

The Central Visitor



Vol. XC

Decatur, Illinois, November 7, 2018

No. 45

Elderberries Thanksgiving-Christmas Celebration

Wednesday, November 14 in the Great Hall
Please join us at 11:30 for our combined
Thanksgiving-Christmas meal and celebration

Enjoy a delicious meal of Ham, Sweet potatoes, Dressing, Creamed peas n' carrots, Pumpkin pie with Whip cream. And music by our Millikin interns, Mollie Krueger and Christian Jackson. (all of this for only \$5) **Don't forget to sign up on the pew pad on Sunday or call the church office by Monday, November 12.**

Advent Book Study

5:15 – 6:30 Tuesday

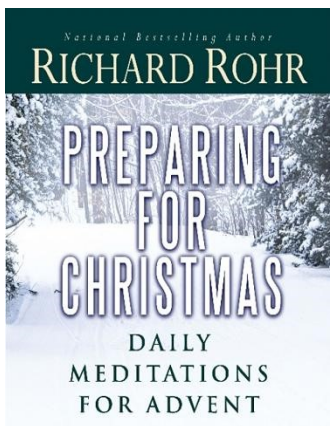
November 27, December 4, 11, 18

*Preparing for Christmas Daily Meditations
for Advent* by **Richard Rohr**

Order your copy online at

[https://store.cac.org/products/
preparing-for-christmas?](https://store.cac.org/products/preparing-for-christmas?)

Group convened by Don Martin



IT'S DORCAS SOUP TIME AGAIN!

All Central women are invited to Dorcas Disciples' dinner meeting on Tuesday, November 13th at 6:00 p.m. in the Great Hall. We'll have a sack dinner (\$5) to "kick off" our annual "Soup Sharing" mission to serve soup meals to church members on Saturday, November 17th. Gail and her committee will update us on the preparations and the need for drivers. Dan Watkins, Director of "God's Shelter of Love" ministry, will present the program before dinner and share the Shelter's mission in our community. The Shelter is Dorcas' Christmas donation recipient this year. All donations will be monetary. Please contact Nancy Ellen Taylor at 877-2495 or xstr@sbcglobal.net by Friday, November 9th to make your reservation for the dinner and meeting.

*A weekly visitor to your home bringing
you news from Central Christian Church
Our mission ... Sharing Christ,
Changing Lives, Delivering Hope*

SUNDAY, November 11, 2018

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

Choosing To Serve

Text: *Mark 12:38-44*

Michael E. Karunas

Women's Book Club

12/12 - 12:30 pm & 12/13 - 5:30 pm

Title: *Leota's Garden*.

Was once a place of beauty, where flowers bloomed and hope thrived. It was her refuge from the deep wounds inflicted by a devastating war, her sanctuary where she knelt before a loving God and prayed for the children who couldn't understand her silent sacrifices.

Who taught you what you know about God?

Our church is committed to supporting young people in learning about our faith. Hundreds of thousands of students have attended the 14 colleges and universities and 7 seminaries of the Christian Church, receiving both a quality education and the opportunity to remain within our Disciple's heritage. Your **Thanksgiving Offering** provides scholarships and funding for spiritual life offices, encouraging students to serve God. Please give gratefully to the **Thanksgiving Offering** which will be received in worship on November 11 and 18.

Counting On You

Sunday, November 4, 2018

Worship Attendance 300

Sunday School & Small Groups.....63

THANK YOU to all who contributed to the Earbuds for Franklin School Drive!

We collected 270 earbuds for Benjamin Franklin Elementary School students. You are a blessing!

Thank you for donating candy! Central Christian Preschoolers had a terrific trick-or-treat experience here last week!

Children's Craft Workshop **is coming soon!**

December 1, 2018 9-11 am

This event is held for Central Christian Church children, friends, relatives, and our Preschool families (ages 3 years through 5th grade). Consider serving with us. Here is a list of open service positions. Look for bulletin inserts this Sunday, call the church, or write tmiller@cccdisciples.org to sign-up.

THANK YOU!

_____ 6 Station Assistants: support station hosts and children with crafting

_____ 2 Snack Hosts: re-fill snack station, support snack lead person

_____ 2 Bags table hosts: distribute bags and write names on bags

_____ 4-5 Station Leaders: lead children through stations

_____ 4-5 Station Assistants: support station leaders and children through stations

Greeters Needed

Greeters are needed before the 8:00 and 10:30 services. You just arrive 15 minutes before the service and stand at the bottom of the steps by the main entrance. Your job is to welcome members and guests. If you are currently serving as greeter and want to change your schedule, please call the church office. If you would like to become a greeter, please let the office know.

Political Choices

After 20 years in the ministry, I am convinced that everyone who votes does so with their faith in mind. That is, we all go to the polls believing that our faith informs our choices. Those with different views on candidates and issues nonetheless stand on the same faith while coming to these diverse outcomes. This Tuesday we will have gone to the polls, casting ballots in a mid-term election year. In fact, by the time you read these words in this week's newsletter, the outcomes will already be known. For me, the larger question is not "For whom did we vote?" or "Who won/lost?" but rather, "How will we *repond* to the decisions that have been made?" We don't always choose the way life unfolds for us, but we always control how we respond.

As it so happens, I came across two quotes during this past week, neither of which were anticipated, but both of which are informing how I am thinking about this upcoming week and all that will follow. The first came from the Netflix documentary series "*The Eighties*." In it, there is footage of Ronald Reagan addressing a crowd at Moscow State University toward the end of his second term in May of 1988, in which he says, "**No single country, party or ideology holds a monopoly on the truth.**" How wise, for if we are ever going to break through division and experience reconciliation of any kind, it will be by asking questions such as these:

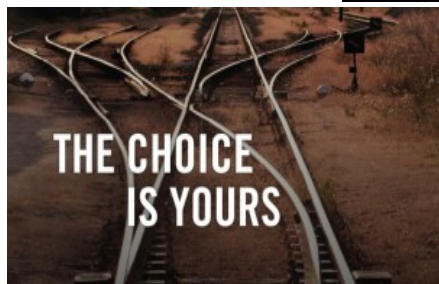
- *How am I guilty of assuming that my side holds a monopoly on the truth?*
- *What about my candidate and party might be untruthful?*
- *What might be truthful about those for whom I did not vote?*

Which leads to the second quote. I happened to be reading a book that Don Martin recommended about Advent by the Franciscan monk Richard Rohr called *Preparing for Christmas*. In it, he says: "**We mostly think like everybody around us unless we have taken some real inner journeys...**" So often, in our current political climate, we over-emphasize the external behavior (or actions) of others and under-emphasize the thoughts within ourselves,

I believe that somewhere in between these two quotes - from two people, of different ages and with diverse perspectives - lies a good plan for a way forward. If we are going to have real togetherness, as communities and as a society, it will require a willingness to acknowledge the "truthfulness" in others and the "untruthfulness" in ourselves. It will require a deep, introspective look within, one that invites us to examine our own biases. There is nothing inherently "good" or "bad" about our biases. They are simply there, and exist as a result of all our previously lived experiences. Without acknowledging our biases, though, we will likely be swayed by the mass voices which speak to our comfort, while protecting the ways we look at others and the narratives we tell ourselves about them. But if we are willing to acknowledge their existence, we have a chance of seeing the places where our preferred view might be broken and distorted, while being open to the value of perspectives other than our own.

No single country, party or ideology holds a monopoly on the truth." And "*We mostly think like everybody around us unless we have taken some real inner journeys...*"

November Sermon Series



During the month of October, our theme in worship has been generosity. As people of faith, we want to be generous as God is generous to us. Implied in that statement is a question we asked every Sunday: "What will we *choose* to do with our talents and treasures in the time we have been given?"

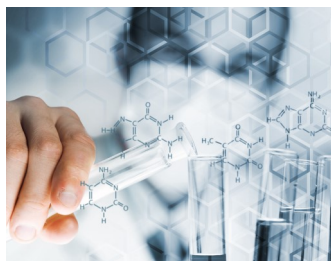
During November, we are carrying on that theme of choice. Our sermon series this month will be "The Choice is Yours." Each week we will look at some of the many choices we make in our lives and examine what scripture has to teach us about what we should be thinking about as we make them.

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|-------|---|---------------------|---------------|
| 11/11 | Choosing to Serve
<i>Volunteer Appreciation Sunday</i> | Veterans Day | Mark 12:38-44 |
| 11/18 | Choosing to be Grateful
<i>How will we choose to respond to God's gifts?</i> | Thanksgiving Dinner | Psalm 126 |
| 11/25 | Choosing Christ
<i>Living with worldly things but choosing to be defined by heavenly things.</i> | | John 18:33-40 |

Chalice Class

Title: *DNA and Identity*

Focus: With the rise of readily available DNA testing, people are beginning to see the complexity of their own biological history. What role does DNA play in forming identity? What other factors help to form our identity? How important is biological identity in the life of a Christian?



Preschool News

The Preschool classes are gearing up for Thanksgiving this week. They are making turkeys and starting to talk about what they are thankful for. I'm thankful for the wonderful love and support that the Central Christian parishioners show the preschool! Whether it's a cheerful good morning from a host or support for a fundraiser, you all help the preschool families and staff feel welcome. I would like to give a big thank you to everyone who was able to purchase a book from the preschool book fair to give to BabyTalk for Christmas. Over the past 2 weeks, a total of 91 books were purchased! Extra books will be used as welcome gifts for new families entering various BabyTalk programs throughout the building. The BabyTalk staff too are thankful for the loving support of Central Christian Church.

Jennifer Van Dyke
Director



Steiner/Hochwartner Duo Trombone/Organ/Piano Concert

Featuring Peter Steiner & Constanze Hochwartner
Sunday, November 18, 2018
2:00 pm



Sunday, November 11, 2018

Music:

Offertory-Men's Chorus; Christian Jackson
Anthem-*Creation Will Be at Peace*

8:00-Worship Service
9:00-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall
9:00-Fellowship Coffee
9:00-Youth Sunday School Classes
9:00-6-12th Grade Youth, McDonalds
9:15-Adult Sunday School Classes
10:30-Worship Service
12:00-Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall
4:00-Youth Group, Great Hall
5:30-Just Flicks Setup, Great Hall
6:00-Just Flicks, Great Hall

Monday (12)

9:00-Good Sam
12:30-Women's Book Club, Panera
5:15-PSC, Conference Room
5:30-Spanish Class, 240
5:30-Bowling, Spare Time Lanes
6:00-Financial Peace University, Disciples' Room

Tuesday (13)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
1:30-Millikin Class, 240
5:00-Dorcas Setup, Great Hall
5:15-Nominating Committee, Conference Room
5:30-Women's Book Club, Panera
6:00-Dorcas Meeting, Great Hall & Kitchen
6:30-Heart & Soul, Choir Room & Connection Café
7:00-Millikin Heights, Disciples' Room

Wednesday (14)

10:15-Preschool Chapel, Friendship Center
10:30-Minister's Meeting
11:30-Elderberries, Great Hall
5:00-Women's Potluck Setup, Great Hall
5:00-Elders's Meeting, Disciples' Room
6:15-Women's Potluck, Great Hall

Thursday (15)

9:00-PS: 2's Thanksgiving Feast, Class Room
10:00-Al-Anon, 240
11:30-Widow Support, 4 Star Family Restaurant
4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
5:30-Spanish Class, 240
6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples' Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (16)

Saturday (17)

9:00-Neighborhood Cleanup
10:00-Dorcas Soup to Shut In's

Sunday (18)

8:00-Worship Service
9:00-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall
9:00-Fellowship Coffee
9:00-Youth Sunday School Classes
9:15-Adult Sunday School Classes
10:30-Worship Service
12:00-Thanksgiving Potluck, Great Hall
1:30-Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall
2:00-Steiner/Hochwartner Duo Concert
3:00-Youth Group
6:30-DYSO Dress Rehearsal, Sanctuary

In the Hospital...

DMH:
Bob Linton
Kent West

St. Mary's:
No One



Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

650 West William Street
Decatur, IL 62522

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID



Serving Schedule—Sunday, November 11, 2018

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Connie Bordner, Charlotte Ballance

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 1 - Charlotte Ballance, Capt., Bob & Karen Keller
10:30 - Team 6 - Mark Beal, Capt., Mark Kincaid, Susan Bryant

Greeters:

8:00 - Jim & Debbie Hoffert
10:30 - Steve & Carrie Funk, Pamela Ferguson

Acolytes:

10:30 - Mackenzi Sargeant, Alyssa Bottom

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Greg Carter
10:30 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

David & Cheryl Zollinger, Yvonne Purcell

Ride Share Drivers:

8:00 & 9:00 Services & Sunday School - Andy Fulk 763-6624
Sunday School and 10:30 service - John Baird 429-5651

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

November 12 8:30-12:00 - Sandy Garver
November 13 8:30-12:00 - Carol Bischoff
November 14 8:30-12:00 - Jane Davis
November 15 8:30-12:00 - Sandy Garver
November 16 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

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
Monica Hernandez.....Nursery Attendant
Cheryl Williams.....Nursery Attendant
Melissa Gillis.....Nursery Attendant
Jennifer Van Dyke.....Preschool Director
Angela Moore.....Teacher Assistant
Paula Partain.....Teacher Assistant
Lisa Coates.....Preschool Teacher
Kay Villarreal.....Preschool Teacher
Sharon Renfro.....Preschool Teacher
Samantha West.....Preschool Teacher
Diana Murray.....Preschool Teacher
Stephanie Nihiser.....Preschool Teacher
Lora WrightLead Caretaker
Jim Denzer.....Caretaker
Vernon Wimberly.....Caretaker
Andrew Evans.....Caretaker

Sunday School Classes	Floor	Room
Koinonia	2	212
Ecclesia	2R	240
Chalice	2	207
6th grade - 12th grade	2R	280
Kindergarten - 5th grade	2R	230
Nursery (Birth - 5 years old)	1R	150

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