

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, March 21, 2018

No. 12

Financial Peace University

The Stewardship Department is sponsoring **Financial Peace University** at Central Christian. FPU is based on Dave Ramsey's personal money management values. FPU at Central will be led by **Gerri Munos**, who is a graduate of the class. The first FPU class at Central will be held on **Mondays** from **6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** beginning on **April 9** and concluding **June 11**. The class is open to all and there is a **cost of \$110** (for either a single or a couple). The cost is purely for the materials offered by FPU and well worth the investment. If you are interested in: a) registering for the class, call the church office (428-4336) and reserve your place; b) learning more about FPU, contact Gerri Munos (munos5@comcast.net) or (mkarunas@ccdisciples.org).



- *Nearly 5 Million people have taken an FPU course*
- ***81%** of couples do a monthly zero-based budget after taking FPU*
- ***89%** of FPU participants have at least a \$1000 emergency fund within 10 weeks*

Easter Offering 2018: Overflowing!

The grace of God is overflowing in the gift we have in Jesus Christ! God walked among us in Jesus, and continues to pour himself out to us in unbounded treasures. Our response to this loving God can only be compassion, joy, faith, gratitude and love.

The Easter offering supports Disciples ministries that overflow "from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth." Our efforts throughout the world are to bring the mercy of Christ to those who suffer. Please consider prayerfully your gift to this year's Easter Offering to be received March 25 and April 1.

Marguerite Karl Memorial Service

Monday, March 26 at 11:00 am at Brintlinger & Earl Funeral Home
2827 N. Oakland, Decatur, IL

In lieu of flowers, memorials to the charity of the donor's choice or an act of kindness toward someone in Marguerite's memory.

SUNDAY, March 25, 2018

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

Faces at the Cross: Many Women

Text: *Mark 15: 40-47*

Michael E. Karunas

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 25th** 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.

Food Collection

The food collection for April 1st 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.*

Counting On You

Sunday, March 18, 2018

Worship Attendance 261

Sunday School & Small Groups.....39

March 25, 2018 — PALM SUNDAY

**PALM PARADE AND SPECIAL
CHILDREN'S MOMENT**

No Sunday School Today

9 am service

meet at **8:45 am**

**Lobby outside the downstairs
Sanctuary**

10:30 am service

meet at **10:15 am**

**Gallery outside the upstairs
Sanctuary**

April 1, 2018—EASTER SUNDAY

EGG HUNT AND STORY

1000 eggs!

No Sunday School Today

9:00 am

Children's Lobby (Egg Hunt)

9:40 am

Disciples Room (Story and Snacks)

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR
EASTER EGG HUNT**

Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place on **April 1 at 9:00 a.m.**

We have the following areas waiting for volunteers to fill. If any of them interest you, call the church office or email tmiller@cccdisciples.org with your name, item you are bringing and your email.

Note: fruit, coffee cakes etc... should be brought to church by 8:00 a.m. Easter morning.

- Fresh Fruit Trays (7 needed) (fruit salad, fruit kabobs, fresh fruit on trays... Your choice!)
- Baked Breakfasts Goods (7 needed) (purchase or bake: donuts, coffee cake, muffins, banana bread etc.... Your choice!)
- Clean up in the Disciples Room (4 needed)
It shouldn't take long with lots of hands on deck.

Minister's Article

"Lost and Found"

As we continue to move through Lent, I have been enjoying spending time with the different "faces in the crowd" that were present on Christ's journey to the cross. Two of those "faces" have preoccupied my thoughts more than others this past week. The first is not just one face but many – the crowds that turned their backs and "deserted" him instead of standing up for him. The second is the penitent (or second) criminal on the cross next to Christ who was the subject of our sermon this past Sunday.

The idea that the crowds – or at least some in the crowd – turn on Jesus is the subject of endless discussion. We don't know anything about the particular individuals who may have praised Jesus one day but turned on him the next. We know them only as a group; in aggregate. But there were clearly individuals among them that had been "following" Jesus, yet ultimately desert him. Just like the rest of the twelve – the appointed Disciples – who ran away when Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The second criminal who dies next to Jesus has the first "deathbed conversion" on record. He is actively dying alongside Jesus, has not been baptized, yet with his final breath utters a beautiful confession of faith: *"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."* Whereupon Jesus rewards that faith by proclaiming that *"Today you shall be with me in paradise."* Not at some future time. Not after you "put in your dues." Right here. Right now.

Scripture expertly uses these two characters to show us that *when* doesn't matter so much with Jesus. He doesn't care if you're the first one or the last one to come to the party, he cares only *that* you're at the party. He wants us inside the party when the party begins. How you get there or what time you arrive is of far smaller significance. Likewise, he doesn't care if you're the first to desert him or the last to desert him – if you desert him by yourself or among a group of others - only *that* you've deserted him. When that happens, even though we've lasted longer than others, we're still responsible for abandoning.

The world loves to compare. We are always, whether consciously or unconsciously, looking at ourselves in comparison to others. *We may be bad*, we think, *but at least we're not as bad as they are.* The problem with this, when it comes to our spirituality, is that as when we find someone worse off than we are, we are mistakenly fooled into thinking we don't have to change; don't have to improve.

Lent is our reminder that none of the ways the world compares matters to God. God doesn't care if you're better than your neighbor or that you're closer to God than the guy across the street. God cares that you are better period; that you are closer period! If God cares anything about comparison, it's in comparing us to who and where we were yesterday. And comparing who and where we'll be tomorrow with where and who we are today. In that respect, we all fall short. We're all in need of repentance – like all of those who abandoned Jesus. But, like the second criminal, we are also still welcome; still invited into the kingdom; still given an opportunity to receive the kingdom today.

Blessings – **Michael**

MILLIKIN UNIVERSITY—MUSIC FOR HOLY WEEK

Tuesday, March 27, 7:30 p.m.

Music for Holy Week by Millikin's two mixed choirs and chamber orchestra.

University Choir - Brad Holmes, conductor

Collegiate Chorale - Guy Forbes, conductor

Admission \$10.00

Maundy Thursday Service

March 29, 6:30 p.m. — Great Hall

Experience the reenactment of the Lord's Supper around a large table. You will be given communion, have an opportunity to sing hymns and walk with Jesus through the evening of prayer and arrest.

Elderberries celebrate spring

Come celebrate with us the start of spring in the Great Hall on Wednesday, **April 11**.

Program at 11:30; Lunch at noon.

Our meal will be chicken salad, croissant, Jell-O salad, fresh fruit, muffin, and dessert (all of this for only \$5). Don't forget to sign up on the pew pad on Sunday or call the church office by Monday, April 9.



Welcome New Arrival!

Arya Elizabeth Clark (pronounced Aria) arrived at 12:53 p.m. Tuesday, March 13, in Decatur Memorial Hospital. She weighed 6 pounds 14 ounces, and has a full head of dark hair. Proud parents are Matt and Debra Clark. Equally proud grandparents include Andy and Theresa Fulk.

Special Notes of Thanks

Thank you for including me in the discussion of my book at Central's Book Clubs. I enjoyed both clubs and I certainly am enjoying the beautiful flowers you sent.

Lynn Potter (Mary Lynn)

Chalice Class

Title: *Tech Addiction*

Focus: A number of former Facebook and Google employees recently launched a campaign to raise public awareness about the addictive potential of smartphones and social media. What does it mean to be addicted to technology, and what are some possible solutions? How does our faith shape our use of technology and our response to tech addiction?

Preschool News

This week the 3 year old classes took a field trip to Sloan's Calzones. They made their own pizza's and decorated pizza boxes. They also rode the trolley to the Decatur Arts Council to see the exhibits. The 4 year old class and Pre-K class spent the week doing egg activities and preparing for their Easter parties. Next week we will be on spring break. Thank you for the donations for CASA. \$326.83 was donated! We will use this money to purchase books from the Scholastic Book Fair for children in foster care who have court appointed advocates. An anonymous donor is bringing us another 100 books to add to our donation. We still have openings in our 2's and 3's programs for the fall. If you know anyone who may be interested, please have them give us a call or stop by and see us.

Jennifer Van Dyke
Director



Sunday, March 25, 2018

PALM SUNDAY!

Music:

Offertory-Women's Chorus

Anthem-Nearer My God To Thee

Kathy Crouch, cello

8:00-Worship Service

9:00-New Worship, Great Hall

9:00-Fellowship Coffee

9:15-Adult Sunday School Classes

1:30-Mission Trip Meeting, Connection Café

2:30-Youth Group Outing, Blue Mound
Rec. Center

Monday (26)

12:00-IPA, Disciples Room

5:00-Veterans, Great Hall

5:15-PSC Meeting, Conference Room

Tuesday (27)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

12:00-Millikin Choirs Setup & Rehearsal

1:00-Don's Small Group, 240

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

5:30-Concert Series Meeting, Disc. Rooms

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

7:30-Millikin Music for Holy Week Concert

Wednesday (28)

5:30-Directory Meeting, Connection Café

Thursday (29)

10:00-Al-Anon, 240

4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

5:30-Tina's Small Group, 240

6:30-Maundy Thursday Service, Great Hall

7:30-Chancel & Brass Choir Rehearsal

Friday (30)

Saturday (31)

10:00-Easter Decorating, Disciples' Room

1:00-Cont. Worship Rehearsal, Great Hall

1:00-Easter Decorating, Great Hall

Sunday (1)

EASTER SUNDAY!

8:00-Worship Service

9:00-New Worship, Great Hall

9:00-Fellowship Coffee

9:00-Easter Egg Hunt

10:30-Worship Service

In the Hospital...

DMH:

Liz Campbell

St. Mary's:

No One



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

PERIODICAL
 POSTAGE
 PAID



Serving Schedule—Sunday, March 25, 2018

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Charlotte Ballance, Connie Bordner

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 2 - Becky Johnston, Capt., Betty Scott, Bruce Campbell

10:30 - Team 7 - George Virgil, Capt., Linda Virgil, Jon & Jane French

Greeters:

8:00 - Ken & Julie Jacoby, Ed & Joy Adams

10:30 - Larry & Debbie Foster

Acolytes:

8:00 - Open

10:30 - Audrey Miller, Jordyn Keck

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Greg Carter

10:30 - Mike Kirby

Preparation of Communion:

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

Ride Share Drivers:

8:00 & 9:00 Services & Sunday School - Andy Fulk 763-6624

Sunday School and 10:30 service – Brett Swallow 876-7205

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

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

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

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

March 29 8:30-12:00 - Mary Jane Oliver

March 30 8:30-12:00 - Yvonne Purcell

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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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