

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, May 15, 2019

No. 20



EDUCATION SUNDAY
May 19, 2019
8,9, & 10:30 services
Another year well done.

Better is the end of a thing than its beginning,
and the patient in spirit is better than the proud in spirit.
Ecclesiastes 7:8

SUNDAY, May 19, 2019
WORSHIP AT 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.
To What Great Lengths
Text: *Matthew 14:22-33*
Michael E. Karunas

Preschool News

This week our preschool classes were busy making their decorations for the End of the Year Party. They decorated t-shirts and made pottery and all different kinds of animal art to go with our theme, "A Crazy Day in the Central Cafe."

The 2-year-old class and 4-year-old class went to the zoo to inspect the animals up close. Our school year may be winding down, but our students still have plenty of energy to go, go, go!

Jennifer Van Dyke
Director

There will be no K-12th grade Sunday School on May 19!

We will honor all adult, children, and youth Sunday School leaders, volunteers, the Christian Education Committee, and all students (including little ones who are too young for preschool).

Scholarship Winners!

Congratulations to the following scholarship winners!

We are very proud of you!

Don and Bonnie Sauer Peace and Justice Scholarship: Luke Kirby

Roy O. and Rachel R. Schilling Scholarship: Hannah Brimner

Walter and Inabelle Kirby Scholarship: Megan Swim

Cocoa "Coke" and Lilabelle Traylor Scholarship: Bradley Munos

Dr. Richard Postlewait Memorial Scholarship: Zachary Martin

Dr. Barbara Tyler Scholarship: Jennifer Baumann

Neil Ewing Award: Jennifer Baumann



Counting On You

Sunday, May 12, 2019

Worship Attendance 276

Sunday School & Small Groups.....68

ALL YOUTH AND FAMILIES

End of Year Youth Picnic at
Fairview!
Sunday, May 19
4-6 pm
Pavilion by the dog park.
Bring a side dish to share!

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

PROGRAM

MAY 26th

9:00 AM

Kindergarten through 12th grade

Children and youth are invited to join Mr. David and Ms. Hannah in the youth activities room on 2R for movies, games, and activities. They might go outdoors for games too!

Younger children 5-10 years old will have the option to go with Ms. Hannah to room 230 on 2R for movies, coloring, and activities.

Vacation Bible School

June 17-21

Hard copy registration forms are available at the Welcome Center at Central Christian Church.
Online registration available.

Save-the-Date!

Tuesday, June 18th
from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Central will host a community celebration of its very own iconic art (sponsored by the Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce).

**Last Heart & Soul Concerts
for the Year**

Heart and Soul has two remaining concerts:

Sunday May 19, 4:00 p.m.

First United Methodist Church, 211 N. School Street, Normal IL.

AND

Saturday June 1, 3:00 p.m.

Season Finale Concert with the Chancel Choir of

Central Christian Church.

You won't want to miss it!

A Matter of Perspective

The Pool of Bethesda was the subject of worship this past Sunday (John 5:1-9). It was inside the city walls of Jerusalem but contained water that was brought in through tunnels from outside the city. Air that became trapped in the water as it traveled this way was released when the water reached the pool; thus, the water in the pool periodically bubbled as the air was released. Popular belief held that a healing spirit caused the water to "stir up" in this way, and that if one could step into the pool's water at the moment when it bubbled, the healing spirit would cure one of one's malady. So it was that many who were sick or ailing lingered on the patios that surrounded the water in hopes to get in (or be helped in) when the water stirred.



What may be most intriguing about the pool is the name – Bethesda. It traces from the Hebrew word "Beth-Zatha." "Beth" refers to "house" and "Zatha" can be translated as either: 1) shame or 2) mercy. On the surface of it, shame and mercy seem quite antithetical to each other, but perhaps it's appropriate that they are joined at the place of one of Jesus' healing miracles.

Thinking of Bethesda as a place of "shame" would imply that illnesses and conditions such as blindness and paralysis (which John 5 mentions by name) are things of which to be ashamed, as though to be sick or ill or ailing is an inherent deficiency to an otherwise "normal" human condition. Sadly, many then – and probably now – view such conditions in this way; and yet, at the same time, in thinking of Bethesda as a place of "mercy", sees these life circumstances not as mortal deficiencies but as occasions for God's mercy and love to be revealed. To be worthy of mercy is not something monopolized by the whole, but a gift reserved for the broken.

It is a matter of perspective. How do we view brokenness? Physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, relational? As things to be ashamed of, or as worthy to receive and express mercy? The former perspective reveres a bubbling pool of water as holding the answers we seek. But the latter sees Christ as the agent of God's mercy and love and the gateway to true health and true life.

Relatedly, I appreciated Gretchen Kirby's offering invitation during the 8:00 and 10:30 worship on Sunday. Here's a segment of what she said:

"Take a minute to consider what this time in the service is..... are we taking up a collection, or receiving an offering"? Are you giving today because the church needs your money or because you have joy in your giving?"

(Continued on page 3...)

I heard the theme of perspective echoing in her words. That is, to “take” and “collect” implies coercion and some level of unwillingness, but to “receive” and “offer” implies the opposite – a freely given expression of a generous spirit. How we view things – our perspective – says a lot about us. What we value, how we think, and what motivates us to act. I often think that in every situation there is a perspective which is preferable, which God desires and that leads us to deeper faithfulness.



Blessings... Michael

Welcome New Members!

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome Ashely and Alex Sparks and their family to Central Christian! Ashely worked as our Administrative Assistant for nearly 5 years before moving on to other ventures last month, but she and her family have always considered Central home. She and Alex were married at Central in October of 2017. Their son Ourin and daughter Kisa have both attended our preschool, and all three children (including baby Faye) were dedicated at Central last December. Welcome Sparks family!



Seth Martin Honored at MHS

Seth Martin received the 2019 Peacemaker Award last Tuesday, May 7th, 2019, for all of MacArthur High School! Way to go, Seth!!

Chalice Class

Title: Central American Migration

Focus: Recently President Trump moved to cut aid to three Central American nations because of the increase in migrants seeking asylum from those countries. What are the implications of this move? How can the church work for justice for asylum seekers?

Illiopolis Christian Church’s Fried Chicken Dinner

Sunday, June 2nd, 2019, from 11:00 AM—2:00 PM. Adults \$10.00, Kids age 4-10 \$5.00, Ages 3 and under free! Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, slaw, dessert, & drink. Carryout available until 1:30 PM.

Women’s Celebration 2019

Thank you to all who served at the 2019 Women’s Celebration! Women of all ages enjoyed a presentation written and directed by Linda Foltz. Our own Women of the Bible (see pic) crafted memorable characters! Keith and Jeannie Backes and Crew served a scrumptious meal and prizes were well appreciated! Thanks again! You make ministry happen at Central!



Sunday (19)

Education Sunday

- 8:00-Traditional Worship Service
- 9:00-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall
- 9:00-Fellowship Coffee
- NO Youth Sunday School Classes
- 9:15-Adult Sunday School Classes
- 10:30-Worship Service
- Anthem: Festival Piece on St. Anne
- Offertory: Brass Choir
- 12:00-Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall
- 4:00-Youth Group-End of Year Party, Fairview Park

Monday (20)

- 10:00-Operations Committee, Conf. Room
- 5:30-Spanish Conversations Class, 240

Tuesday (21)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
- 9:30-Card Ministry, 240
- 10:30-Staff Meeting
- 11:45-Preschool Staff Meeting, 170
- 6:30-Heart & Soul, Choir Room & Connection Café

Wednesday (22)

Last day of Preschool program

Thursday (23)

- 10:00-Al-Anon, 240
- 11:45-CICN, Disciples Room
- 4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
- 5:30-Spanish Conversations Class, 240
- 7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (24)

- 5:00– Wedding rehearsal

Saturday (25)

- 4:00-Wedding

Sunday (26)

Summer Sunday School begins

- 8:00-Traditional 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-Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall

Monday (27)

Church office closed

Food collection for June 2nd: Cereal



In the Hospital...

DMH:
Betty Sturgis

St. Mary’s:
No one

Serving Schedule—Sunday, May 19, 2019

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Brett Swallow & Dick Cain

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 Swarhout, 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 - Norm & Darla Lienemann

10:30 - Bob & Mary Jane Linton

Acolytes:

10:30 - Mackenzi & Zach Sargeant

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Greg Carter

10:30—Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

Carrie & Steve Funk, Marci & Steve Baumann

Outreach Communion:

Brett Swallow, Dick Cain, Mark Beal, Andy Fulk, Kevin Wilmot

Ride Share Drivers:

8:00 & 9:00 Services & Sunday School - Mark Beal 433-6081

Sunday School and 10:30 service - Doug Soebbing 875-1836

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

May 20 8:30-12:00—Carole McClarey

May 21 8:30-12:00—Carol Bischoff

May 22 8:30-12:00—Karen Keller

May 23 8:30-12:00—Carolyn McCall

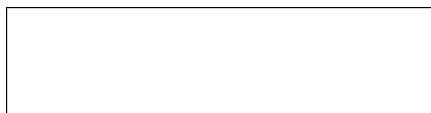
May 24 8:30-12:00—Yvonne Purcell

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
 Kathleen Dudley.....Administrative Assistant
 Yvonne Boyd.....Administrative Assistant
 Monica Hernandez.....Nursery Attendant
 Cheryl Williams.....Nursery 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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