

The Central Visitor



Vol. XCVIII

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No. 6



Welcome New Members!

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Bill and Nanette Frank to the Central family. Bill and Nanette began attending, at the invitation of several already attending Central, on Maundy Thursday 2021. Since then they have been an active part of our fellowship and have determined that Central is the place that is to be their spiritual home. We couldn't

be happier to welcome them and give thanks for the part they play in our community. Welcome Bill and Nanette!

Confessions of Faith on Palm Sunday

Four youth who are in the process of completing Faith Quest (our confession of faith and baptism preparedness class) will be giving their confessions of faith during worship this Sunday, Palm Sunday. Meredith Dull (Faith Companion Diana Ritter) will be delivering her faith statement at the 10:30 service, while Nora Damery (Gretchen Kirby), Adam Glause (David York), and Miles Kappler (Ron Ingram) will be delivering theirs at 9:15. Adam, Nora, and Meredith will all be baptized on Easter Sunday. Come out and support these youth as they make these important steps on their faith journeys.

Painting of Sanctuary to begin after Easter

One of the New Projects included in our 2025-2028 capital campaign we began last June is the painting of our sanctuary. The color will not change. We should expect, however, an updated look to what have all enjoyed for decades. The work is scheduled to begin sometime on Monday, April 6 and we expect it to be finished by Friday, April 17. Sunday worship on April 12 should not be affected. The paint crew is planning on using ladders and a lift and will have the equipment out of the sanctuary in time for worship on April 12. During week, sanctuary will not be off-limits but we ask you to avoid using or passing through the space as much as possible (to allow the workers to do their work as easily as possible). Moreover, if there is an issue that arises that causes us to have to restrict access (even on Sunday morning), we will do our best to communicate to you and thank you in advance for your flexibility and understanding.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 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 3/29/26

John 12:1-8
Michael E. Karunas



Happy Birthday!! (3/29—4/11)

Christen McLeod, Bobby Munos,
Gregg Foltz, Jane Davis,
Luke Kirby, Samuel Rutherford,
Kathy Kauzlarich, Tatum Little,
Josie Morelli, Adalyn McCoy,
Ruby Glause, Don Hall

Easter Egg Prayers, 3/22/26

- Thank you for the beautiful weather this week and the flowers starting to bloom.
- Help Pastor Melinda as she leads worship today for her father.
- Thank you for waking me up today.
- Thank you for letting me be in Faith Quest!
- Dear Lord, Thank you for signs of new life, through the trees budding out, flowers coming out of the ground and the new faith these young people are sharing with us. Amen.
- Dear Lord, thank you for everybody in our family being healthy.
- Lord, I pray for protection against the devil.
- Thank you for the gifts of nature – deer in the backyard and eagles flying overhead. Amen.
- Thank you for a great visit to KC with Erik and Skye. Thank you for safe travels through crazy weather and reconnecting.
- Praying for my family.
- Hey God, can you help everyone and really bad people.
- Dear God, please let me get better at school. Amen.
- I want God to get me a big dinosaur toy robot.
- Dear God, thank you for this day. Help those who are dealing with addiction.
- Dear God, please let me have a better year! Amen.
- Hey! God, so can you make people feel better and can you help a lot of people.
- Thanks for the sunshine and flowers!
- God, please help my family stop arguing. Amen.
- Dear God, I am thankful for the things that you give us. We love you!

Counting On You

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Total worshipping online = 110

Total worshipping in-person = 265

Sunday, March 15, 2026

Total worshipping online = 122

Total worshipping in-person = 281

Minister's Article

Holy Week 2026

What follows are a list of things you will want to consider making part of your plans in the coming week as we prepare for the holiest week in our Christian calendar.

Confessions of Faith on Palm Sunday!!!

Four of our youth will be making their first-time confessions of faith at Central on March 29! Nora Damery, Adam Glause, and Miles Kappler will all make confessions at the 9:15 service, while Meredith Dull will do so at 10:30. At all services, we will have palm branches to distribute as well.

Maundy Thursday Service in the Sanctuary

On Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m. we will commemorate Maundy Thursday with a special service in the sanctuary. This will be a service of choral music, spoken word and an experience of guided meditation. The theme will be "Come to the Table" and we will commemorate the last supper Jesus held with his disciples in the upper room the evening before his crucifixion. Once again, we will be partnering with our fellow Disciples in Niantic and Illiopolis and their pastor, Rev. Melissa Ebken, will be joining us in leading worship.

Inaugural Central Cross Walk

Come by the Friendship Center on Wednesday and Thursday of Holy Week for some reflective and meditative time at our Cross Walk. The Cross Walk will be open Wednesday (4/1) from 12 noon – 8:00 p.m., Thursday (4/2) from 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. and on Friday (4/3) from 9:00 a.m. – 11 a.m. We have over 30 crosses, each with their own origin story, that are bound to inspire appreciation for the significance the cross can have in our lives today.

Good Friday Evening Worship at Niantic Christian Church

We are invited to join our fellow Disciples in Illiopolis and Niantic at a Good Friday evening service on April 3 at 7:00 p.m. at the Niantic Christian Church. We partnered with them for this service the last two years and it has been such a good experience we are doing it again. All three of our ministers will be joining Rev. Melissa Ebken in sharing reflections on what Jesus' death might have meant to some of those closest to him.

Celebrate Easter Sunday at Central!

This is always one of the best services of the year at Central and this year promises to be no different. At all services on April 5 we will have special music and lilies to admire. At the 9:15 service, we will have 2 baptisms (Nora Damery and Adam Glause). At the 10:30 service will have an additional baptism (Meredith Dull). All children and youth can look forward to receiving an Easter Gift Bag. Families are welcome to take family pictures in front of our Lily Cross in the sanctuary or outside in front of the Easter Cross by the West Entrance.

Blessings – Michael

Waving Palms

All children and youth are invited to wave palms this coming Sunday (3/29). We will gather before worship and come in waving palms on the first hymn/song. All ages are welcome and there's no practice needed.

Easter Lily Insert Update

This year Central will be making a change in one of our long time Easter traditions. Due to individuals with severe allergies, we are transitioning to silk Easter Lilies. We will continue our Easter insert and will collect \$10.00 for the names of loved ones you would like listed. These contributions will be placed in the "Altar flower" designated fund to help defray costs of the silk flowers and future flower needs of Central.

You may sign up for the memory insert at the Welcome Desk and in the Great Hall on March 29th. Thank you for your support.



Pictures Please!

If your family has a cup of caterpillars, please take some pictures of them as they grow and change and share them with us. Take some selfies, too, so we can see how much fun you're having! You can email them to central@cccdisciples.org.

Watch the transformation happen – from caterpillars to chrysalis to butterfly. You can see it whenever you are at church by stopping by the Friendship Center.

Special Sunday School

On Sunday, March 29, there will be a special Sunday School for our 4 year olds – 5th graders. We will meet at the regular time and MEET in the Disciples Room. We will combine our classes to hear the story of Palm Sunday and create a craft to help us remember the story.

Food for Northeast Community Fund

Thank you Central Christian Church for supporting the shopping cart with your donations each month. As the need grows to provide food assistance to individuals, families, seniors, and the homeless in our community, it is important for us to consistently support our local food pantries monthly. On March 3, 2026, I delivered 130 pounds of nonperishable food items to Northeast Community Food Pantry.

Our next collection date will be April 5. Here are some suggestions: rice items, canned and pouches of chicken and tuna, canned spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, cereal, elbow and spaghetti pasta, mac and cheese, fruit cups, ramen noodles, applesauce, granola bars, soup, and dried fruit. 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. Let's put our resources together and fill the cart, thus helping those who may be facing food insecurity.

2026 Scholarship Forms are coming!

Scholarship forms will be available on paper and online on April 1st! 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**.

Sunday (29) - Palm Sunday

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

Monday (30)

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

Tuesday (31)

7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café
9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R

Wednesday (April 1)

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

Thursday (2) - Maundy Thursday

8:00-Emmaus Reunion Group, 401
10:00-Alanon, 401
2:00-Decatur Needle Arts, Disciples Room
7:00-Maundy Thursday service, Sanctuary

Friday (3) - Good Friday

7:00-Good Friday service, Niantic Christian

Saturday (4)

Sunday (5) - Easter

No Children's Sunday School

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

Monday (6)

CLOSED: Church & Offices, Preschool, & DOVE Children's Clothing Room

Tuesday (7)

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

Wednesday (8)

1:00-DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room, 407
5:00-Elders

Thursday (10)

10:00-Alanon, 401
12:00-Support Staff meeting
5:00-Christian Ed, Connection Café
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (10)

12:00-Symphony Orchestra Guild, Disc. Room

Saturday (11)

Sunday (12)

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

Serving Schedule — Sunday, March 29, 2026

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Kim Maple, Linda Rowden
9:15 - Kim Maple

March Prep Deacons: Mary Jane Linton, Linda Zinn*

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Gail Prince, Krista Rohrscheib
9:15 - Erik Barnes
10:30 - Mike Kirby, Steve Swarthout

Ushers:

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

Greeters:

8:00 - Carolyn McCall, Gail Prince
9:15 - Deb & Randy Trei
10:30 - Andy & Theresa Fulk

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Bobby Munos
10:30 - Mike Kirby

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Shirley Swarthout
9:15 - Travis Wilcoxon

Contemporary Snack Table: Deb & Randy Trei

Contemporary Perishable Snacks: Donna Rutherford

Nursery and Children's Sunday School Schedule

Sunday, March 29


Nursery: Stephani Martin, Kate Neumann, Kaylee Sommer

Children's Sunday School: Janet Lyman, Christine Lyman-Harm, David Martin, Kate Neumann, Diana Ritter, Deb Trei **(No 6th-12th SS; classes will meet in the Disciples Room today)**

Sunday, April 5

Nursery: Stephani Martin, Kate Neumann, Kaylee Sommer

Children's Sunday School: No Children's Sunday School this week



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Serving Schedule — Sunday, April 5, 2026

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Kim Miller, Krista Rohrscheib
9:15 - Kim Miller

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

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Jane Davis, Julia Munos
9:15 - Angie & Ron Ingram
10:30 - Dale Ford, Gretchen Kirby

Ushers:

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

Greeters:

8:00 - Sandy Garver, Karen Penn
9:15 - Andy & Theresa Fulk
10:30 - Jeannie & Keith Backes

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Andy Fulk
9:15 - Rev. Melinda

Contemporary Snack Table: Susie Turner

Contemporary Perishable Snacks: Steve Turner

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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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