

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. XCVI

Decatur, Illinois, January 31, 2024

No. 3



Girl Scout Cookies!!

The Girl scouts will be selling cookies on Sunday, February 4, between all services. Three girl scouts - Clara and Nora Damery and Clara Monroe will be selling the cookies. Carol Bischoff will also be there collecting boxes for the military. Cookie prices are \$6 a box this year.

Donations Needed

Who doesn't love getting a package in the mail that you weren't expecting? We want to send our Central kids who are away at school a surprise in the form of a care package. We are asking for donations of various items that you can sign up for, then we will add a personal note and send them off!



There is a poster where you can sign up for items in the Friendship Center. **Please have all donations to the church by Feb 4th.** For any questions contact Gretchen Kirby. Thank you in advance, Central family!



Welcome New Member

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Peggy Carpunky. Peggy has been attending the 8:00 a.m. service for over a year and has been a faithful attender from day one! Pictured here with Norm Lienemann, she says she felt at home at Central from the first time she began attending.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024

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

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

Scripture and Sermon for 2/4/2024

Text: Luke 2:36-38
Seeing Like Anna
Vicky Woolridge



Happy Birthday!! (2/4 - 2/17)

Gene Garver, Chloe Hoaglin, Bob Logan, John Dunn, Gretchen Kirby, Janet Deakins, Jack Dixon, Kent West, Calvin Andrews, Peyton Swarthout, Tom Ritter, Linda Hill, Ryan Damery, Ellen Damery, Amy Lester, John Downs, Christian Jackson, Clara Monroe, Carl Furstenburgermeisterburger, Sam Hawkinson

Central's Safe Church Policy

The opening statement of Central's Safe Church policy is: "We have been entrusted with the care and spiritual nurture of the children and youth who attend Central Christian Church. Our goal is to provide a safe and sacred space for everyone."

Did you know that every person, paid staff, and volunteers, are required to take Safe Church training, have a background check, and take online Mandated Reporter training? In the past year, there are more than 50 people who have been trained.

Those who are trained provide care for the children in our nursery, teach and help with Sunday School, youth group, VBS, and other events for families with children. Foundational to our Safe Church Policy is the requirement that there are always two adults with children and youth. In order to meet this requirement, a minimum of 8-10 adults are needed for all of the activities on Sundays.

We are ready to increase our list of Safe Church trained volunteers. We will provide the next Safe Church training on Saturday, February 17, at 9am in the Café. This will be an in-person AND Zoom meeting. It will last about 30-45 minutes. Please consider taking this training, even if you are not currently working with our children and youth. You can sign up for the training by contacting the church office.

If you have questions and would like more information, please contact Pastor Vicky.

Counting On You

Sunday Jan. 28, 2024

Total worshipping online = 129
Total worshipping in-person = 273

Counting On You

Sunday Jan. 21, 2024

Total worshipping online = 185
Total worshipping in-person = 210

Minister's Article

Praying for our Neighborhood

Our mission at Central has always been "Share Christ, Change Lives and Deliver Hope." In recent years, one of the ways we have decided we are called to live out that mission is by connecting with the Neighborhood in meaningful and relational ways (when I use the word "Neighborhood" here, I mean the immediate area around the church property: between William and Eldorado on one side and Monroe and Pine on the other). Over the years, we have been intentional about inviting our neighbors to some of our all-church events (picnics, Trunk or Treat, etc...). But as a new year dawns, I would like to invite you to be part of a new 3-fold approach to building connection with our neighbors.



First, between now and Easter (March 31), I invite you to **pray for our neighborhood** and its neighbors. You can do this alone or with the rest of your household. You may pray the prayer that I am including (see below); or prayer your own prayer; or use my prayer as a springboard for your own creativity. But pray for our neighbors regularly. And as you do that, if any insights come to you that you would like to share, please feel free to email them to me (mkarunas@cccdisciples.org). Before we think about connecting, we must begin by inviting God to be part of the process and listen for God's guidance.

Second, every Monday, from February 5 – March 25, I will be in the Disciples Room from 5 – 6 p.m. praying for the neighborhood myself. If anyone would like to join me, please feel free to come to a **Neighborhood Prayer Small Group**. You can come every week or just one. And whether we have 2-3 or 10-15, I will lead three discussion rounds. Each week we will follow the same format, trusting God to bring insight and revelation to us the more we do it.

- *What comes to your mind when you think about our neighborhood?*
- *What questions do you have for God regarding our neighborhood?*
- *Pray for our neighborhood.*

Thirdly, as the weather warms up and we get into April and May, I hope to work with a few people who are interested in "meeting the neighbors." Instead of telling them about who we are, the intent will be to listen while they tell us about who they are. I am envisioning some version of this conversation starter: *"We are from the church across the street and want to be good neighbors in this neighborhood. From your perspective, what would be helpful for a church like us to know about what it is like to live here?"*

I'll be sharing more about this during worship this Sunday. But for now, here is a sample you can start praying as often as possible between now and Easter.

(continued on page 3...)

God of infinite blessing,

I come seeking your provision and protection over every home in our neighborhood. May your nearness and presence be felt by every inhabitant of the homes that encircle our church property.

You have promised us in your Holy Word that you will deliver those who love you and protect those who know your name. I pray that protection and deliverance for everyone in this neighborhood. May there be peace and security within all the areas our neighborhood encompasses.

Wherever and whenever there is anyone in distress, I pray that you would come and reveal your presence in the midst of it and your power over it. Give to every individual that inhabits this neighborhood victory over their fears, and peace amid their worries. Spread your protection over them and cover them with favor as a shield. Be with them in their comings and goings and keep them safe during all their travels.

Fill their household with your presence. Give them food to eat and a place to rest in comfort at the end of each day. Grant to each person in our neighborhood the petitions of their heart. Fill their life with answered prayers. Fulfill all their wishes – insofar as they are in keeping with your plans for them. Where their wishes are fulfilled, make it clear that it was you who provided them their joy. And where they are not fulfilled, keep them from losing faith and hope.

And grant that I – through the simple offering of this prayer – might grow closer in empathy and to those that share this neighborhood with our church. Open my eyes to see what you want me to see; teach me what you want me to learn; and reveal for me what you want me to understand about how I can be used – and our church can be used – as agents for good in this corner of the world.

I will trust that you will answer this prayer in a way I can clearly recognize. Until then, may I be guided in attentiveness by your Holy Spirit in all that I say and think and do. Amen.

Blessings – Michael

DONUTS with DORCAS is BACK!

All Central women are invited to a February 20th Dorcas meeting in the Disciples Room at 10:30 a.m. You don't want to miss this gathering for a mid-winter "pick me up" of coffee and donuts, fellowship and learning about upcoming service events. Be ready for BINGO fun!

RSVP by Friday, February 16th to Nancy Ellen Taylor at 217-872-9174 or xstr@sbcglobal.net to make sure we have enough donuts. Contact Sandy Garver at 217-877-0800 or revrag@comcast.net for more information.

	<p>You're invited to Bob Logan's 90th Birthday Open House Sunday, February 11th, 2024 3:00—5:00 pm At New Moon Café</p>	
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Sunday (4)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
9:15-Sunday School
9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online
12:00-Youth Group

Monday (5)

9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center
1:00-DOVE Children Clothing Room
5:00-Neighborhood Prayer Group, Disc. Room
6:00-Pastor Vicky's Group, Library

Tuesday (6)

7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café
9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
9:30-Card Ministry, 411

Wednesday (7)

12:00-Social Services Meeting, Disciples Room
1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room
1:30-Prayer Shawl, Connection Café
5:00-Christian Ed, Connection Café
6:00-Millikin Heights Neigh. Assoc., 401

Thursday (8)

10:00-Alanon, 401
12:00-Support Staff Meeting, Conf. Room
7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday (9)

Saturday (10)

9:00-Faithquest, Connection Café

Sunday (11)

DO GOOD DONUT SUNDAY!!

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
9:15-Sunday School
9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online
12:00-Youth Group
12:00-Milestone Celebration, Great Hall

Monday (12)

9:00-Good Sam. Volunteering, Good Sam. Inn
9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center
12:30-Women's Book Club, Panera
1:00-DOVE Children Clothing Room
1:00-Golden K, Disciples Room
5:00-Elder Planning Meeting
5:00-Neighborhood Prayer Group, Disc. Room
6:00-Pastor Vicky's Group, Library

Tuesday (13)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
5:30-Women's Book Club, Panera

Wednesday (14)

12:00-Ash Wednesday Service, Sanctuary
1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room
5:00-Elders Meeting, Disciples Room
7:00-Ash Wednesday Service, CCC Illiopolis

Thursday (15)

10:00-Alanon, 401
7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday (16)

Saturday (17)

9:00-Safe Church Training, Connection Café

Sunday (18)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
9:15-Sunday School
9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online
12:00-Youth Group

Serving Schedule — Sunday, February 4, 2024

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Janet Lyman, Lea West
9:15 - Janet Lyman

February Prep Deacons: David & Nancy King, Christine Lyman-Harm

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Mike Munos, Carolyn McCall
9:15 - Randy Trei
10:30 - Roberta Gorden, Luke Kirby

Ushers:

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

Greeters:

8:00 - Al & Chris Fagin
9:15 - Randy & Deb Trei
10:30 - Dale & Judy Ford

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Krista Rohrscheib
10:30 - Mike Kirby

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Janet Lyman
9:15 - Theresa Fulk

Serving Schedule — Sunday, February 11, 2024

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Theresa Fulk, Angie Ingram
9:15 - Theresa Fulk

February Prep Deacons: David & Nancy King, Christine Lyman-Harm

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - David Wagner, David King
9:15 - Ellen & Ryan Damery
10:30 - Andrea Shartzter, Jeannie Backes

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 3 - David King, Capt., Nancy King
10:30 - Team 8 - Tom & Diana Ritter, David Sheffer

Greeters:

8:00 - Dianne Devore, Carolyn Sunderlik
9:15 - Andy & Theresa Fulk
10:30 - Mary Jane & Ron Oliver

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Bobby Munos
10:30 - Keith Backes

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Andy Fulk
9:15 - Marci Baumann



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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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