

The Central Visitor



*A weekly visitor to your home bringing you news from Central Christian Church
Our mission ... Sharing Christ,
Changing Lives, Delivering Hope*

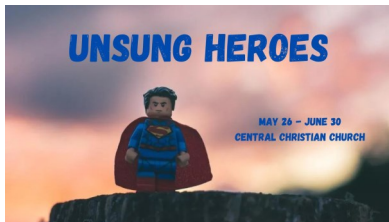
Vol. XCVI

Decatur, Illinois, May 22, 2024

No. 11

Welcome New Member

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Scott Bicknell to the Central family! Scott transferred his membership at the 10:30 a.m. service on May 19. A true Pentecost moment for us all! Scott was married to Christina Campbell in December of 2019 at Central and has been a regular part of our church life since a year before that date. We've long considered Scott to be a part of our family, but it is nice to make it official! Welcome Scott!



New Sermon Series – Unsung Heroes

During worship since Easter, we have spent time in the Book of Acts, learning how the early followers of Jesus built the church with their words, but even more so with their actions! If we have focused on any particular

followers of Jesus, it has been the more well-known ones – especially Peter and John (two of the original 12 disciples). Yet, even though they might have been some of the early leaders in building the church in Jesus' name, they didn't do it alone. There were plenty of unsung heroes along the way. As we usher in the official start of summer with the Memorial Day weekend, we begin a new sermon series that will carry us through the month of June. We'll stay in the Book of Acts and explore how the church was built by Unsung Heroes.

The kingdom is built not by the mighty acts of a few, but by the everyday acts of the many

May 26	"It's All Greek to Me"	Acts 6:1-7
	Heroes serve quietly and without fanfare	
June 2	"We All Need Someone to Lean On"	Acts 9:10-19
	Heroes offer a helping hand	
June 9	"Don't Judge a Book by its Cover"	Acts 10 (selections)
	Heroes are willing to be changed / be changed	
June 16	"There's a Knock at the Door"	Acts 12:12-19
	Heroes provide the space where change can happen	
June 23	"Stuck in the Middle with You"	Acts 15
	Heroes are willing to compromise for the greater good	
June 30	"Like a Boss!"	Acts 16:11-15
	Heroes use their Influence for Good	

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 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 5/26/2024

Text: Acts 6:1-7
It's All Greek to Me
Michael Karunas



Happy Birthday!! (5/26 - 6/8)

Bill Bass, Merle Chapman,
Mary Jane Oliver, Jean Pease,
Christine Swim, Aaron Osman,
Herb Knudsen, Jim Hoffert,
Joe Morelli, Mimi Scircle, Harrison Hyde,
Jackson Baum, Kate Matherly,
MacKenzi Sargeant, Hayden Irby,
Barbara Brooks

September 14th Golf Outing!

Help raise money for Central's pre-school. Here's what you can expect:

- **Moweaqua Golf Course** (shotgun start at 1:30 p.m.)
- **Food!** (barbecue-style sandwiches)
- **Prizes** for the top two foursomes (everyone will get something)

Here are the opportunities to support:

1) Play!!!

\$400 per foursome (sign up here – or pick up registration form at church)

2) Sponsor a hole!!

\$150 for a business

\$100 for an individual / family

We will contact you about submitting the wording for the hole-sponsor sign.

HAVE YOU SEEN IT YET?

Take a few minutes to stop in the lower-level Fireside Room to be inspired by the new Chalice Sculpture on the north wall. Local artist, Darren Miller, has created a beautiful metal artwork just for Central. It is hoped that everyone will individually interpret the abstract work and see how it illustrates our Disciples mission to "Share Christ, Change Lives and Deliver Hope". We are deeply appreciative of our donor family who made this project possible.

Our Grads...

Tanner Heick, Bethel University, MBA
Drake Niles-Cox, University of Illinois, BS in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences
Cora Carr, Millikin University, BA in Music
Megan Schippert, Millikin University, BA in Music
Joliet Witts, Meridian High School

Counting On You

Sunday, May 19, 2024

Total worshipping online = N/A
Total worshipping in-person = 234

Counting On You

Sunday, May 12, 2024

Total worshipping online = 125
Total worshipping in-person = 303

Minister's Article

The Importance of Listening in Building Community

(What follows is an excerpt from the information Pastor Melinda shared with those who took her 3-week small group, "Life Together." This excerpt comes from "Listening as a Spiritual Practice" by a colleague and friend of Pastor Melinda)

Kay Lindahl from the Global Listening Center speaks of "spiritual listening as being at the heart of relationships." When we offer spiritual listening, we provide a container for that other person to pour out their genuine selves. We listen without judgment and without thinking about what we may want to say. We are intentional and focused on the other person's thoughts, feelings, and words. This attention is a product of listening to God and hearing what God has to say to us.

Henri Nouwen speaks of spiritual listening as hospitality. "Listening is much more than allowing another to talk while waiting for a chance to respond. Listening is paying full attention to others and welcoming them into our very beings. The beauty of listening goes beyond just hearing words and allows those who are listened to, to start feeling accepted; start taking their words more seriously; and discovering their true selves. Listening is a form of spiritual hospitality by which you invite strangers to become friends, to get to know their inner selves more fully, and even to dare to be silent with you."

Marjorie Thompson speaks of this kind of listening as starting with spiritual listening to God as we receive the gift of grace. She says "until we are deeply rooted in the experience of God's grace, we have neither the living example nor the strength of commitment to live hospitably in a hostile world. Whatever form our hospitality may take, it is already a response to God." We receive what God offers to us, and then give it to others - friends or strangers. Thompson says "our love for one another is a direct expression of our love for God." We see in others a sister or brother. She goes on to remind us that "if we cannot truly accept our weaknesses as well as our gifts, we will be unable to love others in their brokenness and giftedness."

Finally, an extract from Pope Francis on the 50th World Communication Day (2016):

"Listening is much more than simply hearing. Hearing is about receiving information, while listening is about communication, and calls for closeness. Listening allows us not simply to be passive onlookers, users or consumers. Listening also means being able to share questions and doubts, to journey side by side and to put our abilities and gifts at the service of the common good. Listening involves a sort of martyrdom or self-sacrifice, as we try to imitate Moses before the burning bush: we must remove our sandals when standing on the 'holy ground' of our encounter with the one who speaks to me. Knowing how to listen is an immense grace. It is a gift which we need to ask for and then make every effort to practice."

Memorial Services on June 8

On Saturday June 8 there will be 2 memorial services honoring Central members. At 1:00 p.m. at Graceland-Fairlawn, there will be a service to honor Dorothy Rueff. [Click here](#) for a link to the obituary for Dorothy. Following the service, there will be a memorial walk to the gravesite where Dorothy will have already been laid to rest.

Then, at 3:00 p.m. there will be a time of food, friends and fellowship to remember Pat Penhallegon. Pat passed away last fall, and we had a funeral service for him at that time at Central, but not all his family was able to come. This event, held at the family homestead on Sefton Rd, is a time for family and friends to come together and remember Pat. If you would like to attend, please [click here](#).

Overview of the New Testament – Still time to Sign Up

There is still room in the class Pastor Michael will be teaching for 6 weeks beginning this Thursday, Overview of the New Testament. The class will meet on **Thursdays** from **5:00 – 6:15 p.m.** and will run from **May 23 through June 27**. All are welcome! Topics to be covered include:

- *The political and economic world in which Jesus' ministry took place*
- *What the religious world was like in which Paul spread his message*
- *How each of the 4 Gospels represents a distinct point of view*
- *And so much more!*

This class is designed to help give background and context to the scriptures we cover during worship on Sunday mornings. Sign up at the Welcome Center at the church or by emailing us (central@cccdisciples.org).

Northeast Pantry Donations

Thank you Central for your generous donations of food items for Northeast Community Fund Food Pantry. Our May donation was 115 pounds of non-perishable food items. The next food collection for the Northeast Community Fund Food Pantry will be June 2. Here are some suggestions for the food pantry: peanut butter, canned meats, pasta, tomato products, cereal, canned fruits & vegetables, dried noodles, broth, and soup. As always, please, be sure to check the expiration date on the items that you donate and make sure your items have not been opened or partially used. The shopping cart is in the Connection Café. Let's fill the cart. Thank you for your support.

Would you like to be a VBS Volunteer?

VBS is coming to Central the week of June 17-20. Volunteers help by shepherding small groups as they move from station to station, gathering supplies and preparing crafts, decorating, and assisting station leaders. Do you have some time to share? We would love your help.

There will be a VBS Orientation meeting for all helpers on Wed., June 5, 6-7pm. Everyone who works with our children must be Safe Church trained, which we provide (and the training is renewed every 3 years). If you want to volunteer or have some questions, please contact Pastor Vicky.



A Gift for our Children and Youth

We want to congratulate all of our children and youth as they complete another school year. We have a gift for you. If you were not in worship last Sunday to receive your gift, we want to make sure that you get one. Look for Pastor Vicky on Sunday mornings or stop by the church office during the week to pick it up.

Sunday (26)

NO YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Monday (27) - CLOSED - MEMORIAL DAY

Tuesday (28)

7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café
9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
11:45-Macon Co. Interagency, Great Hall

Wednesday (29)

1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room
1:00-CACS, Connection Café
5:00-Youth Ministry leadership, Conn. Café
5:15-PR/Evangelism, Disciples Room

Thursday (30)

10:00-Alanon, 401
5:00-New Testament class
7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday (31)

Saturday (June 1)

Sunday (2)

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

Monday (3)

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

Tuesday (4)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
9:30-Card Ministry, 411

Wednesday (5)

12:00-Social Services Consortium, Disc. Room
1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room
1:30-Prayer Shawl Ministry, Connection Café
5:00-Christian Ed, Connection Café
5:00-Contemporary leadership, Fireside
6:00-Millikin Heights, 401
6:00-VBS Volunteer Orientation, Disc. Room

Thursday (6)

8:00-Emmaus Reunion Group, 401
10:00-Alanon, 401
3:00-Decatur Needle Arts, Disciples Room
5:00-New Testament Class
7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday (7)

Saturday (8)

1:00-Rueff memorial
3:00- Penhallegon memorial, at Penhallegon home, 7206 Sefton Rd., Dalton City

Sunday (9)

Do Good Donuts Sunday

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

Serving Schedule — Sunday, May 26, 2024

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Janet Lyman, Linda Rowden
9:15 - Janet Lyman

May Prep Deacons: Gretchen Kirby, Christine Lyman-Harm

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Jane Davis, Bobby Munos
9:15 - Laura & Louis Kappler
10:30 - Marty Heick, Dave Phillips

Ushers:

8:00 -Team 3 - David King, Capt., Nancy King
10:30 - Team 8 - Tom & Diana Ritter, David Sheffer

Greeters:

8:00 - Al & Chris Fagin
9:15 - Laura & Louis Kappler
10:30 - Gregg & Linda Foltz

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Shirley Swarthout
9:15 - Rebecca Monroe

Contemporary Snacks: Laura & Louis Kappler

Nursery and Sunday School Schedule - Sunday, May 26, 2024

Nursery: Bella Karunas, TBA

Children's Sunday School: NONE (no SS this week)



**Central Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**
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www.facebook.com/CCCDecatur

Serving Schedule — Sunday, June 2, 2024

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Charlotte Ballance, Angie Ingram
9:15 - Charlotte Ballance

June Prep Deacons: Ed & Joy Adams, Claudia Curry

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Gene Garver, Sid Rohrscheib
9:15 - Marci & Steve Baumann
10:30 - Becky Van Meter, Lea West

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 - Dianne Devore & Carolyn Sunderlik
9:15 - Marci & Steve Baumann
10:30 - Jan Dobbs & Suzie Miller

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

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

Contemporary Snacks: Susie Turner

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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.

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.



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

