

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. XC

Decatur, Illinois, November 28, 2018

No. 48

Come Home for Christmas

We would like to invite everyone to celebrate Come Home for Christmas on Dec 16. 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. Please sign up on the pew pads by indicating "Come Home", which meal you will attend, and how many in your party. Also you can call the church office for reservations. Please sign up by December 10.

Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree will be located in the Connection Café this year. Prior to the tree being put up, if you would like to donate items we will have a collection box in the Friendship Center. Help make this Christmas a warm one for a child in need. Please bring winter mittens, scarves, gloves, hats, and socks. Hang them on our mitten tree between now and December 21. Our donations will go to underprivileged children in Decatur!



Heart and Soul Carol Sing

Tuesday December 11, 7:00 p.m.
Great Hall

Come to hear Heart and Soul present their Christmas carols for you.
Join in the singing and festivities.
Bring your friends.

Good Samaritan Lunch

Good Sam is coming up on the 8th of December. We need 4 to 6 people to help prepare at 8:00am to 11:00am, and 12 to 14 people to serve and clean-up after from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Everyone is welcome to stay after 1:00 to have a meal. Please sign-up at the Welcome Center, email central@cccdisciples.org or call the church office at 217-428-4336.

SUNDAY, December 2, 2018

WORSHIP AT 10:30 a.m.
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.
Hanging of the Greens
Michael E. Karunas

**THERE WILL ONLY BE 2 SERVICES THIS
SUNDAY — 9AM (CONTEMPORARY)
AND 10:30 (TRADITIONAL)!**

Food Collection

The food collection for December 2nd is cereal & canned fruit. As always, the shopping cart is located in the Connection Café. Thank you for your generous giving.

Women's Book Club

12/10
12:30 pm
&
12/11
5:30 pm

Title:
*A Lancaster County
Christmas* by
**Suzanne Woods
Fisher**



Suzanne Woods Fisher

Counting On You

Sunday, November 25, 2018
Worship Attendance 232
Sunday School & Small Groups.....65

**Christmas Gifts for
Franklin Elementary School**
Our goal is to collect **26 Board
Games & 40 packages of Dry Erase
Markers** for classrooms.

Please drop off donations in the
boxes at the big Christmas Tree
in the Friendship Center by 12/14.

THANK YOU!!!



Christmas Eve at Central

5 pm Essence of Christmas
Christmas Eve in the Great Hall Sanctuary is an intimate Christmas Celebration. We'll sing, read Scripture, offer a Children's story time with presents, and receive communion by candlelight. We'll serve hot chocolate, apple cider, and cookies.

6:30pm Harp Concert & Children's Program
Children are welcome to join together for a reading of the Christmas Story and coloring while parents attend a harp concert in the Sanctuary.

7 pm Christmas Eve Service
Our traditional Christmas Eve service includes Children's procession and Message, Christmas songs, Candlelight, and Scripture reading.

All children and youth who attend Christmas Eve at Central Christian Church will receive a gift.

Central Christian Church Note Cards
will be sold in the Fellowship area on
Dec 16th between services.

The cards are being donated by
Dorcas and proceeds will go to the
Central Christian Pre- School. The
cards depict Central scenes and are
25 for \$5.00 until they are sold out.

Advent Emptiness

Advent is a Latin word that means "arrival" and is the name given to a season in the church year that encompasses the four Sundays before December 25. This year, Advent begins on December 2 (with the other three Sundays of Advent being 12/9, 12/16 and 12/23). Advent is a way of preparing for the Christ who arrives at Christmas. Moreover, it is a way that the church universal has decided can help us "keep Christ *in* Christ-mas." It is our reminder that even though we celebrate Christmas with lots of decorations, baked goods, music and presents, none of that really matters. Oh sure, it matters to us emotionally, but not spiritually or salvifically. From a divine perspective, Advent prepares us for the fact that God emptied Godself in coming to earth in the person of Jesus, and that Jesus emptied himself of his life in order to guarantee our salvation.

A sub-theme of Advent, therefore, is emptying. In our contemporary context, emptying can take many forms, though in an over-arching sense we can think of it as emptying ourselves of the "stuff" of Christmas in order to be filled with the "STUFF" of Christmas. That is, in order to experience the fullness of Christ – which is the essence of Christmas – we need first to divest our energy and attention on the superficial, temporary, and material trappings of Christmas. Please don't get me wrong. I love Christmas – in many ways for all of the superficial, material and temporary things associated with it. But amid this love and longing, we must recognize the limited and finite nature of their value to us.

Richard Rohr, in his book Preparing for Christmas: Daily Meditations for Advent, which Don Martin is using for his Advent small group study, has suggested several different ways we might consider emptying ourselves during Advent. For example, he invites us to consider whether we need to:

- *Empty ourselves of the desire for outer things in order that we might undertake an inner journey of self-examination;*
- *Empty ourselves of an over-focus on our own self-image;*
- *Let go of our desire to control the environment around us so that we can trust in a bigger picture that is in God's hands;*
- *Let go of a feeling that we are not good enough;*
- *Let go of the temptation to be persuaded by the 3 Ps of life: Power, Prestige and Possessions.*

This list is by no means exhaustive. You may find other things of which you feel called to empty yourself during this season of Advent. But regardless of where you find yourself this December, I hope and pray that you find time to contemplate and consider the "STUFF" of Christmas. The "stuff" of Christmas will never go away. Perhaps it never should. But we don't want those earthly, finite and limited things get in the way of the essence of the season we celebrate. Blessings on your Advent journey...

Blessing—**Michael**

DORCAS will CELEBRATE the SEASON!

All Central women are invited to celebrate this holiday season at Tuscany Restaurant on Saturday, December 8th at 11:30 a.m. Claudia Quigg will present a short program on our new "Central Loves Babies" ministry followed by lunch. We'll order off the menu and pay individually. At the luncheon we'll have an opportunity to make monetary donations to this year's Dorcas Christmas recipient, "God's Shelter of Love". The Shelter is a faith-based emergency shelter for homeless families, women and children in Central Illinois. It is funded 100% by donations from churches, businesses, community groups and individuals, plus proceeds from its retail thrift store, Blessingdales. Monetary donations can also be placed in the Dorcas mailbox in the church office, with checks made out to Dorcas Disciples. Dorcas will forward one check to the Shelter after the December 8th luncheon. Thank you in advance for your caring donations. Please contact Nancy Ellen Taylor at 877-2495 or xstr@sbcglobal.net by Wednesday, December 5th to make your reservation for the Christmas Luncheon. HOPE TO SEE YOU!

"No Room at the Inn"

Nativity Display at the James Millikin Homestead,
125 N. Pine Street, Decatur, Illinois.

Featuring a large variety of styles,
from vintage to modern, loaned to the Homestead
by local residents

1-5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018

Adults \$5 each; children 13 and younger free

No reservations necessary; pay at door. Complimentary refreshments.

CHALICE CLASS WILL NOT BE MEETING DECEMBER 2 DUE TO HANGING OF THE GREENS.

Greeters Needed

Greeters are needed before the 8:00 and 10:30 services. All you have to do is 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 at 217-428-4336.

Preschool News

It's beginning to look like Christmas in the preschool wing. The classes have started projects and will soon be using all their senses to help them discover the joys of the season. It's an exciting time of year for our little ones. If you're in the building, come take a peek at what we're working on!

Jennifer Van Dyke
Director



Sunday, December 2, 2018

ADVENT 1

HANGING OF THE GREENS

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-Nursery Staff Meeting
12:00-Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall
4:00-Youth Group

Monday (3)

11:00-Operations Meeting, Conference Room
5:30-Bowling, Spare Time Lanes
6:00-Financial Peace University, DR

Tuesday (4)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
9:30-Card Ministry, 240
10:30-Staff Meeting, Conference Room
1:30-Millikin Class, 240
5:15-Advent Bible Study, 240
6:30-Heart & Soul, Imboden Creek

Wednesday (5)

10:15-Preschool Chapel, Friendship Center
10:30-Ministers' Meeting

Thursday (6)

10:00-Al-Anon, 240
4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples' Room
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (7)

Saturday (8)

Sunday (9)

ADVENT 2

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

Millikin Chamber Symphony

12:00-Congregation Meeting, Great Hall
2:00-Faith Quest Intro, 240
4:00-Youth Group
6:00-Just Flicks, First Presbyterian Church

In the Hospital...

DMH:
Joy Potter

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 2, 2018

Elders:

10:30 - Judy Ford

Deacons:

10:30 - Team 1 - Gene & Sandy Garver, Gail Prince, Debbie Hoffert,
Al & Chris Fagin, Dennis Downey, Pamela Bednar, David Wagner
Team 3 - Sid & Krista Rohrscheib, Jane Davis, Charlotte Ballance,
Bob Muschal, Pat Penhallegon, Bobby Munos, Brad Munos,
Becky Johnston, Carolyn McCall

Ushers:

10:30 - Team 4 - Hazel Perry, Capt., Jerry & Susie Bean, Karen Penn
Team 9 - Kim Miller, Capt., Audrey Miller, Ron Oliver

Greeters:

10:30 - Merle Chapman, Laura Chapman, Keith & Jeannie Backes,
Randy & Shirley Brooks

Acolytes:

10:30 - Luke Karunas, Zedekiah Auten

P.A. Operator:

10:30 - Mike Kirby

Preparation of Communion:

Jan Dobbs, Ron Dobbs, Karen Penn, Becky Johnston

Ride Share Drivers:

9:00 Services & Sunday School - Mark Beal 433-6081
Sunday School and 10:30 service - Kevin Wilmot 875-7767

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

December 3 8:30-12:00 - Mary Jane Oliver
December 4 8:30-12:00 - Gretchen Kirby
December 5 8:30-12:00 - Suzie Miller
December 6 8:30-12:00 - Karen Penn
December 7 8:30-12:00 - Roberta Gorden

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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
Chloe Jancosek.....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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