

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCIV

Decatur, Illinois, July 13, 2022

No. 27

Sunday, July 17 – Survivors Sunday

This Sunday, at all our worship services, we want to recognize the perseverance exhibited by all those who have survived – and who are surviving – cancer.

- We want to give a special invitation to all our members who have battled – or are still battling—cancer of any kind to come to worship that day. We also encourage you to invite a friend you may know who has battled cancer to come to worship with you for that day. And if you have a loved one whose surviving cancer took the form of God calling them to their heavenly home, we hope you will come. We will honor and recognize you as well, because everyone “survives” cancer, even if survival takes different forms. During worship we will recognize all cancer survivors with prayers, acknowledgement, and a special gift.
- In the coming, month(s) make a generous contribution to cancer research and the services provided to cancer survivors. And we invite you to support Relay for Life in Macon County this Friday, July 15.

We hope everyone leaves worship that day with this thought in mind – that whether the challenge you are facing is cancer or something else, you are not alone. You are part of a true community which will surround you with love and support, and will persevere with you as you embrace your future with confidence and hope.

Drivers Wanted

If you are willing to be a volunteer who brings someone to and from worship (on either a regular or periodic basis), we would love to know who you are. Please contact the church office and let us know. You would need only to:

- Tell us which service you prefer to attend, and we would match you up with someone who would like to attend that service.
- Provide us a copy of your driver’s license and proof of personal auto insurance.

Many thanks for considering. The people who want to come to worship but are unable to, *really* want to come, and this will no doubt be a blessing to them.

UPDATE: We have a driver for the 10:30 a.m. service! We still need a driver for 8:00 a.m. service.

SUNDAY, JULY 17, 2022

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
IN-PERSON (SANCTUARY)
AT 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM
AND LIVE STREAMED ON
WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG
AND FACEBOOK LIVE
AT 10:30 AM

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
IN-PERSON (GREAT HALL)
AND LIVE STREAMED ON
WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG
AND FACEBOOK LIVE
AT 9:15 AM

**True Community:
It Takes Perseverance**

Text: Galatians 6:1-10
Michael E. Karunas

Survivor Celebration



Register at
relayforlife.org/
maconil



**July 15th
RCC
Ice cream social
following
Survivor Lap
6pm**



Small Groups this Week

If you're in a small group, let us know what your small group's focus is for the week, and we'll let others know about it! If you would like to attend any of these groups, simply show up! If you would like more information before attending, let us know (central@cccdisciples.org).

Sundays - Ecclesia

(mixed Sunday School class)

Room 340 at 9:15 a.m.

Reading through the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum.

Tuesday Journeymen

(men's bible study)

Connection Café at 7:00 a.m.

Conversation led by Brian Maple, Jim Fitzpatrick, or Pastor Michael

Thursday Journeymen

(men's bible study)

Connection Café at 4:00 p.m.

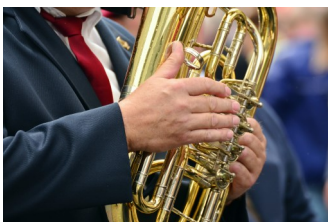
Conversation led by Jack Dixon or Paul Gorden

Thursdays - Koinonia

(mixed small group)

Room 412 at 5:30 p.m.

Discussing Tony Evans book "Kingdom Disciples" (focus on leading a Christ-centered life and sharing faith with others).



Upcoming July

Decatur Muni Band Dates

July 17 Fairview Park 6pm

July 18 Central Park 7pm

July 24 Fairview Park 6pm

July 25 Central Park 7pm

July 27 DEVON 7pm

July 31 Fairview Park 6pm

Minister's Article

Future Staffing

Within the last calendar year, we have experienced three significant staff changes at Central. As we posted on Facebook last week, July 3 marked the one-year anniversary of Dr. Ben Hawkinson's tenure with us as choir director! Clearly, we are delighted by his presence with us and his manifold giftedness. Yet, Ben's arrival was due to the fact that Don Martin retired after 23 years of ministry at the end of June 2021, and at the end of June 2022, Tina Miller left to pursue other ministry ventures as well. These latter two changes have undoubtedly raised questions regarding "the plan" for staffing at Central in the future.

First, filling ministry positions in the church always takes time, but it is always worth it to be patient in such situations. And while I do realize there might be feelings of worry in the short run, I do believe in the long run we will be fine from a staffing perspective.

Secondly, I envision a multi-faceted scenario in which we: a) expand some current staff members' job descriptions; b) bring on part-time ministry staff members; c) seek a full-time, ordained minister to join us as an associate.

Thirdly, along the way, I envision our lay people (especially the elders) stepping up as well to take on a larger role in the area of visitation and pastoral calling. I believe doing so is not just "of help and assistance" to the church, it is also something that could bring out gifts for ministry in our members that could be transformational for them.

Fourthly, in the immediate meantime, we are planning the following:

- You will see Vicky Woolridge – our ministry intern last fall – helping out with worship leadership on Sundays and filling the pulpit when I am gone at the end of this month.
- Don Martin will be helping out with some special visitation as well. I have talked with Don about making some calls for me on Fridays for the foreseeable future. Both he and I want you to know that he is not "back" in the way that he was before he retired (after all, he is retired). But he is looking forward to being involved in a limited way and on this basis.
- I look forward to working with the elders on a program of visitation with our members in assisted living arrangements and long-term care facilities. This visitation would build on the communion calling elders are already doing and help us stay connected with one another.

One of the core principles guiding our ministry of the last 10 years has been "Connection." It is important to me – as senior minister – that everyone feels connected to the church; that they feel the church "sees" them and cares about them. The value of having more professional ministers on staff is that this is the way care and concern has traditionally been communicated. However, it is not the only way. I believe there are tremendous gifts for ministry already among us and that we are already – with our current staffing – capable of expressing care and concern for one another in ways that can make us feel every bit as connected. What will always change over time is *how* care, concern and connection are being expressed and experienced.

(continued on page 3...)

What I hope will never change is *that* we all feel cared for and connected. Thank you for your flexibility and patience as we figure out how to do this in a changing staff context.



Blessings – Michael

Bringing Back Liturgists!

This month, we would like to bring back the role of Liturgist in our worship services. The Liturgist leads the congregation in the call to worship and offers the invocation at the beginning of worship. The Liturgist is a lay person (non-staff) and serves on a rotating basis. Prior to the Covid pandemic we utilized Liturgists like this on a weekly basis. When we moved to virtual-only worship in March of 2020, the Liturgist role was filled by a staff person and we've never stopped doing this. But now it is time to bring back the Liturgist! If you are interested in being on the Liturgist rotation, here is what you need to know:

- We have Liturgists for both traditional and contemporary worship. The traditional worship Liturgist serves at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services. The contemporary worship Liturgist serves at 9:15 only.
- Ministry staff will provide the Call to Worship. The Liturgist is asked to supply the prayer (Invocation).
- Everyone interested in serving as Liturgist is asked to attend an orientation meeting in early August (date TBD).

For now, if you are interested in serving as Liturgist, please let the office know (217-428-4336 or central@cccdisciples.org).

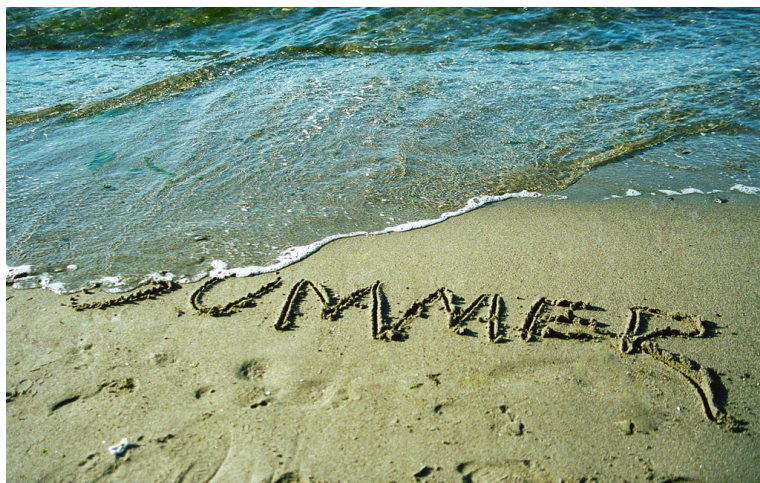
DOVE Clothing Room to Open at Central: Volunteers Needed

Dove will open their Children's Clothing Room at Central Christian in mid-August. The Room was formerly housed at Prairie Avenue Christian Church, and we are proud to have it now added to Central.

The Room will be open on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m., is open to the public, offering good, used clothing for children of all ages free of cost.

Dove volunteers will work the Room and Central is asking for volunteers to greet customers at the West Entrance to offer directions to the new facility.

If you are interested in helping in this valuable community ministry, please contact Sandy Garver at 217-877-0800 or revrag@comcast.net.



Sunday (17)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall
& Facebook Live & Live Stream
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
& Facebook Live & Live Stream

Monday (18)

Tuesday (19)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
9:30-Card Ministry, 340
5:00-Trustees, Conference Room

Wednesday (20)

5:30-Church Council, business meeting,
Great Hall

Thursday (21)

10:00-Alanon, 340
5:00-Koinonia, 412
6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples Room
7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Friday (22)

Saturday (23)

Sunday (24)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall
& Facebook Live & Live Stream
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
& Facebook Live & Live Stream



Happy Birthday!! (7/17 - 7/23)!

Susie Bean, Dave Zollinger,
Dale Penn, Collin Swallow,
Marilyn Ward, Bob Smith,
Debbie Santee, Jennifer Baumann,
Dave Wagner, Gary Horvath,
Amila Bradfield, Ron Miller,
Stephani Sargeant, Liam McCoy,
Eli Hawkinson

Counting On You

Sunday, July 10, 2022

Total worshipping online = 200
Total worshipping in-person = 213

**Serving Schedule —
Sunday, July 17, 2022**

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Dave Wagner &
Kevin Wilmot

9:15 - Dave Wagner

Outreach Communion Elders: Jeannie Backes, Charlotte
Ballance, Jan Dobbs, Karen Wade, Kevin Wilmot

July Prep Deacons: Sid & Krista Rohrscheib

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - David & Nancy King

10:30 - Christine Lyman-Harm & Ron Oliver

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 1 - Donna Dash, Capt., Carolyn Sunderlik,
Dianne Devore

10:30 - Team 6 - Mark Kincaid

Greeters:

8:00 - Debbie & Jim Hoffert

10:30 - Dale & Judy Ford

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash

10:30 - Mike Kirby



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Michael E. Karunas Senior Minister
David Martin Youth Director
Ben Hawkinson Director of Music
Cordelia "Dee Dee" Gain Organist
David Williams Organist
Kathleen Dudley Administrative Assistant
Yvonne Boyd Administrative Assistant
Kattina Williams Nursery Attendant
Abigail Smith Nursery Attendant
Bri Lockwood Nursery Attendant
Andrew Evans Caretaker
Jenny Goodman Caretaker
Sam Hawkinson Caretaker
Cheri Russell Caretaker

"Like" and "Follow" us on Facebook

To "like" hit the thumbs-up icon.

To "follow" click on the ellipse icon (...).

You will see a list of options pop up.

Find the option marked "follow" and click on that.



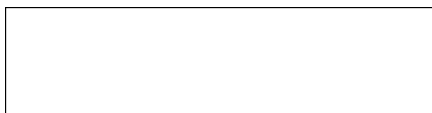
Prayer Request Text-In!

Have a prayer request? Text "PRAY" (all caps) to 217-212-2173, or use the QR code to the left. "PRAY" is the only word you should type. Your phone then sends you a link to the prayer request form to fill out. We would love to pray with you and follow up, if you wish.

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