

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCIV

Decatur, Illinois, November 9, 2022

No. 40

Fall Outdoor Clean-up: Saturday December 3

Now that the leaves have mostly fallen, we would like to have a Fall Outdoor Clean-up to get our property and block ready for Advent and Christmas. We'll gather at the church's west entrance at **9:00 a.m.** on December 3. We will supply garbage and yard waste bags, along with gloves and a few rakes. But feel free to bring your own tools from home if you like.



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 Drive sponsored by Dove, Inc. Also this year, 70-75 seniors in nursing homes will receive gifts.

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 the 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 27th and December 7th:

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

THANK YOU AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2022

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**

Text: Luke 21:5-19
Michael E. Karunas



Happy Birthday!! (11/13—11/26)

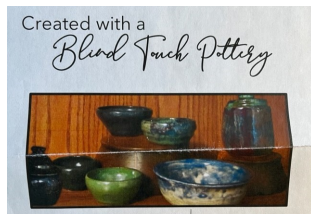
Jill Heick, Hazel Perry, Cindy Soebbing,
Carole McClarey, Jon Backes,
Lisa Campbell-Hein, Julie Crague,
Mackenzie Larrick, Karen Driver,
Brooke Swinford, Nick McLemore,
Griffin Irby, Roberta Gorden,
Sha'Ron Browning, Nora Damery,
Eric Lester, Esther Murray,
Denise Swarouth, Laurie Damery,
Millie Hyde

Thank You from Pastor Vicky

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the kind words, well wishes, cards and gifts that I received in recognition of Pastor Appreciation. I am very grateful to be serving with you here at Central.

Blessings,
Vicky



Marla Winkleblack Pottery Show

Our own Marla Winkleblack will be hosting a pottery show where many of her pottery items will be for sale. The event will be Friday, November 18 from 1 – 7 p.m. and Saturday, November 19 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. It will be held at her home (42 Nolen Drive, 62521). Her pottery items make GREAT holiday gifts. So get a head start on your Thanksgiving and Christmas shopping

In Sympathy We Mourn

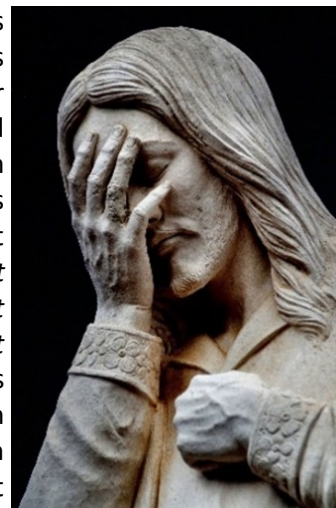
- We grieve with the Ritter family upon the loss of Carrol Virt, Diana's father, who passed on Oct. 30th. Services were last Sat., Nov. 5th.
- We grieve with the Rutherford families upon the loss of Penny Rutherford last Tues., Nov. 1st. Penny's services were also on Sat., Nov. 5th. Please also pray for the students & staff of Franklin Grove School.
- We grieve with the Ash and Turner families upon the death of David Ash, who passed away on Nov. 3rd. The funeral is set for this Thurs., Nov. 10th, at Brintlinger and Earl funeral home at 11:00 AM, with a visitation beginning at 10:00 AM.
- Thank you for joining us in prayer for the family, friends, and work family of these loved ones.

Minister's Article

"Jesus Wept"

In my late 20s, my father died. Suddenly. Of a heart-attack. On a Thursday. I had spoken to him four days earlier. We discussed my planned visit home the following weekend and the things we were going to do together. Then, in an instant, he was gone. In the aftermath, many well-meaning friends said "at least" a lot. *At least* he didn't suffer, as if those magical words somehow softened the blow. Through that experience, and my many years dealing with grief as a pastor, I acknowledge that all losses are difficult and painful. There is no merit in trying to rank them. There is only difference and distinction, which does not require value judgment. The biggest distinction is timing. With prolonged suffering before the loss, there is much pain in the process but also a chance to say good-bye and have some semblance of closure. With a sudden loss, there is no preceding pain process, but also no closure nor chance for "last words." In both cases, however, there is nothing good that comes from saying "at least." "*At least* you had the chance to say good-bye" rings as hollow as "*At least* they didn't suffer."

So it is noteworthy, and not surprising, what Jesus does – and doesn't – do when Lazarus died. Jesus arrived in Bethany, Lazarus' hometown, 4 days after Lazarus' death. The entire town was gathered around the cemetery, so well-loved was Lazarus in his community. When Jesus arrived, he was greeted by people in the throes of grief. What Jesus *didn't* do was say "at least." He didn't say "*At least* you had some good years with Lazarus," or "*At least* his death is bringing you all together," or "*At least* there are many other love-able people in this town." Instead, he wept. That's right, he sat down with the crying people and cried with them. John 11:35 is the shortest verse in the entire bible and it simply reads: Jesus wept.



Consider the power of that gesture. Jesus knew he was going to raise Lazarus. He knew this wasn't the end. But before he did anything, he acknowledged the pain and hurt of a people broken by grief. He didn't try and rush them through it. Nor did he try to put their loss in some kind of perspective. He just honored the reality of their present moment – which was all they could see at that moment.

This past week has a been a rough one for us at Central. In the midst of observing All Saints Day, when we planned to remember those church members who had passed away in the last year, we experienced four additional losses in our church family – members and family members of members. Some were sudden, leaving us in shock and feeling the surrealism of things. During that same time, several more transitioned into hospice or palliative care. Some of those were the result of long, drawn-out illnesses.

During times like these, it is perhaps beneficial to remember the story of Lazarus and the community around him. Maybe the best thing we can do is

(continued on page 3...)

acknowledge the importance of grieving. Because sometimes we just need to cry – whether those tears are literal or metaphorical. Even though we may pride ourselves on being stoic in our behavior, there is something innate in being human that simply needs to grieve the loss of someone we love. And we crave, and long for, the space in which to do that even if we are not always conscious of that reality. St. Ignatius of Loyola said there are 3 reasons why we cry. First, we cry because we are sad for the sufferings of Christ. Second, we cry when we are confronted with the reality of our own sin. And third... we cry when we experience suffering in the world. That last one seems especially applicable today. We grieve the weight of our own losses. We grieve for the losses suffered by our friends. And we grieve them without saying “at least” to one another.

That is entirely okay, or scripture wouldn't have devoted an entire verse to just two simple words – Jesus wept.

Blessings – Michael

(Note: This was written in March of 2020, as the pandemic began, and was edited and reformatted this week to fit our current context at Central, which should be evident in the second half)

Get Ready for Dorcas Disciples' Fall Meeting!

It's time for all interested Central women to gather on November 15th at 6 p.m. in the Great Hall. We'll hear a Dove “Clothing Room Close-up” report from Kathy Walters and then enjoy a yummy soup and sandwich dinner (\$5).

We'll have an opportunity to share personal family holiday traditions and contribute to our Christmas donation recipient – Central's Preschool.

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 15th and **DON'T FORGET TO EMAIL SANDY YOUR FAMILY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS!**

Thanksgiving Offering Prepares Leaders

Nov. 13 and 20 the Disciples of Christ are collecting a special Thanksgiving Offering. The Thanksgiving Offering supports Disciples colleges, universities and theological institutions. This offering provides a direct connection to 15 colleges and universities, seven seminaries and theological programs. Gifts from this offering continue the Disciples tradition of developing leaders for our communities and the church. What do these colleges and universities of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have in common? These institutions, including Eureka College here in Illinois, enjoy:

- **A commitment to academic excellence and the liberal arts;**
- **An environment of open inquiry;**
- **An inclusive, welcoming community that respects all people and cultures;**
- **A focus on character, service, and leadership; and**
- **A passion for social justice.**

The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships, to religious life offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

Please give generously. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world. You may place this special offering in the brass bowl in the Narthex area or simply give online or mail to the church. Please note DMF Thanksgiving Offering on your contribution.

Sunday (13)

Imboden Worship

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 9:15-Sunday School
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online
- 4:00-Youth Group

Monday (14)

- 9:00-Good Samaritan Volunteer Opportunity
- 12:30-Women's Book Club, Panera
- 1:00-Golden K, Disciples Room
- 1:00-DOVE Kids' Clothing Room open
- 3:00-Support Staff meeting
- 5:00-Praise Band
- 5:15-Preschool Board

Tuesday (15)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:15-Prayer Group, Ramp Room
- 9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
- 9:30-Card Ministry, 340
- 1:00-DOVE Kids' Clothing Room open
- 6:00-Dorcas

Wednesday (16)

- 10:15-Preschool Chapel, FC
- 1:00-DOVE Kids' Clothing Room open
- 5:30-Church Council Business meeting

Thursday (17)

- 10:00-Alanon, 340
- 4:15-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
- 5:00-Koinonia, 412
- 5:30-Brass, Disciples Room
- 7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Friday (18)

Saturday (19)

Sunday (20) - Thanksgiving Sunday

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 9:15-Sunday School
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online
- 4:00-Youth Group
- 6:00-DYSO rehearsal, Sanctuary

Monday (21)

- 1:00-DOVE Kids' Clothing Room open
- 7:00-DYSO Concert, Sanctuary

Tuesday (22)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:15-Prayer Group, Ramp Room
- 9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
- 1:00-DOVE Kids' Clothing Room open

Wednesday (23)

- 1:00-DOVE Kids' Clothing Room open

Thursday (24) - Thanksgiving!

Church & Office Closed

Friday (25)

Church & Office Closed

Saturday (26)

Sunday (27)

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
 - 9:15-Sunday School
 - 9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online
 - 10:30-Traditional Worship—Hanging of the Greens, Sanctuary & online
 - 4:00-Youth Group
-

Serving Schedule — Sunday, November 13, 2022



Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Jan Dobbs & Karen Wade
 9:15 - Jan Dobbs

Imboden Creek Elders: Gretchen Kirby & Krista Rohrscheib

November Prep Deacons: Kim Miller & Yvonne Purcell

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - David & Nancy King
 9:15 - Sandy Schultz
 10:30 - Roberta Gorden & David Wagner

Ushers:

8:00 -Team 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Jim & Pamela Bednar
 10:30 - Team 8 - Tom & Diana Ritter, David Sheffer

Greeters:

8:00 - Jim & Pamela Bednar
 9:15 - Andy & Theresa Fulk
 10:30 - Jeannie & Keith Backes

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash
 10:30 - Keith Backes

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Kim Maple
 9:15 - Jodi Van Uytven

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

Michael E. KarunasSenior Minister
 David MartinYouth Director
 Ben Hawkinson Director of Music
 Vicky Woolridge Pastor for Families
 Don Martin.....Visitation Associate
 Cordelia “Dee Dee” Gain..... Organist
 David Williams Organist
 Kathleen Dudley..... Administrative Assistant
 Yvonne Boyd Administrative Assistant
 Emily Elsea Nursery Attendant
 Abigail SmithNursery Attendant
 Kattina Williams Nursery Attendant
 Andrew EvansLead Caretaker
 Jenny Goodman Caretaker
 Sam Hawkinson..... Caretaker
 Cheri Russell..... Caretaker

Serving Schedule — Sunday, November 20, 2022

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - TBA
 9:15 - TBA

Outreach Comm.: D. Cain, D. Ritter, M. Swarthout, R. Trei, L. Virgil, D. York

November Prep Deacons: Kim Miller & Yvonne Purcell

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Gene & Sandy Garver
 9:15 - Matt Moma
 10:30 - Dale Ford & Christine Lyman-Harm

Ushers:

8:00 -Team 4 - Hazel Perry, Capt., Karen Penn, Charlotte Ballance
 10:30 - Team 9 - Kim Miller, Capt., Audrey Miller

Greeters:

8:00 - Charlotte Ballance & Donna Dash
 9:15 - Dave & Cheryl Zollinger
 10:30 - Jean & Jud Pease

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Jim Bednar
 10:30 - Mike Kirby

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - World Outreach
 9:15 - Angie Horvath

“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 to 217-212-2173, or use the QR code to the left. “PRAY” is the only word you should type. Your phone then sends you a link to the prayer request form to fill out. 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.



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

