

# 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 27, 2019

No. 8

## Welcome New Member!!!

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome Josiah Agar to Central Christian! He joined Central at the 9:00 service on Sunday, February 24. Josiah attended the very first 9:00 service way back on October 2, 2016. And he has been faithful ever since! Welcome Josiah!!!



## 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 Swarhout 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.

## Joint Concert by Elite Energy and Heart and Soul!

On Thursday, February 28 we will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 may come at 7:30 for the free concert.

## Food Collection

The food collection for March 3rd will be BEANS---canned or bagged dry beans. Also, cereal is always thankfully received. As always the shopping cart is located in the Connection Café for your convience.

## **SUNDAY, March 3, 2019**

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

## **Giving Up to Gain More**

Text: *Mark 1:16-20*

Michael E. Karunas

## **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 have live-stream on March 10.

## **Women's Book Club**

Mon, Mar. 11 - 12:30 pm &

Tue. Mar. 12 - 5:30 pm

at Panera

This Month's Read: *Jackie's Girl* by **Kathy McKeon**. An endearing coming-of-age memoir by a young woman who spent thirteen years as Jackie Kennedy's personal assistant and occasional nanny—and the lessons about life and love she learned from the glamorous first lady.

## **Concert Announcement**

JOHN SHERER — *Organ Concert*

Sunday, March 24, 4:00 p.m.

## **Counting On You**

**Sunday, February 24, 2019**

Worship Attendance ..... 265

Sunday School & Small Groups.....82

**Mardi Gras Sunday**

March 3, 2019

Mr. David and I ordered gold, green, and purple lollipops for our children and youth in celebration of Mardi Gras.

Mardi Gras co-represent the gifts brought to Baby Jesus in the manger: Gold (gold), Frankincense (green), and Myrrh (purple). The circular shape of the lollipop represents God's eternity. I believe it symbolizes the Lord's never-ending love too.

Mardi Gras is full of Christian symbolism and traditions! Come to church this Sunday and learn more.



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**Ash Wednesday Coming March 6**

The beginning of Lent (the 40 days prior to Easter) begins on Ash Wednesday, which will be March 6 this year. To mark this day, we will be offering two (2) services; at 12:00 noon and at 6:00 p.m. Both services will serve communion and impose ashes on the forehead (or back of hand, if you prefer) for those who wish to receive them. The noon service should be less than 40 minutes and the evening service will last less than one hour. The primary difference is that there will be more music in the evening. For those who don't enjoy driving at night, we are offering the day-time service.

**Mardi Gras and Worship???**

This Sunday is the last Sunday before Lent. The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday (March 6 this year) and carries us through Good Friday and the Easter weekend. It is a time in the church year that is devoted to focusing on our spiritual walk of faith and following the teachings of our faith more closely. Historically, Lent (whose name hearkens back to a Old French word which means "to lengthen" and which refers to the "lengthening of days" as Spring approaches) has been a time of fasting. One way we focus on Christ more closely as we move to the cross of his crucifixion on Good Friday is to deny ourselves voluntarily of some of the earthly pleasure of this world. Just as Christ voluntarily sacrificed of himself, so are Christians invited to sacrifice something that brings us joy and comfort as a way of identifying with Christ's suffering.

Likewise, the day before Ash Wednesday is known as Mardi Gras (French for "Great Tuesday" and also known as "Fat Tuesday"). Where it is celebrated, Mardi Gras is a celebratory send off into Lent. It is a time for feasting before the fast. One last chance to indulge in the merriment before a time of seriousness sets in. When we lived in South Louisiana, we experienced 8 Mardi Gras celebrations. For this part of the country, dominated by French settlers and French Canadians who migrated from Nova Scotia, Mardi Gras is a big deal! State offices are closed. Many employers give their employees the day off. And everyone attends parades. When we hear words like "Mardi Gras" and "Louisiana" we may think of New Orleans, the French Quarter, debauchery and indecency. I cannot deny that some things of this nature take place. Yet, Mardi Gras has a great deal of spiritual symbolism embedded in its traditions.



For example, King Cakes are oval-shaped pastries baked in a ring with a hole in the middle. They are served beginning with Epiphany (January 6) until Ash Wednesday. They are traditionally served with icing and covered with sprinkles in the colors of purple, gold, and green. The cakes are shaped in a ring to represent the circular journey of the wise men who visited baby Jesus. The kings arrived by traveling one direction but returned to their home by another road, thus signifying that

their journey was circular and not linear. A true king cake has a tiny plastic figure of a baby baked somewhere within it to represent the baby Jesus whom the kings were seeking. And the colors, gold, purple and green represent the three gifts to Jesus – gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The colors also signify the values of faith (green), justice (purple) and strength (gold).

Then there are the beads. Beads are thrown from floats in Mardi Gras parades and signify the giving of gifts that accompany the visit of the kings to the manger in Bethlehem.

Though beads in contemporary Mardi Gras celebrations have come to signify many different things, it is hard not to associate them with the beads of a rosary, so prevalent in Catholicism. Though not everyone celebrating Mardi Gras is Catholic, we Protestants can still respect this emblem of faith for its reminder to pray and seek the wisdom of God in all things.



This Sunday at worship, we will be serving King Cake, giving beads and providing other decorations of green, gold and purple to help send us on our way to Ash Wednesday, the season of Lent, and the journey to the cross of Good Friday and the empty tomb of Easter Sunday. We hope you can join us!!!

Blessings—*Michael*

### In Sympathy we Mourn

We grieve with Central member Jeff Hunter on the passing of his brother. Rodney Hunter passed away at Barnes-Jewish Hospital on Sunday, February 24. There will be a memorial service, Friday March 1 at 11:00am in the Chapel at Central Christian Church. Please join us in keeping Jeff and his family in your prayers.

### 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 is a red box in the Connection Café. We will need the cookies by March 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your generosity.

### Chalice Class

Title: *Bull Riding*

Focus: In the last ten years, professional bull riding has seen a significant spike in popularity. What are the reasons for this increase? Why do dangerous sports such as bull riding have such a following? How do people of faith engage with the complex concerns around this sport?

### Preschool News

This week our 3 year old classes completed their nursery rhyme units, did Dr. Seuss activities, and finished the week off with a pancake breakfast.

Our 4 year old class took a field trip to Sloan's Calzones on Wednesday. The students were excited about making pizza and Boomer Sloan felt extra proud to get to show off his parent's restaurant to his fellow classmates.

The Pre-K Class reviewed letters this week and on Tuesday they made fruit pizza. On Friday they plan to visit Fairview Animal Hospital and then take a trip to Rock Springs to, talk about Mother Nature's Neighborhood.

Preschool enrollment for next fall will begin March 4<sup>th</sup> for families currently enrolled in our program. All enrollment fees are waived for church members. Public enrollment will begin March 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Scholastic Book Fair will be open on March 10<sup>th</sup> in the Friendship Center for church members to shop. Please consider purchasing a book for a child at Ben Franklin Elementary School. It is our goal to provide a book for every child to take home with them over spring break. The preschool always appreciates the tremendous support we get from the church!

### **Sunday, March 3, 2019**

8:00-Traditional Worship Service

Music:

Offertory—Larry Wade

Anthem—*River in Judea*

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

### **Monday (4)**

8:15-PS: In House Registration, Preschool Office

9:00-PS: Fitness Week, Great Hall

10:00-Mid-State Soccer, Great Hall

5:30-Spanish Conversations Class, 240

### **Tuesday (5)**

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

8:15-PS: In House Registration, Preschool Office

9:00-PS: Fitness Week, Great Hall

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

9:30-Card Ministry, 240

10:30-Staff Meeting, Conference Room

5:30-Intentional Worship Meeting, Conference Room

6:30-Heart & Soul, Choir Room & Connection Café

### **Wednesday (6)**

8:15-PS: In House Registration, Preschool Office

9:00-PS: Fitness Week, Great Hall

10:15-Chapel, Friendship Center

10:30-Minister's Meeting

12:00-Ash Wednesday Service, Chapel

6:30-Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary

### **Thursday (7)**

8:15-PS: In House Registration, Preschool Office

9:00-PS: Fitness Week, Great Hall

10:00-Al-Anon, 240

4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

5:30-Spanish Conversations Class, 240

6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples' Room

6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207

7:00-Chancel Choir

### **Friday (8)**

8:15-PS: In House Registration, Preschool Office

9:00-PS: Fitness Week, Great Hall

### **Saturday (9)**

6:00-Kiwanis Charity Event, Great Hall & Kitchen

1:00-Birthday Party, Disciples' Room

### **Sunday (10)**

#### **MOVE CLOCK FORWARD 1 HOUR**

8:00-Worship Service

8:00-PS: Church Book Fair, 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-Worship Service

3:00-Youth Group

4:00-Faithquest, 240

6:00-Just Flicks, First Presbyterian Church

### **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, March 3, 2019**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Andy Fulk, Mark Beal

**Imboden Creek:**

Liz Campbell, Judy Ford

**Deacons:**

8:00 - Team 1 - Gene & Sandy Garver, Gail Prince, Debbie Hoffert, Al & Chris Fagin, Dennis Downey, Pamela Bednar, David Wagner

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, Linda Helton

**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 - Gene & Sandy Garver

10:30 - Suzie Miller

**Acolytes:**

10:30 - Peyton Swarthout, Amila Bradfield

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Jim Bednar

10:30 - Keith Backes

**Preparation of Communion:**

Christine Lyman-Harm, Larry & Michele Bafford, Janelle Beedle

**Ride Share Drivers:**

8:00 & 9:00 Services & Sunday School - Theresa Fulk 972-3361

Sunday School and 10:30 service - Kevin Wilmot 875-7767

**Main Entrance Door Hosts:**

March 4 8:30-12:00—Mary Jane Oliver

March 5 8:30-12:00—Gretchen Kirby

March 6 8:30-12:00—Suzie Miller

March 7 8:30-12:00—Karen Penn

March 8 8:30-12:00—Cindy Soebbing

**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](mailto: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" Gain .....Organist  
 Ashely Sparks.....Administrative Assistant  
 Yvonne Boyd.....Administrative Assistant  
 Monica Hernandez.....Nursery Attendant  
 Cheryl Williams.....Nursery Attendant  
 Chloe Jancosek .....Nursery Attendant  
 Hannah Brimmer .....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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