

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 28, 2018

No. 9

Sanctuary Concert Series

JOSEPH WELCH—PIANO/VOCALISTS CONCERT ROMANTIC QUARTETS

Sunday, March 4, 4:00 p.m.

Congratulations Irwin!!!

Last Friday, there were representatives from the governor's Office of Veteran Affairs presenting Irwin Soliday with special recognition for his 100th birthday and service to our country in WWII. It was a beautiful and fitting tribute.



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.

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.

SUNDAY, March 4, 2018

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

The Faces of Lent: Simon of Cyrene

Text: *Mark 15:16-26*

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 25, 2018

Worship Attendance 301

Sunday School & Small Groups.....57

"Thoughts on Charities and the New Tax Law"

Two months ago Congress passed a bill greatly affecting income taxes and the President signed it into law. One month ago I attended a conference of Disciples of Christ clergy on stewardship where this new law was discussed. Though it is designed to make it easier for people to file their taxes, it's the ease in filing your tax return that has charities (like Central) concerned. One major change in the law pertains to doubling the standard deduction from \$12,000 to \$24,000 for a joint return. This has the effect of encouraging more people not to itemize deductions. With the deductibility of state and local taxes capped at \$5,000 a year, a couple would have to donate more than \$19,000 to charities in a tax year to benefit from itemizing. While some donors may exceed this amount, most are likely far below. There is some concern among charities and churches that donations will decrease due to these changes.

I have to believe that most donors will continue to support their church or charity because they know the value of its mission. This is certainly how I perceive our donors at Central. You/we do not donate simply for the tax benefit. Still having faith that you will continue to support Central, I want to offer a few suggestions that I've learned about how you can achieve greater savings on your tax return.

- 1) If you are over 70 ½ and taking required minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA or 401(k), you can instruct the investment broker that you wish to have the RMD sent directly to Central. In doing so you are not required to report the income on your tax return nor are you allowed to claim the charitable contribution, unless the deductibility exceeds the \$24,000 threshold.
- 2) A second way of saving on your income taxes is by "bunching" your contributions. This is combining two years of contributions into the same tax year. Then in the following year you wouldn't make any contributions. A number of Central's members already do this. They give their normal donations throughout the year and then make a large donation in December prepaying the next year's pledge. In following this concept bigger donors can easily surpass the \$24,000 standard deduction and get a tax savings in the year when bunching.
- 3) A third way of saving taxes is by donating assets (i.e. stock) to the church that you have held for more than one year and which have gone up in value. In doing so you are able to claim the full value of the appreciated asset as an itemized deduction while avoiding having to report the transaction for capital gains tax purposes. Selling the asset and giving the cash to the church would require tax to be paid on the capital gain.

Of course, I am not a tax professional. You should definitely discuss these concepts with your tax advisor if you are interested in following any of these strategies. And if you choose, there is someone in our financial office here at the church who is likewise willing to discuss these with you in more detail. Central has been very blessed over the years of having many generous donors. And I don't believe a change in the tax law will result in a reduction to our individual or collective generosity.

Blessings – *Michael*

THANK YOU CACS & PEACE and
JUSTICE TEAMS

The Parent Leadership Training
Initiative - Macon County enjoyed
the meals you purchased and
delivered last week!

**MARCH
YOUTH GROUP**

The purpose of the **Green Chalice Program** is to encourage and assist local congregations/DOC Offices and Assemblies who wish to live out their faith by caring for creation. This program is designed to recognize congregations for being good stewards of God's creation. It also aims to empower congregations/assemblies with ideas and resources to enable them to walk gently on the earth. We are building a butterfly garden!

March 4

Youth Group
4-6 pm

Disciples' Room

Build and paint butterfly houses

March 11

Youth Group
4-6 pm

Outdoors

Plant bushes and place butterfly
houses/yard clean-up

March 18

No Youth Group

March 25

Blue Mound Outing
3-5 pm

Blue Mound Community Center

DORCAS WOMEN ARE READY FOR SPRING!

ALL Central women are invited to Dorcas Disciples' Tuesday, March 20th meeting. It will be in the Disciples Room at 6:30 p.m. We are happy to have Amy Zietlow present our program. Based on her book, Homeward Bound, Amy will share with us how the "church" can support caregivers and their aging/ill loved ones. Refreshments and a business meeting will follow. Please contact Nancy Ellen Taylor at 877-2495 or xstr@sbcglobal.net to make your reservation for our March 20th meeting.

Easter Lilies on Sale

The Worship Department is selling lilies again this year for Easter decorating in the sanctuary. You may purchase a lily for **\$14.50** in memory of a loved one who has died or to honor the life of one who is still living. Lilies are on sale in the Friendship Center on Sunday, **March 18th** or in the office through Monday, **March 26th**. Just be sure to let us know the name of the person you are honoring. You will then be welcome to take the lily after the 10:30 Easter Sunday services or you can pick them up through Wednesday, April 4th. Please note that the church and office will be closed on Monday, April 2nd.

Good Samaritan Lunch

Good Sam is coming up on the 10th of this month. We need 5 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.

Special Note of Thanks

I would like to thank everyone for your cards, calls and visits while I was sick, and especially your prayers. What a difference they made.

Evelyn Sperry

Dear Central friends,

Thank you for all the beautiful cards, prayers, hospital visits, and words of encouragement due to my recent hip replacements surgery. You're the best!

Sincerely
Mickie Wilmot

Chalice Class

Title: *Polling*

Focus: Polls play a key role in gauging public opinion in the United States. What is the history of polling in America, and why are we so reliant upon them? What strategies can we use to determine if they are trustworthy? How can we use polling data as a useful tool as we live out our faith?

Preschool News

This week, the 3 year old classes are continuing their exploration of letters. The 4's class is talking about healthy foods. They are making pizzas this week. It's letter "F" week for the Pre-K class. They are making homemade French fries and fruit salad. On Sunday, March 11th, the preschool will be hosting a Scholastic Book Fair in the Friendship Center. This would be a great time to pick up an Easter gift for someone. On March 12th, we will begin public registration for preschool this fall. If you know of anyone who may be interested, please invite them to stop by for a visit.

Jennifer Van Dyke
Director



Sunday, March 4, 2018

Music:

Offertory-Rebecca Husar, cello

Anthem-*Lenten Carol*

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

4:00-Youth Group: Butterfly House

Project Part 1

4:00-Joseph Welch Piano/Vocalist Concert

Monday (5)

9:00-Preschool In-House Registration

10:00-Operations Meeting, Conference Rm

10:00-PS: Midstate Soccer, Great Hall

Tuesday (6)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:00-Preschool In-House Registration

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

9:30-Card Ministry, 240

9:30-PS: 4's Fitness Week, Disciples' Room

11:15-Staff Meeting, Conference Room

1:00-Don's Small Group, 240

4:00-Scott's Small Group, Connection Café

5:30-Concert Committee Mtg, Disc. Room

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

Wednesday (7)

9:00-Preschool In-House Registration

9:30-PS: 4's Fitness Week, Disciples' Room

10:15-Chapel, Friendship Center

10:30-Minister's Meeting

Thursday (8)

9:00-Preschool In-House Registration

10:00-Al-Anon, 240

4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

5:30-Tina's Small Group, Connection Café

5:30-Cont. Worship Rehearsal, Great Hall

6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples' Room

7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (9)

9:00-Preschool In-House Registration

Saturday (10)

4:00-Heart & Soul Concert, 1st Pres. Normal IL

Sunday (11)

TIME CHANGE! TURN CLOCKS AHEAD 1 HOUR!

8:00-Worship Service

8:00-Preschool Book fair for Church, F. Center

9:00-New Worship, Great Hall

9:00-Fellowship Coffee

10:30-Worship Service

12:00-Driver's Meeting, Disciples' Room

4:00-Youth Group: Butterfly Project Part 2

6:00-Just Flicks, First Presbyterian Church

In the Hospital...

DMH:

Becky Johnston

St. Mary's:

Deborah Farrell



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

PERIODICAL
 POSTAGE
 PAID



Serving Schedule—Sunday, March 4

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Keith Backes, Zach Martin

Imboden Creek:

Mark Beal, Tom Spry

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

Greeters:

8:00 - Al & Chris Fagin, Gail Prince
 10:30 - David Ash, Suzie Miller

Acolytes:

8:00 - *Open*
 10:30 - Isabella Karunas

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Greg Carter
 10:30 - Larry Pepper

Preparation of Communion:

Christine Lyman-Harm, Larry & Michele Bafford, Janelle Beedle

Van Drivers:

8:00 service & 9:15 Sunday School - Mark Beal 433-6081
 9:15 Sunday School and 10:30 service -Kevin Wilmot 875-7767
 10:30 service only - Brett Swallow 876-7205

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

March 5 8:30-12:00 - Dave Flanders
 March 6 8:30-12:00 - Gretchen Kirby
 March 7 8:30-12:00 - Suzie Miller
 March 8 8:30-12:00 - Nancy Taylor
 March 9 8:30-12:00 - Cindy Soebbing

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Telephone (217)428-4336 FAX (217)428-1700
www.cccdisciples.org
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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" 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	2	207
6th grade - 12th grade	2R	280
Kindergarten - 5th grade	2R	230
Nursery (Birth - 5 years old)	1R	150

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