

# 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. XCVII

Decatur, Illinois, December 3, 2025

No. 24

## **Baby Dedication this Sunday**

Join us at the 10:30 a.m. service this Sunday, Dec. 7, when we will dedicate Reagan Shartzter to God and within the family of God. Reagan was born on May 22nd, 2025. Her parents are Cole and Andrea Shartzter and her big sister is four-year-old Rowan.



## **Congregational Meeting and Nominating Committee Report**

On Sunday December 7, we will have our annual congregational meeting. The two business items requiring a vote are:

- The operating budget for 2026
- The nominating committee's report (representing the proposed list of church leaders for 2026-2028).

This meeting will take place after of our three (3) services. President Keith Backes will be on hand and will ask all members to stay for a few extra minutes, introduce the agenda items and distribute the ballots. The final tally will be recorded after the third service. Copies of the proposed budget and nominating committee report can be found in the Welcome Center.

## **A Central Christmas Tea**

Central will be hosting a Christmas Tea for all women and girls on Saturday, December 13 at 2pm, in the Great Hall. You are welcome to bring a tea or coffee cup/mug and a Christmas memento to share a story with us if you would like. Please RSVP by calling the church office (217-428-4336) or emailing: central@cccdisciples.org by Monday, December 8.

## **Advent Family Fun Morning**

Come and join the fun on Saturday, December 6, from 9:30-11am as we focus on the Nativity story, spend time with other Central families and enjoy treats. Families of all ages are invited.

## **Central T-Shirts are Here!**

If you ordered a Central t-shirt, it is ready for you to pick up. Starting this Sunday, December 7, they will be located in The Connection Café. There will be someone there to get your shirt for you and mark our list that your shirt has been picked up. Thanks to everyone who ordered a Central T-Shirt.

## **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025**

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

**Scripture for 12/7/25**

**Luke 21:5-19**

Melinda McDonald

## **Incarnation Sunday School class -**

### **We're meeting this Sunday!**

Because of the big snow event, we did not have our regular class session last Sunday. We'll meet for our final session this Sun., Dec. 7, at 9:30 am in the Disciples Room.

## **Happy Birthday!! (12/7—12/20)**

Theresa Fulk, Rae Owens, Karen Penn, Sarah Miller, Andrew Rutherford, Roger Rutherford, Jennifer Dial, Brett Swallow, Don Tankersley, Janet Thicksten, David Withrow, Troy Swinford, Betsy Osman, Brandon Brewer, Emelia Andrews, Adam Scircle, Dianne Devore, Alex Bruns, Crystal Leamon, Iris Stock, Pamela Larrick, Kevin Ann Otis, Debbie Seaberg, Jackson Moma, Leenie Florian, Paula Partain

**"Be the reason someone feels safe today."**

Everyone is invited to join Dorcas Disciples in contributing paper products to God's Shelter of Love's Careage House from Nov. 18th to Dec. 12th. Careage House is: Christ-centered emergency housing for women and children. The following paper products can be dropped in Careage House display boxes in the Friendship Center & Fireside Room: paper towels, toilet paper, foil, paper plates, foam cups, napkins, plasticware and large kitchen garbage bags. DORCAS DISCIPLES and GOD'S SHELTER OF LOVE THANK YOU!

**Christmas Care & Share Volunteers Needed**

Our CACS committee is leading Central's participation in the community's Christmas Care & Share again this year. Many volunteers are needed to prepare for & work at the event. To sign up to volunteer you can reach out to Ryan or Angie at 217.428.6616 or by email at santa@doveinc.org. You may contact Judy Ford at judyjf@comcast.net for any questions. Please consider giving your time to make someone's Christmas happy. Thanks!

**In Sympathy...**

We mourn with the family of Glen Dalluge (stepfather of Nancy Hanover and Tom Ritter), who passed away on 11/29. Glen had been a member of Central since September 2014. He was 100 years old. Services will be at a later date.

**Counting On You**

**Sunday, November 30, 2025**

Total worshipping online = 167  
Total worshipping in-person = 126

**Sunday, November 23, 2025**

Total worshipping online = 119  
Total worshipping in-person = 362

**"O Come..." – Advent 2025**

Our theme this Advent is "O Come..." Advent is the season in the church year that encompasses the four Sundays prior to Christmas. Long before our world was dominated by consumerism and capitalism, these four weeks before Christmas had nothing to do with shopping, baking and travel plans (as much as we enjoy these Christmas traditions today). Advent was instead about things like appreciating the darkness that the long nights in the northern hemisphere provide; imagining a world without Christ; practicing things like patience and waiting; and preparing to receive Christ into one's life anew. Advent was about preparing oneself *spiritually*, by moving past external things and reflecting on the status of one's mind and heart.

It's a bit ironic. Today getting ready for Christmas means adding more and more things to the To-Do list – baking, shopping, wrapping, mailing, decorating, hosting, traveling. Sometimes we get tired just thinking of all the things we have to "do" in order to be "ready" for December 25th. For our ancient ancestors, though, Advent – these four weeks before Christmas – were about *letting go* of things; doing *less* and not more; sitting still and thinking, reflecting, wondering, contemplating, praying... Every Advent at Central, we hope to recapture some of that ancient wisdom and make it part of our lives today.

To that our end, our Advent theme – "O Come..." – is based on the hymn (song) "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." The song as we know it – with the tune and the words that are familiar to us – dates only to the early 1850s. But the words are actually much older. Nearly 1500 years ago a Christian philosopher named Boethius wrote words *about* Jesus Christ. He wanted to explain – to people who *didn't* know Christianity but *did* know Greek philosophy - who Christ is and why Christians believe in him. He wanted to explain Christ in a way they would understand. The words we sing in the hymn/song "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" today are based on those words. Whether we read them or chant them or sing them and whether they are accompanied by an organ or piano or guitar and drums, the different verses of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" remind us who we understand Jesus the Christ to be. The song is our plea – our hope; our wish - that Christ come into our broken world and bring healing and salvation. Here is what you can expect each Sunday during Advent 2025.

November 30— Advent Week 1

Hanging of the Greens 9:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.  
Prayer, Preaching and Communion service 8:00 a.m.  
*O Come... Emmanuel*

December 7— Advent Week 2

*O Come... thou Dayspring*

December 14— Advent Week 3 - Come Home for Christmas

Brunch served at 9:00, Dinner at 12:00  
Take your family picture at Friendship Center Christmas Tree

**Traditional (8:00 and 10:30):**

Celebration in Song! Central Chancel Choir  
featuring Festival Brass Ensemble

**Contemporary (9:15):**

Kids Chorus singing with the Praise Band

December 21— Advent Week 4

*O Come... Desire of Nations*  
Bring a Bell to Church Sunday

*(continued on page 3...)*

Handel's *Messiah* – Decatur Oratorio Society 3:00 p.m.

December 24— Advent - Christmas Eve

*Contemporary Candlelight and Communion Service* 5:00 p.m.

*Harp Concert in Sanctuary* 6:30 p.m.

*Traditional Candlelight and Communion Service* 7:00 p.m.

(Both services live-streamed. Nursery available at 7:00 p.m.)

Blessings, Michael

### Advent Gift Bags for Families with Children

We have a gift bag for our families with children. It's filled with activities to help you prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas as you journey through Advent. You may pick them up at church on Sunday or stop by the office during the week. We hope these resources will help you slow down a bit and have some time to talk together about how much God loves you and how we can share that love with others.

### Do you like surprises?

Every Sunday during Advent our children are invited to open an Advent Surprise Box and receive a small gift. Inside there will be a scripture telling part of the story of the birth of Jesus. When you collect all of the scriptures, one each Sunday of Advent, you will have the complete story. The boxes will be located in the Family Lobby, near the fish tank. Come with your family before or after worship to open a box and find your surprise.

### Food Donations for Northeast Community Fund

Thank you for your continued support of the Grocery Cart. Our next collection date will be December 7, 2025. Let's close the year by filling the cart with non-perishable items to help our neighbors and community members who may have limited or uncertain access to safe and adequate food. Here are some suggestions: rice, canned and pouches of chicken and tuna, canned pasta sauce, pasta, mac and cheese, noodles, broth, canned fruits and vegetables, ramen noodles, canned soup, canned chili, and individual bottles of real juice. Of course, these are just suggestions. 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. Let's fill the cart. Thank You!

### Come Home for Christmas!

On 12/14/25, we will celebrate Advent with a Sunday of joyous music during our services, as usual, and in the traditional services, we'll have some extra musical surprises. Also that day, Central will be serving a brunch between the 8:00 AM & 9:15 AM services and a lunch after the 10:30 AM service. Please feel free to come enjoy a brunch after worshipping at the 8:00 AM service, or come a little early to the 9:15 AM worship and feel free to take some brunch with you on the way to worship. You can then feel free to return later after the 10:30 AM service for the lunch, or you can enjoy the 10:30 AM worship service and look forward to a lunch afterwards. Please make sure to RSVP for the meals by 12/11 to help our Fellowship Committee plan for how much food to purchase! You may either call the church at 217-428-4336 or email [central@cccdisciples.org](mailto:central@cccdisciples.org) by Thursday, 12/11. We need to know if you are attending the brunch or the lunch and how many people will be attending. We will also have sign up sheets at the Welcome Center and the table at the back of the Great Hall.

### **Sunday (7)**

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

9:15-Sunday School

9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online

10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online

### **Monday (8)**

9:00-Good Sam volunteer opportunity

9:15-Prayer Group, 401

1:00-DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room, 407

1:00-Golden K, Disciples Room

3:00-Elder planning

### **Tuesday (9)**

7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café

9:30-ChristCare Stitchers, 3R

1:00-Colorful Ways to Pray, 411/412

3:00-Women's Book Club, Connection Café

### **Wednesday (10)**

1:00-DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room, 407

5:00-Elders, Disciples Room

### **Thursday (11)**

10:00-Alanon

7:00-Chancel Choir

### **Friday (12)**

11:30-Dorcas Luncheon, Doherty's

12:00-Symphony Orchestra Guild, DR

5:30-Messiah rehearsal

### **Saturday (13)**

2:00-A Central Christmas Tea, Fireside Room

### **Sunday (14)**

### **Come Home for Christmas/Orchestra Sunday**

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, 401

1:00-DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room, 407

### **Tuesday (16)**

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café

9:30-ChristCare Stitchers, 3R

9:30-Card Ministry, 411/412

### **Wednesday (17)**

1:00-DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room, 407

1:30-Prayer Shawl Ministry, Fireside Room

### **Thursday (18)**

8:00-Emmaus Reunion Group, 401

10:00-Alanon, 401

5:30-Messiah rehearsal

7:00-Chancel Choir rehearsal, Choir Room

### **Friday (19)**

5:30-Messiah rehearsal

### **Saturday (20)**

12:00-Messiah rehearsal

### **Sunday (21)**

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary

9:15-Sunday School

9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online

10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online

3:00-Handel's Messiah, Sanctuary

### Women's Book Club

Book club is December 9 at 3:00 in the Cafe. We will be discussing the book by Kristin Hannah, 'Comfort & Joy'. Hope to see you there.

**Serving Schedule — Sunday, December 7, 2025**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Angie Ingram, Gail Prince  
9:15 - Gail Prince

**Dec. Prep Deacons:** Donna Dash, Becky Johnston, Christine Lyman-Harm,  
Karen Penn\*

**Offering Deacons:**

8:00 - Dianne Devore, Bobby Munos  
9:15 - Laura & Matt Moma  
10:30 - Scott Bicknell, Diana Ritter

**Ushers:**

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

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Dianne Devore, Carolyn Sunderlik  
9:15 - Laura & Matt Moma  
10:30 - Suzie Miller, Brett Swallow

**P.A. Operator:**

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

**Liturgist:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Ellen Hearn  
9:15 - Cheryl Zollinger

**Contemporary Snacks:** Laura & Matt Moma

**Nursery and Children's Sunday School Schedule**

**Sunday, December 7**


**Nursery:** Stephani Martin, Kate Neumann, Kaylee Sommer

**Children's Sunday School:** Jeannie Backes, Janet Lyman, Christine Lyman-Harm, David Martin, Brittney Moran, Vicky Woolridge.

**Sunday, December 14**

**Nursery:** Bella Karunas, Stephani Martin, Kate Neumann

**Children's Sunday School:** Gretchen Kirby, Christine Lyman-Harm, David Martin, Brittney Moran, Vicky Woolridge.



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**Serving Schedule — Sunday, December 14, 2025**

**Elders:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Tom Spry, Lea West  
9:15 - Lea West

**Dec. Prep Deacons:** Donna Dash, Becky Johnston, Christine Lyman-Harm,  
Karen Penn\*

**Offering Deacons:**

8:00 - Sid Rohrscheib  
9:15 - Susie Turner  
10:30 - Christine Lyman-Harm

**Ushers:**

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

**Greeters:**

8:00 - Karen Penn  
9:15 - Cheryl & Dave Zollinger  
10:30 - Larry & Michele Bafford

**P.A. Operator:**

8:00 - Bobby Munos  
10:30 - Keith Backes

**Liturgist:**

8:00 & 10:30 - Sue Ann Cain  
9:15 - Rebecca Monroe

**Contemporary Snacks:** No snack table. Come Home for Christmas Brunch.

**“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

