

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCVI

Decatur, Illinois, February 14, 2024

No. 4

Welcome New Member



With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Susan Shafter to the Central family! Susan transferred her membership at the 10:30 service on February 12. Susan is a retired RN who spent many years involved in the work of St. Mary's hospital. She has been attending Central since the summer of 2023 and immediately felt at home. She is pictured between Theresa Fulk (left) and Angie Ingram (right).

Keeping God in Everyone's Corner

When we look at all the needs in God's world, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. We can feel trapped by hopelessness that we are too small to truly make a difference.

But there is hope, and WE are that hope.



Through our Week of Compassion offering through the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), last year our partners helped Texans in the Rio Grande Valley recover from disastrous tornadoes, provided humanitarian aid to profoundly traumatized communities in the Middle East and resettled 218 refugees worldwide.

Through our Week of Compassion Offering, to be collected Feb. 11 and 18, we continue to imagine an unimaginable world where the love of God is felt in every corner. Please consider giving generously.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 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 2/18/2024

Text: Psalm 84
"Don't Just Do Something, Sit There!"
Michael Karunas



Happy Birthday!! (2/18 - 3/2)

Jody Featherstun, Celia Johnston,
Linda Shambaugh, Myra Hinze,
Lucy Smith, Pat Glasscock,
Clint McLeod, Ella Redden, Ethan Clark

In Sympathy We Mourn...

We grieve with the family of Derald Hartley his passing on Thursday, Feb. 8. Derald was the cousin of Janet Gray and attended the 8:00 service until moving to be closer to his daughter near Springfield.

A service for Derald will be held at Calvert & Wikoff in Mt. Zion on Friday, Feb. 16 at 11 a.m. Visitation will take place between 5 and 7 p.m. the evening before.



We also grieve with Kim and Garrett Quinlan the passing of their husband and father, Scott. Scott was a faithful attendee and supporter of the 9:15 service at Central since the family began attending in Jan. 2023. Scott passed away in the early morning hours of Sunday, Feb. 11.

Visitation will be Thursday, Feb. 15, at Central Christian Church, from 10:00 a.m. - Noon, with the service to follow at Noon.



Let's continue to keep the McClarey family in prayer. On Friday, Jan. 19, John and Carole were in a car accident. John passed away late in the afternoon and Carole remained in the ICU and was released to a rehabilitation facility a few days later. Plans for a Celebration of Life for John are in the works.

Counting On You

Sunday Feb. 11, 2024

Total worshipping online = 116
Total worshipping in-person = 221

Counting On You

Sunday Feb. 4, 2024

Total worshipping online = 122
Total worshipping in-person = 235

Lent 2024: A Journey with the Psalms

Our theme for Lent this year is "Journey with the Psalms" and is based on the work I did last summer on my sabbatical. The sermon series will cover the weeks of February 18 – March 17. On March 24, "Youth Sunday" will be our focus as our junior high and high school students lead large parts of our worship at 9:15 and 10:30 (I will preach a sermon at 8:00). On Easter Sunday, we will return to the Psalms with Psalm 150 serving as our theme.

Lenten Sermon Series – Journey with the Psalms

February 18	Psalm 84	We Dwell with God
February 25	Psalm 103	We are Forgiven
March 3	Psalm 91	We have Faith through Fear
March 10	Psalm 30	We Change, God Doesn't
March 17	Psalm 66	We Testify (what God has done for us)
March 24	Youth Sunday	
March 31	Psalm 150	We Celebrate (Easter!)

Lenten Devotional Books

Over my sabbatical, I wrote devotions for 30 of the more well-known Psalms and compiled them into a devotional book. Copies will be available beginning the first Sunday of Lent, February 18. Feel free to pick one up. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please let us know.

All-Church Study during Lent

For **five (5) Monday evenings** in Lent, I will be leading an all-church study of the Psalms in the **Great Hall**. The specific focus will be the 5 Psalms used in the sermon series (see below). The class will meet from **6:00 – 7:15 p.m.** There is no limit to how many can sign up, but we would like you to call and reserve a place so we can arrange the space accordingly. Please email the church office at central@cccdisciples.org to do that.

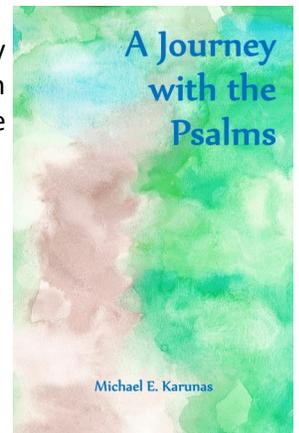
The class will be led like the Advent All-Church study last Fall. For part of the time, Pastor Michael will teach to the whole group. Break-out conversations will take place around each table. The specific dates are:

- February 19
- February 26
- March 4
- March 11
- March 18

Blessings – Michael

Neighborhood Prayer Group

Every Monday, from February 5 – March 25, Pastor Michael will be in the Disciples Room from 5 – 6 p.m. to pray for the neighborhood around our church. Anyone/everyone is invited to come and join in the prayer and conversation. You can come every week or just one. And whether there are 2-3 or 10-15, Pastor Michael will lead three rounds of discussion/prayer. Each week we will follow the same format, trusting that God will bring insight and revelation to us the more we do it.



SAVE THE DATE!! Elderberries March Event!

March 13, 2024 will be the next Elderberries event in the Great Hall. While you'll have to stay tuned for the Entertainment news, we can share the menu:

- Ham & Beans
- Corn Bread
- Five Cup Salad
- Chocolate sheet cake

Please RSVP with the church office or by sign-up sheet by March 18th.



Calendars for Lent

One way to observe the season of Lent is by taking some time each day to draw nearer to God. We have a Lenten Faith Practice Calendar for you with a small practice to try each day. Choose the practices that work for you and your family – prayer, fasting, and acts of service are suggested. You may pick up a calendar in the Friendship Center and the Great Hall. Blessings on your Lenten journey.



Dear Central Family,

Gregg and I and Josh and his family would like to thank all of you for your prayers and kindness during this difficult time. We know that God hears and works to heal, and we leaned on him heavily during this time, knowing we had so much support from our church family was comforting and gave us the ability to get up each day with hope.

Josh is doing well now and may be able to go back to work by the first of March. Again, thank you for your support.

Gregg and Linda Foltz
Josh and Megan Irby and
Ireland, Griffin, Cohen and Hayden

A big thank you to our Central Church Family for donating 100 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to Operation Enduring Support. For our Easter mailing this year we will be packing boxes filled with supplies, cookies, and snacks. We will be sending them to the USS Eisenhower, the USS John McCain, and the USS Gravelly. These ships are currently in the Middle East. Boxes also are being shipped to 7 areas in Djibouti. Please pray for the men and women serving our country. Thank you so much for your generosity.

- Linda Zinn, Nancy Hanover and Carol Bischoff

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

Monday (19)

NO PRESCHOOL

NO DOVE Children's Clothing Room

- 9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center
- 5:00-Neighborhood Prayer Group, Disc. Room
- 6:00-Lenten Study Group, Great Hall

Tuesday (20)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café
- 9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
- 9:30-Card Ministry, 411
- 10:15-Operations Meeting, 411
- 10:30-Donuts with Dorcus, Disciples Room

Wednesday (21)

- 1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room
- 5:30-Church Council Meeting, Great Hall

Thursday (22)

Preschool Papa Murphy's Fundraiser - All Day!

- 10:00-Alanon, 401
- 6:00-Concert Committee, Connection Café
- 7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday (23)

Saturday (24)

- 9:00-Faithquest, Connection Café
- 10:00-Staff CPR Training

Sunday (25)

- 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 (26)

- 9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center
- 1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room
- 5:00-Neighborhood Prayer Group, Disc. Room
- 6:00-Lenten Study Group, Great Hall

Tuesday (27)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
- 11:45-Macon Co. Meeting, Great Hall
- 4:00-Décor Committee, Fireside Room

Wednesday (28)

- 1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room
- 5:30-PR/Evangelism Meeting, Disciples Room

Thursday (29)

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

Friday (1)

Saturday (2)

Sunday (3)

- 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 18, 2024

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Tom Spry, Jim Fitzpatrick
9:15 - Tom Spry

February Communion Outreach Elders: Karen Wade, Linda Rowden, Janet Lyman, Lea West, Angie Ingram, Jim Fitzpatrick, & Bruce Campbell

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

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Patti Swinford, Nancy King
9:15 - Laura & Matt Moma
10:30 - Cole Shartzter, Keith Backes

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 4 - Hazel Perry, Capt., Karen Penn, Charlotte Ballance
10:30 - Team 9 - Kim Miller, Capt., Suzie Miller, Audrey Miller

Greeters:

8:00 - Eileen Iverson, Karen Penn
9:15 - Angie Horvath
10:30 - Need help! Contact the church office if available

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Tom Ritter
9:15 - Greg Barnes

Serving Schedule — Sunday, February 25, 2024

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Gail Prince, Krista Rohrscheib
9:15 - Gail Prince

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

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Charlotte Ballance, Troy Swinford
9:15 - Angie & Ron Ingram
10:30 - Kevin Wilmot, Jill Heick

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Moran, Blair Moran, Bobby Munos, Julia Munos
10:30 - Team 10 - David Martin, Capt., Stephani Bellinger, Gretchen Kirby

Greeters:

8:00 - Charlotte Ballance, Donna Dash
9:15 - Hugh & Linda Rowden
10:30 - Brett Swallow

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Shirley Swarthout
9:15 - Travis Wilcoxon



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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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