

# 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. XCIV

Decatur, Illinois, September 28, 2022

No. 37

## News from the Preschool...

Thanks to a Central member and Millikin University professor and department chair of Arts Technology and Administration, the Central Christian Preschool has a new branding! And remember, for all those on Facebook, we encourage you to "like" our preschool's page. It is "Central Christian Preschool." Whenever you see something posted there that you like, feel free to share to your own page. Help us get the word out about the great things happening at our preschool!



## Caramel Apples for Sale!

Fall means it's time for Del's Caramel Apples! The Central preschool will be having a fundraiser over the next 2 Sundays in which you will have the opportunity to buy some caramel apples and other fall favorites. If you fill out an order form on October 2nd, you can pick up your order on the following Sunday, October 9th. The same will happen on October 9th, with pick up on October 16th. Payment will be due when you place your order. You get a sweet treat, and the preschool gets the profits, so everyone is happy!

## Volunteers Needed October 15 at Good Samaritan Inn

Volunteers from Central Christian will prepare and serve lunch at the Good Samaritan Inn on Saturday, October 15th. The crew needs 5-6 workers 8 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. for food preparation and 12-14 people for serving lunch 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., and all workers are invited to stay and enjoy lunch after the serving line closes! If you can help, please sign up at [www.cccdisciples.org/resources/events/](http://www.cccdisciples.org/resources/events/) or click [HERE](#) or call the church office. A sign-up sheet will also be available at the Welcome Center. Dave Wagner, (217) 433-2367, and Shirley Swarthout, (217) 620-3246, head up Central's volunteer team. Please contact one of them if you have questions.



## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2022

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

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

Text: Luke 17:1-5  
Michael E. Karunas



## Happy Birthday!! (10/2—10/8)

Dee Hill, Erik Harm,  
Jeanette Soebbing, Amy Funk,  
Jim Whitaker, Sara Beyer,  
Larry Foster, Janine Boehme,  
David Bottom, Carys Boehme,  
Thomas Karunas, Ashely Sparks,  
Karen Wade, Andrew Evans,  
Jodie Walwer, Laura Moma,  
Katie Fehrenbach

### **Small Groups this Week**

*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](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org)).*

#### **Sundays - Ecclesia**

(mixed Sunday School class)  
Room 340 at 9:15 a.m.

Study and lively discussion of scripture based on the "Seasons of the Spirit" curriculum.  
All are welcome.

#### **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 4:15 p.m.  
Conversation led by Jack Dixon or Pastor Michael

#### **Thursdays - Koinonia**

(mixed small group)

Room 412 at 5:00 p.m.  
Beginning September 29, we will be studying the Sermon on the Mount as it was originally intended – one cohesive, well-ordered message intended to challenge us to think differently about what it means to be a follower of Christ. Come be exhorted and equipped by the greatest sermon ever preached.



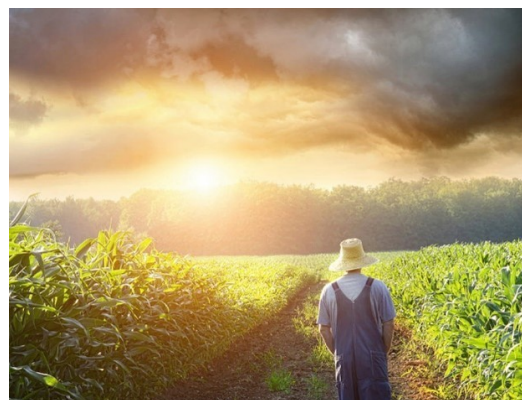
## **Minister's Article**

### **Justice and Mercy**

"We too often want mercy for ourselves but justice for others." I heard a preacher speak those words in a sermon years ago, and they've stayed with me ever since. I was moreover reminded of them two weeks ago as I was reading through Luke 15:1-10 (our sermon text from September 11). In those verses, Jesus was associating with tax collectors and sinners *and* eating with them. This was too much for the Pharisees and Scribes, who grumbled and felt Jesus should not be doing such a thing. Bear in mind that Jesus had just spent all of the preceding chapter (Luke 14) associating and dining with *them*! That was okay. But dining with sinners and tax collectors? Out of the question! That was too much to bear.

The Scribes and Pharisees wanted mercy for themselves and justice for others. They wanted others to be judged for what they didn't deserve and themselves to be graced for what (in their minds) they did. Yet the fact that Jesus would choose to eat with *anyone* – Pharisee, tax collector, or anyone in between – was a gift that no one "deserved." The great human tendency is to assume that what we have is something we have somehow earned, while what others have is due more to luck and good fortune than anything else. This fact is illustrated in a story that comes down from the Jewish tradition:

*The Lord appeared to a hard-working farmer and granted him three wishes, but with the condition that whatever the Lord did for the farmer would be given double to his neighbor. The farmer, scarcely believing his good fortune, wished for a hundred cattle. Immediately he received a hundred cattle, and he was overjoyed... until he saw that his neighbor had two hundred. So he then wished for a hundred acres of land, and again he was filled with joy until... he saw that his neighbor had two hundred acres. Rather than celebrating God's goodness, the farmer could not escape feeling jealous and slighted because his neighbor received more than he. Finally, he stated his third wish: that the Lord take away half of what he had. And God wept.*



I wonder if the key toward greater human connection doesn't have something to do with each of us understanding that whatever we have – in whatever quantity we have it – is a gift. And that how we interact with that gift has less to do with determining the reason for our having it and more with appreciating the fact *that* we have it.

Blessings – Michael

## Central Christian Church Nursery Staff - September 2022

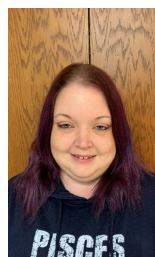
**Emily Elsea** is originally from Columbia, MO (MIZ-ZOU!) and has made her way to Decatur, Illinois because of Millikin University. She is a senior vocal music education major and is excited to have the opportunity to be in the nursery, as well. Emily is newly engaged to Isaac Cothorn. If she is not doing homework or teaching voice lessons at Decatur House of Prayer, you will find her volunteering at the Children's Museum of Illinois.



**Abigail Smith** is a Decatur native and currently a senior vocal music education major at Millikin University. She has been on the nursery staff since March of 2021. At Millikin you can find her singing in University Choir, as the president of the Alliance for Active Music Making, as a Big Blue Ambassador, and a member of Sigma Alpha Iota. Her favorite part of serving in the nursery is watching each child grow and learn new things.



Hi, I'm **Kattina Williams**. I'm one of the nursery attendants and I also work at the Decatur Family YMCA as the swim coordinator and a Red Cross lifeguard. I also work main concessions at Macon Speedway. I was a political science major and sociology minor at Western Illinois University. I want to go back and become an avian veterinarian. I have always loved taking care of children. I love to watch them grow and learn.



### Important News about *The Visitor*

Beginning the week of Monday, October 3, Central's weekly newsletter – *The Visitor* – will be printed every other week. This will be true for both the online and the U.S.-mailed paper copies. This change is due to many factors. We are confident that this change will not affect anyone's ability to be informed by whatever we communicate about what is happening within our faith family. Remember that:

- We will most likely send out brief updates through our email marketing service on the "off weeks" when *The Visitor* is not printed;
- We will make sure two week's-worth of calendar information is in every *Visitor* (and we may utilize the Sunday worship bulletins and Connect sheets in new ways);
- Anyone who receives a mailed copy and feels they are not getting necessary information from the church can contact the church at any time.

### Food Collection for Northeast Community Fund

YAY! Good job Central. Our shopping cart was overflowing with cereal & a few canned goods for September. Now for the holidays! Northeast will be putting together food baskets for Holiday meals. So, besides cereal (which is always needed), consider boxed stuffing mix, instant mashed potatoes, canned sweet potatoes, & any other non-perishable foods you would like to contribute. Our collection days will be Oct. 2 & Nov. 6. Let's fill that grocery cart again!!! God Bless You! Thank you for your kindness.



### **Sunday (2)**

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
9:15-Sunday School  
9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall  
& Facebook Live & Live Stream  
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
& Facebook Live & Live Stream  
4:00-Youth Group

### **Monday (3)**

1:00-DOVE Kids' Clothing Room open  
5:30-"Looking In" small groups

### **Tuesday (4)**

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café  
9:15-Prayer Group, Ramp Room  
9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R  
9:30-Card Ministry, 340

### **Wednesday (5)**

10:15-Preschool Chapel, FC  
1:00-DOVE Kids' Clothing Room open  
5:00-Praise Band Practice, Great Hall

### **Thursday (6)**

10:00-Alanon, 340  
10:00-DAR, Disciples Room  
3:00-Decatur Needle Arts, Disciples Room  
4:15-Journeymen 2, Connection Café  
5:00-Koinonia, 412  
5:00-Christian Ed, 340  
5:00-Praise Band Practice, Great Hall  
7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

### **Friday (7)**

5:00-Praise Band Practice, Great Hall

### **Saturday (8)**

1:00-Millikin Alumni rehearsal  
3:00-Millikin Alumni concert

### **Sunday (9)**

#### **Imboden Creek Worship**

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
9:15-Sunday School  
9:15-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall  
& Facebook Live & Live Stream  
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
& Facebook Live & Live Stream  
4:00-Youth Group

### **Muni Band dates**

October 11 Tabernacle Baptist  
Church, 7pm

### **Counting On You**

**Sunday, September 25, 2022**

Total worshipping online = 100

Total worshipping in-person = 220



**Serving Schedule — Sunday, October 2, 2022**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Krista Rohrscheib & David York  
9:15 - Krista Rohrscheib

**October Prep Deacons: Need help**

**Offering Deacons:**

8:00 - Debbie Hoffert & Gail Prince  
9:15 - David York  
10:30 - Steve Swarthout

**Ushers:**

8:00 - Team 2 - Becky Johnston, Capt., Bruce & Liz Campbell  
10:30 - Team 7 - George Virgil, Capt., Linda Virgil, Hugh & Linda Rowden

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Charlotte Ballance & Carolyn McCall  
9:15 - Jodi Van Uytven  
10:30 - Mary Jane Oliver

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Donna Dash  
10:30 - Mike Kirby

**Liturgist:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Kim Maple  
9:15 - Cheryl Zollinger

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
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e-mail: [central@cccdisciples.org](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org)

Michael E. Karunas ..... Senior Minister  
David Martin ..... Youth Director  
Ben Hawkinson ..... Director of Music  
Vicky Woolridge ..... Pastor for Families  
Don Martin ..... Visitation Associate  
Cordelia "Dee Dee" Gain ..... Organist  
David Williams ..... Organist  
Kathleen Dudley ..... Administrative Assistant  
Yvonne Boyd ..... Administrative Assistant  
Emily Elsea ..... Nursery Attendant  
Abigail Smith ..... Nursery Attendant  
Kattina Williams ..... 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 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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