

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCV

Decatur, Illinois, October 25, 2023

No. 21

Thank you...

Church family, thank you so very much for the cards and reception you on the occasion of Pastor Appreciation. Kim Maple said, in her brief remarks in the Friendship Center after the 10:30 service, that the entire congregation wanted Pastor Vicky and myself to know that we are loved and appreciated. That is most definitely the case! For me, the sabbatical you allowed me to take earlier this year was a bigger expression of appreciation than I could ever have imagined. This past Sunday's reception (and cards) was simply icing on the cake. I'm grateful to be serving in ministry with you and for this shared place – Central Christian – that we all call home. Thank you again, Michael.

Friends,

Thank you so much for the lovely reception, kind words of affirmation, cards, and gifts in celebration of Pastor Appreciation month. I feel very appreciated! It is a joy to serve with you here at Central. I look forward to the journey ahead as we listen for God's leading to direct our ministries. Blessings, Vicky.

Trunk or Treat update: It's finally here!!!

This Sunday from 12-2pm. Weather permitting, we will host the Trunk or Treat event outdoors on the Northeast parking lot. The lot will be blocked off so we can set up. If you have signed up to decorate your trunk then please park your car in this lot.

IF IT RAINS, we will be inside. Food and crafts will be in the great hall, trunk or treating will be in the Disciples room, and games and bounce house will be in the Friendship Center.

If you have signed up to decorate your trunk then feel free to come as early as you want in order to set up your trunk decorations. If you have signed up to work the games or crafts, please be here by 11:30am. Set up workers should be here by 8:00am.

Thank you for donating your time to help make this a huge success and thank you all for the generous donations! It is greatly appreciated!

- Gerri Munos/ Diana Ritter

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023

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 10/29/2023

Text: 1 Thessalonians 2:5-8, 10-12, 17

Sermon: Thankful for the
Hospitality of Christ

Vicky Woolridge



Happy Birthday!! (10/29 - 11/11)

Carol Bischoff, Jahala DeMoulin,
Bob Linton, Bryan Rutherford,
Linda Virgil, Carol Withrow,
Mike Holbrook, Jeannie Backes,
Justin Reed, Lucille Longcor,
John Baumann, Carolyn McCall,
Diana Ritter, Evelyn Sanders,
Nolan Murray, Kaeden McCoy,
Elijah Ross

November Elderberries Event

The next Elderberries gathering will be on Nov. 8th, at 11:30am. There will be entertainment by female barbershoppers "The Extension Chords" and a meal, to include:

- Meatloaf
- Loaded Mashed Potatoes
- Creamed Peas and Carrots
- Jello Salad
- Rolls
- Pumpkin Bars

Please RSVP with the Church Office or at the Welcome Center desk by November 2nd.

Northeast Community Fund

Food collections for the holidays will be Nov. 5 and Dec. 3.

We will collect the usual cereal & canned non-perishable food products and add on dried milk, chicken broth, dried noodles, stuffing mix and any other traditional holiday foods.

Also you may include facial tissues, bathroom tissue, paper towels, hand & body lotion, bandages, and dish soap. All are appreciated!

The grocery cart is in the Connection Cafe.
Let's fill it up and run it over.

Good Sam Volunteering

Saturday, November 11th
8:00 AM—1:00 PM

Contact the office for more info or to Sign-up!!

Counting On You

Sunday Oct. 22, 2023

Total worshipping online = 155
Total worshipping in-person = 234

Counting On You

Sunday Oct. 15, 2023

Total worshipping online = 103
Total worshipping in-person = 258

Two Important Invitations for Advent, 2024

Our Advent worship theme this year will be "Christmas Un-plugged." When something is "un-plugged" it is stripped of all the extra, fancy stuff and what's left is the essence – what is most important. Don't worry ... we will be still be celebrating Advent and Christmas at Central with all the "fancy" stuff we usually do. But in worship we will be thinking about Christmas (and the Christian story of salvation) a bit differently. For now, though, we want you to know about two (2) important opportunities for your participation this Avent season:



First, we want to collect your stories of a time when **Christmas almost didn't happen.**

- Tell about a time when Christmas (as you were used to celebrating) didn't happen – or almost didn't happen. Or, when was a time something completely out-of-the ordinary happened on Christmas?
- And... what did you learn about Christmas in the process?

Feel free to write as much or as little as you want, but when finished send them to mkarunas@ccd-disciples.org. The deadline to submit your story is **Monday, November 13.** We anticipate using these stories (with author's permission of course), during the Advent season.

Second, I am going to be offering an **all-church Advent study** during the month of November. November, you ask? Yes, November. Who has time – with all the stress December brings – to add another obligation to the already-busy calendar??? Therefore, we will study our Advent scriptures in November!

That way, when December rolls around, we'll already be in the Advent mind-set. And... I'm thinking the Advent season just might be even more meaningful than it usually is. Here are the logistics:

- The study will meet **four (4) weeks (November 6 – November 27) Mondays, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.** in the **Great Hall**
- **Reserve** your place by calling 428-4336 or emailing central@ccd-disciples.org (or signing up on Sunday morning).
- **No limit** to how many can attend. I will do some teaching to the big group and then we'll break-out around our tables for small-group discussion.

Blessings - Michael

Thanks for the Fun!

Thank you, Tom and Diana Ritter, for the fun time we enjoyed at the wiener roast and hayride that you hosted on Sunday, October 22. You are wonderful and generous hosts – from the “perfect for roasting” fire, plentiful hotdogs and buns, hot chocolate, all the sides and desserts, s’mores kits, and the bumpy and beautiful hayride under the night sky. Someone even spotted a shooting star! It was a great combination for the more than 60 people who gathered to make lots of memories! Thanks from all of us!

Vocal Spectrum to Perform at Central Christian Church

We are delighted to welcome Vocal Spectrum and special guest barber-shoppers from Mt. Zion High School to Central Christian Church on November 4th at 4:00 PM!

Vocal Spectrum has been singing together since 2003. The members of the quartet come from various musical backgrounds, from classical vocal training to jammin' in rock-n-roll bands. These 4 young men, who graduated from Lindenwood University in St. Charles, Missouri, all majored in different fields of study. V.S was originally formed as a one-time educational quartet to sing for a local high school and has never stopped singing since!

V.S. has traveled to Germany, Holland, Sweden, Russia, England, Japan, New Zealand and throughout the United States singing for various shows and conventions as well as teaching high school students about barber-shop harmony. Vocal Spectrum has had the privilege of singing for both Russian and China National Television. Jim Henry and David Wright assist with coaching and arrangements for the quartet.

In July of 2004, Vocal Spectrum won the 2004 International Collegiate Quartet Contest held in Louisville, KY. And on July 8th, 2006 won the coveted International Barbershop Quartet Contest – becoming the first quartet in history to win all 3 possible medals (Collegiate Quartet, Men’s Quartet, and Chorus Medal). Vocal Spectrum received the honor of being inducted into the Central States District Hall of Fame.

Lower Level – Moving Forward

If you haven’t already, please stop in to see the beautiful Capital Campaign 2022-2024 renovation of the Lower Level that was designed and completed with input from all church members.

In order to make that area a welcoming, modern and usable space for all, a general framework for a two-phased completion is moving forward. This includes an inexpensive “right now” temporary furnishing of the area and then permanent furnishings during the next Capital Campaign, as appropriate. Look for coming updates!

Contact Sandy Garver at revrag@comcast.net with comments and questions. Sandy is the Décor Committee Chairman and will be available to answer questions in the Lower-Level on Sunday, Nov. 5th at 10:15 a.m.



Sunday, October (29)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
9:15-Sunday School
9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online
12:00-Trunk or Treat, parking lot
4:00-Youth Group

Monday (30)

9:15-Prayer Group-Lea West, Heritage Room
1:00-DOVE Kids’ Clothing Room open, 407

Tuesday (31)

7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café
9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R

Wednesday (1)

12:00-SSG, Disciples Room
1:00-DOVE Kids’ Clothing Room open, 407
1:30-Prayer Shawl, Connection Café
5:30-Christian Ed Committee, Connection Café
6:00-Millikin Heights Assoc., 401

Thursday (2)

10:00-Alanon, 401
3:00-Decatur Needles Arts, Disciples Room
4:00-Décor Meeting, Lower Level
6:00-Concert Series Committee, Conn. Café
7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday (3)

Saturday (4)

4:00-Vocal Spectrum Concert, Sanctuary

Sunday (5)

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 (6)

9:15-Prayer Group-Lea West, Heritage Room
1:00-DOVE Kids’ Clothing Room open, 407
4:00-Praise Band Practice, Great Hall
5:00-Elder Planning Meeting
6:00-Advent Small Group, Great Hall

Tuesday (7)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
9:30-Card Ministry, 411,412
7:00-Opus Rehearsal, Sanctuary

Wednesday (8)

11:30-Elderberries Gathering, Great Hall
5:00-Elders Meeting, Disciples Room

Thursday (9)

10:00-Alanon, 401
12:00-Support Staff Meeting
7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Friday (10)

Saturday (11)

8:00-Good Sam Volunteering, Good Sam Inn

Sunday, October (12)

Do Good Donut Sunday!

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, October 29, 2023

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Charlotte Ballance, Theresa Fulk
9:15 - Charlotte Ballance

October Prep Deacons: Suzie Miller, Christine Lyman-Harm

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Gary Horvath, Jim Fitzpatrick
9:15 - Matt & Laura Moma
10:30 - Andrea Shartzter, Keith Backes

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 3 - Need help! Call the church office if you're interested!
10:30 - Team 8 - Tom & Diana Ritter, David Sheffer

Greeters:

8:00 - Dianne Devore, Carolyn Sunderlik
9:15 - Cheryl & Dave Zollinger
10:30 - Bob & Mary Jane Linton

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash
10:30 - Luke Kirby

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Janet Lyman
9:15 - Travis Wilcoxon

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Michael E. Karunas Senior Minister
Vicky Woolridge Pastor for Families
David Martin Youth Director
Ben Hawkinson Director of Music
Cordelia "Dee Dee" Gain Organist
David Williams Organist
Kathleen Dudley Pastoral Assistant
Yvonne Boyd Administrative Assistant
Carl Fuerstenberg Administrative Assistant
Rachel Miller Nursery Attendant
Abigail Smith Nursery Attendant
Megan Schippert Nursery Attendant
Andrew Evans Lead Caretaker
Jim Denzer Caretaker
Sam Hawkinson Caretaker

Serving Schedule — Sunday, November 5, 2023

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Kevin Wilmot, Dick Cain
9:15 - Kevin Wilmot

November Prep Deacons: Yvonne Purcell, Kim Miller

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Gene Garver, Sid Rohrscheib
9:15 - Randy Trei
10:30 - Cole Shartzter, Kevin Wilmot

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 4 - Hazel Perry, Capt., Karen Penn, Charlotte Ballance
10:30 - Team 9 - Kim Miller, Capt., Audrey Miller

Greeters:

8:00 - Donna Dash, Karen Penn
9:15 - Angie Horvath
10:30 - Brett Swallow

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Krista Rohrscheib
10:30 - Keith Backes

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Kim Maple
9:15 - Jodi Van Uytven

"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.

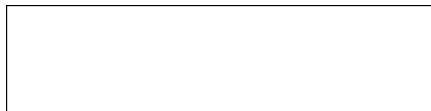
"PRAY" is the only word you should type.

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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