

# 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 8, 2021

No. 49

## 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 today with which meal you will be attending so that we know how much food to prepare.

## Digital Advent Calendar

Make sure to save this link to your favorites:

[https://calendar.myadvent.net/?](https://calendar.myadvent.net/?id=69d9877a36fb095e915e3628b184c6b5)

[id=69d9877a36fb095e915e3628b184c6b5](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.



## Welcome Baby!

Kysen Jonathan Amir Collins was born to Allyson Simpkins and Ron Collins on October 15, 2021. Other members of this five-generation family who welcomed him are: Crystal Thicksten, grandmother; David Thicksten, great grandfather; Lawrence and Sally Thicksten, great-great grandparents. Congratulations!

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 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

8:00 & 10:30 - Orchestra Sunday  
9:15 - Highly Unlikely  
Michael E. Karunas



## Happy Birthday!! (12/12 - 12/18)!

Theresa Fulk, Karen Penn,  
Sarah Miller, Andrew Rutherford,  
Pamela Larrick, Betsy Osman,  
Isabella Wagener, Wyllene Griffy,  
Emelia Andrews, Adam Scircle

**"Reflections for Advent – Week Two"  
In honor of St. Nicholas**



*St. Nicholas: day of death, December 6. Nicholas, according to legend and tradition, was born at Patara in Asia Minor to parents who, having long been childless, had petitioned God with many prayers. Already as a youth, Nicholas became noted for his zeal in helping the unfortunate and oppressed. In his native city, there lived a poor nobleman who had three marriage-able daughters. However, he could not obtain a suitor for them because he could offer no dowry. When Nicholas learned that the father was contemplating building the dowry through unlawful means, he went by night and threw three bags containing enough gold in each for three dowries. Later, during a sea voyage he calmed a storm by prayer. Therefore, he is venerated as the patron saint of sailors. On a certain occasion he was imprisoned for his faith. He would survive the imprisonment and go on to become bishop of Myra in Italy. He was present at the epic Council of Nicea (325 AD). He died a quiet death in Myra, uttering the word, "Into your hands I commend my spirit." Nicholas is venerated as a miracle worker, a preacher of the Word and a spokesman of the Father.*

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*O you who love festivals, come gather and sing the praises of the beauty of bishops, the glory of the fathers, the fountain of wonders and great protector of the faithful.*

*Let us all say: Rejoice, O guardian of the people of Myra, their head and honored counsellor, the pillar of the church which cannot be shaken.*

*Rejoice, O light full of brightness that makes the ends of the world shine with wonders. Rejoice, O divine delight of the afflicted, the fervent advocate of those who suffer from injustice.*

*And now, O all-blessed Nicholas, never cease praying to Christ our God, for those who honor the festival of your memory with faith and love.*

*Orthodox liturgy  
(continued on page 3...)*



**Holiday Spirit in Action**

A big thank you goes out to all those Central ladies who participated in the planning and fellowship of Saturday's Dorcas Christmas Luncheon. Special gratitude goes to the Prayer Shawl committee and those who gave so generously to God's Shelter of Love, this year's Dorcas Disciples Christmas charity. Have a blessed holiday!



**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!



**In Sympathy**

In sympathy we mourn with the family of Helen Wells. Helen passed away on December 2nd, 2021. She had been a member of Central since October 1980. Please join with us in prayer for her family during this difficult time.

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*Christmas can bring out the best in us to care for the needy. We are surrounded by charities looking for aid. We know that Jesus hears the cries of the poor, and he joins every carol singing group that tries to help. Christmas also asks us to consider our honesty and integrity, for we know that many are poor, at home and abroad, because of the greed of others. Christmas is a reminder and a challenge that all can live with dignity we have come to regard as a human right. The Christ child, who was born poor, represents all the poor of the world. And he was born ordinary, as he represents the God who meets, greets and helps us in the ordinary aspects of life.*

*Donal Neary, SJ*

Blessings, Michael

### **Special Christmas Offering Collected on December 19**

On Sunday, December 19 we will be collecting a special offering called the "Christmas Offering." 100% of the donations to this offering supports the ministries of our region, the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin. One of those ministries, with which Central has had profound connection, is the Committee on Ministry. This committee journeys with ministerial candidates as they navigate the path toward either ordained or commissioned ministry. In just the last eight years, this committee has worked with no less than four members of Central in this regard! They are Hannah Fitch, Zach Martin, Tina Miller, and Vicky Woolridge. Moreover, longtime member Larry Pepper, served on the committee faithfully during many of these years. This will be collected in addition to our regular offerings. Gifts to this offering may also be made online by looking for the "Christmas Offering" option.

### **Congregational Meeting Update**

At the annual congregational meeting this past Sunday, both the nominating committee's report and the 2022 budget passed. If you have any questions about either of these business items that came before the congregation, don't hesitate to contact the church office.

### **Sharing Hopes and Fears – December 15**

At **5:30 p.m.** on **Wednesday, December 15**, Pastors Tina and Michael will be hosting a time of "*Sharing Hopes and Fears.*" We recognize that for some, the Christmas season is one when stress, worry and anxiety can rise and the joy we long to experience this time of year is impeded. Perhaps it is because of disagreements within our family about issues related to Covid and the politics surrounding it; or because you are not able to gather with those closest to you for whatever reason; or perhaps something else is heavy on your heart this Christmas. Whatever it is you are invited to join us (Tina and Michael) at 5:30 p.m. next Wednesday. We will all have a chance to share whatever it is that we are fearing, as well as that for which we are hoping this Christmas season. The purpose of the evening will not be to offer solutions nor to "fix" problems. Rather, we will pray that Christ will meet us in the place where our hopes and fears intersect – "*The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight*" (O Little Town of Bethlehem).



**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

#### **Monday (13)**

12:30-Women's Book Club, Panera  
1:00-Golden K, Connection Café

#### **Tuesday (14)**

8:30-Christcare Stitchers, Disciples Room  
5:30-Women's Book Club, Panera  
7:00-Millikin Heights

#### **Wednesday (15)**

10:00-Ministers' Meeting  
5:30-Sharing Hopes & Fears

#### **Thursday (16)**

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

#### **Friday (17)**

#### **Saturday (18)**

10:00-Children's Christmas Craft  
Gathering

#### **Sunday (19)**

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, December 5, 2021**

Total worshipping online = 139  
Total worshipping in-person = 226



**Serving Schedule — Sunday, December 12, 2021**

**Elders:**

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

**Ushers:**

8:00 - Team 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Moran, Bobby Munos  
10:30 - Team 10 - David Martin, Capt., Gretchen Kirby

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Al & Chris Fagin  
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  
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.

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