

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCVII

Decatur, Illinois, March 12, 2025

No. 5

Maundy Thursday – Looking for Participants to help Lead

We are looking for up to 12 people to help us lead our Maundy Thursday service this year (Thursday evening, April 18). For this service, which commemorates Jesus' Last Supper in the Upper Room and the events that followed, the choir will sing three (3) powerful anthems. While the music is presented, we would like a team of volunteers to do some basic acting of some biblical scenes to help convey the message the music conveys.

- No acting experience necessary!
- No lines will be spoken (just some coordinated movement to go along with the singing)
- Just a love for worship and willing spirit is all that is needed!
- 2-3 rehearsals (planned around your schedule)

If interested, contact Pastor Michael (mkarunas@cccdisciples.org). He will follow up with information about the rehearsals. Thank you in advance.



STOP BY TO SEE IT!

Thanks to woodworker Jon Bryan and Décor Committee member Jeannie Backes we now have a beautiful wood plaque added to the Heritage Center. The Décor Committee, with Mike Kirby's help, was able to save three Disciples symbols (Alpha, Omega and Chalice) from the old wooden fireplace mantel that was removed for the Fireside Room renovation. The symbols were added to a wood base and are now on display in the Heritage Center. Take a few minutes to view the "new" addition to other historic artifacts in the Heritage Center, located off the Ramp Entrance and Great Hall.

SUNDAY, MARCH 16, 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 3/16/25

Scripture: Luke 15:11-32

Michael E. Karunas



Happy Birthday!! (3/16–3/29)

Dick Cain, Christine Lyman-Harm,
Karen McFadin, Nancy Ellen Taylor,
Mac Funk, Kim Miller, Shelby Baum,
Gary Johnston, Luke Karunas,
Calvin McLeod, Greg Lockett,
Randy Trei, Kate Neumann,
Blair Moran, Archer Swarouth,
Charles Watkins, Doug Blakey

In Sympathy

- We mourn with the family of Jean Goretzke, who passed away on February 24, 2025. She was 94 years old and had been a member of Central Christian Church since 1943. Per her obituary, there won't be a public funeral.
- We also mourn with the family of Bess King, who passed away on March 3, 2025. She was 95. Bess & her husband, Harold, had been members of Central since 1967. The visitation will be Saturday, March 22nd at 11:00 AM, and services will follow at 1:00 PM.
- Thank you for your continued prayer support for these two families.

Member(s) in Search of Ride to Services AND Other Places!

Here are the specific opportunities to help serve your fellow members by offering help with rides:

- We have a member who has moved to the Mt. Zion area who is in need of a ride to church. This person prefers the 8:00 AM service.
- We have another member who has lost their regular ride for grocery shopping and errands and could use some help with this. This person would also probably appreciate rides to the 9:15 AM service. This person lives on the northeast side of Decatur.

If you would be willing to help either of these members with rides, please call the church office, and we will connect you with them.

Counting On You

Sunday, March 9, 2025

Total worshipping online = 121
Total worshipping in-person = 265

Counting On You

Sunday, March 2, 2025

Total worshipping online = 115
Total worshipping in-person = 263

Repentance: The Change in Ourselves

*Before we can ask God to change the world,
we must be prepared to ask God to change us.*

I wish I could take credit for that saying. I saw it posted on Facebook recently and believe it came from Richard Rohr. Or perhaps I just imagined it coming from Richard Rohr, someone whose writing and theological perspective I have greatly appreciated over the years. Regardless of its source, the content is what is most compelling. So often in our world today, we want to others to change. We want others to be like us before we give them our time, energy and the benefit of our doubt. We want them to accommodate our vision for the world before we accept them, respect them and dignify them. Sometimes, our faith become wrapped up in this desire that others change.

Recently, I had a phone conversation with someone who was having a hard time talking with people in her life about faith. It seems that when they talk about God, they use different names for God. She admitted to feeling more comfortable if these others would use the same language for God she did. She asked me – as we have some of the same friends – if the same thing bothered me. I responded that it didn't bother me, as there are many names for God used in scripture and that God is bigger than even the best of the names we can come up with when speaking about God; that the names we use for God are more for us than they are for God; that they are offered to us as ways each of us might access and connect with God.

The truth is, Jesus asks *us* to change first before insisting on the change of others. Jesus' first words of proclamation were to "Repent, for the kingdom of God is near!" (MK 1:15, MT 4:17). And even before Jesus appeared on the scene, John the Baptist proclaimed a "baptism of repentance" in order to be prepared to receive the Christ who was coming (LK 3:7-14). Repentance is a bit of strange word in the bible, but it is essentially about change. It is changing something about the way we *think*; how we think about ourselves; how we think about God. And it has something to do with how *act* toward one another. But at its core, it has to do with changing; changing something about the way we think and something about the way we act. Moreover, the focus is on *us*; ourselves. The issue is not "Does everyone need to change." The answer to that question is, "Yes, of course." The issue is "What is Christ wanting to change about *me*; about the way *I* think about myself and God; the way *I* act toward those around me." In the respect, there is no need to focus on others "out there" because there is enough for me to focus on the person "in here."



(continued on page 3...)

A few weeks ago, I shared the acronym AAA during worship. Borrowed from the world of 12-step recovery, this stands for Awareness, Acceptance and Action. Awareness is the recognition that "I have an issue to address." Acceptance is, "I accept that I have an issue to face." Action is doing something to change the issue. When I think of this pattern, I see a connection to the essence of repentance. Repentance is about focusing on ourselves and asking "What are the issues within me that Jesus wants to change so that I may experience the Kingdom Jesus comes to bring? What is it about me that Jesus wants me to accept needs to change?"

Repentance is about a change that always begins with each of us, before it has anything to do with anyone around us. I believe that this is what Jesus means when he says "Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?" (MT 7:3). Before any of us can truly receive God's grace, repentance is a necessary step we must take. Only when we are able to receive God's grace can we hope to extend it to others. The season of Lent, which we have now begun, is an appropriate time to consider the importance of repentance to our spiritual growth.

Blessings – Michael

Join Our Families at the Children's Museum of Illinois!

Central families are invited to join us at the Children's Museum for an afternoon of fun on Sunday, March 23, from 1-3pm. Central will pay for your family's admission, but if you already have a membership to the Museum, please let us know. Come have fun with other Central families – and there will be snacks.

"BEE" THERE!

All Central women are invited to "bee" at the Tuesday, March 18th Dorcas meeting. We'll gather in the Disciples Room at 6:00 p.m. for a special "Being a Beekeeper" program presented by Sheila and Johnathen Shartzter followed by delicious honey refreshments. Join in for an evening of fellowship, fun and service.

RSVP by Friday, March 14th to Nancy Ellen Taylor at 217-872-9174 or xstr@sbcglobal.net to make sure we have enough goodies. Contact Sandy Garver at 217-877-0800/217-454-2111 or revrag@comcast.net for more information about Dorcas Disciples.

Hope to see you March 18th!

Volunteers needed...

We are looking for volunteers to assist with the live stream as needed. If interested, please call the office or email waynerutherford@mac.com.

Disciples Women Spring Gathering

APRIL 26, 2025 from 9 AM - 3:30 PM

"Tending Our Inner Gardens: Sowing Seeds for Spiritual Growth"

Mosaic Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

2507 West Newman Parkway, Peoria

COST \$50.00 INCLUDING LUNCH

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION APRIL 9, 2025

Several women from Central are planning to attend. If interested, contact Christine Lyman-Harm or the church office.

Sunday (16)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

9:15-Sunday School

9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online

10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online

Monday (17)

Preschool: Spring Break

9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center

1:00-DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room, 407

5:30-Lent Bible Study, Great Hall

Tuesday (18)

Preschool: Spring Break

7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café

9:30-ChristCare Stitchers, 3R

9:30-Card Ministry, 411/412

6:00-Dorcas Meeting, Disciples Room

Wednesday (19)

Preschool: Spring Break

1:00-DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room, 407

5:30-Church Council, Disciples Room

Thursday (20)

Preschool: Spring Break

8:00-Emmaus Reunion Group, 401

10:00-Alanon, 401

1:00-Visitation Group

5:30-Capital Campaign Committee

7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Friday (21)

Saturday (22)

11:00-FaithQuest, Connection Café

Sunday (23)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

9:15-Sunday School

9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online

10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online

1:00-Youth Group

Monday (24)

9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center

1:00-DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room, 407

5:30-Lent Bible Study, Great Hall

Tuesday (25)

7:00-Journeymen, 401

9:30-ChristCare Stitchers, 3R

11:45-Macon Co. "All In", Great Hall

12:00-Personnel

Wednesday (26)

12:00-Caretaker Staff meeting

1:00-DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room, 407

1:00-CACS Committee, Connection Café

5:00-PR/Evangelism, Disciples Room

Thursday (27)

10:00-Alanon

7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday (28)

Saturday (29)

11:00-King visitation

1:00-King funeral

Sunday (30)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

9:15-Sunday School

9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online

10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online

4:00-"From Heaven Distilled a Clemency,"

Millikin University Choir & Collegiate Chorale

Serving Schedule — Sunday, March 16, 2025

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Tom Ritter, Brett Swallow
9:15 - Brett Swallow

Outreach Communion Elders: Jeannie Backes, Jim Fitzpatrick, Gretchen Kirby, Kim Miller, Keela Neumann, David York

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

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Gene Garver, Sid Rohrscheib
9:15 - Hugh & Linda Rowden
10:30 - Christine Lyman-Harm, Tom Ritter

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 Martin, Gretchen Kirby

Greeters:

8:00 - Charlotte Ballance, Donna Dash
9:15 - Theresa Fulk
10:30 - Jeannie & Keith Backes

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Gretchen Kirby
9:15 - Theresa Fulk

Contemporary Snacks: Hugh & Linda Rowden

Nursery and Sunday School Schedule

Sunday, March 16


Nursery: Lucy Rauch, Abigail Smith

Children's Sunday School: Christine Lyman-Harm, Julie Martin, Stephani Martin, Deb Trei

Sunday, March 23

Nursery: Lucy Rauch, TBA

Children's Sunday School: Julie Martin, TBA



**Central Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**
650 West William Street
Decatur, Illinois 62522
Telephone (217)428-4336
FAX (217)428-1700
www.cccdisciples.org
e-mail: central@cccdisciples.org
www.facebook.com/CCCDecatur

Serving Schedule — Sunday, March 23, 2025

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Jeannie Backes (10:30), Jim Fitzpatrick, Theresa Fulk (8:00)
9:15 - Theresa Fulk

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

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Sandy Garver, Krista Rohrscheib
9:15 - Laura Kappler
10:30 - Dale Ford, David Martin

Ushers:

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

Greeters:

8:00 - Debbie & Jim Hoffert
9:15 - Andy & Theresa Fulk
10:30 - Dick & Sue Ann Cain

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Charlotte Ballance
9:15 - Marci Baumann

Contemporary Snacks: Laura Kappler

“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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