

# 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 24, 2024

No. 9

## A Note of Deep Thanks

WOW! That's an interjection, one of the eight parts of speech. "Impressive" could be substituted for wow. Central, you have impressed me with your gracious and generous hospitality from the search committee members to Michael to Vicky to all of you who have reached out in a personal way to assist me in my first days/weeks of being here. You have honored me with such a grand welcome. Thank you! I will send a longer note of appreciation for next week's edition of the midweek. You have shown God's grace to me. I appreciate your hospitality! And now... we begin our lives together as faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

With joy and gratitude,  
Rev. Melinda

## Welcome New Member!

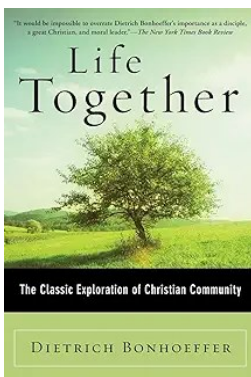
Terry Woerz joined Central on Sunday, April 21 at the 9:15 service. Terry and his family have been attending Central every Sunday for the past several months and live in the neighborhood. His children have loved Sunday School and he has felt at home from the moment he began attending. Welcome Terry!



## Together Life: Working with One Another in Community

Rev. Melinda is delighted to begin our life together with a course on what it means to be community and how best to function as co-listeners to God and each other. The book, LIFE TOGETHER, by Dietrich Bonhoeffer is highly recommended for our three-week course beginning Tuesday evening, 4/30,

5:30 pm - 6:45 pm. We will have Communion our last session. Come, even if you don't have a book, please. We have ordered ten copies for the church. Or you can purchase your own copy on Amazon. You may need to bring your own journals, but session outlines for each session will be given. Please sign up with your name, email address, and phone number in the Welcome Center/Great Hall. Or you may email Melinda directly at: melinda.mcdonald@cccdisciples.org. Please indicate if you will order the book on your own or want to purchase one of the books the church has purchased.



## SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 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 4/28/2024

Text: Acts 2:42-47  
"Back to the Basics"  
Michael Karunas



## Happy Birthday!! (4/28 - 5/11)

Charlotte Ballance, Greg Carter, Judy Ford, Debra Fulk-Clark, Nancy McAfee, Lynn Potter, Brenda Tankersley, David Sheffer, Rick Postlewait, Jerry Furby, Ronda Burcham, Mark Beat, Bob Wade, Nick Baum, John Hill, Steve Turner, Giuliana Morelli, Eli Monroe, Crosby McLeod, Amelia Jennings, Jim Fitzpatrick, Vicki Fitzpatrick, Norma Fick, James Denzer, Jennifer Hartwig

**In Sympathy ...**

- In sympathy, we mourn with the family of Dave Calvert, who passed away Monday evening, April 15th. Dave & Beth had both joined Central about a month ago. Please keep Beth and their two sons, Derek and Brett, in your prayers. There was a visitation held at Central this past Sunday.
- We also mourn with the family of Marda Young, who passed away last Wednesday. Marda had been a member of Central Christian Church since 1946. Services will be held on Saturday, April 27th, in Hamilton, IL. Let's keep both of these families in our prayers.

**Neighborhood Prayer Group "Next Steps" Meeting April 29**

On Monday, April 29, we will continue our "next steps" discussion and conversation about connecting with our immediate neighborhood. Anyone and everyone is invited to join us in the Disciples Room at 5:00 p.m.

**Northeast Pantry Donations**

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

**Thank you!!**

Thank you to Keith and Jeannie Backes and all of the Fellowship Team for the wonderful fellowship meal on Sunday, April 21, to celebrate Rev. Melinda's installation.

**Counting On You**

**Sunday, April 21, 2024**

Total worshipping online = 115  
Total worshipping in-person = 262

**Counting On You**

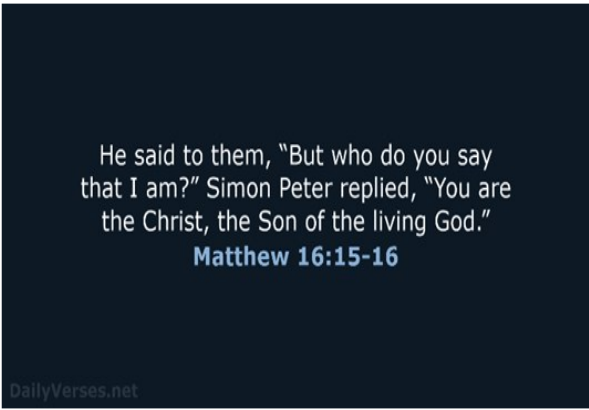
**Sunday, April 14, 2024**

Total worshipping online = 96  
Total worshipping in-person = 257

**Actions Speak Louder than Words**

*Did You Know... that the only thing needed to become a member is a confession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior?* Both our primary founders, Alexander Campbell and Barton Stone, believed that the church should structure itself on the practices found in the New Testament. That is, if the New Testament gives evidence of the early Christians doing something, the church of today should do it. Likewise, if there is no evidence of the earliest Christians doing something, we should refrain from doing it today.

When Campbell and Stone looked around, on the western frontier of the United States 200 years ago, they saw people joining other churches (e.g. Lutherans and Presbyterians) on the basis of that church's creed. A creed is a document that spells out that church's beliefs. Stone and Campbell were not against the substance of a creed. That is, all creeds said that there was one God and that Jesus Christ was the son of that God. No one would dispute that. But Stone and Campbell felt that the Holy Spirit couldn't be contained in the words of any one creed. The Holy Spirit cannot be restricted and confined in this way. Moreover, they saw how these creeds were used to divide Christians when, in essence, all Christians believed in Jesus as the way of salvation.



Most important, however, was the fact that when our founders read the New Testament, they didn't see people coming to Christ by means of a creed or an explanation of their faith. Rather, they were saved by a confession of their faith. They pointed to Matthew 16:16 where Jesus asks the disciples "Who do you say that I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Christ (the savior), the son of the living God." That was enough for Jesus and it was enough for Campbell and Stone.

As the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) today, we still base membership on this Great Confession of Peter. We are more concerned that you believe in Jesus as God's chosen instrument of salvation than we are with in what way you understand him to be simultaneously fully human and fully divine; or with how you think Jesus relates to the other members of the Holy Trinity (Father and Holy Spirit). Should you come forward one Sunday to join the church, we will ask you one question – the same question Jesus asked Peter in Matthew 16:16. We believe this is what God intends – an emphasis on what unites us more than the distinctions of how we articulate our faith, which can divide us.

Blessings – Michael

## Preschool Sunday, May 12

In addition to May 12 being Mother's Day, we will also be recognizing our Central Christian Preschool during worship. This will include:

- A slide show on our all video monitors throughout the morning depicting the activities and adventures of our 2023-2024 preschoolers
- Written greetings and gratitude from our director, Melissa Miller, read during worship.
- The chance to purchase one of 20 canvas art paintings by our children (proceeds to benefit the preschool)
- A special offering collected during worship to support the preschool.

We are thankful for our preschool staff, our board members, our students and their families (of course) and all the support shown by our tremendous church members.

### It's VBS Registration Time!

We're excited to invite Central's children entering kindergarten – entering 6th grade, to Vacation Bible School. VBS is coming June 17 -20, Monday – Thursday mornings from 9am – 12noon. Our theme this year is Hero Hotline, where everyone is a hero working to follow our Bible verse from Romans 14:19, "So let's strive for the things that bring peace and the things that build each other up."



Registration forms are available NOW and the deadline to register is May 20. There are paper forms available at church in the Friendship Center and in the Great Hall.

Both paper and electronic forms are accessible from our website, on the Youth Ministries page (under "Youth News and Events" section). You may also Text VBS2024 to 217-212-2173.

Reach out to Pastor Vicky with any questions or to volunteer for VBS. We hope your children and grandchildren will join us for a fun-filled week of learning more about God's love.

### We Celebrate Our Church Staff!

All Central women are invited to help host Dorcas Disciples' annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon at 12 noon on Tuesday, May 14th in the Great Hall. Ladies will gather at 11:15 a.m. for a brief business meeting and then celebrate the dedicated service of our church and preschool staff with a yummy lunch at noon. Church staff will receive individual invitations.

Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 8th to Nancy Ellen Taylor at 217-872-9174 or xstr@sbcglobal.net to make sure we have enough delicious food. Hope to see you May 14th!

### Celebrating Graduates

Your Central Church family wants to celebrate with you as you graduate. Please let us know if someone in your family is graduating from high school, college, or with an advanced degree. We will publish their names and congratulate them in our next Visitor.

### **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

### **Monday (29)**

- 9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center
- 11:30-Visitation Group, Disciples Room
- 1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room
- 5:00-Neighborhood Prayer Group, Disc. Room
- 5:15-Operations Meeting

### **Tuesday (30)**

- 7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café
- 9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
- 5:30-Life Together Class, Disciples Room
- 7:00-Opus Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### **Wednesday (May 1)**

- 12:00-Social Services Meeting, Disciples Rm.
- 1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room
- 1:30-Prayer Shawl, Connection Café
- 5:00-Christian Ed. Committee, Connect. Café
- 7:00-Millikin Heights Meeting, 401

### **Thursday (2)**

- 8:00-Emmaus Reunion Group, 401
- 10:00-Alanon, 401
- 3:00-Decatur Needle Arts, Disciples Room
- 7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

### **Friday (3)**

- 7:00-Opus Rehearsal, Sanctuary

### **Saturday (4)**

### **Sunday (5)**

- 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
- 3:00-Opus Concert

### **Monday (6)**

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

### **Tuesday (7)**

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
- 9:30-Card Ministry, 411
- 5:30-Life Together Class, Disciples Room

### **Wednesday (8)**

- 11:30-Elderberries Event, Great Hall
- 1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room
- 5:00-Elders Meeting, Disciples Room

### **Thursday (9)**

- 10:00-Alanon, 401
- 12:00-Support Staff Meeting, Conf. Room
- 7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

### **Friday (10)**

### **Saturday (11)**

### **Sunday (12)**

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



**Serving Schedule — Sunday, April 28, 2024**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Dick Cain, Brett Swallow  
9:15 - Dick Cain

**April Prep Deacons:** Linda Zinn, Donna Dash

**Offering Deacons:**

8:00 - David King, Patti Swinford  
9:15 - Steve & Marci Baumann  
10:30 - Andrea Shartzter, Jeannie 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 - Debbie & Jim Hoffert  
9:15 - Steve & Marci Baumann  
10:30 - Brett Swallow

**P.A. Operator:**

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

**Liturgist:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Sue Ann Cain  
9:15 - Greg Barnes

**Nursery and Sunday School Schedule - Sunday, April 24, 2024**

**Nursery:** Megan Schippert, Rachel Miller

**Children's Sunday School:** Stephani Bellinger, Julie Martin,  
Christine Lyman-Harm, Deb Trei



**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](http://www.facebook.com/CCCDecatur)

**Serving Schedule — Sunday, May 5, 2024**

**Elders:**

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

**May Prep Deacons:** Gretchen Kirby, Christine Lyman-Harm

**Offering Deacons:**

8:00 - Nancy King, Charlotte Ballance  
9:15 - Hugh & Linda Rowden  
10:30 - Cole Shartzter, Keith Backes

**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 - Carolyn McCall, Gail Prince  
9:15 - Randy & Deb Trei  
10:30 - Dick & Sue Ann Cain

**P.A. Operator:**

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

**Liturgist:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Keith Backes  
9:15 - Theresa Fulk

**"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

