

# The Central Visitor



*A weekly visitor to your home bringing  
you news from Central Christian Church  
Our mission ... Sharing Christ,  
Changing Lives, Delivering Hope*

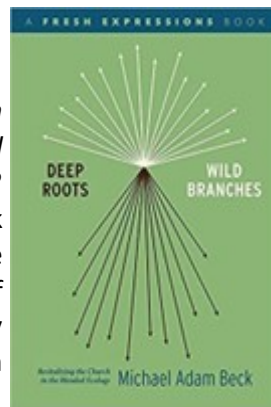
Vol. XCV

Decatur, Illinois, May 9, 2023

No. 10

## **Sign up for Small Group Book Study During Sabbatical 2023**

*What will the church of tomorrow look like? How can Central maintain its strong past, yet remain a vital messenger of the Good News in an ever-changing world?* Those are the kinds of questions raised by the book *Deep Roots, Wild Branches*. Pastor Michael will be reading this book while away on sabbatical and one of the ways we can all remain connected together is by reading this book together. So you are invited to join one of the Reading Groups described below:



Leader: Gretchen Kirby	Mondays 6:00 p.m. (first meeting – June 5)	Kirby home (813 Fairway, Forsyth)
Leader: Diana Ritter	Tuesday 6:00 p.m. (first meeting – June 6)	at the church
Leader: Karen Wade	Wednesdays 10-11:30 a.m. (6/14, 6/28, 7/12, 7/26)	TBD
Leader: Jeannie Backes	Mondays, 10-11:30 a.m. (6/12, 6/26, 7/10, 7/24)	Church
Leader: David York	TBD	ZOOM (link provided each week)

## **SUNDAY, May 14, 2023**

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP  
IN-PERSON (SANCTUARY)  
**AT 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM**  
AND LIVESTREAMED ON  
[WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG](http://WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG)  
AND FACEBOOK LIVE  
**AT 10:30 AM**

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP  
IN-PERSON (GREAT HALL)  
AND LIVESTREAMED ON  
[WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG](http://WWW.CCCDISCIPLES.ORG)  
AND FACEBOOK LIVE  
**AT 9:15 AM**

## **Jesus Rose ... Now What?**

Text: John 21:15-17  
Michael E. Karunas



## **VBS Volunteers Needed**

We are excited to announce this summer's VBS theme: Compassion Camp – Changing the World Through Loving Kindness. VBS is July 10-13, Monday – Thursday mornings from 9-noon.

We will gather for songs, Bible stories, movement, arts, and crafts, as we learn about acts of compassion and kindness.

VBS is for children who are going into kindergarten and who have just finished 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

We need many adults to provide a fun and meaningful experience for our children. We have places for people to lead and assist in these areas: snacks, guiding small groups, Bible storytelling, crafts, and music.

Please consider volunteering. Contact Pastor Vicky to say YES!



## **Happy Birthday!! (5/14–5/27)**

Claudia Curry, John Flanders, Janet Gray,  
Bradley Munos, Claudia Evans, Jean Pease,  
Robert Reed, Kelly Swallow, Zachary  
Martin, Danielle Patricio, Christine Swim,  
Patti Swinford,  
Linda Zinn, Marci Baumann,  
Julie Jacoby, Duff Knudsen,  
Samuel Andrews, Kristi Niles,  
Michele Bafford, Kate Matherly,  
Jaxon Flower, Kim York, Melissa Miller,  
Matt Moma, Julian Lindsey, Nina Emmons,  
Stephani Bellinger



### **Sabbath Retreat**

"Everybody Needs a Break"  
Saturday, June 10, 9-11:30 am

We will slow down and explore some practices that help us spending time with one another and with God.

All ages welcome. Nursery care will be provided for our youngest kids.

### **Celebrating Graduates**

Your Central Church family wants to celebrate with you as you graduate. Please let us know if someone in your family is graduating from high school, college, or with an advanced degree. We will publish their names and congratulate them in our next Visitor.

### **Donuts**

"Do Good Donuts" from Good Samaritan Inn will be available this Sunday at each service. The proceeds from the freshly made donuts go to support their Noon Meal and Mercy Gardens outreaches.

For more information about "Do Good Doughnuts" or to place larger orders, please visit their website and look under the donuts tab.

### **George & Pearl Jones new address!**

8125 Double Eagle Court  
Ooltewah, TN 37363  
Stay in touch!

### **Counting On You**

**Sunday May 7, 2023**

Total worshipping online = 81  
Total worshipping in-person = 265

### **Counting On You**

**Sunday April 30, 2023**

Total worshipping online = 97  
Total worshipping in-person = 247

## Minister's Article

### **Three Hopes**

This newsletter article will mark my last before beginning my sabbatical. As you know, I will be in worship this Sunday (Mothers Day, May 14) but then will be stepping away from all day-to-day activities in the church until early August. I plan to be back in worship on August 6, but not preaching. I will look forward to being a worshiper alongside you and have the chance to see you all again before resuming my day-to-day work on Monday, August 7.

I am exceedingly grateful for the tremendous staff and lay leaders we have at Central and I have no doubt that things will proceed in smooth and wonderful ways in my absence. I also appreciate the fact that Scott Woolridge will be present both throughout the week and on Sunday mornings to provide stability and support to everyone. Scott will be sending out regular announcements and other pastoral-type correspondence in this column as well as the every-other-week "This Week's News" email. The sabbatical committee, under the leadership of Gerri Munos, has done a fantastic job of coming up with an appropriate theme for the summer – "Connection: One God – One Church" and I hope you will pick up one of the booklets we put together outlining some of the theme-based activities that will take place during the next 12 weeks (if you haven't already).

One of the ways we can experience connection throughout the sabbatical is by staying connected to worship. The sabbatical committee has contracted with an amazing group of preachers who are familiar with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and committed to bringing a thought-provoking, challenging and inspiring message each week. On over half of the Sundays, the pulpit will be filled by two people we already know well – Rev. Scott Woolridge (member of Central and long-time Associate Regional Minister of our region) and our own Pastor Vicky Woolridge. Of the remaining five, some you may know, some you may not. Yet each was selected by the committee and Pastor Michael and are coming to Central with great willingness and anticipation.

We know that the summer always means individuals and families will be out of town on vacations and for other reasons. But I am asking three (3) things of you as you make your household plans this summer. Consider these my three (3) hopes for you this summer as it relates to worship at Central:

That you attend worship as often you as you are able. This is a great opportunity to hear excellent preaching from a variety and diversity of people;

That when you are here, you listen well and strive to leave worship with one (1) take-away you can apply to your faith journey;

That you make sure to go out of your way to greet the guest preachers and thank them for coming. Central is full of people with welcoming, generous and hospitable spirits. And we want our guests to feel the full weight of our love when they are here.

Blessings for a summer of wonderful connections— Pastor Michael

## Welcome New Members

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome the Orchard family to Central! Chris, Danielle, Alex (8<sup>th</sup> grade) and Dominick (2<sup>nd</sup> grade) all transferred their membership at the 9:15 service. Originally from Minnesota, the Orchards live in Mt. Zion and have been attending Central regularly since the latter half of 2022. Alex is already a regular part of the youth group, participating in youth Sunday in April and planning on accompanying the mission trip to Kansas City this summer. Dominick is a regular at Sunday School as well. Welcome Chris, Danielle, Alex and Dominick!



## HERITAGE CENTER OPEN HOUSE

Celebrate the completion of our new Heritage Center on Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> by visiting between 9:00 and 12:00 noon. The Heritage Center is located down the North Ramp Entrance.

Everyone is invited to view beautiful displays and artifacts of Central's history.

Décor Committee members will be on hand to answer questions and describe the updated historical items.

On May 21<sup>st</sup> the Center can easily be reached by entering the North Ramp Entrance or by taking the Gallery elevator on the Sanctuary level down to the Ramp Area. Use of one of these entries will not interrupt the Great Hall Contemporary Service from 9:15 – 10:15.



## Pentecost Offering to be Received May 21 & 28

The Pentecost offering supports the New Church Movement of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

This movement has allowed us to grow our Disciples Family by welcoming many new and affiliated faith communities into the fold.

Our church planters are eager to answer God's call to spread the gospel in new ways and places. Established congregations like ours are sharing resources, love and support for this effort.

The Pentecost Offering will be received two consecutive Sundays, May 21 & 28.

Please consider giving generously to this important ministry for advancing faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Sunday (14)**

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
9:15-Sunday School  
9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online  
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online

### **Monday (15)**

9:15-Prayer Group, Gallery  
1:00-DOVE Kids' Clothing Room open  
5:30-Sabbatical Committee, Disciples Room

### **Tuesday (16)**

7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café  
9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R  
9:30-Card Ministry, 340  
10:15-Operations Committee, Disciples Room  
11:15-Dorcus Meeting, Great Hall  
12:00-Dorcus Luncheon, Great Hall

### **Wednesday (17)**

1:00-DOVE Kids' Clothing Room open, 407  
5:30-Church Council, Great Hall

### **Thursday (18)**

10:00-Alanon, 340  
11:00-AAUW, Disciples Room  
4:15-Journeymen 2, Connection Café  
7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

### **Friday (19)**

### **Saturday (20)**

### **Sunday (21)**

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
9:00-Heritage Center Open House, Heritage Center  
9:15-Sunday School  
9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online  
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online  
4:00-Youth Group

### **Monday (22)**

9:00-Prayer Group, Gallery  
1:00-DOVE Kids' Clothing Room open, 407  
5:30-Sabbatical Committee, Disciples Room

### **Tuesday (23)**

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Cafe  
9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R

### **Wednesday (24)**

11:30-Elderberries, Great Hall  
1:00-DOVE Kids' Clothing Room open, 407  
5:30-Christian Ed Committee, Conf. Room  
5:30-Cont. Worship Planning, Disciples Room

### **Thursday (25)**

10:00-Alanon, 340  
3:00-Angie in the Great Hall, Great Hall  
4:15-Journeymen 2, Connection Cafe  
7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

### **Friday (26)**

### **Saturday (27)**

### **Sunday (28)**

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary  
9:15-Sunday School  
9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online  
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online



**Serving Schedule — Sunday, 14, 2023**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Charlotte Ballance, Theresa Fulk  
9:15 - Charlotte Ballance

**May Prep Deacons:** Linda Zinn, Donna Dash

**Offering Deacons:**

8:30 - Sandy Garver, Krista Rohrscheib  
9:15 - Angie & Ron Ingram  
10:30 - Roberta Gorden, Luke Kirby

**Ushers:**

8:00 - Team 4 - Hazel Perry, Capt., Karen Penn, Charlotte Ballance  
10:30 - Team 9 - Kim Miller, Capt., Audrey Miller

**Greeters:**

8:30 - Carolyn McCall, Gene Garver  
9:15 - Andy & Theresa Fulk  
10:30 - Andy & Teresa Fulk

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Donna Dash  
10:30 - Keith Backes

**Liturgist:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Kim Maple  
9:15 - Donna Rutherford



**Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**  
650 West William Street Decatur, Illinois 62522  
Telephone (217)428-4336 FAX (217)428-1700  
www.cccdisciples.org  
e-mail: [central@cccdisciples.org](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org)

Michael E. Karunas ..... Senior Minister  
David Martin ..... Youth Director  
Ben Hawkinson ..... Director of Music  
Vicky Woolridge ..... Pastor for Families  
Don Martin ..... Visitation Associate  
Cordelia "Dee Dee" Gain ..... Organist  
David Williams ..... Organist  
Kathleen Dudley ..... Pastoral Assistant  
Yvonne Boyd ..... Administrative Assistant  
Carl Fuerstenberg ..... Administrative Assistant  
Emily Elsea ..... Nursery Attendant  
Rachel Miller ..... Nursery Attendant  
Ella Redden ..... Nursery Attendant  
Abigail Smith ..... Nursery Attendant  
Andrew Evans ..... Lead Caretaker  
Jim Denzer ..... Caretaker  
Sam Hawkinson ..... Caretaker

**Serving Schedule — Sunday, May 21, 2023**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Kevin Wilmot, Dick Cain  
9:15 - Kevin Wilmot

**May Outreach Elders:** Brett Swallow, Janet Lyman, Karen Wade, Cheryl Zollinger, Jeannie Backes, Suzie Miller, Gretchen Kirby

**May Prep Deacons:** Linda Zinn, Donna Dash

**Offering Deacons:**

8:00 - Gail Prince, Jane Davis  
9:15 - Rod & Laurie Damery  
10:30 - Andrea Shartzter, Jeannie Backes

**Ushers:**

8:00 - Team 5 - Mike Munos, Capt., Gerri Munos, Brad Munos, Brittney Moran, Bobby Munos  
10:30 - Team 10 - David Martin, Capt., Gretchen Kirby

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Gene & Sandy Garver  
9:15 - Angie Horvath  
10:30 - Brett Swallow

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Jim Bednar  
10:30 - Mike Kirby

**Liturgist:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Diana Ritter  
9:15 - Isabella Karunas

**"Like" and "Follow" us on Facebook**

To "like" hit the thumbs-up icon.

To "follow" click on the ellipse icon (...).

You will see a list of options pop up.

Find the option marked "follow" and click on that.



**Prayer Request Text-In!**

Have a prayer request? Text PRAY to 217-212-2173, or use the QR code to the left.

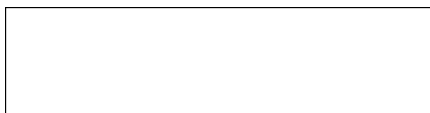
"PRAY" is the only word you should type.

Your phone then sends you a link to the prayer request form to fill out. We would love to pray with you and follow up, if you wish.

The Central Visitor (USPS 098-520) is published biweekly by Central Christian Church, 650 W. William, Decatur, IL 62522.

Periodical Postage paid at Decatur, IL.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Central Visitor, 650 W. William St., Decatur, IL 62522.



NON-PROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
DECATUR, IL  
PERMIT NO. 80

Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

650 West William Street  
Decatur, IL 62522

