

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 20, 2019

No. 7

Joint Concert by Elite Energy and Heart and Soul!



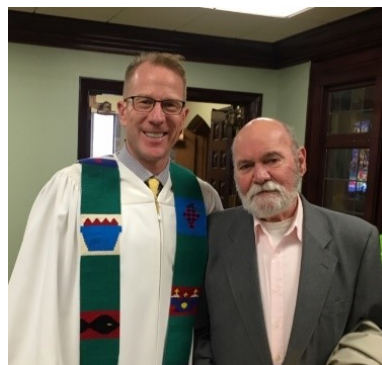
On Thursday, February 28 we will host the 2nd annual "Elite Energy Spaghetti Dinner and Concert with Heart and Soul." From 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. a \$7.00 spaghetti dinner will be served in the Great Hall during which time Elite Energy singers will offer solos as dinner music. At 7:30 p.m. Heart and Soul will sing a few of its favorite numbers, followed by a joint number with Elite Energy, where upon Elite Energy will sing songs from their competition show. Several of these songs are religious in nature and it's sure to be a concert worthy of inspiration and hope. If you wish to attend the Spaghetti Dinner, you can get on the list by contacting the church office. If you simply wish to attend the concert, you can come at 7:30. The 7:30 concert is free.

Good Samaritan Inn

Volunteers from Central Christian will prepare and serve lunch at the Good Samaritan Inn on Saturday March 2. The Good Samaritan often serves 250 or more people each day. The crew needs 5-6 workers 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. for food prep, and 12-14 people for serving 11 a.m.-1 p.m. And all workers are invited to stay and enjoy lunch after the serving line closes! Dave Wagner and Shirley Swarthout head up Central's volunteer team. Please let one of them know if you can help, or sign up at the church office, 428-4336.

Welcome New Member!

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Don Boyd to Central Christian Church. Don transferred his membership to Central this past Sunday at the 10:30 service. Don has been attending Central regularly for the past several months and recently participated in Welcome 101. As he came forward to join he said that he knew from the first day he visited that he would one day join. We are grateful that day was Sunday! Welcome Don!



SUNDAY, February 24, 2019

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

The Prodigy Son

Text: Luke 15:11-32

Michael E. Karunas

Week of Compassion Offering to be collected February 24

*"Now to God be the glory, who by the power
at work within us is able to accomplish
abundantly far more than all we can
ask or imagine." Ephesians 3:20*

All over the world, God's children struggle because they lack resources as basic as clean water and adequate food. Most of us have refrigerators filled with more food than we need and take our bounteous, clean tap water for granted. But God imagines a world in which food and water are plentiful and children are able to grow up healthy. Can we imagine a world like that? Week of Compassion is the arm of our church that reaches into every corner of the earth where there is suffering or need. They represent us to a hurting world. Every year in February, we have the opportunity to share our riches with those most in need through the Week of Compassion. Please consider making your gift on February 24.

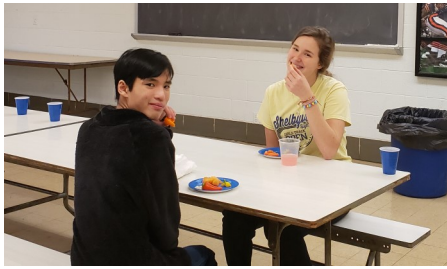
Counting On You

Sunday, February 17, 2019

Worship Attendance 209

Sunday School & Small Groups.....66

Thank you Tom and Diana Ritter
for a fun-filled afternoon at the Blue
Mound Community Center!



A Little More Compassion

The backbone of the story of the Good Samaritan ([Luke 10:25-37](#)) is compassion. Three people see a half-dead man lying by the side of the road. Two of them pass by, doing nothing more than laying eyes on him. Only the third stops and does something to improve the victim's situation. The Samaritan. He not only saw, but he had compassion (v. 33). Compassion is what inspired all of the actions that followed. And without compassion, none of that would have been possible. The word compassion means to "suffer with." The literal Greek word in the New Testament used here contains the word for "guts" in it – as in, to feel "in the gut" the suffering of another.

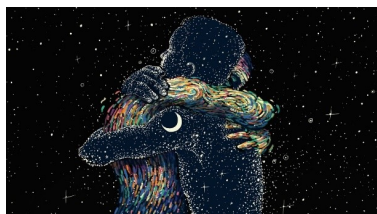
The way we experience compassion, therefore, begins by looking within. Before we can comprehend the world "out there," we must be willing to take a look at the person within our very selves. Compassion is about connecting with the suffering in our *own* life; thinking of times in *our* lives when *we've* been on the mat; when *we've* lost (a job, a relationship, a loved one); when it felt like the walls were caving in around *us*. How did we *feel* at those times? Not what did we do, but how did we *feel*.

Compassion starts here, because there is something called a "similarity-in-difference" in these lives we lead alongside one another. Though each of our lives is uniquely different, there is a similarity in how we experience them. You never knew my father, who died of a heart-attack 20 years ago. And your lost loved ones didn't pass away in the *exact* same way he did. But if I talk about my love for him, and my sadness of losing him, it can connect with you – and the feelings of love you have for your parents or children, and it can connect with your feelings of grief for the people you've lost. We can connect with the hurt and pain of others, even if we don't know anything about them, when we are aware of our own hurt and pain. That's compassion.

I was having a conversation on facebook about these thoughts last week and one wise commenter noted that it is easier to find "similarity-in-difference" the less "different" someone is. How true! Generating compassion for those we know comes much more naturally than it does for those we don't. That's why one of the most important details of the story of the Good Samaritan is what is *not* said about the man who fell into the hands of robbers. We don't know his ethnicity or what he looks like. He's half-dead, which means he's likely unconscious and unable to speak. Which further means that we can't tell if he's speaking a different language, or our own with an accent. We cannot determine if he's "from here" or not. He's described as being "stripped." Therefore, he does not have any identifying clothing with which we could assign him to a particular societal sub-group. Jesus doesn't allow us to deny him compassion because of something external; because "she speaks a different language and therefore must be here for disingenuous reasons;" or because "he's dressed like a gangster and is probably dealing drugs." It is as though Jesus wants us to see past the labels and the external things that characterize us and experience this man exactly as he is. As a man. A human being. Broken, beaten, hurting and in need of compassion.

Minister's Article Continued on 3...

Having compassion for one another will certainly always be easier the closer we are to them. But compassion has a way of bringing us together – bringing us closer to one another and us closer to God. Because compassion, by definition, emphasizes the “similar” more than the “different” in “similarity-in-difference.” And in our contemporary societal climate of polarity and divisiveness, couldn’t we all stand to be drawn toward one another? Could there be anything wrong with experiencing a little more compassion?



Blessings—*Michael*

Special Note of Thanks

Dear Central friends,
Steve, Matthew and I truly appreciate the many cards and expressions of sympathy at the recent passing of my mother, Anne Wilson. We have felt surrounded by your kindness and caring.

With sincere thanks, Shirley Swarthout and family

COOKIES FOR THE MILITARY

Operation Enduring Support is collecting Girl Scout Cookies to send to our Military in Iraq and Afghanistan. We will be sending 125 boxes for our Easter mailing along with about 30 other items they have requested. If you would like to donate, there will be a bag in the Connection Café. We will need the cookies by March 15th. Thank you for your generosity.

NO live-streaming of worship on March 3

As you may know, Central live-streams its 10:30 worship service every week. Here is the link: (<http://www.cccdisciples.org/worship/sermon-live-stream/>). However, for Sunday March 3 only, there will be NO live-streaming. We will, however, live-stream on February 24 and March 10.

Chalice Class

Title: *Generational Burnout*

Focus: A recent article named millennials the burnout generation. Why is this generation burned out? How does this burnout affect other generations? How can Christian faith help us respond to this phenomenon?

Preschool News

This week our 3 year old classes started learning nursery rhymes! “Humpty Dumpty” seems to be a favorite so far in Mrs. Renfro’s class. The 4’s class decided to try out a new theme this year, so we had some busy little pirates in the building this week. They learned that it’s important to listen to your captain and they also learned about map reading! Mrs. Villarreal and Mrs. Moore had lots of fun pirate activities planned out for their students! The Pre-K class has been learning about manners. This week they got to go to the Connection Cafe for a special meal to practice their table manners! *** Our next scholastic book fair will be March 10th. If you do not have anyone to purchase a book for, please consider purchasing a book or making a donation towards a book for a student at Ben Franklin Elementary School. We would love to be able to give each student a book to read during spring break on behalf of Central Christian Church. *** Public enrollment begins March 11th. All enrollment fees will be waived for church members.

Sunday, February 24, 2019

8:00-Traditional Worship Service

Music:

Offertory—Mollie Krueger

Anthem—*Heart and Soul*

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

4:00-FaithQuest, 240

Monday (25)

10:00-Mid-State Soccer, Great Hall

5:00-Veterans, Disciples’ Room

5:30-Spanish Conversations Class, 240

5:30-Women’s Group Meeting, Connection Café

Tuesday (26)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

11:45-Preschool Staff Meeting, 170

Wednesday (27)

10:15-Chapel, Friendship Center

Thursday (28)

10:00-Al-Anon, 240

11:30-SMH Widow Support, Whit’s End

11:45-CINC, Disciples’ Room

12:00-Elite Energy Meal Prep & Student Arrival

1:00-Artwork Committee, Connection Café

3:00-Capital Campaign Planning, Conference Room

4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

5:30-Spanish Conversations Class, 240

6:00-Elite Energy Spaghetti Dinner, Great Hall

6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples’ Room

7:30-Elite Energy/Heart & Soul Concert, Sanctuary

Friday (1)

12:00-Personnel Meeting, 201

Saturday (2)

Sunday (3)

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

4:00-Faithquest, 240

4:00-Youth Group

In the Hospital...

DMH:

Carol Stevens

St. Mary’s:

No One

Jennifer Van Dyke
Director



Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

650 West William Street
Decatur, IL 62522

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

Serving Schedule—Sunday, February 24, 2019

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Tom Spry, Kevin Wilmot

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 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Moran, Bobby Munos

10:30 - Team 6 - Mark Beal, Capt., Mark Kincaid, Susan Bryant

Greeters:

8:00 - Gail Prince, Carolyn McCall

10:30 - Keith & Jeannie Backes

Acolytes:

10:30 - Julina Lindsey, Jordan Lindsey

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Greg Carter

10:30 - Jim Hinze

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 - Brett Swallow 433-7488

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

February 25 8:30-12:00—Karen Baird

February 26 8:30-12:00—Katie Miller

February 27 8:30-12:00—Judy Ford

February 28 8:30-12:00—Carolyn McCall

March 1 8:30-12:00—Carolyn McCall

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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

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