

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, March 20, 2019

No.12

Welcome New Member

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome Denise Albert to the Central family! Denise transferred her membership at the 10:30 service on Sunday, March 17. Denise works in Springfield for the state board of education and lives in the west end. She is recently engaged to Central member Matthew Swarhout and they are planning a September 2019 wedding. Denise is an avid bicycle rider and is pictured here with fiancée Matthew and his daughter Peyton. Welcome Denise!!!



SUNDAY, March 24, 2019

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

Your Head and Your Heart

Text: 1 Corinthians 10:5 & Proverbs 4:23

1 Corinthians 1:21

Tina Miller

Food Collection

The food collection for April 7 is BEANS---canned or bagged dry beans. Also, cereal is always thankfully received. As always, the shopping cart is located in the Connection Café. Donations will be delivered to the Northeast Community Fund.

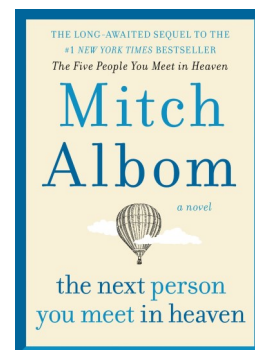
Women's Book Club

April 8 at 12:30pm

&

April 9 at 5:30pm

This Month's Book: *The Next Person You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom



Counting On You

Sunday, March 17, 2019

Worship Attendance 523

Sunday School & Small Groups..... 72

RESCHEDULED: WELCOME SPRING WITH DORCAS!

ALL Central women are invited to the March 26th meeting of Dorcas Disciples. We will meet in the Chapel at 6:30 p.m. for a friendly and informative evening. We are happy to have Terry Grant present our program on the valuable services of *Court Appointed Special Advocates of Macon County (CASA)* and how we can help. Yummy refreshments and a business meeting will follow. Please contact Nancy Ellen Taylor at 872-9174 or xstr@sbcglobal.net to let us know that you'll join us for the March 26th meeting.



Dedication of Friendship Center Artwork

Our new Friendship Center artwork, "Acceptance", will be dedicated in a brief program at **noon on Sunday, March 31st**. We will have a short program, including the singing of "This is My Father's World," a prayer of dedication, and a brief overview of how this process moved from concept to reality. Our hope is that all will come and hear what the artist has said about it and how this piece was conceived by the committee. We will have some seating available for those who prefer sitting over standing, though the entire service of dedication should not last very long. Refreshments will be served following the dedication.

FRENCH FRY RUN

ALL KINDERGARTEN –12th
 GRADE STUDENTS
 March 24
 2-4 pm
 Searching for the
 BEST FRENCH FRIES
 in Decatur!!!

Join us on a trip around town
 to different restaurants where we
 will taste and judge for the best
 french fries.

Concert Announcement



JOHN SHERER — *Organ Concert*
 Sunday, March 24, 4:00 p.m.

John Sherer has been hailed as “a terrific musician and pronounced virtuoso who plays with assurance, authority and superb energy.” Reviewers have praised him for his “great creativity and élan.” Since 1996, Dr. Sherer has been the Organist and Director of Music for The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago, selected by USA Today as one of the top ten places in America to be “enthralled by heavenly music.” This dynamic church has fifteen choirs and instrumental groups including The Morning Choir. Dr. Sherer manages an active concert series at the church with over 100 events each year and oversees the partnership with the Music Institute of Chicago bringing private musical instruction, music therapy and other music classes to the church for adults and children.

You'll Learn What This is For Later

On my first official day as senior pastor of Central back in March 2012, then head custodian Dave Flanders pulled me aside and gave me my keys to the building. He placed in my hand a key-ring with 4 keys on it. “This,” he said pointing to one, “is the main key for almost all of the doors you will ever use. This one,” he said pointing to another, “is for the audio cabinet in the sanctuary.” He started to walk away. I stopped him. “What about these other two?” “Those,” he replied, “You’ll figure out what they’re for as you go along.” I began to laugh, thinking he was kidding. Why would one possibly have keys but not know what doors they unlocked? How could one do their job adequately without having all the information that could be available to them? Alas, Dave wasn’t kidding and over time I did figure out what purpose those two extra keys served. And Dave was right. They weren’t nearly as important as the first two. Every so often, in the last seven years, Dave and I have laughed about this awkward first introduction between us. And I have thought often about how this is such a good illustration for life.

On the journey through life, there are moments of sadness, doubt and hardship. There are times of frustration and impatience. There are days on which we feel we are spinning our wheels at best, or aimlessly wandering at worst. We want to know where the road ahead is leading. We prefer to be able to prepare for the possible pitfalls that may await us. Yet sometimes we cannot. We simply don’t have all of the information we’d like to have. But even though there is much we do *not* know on the journey of faith, there are always two things we *do*. God is with us – even in the driest desert. And God will provide for our future using the very things we have in our midst right now. These are like the two extra keys placed in my hand those years ago. We may not know exactly how God will use what is within us and around us to provide for our futures. But that doesn’t mean that what we have right now will not one day be the very thing we need to continue moving toward God.

This month in worship our focus is on “seeking wisdom.” The process of seeking, and ultimately attaining wisdom, fits into this paradigm as well. We don’t gain wisdom all at once. It comes to us gradually. The reason we think of wise people as older than we are is for this reason. There is nothing magically connective about wisdom and age. After all, there are plenty of older folks who can act as foolishly as the most juvenile of pre-adolescents. But when wisdom comes, it is generally not as a bolt of lightning but rather as a slow and gradual process. It is something that is “figured out as we go” more than it is a treasure we discover at the end of a long hunt. To figure it out as we go takes great diligence on our part. It involves cultivating our relationship with God amid the demands of all of our human relationships.

In our scripture reading from this past Sunday, Luke 2:41-52, Jesus models for us how we can do that. First, by making time to be in the House of God. Second, by spending time in the Word of God. And finally, by listening to the Teachers of God. As we seek wisdom these are three keys Jesus places in our hands; tools we can use as we figure out how to make God’s Word that which guides our actions as we move forward on our life journey. So it is that in our lives, when we make time to be in God’s house; make time to read God’s Word; and find those we trust with whom we can discuss that Word, we not only strengthen our relationship with God, we also gain a wisdom that gradually grows over time and helps ensure that the Word of God is guiding our earthly actions.

Changes to On-Line Giving Format

If you have checked out the on-line giving feature on our website (the "GIVE" tab), you may notice that the format of that feature has changed. It is still self-explanatory and every bit as easy to use, but the host of our site simply updated that feature. Don't hesitate to contact the office if you have specific issues using the new format.

Thank you...

Dear church staff and congregation... thank you for your many kindnesses. Your cards, visits and hugs have sustained me. Harold enjoyed meeting my church family. Love, Joan Bird.

In Sympathy We Mourn

We grieve with Lucy Acheson the passing of her husband and long-time Central member, Ed. Lucy sent word to us on Thursday evening that Ed passed away at 9:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13 at their home in Cottonwood, AZ. Ed had wished for a memorial service at Central for his friends in Decatur and that service is tentatively planned for Sunday, April 7. The service will begin at 2 p.m. and there will be a time for food and fellowship in the Great Hall afterward. Please join us in keeping Lucy in your prayers.

3D Ministry

April 10th

Program 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 Glazed ham, loaded mashed potatoes, fiesta corn, Taffy apple salad, rolls and Coconut Cake for dessert. All of this for just \$5! Sign up on the pew pad or call the office at 217-428-4336 to RSVP by Monday April 8.

Chalice Class

Title: *High Cost of College*

Focus: Last fall, Michael Bloomberg's gift to fund financial aid at Johns Hopkins University drew additional attention to the high cost of undergraduate education. Why does college cost so much? How does the price of college affect students and society? How can our faith help us address this issue?

Preschool News

This week our students took a little time to show appreciation for their parents. They sang them some songs, made them some gifts, and sat down to have a special snack with them in the Great Hall.

Next week the preschool will be on spring break in conjunction with Decatur Public Schools.

We have 4 openings remaining in our 3 year old program for next school year. If you know anyone that is interested, please invite them to stop by for a visit.

Jennifer Van Dyke
Director



Sunday, March 24, 2019

8:00-Traditional Worship Service

Music:

Offertory— Mollie Kreuger, soprano

Anthem— *You Are Mine*

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

11:45-Mission Trip Meeting, Connection Café

12:00-Choir Luncheon, Great Hall & Kitchen

1:00-Baptism, Sanctuary

2:00-Youth Group Outing

4:00-Faithquest, 240

4:00-John Sherer Concert

5:30-Concert Reception, Friendship Center

Monday (25)

8:00-Veterans, Disciples' Room

5:30-Women's Ministry, Connection Café

5:30-Spanish Conversations Class, 240

Tuesday (26)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

12:00-Luncheon in honor of Ashely leaving, D. Room

5:30-Lent Small Group, Disciples Room

5:30-Preschool Board Meeting, Conference Room

6:30-Dorcas, Chapel

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

Wednesday (27)

6:15-Women's Bible Study, Great Hall & Kitchen

Thursday (28)

10:00-Al-Anon, 240

11:30-Widow Support, Applebee's

11:45-CINC, Disciples' Room

3:00-Capital Campaign, Conference Room

4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

5:30-Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall

5:30-Spanish Conversations Class, 240

6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples' Room

7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (29)

5:00-Wedding Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Saturday (30)

12:00-Wedding, Sanctuary

Sunday (31)

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

12:00-Artwork Dedication, Friendship Center & C. Café

12:30-Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall

4:00-Faithquest, 240

In the Hospital...

DMH:

James Scroggins

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 24, 2019

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Dick Cain, Gail Prince

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 1 - Charlotte Ballance, Capt., Bob & Karen Keller

10:30 - Team 10 - David Martin, Capt., Matthew Swarthout, Gretchen Kirby

Greeters:

8:00 - Ken & Julie Jacoby

10:30 - Larry & Michele Bafford

Acolytes:

10:30 - Jane & Emmy Osman

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Jim Bednar

10:30 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

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

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:

March 25 8:30-12:00—Karen Baird

March 26 8:30-12:00—Sandy Garver

March 27 8:30-12:00—Judy Ford

March 28 8:30-12:00—Roberta Gorden

March 29 8:30-12:00—*Open*

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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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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