

The Central Visitor



Vol. XC

Decatur, Illinois, February 20, 2018

No. 8

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 a 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!

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 this Sunday (Feb. 25), we continue to imagine an unimaginable world where the love of God is felt in every corner. Please consider giving generously.

Iron Sharpens Iron

Calling all men! We will be attending the Springfield, IL. Iron Sharpens Iron Men's Conference on Saturday, March 17 as a group. Please sign up today and join us! This one-day conference is for men of all ages: beginning with men age 13 or older. Cost is only \$47 (\$32 for students) plus \$8 if you want the optional on-site lunch. There will be sixteen different seminars for men at this conference so we know there will be something for every one of us. Ride sharing will be available from the church. Sign up in the Welcome Center. Questions? Call, text or email Paul Gorden at 309-531-2665 or fast2laps@me.com.

SUNDAY, February 25, 2018

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

Faces at the Cross: The Crowds

10:30 Heart & Soul in Worship

Text: *Mark 11:1-10; Mark 15:6-15*

Michael E. Karunas

Food Collection

The food collection for March 4th is cereal and canned soup again. 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.

Women's Book Club

Mon, Mar. 12 - 12:30 pm &

Tues, Mar. 13 - 5:30 pm

at Panera

This Month's Read: *The Forgotten Life of Sarah Grady* by **Mary Lynn**.

Description: All the world it appeared that Sarah Grady had everything--wealth; a handsome, successful husband; and an esteemed place in society. She was beautiful, poised, and well-educated. But undervalued and overlooked in her restrictive 1910's society, Sarah needed more.

Counting On You

Sunday, February 18, 2018

Worship Attendance..... 220

Sunday School & Small Groups.....62

Youth News!

Thirteen youth and seven adults had great fun ice skating!

Thanks Christine Lyman-Harm for the yummy snacks!



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

"The Faces of Lent"

Face. F-A-C-E. A four letter word with at least that many meanings and connotations. As a noun, the word "face" represents our identifying mark. Like snowflakes or stripes on a zebra, no two faces are alike. Your face is uniquely and singularly you! Now, there may be things about your face that we don't like and wish we could change or cover up. But our face bears the imprint of God, who created each of us with a loving touch and delights in our individuality.



As a plural noun – as in faces – we are meant to think of crowds. Faces in the crowd. Faces make up the crowd. Faces shows that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. Each of us being one part of many, sharing a common humanity with all the others. Faces in the crowd can sometimes get lost in the crowd, like a stadium full of spectators at a sporting event. The sea of humanity is so large that it becomes easy to lose the individuality of any one, particular face.

As a verb, "face" refers to our posture; how and in which direction we are standing. It means to look at; to see; to gaze upon – as when we face the mirror and see our reflection in it. But the verb "face" can also mean to confront; to call things for what they are; not to deny the truth but to admit and accept it, no matter how difficult that might be.

The season of Lent is about the word "face." It's about facing the cross – seeing and gazing upon the sacrifice of Christ; his death and resurrection. It's about confronting our own sin – for which Jesus died to save us. Sin is about "missing the mark" of perfection; failing to adequately live by God's Word and will. The vast majority of sins are committed not because we mean to, but rather in spite of the fact that we don't. We certainly don't try to miss the mark, but even in spite of our best efforts, we fall short of the glory of God.

Lent is about confronting that reality; accepting that we are part of a crowd – a common humanity, whose nature it is to do the very thing we shouldn't do and to fail to do the very thing we should. Lent is about not hiding our face in the crowd and hoping we don't have to admit this truth. Rather it is about accepting the responsibility that we all have – as unique individuals – to examine ourselves and admit our need for Christ; his forgiveness; his grace. No one can do that work for us, but us. And Lent is God's invitation to accept this important and saving work.

Which is why we wear ashes on our faces on Ash Wednesday, which signals the beginning of Lent. To remind us of our brokenness; our need for Christ; and our willingness to keep facing the cross throughout our life of faith. For it is "In the cross, in the cross, that our individual souls will find their ultimate rest."

Blessings – *Michael*

Elite Energy Show Choir's

Spaghetti Dinner



Tuesday, February 27th, 2018 @ 7:00pm

Central Christian Church
650 West William Street

Tickets: \$7.00
(Dine In or Carry Out)

Meal Includes:
*Spaghetti *Salad *Roll *Drink *Dessert

Please join us at **8pm** in the sanctuary of Central Christian Church for inspirational music by **Heart and Soul** and **Elite Energy!**

****This portion of the night is FREE to the public****

Special Fundraiser and Concert

February 27

Decatur's high school show choir *Elite Energy* will be hosting a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser in Central's Great Hall on **Tuesday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m.** During dinner, members of *Elite Energy* will be singing solos. Tickets are **\$7.00** and you can obtain them by contacting central@cccdisciples.org, or calling 428-4336. Then, at **8:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary *Elite Energy* will be offering a FREE mini-concert with our own *Heart and Soul*. *Heart and Soul* will sing a few numbers and then *Elite Energy* will offer a few of their own, including one featuring an extended solo by Thomas Karunas. There will be a freewill offering collected at the 8:00 concert in the sanctuary for those that choose to donate. Come for one or both events, but you will enjoy some wonderful music by two of Decatur's wonderful choral ensembles.



Sunday, February 25, 2018

Music:
10:30-Worship Service with Heart & Soul
8:00-Worship Service
9:00-New Worship, Great Hall
9:00-Fellowship Coffee
9:00-Youth Sunday School Classes
9:15-Adult Sunday School Classes
9:45-Heart & Soul Gather, Chapel
1:00-Mission Trip Meeting, Conn. Café
4:00-Storytelling Orientation, Disc. Room

Monday (26)

9:20-Preschool 9am Service Tour, G. Hall
10:00-Midstate Soccer, Great Hall
5:00-Veterans, Great Hall

Tuesday (27)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
11:45-Preschool staff Meeting
1:00-Don Martin's Small Group, 240
4:00-Scott Woolridge Small Group, CC
6:30-Heart & Soul, Choir Rm & Conn. Café
7:00-Elite Energy Spaghetti Dinner, G. Hall
8:00-Elite Energy & Heart & Soul Concert

Wednesday (28)

10:15-Chapel, Friendship Center

Thursday (1)

10:00-Alanon, 240
4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
5:30-Tina Miller Small Group, Conn. Café
5:30-Cont. Worship Rehearsal, Great Hall
6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples' Room
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (2)

Saturday (3)

Sunday (4)

8:00-Worship Service
9:00-New Worship, Great Hall
9:00-Fellowship Coffee
10:30-Worship Service
4:00-Joseph Welch Concert
4:00-Youth Group: Butterfly House
Project Part 1

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: *Religious Satire*

Focus: A recent book called "God Mocks" explores the history of satire in the religious world. How effective has satire been in bringing social change? To what extent does religious satire still speak to us today?

Preschool News

This week, the Pre-K Class will be taking a tour of Central Christian Church. They will be stopping along the way to talk to various volunteers and church employees about what their roles are in the church.

The 4's Class is taking a field trip to Rock Springs on Wednesday to learn about animals in winter. They are also kicking off their grocery store unit.

The 3's classes are continuing to learn about feelings and are starting a unit about exploring the alphabet.

Jennifer Van Dyke
Preschool Director



Follow Central Christian Church on Facebook

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

In the Hospital...

DMH:
Carol Stevens

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 25

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Shirley Swarthout, Kim Maple

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 3 - Dennis Downey, Capt., Jim & Pamela Bednar

10:30 - Team 8 - Pamela Ferguson, Capt., Doug Soebbing

Greeters:

8:00 - Greg & Jo Carter

10:30 - Keith & Jeannie Backes

Acolytes:

8:00 - *Open*

10:30 - Reese Mahannah, Jane Osman

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash

10:30 - Mike Kirby

Preparation of Communion:

Suzie Miller, Jim & Myra Hinze, Kim Miller

Van Drivers:

8:00 service & 9:15 Sunday School - Dave Sheffer 853-2779

9:15 Sunday School and 10:30 service –Keith Backes 433-0848

10:30 service only - Andy Fulk 763-6624

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

February 26 8:30-12:00 - Karen Baird

February 27 8:30-12:00 - Katie Miller

February 28 8:30-12:00 - Judy Ford

March 1 8:30-12:00 - Karen Penn

March 2 8:30-12:00 - Roberta Gorden

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
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 WrightLead Caretaker
Jim Denzer.....Caretaker
Vernon Wimberly.....Caretaker
Andrew Evans.....Caretaker

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

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