

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 8, 2019

No. 19

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 10th** 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 Swarthout 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.

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.

Save-the-Date!

Tuesday, June 18th from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Central will host a community celebration of its very own iconic art (sponsored by the Greater Decatur Chamber of Commerce).

Illiopolis Christian Church's Fried Chicken Dinner

Sunday, June 2nd, 2019, from 11:00 AM—2:00 PM. Adults \$10.00, Kids age 4-10 \$5.00, Ages 3 and under free! Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, corn, slaw, dessert, & drink. Carryout available until 1:30 PM.



SUNDAY, May 12, 2019

Happy Mother's Day!

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

So You're Saying There's a Chance...

Text: *John 5:1-9*

Michael E. Karunas

PreSchool News

This week our 3 year old classes talked about insects. They talked about what they look like, which ones they've seen, and which are their favorite. The 4's class learned about the zoo in preparation for their field trip next week, and the pre-k class was busy designing t-shirts for the end of the year party.

In April, the preschool donated 11 baskets and filled Easter eggs to Webster Cantrell Hall for an egg hunt for the children who are currently living there. When inquiring how we could further be of help, they let us know that they could use diapers, pull-ups, all purpose cleaner, sponges, and paper towels. We will be putting a collection box in the preschool wing by the director's office; those interested in donating may do so now through May 22nd.

Jennifer Van Dyke

Director

Counting On You

Sunday, April 28, 2019

Worship Attendance 290

Sunday School & Small Groups.....60

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 complete the evening. Tickets are available in the church office and at the door.

Many thanks to all who supported our youth at the Youth Talent Show!



Many thanks to all who attended preschool Sunday. The children and their families enjoyed a yummy meal provided by Keith and Jeannie Backes and their crew. We played with sand, play dough, beads, and coloring pages. We topped off the event with a magic performance by the Amazing Dudley!



Everything Old is New Again

For week two of our "Miracles Happen!" sermon series, our focus was John 9:1-7, in which Jesus gives sight to a young man born blind. In the message during worship, we covered different aspects of the story. We defined "miracle" as an event that reveals the power, strength, and capability of God. We noted that the young man didn't ask to be given sight and took this to mean the story is not about literal sight and physical blindness, but spiritual sight/blindness. We also observed an "old" way of thinking about adversity that focuses on searching the past for the cause of difficulties, over against Jesus' "new" way that seeks to be open to the hand of God leading us forward through the adversity.

One element we did not cover, however, was *how* the man was cured of his blindness. Jesus performs two significant actions as the method for bringing about this miracle. First, he spits on the ground and makes a mud paste consisting of his saliva and the dusty earth beneath his feet. Then, he covers the man's eyes with it. Second, once the man has this mud mask applied, he is told by Jesus to wash in the pool of Siloam. When the young man returns, having washed as he was commanded, he can see clearly.

Jesus heals people in different ways. Sometimes he lays hands on them. Sometimes he utters special words. Once, he healed a man in stages. On other occasions, he heals without laying on hands. He even healed a woman's daughter without even going near the house! Here, he uses "special equipment" – mud from the ground and the pool of Siloam.

One theory for why Jesus does this involved "old" things taking on new meaning with Jesus. This entire event takes place on the sabbath – the day of rest on which no work can be done. In making a mud paste, Jesus is "working," according to some rigid interpretations of the Law. In fact, the reason the Pharisees don't believe it is Jesus who healed the man is because they can't fathom a "man of God" not observing the sabbath law.

The pool of Siloam was created about 700 years before the time of Jesus. It was the result of a successful attempt to bring water into the city of Jerusalem by means of a tunnel. Prior to this, water was brought in through an aqueduct, but this was susceptible to attacks by foes and would then cut off the water supply to the city, thus forcing a capitulation. Bringing water in through a tunnel would make the city defensible against attacks. From a spiritual standpoint, the pool was used for ritual purification according to the ancient religious law. One of the ways of making oneself "spiritually clean" involved bathing with water from the pool of Siloam.

Jesus takes two "old" things available to him and transforms them, and us in the process. By "old" I do not mean useless, but rather, customary and familiar; in his hands, and by his actions, he uses the old things to give us a new way of looking at God and our relationship to God. By giving someone new vision on the sabbath, Jesus is reminding us that what gives us life and hope is not adherence to a particular tradition, but faith in him. Likewise, by using the waters of Siloam, he shows us that the real source of healing comes not from physical water, but by the Word uttered from his mouth and executed with his actions.

By using “old” things and giving them a new purpose, Jesus once again reminds that we can place whatever it is that we have in his hands – whatever is within us or around us – and we will see, by faith, how they can become agents of our own personal and spiritual transformation, a miracle in and of itself.

Blessings... Michael



Welcome New Members!

We were blessed to have two new members join the church on Sunday, May 5th. At the 10:30 service, Marty Heick transferred his membership to Central. Marty works with I.T. systems for Hickory Point Bank, and he and his wife Jill were married at Central in 1990. Jill has been a long-time member, and over the last year, Marty has felt a pull to join. Shortly before that happened, Mike Tanzyus transferred his membership at the 9:00 a.m. service... on his birthday no less! Mike is the great-nephew of Eva Kirkland (she of the Kirkland Fine Arts Center at Millikin and the Kirkland Bell Tower here at Central). Mike began attending Central a year ago at the request of Bob Logan. He has been a regular ever since and is a big part of our 9:00 video team, the men’s bible study, and the Saturday all-church clean-ups. Welcome Marty and Mike!



Amazing Dudley Amazes

Justin Dudley (aka “The Amazing Dudley”) is the husband of our new administrative assistant Kathleen. A magician at heart and profession, he offered a great presentation to our children and was the perfect way to conclude Preschool Sunday this past weekend. Thanks Justin!!!



Chalice Class

Title: *Vaccinations*

Focus: Over the years, vaccinations have been a source of controversy and confusion but at the same time have helped to eliminate many of the world's most dangerous diseases. What are vaccines, and how do they work? How can our faith guide us as we consider the role of vaccines in human flourishing?

Thanks to You...

From the family of Ed Acheson: We have been blessed and grateful for a loving and supportive church family since we joined Central in 1980 and especially during Ed’s “going home” journey of the past couple of years. We send our heartfelt thanks for all of the wonderful, loving and uplifting communication we have had with our Central friends and especially the ongoing support of the church staff and Elders. Thanks to Michael, Don, Larry Pepper, Christian, Yvonne, DeeDee, and Gail Prince (& company) for the wonderful memorial service and send-off that you gave to our dear Ed. We felt so loved and welcomed even after 4 years in Arizona.

Much love and many blessings, Lucy and family

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
 - Anthem: Precious Lord, Take My Hand
 - Offertory: Children’s Chorus
- 12:00-Praise Team Rehearsal, Great Hall
- 6:00-Just Flicks, First Presbyterian Church
- No Youth Group

Monday (13)

- 9:00-Good Samaritan
- 12:00-Women’s Book Club, Panera
- 5:30-Spanish Conversations Class, 240
- 7:00-Opus 24 rehearsal

Tuesday (14)

- 7:00-Journeyman, Connection Café
- 9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
- 10:00-Staff Appreciation Luncheon prep
- 12:00-Staff Appreciation Luncheon
- 5:30-Women’s Book Club, Panera
- 5:30-Preschool Board Meeting, Conference Room
- 6:30-Heart & Soul, Choir Room & Connection Café
- 7:00-Millikin Heights, Disciples Room
- 7:30-Opus 24 Concert, Sanctuary

Wednesday (15)

- 10:15-Chapel, Friendship Center
- 10:30-Minister’s Meeting
- 4:00-Peace and Justice Committee, 240
- 5:30-Council meeting

Thursday (16)

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

Friday (17)

Saturday (18)

Sunday (19)

Graduation Sunday

- 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
- Youth Group-End of Year Party, Fairview Park

In the Hospital...

DMH:
No one

St. Mary’s:
No one

Serving Schedule—Sunday, May 12, 2019

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Mark Beal & Andy Fulk

Deacons:

8:00 - Team 1 - Gene & Sandy Garver, Gail Prince, Debbie Hoffert, Al & Chris Fagin, Pamela Bednar, David Wagner
 10:30 -Team 2 - Christine Lyman-Harm, Janet Lyman, Dale Ford, Jeannie Rade, Erik Harm, Kathy Kauzlarich, Ron Oliver, Steve Swarthout, Cindy Grabowski, Janelle Beedle, Tom & Diane Ritter, Paul Gorden, Roberta Gorden, Thomas Karunas, Linda Helton

Ushers:

8:00—Team 2 - Becky Johnston, Capt., Bruce Campbell, Liz Campbell
 10:30 - Team 7 - George Virgil, Capt., Linda Virgil, Jon & Jane French

Greeters:

8:00 - Dean & Janet Gray
 10:30 - Dick & Sue Ann Cain

Acolytes:

10:30 - Peyton Swarthout, Julina & Jordan Lindsey

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Donna Dash
 10:30 - Mike Kirby

Ride Share Drivers:

8:00 & 9:00 Services & Sunday School - Andy Fulk—972-3361
 Sunday School and 10:30 service - John Baird—429-5651

Main Entrance Door Hosts:

May 13 8:30-12:00—Sandy Garver
 May 14 8:30-12:00—Janet Gray
 May 15 8:30-12:00—Judy Ford
 May 16 8:30-12:00—Sandy Garver
 May 17 8:30-12:00—Gail Prince

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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 BrimnerNursery 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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