

# 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. XCVII

Decatur, Illinois, February 26, 2025

No. 4

*Sound & Vision:  
An Evening with the Movie Organ*

*The Navigator*  
Presented by  
Clark Wilson  
organist

Friday, March 14, 2025  
7:00 PM

Central Christian Church  
650 W. William St., Decatur

### March 14th Concert

Join us on March 14th, at 7:00 PM for an organ concert, as Clark Wilson, organist, presents "Sound & Vision: An evening with the movie organ." He will accompany "The Navigator." This is a free concert; free will donations accepted.



### Welcome, Erik Barnes!

We celebrated the baptism and membership of Erik Barnes on Sunday, February 23. Erik and his wife Carly have been attending Central for a while now, and they have two beautiful sons, Julian and Eli. Congratulations, Erik!

### SUNDAY, MARCH 2, 2025

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 3/2/25

Scripture: Luke 9:28-36  
Michael E. Karunas



### Happy Birthday!! (3/2—3/15)

Jim Bednar, Becky Flanders, Sarah Jennings, Sandy Garver, Becky Johnston, Mary Jane Linton, Cheryl Zollinger, Tom Spry, Lawrence Thicksten, Kevin Wilmot, Jim Hinz, Lucy Smith, Keith Backes, Kevin Miller, Mark Kincaid, Leona Bray, Carole Baumann, Yvonne Purcell, Dee Dee Gain, Janelle Beedle, Robin Ferree, Trent Moran, Veda Redden, Arya Clark, Julian Barnes, Beth Calvert

**In Sympathy**

In sympathy, we mourn with the family of Rea Virt, mother of Diana Ritter. Rea was a member of the Zion Chapel in Boody, IL, until its closure, but many of our Elders had visited with Rea while she was at Randall Residence. She passed away on Feb. 10. Services were Sat., Feb. 22. Here's a thank you note from her family: *"Thank you just doesn't seem to be a big enough word for the love from our church Tom & I feel. The food, memorials, visits, texts, cards, hugs and most importantly the prayers you have showered my family were greatly appreciated. To the elders & ministry staff Mom loved your visits and truly felt adopted my Central after her beloved Zion Chapel closed. You all have been a true example of Gods Love to the Virt family. We feel truly blessed!*  
*Tom & Diana Ritter"*

**Help us decorate!**

Help is needed to prepare our sanctuary for the Lenten season. Starting Sun., Mar. 2 after the 10:30 service, we need helpers to set up for Ash Wednesday and Lent. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated. More opportunities will occur, please watch the visitor for when.

**Good Samaritan Volunteering**

Another volunteer opportunity to help at the Good Samaritan Inn is coming up on Saturday, March 8. We need people to serve from 11—1 and people to prepare from around 8—11. Please contact the office, Dave Wagner, or Shirley Swarthout to volunteer or for more info.

**Counting On You**

**Sunday, February 23, 2025**

Total worshipping online = 115  
Total worshipping in-person = 257

**Counting On You**

**Sunday, February 16, 2025**

Total worshipping online = 180  
Total worshipping in-person = 200

**Lent and Ash Wednesday**

Lent is a six-week season in the church year that precedes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter. Its name comes from a medieval term that refers to the "lengthening" of days which occurs in the springtime. Lent is a time to focus on our own spiritual growth. As we journey with Jesus toward the upper room of his Last Supper, to the cross of his crucifixion, and ultimately to the empty tomb of his resurrection, we are invited to grow in our commitment to following him. Lent always begins with Ash Wednesday (March 5 this year) and concludes with Holy Week - Palm Sunday (April 13), when Jesus arrive into Jerusalem; Maundy Thursday (April 17), when Jesus held the Last Supper with his disciples; and Good Friday (April 18) when Jesus died on the cross. Lent and Holy Week culminate with Easter Sunday (April 20) and his triumphant resurrection.

For Ash Wednesday this year, we will be partnering with our fellow Disciples of Christ churches in the area and worshipping together. This is a great way not only to support our fellow Disciples churches but to experience a greater sense of Christian camaraderie as well. Together we will offer two (2) opportunities for you to receive ashes:

- 12:00 p.m. Central Christian Church
- 7:00 p.m. Christian Church of Illiopolis

The noon-time option at Central will be briefer (approx. 25 minutes) and is meant for those who can get away for the lunch hour but not in the evening. The evening service will be a bit longer (but less than an hour) and is meant for those preoccupied during the day. Pastors Vicky, Melinda and I, along with Rev. Melissa Ebken (of Illiopolis) will lead both the noon and evening services. At both services, we will impose ashes (on the back of the hand or the forehead) for anyone who wishes to receive them. We will also have communion.

Blessings – Michael

**Three Questions to Enhance Your Lenten Season – A Journaling Retreat**

Save the Date—3/8/25! Bring your journal or writing materials. Saturday AM from 9 – noon. Participants will reflect on these ideas... Where is my life centered? What is spiritual detachment? What might my deeper relationship with God look like? Six readers are needed. If you are interested, please contact Rev. Melinda at Melinda.mcdonald@cccdisciples.org for more information.

**Elderberries in March—Mardi Gras Games!**

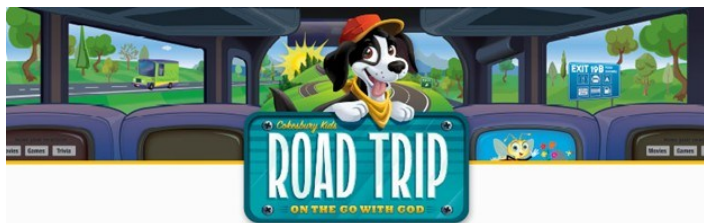
Mark your calendars and plan to come out to the Elderberries meal and program on Wednesday, March 12th, for Mardi Gras Games! We're having brunch: sausage-egg casserole, baked French toast, fresh fruit, and pastry. You can sign up at the Welcome Center or the back table in the Great Hall. Please RSVP by Thursday, March 6th to 217-428-4336, central@cccdisciples.org, or on paper.

**Food Donations for Northeast Community Fund**

Thank you Central Christian Church for supporting the shopping cart with your generous donations each month. On February 4, 2025, approximately 130 pounds of nonperishable food items were delivered to Northeast Community Food Pantry. Let's join together and support Northeast on March 2, 2025, and try to exceed last month's total weight.

*(continued on page 3...)*

The need continues to be great for our community members who are food-insecure. Here are some suggestions to help those who may be facing hunger: canned and pouches of chicken and tuna, soup, canned chili, rice, canned spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, cereal, elbow and spaghetti pasta, mac and cheese, noodles, boxed potatoes, and individual serving packages and family size applesauce. Please, be sure to check the expiration date. It is also a good idea not to donate items in glass packaging. Please place your food donations in the shopping cart in the Connection Café. Together we can make a difference in our community!



### **Save the Dates – VBS is coming!**

Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be Monday – Thursday mornings, June 16-19. It will be a fun-filled time for children who are entering kindergarten through those who are just finishing 6th grade.

Our theme of “Road Trip – On the Go with God” will lead us on an adventure through Bible stories and help us know the promise found in Joshua 1:9 that, “The Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

**Families:** Watch for more information and the registration form to sign up your children and grandchildren.

**Volunteers:** We need many hands to create a faith-filled week of music, crafts, recreation, snacks, Bible stories and fun! Please contact Pastor Vicky if you want to help.

**Congregation:** Please join us in praying for the leaders and the children and their families as we prepare for VBS.

### **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 Inc. Children’s Clothing Room, 407

### **Tuesday (4)**

- 7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café
- 9:30-ChristCare Stitchers, 3R
- 9:30-Card Ministry, 411/412
- 6:00-PEO IF, Fireside Room

### **Wednesday (5) - Ash Wednesday**

- 12:00-Ash Wednesday service, Sanctuary
- 1:00-DOVE Inc. Children’s Clothing Room, 407
- 1:30-Prayer Shawl Ministry, Connection Café
- 5:00-Christian Ed, Connection Café
- 5:00-Contemporary Worship mtg., Fireside Rm
- 6:00-Millikin Heights, 401
- 7:00-Ash Wed. service, Illiopolis C.C.

### **Thursday (6)**

- 8:00-Emmaus Reunion Group, 401
- 10:00-Alanon, 401
- 3:00-Decatur Needle Arts, Disciples Room
- 5:30-Capital Campaign Committee
- 7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

### **Friday (7)**

### **Saturday (8)**

- 8:00-Good Sam. Volunteer opportunity
- 9:00-Lenten Quiet Morning, Sanctuary

### **Sunday (9)**

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

### **Monday (10)**

- 9:00-Good Sam. Volunteer opportunity
- 9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center
- 1:00-DOVE Inc. Children’s Clothing Room, 407
- 1:00-Golden K Kiwanis, Disciples Room
- 3:00-Elder Planning meeting

### **Tuesday (11)**

- 7:00-Journeymen, 401
- 9:30-ChristCare Stitchers, 3R
- 4:30-Women’s Book Club, Panera Bread

### **Wednesday (12)**

- 11:30-Elderberries meal & program
- 1:00-DOVE Inc. Children’s Clothing Room, 407
- 5:00-Elders, Disciples Room

### **Thursday (13)**

- 10:00-Alanon
- 12:00-Support Staff meeting
- 7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

### **Friday (14)**

- 7:00-Sound & Vision: An evening with the Movie Organ, presented by Clark Wilson, Sanctuary

### **Saturday (15)**

- 11:00-Faith Quest, Connection Café

### **Sunday (16)**

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

Faculty Recital Series III
Presented by the School of Music

## Love & Life



Featuring:

Lecturer of Opera and Voice  
Aubrey Hawkinson,  
mezzo soprano

Andy Rauff, piano

Repertoire includes *Frauenliebe und Leben* by Robert Schumann,  
*La Regata Veneziana* by Giacomo Rossini sung in the original Venician dialect, and selections from Jake Heggie’s *Songs to the Moon*.

Sunday, March 2, 2025, 4pm  
Kaeuper Hall

Free and Open to the Public

**Serving Schedule — Sunday, March 2, 2025**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Tom Spry, David York  
9:15 - David York

**March Prep Deacons:** Mary Jane Linton, Lea West, Linda Zinn

**Offering Deacons:**

8:00 - Peggy Carpunky, Gary Horvath  
9:15 - Deb & Randy Trei  
10:30 - Marty Heick, Dave Phillips

**Ushers:**

8:00 - Team 1 - Carolyn Sunderlik, Capt., Dianne Devore  
10:30 - Team 8 - Tom & Diana Ritter, David Sheffer

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Dianne Devore, Carolyn Sunderlik  
9:15 - Deb & Randy Trei  
10:30 - Gregg & Linda Foltz

**P.A. Operator:**

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

**Liturgist:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Keith Backes  
9:15 - Travis Wilcoxon

**Contemporary Snacks:** Deb & Randy Trei

**Nursery and Sunday School Schedule**

**Sunday, March 2**

**Nursery:** Izzy Kostbade, Lucy Rauch, Abigail Smith

**Children's Sunday School:** Izzy Kostbade, Julie Martin

**Sunday, March 9**

**Nursery:** Izzy Kostbade, Lucy Rauch, Abigail Smith

**Children's Sunday School:** Julie Martin, Lucy Rauch



**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, March 9, 2025**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Janet Lyman, Gail Prince  
9:15 - Gail Prince

**March Prep Deacons:** Mary Jane Linton, Lea West, Linda Zinn

**Offering Deacons:**

8:00 - Dianne Devore, Bobby Munos  
9:15 - Angie & Ron Ingram  
10:30 - Scott Bicknell, Becky VanMeter

**Ushers:**

8:00 - Team 4 - Hazel Perry, Capt., Karen Penn, Charlotte Ballance  
10:30 - Team 9 - Suzie Miller, Capt., looking for another teammate!

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Karen Penn  
9:15 - Angie & Ron Ingram  
10:30 - Bob & Mary Jane Linton

**P.A. Operator:**

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

**Liturgist:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Janet Lyman  
9:15 - Rebecca Monroe

**Contemporary Snacks:** Angie & Ron Ingram

**“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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