

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 20, 2018

No. 47

Advent Book Study

5:15 pm – 6:30 pm Tuesday
Room 240

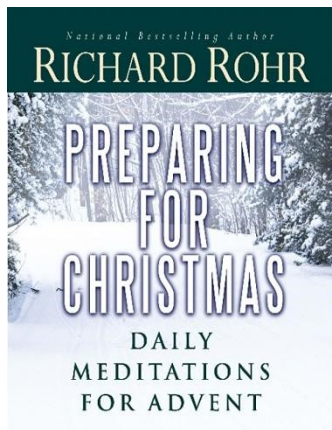
November 27, December 4, 11, 18

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

Order your copy online at

<https://store.cac.org/products/preparing-for-christmas?>

Group convened by Don Martin



SUNDAY, November 25, 2018

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

Choosing Christ

Text: *John 18:33-38*

Michael E. Karunas

Hanging of the Greens

Preparation for Hanging of the Greens will be both Tuesday Nov. 27 and Saturday Dec. 1 at 9:00 am. All church members are invited to help with this special time of the year. Men, we always need your muscles. If you have questions, contact Donna Dash.

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.

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 December 2 and December 21.

Our donations will go to underprivileged children in Decatur!



Women's Book Club

12/10 - 12:30 pm

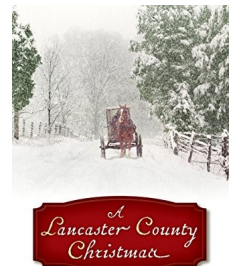
&

12/11 - 5:30 pm

Title:

*A Lancaster County
Christmas* by

Suzanne Woods Fisher



Suzanne Woods Fisher

Counting On You

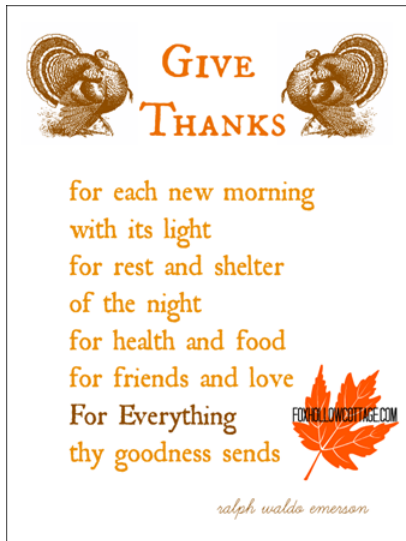
Sunday, November 18, 2018

Worship Attendance 290

Sunday School & Small Groups..... 70

Thank you to Gretchen and Mike Kirby for hosting the Thanksgiving party this year. The trivia game was fun and snacks were yummy! We appreciate you.

**NO K-12 SUNDAY SCHOOL SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 25**



**Register for the
Christmas Craft Workshop**



Mark Your Calendar



Minister's Article

Humility and Gratitude

From the Chinese tradition, there comes a mythic story of how the world began. It is commonly known as the story of *P'an Ku*. Accordingly, it tells that "in the beginning" there was a cosmic egg. After 18,000 years, during which time the creature *P'an Ku* grew within it, the egg broke. The lighter fluids of the egg's insides became the heavens and the darker ones the earth. *P'an Ku* stood between them, holding them apart. This he did for 18,000 more years, growing 10 feet per day in the process; thus the great distance between heaven and earth. After this, *P'an Ku* – utterly exhausted – fell down and died and every part of his body was transformed to become the created world. His breath became the wind, his voice the thunder, his eyes the sun, moon and stars, his blood the rivers, his skin the soil, and so on – all the way down to his bones becoming the minerals buried in the earth, with the marrow of his bones representing gold and silver. Humans, the story goes, came from the *parasites* that lived on his body.

Humans as *parasites*? Really? From a theological perspective this image stands in stark contrast to the creation of man and woman in Genesis 1:28, where humans are given *dominion* over the plants, the animals, and every living thing that moves on the earth. Hebrews 2:7 says that we (humans) were created a little lower than the angels, but higher than every other creature – clearly intending to imply our role in creation as a prominent one. And yet this humbling reminder of humanity's "small-ness" echoes one of the primary themes of scripture, both in the Old and New Testaments. Proverbs 3:34 (which is repeated in James 4:6) says "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the *humble*." And the word "worship" in the Greek language of the New Testament literally means to make oneself *small* before God.

Thanksgiving is an appropriately humbling reminder of our small-ness in the face of God's grace. We are who we are, not so much for what we have done, but rather for what has been done *for* us. The veterans who have protected us; the teachers who stayed up late grading our papers; the parents who saved for our education; the grandparents who helped finance our first car or home; the bus drivers who got us to school safely; the mentors who wrote us letters of recommendation and served as job application references; and so many other acts of generosity done on our behalf have allowed us to become who we are. If not for these sacrifices made for us over the years, we would not be who and where we are today. While we don't ever want to *underestimate* our giftedness, we don't want to *overestimate* it either. Thanksgiving, whether celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November or considered any other time of the year, begins with humbly remembering those whose efforts have fed and sustained us over the years - and the grace of God which makes it all possible.

Blessings—**Michael**

Baby Dedications December 16

While we are willing to plan for a baby dedication at times throughout the year that are convenient for families of newborns, we are also designating Sunday, **December 16** as a date for a **Service of Blessing and Dedication** for families and children. Any family with a child born in the last year is invited to have them dedicated and blessed that day. We will work with family preferences and perform this blessing and dedication at the service of their choice (8:00, 9:00 or 10:30). Please contact Michael (mkarunas@cccdisciples.org) or Tina (tmiller@cccdisciples.org) and let them know your intentions.

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!

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

Please enjoy our annual turkey preparation tips from the preschool's 4 year old class. Their thoughts on turkeys were shared on the same day that they made quesadillas in the classroom, which seems to have inspired some cheesy tips.

- I would shoot it. Put it on the stove. I would put on salt and cranberries and some cheese. Cook it 15 minutes super hot. It's done.
- Cook it on the stove. Put cheese on it, mushrooms and cauliflower, and broccoli on it. Cook it for 3 minutes about a little hot. It's done.
- Put some stuff on it to make it better and they will love it. I'll put on sauce. I'll cook it on the table for 5 minutes. Put cheese and bar-b-q on it. It's done.
- Put cheese all over it and bar-b-que sauce and tortillas and that's all. Put it in the oven. Make the oven really hot-I mean really warm! Cook it a hundred minutes. The turkey is done!
- You cut it and wash it. Then you put it in the microwave. Cook it 4 minutes really hot. Take it out and put cheese on it. It's done!
- Kill the turkey and the meat and the side of the meat. Put on salt and then you boil in a big pan. Boil it 13 years. It's done.
- Put on salt. Put it in the microwave for 10 hours. Cut it up. It's good!
- Put on cheese. It goes in the oven at 4 degrees. Leave it for 4 minutes. Add some broccoli. It's ready to eat!
- Put the turkey in the pan with cheese, a little egg, and that's all. Put it in the oven at 70 degrees. Cook it for 70 hours. It's ready to eat!
- Put some cheese on the turkey. Only cheese. Put in some bacon. Put it in the microwave. Cook it 7 minutes. It's ready to eat!

We hope you will find these tips useful and/or entertaining! Happy Thanksgiving Central Christian Church!

Jennifer Van Dyke
Director



Sunday, November 25, 2018

Music:

Offertory-Dee Dee Gain, Organ
Anthem-*Simple Gifts/Pachelbel's Canon*
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-Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall

Monday (26)

5:00-Veterans, Great Hall
5:30-Bowling, Spare Time Lanes
6:00-Financial Peace University, DR

Tuesday (27)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
9:00-Fluffing of the Greens, Disciples' Room
11:45-Preschool Staff Meeting, 170
1:30-Millikin Class, 240
2:30-BT: Strategic Planning Mtg, Disciples' Rm
5:30-Advent Bible Study, 240
6:30-Heart & Soul, Choir Room & Conn. Café

Wednesday (28)

10:15-Preschool Chapel, Friendship Center
2:30-Prayer Shawl Meeting, Disciples' Room
5:30-Church Council Business Mtg, Disc. Room

Thursday (29)

10:00-Al-Anon, 240
11:45-CINC, Disciples' Room
4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples' Room
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (30)

5:00-Setup for Christmas Craft Workshop, GH

Saturday (1)

8:00-Children's Craft Workshop
9:00-Fluffing of the Greens, Disciples' Room
9:00-Neighborhood Cleanup

Sunday (2)

ADVENT DAY 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-Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall
4:00-Youth Group

In the Hospital...

DMH:
No One

St. Mary's:
Norm Lienemann
Anne Raddatz



Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
 650 West William Street
 Decatur, IL 62522

PERIODICAL
 POSTAGE
 PAID



Serving Schedule—Sunday, November 25, 2018

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Janet Lyman, Mary Jane Linton

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

Greeters:

8:00 - Gene & Sandy Garver
 10:30 - Dennis & Ronda Spencer

Acolytes:

10:30 - Peyton Swarthout, Amilia Bradfield

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash
 10:30 - Larry Pepper

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 - Brett Swallow 433-7488

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

November 26 8:30-12:00 - Karen Baird
 November 27 8:30-12:00 - Katie Miller
 November 28 8:30-12:00 - Gretchen Kirby
 November 29 8:30-12:00 - Carole McClarey
 November 30 8:30-12:00 - Gail Prince

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 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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