

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, May 2, 2018

No. 18

Calling All Mothers, Sisters and Daughters!

Tickets for Central's upcoming Celebration of Women will be on sale this Sunday, May 6, before and after all services. They are \$7 for adults 12 and older and \$5 for children younger than 12. You won't want to miss this special "Let's Make a Deal" evening! Chicken salad on croissants, salad and dessert are on the menu.

Just Flicks Season Finale

Lion, a 2016 release, is the final film in this year's Just Flicks series. It will be shown at 6:00 p.m. Sunday, May 13, at First Presbyterian Church. Refreshments will be served shortly beforehand.



This hopeful film tells the story of a 5-year-old boy from rural India who falls asleep inside an empty train and spends several terrifying weeks surviving on the streets of Calcutta before being placed in an orphanage and adopted by an Australian couple. He would reunite with his birth mother only after two decades had passed. Craig Mandernach will lead the conversation afterward.

Suggest a film with a social justice or peacemaking theme for next season by sending an email to Fred Spannaus at spannaus@ameritech.net. Please put "Just Flicks suggestion" in the subject line and give the film title and a brief summary.

We Appreciate Our Staff!

Tuesday, May 15, 12:00 Noon

Dorcas members will host a Staff Appreciation Luncheon in the Great Hall. 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.

SUNDAY, May 6, 2018

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

The Great Exchange: Skepticism with Faith

Text: John 20:19-29

Michael E. Karunas

Youth Group Talent Show

6:00 p.m. Sunday, May 6

Great Hall

Admission is free but donations will go toward this summer's youth mission trip to Detroit.



Churchgoers to Go on the Road

Central Christian Church has 20 seats for a performance of *Hello Dolly!* at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 20, at the Little Theatre-On the Square in Sullivan. Anyone may sign up in the Friendship Center or call the church office at 428-4336. Tickets are \$35. For questions, please see Don Martin.

Counting On You

Sunday, April 29, 2018

Worship Attendance 256

Sunday School & Small Groups.....95

**#CentralLovesBabies
and their parents, too!**

Central wants to honor you for the important work you're doing with your sweet kiddos. And we also want to learn from you about what our church can do to better support young families.



Tuesday, May 15, 5:15-6:30

CCC's Connection Café

Childcare and supper provided

More info to follow!

Questions? Email:

Michael Karunas

mkarunas@cccdisciples.org

Tina Miller

tmiller@cccdisciples.org

Claudia Quigg

claudiaquigg@gmail.com

Preschool Sunday

At Central Christian!!!

10:30 a.m.

Sunday, May 6

Puppet Show during worship

Special kids program after

children's message

Picnic lunch following

Games and prizes during lunch

Recognition of Preschool Teachers



**Celebrating a vital ministry and all
who make it possible**

Minister's Article

"Seeing is Believing"

But Thomas ... one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came ... he said, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails... I will not believe."

John 20:24-25

It was exactly one week after Easter in 2007 or 2008. We were living in Baton Rouge at the time. It was a glorious afternoon in early spring and after worship I decided to go for a run. I had just turned onto Hagerstown from Stones River (all the streets in our subdivision were named for Civil War battle sites) when I stepped on a nail. I didn't see it, but didn't need to. I felt it. It was a biggie, penetrating the heel of my shoe all the way into my skin. I certainly didn't need to go to the hospital but the nail had punctured the skin and left a decent-sized blood stain on my sock. I had to call off the run and hobble home. I limped in the door to find Amy and Thomas in the living room. "You'll never guess what happened to me," I said and proceeded to tell them about my injury. My son looked up from the page he was coloring (he was about 5 or 6 at the time) and said with great boldness, "No way, dad. I don't believe you. I won't believe you unless you show me the nail mark in your foot first." Did I mention his name is *Thomas*?

A week (after the resurrection) ... Thomas was with them ... and Jesus came and stood among them and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands ..."

John 20:26-27

The Disciple Thomas will be our focus in worship this week. Unfortunately, he's remembered for the name "Doubting Thomas," as this one event in his life has determined the way history views him. But his skepticism represents a fundamental theme in the Gospel of John — Believing without seeing. Not everyone, after all, would (or will) have an experience with the risen Jesus Christ in the flesh as the disciples did. In that sense, the story of Thomas asking to see the nail marks is designed to move us to v. 29 of chapter 20. Jesus said, "Have you believed because you have seen me (Thomas)? Blessed are those who have not seen, yet have come to believe."

Doubt and skepticism are things we experience because we are human. Even the popular phrase, "Trust but verify," is a bit of an oxymoronic homage to doubt and skepticism (after all, can you really trust if you have to verify first?). And yet as Thomas shows us faith *does* emerge from skepticism. Untold billions have come to follow the path of Christ over a span of two millennia without having "seen" the risen Christ. We will spend the sermon time this week considering how faith emerges from doubt. I invite you to think of times in your life when you have been skeptical, but God gave you faith in the midst of it (maybe it was a financial situation you came through; or a health situation; or something else). Some situations are admittedly easier to find trust in the midst of than others, but God desires our faith to be strengthened through them all — and not be dependent on concrete and tangible realities for its existence.

Blessings — **Michael**

Welcome New Members!!!



It's with joy and thanksgiving we welcome Brian Bottom, Stephanie Sargeant and their family to Central! Brian and Stephanie (and Zach and Mackenzi) transferred their membership at the 10:30 service this past Sunday. Zach and MacKenzi will be taking the Faith Quest class and getting baptized with other youth. And, of course, we

welcome Cruz Lee, dedicated and blessed Sunday as well! Welcome all!!!

Food Collection

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

Volunteers Needed

Central needs a couple of volunteers to work at a computer looking up current replacement values of church inventory. Please contact Lora Wright at central@cccdisciples.org or 428-4336.

Chalice Class

Title: *MLK and the Holy Spirit*

Focus: April 4th marked the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His teachings on social justice were rooted in his Christian faith and his openness to the Holy Spirit's power. How did the Holy Spirit guide MLK as he fought for civil rights? How can Christians today listen to the Holy Spirit as we seek justice for all of God's children?

Next Week: Public Schools



Preschool News

It sure has been nice for our students to have some consistently warm days to play outside. We are enjoying fresh air and sunshine!

The 3's classes had so much fun with nursery rhymes, the teachers decided to extend it for another week.

The 4's class is practicing good manners. They will use all they learn this week to attend an Elegant Tea Party on Thursday. The Pre-K class is working on the letter Zz this week. They are making zebras, zoo maps, and zigzag art.

This Sunday is Preschool Sunday. Our staff and some of our preschool families will be joining the special 10:30 service. I hope to see lots of familiar faces in the congregation!

Jennifer Van Dyke
Director



Sunday, May 6, 2018

Music:

Offertory-Isabella Karunas, violin

Anthem-*Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You*
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

10:30-Preschool Sunday gathering after
children's message, Disciples' Room

6:00-Youth Group Talent Show, Great Hall

Monday (7)

11:00-Operations Meeting, Conference Room

6:00-Financial Peace University, Disciples' Rm

6:30-Piano recital, Michael E. Karunas &
Cynthia Handler, Sanctuary

Tuesday (8)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

5:30-Spanish Class, 240

5:30-Women's Book Club, Panera

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

7:00-NWRAPS, Disciples' Room

7:00-Opus 24 rehearsal, Sanctuary

Wednesday (9)

10:15-Preschool Chapel, Friendship Center

10:30-Ministers' Meeting

1:00-Christian Ed Committee, Conference Rm

3:00-Trustees' meeting, Conference Room

5:00-Elders meeting, Disciples' Room

Thursday (10)

10:00-Al-Anon, 240

2:30-Scholarship meeting, Conference Room

4:00-Journeymen 2, Connection Café

5:30-Spanish Class, 240

6:00-Brass Choir, Disciples' Room

7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (11)

6:00-Celebration of Women, Great Hall

Saturday (12)

1:00-Contemporary Worship rehearsal, GH

Sunday (13)

8:00-Worship Service

9:00-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall

9:00-Fellowship Coffee

10:30-Worship Service

NO YOUTH GROUP

6:00-Just Flicks, First Presbyterian Church

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, May 6, 2018

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Brett Swallow, John Baird

Imboden Creek:

Claudia Quigg, Liz Campbell

Deacons:

8:00 - Team 3 - Sid & Krista Rohrscheib, Jane Davis, Charlotte Ballance, Bob Muschal, Pat Penhalleton, 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 4 - Hazel Perry, Capt., Jerry & Susie Bean, Karen Penn
 10:30 - Team 9 - Kim Miller, Capt., Audrey Miller, Ron Oliver

Greeters:

8:00 - Jim & Debbie Hoffert
 10:30 - Steve & Carrie Funk, Pamela Ferguson

Acolytes:

10:30 - Luke Karunas, Zedekiah Auten

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Greg Carter
 10:30 - Keith Backes

Preparation of Communion:

Carrie & Steve Funk, Marci and Steve Baumann

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:

May 7 8:30-12:00 - Mary Jane Oliver
 May 8 8:30-12:00 - Janet Gray
 May 9 8:30-12:00 - David Flanders
 May 10 8:30-12:00 - Nancy Taylor
 May 11 8:30-12:00 - Cindy Soebbing

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
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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	2	207
6th grade - 12th grade	2R	280
Kindergarten - 5th grade	2R	230
Nursery (Birth - 5 years old)	1R	150

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