

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, April 10, 2024

No. 8

Hello, Friends!

A year ago, I had no idea that I would be here – at Central – getting to serve God alongside you all (note I say you all, not y’all even though I hail from the South. I had no idea that my dream ministry position would ever come my way – to be an associate pastor for spiritual formation and pastoral care.

But what I did know, then and now... God calls us to new life in Christ – every day, not just in one season, but for all the seasons of our lives. The question is: will we be open and respond to that new life?

I am impressed with how God’s Spirit has shown up in my life, time and time again. The fact that I am getting to be with you, beginning in the Easter season, the season of New Life, is fitting for all of us.

Jesus has called us friends... from John 15:15, we hear, ¹⁵ *I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father.*

I love people, I love sharing good things with people, and I love nurturing others. And, once you are in my heart, it is for always. I hope you will consider me your friend!

- Rev. Melinda

Thank you!

Thank you so much for the gift of a new liturgical robe. I appreciate the generosity of members of the congregation who provided it for me. I was able to choose the style I wanted and have it custom made so it would fit just right.

It is a joy to wear it as I participate in worship leadership. Thank you for all of the ways you support and encourage me as your Pastor for Families.

- Blessings, Vicky



SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 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 4/14/2024

Text: Acts 1:15-16, 21-26

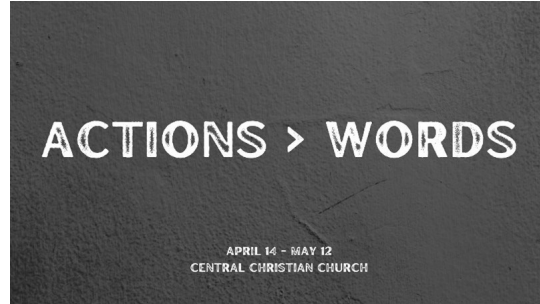
Michael Karunas



Happy Birthday!! (4/14 - 4/27)

Liz Campbell, Hilary Critchfield,
John Graham, Mike Munos,
Nancy King, Maxine Koenig,
Don Swallow, Marda Young, Ed Adams,
Bruce Stoddard, Paula Hovey,
Madison Larrick, Amy Zietlow,
Kim Maple, Melissa Scircle,
Sally McLemore

Actions Speak Louder than Words



The word "apostle" means "sent" – as in, Jesus "sent" his 12 apostles out into the world to do the work of God on his behalf. When he did this, he even gave them the authority he himself had been given. Yet the last time we saw these apostles (before Easter), they were doing the opposite – running away, abandoning Jesus, denying him, betraying him. What happened to them after Easter? That will be our focus for the next five weeks. These early apostles got together, picked themselves up, and started building the church and spreading the Gospel. They did it with their words, but even more so with their actions. Their actions validated their beliefs and became the foundation on which the church was built. We will look at 5 key actions exemplified by the apostles as described in the Book of Acts. We will learn how they can help shape our faith – as individuals and as a church – today.

Each Sunday we will also publish a one-page "Did You Know" about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Our founders wanted to restore the church to it's New Testament foundations (to model our church after the one the apostles were building). Each of the actions the apostles took in building the church can be witnessed in our current practices at Central Christian Church.

<u>April 14</u>	Acts 1:15-16, 21-26	<i>Take the Next Best Step in Front of You</i>
<u>April 21</u>	Acts 2:37-41	<i>Be Open!</i>
<u>April 28</u>	Acts 2:42-47	<i>Get Back to Basics</i>
<u>May 5</u>	Acts 4:32-37	<i>Be a Bridge</i>
<u>May 12</u>	Acts 8:26-39	<i>Build a Relationship</i>

Neighborhood Prayer Group "Next Steps" Meeting

On **Monday, April 15**, 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.**

In Sympathy ...

In sympathy, we mourn with and pray for the following Central families, upon the loss of their loved ones:

- Arlene Penn - Arlene was the aunt of Dale Penn. Many of our Elders got to meet her at Imboden Living Center and served her communion there. Arlene passed away on April 1st. Her services were this past Monday.
- Dixie Dixon - Dixie and her husband Bill (deceased in 2015) joined Central in 1975, though they had lived in Wisconsin for many of the last several years. Dixie passed away on April 2nd, and her services will be April 20th in Wisconsin.
- Arlone Dalluge - Arlone was the mother of Tom (Diana) Ritter & Nancy Hanover. She and Glen joined Central in 2014, almost 10 years ago. She was 98. Visitation will be this Sunday at Brintlinger and Earl, Decatur, at 5:00 PM, and the celebration of life will be Monday, April 15, at 11:00 AM, at Central.

Wanted: Liturgists

Central is looking for more liturgists to serve in either Traditional or Contemporary worship. Liturgists help usher people into a worshipful mindset by leading a prepared Call to Worship during the service. They also write their own invocation prayer that is read before the Lord's prayer. Training available! For more information, contact Pastor Michael.

Counting On You

Sunday, April 7, 2024

Total worshipping online = 134
Total worshipping in-person = 273

Counting On You

Sunday, March 31, 2024

Total worshipping online = 112
Total worshipping in-person = 386

Save the Date!

On Saturday, September 14th, at 1:30pm, Central Christian Church will present the inaugural preschool benefit golf outing! The outing will be held at the Moweaqua Golf Course in Moweaqua, Illinois. The event will be a four person scramble, \$400 per foursome. Prizes will be available and proceeds benefit the preschool at Central. More information to come!

Empty Paper Towel Rolls Needed!!

The preschool is collecting empty paper towel and empty toilet paper rolls for upcoming art projects. There is a basket on the hostess station outside the preschool wing. Thank you!

Northeast Pantry Donations

Thank you Central for your generous donations of food items for Northeast Community Food Pantry. We had 65 items including cereal, canned meats, mac and cheese, pasta, soup, boxed mashed potatoes, pouch tuna, canned fruit, peanut butter and many other items.

The next food collection will be on May 5. Cereal, canned fruits & vegetables, canned meats, peanut butter, and pasta are always good contributions. Please be sure to check the expiration date on the items to be donated. The shopping cart is in Connection Café. Let's fill the cart!

New Members

Please welcome Dave and Beth Calvert. They have been attending since last Fall and joined on March 14th.



Noelle Cohan joined the Central family this past Sunday. Noelle has been attending traditional worship (both 8:00 and 10:30) weekly for the past month-and-a-half, has begun attending the Ecclesia Sunday School class, and says that she immediately felt "at home" here the moment she began attending. Welcome Noelle!



A Sincere Thank You

Debra Birkhead wrote, regarding the recent passing of her father, Morris: Dear Central Christian Church family, Thank you for keeping Dad close in your hearts and close to Jesus! He is 'home' and we are happy for him. God bless you all, Deb & Cheryl

Card Showers!!

We love showing love to our Central members with milestone birthdays. If you know of someone who has a "decade-significant" birthday coming up who might enjoy a card shower, let us know, and we'll try to help get the word out!

Upcoming July Milestone birthdays:

Marda Young will be 90 on April 26th.

Lynn Potter will be 90 on April 30th.

Please call the church office for contact information if you'd like to send a card.

Sunday (14) DO GOOD DONUTS!!

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 (April 15)

9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center
10:30-Arlone Dalluge Celebration of Life
1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room
5:00-Neighborhood Prayer Group, Disc. Room

Tuesday (16)

7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café
9:30-Card Ministry, 411
9:30-Christcare Stitches, 3R
10:15-Operations Committee, Conf. Room

Wednesday (17)

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

Thursday (18)

8:00-Emmaus Reunion Group, 401
10:00-Alanon, 401
4:30-Dorcas Planning, Conf. Room
7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday (19)

Saturday (20)

Sunday (21)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
9:15-Sunday School
9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online
11:30-Fellowship Meal, Great Hall
12:00-Youth Group

Monday (22)

9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center
1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room

Tuesday (23)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:30-Christcare Stitches, 3R
11:15-Macon County Gathering, Great Hall

Wednesday (24)

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

Thursday (25)

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

Friday (26)

Saturday (27)

2:00-John McClarey Memorial Service

Sunday (28)

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
2:00-MU Mothers & Mentors Concert, Sanct.
4:00-MU Spring Sing, Sanctuary

Serving Schedule — Sunday, April 14, 2024

Elders:

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

April Prep Deacons: Linda Zinn, Donna Dash

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Debbie Hoffert, Mike Munos
9:15 - Matt & Laura Moma
10:30 - Steve Swarthout, Gretchen Kirby

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 3 - David King, Capt., Nancy King
10:30 - Team 7 - George Virgil, Capt., Linda Virgil, Hugh & Linda Rowden

Greeters:

8:00 - Eileen Iverson, Karen Penn
9:15 - Matt & Laura Moma
10:30 - Mary Jane, Ron Oliver

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Keith Backes
9:15 - Melinda McDonald

Serving Schedule — Sunday, April 21, 2024

Elders:

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

April Communion Outreach Elders: Brett Swallow, Kevin Wilmot,
Tom Ritter, Charlotte Ballance, Susan Bryant, Karen Wade

April Prep Deacons: Linda Zinn, Donna Dash

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Carolyn McCall, David Wagner
9:15 - Ron & Angie Ingram
10:30 - Roberta Gorden, Luke Kirby

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 2 - Bruce Campbell, Capt., Liz Campbell
10:30 - Team 8 - Tom & Diana Ritter, David Sheffer

Greeters:

8:00 - Charlotte Ballance, Donna Dash
9:15 - Cheryl & David Zollinger
10:30 - Andy & Theresa Fulk

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Charlotte Ballance
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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