

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. XCI

Decatur, Illinois, May 1, 2019

No. 18

Preschool Sunday May 5!!!

On Sunday, May 5th, 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**, after which the children will be dismissed for a special program. We 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 only attending 10:30 worship that day, you won't be missing out on that week's portion of the *Miracles Happen* series. After 10:30 worship, families of children from both the church and the preschool will be invited to lunch in the Great Hall with **special entertainment** to follow.

Baby TALK Annual Fundraiser

Central houses community programs that benefit early childhood development, education for children and adults, and family literacy coordinated by Baby TALK. What you should also know is that **Friday May 10** from 6 – 9 p.m. is Baby TALK's main fundraiser – "Boots and Bowties." It's a BBQ menu catered by Nelson's, with drinks, music and yard games as well. All proceeds support local programming for at-risk families in the community. Tickets are \$50. You can contact the church office for tickets. We have a limited number available. This is annually a great event and a lot of fun. You won't be disappointed.

Good Samaritan Inn

Volunteers from Central Christian will prepare and serve lunch at the Good Samaritan Inn on **Saturday, May 11**. The Good Samaritan often serves 250 or more people each day. The crew needs 5-6 workers 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. for food prep, and 12-14 people for serving 11 a.m.-1 p.m. And all workers are invited to stay and enjoy lunch after the serving line closes! Dave Wagner and Shirley Swarhout head up Central's volunteer team. Please let one of them know if you can help, or sign up at the church office, 428-4336.

Staff Appreciation Luncheon

Tuesday, May 14th, at noon. Dorcas group meets at 11:15, beforehand. Please RSVP by May 7th. Call the church office for more information.

SUNDAY, May 5, 2019

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

Facing Adversity

Text: *John 9:1-7*

Michael E. Karunas

PreSchool News

It's been a fast and fun few weeks in the preschool wing. We had our Easter parties and the students enjoyed the egg hunts. The 4's class had a mad scientist week and took a field trip to Starr Stables. The Pre-K class did an underwater theme and made some tasty snacks with graham crackers, blue icing, and Gold Fish Crackers. The 3's classes took a field trip to Rock Springs to study reptiles. They also had a green spaghetti swamp in the sensory table with hidden reptiles!

In other news, Ben Franklin Elementary School sent us thank you notes and pictures of the students with the books you helped purchase from the Scholastic Book Fair. They are on the bulletin board by the playground entrance.

We hope to see lots of you here at the 10:30 service on May 5th for Preschool Sunday!

Counting On You

Sunday, April 28, 2019

Worship Attendance 257

Sunday School & Small Groups.....65

VBS 2019 KICK-OFF AND VOLUNTEER TRAINING

WHEN: Thursday, May 2, 2019

WHERE: Central Christian Church
(650 W. William St.)
Disciples Room

WHAT:

4:30pm Safe Church Training
offered (option 1)

5:15pm Food available

5:30pm Volunteer Training and
Orientation

6:30pm Safe Church Training
offered (option 2)

Because many of us need to renew our Safe Church training (it covers a three year period), we are offering the training at two different times. You only need attend one!

Come learn more about VBS, held June 17-21.

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY

Sunday, May 5, 10:30

YOUTH TALENT SHOW

Sunday, May 5, 6-8 pm

WOMEN'S CELEBRATION

Friday, May 10, 6 pm

\$7 per adult

\$5 per child

It's that time again!

Let's celebrate women of all ages. This year we will have a play starring members of our congregation about how new testament women felt about their important roles. There also will be a delicious meal prepared by Chef Keith and his team and prizes to make the evening complete. Tickets will be available this Sunday or call the church office.



Miracle Conduits

This past Sunday, Tina kicked off our new sermon series – “Miracles Happen!” – with a sermon entitled *Miracle Conduits*. Over the next few weeks, we will explore how miracles are expressions of the resurrection that we celebrated at Easter; however, they are not just something done *for* us. The miracles in the New Testament are not just about God breaking into our lives to grant us a special favor. That certainly is one of their effects, but miracles are also much more than this. They are not just done for us but **through** us, in that God intends others to be benefited by the gift of the miracle which we have received, and they are also meant to be done **with** us, in that God uses what God has already given us to work the miracle *in* us.

We, as God's people, are the conduits through and with whom God's love and power is shared with the world. “Conduit” comes from the Latin words “con” (together) and “ducere” (to bring or lead). A conduit is one who brings God and the world together, a channel through whom God's grace and love and power can flow for others to receive.

Tina closed her sermon by highlighting some of the significant events in our congregational life in just the first few months of 2019. We have received 11 new members; laid to rest two pillar members; hosted the wedding of a promising young couple; dedicated three children representing two families; and baptized six youth into the Christian faith. In their own way, each of these bears witness to the miracle of new life that Easter represents. New members bring new life to our faith family. The dedication of babies and young children signify the new life of childbirth. Baptisms celebrate the promise of new life through faith, and the heartache of death brings with us the fulfillment of that promise in the realization of eternal life.

A few weeks ago, Janelle Beedle sent Christine Lyman-Harm and me a text message that will live in my memory as one of the best I've ever received. Christine and I co-taught Faith Quest, and this message was sent a few days before Palm Sunday, when the students made their confessions of faith to the church. Janelle is the grand-god-mother of two youth baptized on Easter – sisters Unique (7th grade) and Amila (6th). She granted me permission to share this with you here:

Just wanted you to know how much I appreciate how much Faith Quest has meant to my kids this year. Just a peek into my world: Unique sat at my kitchen table last night and worked on her faith statement. She started going through her folder and had to mention something about each page. She read the whole personal inventory to me that was done at the beginning of Faith Quest. She asked Amila if she remembered this or that from class. Amila always remembered. Unique pretended a soap dispenser from the kitchen sink was a microphone and read her statement. She said how much fun Faith Quest was. She said she was going to miss it. She wished it would go on forever. This coming from a child who struggles with behavior 2-3 times a month at school. Remarkable. Amila, tearful with nerves that night the youth rehearsed their faith statement at church, texted me later that night that she read her faith statement aloud at home and did it! That she wouldn't be too nervous to read it before the church, even though she had a hard time doing it at the

(continued on page 3)

run-through. She echoed Unique's sentiments about Faith Quest being fun and wanting it to last forever.

When I first read this, I had two primary thoughts: first, that many other parents could have written similar words about their own children; and second, that her words are meant not just for the Faith Quest teachers, but for the whole church. What happened during Faith Quest was merely an extension of what happens in Sunday School, in the sanctuary, at youth group, in the Friendship Center before and after worship, etc. You see, we should never doubt that God is using us to make a difference. When it seems like a child isn't paying attention, or that opening the doors and saying hello and encouraging someone doesn't matter, we should think again... We should never question God's ability to use us as a conduit of grace and love and mercy that might transform the life of someone else. Whenever that happens, that is truly a "miracle."

Blessings... Michael



Jenny Baumann Honored by IL DAR Good Citizen Award

Our own Jenny Baumann of Mt. Zion was the winner of the District III Good Citizen award for DAR for 2019, presented at a luncheon at the Illinois State Conference on Saturday, April 27th, 2019, in Bloomington. She was also the winner for the state of Illinois. Jenny is the daughter of Steve and Marci Baumann. She attends Mt. Zion High School and plans to study Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at the University of Arizona. We are proud of you, Jenny!

Youth Talent Show

Come out and support our youth at their Talent Show, this Sunday, **May 5th**, at 6:00 PM, in the Great Hall. Donations will be accepted to go towards the mission trip to Springfield, MO.

Opus 24 Concert

Mark your calendars! Opus 24 concert, *Sing Your Way Home*, **May 14th**, 7:30 PM, Central Christian, Sanctuary. Tickets available in church office.

Chalice Class

Title: *Wind Energy*

Focus: Recent comments by President Trump on wind energy put a spotlight on this growing industry. What is wind energy, and how does it work? How can this source of power help us to be stewards of God's creation?

Next Week: Vaccinations



Miracles Happen!

April 28	John 6:1-14	Feeding of 5,000	Tina Miller
May 5	John 9:1-7	Healing of a Blind Man	Michael E. Karunas
May 12	John 5:1-9	Healing of a Lame Man	Michael E. Karunas
May 19	Matthew 14:22-33	Walking on Water	Michael E. Karunas
May 26	Luke 17:11-19	Healing of 10 Lepers	Scott Woolridge
	Mark 10:46-52	Healing of Blind Bartimaeus	
June 2	Acts 16:16-24	Exorcism of Demons	Michael E. Karunas



Sunday (5)

- Preschool Sunday Service
- 8:00-Traditional 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-Traditional Worship Service
- Offertory: Prayer of the Children
- Anthem: The Morning Trumpet
- 12:00-Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall
- 6:00-Youth Group Talent Show, Great Hall

Monday (6)

- 5:30-Spanish Conversations Class, 240
- 8:00-Cynthia Handler, Piano Recital, Sanctuary

Tuesday (7)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 8:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
- 8:30-Card Ministry, 240
- 10:30-Staff Meeting, Conference Room
- 6:30-Heart & Soul, Choir Room & Connection Café
- 7:00-Opus 24 Rehearsal

Wednesday (8)

- 10:15-Chapel, Friendship Center
- 10:30-Minister's Meeting
- 4:45-Women's Bible Study, Great Hall
- 5:00-Elders' Meeting, Disciples Room
- 6:15-Womens' Bible Study begins, Great Hall

Thursday (9)

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

Friday (10)

- 6:00-Women's Celebration, Friend. Center/Sanctuary

Saturday (11)

Sunday (12)

- 8:00-Traditional 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-Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall
- 6:00-Just Flicks, First Presbyterian Church
- No Youth Group

Food Collection

The food collection for May 5th will be cereal and canned tomato products. As always the shopping cart is located in the Connection Café for your convenience.



In the Hospital...

DMH:
Jeff Hunter

St. Mary's:
No one

Serving Schedule—Sunday, May 5, 2019

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Kevin Wilmot & Tom Spry

Deacons:

8:00 - Team 3 - Sid & Krista Rohrscheib, Jane Davis, Mike Munos, Bob Muschal, Pat Penhallegon, Bobby Munos, Becky Johnston, Carolyn McCall

10:30 - Team 4 - Jeannie Backes, Matthew Swarthout, Jon French, David Martin, Mike & Gretchen Kirby, Mark Beal, Doug Soebbing, Roger Rutherford, Ron & Gwen Miller, Seth Martin, Pam Ferguson, Brittney Moran, Pam Larrick, Shelby Baum

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 1 - Charlotte Ballance, Capt., Bob & Karen Keller

10:30 - Team 6 - Mark Beal, Capt., Mark Kincaid, Susan Bryant

Greeters:

8:00 - Jim & Pamela Bednar

10:30 - Jon & Jane French

Acolytes:

10:30 - Luke Karunas & Zedekiah Auten

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Jim Bednar

10:30 - Larry Pepper

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 6 8:30-12:00—Mary Jane Oliver

May 7 8:30-12:00—Gretchen Kirby

May 8 8:30-12:00—Debbie Hoffert

May 9 8:30-12:00—Nancy Taylor

May 10 8:30-12:00—Cindy Soebbing

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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
 Kathleen Dudley.....Administrative Assistant
 Yvonne Boyd.....Administrative Assistant
 Monica Hernandez.....Nursery Attendant
 Cheryl Williams.....Nursery Attendant
 Chloe JancosekNursery Attendant
 Hannah BrimmerNursery Attendant
 Jennifer Van Dyke.....Preschool Director
 Angela Moore.....Teacher Assistant
 Paula Partain.....Teacher Assistant
 Lisa Coates.....Preschool Teacher
 Kay Villarreal.....Preschool Teacher
 Sharon Renfro.....Preschool Teacher
 Diana Murray.....Preschool Teacher
 Stephanie Nihiser.....Preschool Teacher
 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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