

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, March 13, 2024

No. 6

Easter Lilies for Sale



On Sundays 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.

Baptism of Misty Mochel

On December 24 at the 9:15 service, Misty Mochel came forward to join the church. This past Sunday she was baptized at 10:00 (between our 9:15 and 10:30 services). It was a beautiful service and a highlight of our morning.



Vacation Bible School

Save the Dates! VBS will be June 17-20, Monday - Thursday mornings. We're looking forward to a fun and faith-filled time as we explore "Hero Hotline"!



Easter Egg Hunt With a Twist

We are having an Easter Egg Hunt (with a twist) for children at Central on Easter morning (March 31). Watch for details coming soon.

SUNDAY, MARCH 17, 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 3/17/2024
Text: Psalm 66:5-12, 16
Michael Karunas



Happy Birthday!! (3/17 - 3/30)

Dick Cain, Christine Lyman-Harm,
Karen McFadin, Nancy Taylor,
Kim Miller, Shelby Baum,
Gary Johnston, Calvin McLeod,
Randy Trei, Kate Neumann,
Blair Moran, Archer Swarouth,
Charles Watkins

Easter Offering Supports

Christ's Mission

Easter is a special time in the life of the church when we focus our worship, celebrations and fellowship around moments that are central to our faith.

The Easter Offering, to be collected April 24 and 31, supports several of the general ministries of the Christian Church.

Your gift supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors and chaplains, and so much more.

Your gift has the power to change lives around the world. We remember all that Jesus sacrificed for us, especially at Easter.

Let us show our generosity, as Disciples of Christ, in giving to the Easter offering to continue the mission of Christ in our world today.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you knit, crochet or use a loom? The volunteers of the Prayer Shawl Ministry donate their time and talent to make prayer shawls, hats and pocket prayers shawls. We meet the first Wednesday of each month at 1:30pm in the Connection Cafe.

Please come and join us! We have patterns available for most skill levels and will be happy to help you get started. Contact the church office for more information.

Counting On You

Sunday, March 10, 2024

Total worshipping online = 113
Total worshipping in-person = 261

Counting On You

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Total worshipping online = 138
Total worshipping in-person = 274

Minister's Article

Neighborhood Prayer Group Update

At the end of January, I invited the congregation to pray for our neighborhood (meaning: all the houses and properties that are adjacent to the block on which we are located). I specifically asked you to keep the neighborhood in your prayers until Easter. You might recall that I included in the newsletter dated the week of 1/29 a sample prayer everyone could either recite or adapt in their own prayer time. If you have been doing this for the past six weeks, I would love to know how you have experienced that practice. Feel free to reach out and share with me what you've learned through that process (mkarunas@cccdisciples.org).

Every Monday afternoon since the end of January, from 5-6 p.m., Pastor Vicky and I have been meeting in the Disciples Room with anyone who has wanted to pray for the neighborhood with us. We have dedicated that hour to talking about, thinking about, and praying for our neighbors as a small group. As Easter is fast approaching, I wanted to use this space here to give an update on what has been emerging from that group.

First off, there has been a different group of people gathering each time. A total of 10 people have attended, some coming once and others attending nearly every session. We follow the same format each week. There are four (4) rounds.

- 1 – *Where did you hear God speak to you during this past week? What did you hear?*
- 2 – *What is on your mind as you think about the neighborhood this week?*
- 3 – *What would you like to ask God for as it relates to our neighborhood?*
- 4 – *Pray for neighborhood*



The rounds that generated the most discussion were numbers 2 and 3. Here are some of the highlights from the group discussion around those questions:

What is on your mind as you think about our neighborhood?

- *Just thinking about the neighborhood can be daunting*
- *How can we be supportive of families and their children?*
- *Litter: Everyone feels better when there is less of it:*
 - *We could clean up litter on neighboring properties as well as our own*
- *Get to know the houses / buildings "personally" (and the people who live in them)*
- *People in our neighborhood might represent anger, mental illness, hurts, etc...*
 - *We have a responsibility to be more involved*
- *We could make connections with other churches in our wider neighborhood:*
 - *New Church Science neighbors (on Prairie)*
 - *Ebenezer church (our own building two blocks down William)*

(continued on page 3...)

- *Maybe we could buy properties in the neighborhood as they come for sale and partner with Habitat for Humanity to rehab them*
- *We might have resources to offer. Examples:*
 - *“handyman” skills to help with small home repairs and projects*
 - *Transportation (doctor / shopping)*
- *Education for CCC members:*
 - *Without getting into policies, help educate our people as to what it’s like to live on a fixed income as a payee etc....*
- *We want to see that we are “in this together”:*
 - *Truly get to know others so that we might receive from them as much as they receive from us*
- *We want to see our neighbors as “whole people” and not just candidates to receive some “help” that we can offer*
- *We want to remember that some people we encounter in our neighborhood are really “interlopers” (passing through) our neighborhood*
- *We could open the church to be a cooling (summer) / warming station (in the winter months)*
- *We could offer the opportunity to cash checks for free*

What would you like to ask God for as it relates to our neighborhood?

- *Give us courage to be open, humble and to follow through*
- *Give us a different set of eyes (perspective to see things differently)*
- *Show us our purpose (why we are here)*
- *Show us who our partners are (both inside / outside building)*
- *Keep us hopeful! Expecting big things!*
- *Give us focus (show us the particular pathway of involvement best suited for us)*
- *Pray for patience (not to give up if “results” aren’t immediate)*
- *Give us strength to be non-anxious*

Blessings – Michael

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” on Thursday, March 14 from 6 – 7:30 pm. 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. Please RSVP by contacting the office (217-428-4336 or central@cccdisciples.org).

Celebrate RCC’S Connections With Community!

All are invited to hear the story of Richland Community College’s successful EnRich Program on Tuesday, March 19th in the Friendship Center at 6:00 p.m. Rev. Courtney Carson will share how the program is changing lives of local people by offering training that connects individuals to employment, satisfying our region’s need for a skilled workforce in manufacturing and healthcare. 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 (17)

- 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 (18)

- 9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center
- 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 (19) Primary Election, Great Hall

- 7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café
- 9:30-Card Ministry, 411
- 10:15-Operations Meeting, Conf. Room
- 6:00-Dorcas Meeting, Friendship Center

Wednesday (20)

- 1:00-DOVE Children’s Clothing Room
- 5:00-Elders Meeting

Thursday (21)

- 8:00-Emmaus Reunion Group, 401
- 10:00-Alanon, 401
- 7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday (22)

Saturday (23)

- 9:00-Faith Quest, Connection Café

Sunday (24) Palm Sunday

NO YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL/YOUTH GROUP

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

Monday (25)

- 9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center
- 1:00-DOVE Children Clothing Room
- 5:00-Neighborhood Prayer Group, Disc. Room

Tuesday (26)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
- 11:45-Macon County Meeting, Great Hall

Wednesday (27)

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

Thursday (28)

- 10:00-Alanon, 401
- 7:00-Maundy Thursday Service, Sanctuary
- 7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday (29) Good Friday

- 7:00-Good Friday Service, Niantic Christian Church (270 N. Broadway St., Niantic, IL)

Saturday (30)

Sunday (31) Easter Sunday & Baptisms

NO YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL/YOUTH GROUP

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

REMINDER: The Church and Church office will be closed Easter Mon., April 1. No Preschool, No DOVE Clothing Room

Serving Schedule — Sunday, March 17, 2024

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Susan Bryant, Charlotte Ballance
9:15 - Susan Bryant

March Communion Outreach Elders: Tom Spry, Theresa Fulk, Gail Prince,
Krista Rohrscheib, Cheryl Zollinger, Dick Cain

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

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Gary Horvath, Donna Dash
9:15 - Louis & Laura Kappler
10:30 - Becky Van Meter, Lea West

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 3 - David King, Capt., Nancy King
10:30 - Team 8 - Kim & Audrey Miller, David Sheffer

Greeters:

8:00 - Carolyn McCall, Gail Prince
9:15 - Louis & Laura Kappler
10:30 - Jeannie & Keith Backes

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Andy Fulk
9:15 - Greg Barnes

Serving Schedule — Sunday, March 24, 2024

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Linda Rowden, Karen Wade
9:15 - Linda Rowden

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

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Sid Rohrscheib, Sandy Garver
9:15 - Hugh & Linda Rowden
10:30 - Christine Lyman-Harm, Tom Ritter

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 4 - Hazel Perry, Capt., Karen Penn, Charlotte Ballance
10:30 - Team 9 - Tom & Diana Ritter, Suzie Miller

Greeters:

8:00 - Julie & Ken Jacoby
9:15 - Hugh & Linda Rowden
10:30 - Dick & Sue Ann Cain

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Tom Ritter
9:15 - YOUTH SUNDAY



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"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!

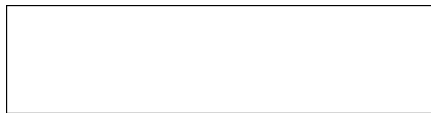
Have a prayer request? Text PRAY to 217
-212-2173, or use the QR code to the left.
"PRAY" is the only word you should type.

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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