

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. XCVI

Decatur, Illinois, December 4, 2024

No. 24

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 Welcome 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

Come Home for Christmas Meals & Advent Worship

On 12/15/24, we will celebrate Advent with a Sunday of joyous music during our services, as usual, and in the traditional services, we'll have some extra musical surprises. Also that day, Central will be serving a brunch between the 8:00 AM & 9:15 AM services and a lunch after the 10:30 AM service. Please feel free to come enjoy a brunch of breakfast casserole, pastries, and fruit after worshipping at the 8:00 AM service, or come a little early to the 9:15 AM worship and feel free to take some brunch with you on the way to worship. You can then feel free to return later after the 10:30 AM service for the lunch, or you can enjoy the 10:30 AM worship service and look forward to a lunch afterwards. Ham, hashbrown casserole, green beans, rolls, and dessert will be served. Please make sure to RSVP for the meals for 12/15 to help our Fellowship Committee plan for how much food to purchase! You may either call the church at 217-428-4336 or email central@cccdisciples.org by Wed., 12/11. We need to know if you are attending the brunch or the lunch and how many people will be attending. We will also have sign up sheets at the Welcome Center and the table at the back of the Great Hall.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 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 12/8/24

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

*"We Praise the God who is
with us in Darkness"*

Michael E. Karunas



Happy Birthday!! (12/8—12/21)

Theresa Fulk, Karen Penn,
Andrew Rutherford, Brett Swallow,
Don Tankersley, David Withrow,
Betsy Osman, Brandon Brewer,
Emelia Andrews, Adam Scircle,
Dianne Devore, Trajan Campbell,
Alex Bruns, Crystal Leamon, Iris Stock,
Pamela Larrick, Paula Partain

Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, December 8th, we will have our annual congregational meeting. This will take place at 11:50 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Every year in early December we vote as a congregation to approve both the Nominating Committee's report as well as the proposed operating budget for the coming year. These will be our agenda items at the 12/8 meeting. You can find a list of the candidates nominated to serve and a copy of the proposed budget in the Welcome Center and on the back table in the Great Hall. We look forward to seeing you on Dec. 8th!



Do You Need Assistance?

We want to help!

Are you or your family experiencing food insecurity? If so, we want to help! If you are a Central member or are attending Central, we can provide you with a Christmas food basket this holiday season. Food baskets will include: a fully cooked ham, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, canned vegetables, canned soup, crackers, cereal, milk, fresh fruit, and a dessert. If you would like a food basket delivered to you, please call the church office at (217) 428-4336 or email central@cccdisciples.org. Requests will be accepted through 12/8. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Vicky.

Counting On You

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Total worshipping online = 169
Total worshipping in-person = 283

Counting On You

Sunday, November 24, 2024

Total worshipping online = 141
Total worshipping in-person = 302

Advent Lights

The following is a contributed poem by Rev. Dr. Beth Rupe, Coordinator for Disciples Women in the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin, to a new publication from our regional church called, "Incarnate." This is the new monthly publication our region is publishing under the leadership of April McClure-Stewart. The first issue was released in November and had a decidedly advent theme. Beth Rupe's poem speaks to the significance of the four candles of the advent wreath and is a nice way to begin the Advent journey. Enjoy!

Advent Lights

In the hush of winter as nature waits
The Prophet's Candle lights the darkness
As whispered words and hushed lullabies fill the air
In anticipation of God's promises fulfilled.

As twinkling stars hang low over Bethlehem's hills
The Bethlehem Candle flickering from the inn's windowsill
The humble and righteous journey begins
We move toward home – the welcome of God's love

In the quiet fields shepherds watch over their flocks
The Shepherd's Candle shimmering bold and bright
As the heavenly messengers sing "Gloria"
Filling hearts with chords of hope and peace

From above, the heavenly host
Serenade creation with anthems of joy
Each note and beam proclaiming the good news
Immanuel – God with us
Yesterday, today, forevermore

With hope and love, in joy and peace
Our spirits soar
Advent's journey begun.

Blessings – Michael

Ecumenical Christmas Peace Service

If the noise and business of the holidays are difficult to bear... If your heart aches for those who are missing from your Christmas plans this year... If you are feeling blue, lonely or just want to spend a peaceful and reverent time with others... First Lutheran Church is hosting an Ecumenical Christmas Peace Service on Monday, December 16th at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to be at peace.

ECUMENICAL
CHRISTMAS
PEACE SERVICE

If the noise and business of the holidays are difficult to bear, if your heart aches for those that are missing, if you feel blue or alone, this is the place for you.

ALL ARE WELCOME
TO BE AT PEACE.

Monday, December 16th, 2024
7:00 PM

First Evangelical Lutheran Church,
250 W. Decatur Street, Decatur, IL 62522

Will your family join us?

We hope you will join us for the Advent Family Fun Event on Sunday, December 8, from 4-6pm. There will be crafts, books, time to play, yummy food, and story time. Come and connect with other Central families as we prepare to remember and celebrate the gift of God's love to us – Jesus!

RSVP Please by Wednesday, December 4. You can call the church office at 217-428-4336 or email central@ccd-disciples.org.



Books! Books! Books!

Our book carts are filled with Christmas books for our children to read. They are located in the Friendship Center and the Great Hall. You are welcome to read them while you are at church AND you may borrow them to read at home, too. Please sign the "I'm checking this book out" sheet and enjoy them! We would love to hear about some of your favorite books.

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 Lotion, Wipes, Diapers – Size Newborn, 1, 3, 4, Baby Bath Towels, Baby Bath Washcloths, Baby Wash, Diaper Cream, Baby Powder, Baby Oil, Baby Hair Combs & Brushes.** DONATION PERIOD ENDS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19TH. THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS!

Member in Mt. Zion Area Seeking Ride to Church

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



All Saints Books still available

If you would like a copy of our annual All Saints Book, which contains information on the many financial blessing that Central has received over the last year and honors our saints who passed over the past year, we have several copies still available at the church office. If you need a copy mailed to you, please call the church office at 217-428-4336 or email central@ccd-disciples.org.



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

Monday (9)

- 9:00-Good Sam volunteering, The Good Sam
- 9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center
- 1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room
- 1:00-Golden K Kiwanis, Disciples Room
- 3:00-Elder planning meeting

Tuesday (10)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café
- 9:00-Care & Share donations prepped for delivery to St. Paul Lutheran
- 9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
- 4:30-Women's Book Club, Panera Bread

Wednesday (11)

- 1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room
- 5:00-Elders

Thursday (12)

- 10:00-Alanon, 401
- 12:00-Support Staff meeting
- 6:00-Concert Committee, Connection Café
- 7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Friday (13)

Saturday (14)

- 10:00-FaithQuest parent meeting, C. Café
- 11:30-Contemp. Kids choir rehearsal, GH

Sunday (15)

Come Home for Christmas/Festival Brass

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 9:00-Brunch
- 9:15-Sunday School
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online
- 12:00-Lunch
- 5:00-FaithQuest parent meeting, Zoom

Monday (16)

- 9:15-Prayer Group, Heritage Center
- 1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room
- 3:30-Pastoral Support Committee
- 6:00-Dennis School holiday concerts

Tuesday (17)

- 7:00-Journeymen, 401
- 9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
- 9:30-Card Ministry, 411/412
- 10:15-Operations comm.

Wednesday (18)

- 1:00-DOVE Children's Clothing Room

Thursday (19)

- 8:00-Emmaus Reunion group
- 10:00-Alanon
- 7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

Friday (20)

Saturday (21)

Sunday (22) - Bring a Bell to Worship Sunday

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

Serving Schedule — Sunday, December 8, 2024

Elders:

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

Dec. Prep Deacons: Becky Johnston, Karen Penn

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Nancy King, Patti Swinford
9:15 - Laura & Louis Kappler
10:30 - Roberta Gorden, Luke Kirby

Ushers:

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

Greeters:

8:00 - Carolyn McCall, Gail Prince
9:15 - Andy & Theresa Fulk
10:30 - Dale & Judy Ford

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Keith Backes
9:15 - Rebecca Monroe

Contemporary Snacks: Laura & Louis Kappler

Nursery and Sunday School Schedule

Sunday, December 8


Nursery: Izzy Kostbade, Rachel Miller, Abigail Smith

Children's Sunday School: Rachel Miller, Julia Munos

Sunday, December 15

Nursery: Rachel Miller, Lucy Rauch

Children's Sunday School: Julie Martin, Deb Trei



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www.facebook.com/CCCDecatur

Serving Schedule — Sunday, December 15, 2024

Elders:

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

Outreach Communion Elders: Dick Cain, Tom Ritter, Krista Rohrscheib, Brett Swallow, Kevin Wilmot, Cheryl Zollinger

Dec. Prep Deacons: Becky Johnston, Karen Penn

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Charlotte Ballance, Troy Swinford
9:15 - Marci & Steve Baumann
10:30 - Jeannie Backes, Andrea Shartzter

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 2 - Bruce Campbell, Capt., Liz Campbell
10:30 - Team 7 - George Virgil, Capt., Linda Virgil, Hugh & Linda Rowden

Greeters:

8:00 - Gene & Sandy Garver
9:15 - Marci & Steve Baumann
10:30 - Mary Jane & Ron Oliver

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Gretchen Kirby
9:15 - Marci Baumann

Contemporary Snacks: No snack table. Come Home for Christmas brunch!!

"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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