

# 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, December 1, 2021

No. 48

## 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 28<sup>th</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup>:**

**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!**

## 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](mailto: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.

## Schedule Correction

**CORRECTION**

In last week's Visitor, the New Year's Eve concert should have been listed as starting at 7:00 PM.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2021

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

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

Text: Luke 1:68-79  
Michael E. Karunas



## Happy Birthday!! (12/5 - 12/11)!

Karen Baird, Kevin Ann Otis,  
Brett Swallow, Don Tankersley, Janet  
Thicksten, David Withrow,  
Kaleigh Larrick, Sue Muschal,  
Tina Miller, Chad Jennings,  
Liam Hawkinson



### **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.



### **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!



### **Bells In Motion concert**

Saturday, December 4th, 2021

7:00 PM

First United Methodist Church

201 W. North St., Decatur, IL

A free will offering will be taken.

### ***"Reflections for Advent – Week One"***

*Savior, rend the heavens wide; come down, come down with mighty stride;  
Unlock the gates, the doors break down; unbar the way to heaven's crown.*

*O Father, light from heaven lend; as morning dew, O Son, descend.  
Drop down, you clouds, the life of spring; to Jacob's line rain down the King.*

*O earth, in flow'ring bud be seen; clothe hill and dale in garb of green.  
Bring forth, O earth, a blossom rare, our Savior, sprung from meadow fair.*

*O Morning Star, O radiant Dawn, when will we sing your morning song?  
Come, Son of God! Without your light we grope in dread and gloom of night.*

*Sin's dreadful doom upon us lies; grim death looms fierce before our eyes.  
Oh, come, lead us with mighty hand from exile to our promised land.*

*Friederich von Spee  
Seventeenth century*

+++++

*Ecce Rex veniet Dominus terrae, et ipse aufert jugum captivitatis nostrae.  
Dicite pusillanimes confortamina: ecce Dominus Deus noster veniet.  
Jucundare, filia Sion, exsulta satis filia Jerusalem! Alleluia.  
Veniet Dominus et non tardabit, ut illuminet abscondita tenebrarum.*

*See! The ruler of earth shall come, the Lord who will take from us the heavy burden of our exile.*

*Tell the timid to take heart. The Lord our God will come!  
Daughter Zion, be glad! Dance, daughter Jerusalem! Alleluia.  
The Lord will come soon, will not delay. The Lord will make the darkest places bright.*

*Monastic Liturgy*

+++++

*Expectation – that is perhaps the supreme Christian function and the most distinctive characteristic of our religion. Historically speaking, that expectation has never ceased to guide the progress of our faith like a torch... We persist in saying that we keep vigil in expectation of the Master. But in reality we should have to admit, if we were sincere, that in our contemporary context, we no longer expect anything. Therefore the flame must be revived at all costs. At all costs we must renew in ourselves the desire and the hope for the great coming. But where are we to look for the source of this rejuvenation? From the perception of a more intimate connection between the victory of Christ and the outcome of the work which our human effort here below is seeking to construct*  
- Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Blessings, Michael

### Congregational Meeting Called

Brett Swallow, congregational president, is calling a congregational meeting for Sunday, December 5 at 12:00 p.m. in the Disciples Room. There are two (2) items of business on the agenda: 1) approve the report of the Nominating Committee; and 2) approve the proposed operating budget for 2022. Copies of both are available in the Welcome Center.

### Report from the Nominating Committee

According to our congregation's by-laws, we are to publish the Nominating Committee's report in *The Visitor* two weeks prior to the annual congregational meeting (scheduled for 12/5). What follows is the proposed list of trustees, elders, and deacons with terms of service beginning January 2022. All members will be asked to approve this list of church leaders at the congregational meeting.

<u>Trustee</u>	Steve Baumann		
<u>Elders</u>	Randy Trei	Dick Cain	Karen Wade
	Charlotte Ballance	Kevin Wilmot	Jack Dixon
<u>Deacons</u>	Nancy Hanover	Sandy Schultz	Carolyn McCall
	Gail Prince	Larry Bafford	Cheryl Zollinger
	Dale Ford	Gregg Foltz	Linda Foltz
	Gene Garver	Sandy Garver	Ryan Damery
	Ellen Damery	David Zollinger	David Wagner
	Kevin Wilmot	Charlotte Ballance	Yvonne Purcell
	Carolyn Sunderlik	Shelby Baum	Cole Shartzter
	Andrea Shartzter	Barb Leihser	Luke Kirby
<u>Elder Emeritus</u>		Larry Pepper	
<u>Deacon Emeritus</u>		Jon French	
<u>Elder Emeritus (posthumously)</u>		Bruce Williams	

### In Sympathy We Mourn



Arlene Franks passed away over the Thanksgiving week. She was an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In her retirement, she relocated to Decatur several years ago and had been a regular attender of Central as long as her health allowed. Once that was no longer possible, she was on our Elders communion calling and visitation lists. Arlene had entered hospice earlier in 2021 and will be memorialized with a service sometimes next Spring.

### Digital Advent Calendar

Make sure to save this link to your favorites:

<https://calendar.myadvent.net/?id=69d9877a36fb095e915e3628b184c6b5>.

This will take you to Central's own "Digital Advent Calendar." Clicking on this link will direct you to a homepage with 25 boxes on it. Click on the box corresponding with that day in December and "open the door" to reveal an Advent surprise. You will only be able to open the door corresponding to that day's date (along with those preceding it). So... no cheating and opening any upcoming doors before their day arrives. You can also go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z3NUesglqUg> as well to watch a brief video promo that explains it all another way.



### **Sunday (5)**

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  
12:00-Youth Group—Bottle cap sorting

### **Monday (6)**

5:00-Elder Planning

### **Tuesday (7)**

8:00-Christcare Stitchers, Disciples Room  
9:30-Card Ministry, 340

### **Wednesday (8)**

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

### **Thursday (9)**

10:00-Alanon, 340  
5:30-Koinonia, 412  
6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples Room  
7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

### **Friday (10)**

### **Saturday (11)**

**Sunday (12) - "Come Home for Christmas"**  
**Chamber Orchestra at traditional services**  
**Come Home for Christmas meals**

### **Imboden Creek Worship**

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



### Counting On You

**Sunday, November 28, 2021**

Total worshipping online = 117  
Total worshipping in-person = 221



## Serving Schedule — Sunday, December 5, 2021

### Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Jan Dobbs & Linda Virgil

9:15 - Jan Dobbs

### 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 - Gene & Sandy Garver

10:30 - Dick & Sue Ann Cain

### P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Jim Bednar

10:30 - Jim Hinze

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
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e-mail: [central@cccdisciples.org](mailto: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

### "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.

The Central Visitor (USPS 098-520) is published weekly by Central Christian Church, 650 W. William, Decatur, IL 62522.

Periodical Postage paid at Decatur, IL.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Central Visitor, 650 W. William St., Decatur, IL 62522.



NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
DECATUR, IL  
PERMIT NO. 80

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
650 West William Street  
Decatur, IL 62522

