

# The Central Visitor



Vol. XCVI

Decatur, Illinois, November 20, 2024

No. 23

## Christmas Care and Share

### Once again, Decatur is coming together for Christmas

The Prayer Shawl and Christian Action & Community Service (CACS) ministries are combining to collect for the annual Christmas Care and Share program. This event helped 1,200 families and more than 80 seniors last year to experience a more fulfilling Christmas thanks to our caring and sharing of presents. Please join us to support those in need! It's easy to care and share.

First, a list. We need new unwrapped items: gloves, mittens, scarves (infant to adult sizes), toys, books, board games (for kids up to 17 years old), basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, toothbrushes, shampoo, lotions etc. Also PHONE CHARGING CORDS...EAR BUDS....GIFT CARDS up to \$10.

The Prayer Shawl team will make hats and scarves!

Second, we need (39 gal) garbage bags to transport your gifts to St. Paul's Lutheran church along with wrapping paper and tape for parents to wrap your presents.

Finally, bring your presents and wrapping supplies to Central and place them in the trunks to be placed on November 17th in the Connection Café and under the Christmas Caring Tree on November 25. CACS and the Prayer Shawl ministries will do the rest!

Christmas will be more memorable this year thanks to you for Caring and Sharing!

## MOMS & BABIES R US

The Decatur Correctional Center's Moms & Babies Program is the Dorcas Disciples 2024 Christmas donation recipient and we invite all Central members to participate in this worthwhile endeavor. This program has proven successful in supporting incarcerated mothers in developing and nurturing bonds with their infants. Goals are to continue a reduction in the re-offense rate for participants and reduce chances of these children someday continuing the cycle of incarceration. Participating mothers rely heavily on donations or sharing items with other moms. Dorcas ladies have chosen the following items for Central donations at our two "baby locations" in the Friendship Center & Great Hall: Baby Bath Towels, Baby Washcloths, Baby Wash, Baby Lotion, Diaper Cream, Diapers (Size Newborn, 1, 3, 4), Wipes, Baby Powder, Baby Oil, Baby Hair Combs & Brushes. DONATION PERIOD ENDS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 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 11/24/24**

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-15  
*Thanksgiving Heals US!*  
Michael E. Karunas

## Decorating for the Season!

The joy of Christmas and the Advent Season is only days away. Everyone is invited to prepare our Church Home for the season. We will begin preparations on Monday Nov. 25th, Tuesday Nov. 26th, Wednesday Nov. 27th, and Saturday Nov. 30th. Each day we will be working from 9:00 am - noon. Please come and spend time in fellowship decorating His Home. Come as a family & bring friends too. Questions, call Donna Dash (217-620-5789)

**Holiday Cheese Sale**

The Decatur Early Bird Kiwanis Club is selling cheese wheels for anyone looking to make that part of their holiday festivities. A full list of options and prices, along with a sign-up sheet, is available in the Welcome Center. Orders will be filled weekly (while supplies last).

**CENTRAL IS BLESSED**

A heartfelt thank-you goes out to the families of Bette March and Dean Gray for their generous funding of the beautiful new Fireside Room stained-glass light box. Corrie Art Glass of Monticello created this original piece specifically for Central with input from Janet Gray, Suzie Miller and the Décor Committee. Thanks also to Mike and Luke Kirby for installing the stained-glass.

**Thanksgiving Potluck!!**

Our Fellowship Committee is hosting a Thanksgiving potluck luncheon on Sunday, November 24th, after the 3rd service, in the Great Hall.

Fellowship will be providing ham, rolls, mashed potatoes, and gravy.

We have sign-up sheets available at the Welcome Center and in the Great Hall. **PLEASE RSVP** by November 20th, 2024, to make sure that our

Fellowship Committee knows how much food to purchase.

We are asking the congregation to bring the following:

Last name starting with A-L: Please bring a dessert to share.

Last name starting with M-Z: Please bring a side dish to share.

**Counting On You**

**Sunday, November 17, 2024**

Total worshipping online = 123  
Total worshipping in-person = 277

**Counting On You**

**Sunday, November 10, 2024**

Total worshipping online = 110  
Total worshipping in-person = 262

**Thanksgiving Tree Decorating**

Thanksgiving Tree? Decorating a "Thanksgiving Tree?" I didn't know such a thing was a thing. I am sure some of you are probably thinking this, or something similar, when reading the title of this column. While there is no tradition of "decorating Thanksgiving trees" of which I am familiar, that may perhaps change based on what happens after this Sunday, November 24.

This Sunday is the last Sunday of the year. Not the calendar year, of course, but it is the final Sunday of the liturgical year. The liturgical year, also known as the church year, begins with Advent. Advent is a brief season in the church year that encompasses the four (4) Sundays before Christmas. The first Sunday of Advent – the fourth Sunday before Christmas – is the first day of a new church year. Since Christmas falls on a different day each year, the first Sunday of Advent is a floating holiday. It also changes year by year. This year, the fourth Sunday before Christmas – and thus the first Sunday of Advent – is December 1. Which makes this Sunday – November 24 and the last Sunday before December 1 – the last Sunday of this church year. Whew! Did you follow all that???

Some churches mark the end of a church year by celebrating Christ the King Sunday. Since the church year begins with Advent and the birth of a baby Christ, ending the year with the Kingship of Christ provides a nice bookend. Our congregation has not traditionally followed this practice. Our tradition is to designate the Sunday before Thanksgiving as Thanksgiving Sunday. This year, Thanksgiving Sunday (November 24) also marks the end of our three-week focus on "The Healing Power of Thankfulness." That is where our Thanksgiving tree comes into play, which may or may not be a tradition we roll out every year at this time.

When you come into the building through the west entrance this Sunday, you will see a rather tall, but bare deciduous tree. It's leaves have all fallen. The tree itself was not cut-down but found laying in the woods at Camp Walter Scott, away from its life-giving roots. We hope to bring the tree back to life with our Thankfulness. During the message we will take a look back at all we've experienced in the last year. We will give thanks for all that happened, and also for what didn't happen, that helped bring us to where we are today. As you come into worship, you will be given two (2) cut-out leaves. One will be dark green. One will be light green. On one you will be invited to write down something that happened to you this year for which you are thankful. On the other you will be asked to think of something that didn't happen, but which, by not happening, turned out to be something for which you are also thankful. After worship, we will hang our leaves on the Thanksgiving tree's branches. So as you prepare for worship this Sunday, you may take a few moments to review the last year and give thought to your own life:

*What happened this last year for which you are thankful?*

*What did not happen, for which you are also thankful?*

See you Sunday!!

Blessings – Michael

**Member in Mt. Zion Area Seeking Ride to Church**

If you can help with this, please reach out to the church office.

### Reaching Out during Advent

There are 3 ways you can make donations to help enhance the Christmas experience of others this year. After reviewing the options below, feel free to participate in any, or all, of the collection drives we are promoting. Please note, also, that the deadlines to donate vary from December 9 to December 19.

#### Christmas Care and Share

What: Hats, mittens, gloves and scarves, toys, books, board games, garbage bags, zip-loc bags and/or toiletries

For: DOVE/Northeast Community Fund/Salvation Army

Where & When: Collection in Connection Café by December 9

#### Moms & Babies R Us

What: baby bath towels, baby bath washcloths, baby wash, baby lotion, diapers (size newborn, 1, 2, 3, 4), wipes, diaper cream

For: Decatur Correctional Center "Moms & Babies Program"

Where & When: Collection in Friendship Center and Great Hall by December 19

#### Can Openers for Northeast Community Fund

What: Can-openers (manual and/or electric)

For: Northeast Community Fund

Where & When: Collection at the Welcome Center by December 12

### You are Invited

Our **Advent Family Fun event** will be Sunday, December 8, from 4-6pm. Come and enjoy creating crafts, making small gifts for our outreach members, sharing a meal, and hearing a familiar story. Families of all ages welcome! **RSVP Please** – by December 3 and let us know that you will join us!

Email [central@ccd-disciples.org](mailto:central@ccd-disciples.org) or call the church office (217-428-4336).

### Advent Packets Coming in the Mail

Families with children and youth, please watch your mailbox next week. Central will be sending you an Advent packet with resources for experiencing Advent on the Go! And Advent on the Slow!

We know it's a busy season and we want to help you find ways to spend some time reflecting on the gift of God's love to all of us as we remember and celebrate the birth of Jesus. Advent begins on Sunday, December 1. Please reach out to Pastor Vicky if you don't receive your Advent packet in the mail.

### Northeast Food Pantry Donations

Macon County has one of the 10 highest rates of food insecurity in Illinois. Families and individuals in our community are struggling with high food prices and looking to local food pantries for help. Let's join together and help by supporting Northeast Community Food Pantry on December 1, 2024. Please place your food donation in the shopping cart in the Connection Café. Let's fill the cart!

Thank you Central for last month's donations that totaled 120 pounds of non-perishable food items. Here are some suggestions for December: canned soup, canned chili, pancake mix that only requires water, syrup, peanut butter, canned chicken and tuna, pasta, canned spaghetti sauce, cereal, canned fruit, dried noodles, broth, boxed mashed potatoes, and rice. Please, be sure to check the expiration date. It is also a good idea not to donate items in glass packaging.

### In Sympathy

We mourn with the Muschal family upon the loss of Bob Muschal Sr., who passed away on October 14th. Thank you for your prayer support of this family.

#### **Sunday (24)**

##### **NO youth Sunday School**

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

9:15-Sunday School

9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online

10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online

11:30-Thanksgiving Potluck meal

#### **Monday (25)**

**CLOSED: DOVE Children's Clothing Room**

9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center

#### **Tuesday (26)**

7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café

9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R

#### **Wednesday (27)**

**CLOSED: DOVE Children's Clothing Room**

**CLOSED: Preschool**

5:30-PR/Evangelism, Disciples Room

#### **Thursday (28) - Thanksgiving Holiday**

**CLOSED: Church and Office**

**CLOSED: Preschool**

#### **Friday (29) - Thanksgiving Holiday**

**CLOSED: Church and Office**

#### **Saturday (30)**

#### **Sunday (December 1) - Hanging of the Greens**

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

9:15-Sunday School

9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online

10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online

#### **Monday (2)**

9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center

1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room

#### **Tuesday (3)**

7:00-Journeymen, 401

9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R

9:30-Card Ministry, 411/412

6:00-P.E.O. I.F., Fireside Room

#### **Wednesday (4)**

1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room

1:30-Prayer Shawl Ministry, Connection Café

5:00-Contemporary Worship meeting

6:00-Millikin Heights Neighborhood, 401

#### **Thursday (5)**

8:00-Emmaus Reunion group

10:00-Alanon

3:00-Decatur Needle Arts, Disciples Room

7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

#### **Friday (6)**

#### **Saturday (7)**

#### **Sunday (8)**

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

9:15-Sunday School

9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online

10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online

11:30-Congregational meeting

4:00-Advent Event for Families

#### **Happy Birthday!! (11/24—12/7)**

Carol Graham, Tripp Potter, Nancy

Taylor, Jean Voice, Carole McClarey,

Christina Campbell, Megan Swim, Nedra

Brintlinger, Michael Karunas, Roberta

Gorden, Piper Rutherford, Sue Muschal,

Eric Lester, Chad Jennings, David York,

Liam Hawkinson, Issac Glause, Shane

Garver, Kevin Ann Otis

**Serving Schedule — Sunday, November 24, 2024**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Linda Rowden, Tom Spry  
9:15 - Linda Rowden

**Nov. Prep Deacons:** Donna Dash, Christine Lyman-Harm, Stephani Martin

**Offering Deacons:**

8:00 - Carolyn McCall, Mike Munos  
9:15 - Marci & Steve Baumann  
10:30 - Mike Kirby, Ron Oliver

**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 - Charlotte Ballance, Donna Dash  
9:15 - Marci & Steve Baumann  
10:30 - Gregg & Linda Foltz

**P.A. Operator:**

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

**Liturgist:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Vicky Woolridge  
9:15 - Marci Baumann

**Contemporary Snacks:** Marci & Steve Baumann

**Nursery and Sunday School Schedule**

**Sunday, November 24**


**Nursery:** Rachel Miller, Abigail Smith

**Children's Sunday School:** **NO Children's Sunday School today**

**Sunday, December 1**

**Nursery:** Izzy Kostbade, Rachel Miller, Lucy Rauch

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



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[www.facebook.com/CCCDecatur](https://www.facebook.com/CCCDecatur)

**Serving Schedule — Sunday, December 1, 2024**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Dick Cain, Gail Prince  
9:15 - Dick Cain

**Dec. Prep Deacons:** Becky Johnston, Karen Penn

**Offering Deacons:**

8:00 - David King, David Wagner  
9:15 - Angie & Ron Ingram  
10:30 - Gretchen Kirby, Steve Swarthout

**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 - Debbie & Jim Hoffert  
9:15 - Angie & Ron Ingram  
10:30 - Jan Dobbs, Suzie Miller

**P.A. Operator:**

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

**Liturgist:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Shirley Swarthout  
9:15 - Travis Wilcoxon

**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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