

# The Central Visitor



Vol. XCI

Decatur, Illinois, September 18, 2019

No. 38



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### Join the Conversation

On Wednesdays, from **6:30 – 7:30 PM**, and continuing through Thanksgiving, come explore your spiritual development through reading, reflecting, and sharing. We will use the book ***Falling Upward*** by Fr. Richard Rohr, available at [www.cac.org](http://www.cac.org), or your favorite book seller. The book also has an accompanying work book that we will be using. Join us in Room 240 for conversations and more. Questions? Contact Don Martin.

### Caramel Apples & Popcorn for Sale!

CCC Preschool will be taking orders for THE famous Del’s caramel apples and popcorn between all services on Sun., Sept. 22nd and Sun., Sept. 29th, in the Friendship Center. Pickups will be on Sun., Sept. 29th and Sun., Oct 6th, same place. These treats are wonderful and are being sold in conjunction with the “Apple Unit” lessons being taught at this time in our Preschool. “An apple a day...” You know the rest.



### Ordination Gifts for Tina Miller

An exciting event will occur at Central Christian Church on Sunday, Nov. 3rd, 2019. Our own Tina Miller is being ordained as a Minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and her service of ordination is being held here. One of the traditions of the ordination service is that the sponsoring congregation (Central Christian Church) presents the candidate with gifts that represent the signs of the office of minister. These will include a robe, stole, Bible or meaningful book, and communion symbols (chalice and bread plate). We want to give everyone the chance to contribute to these gifts, for we know that many in the church have been blessed personally by Tina’s ministry here. If you would like to make a donation to help with the purchase of these gifts, simply mark on your check (or envelope) “Tina’s Ordination Gifts.” If you have questions or would like to speak with Michael more about this, you may contact him at ([mkarunas@cccdisciples.org](mailto:mkarunas@cccdisciples.org)).

### **SUNDAY, September 22, 2019**

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

### ***Preparing for the Future***

Text: Luke 16:1-9

Michael E. Karunas

### Preschool News

This week, our 3 year old class continued to work on their farm unit. If you get a chance to walk down the preschool hall and look at their bulletin board, you will see some adorable animals. The 4’s classes began their insect unit. They will finish off the week with a field trip to Rock Springs to look for bugs. The pre-k class finished up their review on shapes and is preparing to kick off their apple unit.

Watch for our Del’s Caramel Apples and Popcorn Fundraiser to begin soon. Proceeds support the scholarship fund!

*Jennifer Van Dyke*  
Director

### A Note of Thanks

Mark and I really appreciate the cards and prayers at the recent passing of my mother, Kay Ditmars. We are grateful for our Central friends.

-Sincerely, Nancy McAfee and family

### **Counting On You**

**Sunday, September 15, 2019**

Worship Attendance ..... 303

Sunday School & Small Groups.....66

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Tina Miller will lead teaching and conversation at SAVOR: A women's breakfast at Lampstand Church. Saturday, September 21st, at Lampstand Church, 655 S. Airport Road, 9:00—11:30 AM. Vendors at 8:30 AM; tickets are \$10.00 each.

We'll unpack Proverbs 4:23, learn what it means to guard your heart, and explore ways to do it better. Come for impactful teaching and deep conversations.

Tickets available at:

<https://evenbright.com/e/savor-womens-breakfast-tickets-70665804323>

or call Lampstand Church at 217.428.8839.

**ALL FAMILIES WELCOME  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH OUTING—  
FAMILY COOKOUT**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22  
4-6 pm

**SPITLER WOODS STATE NATURAL  
AREA**

705 Spitler Park Drive  
Mt. Zion, IL

**Long Creek Pavilion  
at the front end of the park**

Bring a side dish to share. We'll provide meat and drinks. We'll meet at the Pavilion in Spitler Woods.

**Games, food, fun!**

**Caregiver Helpful Info**

The Macon County Health Department sends out a Caregiver Advisory Newsletter which contains news and information for those who are caregivers. It has a list of support groups and meeting times. This newsletter is available on the circular desk in the Welcome Center.



**“Properly Aligned Priorities”**

*“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and yes, even life itself cannot be my disciple.” (Luke 14:26)*

This verse was part of our scripture reading from September 8th, and, as such, served as the topic for our men's Bible study conversations last week (often the Journeymen men's Bible study groups study, in greater detail, the scripture on which the preacher spoke the previous Sunday). This verse generated no shortage of conversation. In fact, both groups (Tuesday and Thursday) spent nearly the entire time wondering what Jesus meant by the word “hate.” Certainly Jesus didn't mean “hate” as we know it, some said. Others wondered if the word “hate” had a different connotation than it does now. We examined the word in the original Greek language of the New Testament. We discussed, questioned, and debated.

Ultimately, I shared something that was given to me by my wife several years ago. While we lived in Baton Rouge, she worked for a non-profit Hospice organization, overseeing everything from volunteer coordination to becoming Chief Operating Officer. She shared with me then an exercise she used with the staff to help them relate to things their patients were undergoing. Here is my summary of the exercise:

When we die, we are all forced to give up everything we know on earth – people, things, abilities, and even opinions, ideologies, and beliefs. When we die *suddenly*, we do this all at once and often without opportunity to reflect on it. When we die more slowly, we have a chance to retain as much control over our lives as possible, even as that control is slowly being taken from us. With that in mind, you are invited to name your **4** most important **people, possessions, abilities, and beliefs.** (*Mine would be as follows People – Amy, my three children (as one), my mom, my two sisters (as one); Things – house, car, running shoes, and phone; Abilities – speak, smile, remember, run; and Beliefs – God is just, God saves, God is good, God is with me.*)

Then, imagine that you were diagnosed with a terminal illness and were going to get progressively worse, and you had to give those things up one at a time. Of which would you let go first? To which would you hold on last? For me, I would give up the things first. I would love to live in my house as long as possible, but even if I couldn't, I would give up my car and running shoes if I could just keep my phone. My phone has all of my pictures on it; a Bible app; and my list of 3000 contacts, names which all remind me of a life full of love. I would hold on to the ability to smile over the others, being willing to give up running first, though I'd love to keep my memory and the ability to tell others that I loved them, but if I had to choose, I would trust that my smile would communicate what my words couldn't. In terms of people – and this would be the hardest – I would say goodbye to my mom first, and then my two sisters. I couldn't choose among my three children, so I would put them in a group together. The last person I would want holding my hand would be my wife. Even after all of that, if I knew that the next hours would be my last on earth, I would be okay saying “goodbye” even to Amy, if it meant I could hold on to the

(continued on page 3...)

belief that God is with me. Of all the beliefs I hold dear, that might be the one that would be my most treasured. I am never alone – neither in life, nor in death.

I realize that for some individuals and families, what I've just written is more than an imaginary drill. It is rather something that you've had to wrestle with in a real way, in real time. I certainly want to be sensitive to all of the emotions that reading this article might ever engender. Truthfully, it's hard for me to think of the realities this exercise invites us to imagine without becoming weepy and emotional, but I shared this with the men's Bible study groups last week as a way of relating to Jesus' words in Luke 14:26. When I read the word "hate," I put myself in the place of being asked to consider what really saves in the end? As much as we deeply love so much of our earthly life – the people, things, and memories in it – there is only one thing that saves us, and that is our faith in Christ. Do I wish Jesus had used a different word than "hate?" Sure, but I also believe he used those for a reason – to get our attention at just how important it is to have our priorities properly aligned.



Blessings... Michael

**Congratulations Matthew and Denise!!!**

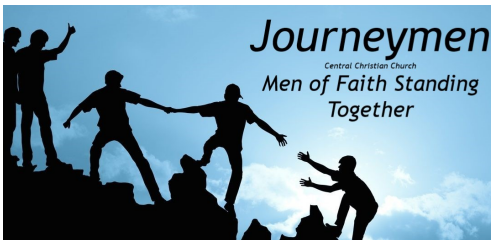
Matthew Swarthout and Denise (Albert) Swarthout were married at her parents' house on Saturday, September 14. We are so happy for the onset of their marriage, and we wish them God's blessing and peace through all their years together.

**Welcome Aboard Hannah (again)!**

Hannah Brimmer began working in our nursery over a year ago; however, her gifts and passions in ministry align with another need we have at Central – social media presence. As of last Sunday, she is our Social Media Coordinator. You will see Hannah moving around the welcome areas through Sunday mornings creating content that will be posted throughout the week on social media. Hannah is working toward a Masters Degree in Ministry at Lincoln Christian University.



**Journeyman Update**



The Journeyman will be meeting again this week with Bruce Campbell leading the discussion on Tuesday, the 17th, at 7:00 am and with Jack Dixon at 4:00 pm on Thursday, the 19<sup>th</sup>. We will take a break the following week, September 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

Have you ever felt distant from God... forgotten perhaps? Are you making your trek to God for the first time? Join us in October for a 5-week study of the book ***Finding Your Way Back to God*** by Dave and Jon Ferguson. Using the parable of the Lost (Prodigal) Son in Luke 15, we will discover parallels to our own spiritual journey to find God in our life for the first time or to reconnect to with Him when we feel distant. The book plus a study guide are available for \$10. Limited quantities! Contact Paul Gorden to reserve yours today. He can be reached at [fast2laps@me.com](mailto:fast2laps@me.com) or 217-412-1457.



**Sunday (22)**

- 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
- 4:00-Youth Group Outing

**Monday (23)**

- 10:00-Operations Committee, Conf. Rm.
- 5:30-Bowling, Spare Time Lanes
- 5:30-Spanish Conversations Class, 240
- 6:00-Financial Peace University, Great Hall/Disciples Room

**Tuesday (24)**

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:00-Christcare Stitchers, 207
- 1:00-MU Class, 240
- 4:00-Marketing/Evangelism, Conf. Room
- 6:30-Heart & Soul Choir, Choir Room/Connection Cafe

**Wednesday (25)**

**Pre-K Picture Day**

- 10:15-Chapel, Friendship Center
- 5:30-Contemporary Worship Meeting
- 6:30-Book Study, 240

**Thursday (26)**

**Pre-K Picture Day**

- 10:00-AI-Anon, 240
- 11:45-CICN, Disciples Room
- 4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
- 5:00-Ordination Committee, Conn. Café
- 6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples Room
- 7:00-Chancel Choir

**Friday (20)**

- 6:00-Millikin University Concertino

**Saturday (21)**

- 1:00-MU Alumni Concert Rehearsal
- 3:00-MU Alumni Concert

**Sunday (22)**

- 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
- NO Youth Group



**Serving Schedule—Sunday, September 22, 2019**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Kevin Wilmot & Tom Spry  
 9:00— Tom Spry

**Deacons:**

8:00 - Team 3 - Sid & Krista Rohrscheib, Jane Davis, Mike Munos, Bob Muschal, Pat Penhallegon, Bobby Munos, Becky Johnston, Carolyn McCall

9:00— Josiah Agar

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 6 - Mark Beal, Capt., Mark Kincaid, Susan Bryant

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Gene & Sandy Garver  
 9:00— Cindy Grabowski  
 10:30 - Glen & Jody Featherstun

**Acolytes:**

10:30 - Clara & Nora Damery

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Jim Bednar  
 10:30—Keith Backes

**Preparation of Communion:**

Jean & Judson Pease, Susan Bryant, Donna Dash

**Ride Share Drivers:**

8:00 & 9:00 Services & Sunday School - Andy Fulk 454-9838  
 Sunday School and 10:30 service - Doug Soebbing 875-1836

**Liturgist:**

8:00 & 10:30—Doug Soebbing  
 9:00—Deb Trei

**Hospitality:**

9:00—Cheryl Zollinger

**Tech:**

9:00—Jodie Walwer & Mike Tanzyus

<b>Sunday School Classes</b>	<b>Floor</b>	<b>Room</b>
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

**Main Entrance Door Hosts:**

September 23 8:30-12:00—Karen Keller  
 September 24 8:30-12:00—Betty Chapman  
 September 25 8:30-12:00—Judy Ford  
 September 26 8:30-12:00—Carolyn McCall  
 September 27 8:30-12:00—Yvonne Purcell

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
**650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522**  
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**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  
 Hannah Brimmer.....Social Media Coordinator  
 Maddie Genz.....Nursery Attendant  
 Cheryl Williams.....Nursery Attendant  
 Kattina Williams .....Nursery Attendant  
 Jennifer Van Dyke.....Preschool Director  
 Paula Partain.....Teacher Assistant  
 Lisa Coates.....Preschool Teacher  
 Amber Marshall.....Preschool Teacher  
 Diana Murray.....Preschool Teacher  
 Stephanie Nihiser.....Preschool Teacher  
 Kay Villarreal.....Preschool Teacher  
 Lora Wright .....Lead Caretaker  
 Jim Denzer.....Caretaker  
 Andrew Evans.....Caretaker

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