

# 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, August 14, 2024

No. 16

## Backpacks and Snow Cones!



We hope you will come to worship this Sunday, August 18 and bring your backpack or school bag. We want to celebrate the start of a new school year with you.

During all 3 worship services we will offer a Blessing of the Backpacks and

give you a small tag to attach to your backpack as a reminder that your church family loves you. This is for children and students of all ages and teachers and all school staff.

And to add to the fun and celebration, following the 9:15 and 10:30 worship services, there will be snow cones outside the west entrance for everyone to enjoy.



## Welcome Alicia

This past Sunday at the close of the 9:15 service, Alicia Mallernee was baptized into the Central family. Alicia is a 2023 graduate of Eisenhower High School and an incoming sophomore majoring in music education at SIU-Carbondale.

Welcome Alicia!



## Congratulations Turners!

Ten years ago, on August 9, 2014, Stephen and Susie Turner were married in our sanctuary. This year – on August 9, on their 10th wedding anniversary – they renewed their vows to each other. Congratulations, Stephen and Susie! You have added so much to our faith family over the years!



## SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 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 8/18/2024

Text: John 10:11-16

*"The Commandment of Greatness"*

**Michael E. Karunas**



## Happy Birthday!! (8/18- 8/31)

LeEtta Bass, Jo Carter, Donna Dash, Pam Ferguson, Jane French, Bill Hawks, Terrie Potter, Robyn Spry, Larry W. Thicksten, Seth Martin, Joy Adams, Connie Schabowski, Marla Winkleblack, Lois Whitaker, Vicky Woolridge, Ken Jacoby, Levi Horvath, Bella Karunas, Eleanor Pritts, Tonya Morelli, Sandra Ware, Bob Muschal, Barb Leihser, Deb Trei, Jordan Lindsey, Libby Baum, Spencer Pittman, Theodore McLean McCoy, Ben Tucker

### In Sympathy ...

- Don Swallow passed away on August 3. Don had been a faithful member of Central for many, many years. Graveside services were held on Monday, August 12. Please keep the Swallow family in your prayers.
- Michael Gerard Moran, son-in-law to Marla & Larry Winkleblack, passed away August 8, 2024, at home, surrounded by his family after a long battle with cancer. Please keep this family in your prayers.



### September 14th Golf Outing!

Help raise money for Central's preschool. 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.

### Counting On You

**Sunday, August 11, 2024**

Total worshipping online = 157

Total worshipping in-person = 270

### Counting On You

**Sunday, August 4, 2024**

Total worshipping online = 124

Total worshipping in-person = 235

## Minister's Article

### A Path Forward

I've always known there were addiction issues in my family of origin. My father didn't share much about his upbringing or his relationship with his father, but I knew my grandfather was a heavy drinker for many decades of his life. Somehow, he stopped around the time I was born, so I never knew him as anything but sober. But I've always felt there was more my father could have told me about his feelings regarding his own father than he ever did. My father himself battled weight issues his whole life (keeping weight off), and I have two close family members who have struggled with eating disorders (keeping weight on). Another relative has dealt with addiction to narcotics. And I myself have always had my own compulsions. For a few years in my early 20s, I was a pretty heavy smoker. When I stopped smoking, I switched back to dipping smokeless tobacco more for several more years – a habit I picked up in college. I am still pretty compulsive about (or addicted to) exercise. And for many decades I was a social drinker. But over in the last several years, as I have examined my own personal life – and who I am as a member of my wider family – I decided to cut alcohol out of my lifestyle completely. That has not stopped me, however, from continuing to think about – and read about – addictions in general (and alcohol in particular). Addiction is a common theme in the conversations I have with the therapist I see (virtually) every month.



While I understand that each situation involving addiction is different, and while I don't pretend to be an expert, I do believe that all addictions are relationship substitutes of some sort. That is, something is missing in the addict's life which is most likely causing pain and hurt. Whatever it is that is missing and/or causing hurt and pain is also most likely emotional in nature. We've been hurt or traumatized by some relationship – or we're not getting relationally what we're really longing for in a place deep inside us – and so we soothe the hurt, pain, or emptiness from something else – drugs and alcohol are the easy ones to recognize, but exercise can also be where we turn. So can seeking to control others, or even denying our own comfort to serve the comfort needs of others. All can be substitutes for the real relational healing we need at our most basic level.

And I have come to have great compassion and empathy for those battling addictions. James 1 implies that temptations are things we can all face and are things we may spend our whole life learning to endure. And that bears out in the statistics. Neil Anderson, in his book *Freedom from Addiction*, cites that the majority of alcoholics don't drink every day. In other

*(continued on page 3...)*



words, they may come across as highly functioning in many ways, but their alcohol use is disrupting their life. Furthermore, 15 million Americans report as being alcoholics, of which 25% are teenagers and 33% are also active in their local church. I have learned – over the last several years – to say more boldly than I ever have before, “There is no shame in addiction (whatever it may be).” The mind often convinces the addict that no one is like them; that they are special in this regard and have to handle their problems alone (that no one could understand them). This is a lie, because all it does is further drive the addict away from the relationships the addiction is taking the place of in the first place!

All that is to say that when I came back from my month off in July, I received information from Alcoholics Anonymous in the mail. It shared the weekly schedule of all AA meetings in and around our area. That mailing from AA sat on my desk all week as I prepared the message for this past Sunday – a message in which I spoke about how the path forward may be right in front of us, but without divine help, we may not recognize it for what it is. I took it as a sign to share these words with you here. If you – or someone you love – is battling an addiction of whatever kind, please know that I, your pastor, am here for you. I will not judge you. And I will offer you whatever support I can.

Blessings – Michael



### Women's Retreat

You are invited to join us for the Regional Women's Fall Retreat at Walter Scott Camp and Learning Center, September 28-29. Come and enjoy the fellowship of other women, receive inspiration from the stories of women in the Bible, engage your creativity, and enjoy the beauty of nature. Watch for more information.

### Children and Youth Sunday School News

We are excited that lots of children have been coming to Sunday School over the summer! We will kick off a new Sunday School year on September 8, with some children moving into new classes. We will also be introducing new curriculum in each class.

Families, please watch for an email coming at the end of August to give you all the details.

Sunday School continues each week during August, but there is NO Sunday School on September 1 (Labor Day weekend).

**SUNDAY  
SCHOOL**

### Elderberries Program & Meal—September 11th Edition

Mark your calendars and get ready to enjoy a special 9/11 themed Elderberries program on Wednesday, September 11th, at 11:30 AM. Pastor Michael recently visited the 9/11 Memorial in New York, and he's going to come and share some pictures and thoughts about his visit. Then, Jane Cussins is going to play some beautiful patriotic pieces on the piano for us. A delicious meal of Italian pasta casserole with meatballs, tossed salad, Olive Garden breadsticks, and pineapple upside-down cake and wonderful fellowship will follow. Please make sure you **RSVP by Friday, September 6th**, so that we make sure we have enough food. This is a free meal, but free will offerings are always accepted gratefully.

### **Sunday (18) - Blessing of the Backpacks!**

#### **Snow Cones after 9:15 & 10:30 AM services!!**

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

### **Monday (19)**

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

### **Tuesday (20)**

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

### **Wednesday (21)**

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

### **Thursday (22)**

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

### **Friday (23)**

### **Saturday (24)**

### **Sunday (25)**

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

### **Monday (26)**

9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center  
11:30-Visitation Group  
1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room

### **Tuesday (27)**

7:00-Journeymen, 401  
9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R  
11:45-Macon County Interagency, Great Hall

### **Wednesday (28)**

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

### **Thursday (29)**

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

### **Friday (30)**

### **Saturday (31)**

### **Sunday (Sept. 1)**

### **NO Youth Sunday School today**

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



**Serving Schedule — Sunday, August 18, 2024**

**Elders:**

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

**Aug. Communion Outreach Elders:** Janet Lyman, Lea West, Theresa Fulk,  
Angie Ingram, Tom Spry, Jim Fitzpatrick

**Aug. Prep Deacons:** Nancy Hanover, Jud & Jean Pease

**Offering Deacons:**

8:00 - Sid Rohrscheib, Sandy Garver  
9:15 - Laura & Matt Moma  
10:30 - Lea West, Becky VanMeter

**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 - 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 - Janet Lyman  
9:15 - Theresa Fulk

**Nursery and Sunday School Schedule**

**Sunday, August 18**

**Nursery:** Rachel Miller, Abigail Smith, Lucy Rauch

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

**Sunday, August 25**

**Nursery:** Rachel Miller, Lucy Rauch

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



**Central Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)**

650 West William Street  
Decatur, Illinois 62522

Telephone (217)428-4336

FAX (217)428-1700

[www.cccdisciples.org](http://www.cccdisciples.org)

e-mail: [central@cccdisciples.org](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org)

[www.facebook.com/CCCDecatur](https://www.facebook.com/CCCDecatur)

**Serving Schedule — Sunday, August 25, 2024**

**Elders:**

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

**Aug. Prep Deacons:** Nancy Hanover, Jud & Jean Pease

**Offering Deacons:**

8:00 - Krista Rohrscheib, Gail Prince  
9:15 - Randy & Deb Trei  
10:30 - Christine Lyman-Harm, Tom Ritter

**Ushers:**

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

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Carolyn McCall, Gail Prince  
9:15 - Randy & Deb Trei  
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 - Rebecca Monroe

**"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.

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