who passed away on November 11th. Claudine was the wife of former senior minister Bill Nichols and a very active, 24-year member of Central. To quote her obituary, "Claudine believed that her role as minister's wife was a ministry in itself." She had just turned 92 years old on Halloween. Thank you for joining us in prayer for her family.

From Vicki Woolridge...

What a joy it has been for me to serve as a ministerial intern here at Central. When I first talked with Michael about this possibility months ago and before I started in August, I anticipated that I would learn and grow and be given opportunities to serve in new ways. I was expecting to have a great experience. All of these things became a reality.

What I hadn't anticipated was just how wonderful and fulfilling this work would be. I have been surprised over and over during these past three months how often I have felt like I was "right where I was called to be".

I experienced this when I was privileged to sit on the chancel steps for the Children's Message with Blair and her mom or dad and we shared a few moments in God's presence.

I experienced this when I proclaimed the words of welcome at the communion table and offered the words of institution that ground our faith in Jesus Christ.

I experienced this when our small group gathered each Monday night in October to share our faith stories and support one another in the holy work of sharing faith with our children. We created safe and sacred space as we lit a candle each week with the words, "God is with us".

And, I also experienced it as I was humbled and honored to stand before the congregation and share a word that God had placed on my heart to preach.

I am grateful for each of these experiences that surprised me by affirming my call to ministry. For me, my initial call to ministry came more than fifty years ago. I was twelve years old, attending church camp at Walter Scott, and clearly sensed God's call for me to become a minister.

I followed this call and completed my bachelor's degree in religious studies. Throughout my life I have strived to grow in my faith, knowledge, and commitment to serving God. Although I did not follow the path of attending seminary and becoming an ordained minister, I know that my lifetime of work with children and families has been my ministry.

When the invitation to participate in the regional church's School for Ministry was extended to me three years ago, I quickly said "yes", even though I was unsure of where that work might lead me. This internship has been the culminating experience of this program. After completing the program, I will be qualified and eligible to pursue the process of becoming a commissioned minister.

I have loved theologian Fredrich Buechner's affirmation that: "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." It is at this intersection where we can answer our call to serve. I have experienced this "place" during my internship.

I would like to thank Michael for his guidance and support as he empowered me and trusted me to take leadership roles in worship. Every time we had our weekly meeting, I came away with a question to ponder and a new perspective or understanding.

I am also grateful for the families that gathered with me each week during October for our small group focused on sharing faith with our children. Together we were able to create a safe and sacred space to ask questions, tell our stories, and share our intentions to guide our children as they grow into their own faith stories.

(continued on page 3...)

Thank you, also, to the congregation and staff of Central. You have made me feel welcome and appreciated. I have heard affirmations that my gifts for ministry are evident and authentic.

I am praying to discern what God is calling me to do and how I will serve in the next phase of my life now that I have completed my internship and my work for the School for Ministry.

I am grateful to be a member of Central and look forward to serving together as we listen to God's call for our congregation.

Blessings,
Vicky

Special Offering Collected this Sunday

From the beginning of our church's movement, we have founded institutions of higher learning, encouraging students in their intellectual pursuits. Today, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) continues to be committed to higher education. On Sunday, November 21, we will be collecting a special offering called the "Thanksgiving Offering." Funds from this offering will support our Disciples-related colleges and universities. As we continue to struggle with the effects of COVID-19, our higher education institutions are facing unprecedented challenges and need our support now, more than ever. Even as they work diligently to ensure safe and healthy learning environments, the financial realities faced by many of our schools is adding additional stress to students, faculty, and staff. Any support provided through this offering will be of great benefit to our institutions. Here is a list of our institutions:

Texas Christian University (TX)	Chapman University (CA)
Drury College (MO)	Transylvania University (KY)
Lynchburg University (VA)	Eureka College (IL)
William Woods University (MO)	Barton College (NC)
Culver Stockton College (MO)	Christian Theological Seminary (IN)
Disciples Divinity House (Chicago)	Disciples Divinity House (Vanderbilt)
Disciples Seminary Foundation (CA)	Lexington Theological Seminary (KY)

Come Home for Christmas Meals on December 12th

For Come Home for Christmas on December 12th, we will serve breakfast immediately after the 8:00 service in the Friendship area. We will serve sausage crescent roll breakfast casserole, mixed fruit, and pastries.

For the 9:15 service, we will serve sausage crescent roll breakfast casserole, mixed fruit, and pastries in the Great Hall.

For lunch, we will serve immediately following the 10:30 service in the Great Hall. The lunch menu will include: Country glazed ham, Hash brown casserole, green beans, croissants, and Christmas cake.

Please RSVP to the church office (217-428-4336 or central@cccdisciples.org) or RSVP online [HERE](#) or text "CH4CMEAL" to 217-212-2173 by December 8th with which meal you will be attending so that we know how much food to prepare.

Pocket Prayer Shawls available



Our Prayer Shawl ministry has created some beautiful pocket prayer shawls and made them available to anyone who would like one. If you know of someone going through a difficult time, please also feel free to take one for them. Thank you, ladies!



Sunday (21)

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

Monday (22)

9:30-Hanging of the Greens prep
7:00-DYSO Concert, Sanctuary

Tuesday (23)

9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 407

Wednesday (24)

10:00-Ministers' Meeting

Thursday (25) - Thanksgiving

Church and Office Closed

Friday (26)

Church and Office Closed

Saturday (27)

Sunday (28) - Hanging of the Greens

Advent begins

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



Women's Craft Night

Mark your calendars. 'Make one, take one' craft night for 'Come Home for Christmas' meal. November 30, at 6:00pm with cookies and cocoa. All are welcomed to create.

Counting On You

Sunday, November 14, 2021

Total worshipping online = 126

Total worshipping in-person = 210



Serving Schedule — Sunday, November 21, 2021

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Andy Fulk & Paul Gorden
9:15 - Andy Fulk

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 2 - Becky Johnston, Capt., Bruce & Liz Campbell
10:30 - Team 7 - George Virgil, Capt., Linda Virgil, Hugh & Linda Rowden

Greeters:

8:00 - Charlotte Balance & Carolyn Sunderlik
10:30 - Bob & Mary Jane Linton

P.A. Operator:

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

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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



Happy Birthday!! (11/21 - 11/27)!

Carol Graham, Rachel Howie, Tripp Potter,
Nancy Taylor, Carole McClarey, Jon Backes,
Brooke Swinford, Griffin Irby, Roberta Gorden,
Eric Lester, Esther Murray, Denise Swarhout

"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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