

# 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, August 22, 2018

No. 34

## Blanket Sunday offering August 26



A blanket is an essential item in an emergency. After a disaster, it can keep you warm, provide shelter (as a temporary tent) and even become a satchel for carrying your belongings. Blankets also symbolize God's love as they cover us and protect us. Because of donations from congregations like ours, Church World Service was able to distribute more than 1,500 blankets to the victims of last fall's hurricanes. CWS seeks our help again for the annual Blanket Sunday offering, to be collected Aug. 26. Please consider giving generously.

## A Call to Socialize

Our region, the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin, is opening the lines of communication among all its congregations. Encouraging words from brothers and sisters in faith may be just what is needed on the journeys we make alongside one another. To this end, CCIW is inviting us all to participate in a "Call to Socialize."



To begin, any individual can follow these simple steps:

1. Visit [www.cciwdisciples.org](http://www.cciwdisciples.org) and sign up for the CCIW newsletter.
2. Join the forum discussion by visiting [www.socialize.cciwdisciples.org](http://www.socialize.cciwdisciples.org).
3. Join Facebook and visit cciwdisciples and introduce yourself.

Check out the Welcome Center for more information. Help spread some light and uplift others in the CCIW.

## **SUNDAY, August 26, 2018**

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

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP AT 9:00 a.m.

**Back to Basics #2: Come Together**

Text: 2 Samuel 7:1-17

Michael E. Karunas

## **Food Collection**

The food collection for September 2nd is pork 'n beans or canned tomato products. As always, the shopping cart is located in the Connection Café. Thank you for your generous giving.



## **Counting On You**

**Sunday, August 19, 2018**

Worship Attendance ..... 268

Sunday School & Small Groups.....67

**CONNECT WITH THE COMMUNITY**  
**CONNECT WITH THE**  
**YOUNGER GENERATION**



The CE Committee is gearing up for Autumn term! Volunteers are set to be the hands and feet of Jesus at **Benjamin Franklin Elementary School** on Summit Avenue in Decatur. We're inviting the church to be the hands and feet of Jesus along with us. This service requires no special training or skill level and you get to choose the hours spent at the school. This service opportunity is for you if you like working with kids and helping the community.

Here are the volunteer opportunities:

\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Green      2<sup>nd</sup> grade  
Reading, writing, sight words,  
math facts.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Wells      2<sup>nd</sup> grade  
Reading, sight words, math facts.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. Sobek      4<sup>th</sup> grade  
Reading, spelling, math facts.

\_\_\_\_\_ Mrs. England      5<sup>th</sup> grade  
Multiplication/division facts,  
math skills.

\_\_\_\_\_ Ms. Timmons      6<sup>th</sup> grade  
Math facts, reading.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mark your preferred service and return to the office. Thanks!**

**Two-Way Streets**

One of the "basics" we are getting "back to" in our new sermon series ("Back to the Basics") is the foundational promise in the Old Testament between God and Abraham. Abraham was descended from Adam – nearly 20 generations removed – and once God called Abraham to leave his home and journey to a new land, God and Abraham made promises to each other. In Genesis 12-13, we see God promising Abraham three things. First, God would give Abraham a land in which to live, settle and put down roots. This was the land of Canaan to which God would lead Abraham. Second, God would provide Abraham with a family of descendants who would become the people of God (the children of Abraham). Finally, God would be a God on whom Abraham could rely and depend. God would, in other words, be Abraham's god. In return, God asked for one thing. Fidelity. Loyalty. Abraham, for his part, was to worship only God and not be misled by idols, spirits or any other divinity he might encounter.

In some ways, one might argue the rest of scripture is related back to this promise – the people struggling to worship only God, being tempted to show devotion to many other things *instead of* God; trying to understand the importance we should put to geographical place; and what it means to be a "people of God" and how to interact with those not in the designated community. Equally interesting, however, is the notion that this fundamental promise in scripture is two-way. It is a bi-lateral covenant. Both sides make promises to the other. In contrast, a "unilateral covenant" is one in which only one side makes promises to the other. But scripture shows us very early that the basis of a life-giving relationship are two-way promises. And not surprisingly, when the people in the bible get into trouble, it's because they fail to keep their promises.

And so it is for us today as well. All meaningful, life-giving, spiritually-fulfilling relationships involve two-way promises. Relationships of oppression, abuse, manipulation etc. are those that lose the two-way nature of the promising. One side fails to keep their promises, forcing the other to do more and suffer more for the relationship to continue. Consider that in marriage *both* bride and groom make public promises to each other, and how silly (even frightening?) it would be if only one promised "to have and to hold" while the other did not. Similarly, when friendships, marriages, and relationships of all kinds break down it can be traced to the perception (and possibly the reality) that one of the two parties is doing work not matched by the other.

God clearly values mutuality – sharing the responsibility for making the relationship work. God is thoroughly invested in us and our lives, but desires that we be equally invested in God and what God desires and values. When we are holding up our end of the bargain, we thrive. When we don't, we should not be surprised when we suffer and struggle in our day to day living. And God values mutuality in the relationships that we build with one another. That's why six of the first 10 commandments (Exodus 20:1-17) have to do with how we treat each other. When our earthly relationships reflect the relationship God modeled with Abraham – when they are two-way streets – we will thrive and flourish in the love and care we experience with one another, just as God intended.

Blessings – **Michael**

### Special Note of Thanks

Mike and Carole Holbrook send their thanks and gratitude for the thoughts and prayers sent their way during the time of Carole's father's passing. Lloyd Morgan passed away July 29.

Thank you for the many expressions of sympathy extended for the recent passing of Larry's brother and Kathy's mother. We found comfort in your kind words.

*The Peppers*

### Chalice Class

Title: *Ministry Behind Bars*

Focus: United Methodists in Texas have been traveling to detention centers to offer ministry and worship to migrant children. How have churches responded to the gospel call to remember those who are detained and incarcerated? What could ministry behind bars look like?

### Sign Up for a Pictorial Directory Portrait Time

This fall we will be publishing our first pictorial directory in six years and we would love for your family unit to be part of it! This is not just for members, but for everyone who is a participant in the life of Central. Every family who signs up will receive a free 8"x10" print as well as a copy of the directory. This directory will have both a print version and an online version. Sign up any Sunday before or after worship in the Friendship Center or online. Simply visit our website ([www.cccdisciples.org](http://www.cccdisciples.org)) and follow the prompts.

Portrait dates are (please note some times may no longer be available):

- Tuesday – Friday      September 25 - 28      2:00 – 9:00 p.m.
- Saturday              September 29              9:30 a.m. – 4:50 p.m



Women's Conference  
**Press into God**  
Presence      Power      Plans  
Philippians 3:10  
**Keynote Speaker: Pastor Rhonda Cloin**  
**September 22, 2018**  
**8 am–3 pm**  
**\$7.00**

Pastor Rhonda is a graduate of Rhema Bible Training Center in Tulsa, OK. Rhonda and her husband served in many areas of ministry in Grace Fellowship Church in Paris, IL for over 11 years. They evangelized throughout the Midwest in churches and prisons. In 2007 they founded Midwest Believers Church in Champaign, IL where they currently minister to a growing and vibrant church.

Central Christian Church    650 W. William Street    Decatur, IL  
[www.cccdisciples.org](http://www.cccdisciples.org)



### **Sunday, August 26, 2018**

Music:

- Offertory-*Built on the Rock*
- Anthem-*Come Build a Church*
- 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
- 1:00-Youth Group Paint Party

### **Monday (27)**

- 5:00-Veterans, Great Hall

### **Tuesday (28)**

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:00-ChristCare Stitchers, 207
- 11:00-Security Meeting, Conference Room
- 1:30-Millikin Class, 240

### **Wednesday (29)**

### **Thursday (30)**

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

### **Friday (31)**

### **Saturday (September 1)**

### **Sunday (2)**

- 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

REGISTRATION FORMS AVAILABLE ONLINE

<http://www.cccdisciples.org/ccq-quick-news/womens-conference/>

FEES CAN BE PAID ONLINE AT

<https://www.shelbygiving.com/dl/?uid=cent650185>

**In the Hospital...**

**DMH:**

Larry Foster

**St. Mary's:**

No One



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

650 West William Street  
Decatur, IL 62522

PERIODICAL  
POSTAGE  
PAID



**Serving Schedule—Sunday, August 26, 2018**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Charlotte Ballance, Connie Bordner

**Deacons:**

8:00 - Team 3 - Sid & Krista Rohrscheib, Jane Davis, Charlotte Ballance, Bob Muschal, Pat Penhallegon, 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 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 - Gene & Sandy Garver

10:30 - Dennis & Ronda Spencer

**Acolytes:**

10:30 - Peyton Swarthout, Jordyn Keck

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Jim Bednar

10:30 - Keith Backes

**Preparation of Communion:**

Bob & Carol Bischoff, Karen Baird, Nancy Hanover

**Ride Share Drivers:**

8:00 & 9:00 Services & Sunday School - Andy Fulk 763-6624  
Sunday School and 10:30 service - Brett Swallow 876-7767

**Main Entrance Door Hosts:**

August 27 8:30-12:00 - Carole McClarey

August 28 8:30-12:00 - Carol Bischoff

August 29 8:30-12:00 - Karen Keller

August 30 8:30-12:00 - Carolyn McCall

August 31 8:30-12:00 - David Flanders

**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522  
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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  
Monica Hernandez.....Nursery Attendant  
Cheryl Williams.....Nursery Attendant  
Melissa Gillis.....Nursery 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  
Samantha West.....Preschool Teacher  
Diana Murray.....Preschool Teacher  
Stephanie Nihiser.....Preschool Teacher  
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    | 280  |
| Nursery (Birth - 5 years old) | 1R    | 150  |

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