

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, February 28, 2024

No. 5

Easter Lilies for Sale

On Sundays March 10th, March 17th, and March 24th, Central will be selling Easter Lilies in honor of or in memory of our loved ones. You may order on Sundays or place your order during the week with the church office (if you call in, please let us know where you would like your lily to be displayed). The lilies will be displayed in the Great Hall and Sanctuary on Easter Sunday. After Easter services at 9:15 or 10:30, your lily may be taken home and planted. The cost this year is \$20.00.



Upcoming Community Events

- Central will host “The Byrds and the B’s” featuring organist John Sherer on Friday, March 8 at 7:00 pm. Dr. John Sherer has served as Organist and Director of Music for the Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago which USA Today chose as one of the top ten churches in America to be “enthralled by heavenly music.” Dr. Sherer manages an active concert series at the church with more than 100 events each year. We are blessed to welcome him to our church.
- First United Methodist Church at 201 West North St. is hosting the Millikin Camerata. Listen to the dazzling sounds of the recital concert with a reception to follow on Sunday, March 3 at 2pm.
- Central is also hosting Rev. Courtney Carson on Tuesday, March 19th in the Friendship Center at 6:00 p.m. He will share how the EnRich Program at Richland Community College is changing lives of local people by offering training that connects individuals to employment. Dorcas Disciples are sponsoring this event and will host a cookie reception in the Café following the presentation. RSVP to Kathleen Dudley at 217-428-4336 or central@cccdisciples.org by March 15th.

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 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 for 3/3/2024

Text: Psalm 91
Michael Karunas



Happy Birthday!! (3/3 - 3/16)

Jim Bednar, Sarah Jennings, Sandy Garver, Mary Jane Linton, Cheryl Zollinger, Katie Miller, Tom Spry, Lawrence Thicksten, Kevin Wilmot, Jim Hinze, Keith Backes, Kevin Miller, Mark Kincaid, Leona Bray, Carole Baumann, Yvonne Purcell, Dee Dee Gain, Janelle Beedle, Robin Ferrebee, Trent Moran, Arya Clark

With Deepest Sympathies ...

We extend our condolences to Jahala DeMoulin (Central Christian member, who is 95) and family on the passing of her grandson - David Mark DeMoulin at the age of 36, on February 11, 2024.

When David was about two-years-old, he had cancer and received treatments. Jahala went to their home in Winfield, Illinois, to help because David's mother was pregnant and could not be near David during and after treatments.

David survived and graduated from Wheaton North High School (2006), Indiana Wesleyan University (2010), and Palmer College of Chiropractic (2013). Unfortunately, the cancer returned recently.

David is survived by his loving wife, Whitney, and their three wonderful children: Laney (11), Jovee (8), and Belle (6); his parents, Mark and Karen DeMoulin; his sisters Kim (James Harden and Kristin (Mike Edelstein; grandparents, Jahala DeMoulin and James Haggerty; and several nieces and nephews.

In lieu of flowers, anyone who wishes to honor David may make a contribution to his children's education/college fund. If you'd like to make a contribution to the fund, please contact the church office for information. Please contact 217-428-4336 or central@cccdisciples.org.

Counting On You

Sunday Feb. 25, 2024

Total worshipping online = 139
Total worshipping in-person = 257

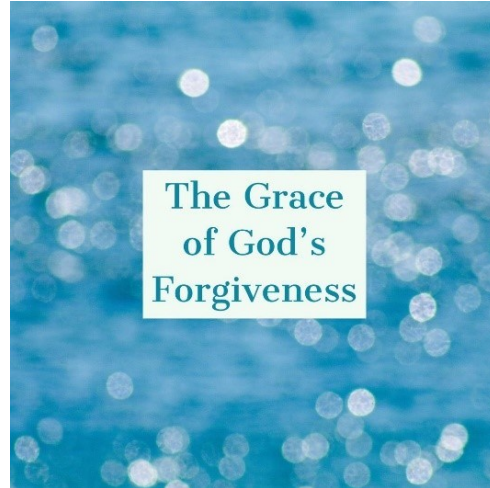
Counting On You

Sunday Feb. 18, 2024

Total worshipping online = N/A
Total worshipping in-person = 211

Reflection on Psalm 103

A friend once asked for a good psalm to read on the topic of forgiveness. Though there are certainly many to choose from, I immediately thought of the middle portion of Psalm 103 (vv. 9-14). Here, God is gracious and merciful by nature. Because of this, God chooses *not* to deal with us according to our sins nor repay us according to our wrongdoings. Rather as far and wide as our eyes can see in all directions is precisely as far as God will go to forgive us. Pretty impressive. Does forgiveness mean that there are no consequences for our sins, trespasses and wrongdoings? Not at all. There usually is some kind of fall-out that we experience when we stray from the path that we were intended to follow. But the important thing is that God's intent is not to punish but restore.



Some of the most comforting words in Psalm 103 are those in vv. 13 and 14. There, God is pictured as a loving parent, full of compassion for their children. We can certainly relate to this. How many parents have thought privately, if not spoken publicly, that they would gladly suffer something in place of their children? If it is a parent's great instinct to do whatever is necessary to keep their children safe from harm, how much more would God do that for us?

And why is God so compassionate toward us? Because God was there in the beginning, God knows that we are mortal and made from the dust of the earth, because God made us! God knows better than anyone else that we are limited, finite beings and that because of this, we will make mistakes, commit sin, and stray from a path lined out for us to follow. Only because of this intimate knowledge of who we are can God express such grace and mercy toward us.

When it comes to forgiveness, sometimes the hardest people to forgive are ourselves. We have a hard time letting go of something we did, or didn't do, in the past and the gnawing feeling that it is the only thing people see when they look at us.

We can't shake the feeling that we are not worthy of experiencing any goodness in the present, and that any challenge we face is penance for some past wrongdoing. If you ever find yourself in a situation like this, may you find comfort in Psalm 103. Be gracious to yourself. Tell yourself that you can't change the past; that what you did – or didn't do – was what you thought was

(continued on page 3...)

important at the time. It is not what you think now, and with the knowledge you have now, you would have acted differently. We can't really grab hold of God's promise of new life without letting go of things like these. God has already done so. The question is, can we?

God of forgiveness and mercy, as I look back over my life, help me see that you have covered my past with a blanket of forgiveness. I know what lies underneath that blanket and so do you. But you have chosen to stop looking at it and instead focus on what lies in store for me and the person I can become. Help me to do the same and, by your grace, to extend this same kindness and generosity to others. Amen.

Blessings – Michael

Volunteering Opportunity

Good Samaritan Inn is looking for volunteers to help with food prep and with serving lunch on Monday, March 11 for Good Samaritan diners.

Workers are needed 8-10:30 am to prepare the meal and 11 am-1 pm to serve lunch.

Volunteers also shop for the needed grocery supplies one or two days in advance. New volunteers are always welcome!

Look for the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center and Great Hall soon!

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 learn more about the wonderful ministries housed here?

If so, then we'd love to have you join us at "WELCOME 101." This is a 90 minute info-gathering led by Pastor Michael. We will meet in the Connection Café for an hour and then go on a walking tour of the building.

Thursday, March 7 from 6 - 7:30 pm &

Thursday, March 14 from 6 – 7:30 pm.

Please reserve your place at this event by contacting the office (217-428-4336 or central@cccsdisciples.org).

Elderberries March Event!

March 13, 2024 will be the next Elderberries event in the Great Hall. Special guest, Don Martin, will be presenting "Old Hymns".

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 7th.

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

Monday (4)

9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center

1:00-DOVE Children Clothing Room

5:00-Neighborhood Prayer Group, Disc. Room

6:00-Lenten Study Group, Great Hall

Tuesday (5)

7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café

9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R

9:30-Card Ministry, 411

Wednesday (6)

12:00-SSC, Disciples Room

1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room

1:30-Prayer Shawl, Connection Café

5:00-Christian Ed Meeting, Connection Café

6:00-Millikin Heights Association, 401

Thursday (7)

10:00-Alanon, 401

3:00-Decatur Needle Arts, Disciples Room

6:00-Welcome 101, Connection Café

7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday (8)

7:00-John Sherer organ concert, Sanctuary

Saturday (9)

Sunday (10) - 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

Monday (11)

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

5:00-Elder Planning Meeting

5:00-Neighborhood Prayer Group, Disc. Room

6:00-Lenten Study Group, Great Hall

Tuesday (12)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R

5:00-Cont. Worship Mtg, Disciples Room

5:30-Women's Book Club, Panera

Wednesday (13)

11:30-Elderberries Event & Meal

1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room

5:00-Elders Meeting, Disciples Room

Thursday (14)

10:00-Alanon, 401

12:00-Support Staff Meeting, Conf. Room

6:00-Welcome 101, Connection Café

7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday (15)

Saturday (16)

9:00-Faith Quest, Connection Café

Sunday (17)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

9:15-Sunday School

9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online

10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary &

12:00-Youth Group

Serving Schedule — Sunday, March 3, 2024

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Brett Swallow, Janet Lyman
9:15 - Brett Swallow

March Prep Deacons: Larry & Michele Bafford, Christine Lyman-Harm

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Gary Horvath, Bobby Munos
9:15 - Steve & Marci Baumann
10:30 - Rick Postlewait, Kent West

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 1 - Carolyn Sunderlik, Capt., Dianne Devore, Eileen Iverson
10:30 - Team 6 - Mark Kincaid, Donna Dash

Greeters:

8:00 - Gene & Sandy Garver
9:15 - Steve & Marci Baumann
10:30 - Gregg & Linda Foltz

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Bobby Munos
10:30 - Luke Kirby

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Keith Backes
9:15 - Marci Baumann

Serving Schedule — Sunday, March 10, 2024

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Tom Ritter, Kevin Wilmot
9:15 - Tom Ritter

March Prep Deacons: Larry & Michele Bafford, Christine Lyman-Harm

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Jim Fitzpatrick, Jane Davis
9:15 - Laura & Matt Moma
10:30 - Marty Heick, Dave Phillips

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 - Carolyn McCall, Gail Prince
9:15 - Laura & Matt Moma
10:30 - Bob & Mary Jane Linton

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash
10:30 - Keith Backes

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Janet Lyman
9:15 - Travis Wilcoxon



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
www.facebook.com/CCCDecatur

"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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