

# 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. LXXXIX

Decatur, Illinois, December 13, 2017

No. 50

## **NEW YEAR'S EVE ORGAN CONCERT**

**JONATHAN YOUNG**

Sunday, December 31, 7:30 p.m.

Jonathan Young is Director of Music at the Catholic Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Champaign, Illinois. From 2014-2017, Jonathan was Director of Music and Organist at First Presbyterian Church of Urbana, and from 2011-2014 Director of Music at the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception in Mattoon. Prior to this, he was a Senior Lecturer and Visiting University Organist at PLU for the 2009-2010 academic year. He has served churches in many denominations as an organist and choir director.



## **Christmas offering supports regional ministry**

Followers of Jesus are called to lift one another up as we seek to love and serve the least of these. Who, then, supports the church? Congregations like ours receive help from the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin, which provides camps for our children and youth, assists churches in calling their next pastor and comes to our aid in times of crisis.

Our regional ministry's work in the past year includes completing a study and discernment process asking "What is God calling us to now?"; new churches/ministries such as Gilead Chicago, Root and Branch; a new staff person serving our North American Pacific Island Asian Disciples; and the award of Mission First grants to encourage engagement with our communities. Our Christmas Offering, to be collected the next two Sundays (Dec. 17 and 24), supports this partnership in this global ministry.

*Please consider giving generously.*

**SUNDAY, December 17, 2017**

WORSHIP AT 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

***Emmanuel***

Isaiah 7:10-17

Michael E. Karunas



On December 17, we would like to invite everyone to celebrate *Come Home for Christmas*. Immediately after the 8:00 service, we will offer breakfast in the Friendship Area. We will also offer breakfast in the Great Hall for those attending the 9:00 service. Finally, we will serve lunch in the Great Hall immediately following the 10:30 service.

Call 217-428-4336 or email  
(central@cccdisciples.org) in your RSVP so we  
can insure we have enough.

*All Are Welcome!*

**Counting On You**

**Sunday, December 10, 2017**

Worship Attendance ..... 356

Sunday School & Small Groups.....62

## December Youth Group Schedule

12/17—9am *Sunday School*  
4-6pm *Youth Group*  
Caroling & Soup Party  
Meet at the church at  
4pm.  
We will go caroling and  
return to the church for  
soup & a game or two.

12/24—No Sunday School  
No Youth Group  
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP  
AND CHILDREN'S  
PROGRAM

6:15pm—Christmas Eve  
CALLING ALL CHILDREN!!!  
*3 years old through 5th grade.*  
*Join the Christian Education Lead-*  
*ers in Room 170 on 1R for a chil-*  
*dren's Christmas program. We will*  
*play a game and learn about the*  
*Christmas story. Then, we will join*  
*the congregation for a Christmas*  
*Eve Service in the Sanctuary.*

12/31—No Youth Group

-----

### **OUR CHURCH IS GROWING!**

We will have 4 babies delivered by  
the end of Summer. Meal delivery  
program team members are  
needed! Do you enjoy cooking and  
hospitality? Join in on the fun of  
welcoming new family members.  
We prepare and deliver meals to  
new parents who are members,  
regular attenders, or friends of  
Central Christian Church.

Email [tmiller@cccdisciples.org](mailto:tmiller@cccdisciples.org)  
with your Name, email & phone  
number.

Our first family is expecting to  
deliver mid-January.

## Minister's Article

### *"Just Wait"*

Did you know the average American spends 55 minutes per day waiting in line of some sort or another – at the store; in a restaurant; at the doctor's office? In fact, over the course of a lifetime, a person is likely to wait at traffic lights alone for a total of *6 months!!!* Of all the lines in which we wait, the line at the grocery store is the one Americans like least. Which probably accounts for the fact that there are more and more self-checkout stations to find. Ranking not too far behind is the wait at the doctor's office, which averages 24 minutes per visit. Among U.S. cities, Cleveland, OH is home to the shortest average wait in line - 4 minutes and 33 seconds (New York, perhaps not surprisingly, is home to the longest wait at well over 5 minutes).

Waiting implies an object. We wait *for* something (an outcome, an event, a person). These objects are typically *external; outside* of us, and furthermore outside of our *control*. We can't control how many coupons the person in front of us at Kroger pulls out of their pocket. Nor can we control how many seconds the red light lasts at a particular intersection. The things beyond our control are the most frustrating. Which is why, when we are waiting for the doctor to tell us the status of our physical health, we say things like, "The waiting is the hardest part. I can handle bad news, because at least I'll know where I stand and what is within my control to do about it."

Waiting, however, is the primary characteristic of Advent. During Advent, which means "arrival," we wait for the arrival of Christ, born at Christmas. But Advent waiting is not like grocery-store-waiting or doctor-office-waiting. Advent-waiting is *internally-oriented* and very much *within* our control and I experienced Advent-waiting recently at a yoga studio of all places.

Nearly 12 months ago I began taking yoga classes 1-2 times per week. Initially, I saw yoga as a new form of exercise that would help me continue to run, bike and swim as I age. Though it has certainly helped me stay loose and limber, I have learned that it is not about *adding* something *to* my life, but rather letting go. Two weeks ago, our instructor had us work on our shoulders, because much of the stress we carry throughout the day is held there. She had us lay face down on our mats, with feet slightly wider than shoulder width and arms by our sides with palms facing up. We put a very small pad (a rolled blanket) under our foreheads so our noses wouldn't be smushed against the ground. Facing straight down with a long neck in back and the windpipe open, the instructor said that we should allow our shoulders to "fall to the floor" – not actively pressing them down, but allowing them naturally to sink downward. I felt I was pretty relaxed, not consciously holding my shoulders up, and thus in the pose properly. I also noticed that my shoulders were nearly even with my ears and well above the floor. Almost as if she were talking to me, she then said, "Your shoulders might feel relaxed now, but *just wait*, they will continue to sink and fall to the floor." She was absolutely right, for as I continued to breathe and allow my body to let go of what it was holding, my shoulders fell closer and closer to the floor, far more than I had ever thought possible when first beginning the pose.

*Minister's Article Continued on Page 3....*

Advent waiting is like this. It is anything but passive. Yet the activity is not about adding something *to* our lives, but rather letting go of external things so we can focus on things inward – the reflections of our heart; the innermost thoughts of our mind. Advent comes around year after year, and why we can't celebrate the joy of Christ at Christmas without it, because it is our invitation to make an interior journey that is always within our control. And one that is likewise forever life-giving for those who are able to "just wait."

Blessings – Michael

### Chalice Class

Title: *Longing for Joy*

Focus: In this third week of Advent, we focus on joy. How do our holiday celebrations express our longing for joy? What does it mean to experience joy as Christians? How will our faith help us cultivate a joyful spirit at all times?

### Preschool News

This week, our preschool students will continue to learn about the Christmas season. The 2 year old class will have their Christmas party on Thursday. The 3 year old classes will be decorating gingerbread men and are also doing lots of other activities that involve Christmas and the 5 senses.

The 4's and Pre-K classes will take a field trip to the Children's Museum. The Pre-K class will also decorate sugar cookies to hand out to the church and preschool staff, while wishing them a Merry Christmas. It will be a fun and eventful week for all of us!

Jennifer Van Dyke  
Director

### 2018 Women's Retreat

<p>First Evangelical Lutheran Church Rita Augsburg</p> <p>Central Christian Church, DoC Tina Miller</p> <p>Argenta Presbyterian Church Kate Pyle</p> <p>Holy Cross Lutheran Church Amy Zietlow</p>	<h2>2018 Women's Retreat</h2> <h1>Spa time with the Psalms</h1> <h2>February 2-3    5pm-2pm</h2> <p>Register by 1.22.2018</p> <p>Single Occupancy: \$120.00 Double Occupancy: \$90.00</p> <p>Chiara Center    4875 Laverna Rd.    Springfield, IL</p> <p><a href="http://cccdisciples.org">cccdisciples.org</a>    <a href="mailto:tmiller@cccdisciples.org">tmiller@cccdisciples.org</a></p>
--	---



### **Sunday, December 17, 2017**

Music:

Anthem—*Breath of Heaven*

8:00—Worship Service

9:00—New Worship, Great Hall

9:00—Come Home For Christmas Brunch, F.C

9:00—Fellowship Coffee

10:30—Worship Service

12:00—Come Home For Christmas Dinner, G.H.

3:00—Service for Healing & Hope, First Presb.

4:00—Youth Group – Soup & Caroling

### **Monday (18)**

5:30—VP Meeting, Conference Room

5:30—Advent Bible School, Connect. Café

### **Tuesday (19)**

7:00—Journeyman, Connection Café

9:00—ChristCare Stitchers, 207 & D.R.

9:30—Card Ministry, 240

11:15—Staff Meeting, Conference Room

6:30—Heart & Soul Christmas Party, G.H.

### **Wednesday (20)**

8:30—Preschool-3s, 4s, Pre-K Christmas Parties

10:30—Ministers' Meeting

5:30—Council Committee Meetings, G.H.

6:30—Criminal Justice, 207

### **Thursday (21)**

**No Preschool**

10:00—Alanon, 240

11:30—Widow Support, Bob Evans

4:00—Journeyman2, Connection Café

5:30—Cont. Worship Rehearsal, Great Hall

6:00—Brass Choir, Disciples Room

7:00—Chancel Choir

### **Friday (22)**

**No Preschool**

### **Saturday (23)**

### **Sunday (24)**

8:00—Worship Service

9:00—New Worship, Great Hall

9:00—Fellowship Coffee

10:30—Worship Service

6:30—Harp Concert

7:00—Christmas Eve Service & Children's Program

**In the Hospital...**

**DMH:**

William Wade

**St. Mary's:**

No One



## Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

650 West William Street  
Decatur, IL 62522

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID

### Serving Schedule—Sunday, December 17

#### Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Katie Miller, Jan Dobbs

#### Deacons:

8:00 - Team 4 - Jeannie Backes, Sue Ann Cain, Matthew Swarthout, Kevin Wilmot, Jon French, David Martin, Zach Martin, Julie Martin, Jacob Colbert, Mark Beal, Doug Soebbing, Roger Rutherford, Ron & Gwen Miller  
10:30 - Team 3 - Sid & Krista Rohrscheib, Jane Davis, Charlotte Ballance, Bob Muschal, Pat Penhallegon, Steve & Marci Baumann, Jenny Baumann, Bobby Munos, Brad Munos, Becky Johnston

#### Ushers:

8:00 - Team 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Jim & Pamela Bednar, Jarrett Bednar  
10:30 - Team 8 - Pamela Ferguson, Doug Soebbing

#### Greeters:

8:00 - Ron & Jan Dobbs, Ann Harshman  
10:30 - Dale & Judy Ford

#### Acolytes:

8:00 - *Open*  
10:30 - Reese Mahannah, Kaeden McCoy

#### P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash  
10:30 - Jim Hinze

#### Preparation of Communion:

Ron & Jan Dobbs, Becky Johnston, Karen Penn

#### Van Drivers:

9:00 service & 9:15 Sunday School - Mark Beal	433-6081
9:15 Sunday School and 10:30 service - Doug Soebbing	429-1836
10:30 service only - Dale Ford	875-1538

#### Visitor Mailing Crew:

Claudine Nichols, Ellen Sheffer, Marilyn Ward, Laura Sperry

### Main Entrance Door Hosts:

December 18	8:30-12:00 - Carole McClarey
December 19	8:30-12:00 - Carol Bischoff
December 20	8:30-12:00 - Karen Keller
December 21	8:30-12:00 - Carolyn McCall
December 22	8:30-12:00 - Yvonne Purcell

**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](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org)**

Michael E. Karunas.....	Senior Minister
Don Martin.....	Minister of Music
Tina Miller.....	Associate Minister of CE & Family Life
David Martin.....	Youth Director
Cordelia "Dee Dee" Gain .....	Organist
Ashely Sparks.....	Administrative Assistant
Yvonne Boyd.....	Administrative Assistant
Charla Stone.....	Nursery Attendant
Cheryl Williams.....	Nursery Attendant
Melissa Gillis.....	Nursery Attendant
Jennifer Van Dyke.....	Preschool Director
Angela Moore.....	Director Assistant
Lisa Coates.....	Preschool Teacher
Kay Villarreal.....	Preschool Teacher
Sharon Renfro.....	Preschool Teacher
Samantha West.....	Preschool Teacher
Paula Partain.....	Teacher Assistant
Lora Wright .....	Lead Caretaker
Jim Denzer.....	Caretaker
Vernon Wimberly.....	Caretaker
Andrew Evans.....	Caretaker

The Central Visitor (USPS 098-520) is published weekly by Central Christian Church, 650 W. William, Decatur, IL 62522.

Periodical Postage paid at Decatur, IL.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Central Visitor, 650 W. William St., Decatur, IL 62522.