

# 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 11, 2018

No. 15

## SILVAN NEGRUTIU AND SAMIR GOLESCU— PIANO CONCERT

Sunday, April 15, 4:00 p.m.



Internationally acclaimed pianist Silvan Negrutiu has performed concerts around the world, from Washington DC to Ireland, Bucharest, and Hong Kong. He appeared as soloist with prestigious orchestras including the Romanian Radio Chamber Orchestra, Alicante Philharmonic, George Enescu Philharmonic and Dublin Symphony Orchestra.

He currently resides in Decatur, Illinois, where he holds the position of Assistant Professor of Piano and Coordinator of Keyboard Studies at Millikin University.

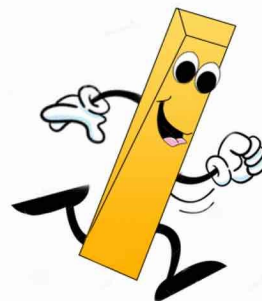
Samir Golescu has been making beautiful music at University Place Christian Church in Champaign, Illinois since 1999. He received his Masters in Piano Performance and Doctor of Musical Arts both from the University of Illinois School of Music. Born and raised in Romania, Samir is an excellent teacher, giving private piano instruction as well as periodically teaching courses on the U of I campus.

## Heart and Soul Talent Show

Tuesday, April 17, 6:30 p.m.

Friendship Center

The singers of Heart and Soul are eager to share their talents with you. This will be a fun evening. Invite your friends to come with you.



## Youth Group Schedule

Sunday, April 15

4-6 p.m.

Great Hall

Sunday, April 22

4-6 p.m.

French Fry Run

Sunday, April 29

No Youth Group

**SUNDAY, April 15, 2018**  
WORSHIP AT 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.  
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.  
**The Great Exchange: Hope for Defeat**  
Text: *John 20:1-10*  
Michael E. Karunas

**Counting On You**  
**Sunday, April 8, 2018**  
Worship Attendance ..... 274  
Sunday School & Small Groups.....72

## Vacation Bible School Volunteer

### Rally Picnic

Sunday, April 22, 5 p.m.  
At Coates Park (near St. Peter's  
AME where South Church St.  
dead ends at Greenwood  
just south of Decatur St.)

Please RSVP to 428-4336 or  
central@cccdisciples.org

Come enjoy a picnic of BBQ, sides  
and dessert, learn more about our  
VBS program for 2018, and pray  
for the young people who will  
attend!

The VBS theme and dates are:

*Peace Lab: Discovering God's Way  
of Peace*

June 18-22, 9am-noon

Our Bible stories for the week  
will help children and youth  
learn how to be God's  
peacemakers in the world!

We need more than 100  
volunteers! There are lots  
of ways to serve!

VBS will be hosted by Central  
Christian Church, First Lutheran  
and Holy Cross Lutheran.

*Hope to see you there,  
Amy, Tina and Kelly (directors)*



## Minister's Article

### "I Come to the Garden..."

What's your favorite Easter symbol? There is no shortage of options from which to choose. Among the secular choices, there are bunnies, chicks, colored eggs, jelly beans and all types of chocolate. On the purely sacred side, there is (of course) the empty cross and tomb. Then there are a few "hybrid" symbols: seemingly secular things that have taken on sacred significance, such as a sunrise; a butterfly; and a church full of lilies. But I wonder where "garden" ranks on your list? Though our unseasonably cool (read: cold!) Spring temperatures might not call gardening to mind this Easter season, the image of "garden" is perhaps the most appropriate of all the Easter symbols.

Humanity's story (and thus the story of salvation) began in a garden. Adam and Eve dwelled in the garden of Eden, living blissfully and at peace until they ate of the forbidden fruit. At this point they were sent from the garden and ever since that day, humanity has been trying to find its way back in – or better put, back home. As St. Augustine so famously and poetically said, "Our souls are restless, O God, until they find their rest in you." The garden is the place where we are closest to God and dwell without worry, sorrow or fear.

It should not come as a surprise, then, that in the Greek language of scripture, the word for "paradise" literally means "garden." Thus, to be in paradise and dwell in the presence of God is to be in a garden. The use of the garden image in this way is a logical one from a practical standpoint. Recall that Adam's curse for having eaten from the forbidden tree was that he would earn his living by the sweat of his brow. The ground would be so hard to cultivate, that it would only ever come with extraordinary effort. Having been to the Holy Land, I can attest to how rocky, dry and dusty parts of this territory are. It makes sense, therefore that the predominant image of paradise for one like Adam be a garden. A lush, wet, green, fertile garden that produces abundantly without much work or effort.

From a spiritual standpoint, the image of garden is just as significant. When Mary Magdelene meets the risen Jesus Christ on that first Easter, she mistakes him for the gardener (Jn. 20:11-18), which means that the first Easter took place in a garden. With the resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are back in the garden. The story is complete. We have found our way home. Or ... as Tina emphasized in her sermon this past Sunday, we didn't find our way home as much as God, in Christ, found us and provided the way back in. With the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the story of salvation has come full circle. And all we have to do is believe that he is the one to provide us access back in.

Regardless of which Easter image or symbol you name as your favorite, may you from now on include "garden" from among the options.

Blessings – *Michael*

## The Great Exchange Sermon Series Continues

April 22 <b>John</b>	John 20:1-10 Emotion: Confusion	Jesus' gift: Certainty
April 29 <b>The Disciples</b>	John 20:19-23 Emotion: Fear	Jesus' gift: Joy of the Holy Spirit
May 6 <b>Thomas</b>	John 20:23-28 Emotion: Skepticism	Jesus' gift: Belief
May 13 <b>Us!</b>	John 20:29-31 Emotion: Trust	Jesus' gift: Shalom

### Koinonia Class

The Koinonia Class invites you to join us as we begin a new study on April 22, 2018 in Room 212. We will be using Dr. David Jeremiah's material, Escape the Coming Night. A set of 4 student books are \$35.00 which includes shipping. This explores the prophecies in Revelation. I've always found Revelation a little daunting and am anxious to increase my understanding. There is a study guide available if you would like us to order one for you. Please call Betty Scott 877-2410. Leave a message if I don't answer. We'd love to have you join us.

### Scholarship Applications

Higher education is important and valuable in today's society. A college education opens possibilities and helps students discover and foster unique gifts and talents. It also demonstrates a person's willingness to make an investment in his/her own future!

Central Christian Church supports those pursuing higher education and we understand the challenges of meeting its cost. Scholarships are open to all high school graduates as well as anyone who is currently attending a college, university, technical and vocational, or planning to attend one during the 2018-2019 academic year.

Deadline: May 4, 2018 @ 3 pm

### Chalice Class

Title: *Spirituality and the Twelve Steps*

Focus: For nearly a century, the twelve-step model has been a helpful tool for those recovering from addiction. What is the twelve-step model? How can the Twelve Steps help us in our spiritual journey?

### Preschool News

This week our students are busy making preparations for Parent's Day. They are learning new songs and making special art projects. Their families will join us next week for a short program and snack.

On Tuesday, April 24th, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, Pam Larrick will be hosting a fundraiser for the preschool in the Great Hall. Adults are invited to join us for a workshop that will feature Unicorn Spirit! The cost is \$40 per person and the preschool will receive 25% of the proceeds. Watch for a flyer with more information at Sunday services or call Pam at (217) 412-0530.

Jennifer Van Dyke  
Director



### **Sunday, April 15, 2018**

Music:

Offertory-Luc Longcor, violin  
Anthem-*I Must Tell Jesus*, Karen Driver, solo  
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  
12:00-Cont. Worship Rehearsal, Great Hall  
4:00-Youth Group, Great Hall  
4:00-Silvan Negrutiu & Samir Golescu Concert

### **Monday (16)**

11:00-Operations Committee, Conference Rm  
6:00-Financial Peace University, Disciples' Rm

### **Tuesday (17)**

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café  
9:00-ChristCare Stitchers Retreat, DR & 207  
9:30-Card Ministry, 240  
11:15-Staff Meeting, Conference Room  
5:30-Spanish Class, 240  
6:30-Heart & Soul Talent Show, Friendship Cnt

### **Wednesday (18)**

9:00-Preschool Family Day, Disc. Rm & GH  
10:15-Preschool Chapel, Friendship Center  
10:30-Minister's Meeting  
4:00-Peace & Justice Committee, 240  
5:30-Church Council Committee Mtgs, GH  
6:30-Criminal Justice Group, 207

### **Thursday (19)**

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

### **Friday (20)**

### **Saturday (21)**

1:00-Contemporary Worship Rehearsal, GH

### **Sunday (22)**

8:00-Worship Service  
9:00-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall  
9:00-Fellowship Coffee  
10:30-Worship Service  
4:00-Youth Group French Fry Run

### **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  
PAID



**Serving Schedule—Sunday, April 15**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Judy Ford, Laura Chapman

**Outreach Communion:**

Krista Rohrscheib	David Wagner
Mark Beal	Tom Spry
Dick Cain	Kevin Wilmot

**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 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Munos, Bobby Munos  
10:30 - Team 10 - David Martin, Capt., Matthew Swarthout, Gretchen Kirby

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Gail Prince, Donna Dash  
10:30 - Dennis and Ronda Spencer, Laura Sperry

**Acolytes:**

8:00 - *Open*  
10:30 - Luke Karunas, Jane Osman

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Donna Dash  
10:30 - Larry Pepper

**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 –Doug Soebbing	875-1836

**Main Entrance Door Hosts:**

April 16	8:30-12:00 - Carole McClarey
April 17	8:30-12:00 - Carol Bischoff
April 18	8:30-12:00 - Suzie Miller
April 19	8:30-12:00 - Carolyn McCall
April 20	8:30-12:00 - Gail Prince

**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](mailto: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" 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

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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