

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, April 25, 2018

No. 17

Preschool Sunday May 6!!!

The worship schedule for May 6 will be slightly different. The **8:00** and **9:00** services will be as normal, with Michael preaching. At **10:30**, however, we are inviting our preschool families to join us for worship and giving a special invitation to the families with children in our church. There will be a slightly extended children's message featuring a **Puppet Show!** Afterward, the children will be dismissed for a special program and we will continue with the service, which will also include a special recognition of our preschool teachers and board members. Michael will still tie in the theme from the sermon series in the **invitation to**

discipleship so that if you're attending 10:30 worship that day, you won't be missing out on that week's portion of the Great Exchange series. After 10:30 worship, families of children from the preschool and church will be invited to lunch in the Great Hall with games to follow.

Memorial Tree

A Somerset Maple Memorial Tree was planted north of the church April 13 to honor Becky Johnston's parents, **Robert and Wanda Webb**. The tree is pictured with students from Central's Preschool.



SUNDAY, April 29, 2018

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

The Great Exchange: Disciples

Text: *John 20:19-23*

Tina Miller

Baby Dedication this Sunday!

At the 10:30 service April 29, Brian Bottom and Stephani Sargeant will transfer their membership to Central! Not only that, but they will also bring their son, Cruz Lee Bottom, to be dedicated! This is certainly joyful news. Make sure to come to the 10:30 service this Sunday if you wish to support and participate in this event.



Food Collection

The collection for May 6th is cereal and canned pasta. As always, the shopping cart is in the Connection Café. Donations will be delivered to the Northeast Community Fund.

Counting On You

Sunday, April 22, 2018

Worship Attendance 278

Sunday School & Small Groups..... 80

"A-Ha Moments"



FRENCH FRY RUN RESULTS

On Sunday, Christine Lyman-Harm and Janet Lyman defended their title as makers of the best "fries" in Decatur. We went to McDonald's, Wendy's, and Culvers, but Christine and Janet blew them all away. This makes three years in a row, and they are early favorites to take the crown next year.

David Martin

NO YOUTH GROUP, APRIL 29

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Please return completed scholarship applications by May 4 at 3 pm.

YOUTH TALENT SHOW

May 6
6 pm
Great Hall



In our scripture last Sunday (John 20:1-10), one of Jesus' disciples had a profound "A-Ha" moment. He's officially called the "Other Disciple" (as compared to Peter), or "the Beloved Disciple" (because he's known as the "one whom Jesus loved"). Tradition claims that he is John the author of the Gospel and that's how we referred to him in the sermon. When he arrived at the tomb on the first Easter, entered the tomb and saw the stone rolled away and linen wrappings on the ground, he "sees and believes." At that moment, everything that Jesus had done and said came back to him and a light of faith turned on within him. "A-Ha," he realized, "I get it now." He didn't yet understand the full extent of the resurrection, but faith changed him.

As it so happens, I finished a book this past Saturday called "The Best of Enemies: Race and Redemption in the New South." It's the true story of a former Grand Cyclops of the KKK and an African-American female neighborhood organizer working together on a school desegregation project in Durham, NC, in the early 1970s. From this work developed an enduring friendship such that when CP Ellis died in 2005, Ann Atwater was the only non-family member to attend the funeral. Ellis, the former Grand Cyclops, had an "A-Ha" moment through his interactions with Atwater. But author Osha Gray Davidson writes this about it: "*The single unifying element in the history of transformations in the West, (such as) Saul's conversion on the road to Damascus ... is the instantaneousness of the process ... the psychological equivalent of a lightning strike...*" This was not Ellis' experience. Just because he had discovered a commonality of experience between himself and Atwater didn't mean he would immediately leave the Klan and join the NAACP. But still, it is no exaggeration to say that C.P. had been profoundly moved by the experience and even changed by it – although he could not have said how. Perhaps the best way of putting it is to say that a door previously unknown to C.P. had been opened.

Ellis' "A-ha" moment was not sudden change, but more like a slow, meandering journey of transformation and it echoed in my mind as I heard Jodie Walwer's testimony in worship on Sunday. She described part of her life story, reflecting honestly on a state of discontentment she was experiencing several years ago; how this led to continual prayer about her situation but the realization that no sudden lights or "neon signs" were given in return; yet how God guided her to a conversation with a career counselor and how that one conversation began a long and slow – but steady – path toward career change, and ultimate hope from an initial place of despair.

God moves in each of our lives in different ways. Sometimes they are with sudden lightning flashes or in single moments of new perspective and understanding. And sometimes they are in ways that shape and refine us over days, weeks, months and possibly years. As you reflect on your own life story, how has God worked in your life to create transformation within you? How has the process of coming to "A-Ha" unfolded in your life?

Blessings – Michael

Congratulations Ashely and Alex Sparks!!!

We celebrate with our administrative assistant Ashely and her husband Alex on the arrival of Baby Faye into their (and our) family. Faye Lorraine Sparks was born on April 20. We wish Ashely well in the remainder of her maternity leave and look forward to meeting Faye in person in the near future.



Millikin University Children's Choirs Concert

Saturday, April 28, 4 p.m.

Millikin's Children's Choir program is made up of three choirs and is open to students ages 5-18. Each choir rehearses on Tuesday afternoons and has several performances each semester. Christine Smith is the director.

Millikin University Spring Choral Concerts

Sunday, April 29, 2:00 & 6:00 p.m.

Millikin's three choirs — Millikin Women, conducted by Beth Holmes; Millikin Men, conducted by Brad Holmes; and the Collegiate Chorale conducted by Guy Forbes — will perform their final concerts of the academic year.

ChristCare Stitchers Retreat

Tuesday, May 15, 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Please join us for a sewing retreat in the Disciples' Room and Room 207.

We Appreciate Our Staff!

Tuesday, May 15, 12:00 Noon

Dorcas members will host a Staff Appreciation Luncheon in the Great Hall. Individual invitations have been sent to preschool, Baby TALK and church staff. Staff please RSVP by Tuesday, May 8th, by completing the bottom portion of your invitation and placing it in the Dorcas mailbox in the church office. Dorcas ladies will meet for a brief business meeting at 11:30 a.m. prior to the luncheon. If you haven't already, please make your luncheon reservation by Tuesday, May 8th, by contacting Nancy Ellen Taylor at 877-2495 (cell 620-5639) or xstr@sbcglobal.net.

Chalice Class

Over the past few weeks, teachers in several states have participated in walkouts over pay, benefits, and school funding. Why are so many walkouts happening right now? How does our faith help us understand and respond to these teachers' concerns?

Preschool News

We had a fantastic time last week for Parents Day! Many children are asking when we are going to do it again...

This week the 3's classes are working on nursery rhymes. They are playing with puppets and acting out scenes. It's been fun to take a peek in the rooms as we are passing by. The students are really having fun with this learning unit.

The 4's and Pre-K classes are going to Shiloh Stables this week to learn about caring for horses. They will also go on a horseback ride. This is our first time to go to Shiloh Stables, so we are excited to see what it's like.

Jennifer Van Dyke
Director

Sunday, April 29, 2018

Music:

Offertory-Connie Bordner, Don Martin
Anthem-*Come Ye Disconsolate*, Chancel Choir
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
1:00-Mission Trip Meeting, Disciples' Room
2:00-Millikin University Spring Concert
NO YOUTH GROUP
6:00-Millikin University Spring Concert

Monday (30)

5:00-Veterans, Great Hall
6:00-Financial Peace University, Disciples' Room

Tuesday (1)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
9:30-Card Ministry, 240
10:30-ACE Sign meeting
11:15-Staff meeting, Conference Room
5:30-Spanish Class, 240
5:30-Personnel meeting, 201
6:30-Heart & Soul, Choir Rm & Conn. Café
7:00-Opus 24 rehearsal

Wednesday (2)

10:15-Preschool Chapel, Friendship Center
10:30-Ministers' Meeting
1:00-Artwork Committee, Connection Café

Thursday (3)

10:00-Al-Anon, 240
4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café
5:30-Spanish Class, 240
6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples' Room
6:30-Decatur Needle Arts, 207
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (4)

3:00-SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE

Saturday (5)

1:00-Contemporary Worship rehearsal, GH

Sunday (6)

8:00-Worship Service
9:00-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall
9:00-Fellowship Coffee
10:30-Worship Service
10:30-Preschool Sunday, gathering in Disciples' Room after Children's Message
6:00-Youth Group Talent Show, Great Hall

In the Hospital...

DMH:
No One

St. Mary's:
No One



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

PERIODICAL
 POSTAGE
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Serving Schedule—Sunday, April 29, 2018

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Kevin Wilmot, Mark Beal

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 - Norm & Darla Lienemann
 10:30 - Bob & Mary Jane Linton

Acolytes:

8:00 - Open
 10:30 - Amilia Bradford, Jordyn Keck

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash
 10:30 - Jim Hinze

Preparation of Communion:

Donna Dash, Gregg & Linda Foltz

Ride Share Drivers:

8:00 & 9:00 Services & Sunday School - Mark Beal 433-6081
 Sunday School and 10:30 service - Kevin Wilmot 875-7767

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

April 30 8:30-12:00 - Katie Miller
 May 1 8:30-12:00 - Gretchen Kirby
 May 2 8:30-12:00 - Suzie Miller
 May 3 8:30-12:00 - Karen Penn
 May 4 8:30-12:00 - Roberta Gorden

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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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