

The Central Visitor

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

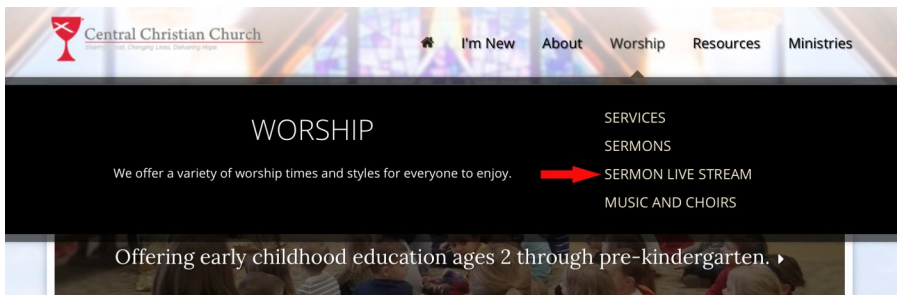
Vol. XC

Decatur, Illinois, February 14, 2018

No. 7

Central's Live Stream Worship

Central works hard to be able to serve our congregation to the best of our ability. Offering many different ways to connect, share, & change. One of those ways is providing a live stream of our 10:30 traditional service. For whatever reason, if you can not be here on Sunday, we want you to be able to still receive the Lord's word. The live stream begins at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday (check the Visitor for announcements regarding canceled streams). If you missed the live stream, don't worry. We provide an archive of all of our services so you can conveniently access them anytime. So whether you're home or on vacation, join us on Sundays.



Keeping God in everyone's corner

When we look at all the needs in God's world, it is easy to feel overwhelmed. We can feel trapped by hopelessness that we are too small to truly make a difference.

But there is hope, and WE are that hope.

Through our Week of Compassion offering through the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), last year we helped families in South Texas and Puerto Rico impacted by hurricanes, offered food and shelter to people as far away as Sierra Leone and Bangladesh who experienced the most severe flooding of the century, and extended God's care to refugees from Syria and Somalia.

Through our Week of Compassion Offering, to be collected the next two Sundays (Feb. 18 and 25), we continue to imagine an unimaginable world where the love of God is felt in every corner. Please consider giving generously.

SUNDAY, February 18, 2018
WORSHIP AT 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.
Faces at the Cross
Text: *Matthew 27:32-61*
Tina Miller



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<https://www.facebook.com/CCDECATUR/>

On February 4th Mark Gifford played an organ concert featuring a Silent Movie: Steamboat Bill Jr.



Congregational Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the annual congregational meeting held on December 3, 2017 are available at the Welcome Center. Stop by during the week or on Sunday and ask for a copy.

Counting On You

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Worship Attendance 178
Sunday School & Small Groups.....72

YOUTH GROUP FEB—MAR

2/18
Ice Skating
1-3 pm



2/25
No Youth Group

3/4
Youth Group
4-6 pm
*Assemble and Paint
Butterfly Garden (houses)*

3/11
Youth Group
4-6 pm
Install Butterfly Garden

3/18
No Youth Group

3/25
Outing at Blue Mound
Recreation Center
4-6 pm

Pancake Breakfast
Saturday, February 24th
8—10 am

Central Christian Church
Great Hall

Adults: \$8
Kids 12 & Under: \$4

Proceeds to benefit Baby Talk and
Decatur Noon Kiwanis Club

Tickets Available in the Office

Minister's Article

"Faces at the Cross – Small Group Opportunity"

There were many faces in the crowd that witnessed the crucifixion of Jesus. Many of them are well known. Of course, there was Judas (who betrayed), Peter (who denied) and Pilate (who washed his hands). But there were many others as well. Lesser known, perhaps, and more likely to be "lost in the crowd." As we journey through the season of Lent at Central, toward the cross of Good Friday and the empty tomb of Easter Sunday, we will look at some of these faces and be invited to see ourselves in each. And throughout, we will be reminded that through each of those faces – as through our own – the face of God shines.

Feb 18 **Introduction – The Face of God**
Feb 25 **The Crowds** (*who exalted Jesus one day and cheered for his Crucifixion the next*)
Mar 4 **Simon of Cyrene** (*who carried Jesus' cross with him*)
Mar 11 **Roman Centurion** (*who confessed Jesus as he died*)
Mar 18 **Two Thieves** (*who were crucified alongside Jesus*)
Mar 25 **Many women** (*who stayed near Jesus as he died*)



Each of the *Faces at the Cross* of Jesus' crucifixion represents a story. A story so important, each was chosen to be part of the story of salvation as it was written through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. During our Lenten sermon series, we will be exploring those stories in greater detail.

In that same spirit of storytelling, we are inviting you to be part of a **Storytelling Small Group** experience. Each week, **three (3) small groups** will be led by different leaders but all will be covering the same material. Participants will be given a "**storytelling prompt**" ahead of time, based on the story we'll be emphasizing in worship that week, and in the small group will share a story from their own life. We believe that stories are sacred, for God dwells in the stories that define us. And we believe there is transforming power in stories, both to unite us and change us. Moreover, we believe that there are more stories within us than we probably realize and the goal of this small group experience is to put us in touch with those stories.

Sunday, February 25 4:00 p.m.

All small group participants are asked to attend an opening orientation session

Tuesdays 1:00 p.m.	Rm 240	Don Martin	(2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27)
Tuesdays 4:00 p.m.	Café	Scott Woolridge	(2/27, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, 3/27)
Thursdays 5:30 p.m.	Café	Tina Miller	(3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29)

At the opening orientation session, we will hand out the storytelling prompts for each week. But here's a sample of what a prompt looks like:

Week 1 – Theme: the Crowds who welcomed Jesus on Palm Sunday and turned on him 5 days later

Minister's Article Continued on Page 3...

Describe a time in your life when you "turned on a dime..."
Tell us about a time in your life when you "followed the crowd..."

Hope you can be part of this Lenten experience. Sign up in the Welcome Center for the small group of your choosing!!!

Blessings – *Michael*

In Sympathy we Mourn...

We grieve the passing of **Jean Friend**, who passed away earlier this week. A service for Jean will be Friday, February 16 at 11 a.m. at Moran and Goebel Funeral Home. Visitation for Jean will be from 4 – 7 p.m. Thursday February 15. Central Christian was near and dear to Jean's heart over the years and her physical presence among us will be missed.

Special Notes of Thanks

Thank you, choir, for the beautiful anthem given to me earlier and sung for me Sunday. Thank you to those who planned and prepared lunch for us musicians and to all of you who blessed me with your kind words, hugs and love.

Marilyn Ward

Central Christian Church would like to thank Property and Fellowship Committees, and Paul Gorden for purchasing a total of 22 new eight-foot resin banquet tables for use at Central. And, with a rebate check earned from the purchase, three six-foot resin tables and a new DVD player for the church's TV were purchased.

Soliday Recognized

Irwin Soliday will be turning 100 this month and, as a veteran of WWII, he will be recognized by the State of Illinois. A representative from the Governor's office will be coming to Central on Friday, 2/23 at 11 a.m. to present Irwin with an Veterans award. If you would like to support Irwin and witness this commendation, you are more than welcome! Congratulations Irwin... for more reasons than one!

Cookies for the Military

Operation Enduring Support is collecting Girl Scout Cookies to send to our military overseas in our Easter mailing. If anyone would like to contribute boxes of cookies, please contact Carol Bischoff at 620-8696. Thank you.

Chalice Class

Title: *2018 Winter Olympics*

Focus: For the next two weeks, athletes from around the world are gathering in PyeongChang, South Korea, to participate in the 2018 Winter Olympics. How can this gathering of athletes and nations inspire us? How does the Olympic ideal intersect with our Christian faith?

Preschool News

This should be a fun week for the preschool students. We are all busy decorating Valentine boxes and bags for our Valentine's Day parties on Wednesday. Everyone is getting pretty excited! We are all also doing other fun activities this week such as painting with vegetables. We had soccer on Monday with coach Sef from Mid-State. Monday soccer is always a highlight for our students. It is such a blessing that we had an anonymous donor cover the cost of this activity for the children. They are thoroughly enjoying the experience!

Jennifer Van Dyke
Preschool Director



Sunday, February 18, 2018

Music:

Offertory—Larry Wade, piano

Anthem—*The Face of God*

8:00-Worship Service

9:00-New Worship, Great Hall

9:00-Fellowship Coffee

10:30-Worship Service

1:00-Cub Scouts Banquet, Great Hall

1:00-Youth Group Ice Skating Outing

Monday (19)

Preschool Closed

Tuesday (20)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

8:00-CC Stitches Retreat, 207 & DR

9:30-Card Ministry, 240

11:15-Staff Meeting, Conference Room

1:00-VBS Planning Mtg, Conference Room

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

Wednesday (21)

10:15-Chapel, Friendship Center

10:30-Minister's Meeting

3:00-Trustee's Meeting, Conference Room

5:00-Dorcas Planning Mtg, Connect. Café

5:30-Church Council Committees Mtg, GH

6:30-Criminal Justice, 207

Thursday (22)

10:00-Alanon, 240

11:30-St. Mary's Widow Support, Diamonds

11:45-CINC, Disciples' Room

4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

5:30-Cont. Worship Leaders Mtg, G. Hall

6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples' Room

6:15-Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall

7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (23)

11:00-Irwin Soliday Recognition, C. Cafe

Saturday (24)

8:00-BT: Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser,
Great Hall

Sunday (25)

8:00-Worship Service

9:00-New Worship, Great Hall

9:00-Fellowship Coffee

10:30-Worship Service

10:30-Heart & Soul Concert

4:00-Storytelling Orientation, Disc. Room

In the Hospital...

DMH:

Thomas Maltas
Eleanor Spracklen

St. Mary's:

No One



Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

650 West William Street
Decatur, IL 62522

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE
PAID



Serving Schedule—Sunday, February 18

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Mary Jane Linton, Brett Swallow

Outreach Communion:

Pat Ash	Mary Jane Linton
Charlotte Ballance	Connie Bordner
Shirley Swarthout	Kim Maple

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 2 - Becky Johnston, Capt., Betty Scott, Bruce Campbell
10:30 - Team 7 - George Virgil, Capt., Linda Virgil, Jon & Jane French

Greeters:

8:00 - Gene & Sandy Garver
10:30 - Jon & Jane French

Acolytes:

8:00 - TBD
10:30 - TBD

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Jim Bednar
10:30 - Larry Pepper

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 - Doug Soebbing	875-1836
10:30 service only - Dale Ford	875-1538

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

February 19	8:30-12:00 - Carole McClarey
February 20	8:30-12:00 - Carol Bischoff
February 21	8:30-12:00 - Karen Keller
February 22	8:30-12:00 - Sandy Garver
February 23	8:30-12:00 - Yvonne Purcell

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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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" Gain	Organist
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 Wright	Lead Caretaker
Jim Denzer.....	Caretaker
Vernon Wimberly.....	Caretaker
Andrew Evans.....	Caretaker

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