

# The Central Visitor



Vol. XCVI

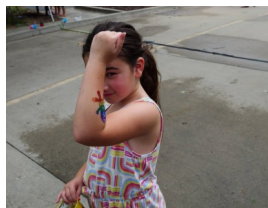
Decatur, Illinois, July 3, 2024

No. 14

## **Bingo & Ice Cream Social Coming Up!**

All Central women are invited to Dorcas Disciples' fun evening at a local senior living facility. We will meet at Randall Residence (Independent Living – West Building) on Tuesday, July 16th at 5:30 p.m. to play bingo with residents, enjoy ice cream and make new friends.

Let us know that you're coming so we have plenty of ice cream! Mark your calendars for July 16th and make your reservation by contacting Sandy Garver by July 13th at 217-877-0800/217-454-2111 or revrag@comcast.net.



## **Thank you Church!!**

The PR/Evangelism Committee would like to take the time to thank Central Christian Church for a successful picnic. We could not have done this without all of the wonderful volunteers who gave of their time and talents! The Praise Band once again amazed all with their music. Kathleen had the place sparkling with her glitter art. The bounce houses were full of laughter, and the lines were long for the delicious snow cones!

Because of you, we were able to serve food for over 300 people and make an impact on our neighborhood.

Thank you,  
- The PR/Evangelism committee

## **SUNDAY, JULY 7, 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 7/7/2024**

Text: Proverbs 3:5-6

*Living Wisely*

**Melinda McDonald**



## **Happy Birthday!! (7/7 - 7/20)**

Jerry Bean, Dave Zollinger, Dale Penn,  
Wayne Rutherford, Marilyn Ward,  
Linda Foltz, Bob Smith, Tami Longcor,  
Becky Van Meter, Mike Kirby,  
Jennifer Baumann, Gary Horvath,  
Ron Miller, Stephani Sargeant,  
Liam McCoy, Eli Hawkinson,  
Rod Damery

### **September 14th Golf Outing!**

Help raise money for Central's pre-school. Here's what to 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.

### **Northeast Pantry Donations**

Some individuals and families in our community are struggling with food insecurity because of the continued rise in food costs. More and more individuals and families are looking to food pantries for help.

We at Central, are making a difference through your generous donations of nonperishable food items each month to Northeast Community Fund Food Pantry. A total of 135 pounds of non-perishable food items were delivered on June 3.

The next food collection for the pantry will be July 7. Here are some suggestions: peanut butter, canned chicken and tuna, pasta, canned tomatoes, cereal, canned fruits & vegetables, canned beans, dried noodles, broth, and soup. Please, be sure to check the expiration date 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 on July 7.

### **Counting On You**

**Sunday, June 30, 2024**

Total worshipping online = 118  
Total worshipping in-person = 272

### **Counting On You**

**Sunday, June 23, 2024**

Total worshipping online = 105  
Total worshipping in-person = 250

## **Minister's Article**

### **Ordinary and Extra-Ordinary**

In yesterday's message, we focused on the figure of Lydia (Acts 16:11-15). One of our take-aways was that the sensational is a often a by-product of the ordinary. That is, God can break into the midst of our doing ordinary things and reveal something extra-ordinary. But if we are not in the habit of doing those ordinary things – with eyes, ears and hearts open – we might miss that extra-ordinary gift from God when it comes. What follows is a reflection on Psalm 1 I wrote last summer during my sabbatical that echoes this same theme.

*Every day we have a choice. We get to decide what kind of people we want to become. What kind of parents, spouses, children, siblings, friends, colleagues and neighbors we want to be. Do we want to reflect more of God's character in the many different roles we play? Or not? If we do, God stands ready to work with us, as v. 6 says, "... the Lord watches over the way of the righteous."*

*It has been said by different leading theologians throughout history that every day is a mini-Easter for us. Each day is a chance to "die" to the people we don't want to be and "rise to live" as the people we do. At the end of every day, we can review the day, hour by hour and examine how we fared. But regardless of how well or poorly we performed, we arise the next day with that same choice in front of us.*

*This is the essence of Psalm 1. There are two paths to take in life. One that leads toward God and one that does not. The way toward God must be consciously chosen. The path away from God is the one that takes hold of us if we do nothing. Clearly, the desirable path is the first one. Psalm 1 calls the end result of this path "Happiness," which is not an emotion as much as it is the state of someone who is firmly attached to God. It is a path of slow growth, but the only one that endures. Mighty trees with deep root systems don't spring up overnight.*

*The path away from God is one of fleeting-ness. It is the path of quick-fixes, and treating the symptoms of the problem and not its deeper cause. For a brief moment there may be relief, but once that moment is gone what is left are new problems to go along with the original problem that existed in the first place. That is what "chaff which the wind drives away" (v. 4) looks like.*

*Very few people in their right mind want to take the path that sinners tread (v. 1), but we find ourselves on that path if we do nothing consciously that avoids it. According to Psalm 1, the most important thing we can do to stay on the path that leads to God is "meditate on his Word day and night" (v. 2). Spending time in God's Word on a regular basis matters. God may not reveal some grand insight every day. God's voice may never be booming or heard as clearly as a person's standing a few feet away. But in the practice of reading God's Word, over and over again, we will hear God speaking to us. We will learn more of God's will for our lives and how we can be part of the life-giving goodness God desires for our world.*

*Prayer: God of wisdom, guide me by your Holy Spirit to seek your scripture every day. Every time I open your Word, open my eyes at the same time to see, learn*

*(continued on page 3...)*

and understand what it is you would have me receive that will lead me to greater attachment with you. Amen.

### **Construction of a Disciple Sermon Series for July**

My dad designed and built our houses. A well-built foundation is below the structure/ house. It is the load bearing part of the structure. It supports the weight and keeps the house in place. A foundation acts as an anchor between the house's frame and the ground. A well-built foundation also helps insulate the house, keeps the house level, and protects the house from moisture.

Daddy and Mama built our family as a team, unusual for their era. We children learned much from them. Their models formed a solid foundation for us as individuals and prepared us for all the subsequent relationships in our lives. Going to church was part of our family context also. Mama was our first spiritual formation teacher. All of us often discussed the sermons at Sunday dinner. We children enjoyed VBS events and also special devotions during Advent and Lent. God was in our everyday conversations as well as addressed in our prayers.

From God's Holy Word in the next three weeks, I will be sharing some of the key verses of my personal faith story. These have formed the foundation of my life as a child of God and disciple. Constructing a strong structure takes time and may even incorporate re-modeling. I hope this metaphor works well for you in your learning as a disciple/Disciple.

I want you to be thinking about the influential or guiding verses that have helped you in your life. Be ready to know two or three! The church will provide an interactive display activity soon.

What a joy to be alongside you, Central CC, as together we seek to grow in faith, love, and service!

Rev. Melinda

July 7	Living Wisely	Melinda McDonald
July 14	Neon Lights	Melinda McDonald
July 21	Through the Fog	Melinda McDonald
July 28	You Might Be Surprised	Vicky Woolridge

### **Elderberries July Event**

The next Elderberries program will be July 10th at 11:30am, and it's a cookout!

Menu:

- pulled pork on a bun
- cowboy beans
- layered salad
- watermelon wedge
- ice cream bar

Our entertainment... we're playing Bingo! Come ready to have fun! Please RSVP by **Friday, July 5th**, so we can make sure there's enough food. There is no charge, but as usual, free will offerings will be accepted to help keep the fun and food rolling along. "BINGO!!!"



### **Sunday (7)**

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

### **Monday (8)**

- 9:00-Good Sam. volunteering
- 9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center
- 12:30-Women's Book Club, Panera
- 1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room
- 1:00-Golden K, Disciples Room

### **Tuesday (9)**

- 7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café
- 9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
- 5:30-Women's Book Club, Panera

### **Wednesday (10)**

- 11:30-Elderberries, Great Hall
- 1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room

### **Thursday (11)**

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

### **Friday (12)**

### **Saturday (13)**

### **Sunday (14)**

#### **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

### **Monday (15)**

- 9:15-Prayer Group, 401
- 1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room

### **Tuesday (16)**

- 7:00-Journeymen, 401
- 9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
- 9:30-Card Ministry, 411
- 10:15-Operations Committee, Conf. Room
- 5:30-Dorcas Bingo & Ice Cream Social, Randall Residence, Independent Living

### **Wednesday (17)**

#### **CLOSED: DOVE Children's Clothing Room**

- 5:30-Church Council, Great Hall

### **Thursday (18)**

- 8:00-Emmaus Reunion Group
- 10:00-Alanon
- 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

### **Reminder:**

**The church and office will be closed in observance of Independence Day, July 4th, 2024. Have a safe and happy holiday!**



## Serving Schedule — Sunday, July 7, 2024

### Elders:

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

### July Prep Deacons: Sid & Krista Rohrscheib

### Offering Deacons:

8:00 - David King, David Wagner  
9:15 - Hugh & Linda Rowden  
10:30 - Roberta Gorden, Luke Kirby

### Ushers:

8:00 -Team 4 - Hazel Perry, Capt., Karen Penn, Charlotte Ballance  
10:30 - Team 10 - David Martin, Capt., Stephani Bellinger, Gretchen Kirby

### Greeters:

8:00 - Charlotte Ballance, Donna Dash  
9:15 - Laura & Louis Kappler  
10:30 - Dick & Sue Ann Cain

### P.A. Operator:

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

### Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Janet Lyman  
9:15 - Theresa Fulk

## Serving Schedule — Sunday, July 14, 2024

### Elders:

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

### July Prep Deacons: Sid & Krista Rohrscheib

### Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Nancy King, Patti Swinford  
9:15 - Deb & Randy Trei  
10:30 - Jeannie Backes, Andrea Shartzter

### Ushers:

8:00 -Team 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Gerri Munos, Brad Munos,  
Brittney Moran, Blair Moran, Bobby Munos, Julia Munos  
10:30 - Team 9 - Kim Miller, Capt., Suzie Miller, Audrey Miller

### Greeters:

8:00 - Julie & Ken Jacoby  
9:15 - Deb & Randy Trei  
10:30 - Bob & Mary Jane Linton

### P.A. Operator:

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

### Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Charlotte Ballance  
9:15 - Travis Wilcoxon

## Nursery and Sunday School Schedule

### Sunday, July 7

**Nursery:** Rachel Miller, Abigail Smith, Jolie Witts

**Children's Sunday School:** Julie Martin, Rachel Miller

### Sunday, July 14

**Nursery:** Rachel Miller, TBA

**Children's Sunday School:** Julie Martin, Diana Ritter



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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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