

# The Central Visitor



Vol. XCIII

Decatur, Illinois, December 22, 2021

No. 51



THE CENTRAL  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
STAFF WISHES ALL  
OF OUR CENTRAL  
FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Merry  
Christmas  
AND  
HAPPY NEW YEAR

## Holiday Hours and Changes

Central Christian Church and office will be closed on December 25th & 27th and January 1st & 3rd, in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays. Also, this Visitor will be the last one of the 2021 year; we will not do a Visitor newsletter next week. We wish you and your family a very happy and blessed holiday season.

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 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

### *Linger in the Light*

Text: John 1:1-14  
Michael E. Karunas



## Christmas Eve Events!

5:00 - Contemporary Candlelight  
and Communion Service, Great Hall  
6:30 - Harp Concert, featuring  
Julia Jamieson  
6:30 - Children's Crafts  
7:00 - Traditional Candlelight and  
Communion Service, Sanctuary &  
Live Streamed

**Stewardship Corner**

Earlier in the year, the Finance Team implemented a new accounting software system. As we continue to review and refine our processes, we are not mailing statements in December. However, if you have questions regarding your 2021 gifts, please contact the church office and the Finance Team will email or mail a statement with your contributions to date. Year-end statements will be mailed in January. Thank you for your support!

What  
once  
was  
**L** Now is  
**FOUND**  
**S**  
**T**

Did you lose something?  
We may have found it!

The church office lost and found currently has a lot of clothing in it. Feel free to stop by during office hours Mon-Fri (8:00-4:30) to check the lost and found for your item.



**Follow Us!**

Please feel free to Follow Us on Social Media.

Facebook: Central Christian Church Decatur IL

Twitter: @central\_Decatur

Instagram: ccdisciplesdecaturil

**Reflections for Advent – Week Four  
In Honor of Christmas Eve**



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*There stood in heaven a linden tree, but, tho' 'twas honey-laden,  
All angels cried, "No bloom shall be like that of one fair maiden."*

*Sped Gabriel on winged feet, and passed through bolted portals  
In Nazareth, a maid to greet, blest o'er all other mortals.*

*"Hail Mary!" quoth the angel mild. "Of womankind the fairest:  
The virgin aye shalt thou be styled, a babe although thou bearest."*

*"So bet it!" God's handmaid cried, "According to thy telling."  
Whereupon the angel smartly hied up homeward to his dwelling.*

*This tidings filled his friends with glee: 'Twas pass'd from one to other,  
That 'twas Mary, and none but she. And God would call her mother.*

*Dutch carol*

++++++

*O come, let us rejoice in the Lord, as we declare this present mystery:  
The partition wall of disunion has been destroyed, the flaming sword is turned  
back,*

*And the Cherubim withdraw from the Tree of Life,  
And I partake of the food of paradise, whence because of disobedience, I was  
expelled.*

*For the image immutable of the Father, the image of eternity, takes the form of  
a servant,*

*Having come from a mother unwedded, yet having suffered no change:*

*For that which he was that he remains, being very God;*

*And that which he was not he has assumed, become flesh because of  
humankind.*

*Unto him let us cry aloud: O God, who is born of Virgin, have mercy upon us.*

*Orthodox liturgy*

## News from the Preschool

The following was announced this past Sunday by Ellen Damery, church member, mother of two, and our new interim director of our Central Christian Preschool.

*As most of you know, our preschool opened in 1965 and has been educating and nurturing young children in our community ever since! Unfortunately, in the spring of 2020, the school closed due to challenges with COVID-19. However, over the last few months, I, along with the preschool board members, have been working hard to explore the possibility of reopening our wonderful preschool. During this time we have been able to get approval from the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services to reopen in the Fall of 2022. We have some promising leads on teachers and staff members and are excited to begin the process of registering students in the new year.*

*I am honored to help reopen the school. As a parent and an educator, I can say first-hand that Central Christian Preschool provides students with an amazing foundation for the rest of their lives. Students get to play and explore but they also learn about God's love, kindness and being a good citizen - which I believe is equally important to academic learning! Our church has always been tremendously supportive of our preschool in many different ways. So today we ask for your prayers and thank you for your continual support. We look forward to working together to help guide children on their life-long journey of growth and discovery.*

### Digital Advent Calendar—

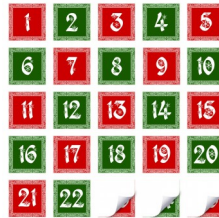
#### Just a few days left until Christmas!!

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.



### Thank You, Central!

A BIG THANK YOU from the property committee to all who came out and helped with the church clean up day!! "Many hands make light work" is definitely a true statement. The help was greatly appreciated.

### Happy Birthday!! (12/26 - 1/8)!

John Funk, Charles Stanley, Brandon Potter, Lucien Smith, Kaite Konoplisky, Debbie Hoffert, Gabbi Morelli, Cruz Bottom, Kathleen Dudley, Jace Van Uytven, Braylon Wilcoxon, Vickie Jacobs, Charles Wagener, Makaela Luthy, Scott Bicknell, Bill Moutray, Emily Brewer, Declan Kilday, Lyle Ater



### Sunday (26)

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 (27) - Church & Office Closed

### Tuesday (28)

5:00-Concert Series Committee

### Wednesday (29)

### Thursday (30)

10:00-Alanon, 340  
7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

### Friday (31) - New Year's Eve

7:00-Organ Concert with Silent Movie,  
featuring Andrew Peters

### Saturday (January 1) - New Year's Day Church & Office closed

### Sunday (2)

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 (3) - Church & Office Closed

### Tuesday (4)

9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 407  
9:30-Card Ministry, 340

### Wednesday (5)

10:00-Ministers' Meeting  
4:00-D.A.R., Connection Café

### Thursday (6)

10:00-Alanon, 340  
3:00-Decatur Needle Arts, Disciples Room  
7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

### Friday (7)

### Saturday (8)

### Sunday (9)

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

### Counting On You

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Total worshipping online = 118

Total worshipping in-person = 182



**Serving Schedule — Sunday, December 26, 2021**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Kevin Miller & David York  
9:15 - David York

**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 - Dianne Devore & Carolyn Sunderlik  
10:30 - Roberta Gorden & Suzie Miller

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Jim Bednar  
10:30 - Keith Backes

**Serving Schedule — Sunday, January 2, 2022**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Diana Ritter & Linda Virgil  
9:15 - Linda Virgil

**Ushers:**

8:00 - Team 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt.,  
Jim & Pamela Bednar  
10:30 - Team 8 - Need help

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Gregg & Linda Foltz  
10:30 - Mike & Gretchen Kirby

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Donna Dash  
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  
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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