

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCVI

Decatur, Illinois, October 9, 2024

No. 20



Trunk-Or-Treat Update

Central Christian Church is hosting a Trunk-Or-Treat event on Saturday, Oct. 26th from 3:00-5:00 pm.

We still need volunteers to decorate their vehicle and hand out candy/prizes to Trunk-or-Treaters. Please

sign up at the Trunk-or-Treat display tables located in the Friendship Center and in the Great Hall. Big, black trunks are also at these display tables where you can place your donations of candy and non-edible prizes to be used for this event.

If you are not interested in decorating your vehicle but would still like to help, we need volunteers to supervise the Bounce House, games, and serve snow cones. Sign ups for these areas will be available this Sunday on the Trunk-or-Treat display tables.

Thank you to those who have already signed up to participate and for those who have generously donated candy and prizes!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 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 10/13/24

Text: James 3:1-12
If You Can't Say Anything Nice...



Happy Birthday!! (10/13—10/26)

Pat Ash, Linda Kuhns,
Ashley Swallow, Jane Latshaw,
Shirley McKnelly, Dennis Spencer,
Haley Hanson, Hannah Fitch,
Pearl Jones, Kinley Neumann,
Talia Stock, Joy Potter,
Meleah Vaughan, Lucy Rauch

**Peter Steiner
&
Constanze
Hochwartner**

Organ & Trombone Concert

Saturday, October 19, 2024
4:00 PM

Central Christian Church
650 W. William St.
Decatur, IL

In Sympathy

In sympathy, we mourn with Barb Leihser and family upon the loss of her husband, Dick Leihser. Thank you for joining us in prayer for this family.

Week of Compassion Update on Hurricane Helene, 9/30/24:

As we follow the 600 mile path of Hurricane Helene and the massive devastation across six states, Week of Compassion is in contract with Regional staff, congregational leaders and ecumenical partners to respond now and over the long-term.

Here are THE BEST WAYS to be of true help right now:

PRAY : For more than 100 lives lost.

For unimaginable impact. For emergency response teams. For compassion, mercy, hope.

GIVE : Gifts marked Hurricane 2024 will be directed to emergent and long-term response.

STAY : The first days of a response are for highly skilled and professionally trained responders. There will be many ways to help later, and we are grateful for all who will serve together.

* There is an urgent need right now for virtual volunteers to staff help lines. Simple training provided, phone & computer with internet required. Email volunteer@weekofcompassion.org

Praying with you and for you, Disciples.



Compassion ONLINE GIVING
Use gift designation Hurricane 2024.

Counting On You

Sunday, October 6, 2024

Total worshipping online = 126
Total worshipping in-person = 256

Counting On You

Sunday, September 29, 2024

Total worshipping online = N/A
Total worshipping in-person = 267

Minister's Article

Turning to God

This past Sunday in worship, we introduced the Letter of James which is our worship focus for the month of October. In chapter 1, James calls the people to whom he is writing, "dispersed." They are spiritually scattered. They have lost their way and strayed from the path. Part of James' intent in writing his letter was to bring them back. James reminds me of Psalm 2. Both reveal to us the value and importance of turning to God. Here is a reflection I wrote on Psalm 2 over my sabbatical during the summer of 2023.

There is an old saying that says, if you want to know what the book is about (non-fiction at least), read the introduction and the conclusion first. This is where the real information lies. All the stuff in the middle simply serves to link together the introduction and the conclusion. But the importance of the book really lies at the end. If we apply this practice to Psalm 2, we see that there is a problem established in the introduction. People are not only turning away from the Lord, but actively, consciously and intentionally doing so. Throughout the middle portions of the Psalm we see that there are consequences for this. But then we come the final words – in my opinion the most important of the entire Psalm. "Happy are all those who take refuge in him" (v. 11).

God never delights in people turning the other way or plotting and devising ways not to be faithful. God never delights witnessing people suffer the consequences of their poor choices. God's ultimate desire is our connection to God and God's connection to us. That is where God wants us all to be. All are welcome to do this and all who do so will enjoy the fruits of a life fulfilled.



That is why the word "refuge" in the last verse is so important. In ancient Hebrew, it meant "trust" (Happy are all those who 'trust' in the Lord). Trust cannot be faked. It is not achieved through reasoning. We don't talk ourselves into trusting something or someone, we do so instinctively and without even thinking about it. A child who has been hurt doesn't think about running to mom or dad. They don't calculate the pros and cons of doing so. In their moment of great pain they simply run headlong into the arms of mom or dad because that is where their trust draws them.

Of course, everything becomes more complicated when we grow into adulthood. We would all like to say "My trust is in the Lord." But would our calendars, bank statements, behaviors, and habits reveal that as well? When we are at our most stressed; when the pressures of the day make us most

(continued on page 3...)

anxious; or at the end of a long, grinding workday, what gets our attention first? What receives our best attention? Is it God? Or is it our compulsions? The treadmill? The gym? The credit card? Amazon? The bottle? A pill?

Psalm 2 reminds us that there is only one thing that brings true happiness; one thing which endures far beyond the moment when the worst of our days is behind us. That is the connection we have with our heavenly creator – who loves us with a love that is unconditional; and who forgives us with a grace that is greater than our biggest failure, shame, or regret. The arms of that Creator stand ready to receive us. All of us. There is room enough for refuge within them for all!

God of refuge, thank you for creating space for me to dwell in your presence always. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, grant me the grace to turn away from the temporary things I think are solutions and learn to trust that you are the one and only true solution I need. Amen.

Blessings – Michael

Ministry Fair - hope to see you there!

Many thanks to those who stopped by the Ministry Fair last Sunday. Public Relations/Evangelism and Christian Action and Community Service had awesome displays and passionate representatives who shared their mission and the ways in which volunteers could serve. And - we had several new people sign up!

This Sunday we will highlight Christian Education, Women's Ministry, and ChristCare Stitches. There will be plenty of things to see, snacks, and goodie bags for new volunteers. We'll be in the Connection Cafe after all three services. We hope you will stop in and consider how you might use your gifts to serve God, our church, and the wider community.

Sunday (13)

Ministry Fair

- 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 (14)

**DOVE Children's Clothing Room Closed Today
Preschool Closed Today**

- 9:00-Good Sam Volunteering, Good Sam Inn
- 9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center
- 1:00-Golden K

Tuesday (15)

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

Wednesday (16)

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

Thursday (17)

- 8:00-Emmaus Reunion Group, 401
- 10:00-Alanon, 401
- 12:00-Support Staff meeting
- 5:30-Bible Study on James
- 7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday (18)

Saturday (19)

- 4:00-Hochwartner/Steiner concert, Sanctuary

Sunday (20)

Ministry Fair

Refreshments after all services

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 9:15-Sunday School
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online
- 4:00-Millikin Fall Choral Concert, Sanctuary
- 6:00-Millikin Fall Choral Concert, Sanctuary

Monday (21)

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

Tuesday (22)

- 7:00-Journeymen, 401
- 9:30-Christcare Stitches, 3R
- 11:45-Macon Co. Interagency meeting, GH

Wednesday (23)

- 1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room

Thursday (24)

- 10:00-Alanon
- 5:30-Bible Study on James
- 7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday (25)

Saturday (26)

- 3:00-Trunk or Treat

Sunday (27)

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 9:15-Sunday School
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online
- Hayride at the Ritters' house, time TBA



THANK YOU!

To all those who organized, sponsored, catered, and participated in the Central Christian Preschool Golf Outing, THANK YOU!



Serving Schedule — Sunday, October 13, 2024

Elders:

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

Oct. Prep Deacons: Audrey, Kim, & Suzie Miller

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Jane Davis, Jim Fitzpatrick
9:15 - Laurie & Rod Damery
10:30 - Jill Heick, Kevin Wilmot

Ushers:

8:00 -Team 3 - David King, Capt., Nancy King
10:30 - Team 8 - Tom & Diana Ritter, David Sheffer

Greeters:

8:00 - Debbie & Jim Hoffert
9:15 - Andy & Theresa Fulk
10:30 - Dale & Judy Ford

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Sue Ann Cain
9:15 - Theresa Fulk

Contemporary Snacks: Susie Turner

Nursery and Sunday School Schedule

Sunday, October 13


Nursery: Lucy Rauch, Abigail Smith

Children's Sunday School: Julie Martin, TBA

Sunday, October 20

Nursery: Lucy Rauch, Abigail Smith

Children's Sunday School: NO Sunday School!



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(Disciples of Christ)**
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www.facebook.com/CCCDecatur

Serving Schedule — Sunday, October 20, 2024

Elders:

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

Outreach Comm. Elders: C. Ballance, S. Bryant, J. Lyman, T. Ritter,
L. Rowden, K. Wade

Oct. Prep Deacons: Audrey, Kim, & Suzie Miller

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Donna Dash, Bobby Munos
9:15 - Hugh & Linda Rowden
10:30 - Rick Postlewait, Kent West

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 - Carolyn McCall, Gail Prince
9:15 - Cheryl & Dave Zollinger
10:30 - Mary Jane & Ron Oliver

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Tom Ritter
9:15 - Cheryl Zollinger

Contemporary Snacks: None; Fellowship providing brunch!

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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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