

The Central Visitor



Vol. XC

Decatur, Illinois, January 31, 2018

No. 5

Recognition and Installation Scheduled for February 4

As a new year gets underway, we also begin a new serving year in the congregation. In some cases, that means church leadership positions are changing, while other church leaders are continuing in the positions they held in 2017. It is important to recognize this fact within the context of worship. On **Sunday February 4**, at both the **8:00** and **10:30** services, we will be doing just that. We are asking all *outgoing* church leaders to attend (those stepping down from their position as officer, elder, deacon, trustee, or committee chair) as well as those who are *beginning* or *continuing* their position as officer, elder, deacon, trustee or committee chair. During worship, we will recognize and thank those outgoing leaders, and offer prayers for all of the new and continuing leaders. Make sure to be in worship on February to support all of our leaders at Central.

Ash Wednesday Coming February 14

The beginning of Lent (the 40 days prior to Easter) begins on Ash Wednesday, which will be February 14 this year. To mark this day, we will be offering **two (2) services** in the sanctuary, at **12:00 noon** and again at **6:30 p.m.** Both services will serve communion and impose ashes on the forehead (or back of hand, if you prefer) for those who wish to receive them. The noon service should be less than 40 minutes and the evening service will last less than one hour. The primary difference is that there will be more music in the evening. But for those who don't enjoy driving at night, we are offering a daytime option as well.

Musician Appreciation

On Sunday February 11 the theme for the Servant Leadership sermon series will be Musicians.

The Worship Committee is inviting anyone who has provided music in worship to an Appreciation Luncheon.

We will gather in the Great Hall at 11:45.
Please RSVP to the office by Thursday February 8.

428-4336

asparks@cccdisciples.org

SUNDAY, February 4, 2018

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

Servant Leadership: Liturgist

Text: *Psalm 48*

Michael E. Karunas

Food Collection

The food collection for February 4th is cereal and canned soup again. As always, the shopping cart is located in the Connection Café. Donations will be delivered to the Northeast Community Fund.

Thank you for your generous giving.

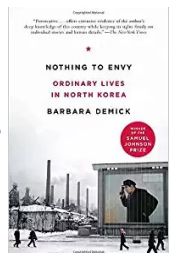
Women's Book Club

Mon, Feb. 12 - 12:30 pm &

Tue. Feb. 13 - 5:30 pm

at Panera

This Month's Read: *Nothing To Envy* by Award-winning journalist **Barbara Demick** who follows the lives of six North Korean citizens over fifteen years—a chaotic period that saw the death of Kim Il-sung, the rise to power of his son Kim Jong-il (the father of Kim Jong-un), and a devastating famine that killed one-fifth of the population



Counting On You

Sunday, January 28, 2018

Worship Attendance 280

Sunday School & Small Groups.....71

Youth Super Bowl

Sunday Fun Day



SUPER BOWL

2/4/18

12 noon – 2 pm

Games, Snacks, Lesson

(crafts k-5)

Great Hall

February Youth Group 2018

2/11 Youth Group 4-6pm
Great Hall

2/18 Youth Group 1-3pm
Ice Skating Outing
Meet at Church

2/25 No Youth Group



Minister's Article

"Opening the Door"

This past Sunday our theme in worship was hospitality and we focused on Hebrews 13:2 – "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for some have entertained angels without knowing it." At the close of the sermon I told a story from the Benedictine tradition about the need to open the door every time there's a knock on the other side, for we never know when it might be Christ himself showing up for a visit.

Throughout my ministry, people have always knocked on the door from time to time looking for assistance. Usually they're seeking financial assistance - help with a light bill, rent, gas, medicine but sometimes food as well. Long ago I copied Matthew 5:42 on a piece of paper - "give (something) to everyone who asks of you" – and kept it on my desk so that I would remember to make time for those knocks on the door and do my best to give "something" to them. Sometimes that means directing them to MAX; or offering to pray with them. And sometimes it is giving actual financial assistance.

These drop-in visits are almost always an inconvenience. I always have something I'm working on. And the knocks on the door nearly always "disrupt" my schedule. Even though I invite every single person who drops-in to join us for worship on Sunday, rarely in 20 years has this happened. Moreover, some of the knocks on the door come from those who are somewhat regular. Persistently regular. One woman comes to mind. She came 5 or 6 times in one year. Sometimes the church I served gave her something, sometimes we didn't. But after a year of this happening, I sat down and I told her, "we can't continue doing this. Either you commit to becoming a member of the church and we can work with you on longer-term strategies – or we can't help you in this way anymore." She said, "Yes, I understand." But she never came back.

One day about 8 years ago, a man dropped in. We sat in the office and he told me his situation. He had a job lined up but wouldn't get his first paycheck until after his rent was due. He was trying to reconcile with his wife and children and having an apartment was an important part of this. If he could just get \$75, he could bridge the gap. I talked with the landlord and verified the \$75 deficit and decided to give him the "bridge grant" was looking for.

A month later, he came back. Of course I was in the middle of something and when I saw him I thought *"Oh no, not now. I'm busy. I just know he wants something else. Didn't I just tell him a month ago that \$75 was all we had to offer at the time. Why is he coming back?"* But I dragged myself up out of the chair and opened the door. I was getting ready to offer my prepared speech about how we had just helped him and it was not our practice to give emergency grants more than once in a six-month period. But before I could speak, he said, "Pastor, I just wanted to come back and say thank you for the \$75. I was able to keep my apartment, I have a good job now, and my wife and kids have moved back in with me." Needless to say, I was surprised, but also inspired. And thankful for the lesson he taught me about how the judgments we can make when there's a knock at the door and how they are sometimes shattered when we answer it.

Blessings – Michael

News from the Pews

Sympathy of the Congregation is extended to **Norma Brown and Family** on the passing of her husband **Charlie Brown** on January 30th, 2018.

Special Note of Thanks

I offer a word of thanks to Central Christian Church for allowing me to serve as one of your ministers for twenty years. I am grateful for the celebration this past Sunday. Thank you to all who had a hand in it. Also thank you for all your expressions of congratulations. I continue to feel lucky that I am serving this wonderful congregation.

Don Martin

Chalice Class

Title: *Jerusalem*

Focus: On December 6, President Trump announced the United States would recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, sparking disagreement and protest around the world. What makes Jerusalem's political status controversial? What does this decision say about hopes for peace between Palestine and Israel? How can Christian faith guide us when thinking about this issue?

Preschool News

The preschool is holding parent-teacher conferences this week. It will be nice to have a little time to sit down and visit with our families.

We will all be finishing up our winter themed activities this week and will be moving on to Valentine's Day, love, kindness, and friendship themes in February.

Due to low staff availability, we are canceling our Parents' Night Out that was scheduled for February 9th. If there is church and preschool interest, we will look at rescheduling for another time.

Jennifer Van Dyke
Preschool Director



Super Bowl ALTERNATIVE

February 4th at 7:30

Sanctuary Concert Series presents

MARK GIFFORD at the organ.

He will provide his lively musical accompaniment to the

1928 SILENT MOVIE ***Steamboat Bill Jr.***

starring Buster Keaton.

Please come and bring your friends!



Sunday, February 4, 2018

Music:

Offertory—Men's Chorus

Anthem—*Let Thy Holy Presence*

8:00-Worship Service

9:00-New Worship, Great Hall

9:00-Fellowship Coffee

10:30-Worship Service

12:00-Youth Group Super Bowl Fun, G. Hall

7:30-Mark Gifford Organ Concert

Silent Movie/Steamboat Bill Jr.

Monday (5)

Tuesday (6)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:00-CC Stitches Retreat, 207

9:30-Card Ministry, 240

11:15-Staff Meeting, Conference Room

6:30-Heart & Soul, Choir Rm & Conn. Café

Wednesday (7)

10:15-Chapel, Friendship Center

10:30-Minister's Meeting

6:00-Youth/Parents Mission Trip Mtg, CC

Thursday (8)

9:00-Preschool 2's V-Day Party

10:00-Alanon, 240

2:00-Operations (Giving) Mtg, Conf. Room

4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

5:30-Cont. Worship Rehearsal, Great Hall

5:30-Women's Committee, Conf. Room

6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples' Room

7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (9)

Saturday (10)

Sunday (11)

8:00-Worship Service

9:00-New Worship, Great Hall

9:00-Fellowship Coffee

10:30-Worship Service

11:45-Musician Appreciation Luncheon, GH

4:00-Youth Group, Great Hall

6:00-Just Flicks, First Presbyterian Church

Lost and Found

The office currently has a collection of lost items. If you have lost something, please check in with the office to see if we found it. All items that are not claimed by February 15th will be donated. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

In the Hospital...

DMH:
No One

St. Mary's:
Jan Patrick



Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

650 West William Street
Decatur, IL 62522

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID

Serving Schedule—Sunday, February 4

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Dick Cain, Cindy Soebbing

Imboden Creek:

Krista Rohrscheib, Becky Johnston

Deacons:

8:00 - Team 1 - Gene & Sandy Garver, Gail Prince, Debbie Hoffert,
Al & Chris Fagin, Dennis Downey, Pamela Bednar, David Wagner

10:30 - Team 2 - Christine Lyman-Harm, Janet Lyman, Dale & Judy Ford,
Erik Harm, Kathy Kauzlarich, Ron Oliver, Steve Swarthout,
Andy Fulk, Janelle Beedle, Tom & Diane Ritter, Paul Gorden,
Roberta Gorden, Thomas Karunas

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Gerri Munos, Brad Munos,
Brittney Munos, Bobby Munos

10:30 - Team 10 - David Martin, Capt., Matthew Swarthout

Greeters:

8:00 - Jim & Debbie Hoffert, Jerry & Susie Bean

10:30 - Steve & Carrie Funk, Pamela Ferguson

Acolytes:

8:00 - TBD

10:30 - TBD

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash

10:30 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

Suzie Miller, Jim & Myra Hinze, Kim Miller

Van Drivers:

8:00 service & 9:15 Sunday School - Mark Beal 433-6081

9:15 Sunday School and 10:30 service - Kevin Wilmot 875-7767

10:30 service only - Brett Swallow 876-7205

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

February 5 8:30-12:00 - Mary Jane Oliver

February 6 8:30-12:00 - Janet Gray

February 7 8:30-12:00 - Suzie Miller

February 8 8:30-12:00 - Gail Prince

February 9 8:30-12:00 - Cindy Soebbing

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www.cccdisciples.org
e-mail: 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" GainOrganist
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 WrightLead Caretaker
Jim Denzer.....Caretaker
Vernon Wimberly.....Caretaker
Andrew Evans.....Caretaker

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