

# The Central Visitor



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Decatur, Illinois, December 11, 2019

No. 50



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## Come Home for Christmas Brunch & Lunch



We would like to invite everyone to celebrate Come Home For Christmas on December 15th. Immediately after the 8:00 AM service, we will offer breakfast in the Friendship Center area. We will also offer breakfast in the Great Hall to those attending the 9:00 AM service. Finally, we will serve lunch in the Great Hall immediately following

the 10:30 AM service. You may call the church office for reservations or email [central@cccdisciples.org](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org). Include which meal you will attend and how many are in your party.

## Women's Ministry Cookie Exchange

The Women's Ministry invites all women to attend a Cookie Exchange at Central on **December 17, 2019, at 6:00 PM**. Please bring 3 dozen cookies to share (they don't have to be homemade) and your holiday spirit. There will be appetizers, games, and prizes, and our Heart and Soul Choir will provide entertainment at 7:00 PM.



## Heart and Soul Carol Sing

**Tuesday December 17, 7:00 in the Great Hall**

Please come and bring your friends to share in the music of Christmas presented by Heart and Soul. There will also be a time of carol singing for you to enjoy. Refreshments and fellowship will follow.



**SUNDAY, December 15, 2019**

**Symphony Sunday/Come Home  
for Christmas**

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

**Paradise Found**

Text: Isaiah 35:1-7

Michael E. Karunas

## Preschool News

The preschool wing was merry and bright with the sights and sounds of Christmas this week! The 4's classes practiced Christmas carols. Everyone made special gifts for their families. There are new and different holiday activities for every room. Some activities, such as our gingerbread boys and girls, even escaped the classrooms! In addition to that, 3 of our classes took a day to go visit the Children Museum this week. We only have one week left until our Christmas break begins.

*-Jennifer Van Dyke, Director*

## Chalice Class

**Title:** Oppression and Justice

**Focus:** In the wake of damaging wildfires in recent years, some Native Americans have been working to reclaim practices that helped protect the land for thousands of years. Why were these and many other traditions suppressed? What can the experience of Native Americans teach us about injustice and oppression? How can we as Christians help create a more just world?

**Next Week:** Exclusion and Embrace





Christmas Greetings,  
On behalf of the Christian Education Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to send a letter of thanks and appreciation to you for your participation in this year's Children's Craft Workshop. I know that it takes many hours of planning and preparation behind the scenes for such a wonderful event to be shared in what seems like a matter of moments! Those moments brought smiles and happiness to 21 children. As you served at the workshop this past Saturday, hands and hearts worked together to make beautiful crafts. It seemed like each conversation and action connected people with the creative love of God! Again, thank you so much for taking the time out of your schedule to help. I hope that you had fun and I trust you will have a wonderful Christmas season and a very blessed and Happy New Year.

~ Tina Miller



## Advent Reflections

Advent is a time in the church year dedicated to waiting and patience, and while waiting and patience are probably not the eager domain of many (or any) of us, they are a crucial part of our spiritual development. For centuries, Christians have used the Advent season to ponder the deeper mysteries of faith, such as the importance of waiting and patience. Additionally, Advent is a time to consider a world *without* the Christ who is to come. Here are some cited thoughts about some of these spiritual themes. As you continue to move toward Christmas with your personal preparations, may words and thoughts such as these cause you to discover a new depth of your faith in, and commitment to, the Christ who comes.

*Advent is often a time of opening our homes to neighbors, friends, and family. We welcome new visitors in our churches during this season of preparation. Hospitality is a central piece of our faith lives. And it is true that time and time again in our sacred scriptures, we are reminded not just to welcome those we know but the stranger as well. We need this reminder to welcome one another, not only in our physical lives, but in our prayer lives as well. During this season when we welcome people, well-known and new, let us take time in prayer to ask God whom we are overlooking, unintentionally or not, because when we extend welcome to others, we extend welcome to the Christ child in our midst.*

*Advent Devotion, 2019  
The Bethany Fellows  
of the Disciples of Christ  
Cara Gilger, Editor*

*Above the clamor of our violence your word of truth resounds,  
O God of majesty and power.  
Over nations enshrouded in despair your justice dawns.  
Grant your household a discerning spirit and a watchful eye,  
to perceive the hour in which we live.  
Hasten the advent of that day when the weapons of war shall be banished,  
our deeds of darkness cast off, and all your scattered children gathered  
into one.  
We ask this through him whose coming is certain, whose day draws near:  
Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy  
Spirit,  
One God, for ever and ever.*

*Prayer for the second  
Sunday of Advent  
The Sunday of Peace*

*Winter waketh all my care;  
Now when leaves waxeth bare, oft I sigh and sorrow sore  
when it cometh into my thought of this world's joy, how it goeth all to nought.  
Now it is, and now it is gone, as if it had never been.  
What many say, sooth it is:  
all goeth but God's will! All shall die, though we like it nil.  
All that grows forth into dust, now it fadeth all at once:  
Jesu! Help that it be seen,*

*(continued on page 3....)*



*and shield us from hell!*

*For I know not wither I go, nor how long I here dwell.*

*Fourteenth Century  
Advent Liturgy*

Blessings... Michael

### **Dedication of Braylon Wilcoxon**

This past Sunday, at our 9:00 service we were blessed to welcome the Wilcoxon family who brought their son, Braylon, to be dedicated. Travis and Jessa are both professors at Millikin- Travis in the biology department and Jessa in arts technology. Their older son, Baron, attends Central Christian Preschool. We welcome Braylon and his family to the Central community!



### **In Sympathy We Mourn**

We grieve with Bob and Carol Wade and their families the passing of Bill Wade on Sunday, December 8th. The arrangements for Bill are as follows: services will be held at Graceland-Fairlawn. 10:00 visitation; 11:00 service. Burial will be in the Graceland cemetery with military rites.

### **Special Services– Mark your calendar!**

**December 15th** - “Come Home for Christmas” Sunday & Symphony Sunday. Brunch & Lunch served after services. Millikin Decatur Symphony Orchestra performs.

**December 22nd** - “Bring a Bell” Sunday. Bring a bell with you to worship.

**December 24th** - Christmas Eve services at 5:00pm (Contemporary) & 7:00pm (Traditional). 6:30 pm - Harp Concert & Children’s Craft.

### **“Come They Told Me”: 2019 Christmas Special Offering**

As partners in ministry, the Regional Church and local congregations work together. The staff and volunteers of the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin serve local congregations and their leaders in the following ways: Starting new churches, providing youth activities including camp experiences, leading anti-racism training, offering mission opportunities, promoting transformation and helping with communication. Thank you for sharing your gifts. 100% of these offerings go to support CCIW ministries. We will receive these offerings on Sundays 12/15 & 12/22.



### **Sunday (15)**

#### **Come Home for Christmas/Symphony Sunday**

8:00-Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary  
9:00-Come Home for Christmas Brunch, Friendship Center  
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, Sanctuary  
12:00-Come Home for Christmas Lunch, Great Hall  
NO Praise Team rehearsal  
4:00-Youth Group Christmas party, Great Hall

### **Monday (16)**

10:00-Operations Committee  
5:30-Bowling, Spare Time Lanes  
6:00-Girl Scouts, Troop #3262, Disc. Room

### **Tuesday (17)**

9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 207  
9:30-Card Ministry, 240  
10:00-Staff Meeting, Conference Room  
6:00-Women’s Group Christmas Party, Friendship Center  
7:00-Heart & Soul Choir Carol Sing, Great Hall

### **Wednesday (18)**

#### **Preschool 3’s Christmas Party**

10:15-Preschool Chapel, Friendship Center  
10:30-Ministers’ Meeting  
4:15-Peace & Justice Committee, 240  
5:00-Church Council Committee Meeting, D.R.

### **Thursday (19)**

#### **Preschool 2’s & 4’s Christmas Party**

10:00-Alanon, 240  
6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples Room  
7:00-Chancel Choir

### **Friday (20)**

3:00-Baby Talk Foundations Graduation, D.R.  
5:00-Wedding Rehearsal

### **Saturday (21)**

12:00-Wedding

### **Sunday (22)**

8:00-Traditional Worship Service, Sanctuary  
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, Sanctuary  
12:00-Praise Team rehearsal  
NO Youth Group

### **Counting On You**

**Sunday, December 8, 2019**

Worship Attendance = 285

Sunday School & Small Groups = 73

## Serving Schedule—Sunday, December 15, 2019

### Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Kevin Miller & Brett Swallow  
9:00 - Brett Swallow

### Outreach Communion:

Andy Fulk, Kevin Wilmot, Tom Spry, Laura Chapman, Gerri Munos, Penny Rutherford, Janet Lyman

### Deacons:

8:00 - Team 3 - Sid & Krista Rohrscheib, Jane Davis, Mike Munos, Bob Muschal, Pat Penhallegon, Bobby Munos, Becky Johnston, Carolyn McCall  
9:00 - Steve Baumann  
10:30 - Team 4 - Jeannie Backes, Matthew Swarthout, Jon French, David Martin, Mike & Gretchen Kirby, Mark Beal, Doug Soebbing, Roger Rutherford, Ron & Gwen Miller, Seth Martin, Pam Ferguson, Brittney Moran, Pam Larrick, Shelby Baum

### Ushers:

8:00 - Team 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Jim & Pamela Bednar  
10:30 - Team 8 - Pamela Ferguson, Capt., Doug Soebbing

### Greeters:

8:00 - Jerry & Susie Bean  
9:00 - Baumann family  
10:30 - George & Linda Virgil

### Acolytes:

10:30 - Kellan Niles-Cox & Jordan Lindsey

### P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Jim Bednar  
10:30 - Larry Pepper

### Preparation of Communion:

Ron & Jan Dobbs, Karen Penn, Becky Johnston

### Ride Share Drivers:

8:00 & 9:00 Services & Sunday School - Mark Beal 433-6081  
Sunday School and 10:30 service - Doug Soebbing 875-1836

### Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Randy Brooks  
9:00 - Sandy Schultz

### Hospitality:

9:00 - Baumann 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:

December 16 8:30-12:00 - Carole McClarey  
December 17 8:30-12:00 - Carol Bischoff  
December 18 8:30-12:00 - Karen Keller  
December 19 8:30-12:00 - Pearl Jones  
December 20 8:30-12:00 - Gail Prince

**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  
David Williams.....Organist  
Kathleen Dudley.....Administrative Assistant  
Yvonne Boyd.....Administrative Assistant  
Hannah Brimmer.....Social Media Coordinator  
Gabrielle Coulthard.....Nursery Attendant  
Maddie Genz.....Nursery Attendant  
Cheryl Williams .....Nursery Attendant  
Kattina Williams .....Nursery 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 Wright .....Lead Caretaker  
Jim Denzer.....Caretaker  
Andrew Evans.....Caretaker  
Toby Jones.....Caretaker  
Donté Morgan.....Caretaker

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