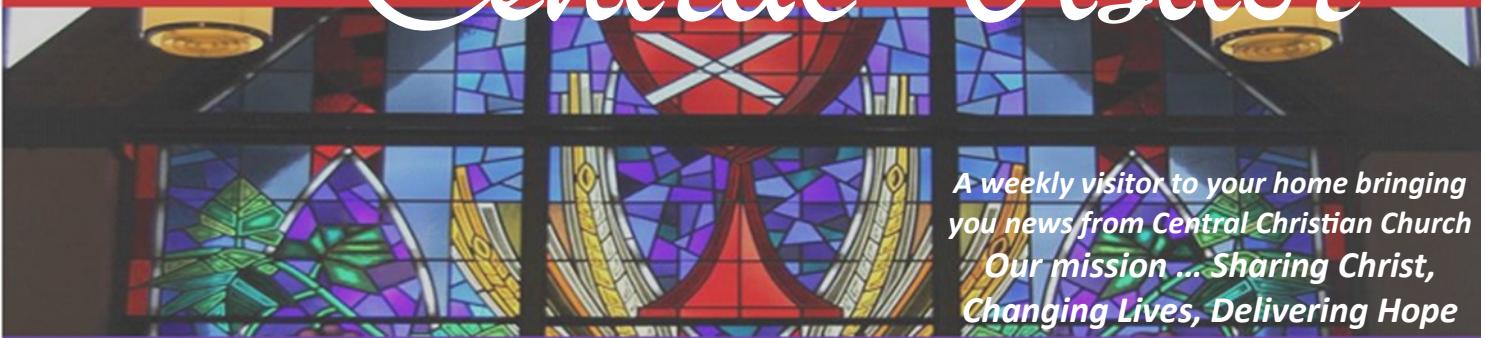


The Central Visitor



Vol. XCI

Decatur, Illinois, August 7, 2019

No. 32



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50 Backpacks for Benjamin Franklin Elementary School

The Christian Education Committee is collecting backpacks and school supplies for Benjamin Franklin Elementary School students! Our goal is to bless 50 students with backpacks! Please choose from the list of supplies and drop off donations at the church by **Sunday, August 18**. We will deliver to the school **Monday, August 19**. THANK YOU!

SUPPLY LIST:

Backpacks	Kleenex	Earbuds
Yellow highlighters	24 ct. crayons	Pocket folders
Wide-lined notebook paper	#2 lead pencils	Pencil top erasers
Ziploc Bags (sandwich size)	Ziploc Bags (gallon size)	Clorox disinfectant wipes

Note: Backpacks can be purchased for as low as \$5.00 at Dollar General Stores.



Fall Sunday School begins
Sunday, August 25th, at 9:00 AM!!



BACKPACK BLESSING SUNDAY!

Sunday, August 25, 2019
All Services!

Bring your backpacks, bags, laptops, and devices.
We'll bless them and you for the upcoming school year!



*A weekly visitor to your home bringing
you news from Central Christian Church
Our mission ... Sharing Christ,
Changing Lives, Delivering Hope*

SUNDAY, August 11, 2019

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

Text: Haggai 2:1-9

Michael E. Karunas

"Welcome 101"

Have you been attending Central Christian for a while and are interested in learning more about us? Would you like to hear about ways you can plug in and connect to what's happening here? Would you like a tour of our building and the opportunity to discover the wonderful ministries happening here? If so, then we'd love to have you join us at "WELCOME 101." This is a 90 minute info-gathering hosted by our ministerial staff here at Central. The dates of "Welcome 101" this August will be:

Tuesday, August 20, 6:00-7:30 PM

Thursday, August 22, 5:30-7:00 PM

Please RSVP your place at either date so that we can have materials prepared (central@cccdisciples.org or 217-428-4336). You need not come to both sessions.



Counting On You
Sunday, August 4, 2019

Worship Attendance 275
Sunday School & Small Groups.....69



Enhance Your Vision

The theme for the August 14th 3D's meal (formerly known as Elderberries) is a Cookout on the Grill. Program begins at **11:30 AM** in the Great Hall. We will be celebrating Vernon Wimberly's visit from Florida (he was a custodian for years). We will eat at **12:00 PM**. RSVP by Friday August 9th by calling the church office. Menu: Cheesy Hot Dogs, Pasta Salad, Chips and Salsa, Ice cream bars, and cookies.



Let Central Celebrate with You!

Are you celebrating a milestone birthday or anniversary or other achievement? Let us know! We love sharing good news, praise reports, and special pictures on our Welcome Center screens!

Minister's Article

"Prepared Through Past and Present"

God uses our past to prepare us for our future. This thought has been stirring in my mind since I began preparing for last Sunday's sermon. Our theme was the prophet Joel. We know that Joel was a temple prophet. He spoke God's Word in the context of worship in the temple, the house of God. We also know about Joel's father. He is mentioned in Joel 1:1. Moreover, we know his name! He is called "Pethuel." That simple fact alone is compelling. Of all the people the Bible mentions, an exceedingly small fraction of them are *named*. To be named, therefore, is to be designated as important. It is as though, in referring to Pethuel by name, scripture acknowledges him to be a person of respect and renown in the temple community.

The name Pethuel itself means "Yahweh is my God" or "worshipper of Yahweh," which may further indicate *why* Pethuel was important in the temple community. The name suggests that he was tremendously devoted in his piety and worship of Yahweh. This is underscored by the fact that he named his son "Joel," which also means some version of the phrase "Yahweh is God." Thus, Joel was raised by a father who would have gone out of his way to take Joel with him to the temple. He likely would have instilled in him a respect for and understanding of the importance of worship. For his part, Joel would have grown up knowing the ancient liturgies; the sounds of the chanting priests and the fragrance of the burning incense; appreciating the rites and rituals of the faith. As he was the son of a respected man in the temple hierarchy, he could very well have been a respected young man himself as he grew from childhood to adulthood.

When God finally did designate him to be a prophet, it would have made perfect sense. Being known and respected by his community, the chance the community would *listen* to Joel bring the Word of God to them was high. As Joel was growing up, he may not have been cognizant of how God was shaping him for his future work and ministry, but God was, nonetheless, for *God uses our past and present to prepare us for our future*.

I believe this is true for us in a variety of situations. God can use our past and present moments of suffering and hardship to prepare us for a future in which we may be used to bring comfort and hope to others facing their own struggles. St. Ignatius of Loyola (Spain), writing nearly 500 years ago, said that God never *causes* our suffering but sometimes *allows* us to suffer to prepare us for a greater future purpose. Now, it is never our prerogative to determine for others *when* God might be allowing us to suffer for a greater purpose. To do so would be condescending at best and sadistic at worst, but I can see in my own life how things that I have experienced as suffering would later turn out to be things I drew upon as I offered pastoral encouragement to others. *God uses our past and present to prepare us for our future.*

In more benign ways, the same holds true. One interesting aspect of being a minister for the past 21 years is that I have always been around high school youth. What's more, I will have two in high school this coming year. One thing that has never changed about youth – from my generation to the youth of the last two-plus decades – is how they will wonder "Why should I take such-and- (continued on page 3...)

such a class in school? I will never use it in my life in the future!" Granted, once calculus is completed, we may never actually use the formula that determines that area under a curve, and unless we are in a trivia game, knowing the order of the Chinese Dynasties or Roman Emperors may never be something that directly benefits us, and yet, in my own life – my parents never encouraged me toward ministry as much as they emphasized the importance of taking math in school (they were both biostatisticians, so... Duh?). A solid math background teaches critical reasoning skills, and what is preaching (at times) but explicating the theological arguments made in scripture in a reasoned, critical way, and though a history major in college, I never took a Middle Eastern history class, yet my interest in history in general spawned an increased interest in geography and ancient languages, which directly impacts how I think, teach, and preach in my current life as a minister, because *God uses our past and present to prepare us for our future.*

The challenge for us is to be fully open and responsive to every present moment – whether it be something we consider “negative” (painful), “positive” (joyful), or “neutral,” for we never know how God might use our past and present to prepare us for our future, but by faith, we believe God will.

Blessings... Michael

Save the Date: Financial Peace University is coming

Another 10-week Financial Peace University class is coming this Fall at Central! It will be held on Mondays from 6 – 8 p.m. beginning on September 9 and concluding November 4. You can sign up at www.fpu.com/1093777. Cost of the class is \$109 per person (or couple).



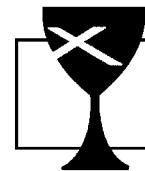
In Sympathy We Mourn

We received news from Rodger Grimm that his mother Virginia passed away last week. She and her husband Robert (who passed away in 2009) were members of Central in the 1950s and 60s before moving to Tennessee. Rodger indicated that throughout the decades both his parents enjoyed keeping in touch with Central through the weekly *Visitor* “even though they didn’t recognize any of the names” as the years went on. Rodger and his brother Richard are grateful for their parents receiving *The Visitor* and wanted us to be aware of their mother’s passing. May we keep the Grimm family in our thoughts and prayers.



Congratulations Ryan and Betsy!

Ryan Campbell and Betsy Osman were married in the Flewelling Chapel at Central on Friday July 5, 2019. Congratulations Ryan and Betsy!!!



Church Calendar

Sunday (11)

- 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-Traditional Worship Service
- 12:00-Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall

Monday (12)

- 9:00-Good Samaritan
- 12:30-Women’s Book Club, Panera
- 5:30-Décor Meeting, Connection Café
- 5:30-Preschool Board Meeting, Conf. Rm.

Tuesday (13)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 207
- 5:30-Women’s Book Club, Panera
- 7:00-Millikin Heights

Wednesday (14)

- 10:30-Ministers’ Meeting
- 11:30-3D Ministry Meal
- 5:00-Elders’ Meeting, Disciples Room

Thursday (15)

- 10:00-Al-Anon, 240
- 4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
- 7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (16)

Saturday (17)

Sunday (18)

- 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-Traditional Worship Service
- 12:00-Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall



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

Serving Schedule—Sunday, August 11, 2019**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Connie Bordner & Gail Prince
9:00—

Deacons:

8:00 - Team 3 - Sid & Krista Rohrscheib, Jane Davis, Mike Munos, Bob Muschal, Pat Penhallegon, Bobby Munos, Becky Johnston, Carolyn McCall
9:00—Randy Trei
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 Lerrick, Shelby Baum

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Moran, Bobby Munos
10:30 - Team 10 - David Martin, Capt., Matthew Swarthout, Gretchen Kirby

Greeters:

8:00 - Jim & Pamela Bednar
9:00—Gay Helgemo
10:30 - Karen Baird, Pamela Ferguson

Acolytes:

10:30 - Mackenzi Sargeant & Kellan Niles-Cox

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Pat Penhallegon
10:30—Mike Kirby

Preparation of Communion:

Bob & Carol Bischoff, Karen Baird, Nancy Hanover

Ride Share Drivers:

8:00 & 9:00 Services & Sunday School - Andy Fulk Sunday School and 10:30 service - John Baird	972-3361 429-5651
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Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30—Kim Miller/Audrey Miller
9:00—Deb Trei

Hospitality:

9:00—The Trei family

Tech:

9:00—Jodie Walwer & Mike Tanzyus

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

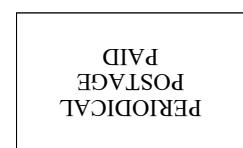
August 12	N/A
August 13	8:30-12:00—Carol Bischoff
August 14	8:30-12:00—Judy Ford
August 15	8:30-12:00—Sandy Garver
August 16	N/A

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" Gain	Organist
David Williams.....	Organist
Kathleen Dudley.....	Administrative Assistant
Yvonne Boyd.....	Administrative Assistant
Monica Hernandez.....	Nursery Attendant
Cheryl Williams.....	Nursery Attendant
Hannah Brimner	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
Andrew Evans.....	Caretaker
Kamaria Collins.....	Caretaker

The Central Visitor (USPS 098-520) is published weekly by Central Christian Church, 650 W. William, Decatur, IL 62522.
Periodical Postage paid at Decatur, IL.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Central Visitor,
650 W. William St., Decatur, IL 62522.



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