

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. XCI

Decatur, Illinois, January 2, 2019

No. 1



SUNDAY, January 6, 2019

WORSHIP AT 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

A Change of Plans

Text: *Matthew 2:1-12*

Michael E. Karunas

January 6 – February 10.

Refresh means:

not starting over, as though we ignore 2018 and pretend it didn't exist
building on where we've been
receiving new life and new energy for our lives going forward
taking advantage of the "second chance" God gives us to grow

Each week of this sermon series we will look at stories from scripture involving people whose lives were changed by the second chances God gave them. Each of them had a spiritual "aha" moment that radically altered the course of their own life, as well as the lives of those around them. We hope to experience similar changes in our own lives through a closer look at these role models of faith.

January 6

Matthew 2:1-12 The Wise Men *Willing to be changed*

January 13

Jonah 1-3 Jonah: a Prophet *God doesn't give up on us*

January 20

John 21:15-17 Peter: an Apostle *God forgives and restores*

January 27

Mark 2:1-12 A Paralyzed Man *God heals*

February 3

Mark 5:1-20 A Demon-possessed Man *God uses us where we are*

February 10

Luke 19:1-10 Zacchaeus: a Tax Collector *God desires our actions*

Welcome New Members!

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome John and Maricar Neumann to the Central family! John and Maricar joined at the 9:00 service on December 30. They recently moved to Decatur and have three children, Kate, Kaycee and Kinley. Welcome to Decatur and Central, John and Maricar! We're glad to have you!



Counting On You

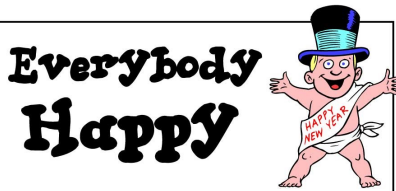
Sunday, December 30, 2018

Worship Attendance 208

Sunday School & Small Groups.....50

NEW YEAR'S BLESSINGS
FROM CENTRAL CHRISTIAN
YOUTH DEPARTMENT

Share a smile!



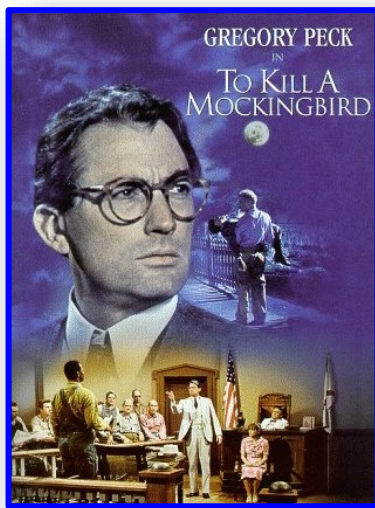
With a smile the New Year came bouncing right in!
A bright-eyed frolicsome soul.
"I want to make all folks so happy and glad!
That," said the Year, "is my goal!"
"So happy – so happy – so happy!" he chanted.
"With never a single wet tear.
But you've all got to help me with all of your might!
Yes, indeed, you must help!" said the Year.

"You must keep cheerful and make others cheerful,
Your smile will be catching, you see!
And shortly a great epidemic of smiles
Will make for much glad energy!
I want people happy – so happy – so happy!"
Cried the New Year and stood on his head.
"And if each person helps me and does all he can –
Then the world WILL be happy!" he said.

by Lenore Hetrick
© Woodcreek.com. All Rights Reserved.

JUST FLICKS PRESENTS.....

To Kill A Mockingbird



Sunday, January 13, 2019

6:00 p.m.

Central Christian Church

Discussion Leader: Mark Sorensen

Director: Robert Mulligan

Starring: Gregory Peck,

Mary Badham and Robert Duvall

Year released: 1962

Running time: 2 hours, 9 minutes

Minister's Article

Changed by Christmas

Everyone in the Christmas story is changed by the birth of Christ. Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men... Each left that first Christmas differently than they had been when it began. As we celebrate his birth once again this year, the question is... What about us? How will Christ change us?

One of my favorite children's Christmas stories revolves around Hoshmekaka in a book called "The Last Straw." He is an old camel, with a long career of service behind him, who is enlisted by the wise men to bear gifts as they follow the star to visit Jesus. But Hoshmekaka is also a proud camel, who foolishly brags that he is as strong as 10 horses. This comes back to haunt him, as all along the journey, people rush out to bring more gifts, and the younger, smaller camels encourage the people saying, "Give him your gifts. He's as strong as 10 horses!!"

So Hoshmekaka ends up carrying rolls of silks, and birds in cages; pillars of oak and pastries from the baker; bags of wheat and gallons of olive oil; jars of honey and baskets of money; jewels, beads, bags of leather goods and urns of wine. He can barely lift his hooves to take another step. Finally, with the manger in sight, a little boy asks if Hoshmekaka can carry a single piece of straw. It will help make his bed soft, the boy explains. Hoshmekaka can't even stop or stoop, but somehow the boy manages to put the straw on top of the camel's load and Hoshmekaka enters the stable. Just in time, for the weight he's been carrying finally becomes too much. The last straw – which "breaks the camel's back" – drives him to his knees. At first, he's afraid the other animals and the wise men will laugh at him for not being strong enough to stand. But in the light of the manger, he realizes that bowing and kneeling is the proper way to approach the manger.

Maybe the way we are changed by Christ at Christmas is by realizing that the way we approach the Christ is by making ourselves small. Humility; The European Crusaders understood that. When they journeyed from Europe to the Holy Land in the 13th century, they found the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. This is a church built on the site where it is believed the manger stood in which Jesus was born. The original building was built in the 330s, when it was commissioned by the Roman Emperor Constantine. That building was destroyed by fire 200 years later but in the 6th century, a second cathedral was built right on top of the rubble of the old building. That is essentially the same building that stands in Israel on the West Bank today.

When the Crusaders arrived some 600 years later, they added one feature to the cathedral that is still in use today. Instead of entering the church through the enormous, wooden doors at the back of the church – as is typical in most European cathedrals – they carved a single door to the side of the main sanctuary. If you visit the Church of the Nativity today, this is the door you will enter. But the Crusaders intentionally made the door small. In fact, the doorway is just over 4 feet tall, so that if you are even of average height, you must bend way over to get through the frame. The Crusaders believed that bowing down – and making oneself small - was the proper posture and attitude needed to come near the birthplace of Christ. Humility.

Minister's Article Continued on Page 3.....

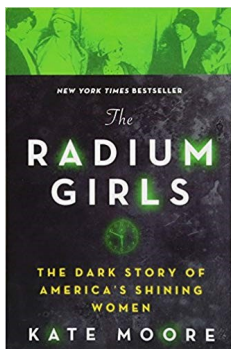
So often, we are tempted to believe that strength is measured by how tall we stand and how much we can carry; that power is our ability to influence and persuade others. We hate to admit we're ever wrong, for fear that it be seen as a sign of weakness, so we just don't do it. That's certainly true in our current social and political discourse. Yet it is not this "large-ness" that allows us to draw near to Christ. It is rather our smallness that makes us worthy – our humility. As you make room in your life for Christ tonight, and as you seek to keep him there in the coming year, I invite you to reflect on humility. *Where can you stand to be more humble? How can humility play a larger role in the life you lead?* Not only will this help build stronger communities among us, it will draw each of us nearer to Christ.

Blessing—**Michael**

Women's Book Club

January 14 at 12:30 & January 15 at 5:30 at Panera

This Month's Title: *Radium Girls* by **Kate Moore**



The Curies' newly discovered element of radium makes gleaming headlines across the nation as the fresh face of beauty, and wonder drug of the medical community. From body lotion to tonic water, the popular new element shines bright in the otherwise dark years of the First World War.

Food Collection

The food collection for January 6th is canned fruit and canned soup. As always, the shopping cart is located in the Connection Café. Donations will be delivered to the Northeast Community Fund. *Thank you for your generous giving.*

COLLEGIATE CHORAL FINALE CONCERT

Millikin University

Sunday, January 20, 7:30 p.m.



The culminating concert following the chorale's week-long tour.

Guy Forbes, conductor

Lost & Found

The office currently has a collection of lost items. If you have lost something, please check in with the office to see if we found it. All items that are not claimed by February 3rd will be donated. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.



Sunday, January 6, 2019

8:00-Traditional Worship Service

Music:

Offertory—Dee Dee Gain, organ

Anthem—*Star of Bethlehem*

9:00-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall

9:00-Fellowship Coffee

9:00-Youth Sunday School Classes

9:15-Adult Sunday School Classes

10:30-Traditional Worship Service

12:00-Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall

Monday (7)

9:00-Good Sam

Tuesday (8)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

9:30-Card Ministry, 240

10:30-Staff Meeting, Conference Room

Wednesday (9)

10:15-Chapel, Friendship Center

10:30-Minister's Meeting

5:00-Elders Meeting, Disciples' Room

6:15-Women's Bible Study, Great Hall & Kit

Thursday (10)

10:00-Al-Anon, 240

4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples' Room

7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (11)

Saturday (12)

Sunday (13)

8:00-Worship Service

9:00-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall

9:00-Fellowship Coffee

9:00-Youth Sunday School Classes

9:15-Adult Sunday School Classes

10:30-Worship Service

12:00-Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall

4:00-Youth Group, Great Hall

5:30-Just Flicks, Great Hall

In the Hospital...

DMH:

Madelyn Van Pragg

St. Mary's:

No One



Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

650 West William Street
Decatur, IL 62522

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

Serving Schedule—Sunday, January 6, 2019

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Kevin Miller, David Wagner

Imboden Creek:

Gail Prince, Connie Bordner

Deacons:

8:00 - Team 1 - Gene & Sandy Garver, Gail Prince, Debbie Hoffert,
Al & Chris Fagin, Dennis Downey, Pamela Bednar, David Wagner

10:30 - Team 2 - Christine Lyman-Harm, Janet Lyman, Dale Ford,
Jeannie Rade, Erik Harm, Kathy Kauzlarich, Ron Oliver, Steve
Swarthout, Cindy Grabowski, Janelle Beedle, Tom & Diane Ritter,
Paul Gorden, Roberta Gorden, Thomas Karunas, Linda Helton

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 4 - Hazel Perry, Capt., Jerry & Susie Bean, Karen Penn

10:30 - Team 9 - Kim Miller, Capt., Audrey Miller, Ron Oliver, Bill Modlin

Greeters:

8:00 - Gregg & Linda Foltz

10:30 - Barb Tyler, Mark Kincaid

Acolytes:

10:30 - TBD

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash

10:30 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

John & Becky Flanders, David Flanders, Matthew Swarthout

Ride Share Drivers:

8:00 & 9:00 Services & Sunday School - Mark Beal 433-6081

Sunday School and 10:30 service - Kevin Wilmot 875-7767

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

January 7 8:30-12:00—Mary Jane Oliver

January 8 8:30-12:00—Janet Gray

January 9 8:30-12:00—David Flanders

January 10 8:30-12:00—Nancy Taylor

January 11 8:30-12:00—Cindy Soebbing

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522
Telephone (217)428-4336 FAX (217)428-1700
www.cccdisciples.org
e-mail: central@cccdisciples.org

Michael E. Karunas.....Senior Minister
Don Martin.....Minister of Music
Tina Miller.....Associate Minister of CE & Family Life
David Martin.....Youth Director
Cordelia "Dee Dee" GainOrganist
Ashely Sparks.....Administrative Assistant
Yvonne Boyd.....Administrative Assistant
Monica Hernandez.....Nursery Attendant
Cheryl Williams.....Nursery Attendant
Chloe JancosekNursery Attendant
Jennifer Van Dyke.....Preschool Director
Angela Moore.....Teacher Assistant
Paula Partain.....Teacher Assistant
Lisa Coates.....Preschool Teacher
Kay Villarreal.....Preschool Teacher
Sharon Renfro.....Preschool Teacher
Diana Murray.....Preschool Teacher
Stephanie Nihiser.....Preschool Teacher
Lora WrightLead Caretaker
Jim Denzer.....Caretaker
Vernon Wimberly.....Caretaker
Andrew Evans.....Caretaker

Sunday School Classes	Floor	Room
Koinonia	2	212
Ecclesia	2R	240
Chalice	2	207
6th grade - 12th grade	2R	280
Kindergarten - 5th grade	2R	230
Nursery (Birth - 5 years old)	1R	150

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.