

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, October 23, 2019

No. 43



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Central Celebration & Picnic

Central Christian Church 650 W. William Street
www.cccdisciples.org

OCTOBER 26

10 am—12 noon Activities

Inflatables:

Batman Combo Bouncer
2 Obstacle Courses
Giant Twister

Heroes of the Legend Cosplay

Super Hero Characters

Pictures & Greet 10:15– 11

Cotton Candy

Glitter Tattoos

Mobile Zoo

Alvin & the Chipmunks

Show at 11 am

Vendors

Free Family Fun!

CELEBRATING the HARVEST

Special SATURDAY NIGHT WORSHIP Service

Meditations Praise Interactive Worship

10.26 6:30-8 pm

Sunday Morning Worship

**10.27 9 am contemporary
8 & 10:30 am traditional**

Central Christian Church
www.cccdisciples.org
650 W. William Street Decatur, IL

SUNDAY, October 27, 2019

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

Patience and Persistence

Text: Luke 18:1-8

Michael E. Karunas

Preschool News

This week all the classes went to Black Bart's Pumpkin Patch. They explored the pumpkin fields, looking for evidence of how pumpkins grow. They also played on the pirate ship and slide and in a small maze. Some students went through the haunted house. They had cookies and popcorn for snack. Although each day was chilly, the pumpkin patch was fun for the students!

Jennifer Van Dyke
Director

Chalice Class

Title: Podcasts

Focus: Over 60 million

Americans listen to one or more podcasts on a weekly basis. What is the history of podcasts, and why is their popularity growing? How can online audio broadcasts be a resource for our spiritual formation?

Next Week: Can We Forgive?



Counting On You

Sunday, October 20, 2019

Worship Attendance 283
Sunday School & Small Groups.....67

Thank you Jane French and Christ Care Stitchers for hemming the Great Hall curtains. They look great!

Celebrating the Harvest

Saturday Night Worship Service
Meditations

Praise

Interactive Worship

October 26, 2019

6:30 – 8 pm

Come and celebrate the Harvest Season!

This is a prelude to the Upcoming November Sermon Series

Youth Hotdog Roast & Hayride



"Before or After?"

There once was a particular congregation that took up the collection of offerings before the sermon. The church was struggling financially, but the pastor believed the church members just weren't giving at the level they could. For its part, the membership loved their pastor but thought him to give excessively long-winded sermons. One morning, before the offerings were collected, the pastor stood up said, "Beloved congregation... I have three different sermons which I am prepared to deliver to you this morning. You will decide which of the three sermons I will give." At this point, the members perked up in their pews. Choice? In the preaching? They had never thought they would be granted so rare and important a task. Accordingly, and with eager interest, they listened with keener attentiveness. The pastor went on. "The first sermon is designed to last 2 minutes but is worth \$1,000. The second is a 30 minute sermon and is worth \$500. The last is a sermon that will easily take 2 hours to finish, but is worth only \$50. Let the deacons now collect the offerings... and we shall see how long I will preach this morning."



Okay, okay. So this is obviously a fictitious story, and I would never think of implementing such a fundraising strategy at Central, though we also collect our offerings *before* the sermon. (That is, at our traditional services. At the contemporary service, worshipers usually deposit their offerings in an offering box after they come forward for communion, which happens to be after the sermon. Moreover, with online giving through our website, some people would likely be fine if we didn't collect offerings at all during worship, as they offer theirs at times other than Sunday morning.) At our traditional services, it has been our custom to collect offerings *before* the sermon since long before many of us can probably remember.

This past Sunday, however, as we celebrated Consecration Sunday, we collected offerings *after* the sermon. We have done this before on Consecration Sundays and I, for one, enjoy this periodic change. I appreciate it for what it does for the theological flow of the overall service. After we gather – with song, call to worship and invocation, asking God to bless us with divine presence – we then open ourselves to God as we are (as a congregation) in the pastoral prayer. Here we praise God for who God is; confess our unworthiness of God's grace and mercy; thank God for what God has done for us; and share with God our deepest fears, worries, and concerns. Having done this, we then gather around the Word of God – through an anthem that conveys the worship theme; the reading of scripture and the sermon (a reflection on that scripture). Then... our offerings, collected after the Word, represent our response to that Word. God feeds us with the Word and in return, we show our gratitude for having received that Word by our giving. Communion, which then follows the

(continued on page 3...)

offering, is our reminder that no matter how much we do – through our giving, faithful choices, and decisions – we are ultimately saved by the grace and mercy of our loving God, so vividly seen in the celebrating of communion.

I enjoy having the offering collected after the sermon on the day we share our Estimates of Giving for how we plan to support the church for the coming year (as we did this past Sunday). Since we spend the sermons during this time of year talking about the importance of giving, it seems only right that we collect them *after* we are done talking about them. In a sense, each sermon is an extended invitation to offering during the month of October. Our tradition of collecting offerings at Central in the sanctuary *before* the sermon is a fine one and it has served us well – practically and emotionally – over the decades, but I do appreciate the change-of-pace that collecting them after the sermon affords us to think about what we do, *theologically*, differently.

Blessings... Michael

Stewardship Update

Thank you to all who made our “God’s Work, Our Hands: Stories of Generosity” sermon series possible. Don Martin, for coordinating special music to accompany the three week focus; to stewardship chair Mike Munos for the special refreshments after worship on October 20; naturally, to all those who spoke and wrote testimonies for worship; to Hannah Brimner for producing the “Why I Love My Church” video ([click here](#) to view it); and so many more! Mostly we thank YOU for your continued generosity which supports Central’s ongoing ministry. And for those who have submitted their Estimate of Giving cards which help us plan a financial budget for 2020. As of October 21, we have received **48 cards totaling \$226,706**. Remember, you can make all of your gifts to the church online by visiting our website (or by [clicking here](#)).

Happy Birthday, Claudine!

On Sunday, October 27th, Claudine Nichols will be observing her 90th birthday with a reception at Central from 9-10:30 and following the 10:30 service. Please stop by the Friendship Area for a piece of birthday cake and a chance to wish Claudine a happy birthday. No gifts please, but cards would be welcomed.

Prayer and Memorial Service for Jeff Hunter

Jeff Hunter passed away several weeks ago, and while the family requested a very private ceremony to mark that event, we know those who loved and cared for him here at Central did not have a chance to mark his passing. To that end, Pastors Don and Michael will lead an informal, but very reverent, prayer and memorial service for Jeff on **Wednesday, November 6, at 5:30 p.m. in the Flewelling Chapel**. All are welcome.

Greeters

Greeters are needed before the 8:00 and 10:30 services. Greeters arrive 15 minutes before the service and stand at the bottom of the steps by the main entrance. Your job is to welcome members and guests. If you are currently serving as greeter and want to change your schedule, please call the church office. If you would like to become a greeter, please let the office know.

Food Collection for November 3rd

Our food collection each month goes to the Northeast Community Fund, which just moved into their brand new facility at 839 N. Martin Luther King St. Congratulations! For November 3rd, we will be collecting canned soup, pork 'n beans, and canned tomato products. Cereal is always welcome. Thank you for your wonderful generosity. The collection shopping cart is located in the Connection Cafe.



Sunday (27)

Preschool Book Fair begins

Contemporary Worship Celebration

- 8:00-Traditional Worship Service
- 9:00-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall
- 9:00-Fellowship Coffee
- 9:00-Youth Sunday School Classes
- 9:00 & 11:30– Reception for Claudine Nichols (after each service, Conn. Café)
- 9:15-Adult Sunday School Classes
- 10:30-Traditional Worship Service
- NO Praise Team Rehearsal
- NO Youth Group
- 4:00-Millikin Fall Concert
- 6:00-Millikin Fall Concert

Monday (28)

- 5:00-Veterans, Disciples Room
- 5:30-Bowling, Spare Time Lanes
- 5:30-Spanish Conversations Class, 240
- 6:00-Financial Peace University, Great Hall/ Disciples Room

Tuesday (29)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 207
- 11:40-Preschool Staff Meeting
- 1:00-MU Class, 240
- 4:00-Evangelism/Marketing, Conf. Room
- 6:30-Heart & Soul Choir, Choir Room/ Connection Café

Wednesday (30)

- 10:15-Chapel, Friendship Center
- 6:30-Book Study, 240

Thursday (31)

- 10:00-Al-Anon, 240
- 4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
- 6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples Room
- 7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (November 1)

- 7:00-Private event, GH & Sanctuary

Saturday (2)

- 10:30-Youth leaving for Eureka College

Sunday (3)

Daylight Savings Time change

- 8:00-Traditional 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-Traditional Worship Service
- NO Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall
- 1:00-Youth return from Eureka College
- 3:00-Tina Miller’s service of ordination
- NO Youth Group



Serving Schedule—Sunday, October 27, 2019

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Vicky Woolridge & Charlotte Ballance
9:00— Laura Chapman

Deacons:

8:00 - Team 1 - Gene & Sandy Garver, Gail Prince, Debbie Hoffert,
Al & Chris Fagin, Pamela Bednar, David Wagner
9:00— Cindy Grabowski
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

Ushers:

8:00 -Team 1 - Charlotte Ballance, Capt., Bob & Karen Keller
10:30 - Team 6 - Mark Beal, Capt., Mark Kincaid, Susan Bryant

Greeters:

8:00 - Ed & Joy Adams
9:00— Fulk family
10:30 - This could be you. Yes, you, reading this Visitor!! :) Call us!

Acolytes:

10:30 - Jane & Emmy Osman

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash
10:30—Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

Julie Martin, Hazel Perry, Linda Shambaugh

Ride Share Drivers:

8:00 & 9:00 Services & Sunday School - Mark Beal 433-6081
Sunday School and 10:30 service - Brett Swallow 433-7488

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30—Gail Prince
9:00—Theresa Fulk

Hospitality:

9:00— Fulk family

Tech:

9:00—Jodie Walwer & Mike Tanzyus

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

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

October 28 8:30-12:00—Karen Baird
October 29 8:30-12:00—Jane Davis
October 30 8:30-12:00—Karen Keller
October 31 8:30-12:00—Pearl Jones
November 1 8:30-12:00—Roberta Gorden

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www.cccdisciples.org
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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" GainOrganist
David Williams.....Organist
Kathleen Dudley.....Administrative Assistant
Yvonne Boyd.....Administrative Assistant
Hannah Brimmer.....Social Media Coordinator
Maddie Genz.....Nursery Attendant
Cheryl Williams.....Nursery Attendant
Kattina WilliamsNursery Attendant
Jennifer Van Dyke.....Preschool Director
Paula Partain.....Teacher Assistant
Lisa Coates.....Preschool Teacher
Amber Marshall.....Preschool Teacher
Diana Murray.....Preschool Teacher
Stephanie Nihiser.....Preschool Teacher
Kay Villarreal.....Preschool Teacher
Lora WrightLead Caretaker
Jim Denzer.....Caretaker
Andrew Evans.....Caretaker
Toby Jones.....Caretaker
Donté Morgan.....Caretaker

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