

# 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 22, 2019

No. 4



3D ministry is the new name for what was Elderberries. People were telling us that they didn't want to come to an event with the word "elder" in the name, so we changed the name and hope to expand what happens with this ministry. We will still offer DINING. Our first event for this year will be on February 13. We will DASH

to various places like the Little Theater on the Square and other destinations of interest. We will also DISCOVER with special guests offering programs covering different topics and styles of presentation.

This ministry is offered to everyone who wishes to join together with other folks in times of fun and fellowship. You are welcome NO MATTER HOW YOUNG you are!! Join us and enhance your vision at 3D Ministry.

The menu for February 13th will be Lasagna, Olive Garden style salad, Garlic bread, Red Velvet Cake and Ice cream. All of this for just \$5! If you wish, bring a wedding picture or a graduation picture. We will display them and have a contest to see who can correctly identify the most people.

### **Recognition and Installation Scheduled for February 3**

As a new year gets underway, we also begin a new serving year in the congregation. In some cases, that means some church leadership positions are changing, while other church leaders are continuing in the positions they held in 2018. It is important to recognize this fact within the context of worship. On **Sunday February 3**, we will be doing just that. We are asking all *outgoing* church leaders to attend the service of their choice (those stepping down from their position as officer, elder, deacon, trustee, or committee chair) as well as those who are *beginning* or *continuing* their position as officer, elder, deacon, trustee or committee chair. During worship, we will recognize and thank those outgoing leaders, and offer prayers for all of the new and continuing leaders. At our 10:30 a.m. service, we will also be presenting the Elder Emeritus award to John McClarey. Make sure to be in worship on February 3 to support all of our leaders at Central.

**SUNDAY, January 27, 2019**  
WORSHIP AT 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.  
**God Heals: Healing comes in many forms!**  
Text: *Mark 2:1-12*  
Tina Miller

### **Food Collection**

The food collection for February 3 is canned tomato products, pork 'n beans and northern beans. Cereal is always welcome. As always, the shopping cart is located in the Connection Café. Donations will be delivered to the Northeast Community Fund.

### **Souper Bowl Sunday Special!**

Dorcas ladies will sell three kinds of homemade soup on Sunday, February 3rd in the Connections Café. You'll be able to buy tasty tortellini, vegetable beef, and cheese soup from 9-12 noon. 16 oz. containers will cost \$4.00 each.

In order to help us know how much soup to make, please complete the Soup Sale insert in the Sunday Bulletin.

More info coming!  
Stop by the Café on February 3rd for our yummy Soup Sale and help Dorcas Disciples continue its ministry of serving others.

**Counting On You**  
**Sunday, January 20, 2019**  
Worship Attendance ..... 215  
Sunday School & Small Groups.....69

Last Sunday the youth group had lunch at church and then we went ice skating with a group of 13 youth and 6 adults. It was a fun day for everyone!



**Spanish**

**Conversations Class**

Mondays & Thursdays  
Beginning on 1/28 & 1/30  
5:30 pm in Room 240  
(EXCEPT 2/4 class will be  
in the Disciples' Room)

**FREE**

***I'd Climb Every Mountain***

Two significant events dominated my attention this past weekend. Saturday was devoted to a regional show choir competition at which my son's choir performed. After the semi-final round he was invited to perform a solo and chose a song by Callum Scott, which he arranged, while accompanying himself on the piano. Our family knows this song quite well, having heard him practicing it in the basement frequently, and consequently know all the lyrics. It is a beautiful, heartfelt song with a chorus that includes the phrase, "I'd climb ev'ry mountain, swim ocean, just to be with you and fix what I've broken..." Clearly this is meant for someone very important to the singer, who wants to prove how meaningful they are by all that the singer is willing actively to *do*. The singer regrets something that went wrong and is now promising to put forth the most intense amount of effort to show the strongest dedication and commitment. Not surprisingly, the song resonates with people of all ages who can "dedicate" the song to someone they love.

With that chorus echoing in my mind, I transitioned to the second significant event: Sunday worship at Central Christian. Our focus was Lydia, the first convert in the church in Philippi, whose story is told in [Acts 16:11-15](#). Lydia seemingly has everything; at least everything that earthly life promotes. She is a successful business owner, well-connected, rubbing shoulders with society's elites, financially secure, and has a family to love. By her work ethic and tireless efforts, she has earned affluence and influence. She has achieved status and independence. And yet something was missing in Lydia's life. This lack of fulfillment created in her a spiritual curiosity that led her to a "place of prayer;" a place where she was open to receive something that might fill the void within. This is precisely the place she met Paul and heard him speak. From what we know of Paul's preaching elsewhere in the New Testament, we can be pretty sure his words to her went something like this:

*Lydia, in the end we are not saved by the hard work we put forth on earth; nor by the good things we do for those dependent on us; nor by the assets and achievements we accumulate - even if these things produce beneficial consequences. On earth they are important to us. They can help us navigate our way through life. They often make us feel comfortable. And we may have gifts that can flourish when we pursue these things. And yet... none of these things will ever satisfy our deepest longings. They cannot save us from our feelings of dissatisfaction. Only God's gifts of grace, generosity and love can do that; our faith in Christ as the best expression of those gifts. And when we truly believe that, our lives are changed in the present. We find that our priorities and perspectives change. We no longer chase after future goals at the expense of experiencing and expressing God's love and generosity in the present moment.*

I am struck by the juxtaposition of this song from Saturday and this story from Sunday. When it comes to expressing our love for someone, effort, hard work and dedication will probably always matter. When it comes to repairing broken relationships with others, images like "climbing mountains" and "swimming oceans" will resonate with our human experiences. And truth be told, I could listen to my son perform that song daily.

But when it comes to our relationship with Christ – the one that outlasts even the strongest of our earthly bonds – it is not what we *do* that matters, but who we *are* - people who believe in the gifts of grace and generosity and love that are present in every moment and appreciating them when they come to us; being attentive to these gifts in the here and now and seeking to share that which we have received. This is what truly saves us. All else will likely provide moments of comfort along the way. But in the end, they will eventually leave us somehow unsettled or unsatisfied. Lydia discovered this truth from Paul. May we receive this truth from her.

Blessings—*Michael*

**Special Note of Thanks**

Thank you and Blessings to all the wonderful men and women who helped with the beautiful decorations this Christmas season. Preparation, Hanging for the Greens and returning to the storage area takes hours. Your efforts and spirits are greatly appreciated. See you all next year!

Donna Dash

**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.*

**Chalice Class**

Title: *Democracy in Peril?*

Focus: Is democracy dying? This question is being asked in headlines across the world. Why should Christians care about the health of democracy? What can people of faith do in their communities and congregations to address this concern?



**Preschool News**

This week the 3 year old classes took a little time to go “camping!” They went on a bear hunt and rounded the week off with S’mores.

The 4’s class will have a teddy bear picnic on Thursday after they locate their favorite teddy bears who will go off on their own adventure earlier in the day. The students will need flashlights and maps to locate the bears and make their way to the designated picnic area.

The Pre-K class made waffle bowl yogurt sundaes on Tuesday and are working on assessments this week to prepare for Parent-Teacher Conferences next week.

*Jennifer Van Dyke*  
Director



**Sunday, January 27, 2019**

8:00-Traditional Worship Service  
 Music:  
 Offertory—Vocal Ensemble  
 Anthem—*Prayer for Healing*  
 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  
 12:00-Mid-Winter Youth Retreat Ends, McComb  
 4:00-FaithQuest, 240  
 6:00-Just Flicks, Great Hall

**Monday (28)**

9:00-PS: Parent/Teacher Conferences, Gallery  
 10:00-Midstate Soccer, Great Hall  
 5:00-Veterans, Great Hall  
 5:30-Spanish Conversations Class, 240

**Tuesday (29)**

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café  
 8:00-ChristCare Stitchers Retreat, 207 & GH  
 9:00-PS: Parent/Teacher Conferences, Gallery  
 11:45-PS: Staff Meeting, 170  
 5:30-Preschool Board Meeting, Conference Rm  
 6:00-Welcome 101, Friendship Center  
 6:30-H&S, Choir Room & Connection Café

**Wednesday (30)**

9:00-PS: Parent/Teacher Conferences, Gallery  
 10:15-Chapel, Friendship Center

**Thursday (31)**

9:00-PS: Parent/Teacher Conferences, Gallery  
 10:00-Al-Anon, 240  
 11:45-CINC, Disciples’ Room  
 4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café  
 6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples’ Room  
 7:00-Chancel Choir

**Friday (1)**

9:00-PS: Parent/Teacher Conferences, Gallery

**Saturday (2)**

10:00-Dorcas Soup Prep, Kitchen

**Sunday (3)**

8:00-Worship Service  
 800-Dorcas Super Bowl Sunday Soup Sale, C. Café  
 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  
 1:00-Youth Group  
 1:00-FaithQuest, 240

**In the Hospital...**

**DMH:**  
No One

**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 27, 2019**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Liz Campbell, Judy Ford

**Deacons:**

8:00 - Team 3 - Sid & Krista Rohrscheib, Jane Davis, Charlotte Ballance, Bob Muschal, Pat Penhallegon, Bobby Munos, Brad Munos, Becky Johnston, Carolyn McCall

10:30 - Team 4 - Jeannie Backes, Matthew Swarthout, Jon French, David Martin, Zach Martin, Mark Beal, Doug Soebbing, Roger Rutherford, Ron & Gwen Miller, Seth Martin, Pam Ferguson, Brittney Moran, Pam Larrick, Shelby Baum, Dave Sheffer

**Ushers:**

8:00 - Team 2 - Becky Johnston, Capt., Bruce Campbell, Liz Campbell

10:30 - Team 7 - George Virgil, Capt., Linda Virgil, Jon & Jane French

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Dean & Janet Gray

10:30 - Bob & Mary Jane Linton

**Acolytes:**

10:30 - Amelia Bradfield, Unique Hess

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Donna Dash

10:30 - Mike Kirby

**Preparation of Communion:**

John & Becky Flanders, David Flanders, Matthew Swarthout

**Ride Share Drivers:**

8:00 & 9:00 Services & Sunday School - Andy Fulk 763-6624

Sunday School and 10:30 service - Brett Swallow 433-7488

**Main Entrance Door Hosts:**

January 28 8:30-12:00— Karen Baird

January 29 8:30-12:00— Betty Chapman

January 30 8:30-12:00— Janet Gray

January 31 8:30-12:00— Sandy Garver

February 1 8:30-12:00— Roberta Gorden

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
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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" Gain .....Organist  
 Ashely Sparks.....Administrative Assistant  
 Yvonne Boyd.....Administrative Assistant  
 Monica Hernandez.....Nursery Attendant  
 Cheryl Williams.....Nursery Attendant  
 Chloe Jancosek .....Nursery 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 Wright .....Lead 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

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