

# 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 23, 2018

No. 21

## Playing Favorites



As we roll into the summer season here at Central, we will be organizing our worship around *FAVORITES!* We polled the entire congregation for favorite scripture and hymns and the results are in! Two five-week sermon series called "Playing Favorites" will carry us from Memorial Day weekend

through the Decatur Celebration in early August! We'll begin with *Playing Favorites: Scriptures* series and hope to bring to light some part of the text that might otherwise be overlooked. And we'll make sure that our music brings out the themes of the scripture as well. In July, we'll move on to *Playing Favorites: Songs* series and we'll have more to say about that in the coming weeks. *Note: we will be sharing the full list of favorites as shared with us by the congregation as well.* Here's a peek at how things will be ordered over the next month:

### Playing Favorites: Scriptures

- May 27 - Psalm 23
- June 10 - Luke 4:14-20
- June 24 - John 3:16 (1-16)
- June 3 - I Corinthians 13
- June 17 - Proverbs 3:5-6

## Welcome New Member

With joy and thanksgiving we welcome Jack Dixon to Central Christian! Jack (pictured here with his wife Sue Burkhams) has been attending Central for many years now. In fact, he was raised in Central as a child and youth. Life's journeys took him down the spiritual paths of other congregations in the intervening years, but he has since found his way back home and is grateful to make his membership here official again.



*Welcome Jack!*

## **SUNDAY, May 27, 2018**

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

**Playing Favorites: Scripture #1**

Text: *Psalm 23*

Michael E. Karunas

## Food Collection

The food collection for June 3<sup>rd</sup> is tomato products such as pasta sauce, canned tomatoes, ketchup etc. As always, the shopping cart is located in the Connection Café. Thank you for your generous giving.

## Women's Book Club

June 11 - 12:30 pm & June 12 - 5:30 pm  
at Panera

This month's read:

*The Two-Family House* by  
**Lynda Cohen Loigman.**

## Elderberries

Join us in the Great Hall on Wednesday June 13, Program at 11:30; Lunch at noon.

Our meal will be Brats and Cheeseburgers, Pasta Salad, Chips and salsa, Toffee Peach Ice Cream dessert (all of this for only \$5). Irwin Soliday will be our speaker for the program. Sign up on the pew pad on Sunday or call the church office by Monday, June 11.

## Counting On You

**Sunday, May 20, 2018**

Worship Attendance ..... 269

Sunday School & Small Groups.....46

**Youth News & Events**

K-12 SUMMER

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

9 am

Room 280 on 2R

VBS & SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

Wednesday, May 30

5:30 pm

Disciples' Room

**An Invitation to Central**

from our good friends at the  
Decatur Islamic Center via  
The Peace & Justice Task Force

1<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL

DECATUR ISLAMIC CENTER

INTERFAITH DINNER

Understanding Ramadan

Thursday, May 31, 2018 at 7 p.m.

Richland Community College

Schilling Center

Please RSVP by May 25 to  
John Baird ([JBairdRPT@cs.com](mailto:JBairdRPT@cs.com))

or to this link:

[https://goo.gl/forms/  
C6SgX92QrNGqDgZ52](https://goo.gl/forms/C6SgX92QrNGqDgZ52)

**Volunteers Needed**

Central needs volunteers to work at a computer looking up replacement values of church inventory. Please contact Lora Wright at [central@ccd-disciples.org](mailto:central@ccd-disciples.org) or 428-4336.



Congratulations

Chad and Sarah  
(Fulk) Jennings of

Edinburg welcomed their daughter, Amelia May, born at 3:21 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, in St. John's Hospital in Springfield. She weighed 7 pounds 1-1/2 ounce and had a full head of brown hair. Proud grandparents are Andrew and Theresa (Churchill) Fulk.

**"Introducing... On-line Giving!"**

I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you something exciting now taking place at Central. In an effort to be faithful stewards with what God has entrusted to us, we are proud to announce that we now offer some **new on-line giving options**. Please note, we will still be accepting offerings and donations in all of the ways we currently do. So if you have no interest in doing anything differently, that is absolutely fine. But what we offering now has been a long-time coming and I want to thank the stewardship department, our treasurer and financial team, our vice-president of administration, and our church office staff for doing the lion's share of the work to make this a reality.

*Why are we undertaking this opportunity at Central?* First, it provides **flexibility** for our members to give how they want to, regardless of day or time. As our world becomes increasingly more digital, this feature allows members and friends of Central to give in ways that are more compatible with their method of making other payments. Secondly, it will help all of us better develop a habit of giving **regularly**. Online donors will be able to set up a recurring donation to the church by using a credit or debit card. Thirdly, this allows us to connect with the **next generation** which is one of our core values. We will still collect offerings the traditional way on Sunday mornings and you can certainly continue to write checks or donate cash. But younger generations are used to making payments online and this allows us to provide the means for them to be faithful stewards in a manner that is comfortable to them. Finally, research over the last 10 years has shown that churches who embrace online giving notice an increase in **consistency** of gifts received, as well as in the **overall amount** of contributions received annually.

*How does online giving work?* You will have the option of using our website ([www.ccd-disciples.org](http://www.ccd-disciples.org)), clicking on "GIVE" on the homepage and registering as a New User. You will then be able to make payments to the operating fund, building fund (capital campaign), memorial fund and any designated fund or special offering you choose. You can also contribute with your smart phone by downloading a special App that will sync with your online account.

In the Welcome Center you can pick up a **card** with step-by-step instructions for getting started. And you may attend an **orientation tutorial on Sunday June 10**. We'll be offering the tutorial three (3) times that day: at 9:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. (after each one of our services). These will be held in the Connection Café. Should you miss the tutorial, we will be happy to email you the step-by-step power point. We believe that financial giving is one of the ways we express our faithfulness to Jesus Christ. As a pastor, I believe it is the church's responsibility to offer everything it can to help people live out that mark of faithfulness. To that end, I am absolutely thrilled that Central is offering online giving and am confident that this is something that will benefit us for years to come.

Blessings – **Michael**

**Churchgoers Hitting the Road**

Central Christian Church has 20 seats for a 2pm matinee of *Hello Dolly!* Wednesday, June 20, at Little Theatre-On the Square in Sullivan. Please sign up in the Friendship Center or call the church office (428-4336). Tickets are \$35. Bus will leave church at 10:30 am-we'll eat at Yoder's before the show. Questions? See Don.

## Upcoming Concerts

	J.D. Miller Friday, June 1, 2018 7:00 p.m. Central Christian Church		Heart & Soul Season Finale Concert Saturday, June 2, 2018 3:00 p.m. Richland Community College
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**Sunday, May 27, 2018**

Music:

Offertory-*Shepherd Me, O God*

Anthem-*Psalms 23*

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

**Monday (28)**

**MEMORIAL DAY**

**CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED**



### Special Offering May 27

*Sharing Abundantly in Every Good Work*

God equipped the disciples to “step out” into the world to share the good news about Jesus Christ at the first Pentecost. So we celebrate Pentecost by collecting a special offering to equip our church to step out into God’s world, starting new churches, welcoming connections with other faith communities, and equipping new church planters to lead new congregations. The Pentecost Offering will be received at Central on May 27. Please share abundantly in this good work!

### Support Baby TALK’s “Grillin’ in the Garden”

Central houses community programs that benefit early childhood development, education for children and adults, and family literacy coordinated by Baby TALK. **Friday June 1 from 6 – 9 p.m.** is Baby TALK’s main fundraiser – “Grillin’ in the Garden.” It’s a Low Country Boil catered by Nelson’s (pulled pork sliders, seafood boil, cornbread, plenty of yummy sides) and held in Progress City in the **Lester Building**. All proceeds support local programming for at-risk families in the community. Tickets are \$75. Call 475-2234 or see Pastor Michael if you would like purchase any. This is annually a great event and a lot of fun. You won’t be disappointed.

### Special Note of Thanks

We would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers and well wishes during Jeannie's hospitalization. It was so comforting to feel the support of our wonderful church family.

*Keith and Jeannie Backes*

My family would like to thank everyone for the cards, meals, calls, and texts during my maternity leave. Our baby girl is beautiful and it makes us so happy to know that so many of you reached out to us. It is always a wonderful feeling to know we are thought about. Thank you so much!

*Ashely, Alex, Ourin, Kisa & Baby Faye*

### Chalice Class

Chalice Class will not meet this Sunday the 27th. We will meet again on June 3.

### Preschool News

This is our last week of preschool for our three through five year old's. The 3's class had a water play day on Tuesday and will go to the zoo on Wednesday. The 4's class and Pre-K class will spend their last day of school at Fairview Park. We will all join at the church on Wednesday evening for a program, meal, and activities. The theme for the End of the Year Party is dinosaurs. We have lots of fun things for our families to do! We will miss them this summer but will get to see many of them again in the fall.

*Jennifer Van Dyke*  
Director

**Tuesday (29)**

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207

5:30-Spanish Class, 240

6:30-Heart & Soul, Choir Rm & Connect. Cafe

**Wednesday (30)**

8:00-VBS Planning, Disciples Room

5:30-VBS Training Mtg, Disciples' Room

6:30-VBS Safe Church Training, Disciples' Rm

**Thursday (31)**

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 (June 1)**

7:00-J.D. Miller Concert

**Saturday (2)**

1:00-Contemporary Worship Rehearsal, G. Hall

3:00-Heart & Soul Season Finale Concert,

Richland Community College

**Sunday (3)**

8:00-Worship Service

9:00-Contemporary Worship, Great Hall

9:00-Fellowship Coffee

10:30-Worship Service

4:00-Youth Group End of the Year Party

**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 27, 2018**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Betty Scott, Claudia Quigg

**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 - Merle Chapman, Laura Chapman  
10:30 - John & Linda Hill, Randy & Shirley Brooks

**Acolytes:**

10:30 - Isabella Karunas, Jane Osman

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Greg Carter  
10:30 - Jim Hinze

**Preparation of Communion:**

Carrie & Steve Funk, Marci & Steve Baumann

**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:**

May 28      CHURCH & OFFICE CLOSED  
May 29      8:30-12:00 - Betty Chapman  
May 30      8:30-12:00 - Sandy Garver  
May 31      8:30-12:00 - Yvonne Purcell  
June 1      8:30-12:00 - Roberta Gorden

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
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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

<b>Sunday School Classes</b>	<b>Floor</b>	<b>Room</b>
Koinonia	2	212
Ecclesia	2R	240
Chalice	2	207
6th grade - 12th grade	2R	280
Kindergarten - 5th grade	2R	280
Nursery (Birth - 5 years old)	1R	150

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