

# The Central Visitor



Vol. XCVI

Decatur, Illinois, March 27, 2024

No. 7



## Welcome Pastor Melinda

Melinda McDonald has accepted a call to serve Central Christian Church as Associate Pastor for Adult Spiritual Formation and Pastoral Care, a three-quarter time position. She comes at the unanimous recommendation of the pastoral search committee and the affirmative vote by the Church Council on behalf of the congregation.

Pastor Melinda plans to move to Decatur in April and will join the staff at Central effective April 8. Her first Sunday in worship with us will be April 14.

Congregational ministry is a second career for Pastor Melinda. She felt a call to ministry and enrolled in seminary in 2011 following several years as an English and creative writing teacher. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature, Master of Arts in Elementary Education, and a Master of Divinity. She was ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) North Carolina region in 2015, and since then she has served small congregations in Georgia and North Carolina as interim pastor and as supply minister. Melinda and her husband Eric have one son and two grandchildren, ages 9 and 2.

Central's Pastoral search committee was formed in early 2023 to seek and evaluate candidates for an associate minister position. Search committee members were Gregg Foltz, chair, Keith Backes, Betty Chapman, Janet Lyman, Tom Ritter, Shirley Swarthout and David Wagner.

## SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 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 3/31/2024

Text: Psalm 150  
Michael Karunas

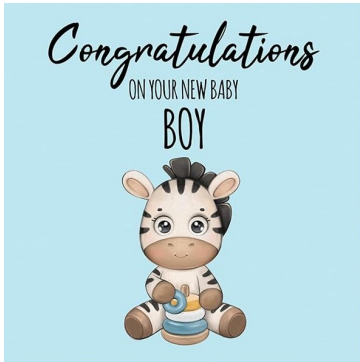


## Happy Birthday!! (3/31 - 4/13)

Christen McLeod, Bobby Munos,  
Steve Swarthout, Gregg Foltz,  
Jane Davis, Samuel Rutherford,  
Kathy Kauzlarich, Josie Morelli,  
Clara Damery, Hadley Fultz,  
Adalyn McCoy, Ruby Glause

# THANK YOU

Thank you to all those who attended our RCC EnRich program on March 19th. It was inspiring to hear how the EnRich program is benefiting our community's citizens and workforce. A special thank you goes to Kathleen Dudley, Steve Turner, caretakers, and the Dorcas Disciples planning committee for their program preparation.



### **It's a Boy!!**

Campbell "Cam" John Bednar born March 14, 2024, in Appleton, WI to Jarrett and Carley Bednar and also joyously welcomed by proud grandparents Jim and Pamela Bednar.



### **2024 Scholarships**

Scholarship forms will be available on paper at the Welcome Center and online starting April 2nd. The deadline to submit the scholarships will be at 3:00 PM on May 3rd.

### **Counting On You**

**Sunday, March 24, 2024**

Total worshipping online = 169  
Total worshipping in-person = 304

### **Counting On You**

**Sunday, March 17, 2024**

Total worshipping online = 121  
Total worshipping in-person = 253

## Minister's Article

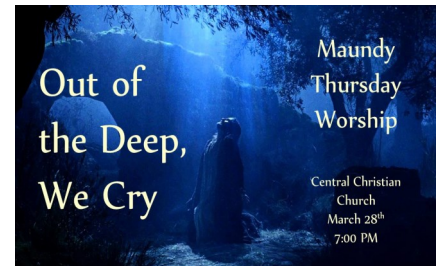
### **Youth Sunday Highlights!!!**



### **Maundy Thursday – March 28**

7:00 pm. Worship in the Sanctuary  
"Out of the Deep, We Cry"

Featuring three inspirational pieces by our Chancel Choir; Telling the story of Jesus' passion; The service will end with two dancers embodying the themes of the evening accompanied by our Chancel Choir



### **Good Friday – March 29**

7:00 pm. Worship at Niantic Christian Church

We are invited to be the guests of Niantic Christian Church and Illiopolis Christian Church

Featuring monologues performed by: Pastor Vicky, Pastor Michael, Pastor Melissa Ebken (pastor of the Christian Churches in Niantic and Illiopolis). Also featuring an anthem by our Chancel Choir.



*(continued on page 3...)*

## Easter Sunday – March 31

8:00 a.m. – traditional worship with choir and brass

9:15 – contemporary worship

10:30 – traditional worship with choir and brass

- Baptisms of Cohen Irby and Emmy Osman  
- (Baptisms of Clara Damery and Clara Monroe will be on April 7)



### Easter Egg Hunt With a Twist

The children's Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10:10am – after the 9:15 service and before the 10:30 service.

Families will start in the Café where you will be given clues to follow and move around the building together as a family. Each station will have a scripture to read and treats to fill your bag.

We will have a special filled Easter egg for all of our children at the end of the hunt.

We will have an Easter Egg hunt for our youngest children who are in the Nursery. We hope you can join us as we celebrate the JOY of Easter!

There is NO Sunday School on Easter Sunday. Regular Sunday School resumes on April 7.



### Neighborhood Prayer Group “Next Steps” Meeting

On Monday, April 8, anyone (and everyone) is invited to a discussion and conversation about “next steps” as it relates to our connection with our immediate neighborhood. This conversation will pick up where the Neighborhood Prayer Group left off. As you might remember, a Neighborhood Prayer Group met every Monday from early February through Palm Sunday to pray for our neighborhood. In our attempt to be “good neighbors” in our immediate environment and to build connections with those who share this space with us, we want to keep this mission and purpose ever before us. Any decision we, as a church, make regarding anything formal or official will be made through the church council. We envision this kind of a meeting to be one that keeps the conversation going as we seek to discern how and where God might be leading us. If you're interested, join us in the Disciples Room at 5:00 p.m.

### Welcome New Member

Rev. Keela Neumann, retired Disciples of Christ minister, transferred her membership to Central this past Sunday at the 9:15 service. Keela moved to the Decatur area several years ago to be closer to her family. She is the grandmother of Kate and Kaycee Neumann (two of our youth who helped lead Youth Sunday this week). Pictured with another granddaughter, Kinley, Keela has long attended Central – virtually and in person – and has always been supportive of anything her grandchildren are doing. Welcome Keela!



## 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

### Monday (April 1) Church & Office Closed

3:00-Pastoral Support Committee

### Tuesday (2)

7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café

9:30-Card Ministry, 411

9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R

12:30-Mrs. Millikin Study Group, Fireside Rm.

### Wednesday (3)

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 Assoc., 401

### Thursday (4)

10:00-Alanon, 401

3:00-Decatur Needle Arts, Disciples Room

7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

### Friday (5)

### Saturday (6)

4:00-Durufle's Requiem, Sanctuary

### Sunday (7) Do Good Donuts & Baptisms

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 (8)

9:00-Good Sam. Volunteering, Good Sam Inn

9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center

11:30-Visitation Group, Conference Room

12:30-Women's Book Club, Panera

1:00-DOVE Children Clothing Room

1:00-Golden K, Disciples Room

3:00-Elder Planning Meeting

5:00-Neighborhood Prayer Group, Disc. Room

### Tuesday (9)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R

5:30-Women's Book Club, Panera

6:00-Hospital Callers Meeting, Disciples Rm.

### Wednesday (10)

1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room

5:00-Elders Meeting, Disciples Room

### Thursday (11)

10:00-Alanon, 401

12:00-Support Staff Meeting, Conf. Room

7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

### Friday (12)

### Saturday (13)

### Sunday (14)

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

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

**Serving Schedule — Sunday, March 31, 2024**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Lea West, Dick Cain  
9:15 - Lea West

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

**Offering Deacons:**

8:00 - Krista Rohrscheib, Gail Prince  
9:15 - Angie & Ron Ingram  
10:30 - Dale Ford, David Martin

**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 - Gene & Sandy Garver  
9:15 - Angie & Ron Ingram  
10:30 - Jan Dobbs, Suzie Miller

**P.A. Operator:**

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

**Liturgist:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Shirley Swarthout  
9:15 - Cheryl Zollinger



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](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org)  
[www.facebook.com/CCCDecatur](https://www.facebook.com/CCCDecatur)

**Serving Schedule — Sunday, April 7, 2024**

**Elders:**

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

**April Prep Deacons:** Brett Swallow, Kevin Wilmot, Tom Ritter, Charlotte Ballance, Susan Bryant, Karen Wade

**Offering Deacons:**

8:00 - Julia Munos, Jane Davis  
9:15 - TBD  
10:30 - Ron Oliver, Mike Kirby

**Ushers:**

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

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Dianne Devore, Carolyn Sunderlik  
9:15 - TBD  
10:30 - Dale & Judy Ford

**P.A. Operator:**

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

**Liturgist:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Keith Backes  
9:15 - TBD

**"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.

The Central Visitor (USPS 098-520) is published biweekly by Central Christian Church, 650 W. William, Decatur, IL 62522.  
Periodical Postage paid at Decatur, IL.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Central Visitor, 650 W. William St., Decatur, IL 62522.



NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
DECATUR, IL  
PERMIT NO. 80

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
650 West William Street  
Decatur, IL 62522

