

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. XCVIII

Decatur, Illinois, April 22, 2026

No. 8



Welcome New Members!

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Deb and Kyle Ryan to the Central family. Deb and Kyle joined the church at the 9:15 service this past Sunday. Deb is the daughter-in-law and Kyle is the grandson of the late Wally and Helen Ryan – longtime members of Central. They have been attending the contemporary service regularly over the last several months. Welcome Deb and Kyle!

Women and Girls Celebration!

Come and join us for an evening of sharing delicious food and recipes. We will have a potluck supper on Friday, May 8, starting at 6pm. All girls and women are welcome. Please bring a favorite dish to share along with the recipe. Sign up sheets (to let us know what you're bringing) are available at church in the Great Hall and the Friendship Center. We'll share some stories around our recipes and enjoy fellowship around the tables.

All Family Neighborhood Clean Up

We hope you will join us on Saturday morning, 4/25 for an All Family Neighborhood Clean Up. We'll begin at 9am with a scripture and a prayer before we do our work. You are welcome to bring your own equipment, but we will have gloves, rakes and trash bags available. All ages and skill levels are welcome. Let's have fun together as we pick up around the church grounds, pray for our neighbors, and enjoy some treats as we put our faith into action and service. Please contact the church to let us know you'll be there. (central@cccdisciples.org or 217-428-4336)

Elderberries Program & Meal for May!

Please join us for our Elderberries meal and program on 5/13 at 11:30 AM. We'll be entertained by poetry readings by Dick Cain. Menu: pasta, salad, garlic bread and chocolate cake. Please RSVP by **Thursday, 5/7** in order to make sure we have enough delicious food to serve. If you need to change your RSVP, please let the office know. See you there! This is a free meal, but love offerings are always welcome.

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026

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

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

Sermon for 4/26/26

1 Peter 2:4-10

Michael E. Karunas



Happy Birthday!! (4/26—5/9)

Charlotte Ballance, Judy Ford, Debra Fulk-Clark, Nancy McAfee, Brenda Tankersley, David Sheffer, Rick Postlewait, Sarah Andrews, Ronda Burcham, Marl Beal, Nick Baum, John Hill, Steve Turner, Giuliana Morelli, Bob Craggs, Crosby McLeod, Amelia Jennings, Jim Fitzpatrick, Vicki Fitzpatrick, Rowan Shartzter, Norma Fick, Jennifer Hartwig, Eli Barnes, Kim Hurm, Ellen Hearn, Ryan Clark, Lynn Potter, Dean Pribbenow

2026 Scholarship Forms Available

Scholarship forms are now available on paper and online. You may pick up a paper copy from the church or download a paper copy from the Youth page of the website. The deadline to submit the scholarships will be **SUNDAY, MAY 3RD**.

Large Print Bibles Available for Use

The church has purchased three (3) large-print bibles for anyone to use while on campus at Central. One can be found on the bench at the back of the sanctuary. The other two can be found on the bookshelf in the Gallery/Library, on the second floor just north of the sanctuary. Feel free to use them during worship or for any other programming taking place in the building. Please return after use. If you would like to take one home temporarily, please notify the church office first.

Decatur Youth Symphony Orchestra and Millikin-Decatur Symphony Orchestra Chamber Ensemble will perform "Side by Side" on Sunday, April 26, at 2:00 PM at the Decatur Civic Center. Free admission. Featuring music by Stravinsky, Copland, & Chevalier de St. George. For more info, contact Neal Smith at 217-424-6358 or nsmith@millikin.edu.

Counting On You

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Total worshipping online = 114
Total worshipping in-person = 279

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Total worshipping online = 101
Total worshipping in-person = 243

Connections in Ministry

At the 10:30 service this past Sunday, Rev. Dale Matherly was our guest in worship. He is the current Director of Disciples Interims for Disciples Home Missions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Dale was here to present our own Scott Woolridge with a Certificate of Meritorious Service for his work as the former Director of Disciples Interims. Scott has served faithfully in ministry for 47 years and Sunday marked a commemoration of the many roles Scott has filled as he has lived out of his calling as a servant of Christ for nearly half a century. Scott recently stepped down from his role as director and Dale has succeeded him in that position.

Among the words Dale spoke to Scott, these stand out: *Scott, you have helped us become a community that listens more deeply, leads more wisely, and trusts more fully that God is still at work among us. And so today, we say thank you. Not just for what you have done, but for who you have been among us. As you step into this next season, we celebrate you – not with a sense of ending, but with a deep awareness that your influence continues. In the leaders you have mentored. In the congregations you have strengthened. In the vision you have helped shape... Thank you for the way you have loved the church. Thank you for the way you have led us. And thank you for the way you have trusted the Spirit moving among us.*



It is rather fitting that Dale came to make this presentation. Dale and I have been friends for nearly four decades ourselves. Back in the summer of 1990, I was a Peace Intern for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). My summer job, prior to my senior year in college, was to travel to high school church camps throughout the country and speak about what peace meant to me. One of the locations on my itinerary was Camp Christian in Gordon, Georgia. Dale, a student at Candler School of Theology at Emory University (Atlanta) was a student pastor in the Georgia Region and was a counselor for that week of camp. We instantly hit it off and have been friends ever since. He attended my installation as pastor of First Christian Church, Centralia IL in 1998.

(continued on page 3...)



As it so happens, a laywoman from Lawrenceville, GA was also a counselor at Camp Christian that week. Her name was Marilyn Park. She was a strong believer in the importance of church camp and an ardent supporter of it. She was the “matriarch” of camp the week Dale and I were counselors together in 1990. Decades later – in 2018 – Rev. Melinda McDonald was called to serve as interim minister of First Christian Church, Lawrenceville where Marilyn was a member. Still supporting the camping program all those years later, Marilyn was a beloved member of the congregation Pastor Melinda served.

It is indeed a blessing to experience both how big and how small the world can be at the same time. In the circles of ministry within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), those experiences tend to happen more frequently than one might think. Yet it never gets tiresome to be part of them when they do.

Blessings – Michael

Food Collection for Northeast Community Fund

Thank you Central Christian Church for supporting the shopping cart with your donations each month. On April 7, 2026, 178 pounds of nonperishable food items were delivered to Northeast Community Food Pantry. Each week Northeast Community Fund food pantry is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. The current average is 196 households being helped on each day they are open. The total number of individuals per household varies. The average is 29% children and 25% seniors in the households.

Our next collection date will be May 3. Here are some suggestions: rice, canned and pouches of chicken and tuna, peanut butter, cereal, mac and cheese cups, fruit cups, ramen noodles, individual applesauce cups, granola bars, canned pasta items, snack items, and dried fruit. Let's put our resources together and fill the cart, thus helping those who may be facing food insecurity. Together we can make a difference. Please, be sure to check the expiration date. It is also a good idea not to donate items in glass packaging. Look for the shopping cart in the Connection Café.

CCC Saturdays at Good Samaritan Inn

Volunteers from Central Christian will prepare and serve lunch at Good Samaritan Inn four more Saturdays in 2026: If you would consider helping at Good Samaritan, please note these dates on your calendar! Sign-up lists will be available in the church office about 2 weeks before each date.

May 16, July 18, September 19, November 14

Sunday (26)

No Children's Sunday School today

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 9:15-Sunday School
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online
- 4:00-Millikin Spring Sing, Sanctuary

Monday (27)

- 9:15-Prayer Group, 401
- 1:00-DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room, 407

Tuesday (28)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café
- 9:30-Christcare Stitches, 3R
- 11:45-Macon Co. Interagency, Great Hall
- 12:00-Personnel
- 6:00-Council Safety & Security committee, DR
- 7:00-Opus 24 rehearsal, Sanctuary

Wednesday (29)

- 1:00-DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room, 407
- 3:00-PR/Evangelism
- 6:00-Contemporary worship leadership

Thursday (30)

- 10:00-Alanon, 401
- 3:00-John bible study, Great Hall
- 6:00-Men's small group
- 7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Friday (May 1)

- 6:30-Opus 24 rehearsal

Saturday (2)

Sunday (3)

- 8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
- 9:15-Sunday School
- 9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online
- 10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online
- 3:00-Opus 24 Spring Concert, Sanctuary

Monday (4)

- 9:15-Prayer Group, 401
- 1:00-DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room, 407

Tuesday (5)

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:30-ChristCare Stitches, 3R
- 9:30-Card Ministry, 411/412
- 3:00-Council MMTF committee, Conn. Café
- 6:00-P.E.O. I.F., Disciples Room

Wednesday (6)

- 1:00-DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room, 407
- 1:00-Prayer Shawl Ministry, Fireside Room
- 6:00-Millikin Heights, 401

Thursday (7)

- 8:00-Emmaus Reunion Group, 401
- 10:00-Alanon, 401
- 12:00-Support Staff meeting
- 2:00-Decatur Needle Arts, Disciples Room
- 3:00-John bible study, Great Hall
- 5:00-Christian Ed, Connection Café
- 7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (8)

- 12:00-Symphony Guild, Disciples Room
- 6:00-Women's & Girls' Celebration, Great Hall

Saturday (9)

Sunday (10)

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



Serving Schedule — Sunday, April 26, 2026

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Christine Lyman-Harm, Gail Prince
9:15 - Christine Lyman-Harm

April Prep Deacons: Larry* & Michele Bafford, Dianne DeVore, Betsy Tietz

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Nancy King, Patti Swinford
9:15 - Deb & Randy Trei
10:30 - Scott Bicknell, Andrea Shartzter

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 3 - David King, Capt., Nancy King
10:30 - Team 8 - Diana Ritter, David Sheffer

Greeters:

8:00 - Charlotte Ballance, Donna Dash
9:15 - Deb & Randy Trei
10:30 - Martha Fast, Suzie Miller

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Keith Backes
9:15 - Rev. Melinda

Contemporary Snack Table: Deb & Randy Trei

Contemporary Perishable Snacks: Deb & Randy Trei

Nursery and Children's Sunday School Schedule

Sunday, April 26


Nursery: Abigail Clark, Stephani Martin, Kaylee Sommer

Children's Sunday School: NO Children's Sunday School today

Sunday, May 3

Nursery: TBA

Children's Sunday School: Christine Lyman-Harm, Vicky Woolridge, TBA



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www.facebook.com/CCCDecatur

Serving Schedule — Sunday, May 3, 2026

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Jeannie Backes, Rebecca Monroe
9:15 - Rebecca Monroe

May Prep Deacons: Beth Calvert, David & Nancy* King

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Charlotte Ballance, Troy Swinford
9:15 - Marci & Steve Baumann
10:30 - Mary Little, Diana Ritter

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 4 - Hazel Perry, Capt., Karen Penn
10:30 - Team 9 - Suzie Miller, Capt., Martha Fast

Greeters:

8:00 - Debbie & Jim Hoffert
9:15 - Marci & Steve Baumann
10:30 - Dale & Judy Ford

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Krista Rohrscheib
10:30 - Luke Kirby

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Ellen Hearn
9:15 - Marci Baumann

Contemporary Snack Table: Marci & Steve Baumann

Contemporary Perishable Snacks: Deb & Randy Trei

“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.

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