

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, December 12, 2018

No. 50

Congregational Meeting Update

Following the 10:30 service this past Sunday, a congregational meeting was held to vote on two (2) items of business: a) a slate of officers and church leaders for 2019; and b) a church operating budget for the coming year. Both items passed unanimously.

Dedication of Infants and Children this Sunday

Our month of special services continues this Sunday December 16. Following a stirring Hanging of the Greens service two weeks ago and a truly glorious day of Advent worship and music with the Millikin Chamber Orchestra last weekend, we look forward to our Service of Dedication for Infants and Children. We will have 10 infants and children representing 5 families as our guests of honor at the 10:30 service. There is also the possibility of an 11th baby to be dedicated at our 9:00 contemporary service. Make your plans to be there to be part of this special day in the life of our congregation.

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 call the church office or email central@cccdisciples.org for reservations.

Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is located in the Connection Café this year. 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!



SUNDAY, December 16, 2018

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

The Gifts we will be Remembered For

Text: *Luke 3:7-14*

Michael E. Karunas

2019 Offering Envelopes

In the next few weeks your 2019 Giving Envelopes should arrive in the mail. Use of these envelopes greatly helps our financial group properly distribute your contribution. If you do not receive your 2019 Giving Envelopes, please contact the church office.

BRING A BELL!

Sunday, December 23rd

is **Bring a Bell Sunday**.

Bring a bell of any shape or size to worship

and ring it while we sing

"Ding Dong Merrily on High"

Food Collection

The food collection for January 6th is canned fruit and canned soup. 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.

Counting On You

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Worship Attendance 382

Sunday School & Small Groups.....NA

Youth Group Caroling and Soup Supper

Sunday, December 16
3-6 pm

All youth K-12th grade and their families are invited to join us as we go caroling!

We'll leave the church at 3 pm. Then, return around 5 to enjoy soup, snacks, and dessert.

Please bring a side dish (finger foods, cheese, and crackers) or soup to share.



Christmas Eve
Communion and Candlelight Services

| | |
|---|---------|
| Contemporary Worship Family Friendly | 5:00 pm |
| Harp Concert Children's Crafting | 6:30 pm |
| Traditional Worship | 7:00 pm |

Join us!

Central Christian Church 650 W. William Street Decatur, IL 62522
www.cccdisciples.org

5 pm

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.

6:30 pm

Children are welcome to join together for a reading of the Christmas Story and coloring in the Preschool Wing, while parents attend a harp concert in the Sanctuary.

7 pm

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.

Minister's Article

My thoughts were preoccupied with Joseph last week. The earthly father of Jesus was the subject of study at both our men's groups and for the sermon at our 9:00 a.m. contemporary service. Though Joseph is typically overshadowed by the angels, shepherds, wise men, and Mary in the story of the nativity, he is a vital part of the narrative and serves as a role model for the following reasons:

- He is a man of faith (listening for and following the voice of God)
- He cares to be "right with God" (setting an example of spending time in God's Word)
- He is a man of action (remembered for "walking the walk" more than for what he says)
- He is a man of restraint (not abandoning Mary, though he would have been excused for doing so)
- He is a man of commitment and provision (standing by Mary and Jesus, and securing their safety when King Herod wanted Jesus dead).

I'd like to add two other aspects of Joseph's importance, both of which arose from conversations at our Thursday Journeymen's bible study. We were discussing the Old Testament Law in Deuteronomy 22 (23-27) which indicated that a marriage was in effect and binding not from the moment of the ceremony and the exchange of some kind of "vows" (as is the case today), but rather that moment of "engagement" (or better, from the moment the marriage was arranged). At that point, if a child was conceived by someone *other* than the husband-to-be, the husband-to-be was within his right to end the "marriage" (due to the "infidelity" that would have occurred). This was the situation in which Joseph found himself when he learned that Mary was pregnant during their engagement.

Our men suggested two parts of the story about which I had not given much thought. Perhaps, one of them said, God chose Mary for the task of bringing Jesus into the world precisely because God knew that Joseph was the kind of man who exhibited all of the characteristics described above. We ruminated on the integration of baseball in the 1940's and how Branch Rickey of the Los Angeles Dodgers chose Jackie Robinson not only for his on-field abilities but also because he had the kind of inner strength, restraint and resolve to withstand the abuse that was to come. Perhaps God knew Joseph was the kind of person who would not run away once he was made known of the whole story and that he had the courage and strength needed to be the stability Mary and Jesus would need.

Moreover, because the Law was on Joseph's side in the event that he chose to break off the engagement with Mary, the fact that he *didn't* do the very thing he was legally able to do could be seen as a way of foreshadowing the role that grace would play with the coming of Christ. Mary was not met with the full weight of the Law's judgment by Joseph but by a full measure of grace. Joseph didn't do what he could have done but chose to treat Mary with forgiveness over judgment. With the coming of Christ, we are shown that we will be judged not by the letter of the Law, but rather with the spirit of grace, mercy and forgiveness. Something more to ponder as we continue to make our journey toward the manger.

Blessing—*Michael*

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Christmas is a time of great anticipation, filled with wonder and joy. But for some people, it is a time of sadness and depression as they deal with adversities and struggles. If you know of someone who would benefit in receiving a prayer shawl or lap blanket from our church, please let the church office or one of our ministers know. By giving a prayer shawl, our church is letting someone know that God loves and cares deeply for them and that they are never alone in facing their difficulties. So during this Advent season, let us express our mission as a church to "share Christ, change lives and deliver hope" by giving someone this special expression of faith, hope and love.

"Come, they told me...."

On December 16 and 23, we will bring our "finest gifts" to support the regional church through our Christmas offering. This offering enables our region to gather Disciples in camps, conferences and assemblies; to assist churches in calling new ministers; to support new ministers in preparation for ordainment; and generally to foster faith development and promote the mission of the church in our own community and state, to name but a few functions. Please consider bringing your gift, "fit to give a King," for this special offering.

Central Christian Church Note Cards

will be sold in the Friendship Center 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.

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 trunks at the big Christmas Tree in the Friendship Center by **12.14.2018**. THANK YOU!!!

Chalice Class

Title: *Fewer Children in America*

Focus: According to numerous studies, the fertility rate in the United States is at one of its lowest points in history. Why are Americans making the choice to have fewer children or none at all? What concerns does this raise? What role does the church play in addressing these concerns?

Preschool News

The smell of peppermint was in the air on Monday in the preschool wing. The Pre-K class made peppermint bark and Mrs. Renfro's 3's class added peppermint oil to their pretend snow. The 4's class took a little break from the Christmas festivities on Tuesday to go play at the Children's Museum. On Wednesday, both 3's classes made gingerbread houses. Nearly unlimited use of candy and sprinkles is certainly exciting for 3 year old children! On Thursday, the 2 year old class will have their Christmas party, and on Friday, the Pre-K class will take a turn visiting the Children's Museum to do a workshop on the 5 senses and to have some playtime. As usual, we are staying busy and enjoying our time together in preschool.

Jennifer Van Dyke
Director



Sunday, December 16, 2018

ADVENT 3

Music:

Offertory—Jeannie Rade & John Baird, piano

Anthem—*Dance and Sing*

8:00-Worship Service

9:00-Come Home For Christmas Brunch, FC

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-Come Home For Christmas Lunch, GH

1:00-Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall

3:00-Youth Group Caroling

4:00-Youth Group Christmas Party, Great Hall

Monday (17)

8:30-PS: Ginger Bread Houses, Disciples' Room

5:30-Bowling, Spare Time Lanes

Tuesday (18)

7:00-Journeyman, Connection Café

8:15-CCStitchers Christmas Party, 207 & DR

9:30-Card Ministry, 240

10:30-Staff Meeting, Conference Room

11:45-PS: Staff Meeting, 170

5:15-Advent Bible Study, 240

6:30-Heart & Soul Christmas Party, Great Hall

Wednesday (19)

9:00-PS: Christmas Parties, Class Rooms

9:00-Baby Talk Family Fun Day, Disciples' Rm

10:30— Minister's Meeting

5:30-Church Council Committee Meetings, GH

Thursday (20)

NO PRESCHOOL

10:00-Al-Anon, 240

11:30-SMH Widow Support, East End Grill

4:00-Journeyman 2, Connection Café

6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples' Room

7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (21)

NO SCHOOL

Saturday (22)

Sunday (23)

ADVENT 4

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

In the Hospital...

DMH:
Thomas Maltas
Anne Webb

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 16, 2018

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Krista Rohrscheib, Brett Swallow

Deacons:

8:00 - Team 3 - Sid & Krista Rohrscheib, Jane Davis, Charlotte Ballance, Bob Muschal, Pat Penhallegon, Bobby Munos, Brad Munos, Becky Johnston, Carolyn McCall

10:30 - Team 4 - Jeannie Backes, Matthew Swarthout, Jon French, David Martin, Zach Martin, Mark Beal, Doug Soebbing, Roger Rutherford, Ron & Gwen Miller, Seth Martin, Pam Ferguson, Brittney Munos, Luc Longcor, Pam Larrick, Shelby Baum, Dave Sheffer

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 - Jerry & Susie Bean
 10:30 - Larry & Michele Bafford

Acolytes:

10:30 - Zedekiah Auten, Jordyn Keck

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash
 10:30 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

Ron & Jan Dobbs, Karen Penn, Becky Johnston

Ride Share Drivers:

8:00 & 9:00 Services & Sunday School - Mark Beal 433-6081
 Sunday School and 10:30 service - Doug Soebbing 875-1836

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

December 17 8:30-12:00 - Carole McClarey
 December 18 8:30-12:00 - Carol Bischoff
 December 19 8:30-12:00 - Karen Keller
 December 20 8:30-12:00 - Sandy Garver
 December 21 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
 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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