

# The Central Visitor



Vol. XCVI

Decatur, Illinois, September 11, 2024

No. 18



September 14 is our First Annual Preschool Golf Outing!

The goal of this event is to raise money for our tremendous preschool. 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 walk away with something)

\*\*\*UPDATE: As of 9/1/24, we are not accepting any more golf hole sponsorships, BUT... you can still sign up to play!!\*\*\*

## **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 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 9/15/2024**

Text: Exodus 14: 10-16



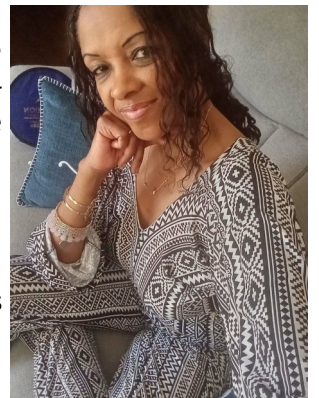
## **Exploring Avenues for Our Prayer Lives**

Are you interested in freshening your prayer life? We all know there is not a "one size fits all" formula to experiencing a strong prayer life. Melinda plans to share three avenues of prayer in three sessions. You may attend one or two or all three. Session one was on breath prayer. Session two was on prayer walking. Session three is on letter writing prayers. Each session will have a short information time followed by any questions /answers. Then we will practice and experience the type of prayer that is our focus. We will close with

reflection remarks about the prayer experience. The last session will be Monday, 9/16 in the Disciples Room from 5:30 – 6:30 pm. No book purchase is required. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or downstairs. I will need to bring some supplies for the third session. If you have questions, feel free to email me at [melinda.mcdonald@cccdisciples.org](mailto:melinda.mcdonald@cccdisciples.org). Hope to see you soon!

## **Welcome Verda!!**

Please help us welcome Verda Comage to the Caretaker staff of Central Christian Church! Verda loves caring for the elderly and children. She's a grandmother of 8, 5 of which she is raising. She's a personal assistant when she's not at Central and was formerly a licensed childcare provider. Back in the Decatur area from Orlando, we're glad to have her join the Central Staff!!





### **Thank you, Central!**

From God's Shelter of Love:

Central Christian VBS families & kids,  
Thank you so much for thinking of us  
and for the supplies you donated to  
the shelter. We also appreciate the  
money you donated to help.

We are in awe of how God uses  
people such as yourselves to answer  
prayers and help to meet our needs.

God bless you all,

Julie, God's Shelter of Love

From Marla Winkleblack:

Central family,

Thank you so much for our family  
during this difficult year. My 2  
cochlears are progressing well. We  
will always love and miss Mike. He  
was our family inspiration. With God's  
help, we cherish our treasured  
memories.

Love from Marla and Larry,

Kaye and family



### **Happy Birthday!! (9/15 - 9/28)**

Lucy Acheson, Bruce Campbell, Dennis  
Downey, Chris Fagin, John Gill, Jean  
Maggioncalda, Nita Phillips, Bess King,  
Krista Rohrscheib, Susie Turner, Bar-  
bara Tyler, Carrie Funk, Denny Zinn,  
Steve Baumann, Scott Woolridge, Fran  
Rutherford, David Williams, Jensen  
Rutherford, Luca Morelli, Diana Mur-  
ray, Blake Murray, Wesley Murray,  
Zedekiah Auten, Bob Emmons, Elliott  
Scircle, Katie Beal, Christina Doxsie,  
Donald Magee, Lyndzi Bottom

### **Counting On You**

**Sunday, September 8, 2024**

Total worshipping online = 138

Total worshipping in-person = 251

### **Counting On You**

**Sunday, September 1, 2024**

Total worshipping online = 174

Total worshipping in-person = 236

## Minister's Article

### **Psalm 42**

When Jonah prayed to God from inside the belly of the fish, our scriptural focus this past Sunday, he quoted a line from Psalm 42:7 – "... all your waves and billows have passed over me." Here, then, is a reflection on Psalm 42, which echoes some of the same themes articulated this last Sunday as we sought to answer the question, "Why is it, exactly, that we pray to the *Lord*?"

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St. Augustine famously said, "My soul is restless, O God, until it finds its rest in you." He said this after trying to find meaning and happiness in a variety of different ways himself. First, he followed his own interests and passions. Next, he studied different philosophies. Along the way, his mother – whom he loved dearly – passed away. Eventually, through all these twists and turns his life had taken, he found solace in Christ; in the Gospel; in the promises given in the Holy Word. Like Augustine, we may take a while to get there, but there is only one thing that truly affords us peace, hope, certainty, and true rest - faith in God through Jesus the Christ.

This is the focus of the first two verses of Psalm 42. It is as natural for our souls to want closeness with God as it is for a thirsty deer to pant for a drink of water from a cool stream. This is not up for debate. It is not a hypothesis or theory. It is a fact. Yet, as was the case for Augustine, we too often take the long way – the hard way – to realize this. We seek our happiness and fulfillment in our work, our savings accounts, our service to others, and even in our love for those closest to us. As noble as these things may be, they cannot provide us true happiness and fulfillment. They were never meant to. Only God can do that.

In our lives, there will be moments – perhaps even many moments – when it feels that God is far away; times when we feel like speaking the words of v. 9 – "...my (God), why have you forgotten me?" In such times, our hope comes in the message of v. 6 and v. 11, "Hope in God, because we will see God again... our hope and our God." This truth is so important to the psalmist it is given twice! When we turn to God and seek a greater closeness with God, that kind of connection doesn't happen overnight. No relationship ever does. But God is always there, ready for it to grow. The more we intentionally seek that God and commit to that God, the greater we will see our relationship with God grow. And over time, we will not only understand – but truly experience – the true rest that our souls have always desired.

*God of true rest, thank you for always being there for me. Thank you for taking me back every time my earthly decisions lead me away from you. And thank you for being the one constant and certainty on which I can rely, through all life's ups, downs and changes. Amen.*

Blessings – Michael

(continued on page 3...)





### **ZOO Scavenger Hunt on September 29**

All Central families are invited to join us at Scovill Zoo for a Zoo Scavenger Hunt on Sunday, September 29. The fun begins at 3pm. We will meet at the entrance to the zoo where families will receive the first clue. Central youth will be stationed throughout the zoo to give out the rest of the clues. When you have

completed the scavenger hunt, you can enjoy exploring the Zoo or play on the playground. We'll gather for pizza and drinks, starting at 4pm.

The church will cover the cost of entrance into the Zoo and one ride for each person either on the carousel or the train. We hope you can join us for the fun as we spend time together as a church family. (If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will still have a family fun event on September 29, but we're hoping for great weather.)

### **"BACK TO SCHOOL" WITH DORCAS DISCIPLES!**

All Central women are invited to an evening of fellowship and service with Dorcas Disciples on Tuesday, September 24th at 6:00 p.m. Be a part of the way back-to-school fun by bringing an early school photo and memories of your high school days! We'll meet in the Disciples Room, enjoy build-your-own sundaes and hear about our 2024-2025 program schedule.



Please RSVP by Friday, September 20th to Nancy Ellen Taylor at 217-872-9174 or [xstr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:xstr@sbcglobal.net) to make sure we have enough delicious dessert.

Hope to see you September 24th!



### **Good Sam Volunteer Opportunity, 9/14**

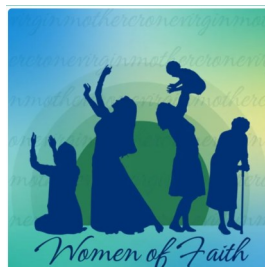
Central has Good Sam coming up on Saturday, September 14th. We could use 6 volunteers for prep and 8 volunteers to help serve.

If you are free to come and help or if you have any questions about serving, please let David Wagner or Shirley Swarthout know. David can be reached at [davewagner98@gmail.com](mailto:davewagner98@gmail.com).

As always, thank you!!!

### **Disciples 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. Flyers with details and registration info are available in the Friendship Center.



### **Sunday (15)**

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
9:15-Sunday School  
9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online  
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online  
4:00-Youth Group

### **Monday (16)**

9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center  
1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room  
5:30-Prayer Exploration w/ Rev. Melinda, DR

### **Tuesday (17)**

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

### **Wednesday (18)**

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

### **Thursday (19)**

8:00-Emmaus Reunion Group, 401  
10:00-Alanon, 401  
7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

### **Friday (20)**

### **Saturday (21)**

### **Sunday (22)**

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

### **Monday (23)**

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

### **Tuesday (24)**

7:00-Journeymen, 401  
9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R  
11:45-Macon County Intra-Agency, GH  
6:00-Dorcas, Disciples Room

### **Wednesday (25)**

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

### **Thursday (26)**

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

### **Friday (27)**

### **Saturday (28)**

1:30-MU Alumni Choir Rehearsal, Sanctuary  
3:00-MU Homecoming Concert, Sanctuary

### **Sunday (29)**

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
9:15-Sunday School  
9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online  
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online  
4:00-Youth Group



**Serving Schedule — Sunday, September 15, 2024**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Janet Lyman, Lea West

9:15 - Janet Lyman

**Outreach Comm. Elders:** D. Cain, G. Prince, K. Rohrscheib, B. Swallow,  
K. Wilmot, C. Zollinger

**Sept. Prep Deacons:** Carol Bischoff, Susan Bryant, Carolyn Sunderlik

**Offering Deacons:**

8:00 - Carolyn McCall, Dave Wagner

9:15 - Laurie & Rod Damery

10:30 - Gretchen Kirby, Steve Swarthout

**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 - Gene & Sandy Garver

9:15 - Cheryl & Dave Zollinger

10:30 - Bob & Mary Jane Linton

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Donna Dash

10:30 - Keith Backes

**Liturgist:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Keith Backes

9:15 - Cheryl Zollinger

**Contemporary Snacks:** Susie Turner

**Nursery and Sunday School Schedule**

**Sunday, September 15**

**Nursery:** Rachel Miller, Lucy Rauch

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

**Sunday, September 22**

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

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



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

**650 West William Street**

**Decatur, Illinois 62522**

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**FAX (217)428-1700**

**www.cccdisciples.org**

**e-mail: *central@cccdisciples.org***

**www.facebook.com/CCCDecatur**

**Serving Schedule — Sunday, September 22, 2024**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Theresa Fulk, Angie Ingram

9:15 - Theresa Fulk

**Sept. Prep Deacons:** Carol Bischoff, Susan Bryant, Carolyn Sunderlik

**Offering Deacons:**

8:00 - David King, Patti Swinford

9:15 - Marci & Steve Baumann

10:30 - Roberta Gorden, Luke Kirby

**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 - Dianne Devore, Carolyn Sunderlik

9:15 - Marci & Steve Baumann

10:30 - Jeannie & Keith Backes

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Krista Rohrscheib

10:30 - Mike Kirby

**Liturgist:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Gretchen Kirby

9:15 - Marci Baumann

**Contemporary Snacks:** Marci & Steve Baumann

**"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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