

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, February 6, 2019

No. 6

Welcome New Member

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Amy Lester to the Central Christian family! Amy transferred her membership at the 9:00 a.m. service on February 3. Amy and her husband Eric live in Oreana. Eric works for the DMH pharmacy, while Amy works at the Gailey Eye Surgery Center and Fleet Feet. She is an avid runner and together they maintain an extensive garden. We are delighted that Amy is with us!



Recognition Sunday!!!

In addition to offering prayers of blessing on our new serving year 2019, and upon those elected by the congregation to serve in the capacity of Elder, Trustee, Deacon or Officer, we also presented recognitions. Each of our out-going committee chairs and officers received awards for their service. John McClarey received the prestigious Elder Emeritus award. And Mike Munos was presented a plaque of appreciation, as all of our out-going Council Presidents do, for his leadership in that role during these last two years. Thank you to Mike, John, and all of our valuable leaders who received certificates this past Sunday.

3D Ministry

February 13th

Picture contest at 11:30 and
dine at 12:00



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 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. Sign up on the pew pad or call the office at 217-428-4336 to RSVP.

SUNDAY, February 10, 2019

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

Lost and Found

Text: *Luke 19:1-10*

Michael E. Karunas

Birthday Celebration!

You are invited to celebrate with Bob Logan on his 85th birthday, on Sunday, February 10. Open House from 2-4pm at The New Moon Cafe, 3755 E. William Street.



Women's Book Club

February 11 at 12:30pm

&

February 12 at 5:30pm

This Month's Book: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

by Zora Neale Hurston

Counting On You

Sunday, February 3, 2019

Worship Attendance 291

Sunday School & Small Groups.....68

Room for Miracles:

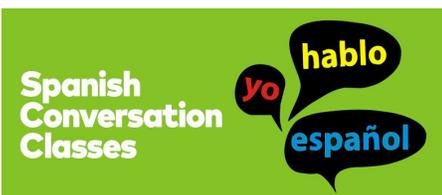
Diana Ritter challenged the CE committee to think deeply on the following meditation from Max Lucado's book, *Grace for the Moment*. Her goal was to encourage us to pray for, share, and carry out new ideas. Enjoy!

I will not believe it until I see the nail marks in his hands and... put my hand into his side. John 20:25

In our world of budgets, long-range planning, and computers, don't we find it hard to trust in the unbelievable? Don't most of us tend to scrutinize life behind furrowed brows and walk with cautious steps? It's hard for us to imagine that God can surprise us. To make a little room for miracles today, well, it's not sound thinking.

We make the same mistake that Thomas made: we forget that the impossible is one of God's favorite words.

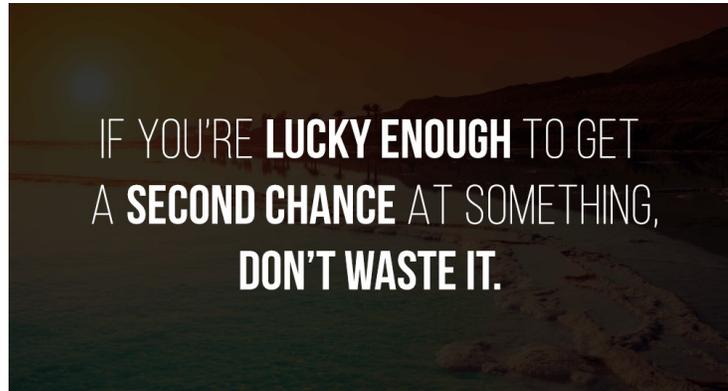
How about you? How is our imagination these days? When was the last time you let some of your dreams elbow out your logic? When was the last time you imagined the unimaginable?... Has it been awhile since you claimed God's promise to do *more than we can ask or imagine*? Eph. 3:20



There is still time to join the Spanish Conversation Class! Every Monday & Thursday 5:30pm – 7:00pm. No need to register! Just come! Room 240. For questions, call Central Christian Church 217-428-4336.

Second Chances

Do you really believe everyone deserves a second chance? That question was posed to me by a congregant in the Friendship Center following worship this past Sunday. I had just preached on the [Demoniac in Mark 5](#) who was given a second chance at life by Jesus when his demons were exorcised from him. And I even used the phrase, "In the kingdom Jesus is building, everyone deserves a second chance." It seemed natural that someone might want to raise this question. Especially this man, who had spent a career in law enforcement and admitted that he had "seen too many things" to think that everyone – literally everyone – deserves a second chance.



We chatted briefly, our conversation was most amiable, and in just a few moments we acknowledged several things:

- Preaching can be a difficult event for both the preacher (who can't cover every possible question a listener might be thinking) and listener (who can't really respond, as preaching is very much a one-way communication experience).
- When we say "second chance", we should be clear about whether we truly mean a second chance or the *repeated* giving of chance after chance after chance.
- There are truly heinous acts that fall under a different category (as outlying cases should do).

But I believe his question deserves a bit of a longer answer than a quick back-and-forth after worship can afford.

"Second chances" – whether we are talking about our earthly relationships with one another or our relationship with God – are about exactly that. Relationships. And in relationships there is always a role for accountability in addition to the grace and forgiveness of a "second chance." Giving too many chances without any kind of accountability in return can lead to enablement of undesired behavior. Conversely, too much accountability without a chance to live anew is abuse and oppression. For the relationship to be such that the individuals in it have the opportunity to live up to their potential, there must be a balance between grace ("second chances") and accountability (a change in behavior). Jesus said this very thing in [John 13:34](#); I will give my love to you (grace), he said, and the expectation in return is that you love another (accountability). In this respect, I would have to say, *I don't believe in giving a "second chance" without some kind of change in behavior in return.*

Yet, this thought alone misses a larger point. “Second chances” – whether extended by God or among people – are about faith. The reason we grant grace to one another is because we believe the recipient of that grace is capable of producing something good for others; something that will improve relationships and community. When we fail to grant grace – or when we are hesitant to give a “second chance” to someone – it is because we doubt their ability to do this. So perhaps the better question is not “Do you believe everyone deserves a second chance?” but rather “Does God believe everyone is capable of producing something good for others?” To this I would respond “Yes. I believe God does.” This is why God grants grace to us – not just a “second” time – but again and again and again. Such is God’s faith in us to produce good for others.

Navigating the waters of “second chances” and accountability – in our families, in the workplace, and in every conceivable way in a wider society – will always be difficult. Only when we seek to find the balance between the two will we truly thrive. And only when we are motivated by God’s faith in us – and by God’s grace to us – can we hope to find it.

Blessings—*Michael*

Men’s Bible Study to Begin New Book Study

Beginning the week of February 18, both Journeymen men’s bible study groups (Tuesdays at 7 a.m. and Thursdays at 4 p.m.) will begin a study of the book “Fight” by Craig Groeschel. It is based on the character of Samson in the Book of Judges. This is a great opportunity to check out Journeymen if you’ve been thinking about it. The books cost \$5.00 and there are plenty still available. Feel free to contact Paul Gorden (fast2laps@icloud.com) for a copy of the book or any questions you may have about the study.

Directory Information

We are in the final stages of proofing the directory to be released this Spring. The final step is ensuring that the information printed is correct. However, there were many members who did not get their picture taken or fill out a sheet with their information. We are wanting to make sure that the phone, email and addresses we have on file are complete and accurate. We are asking all members to please contact the church if you believe any of your information needs updated. Please call 217-428-4336 or email central@cccdisciples.org by February 13, 2019.

Chalice Class

Title: *Deaths of Political Leaders*

Focus: In 2018, the deaths of George H. W. Bush and John McCain sparked both a celebration of their lives and an evaluation of their legacies. As Christians, how do we respond to the deaths of political leaders? How can we honor their full humanity while also acknowledging the complexity of their political personas?

Preschool News

This week the 3’s classes learned about migration. They talked about birds and made bird nests. The 4 year old class started a unit about tools. Mr. & Mrs. Garland came in to help the class with some wood working projects. The Pre-K class is learning about the letter K. They were all geared up to go to the Great Hall and kick the soccer ball around with Coach Sef on Monday. They also took some time to learn about kindness towards one another. Although, these kids don’t need a lot of help with that!

Jennifer Van Dyke
Director



Sunday, February 10, 2019

8:00-Traditional Worship Service
Music:
Offertory—Shelby Baum, Brian Maple and Bob Smith
Anthem—*O Love*
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
12:00-Mission Trip Info Meeting, Disciples’ Room
2:00-Women’s Retreat Ends, Chiara Center
4:00-Youth Group
4:00-FaithQuest, 240
5:30-Just Flicks, Great Hall

Monday (11)

9:00-Good Sam
10:00-Midstate Soccer, Great Hall
10:30-Operations Meeting, Conference Room
12:30-Women’s Book Club, Panera
5:30-Spanish Conversations Class, 240
6:00-Women’s Event Planning Meeting, TBD

Tuesday (12)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
5:30-Women’s Book Club, Panera
6:30-H&S, Choir Room & Connection Café
7:00-Millikin Heights, Disciples’ Room

Wednesday (13)

9:00-PS: 3’s Valentines Day Party, Great Hall & Class
10:15-Chapel, Friendship Center
10:30-Ministers Meeting
11:30-3D Ministry Program, Great Hall
12:00-3D Ministry Meal, Great Hall
5:00-Women’s Bible Study Setup, Great Hall & Kit
5:00-Elders Meeting, Disciples’ Room
6:15-Women’s Bible Study, Great Hall

Thursday (14)

9:00-PS: 2’s, 4’s & Pre-K Valentines Parties, DR
10:00-Al-Anon, 240
4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
5:30-Spanish Conversations Class, 240
6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples’ Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (15)

Saturday (16)

Sunday (17)

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
10:00-Pack 35 Gold Banquet, Great Hall & Kitchen
10:30-Worship Service
2:00-Women’s Retreat Ends, Chiara Center
3:30-Youth Group Outing, Blue Mound
4:00-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
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Serving Schedule—Sunday, February 10, 2019

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - 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

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 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 - Gene & Sandy Garver
 10:30 - Glen & Jody Featherstun

Acolytes:

10:30 - Emmy & Jane Osman

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Jim Bednar
 10:30 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

Suzie Miller, Kim Miller

Ride Share Drivers:

8:00 & 9:00 Services & Sunday School - Andy Fulk 763-6624
 Sunday School and 10:30 service - John Baird 429-5651

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

February 11 8:30-12:00— Sandy Garver
 February 12 8:30-12:00— Janet Gray
 February 13 8:30-12:00— Dave Flanders
 February 14 8:30-12:00— Nancy Taylor
 February 15 8:30-12:00— Gail Prince

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
 Hannah BrimmerNursery 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.