

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, May 6, 2026

No. 9

Welcome New Members

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Phil Durflinger and Belva Gadlage to the Central family. Phil and Belva are friends with former associate minister, Rev. Tina Miller, and have been attending Central since the time Tina was with us. They are also close friends with several members already. In recent years, they have been attending and participating more and more and decided to make their connection official by joining at the 10:30 a.m. service this past Sunday. Welcome Phil and Belva!



Preschool Sunday Offering Sunday May 10

We will be collecting a special offering for our preschool throughout the morning on Sunday, May 10. On all our monitors throughout the building, a slide show will play of highlights from the children's activities this year. There will also be a letter from our preschool director, Melissa Miller, along with some special anecdotal data provided from Melissa describing how our preschool equips children to meet the challenges and opportunities kindergarten and elementary school. Additionally, two parents of preschool children (who also happen to be members of Central) – Andrea Shartzter and Denise Swarthout – will offer a testimonial word about what Central's preschool has meant to their families. We have done this on Mothers Day for the past several years and your donations help our preschool meet any unmet needs that arise during the year, including scholarships for students whose families can benefit from that assistance.

Potluck for Women and Girls is this Friday

We hope you will join us on Friday, May 8 at 6pm. It's a potluck for all women and girls. You are welcome to come with a friend or family member or come on your own and spend time with friends at church.

Please bring one of your favorite dishes to share, along with the recipe. Table service and drinks will be provided. We will enjoy a meal together and share stories around the tables about our recipes and memories of favorite meals. You can contact the church office to RSVP (217428-4336).

Women's Book Club

Book club will be on May 12 at 3:00 in the cafe at church. We will be discussing the book, *Wayward Girls* by Susan Wiggs. All are welcome.

SUNDAY, MAY 10, 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 5/10/26

John 14:15-21

Michael E. Karunas



Happy Birthday!! (5/10—5/23)

Greg Carter, Claudia Curry, John Flanders, Janet Gray, Bradley Munos, Claudia Evans, Robert Reed, Zach Martin, Danielle Patricio, Tessa McCoy, Patti Swinford, Douglas Taylor, Marci Baumann, Duff Knudsen, Samuel Andrews, Karma Carpenter, Michele Bafford, Jaxon Flower, Kim York, Matt Moma, Eli Monroe, Julina Lindsey, Stephani Martin, Adam Glause, Jim Denzer, Debbie Holtfreter, Reagan Shartzter, Melissa Miller, Stephani Martin

2026 Scholarship Deadline

Extended to May 10th!

The deadline to submit applications for our scholarships will be **SUNDAY, MAY 10th**. You may pick up a paper copy at the church or apply by going to www.cccdisciples.org and clicking the "Our Ministries" tab, and then the "Youth" tab in the drop-down menu.

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.

WE CELEBRATE OUR CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL STAFF!

All Central women are invited to help host Dorcas Disciples' 8th "almost annual" Staff Appreciation Luncheon at 12 noon on Tuesday, May 19th in the Great Hall. Ladies will gather at 11:15 a.m. for a brief business meeting and then celebrate the dedicated service of our church and preschool staff with a delicious lunch at noon. Staff members will receive individual invitations.

Please RSVP by Thursday, May 14th to Nancy Ellen Taylor at 217-872-9174 or xstr@sbcglobal.net to make sure we have enough delicious food. Hope to see you May 19th!

Counting On You

Sunday, May 3, 2026

Total worshipping online = 158

Total worshipping in-person = 303

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Total worshipping online = 104

Total worshipping in-person = 252

Minister's Article

Jesus rose for all of us.. and for all of us!

For the doctorate of ministry degree I am pursuing, through Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University, I took a class that wrapped up this week on emotions. Specifically, it was called Emotions and Human Flourishing. As my final project/paper for the class, I chose to write on the emotions of holy week, in particular the unpleasant emotions of guilt, shame, fear and anger. After all, after the joy of Palm Sunday, those unpleasant emotions are prevalent through the drama that unfolds. I am happy to share the full paper with anyone who wishes to read it, but I thought I would share the conclusion to that paper here. When Jesus rose from the tomb, he did so indiscriminately. He rose for everyone involved in the holy week drama and for the unpleasant emotions they experienced. He rose for the disciples' guilt at having abandoning him when he was arrested. He rose for the religious leaders' fear, anger and manipulation that led to their arresting, trying and condemning Jesus. He rose for the shame and tears Peter experienced, when he came face to face with his own denial. We see this clearly in what Jesus did while he was dying on the cross and after he was raised from it. Jesus re-commissioned the disciples to go out and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:16-20). He restored Peter and entrusted him to be a leaders in the future church (John 21:15-17). He even offered forgiveness *from* the cross to the very ones who put him *on* the cross (Luke 23:34).

The good news of the gospel story of salvation is that Jesus didn't just die and rise for them, he died and rose for the parts of *us* that reflect the unpleasant emotions displayed in the holy week drama. He rose for the regrets we have and for the times we have failed to live up to a standard we set for ourselves. He rose for the guilty consciences we have, when we fear we have violated the expectations of the communities in which we value being included. Jesus rose for the times we have been swept up by a crowd and acted in ways contrary to our foundational beliefs. He rose for the times when the fight or flight response in us has prevented us from thinking clearly. And he rose for the times we have allowed our emotions to manipulate others for our own self-serving ends. He rose for *all* of us and he rose for all of *us* – for *all* our emotions; not just the joy of Palm Sunday and Easter, but for all ones we would rather dodge and deny because we have deemed them to be unpleasant.

Emotions are information. In this sense, they are not good or bad, positive or negative, pleasant or unpleasant. They simple are. Granted, how we *respond* to them and *act* upon them can be qualified as good or bad, positive or negative. While our emotions themselves are always acceptable, this is not necessarily the case with the *consequences* of our emotions and the aims toward which they are organized. But as information, emotions are meant to teach us about ourselves and the world in which we live. The more knowledge we have of our emotions – where they come from and what they indicate about us, our past, our context and how we interact with others – the healthier all of our relationships can be. This includes the relationship we have with ourselves, with another, and with God.

In the emotions displayed during holy week, we can recognize our own human frailty; our own unpleasantness and our complicity in the unpleasantness experienced by others. Yet, we can also experience the acceptance of that frailty in the grace of the one who rises above it.

Blessings – Michael

In Sympathy We Mourn

Our Regional Minister and President, Dr. William Crowder and his wife, Dr. Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder, and their family received some devastating news last week. Their 21 year-old son, Sollomon, a senior at Howard University in Washington, D.C. and set to graduate on Mothers Day weekend, went missing on April 28. Several days later, his deceased body was found. An investigation is ongoing, but we certainly grieve greatly with the Crowder family and send them all our love, concern and spiritual support. The Crowders were our guests in worship on March 9 and many of us had the opportunity to meet this wonderful couple and this leader of our region.



Let's Celebrate another great School Year!

You are invited to celebrate with us as we near the end of the school year! On **Sunday, May 17**, during **all three worship services**, we will recognize all children/youth who are finishing the school year with a **small gift** during our Time for All God's Children.

We will also recognize **our graduates** that day and announce the **recipients of the Central continuing education scholarships**.

We hope you can join us for worship so we can celebrate with you!

Also, on Sunday, May 17, you are invited to an **All Church Family Cook-out, from 3-5pm at Rock Springs Nature Center**.

All hotdogs, burgers, buns, condiments, drinks, and table service will be provided. **Please bring a side dish or dessert to share**. You can bring some lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. There's a pond for fishing, trails for hiking and a playground.

Please sign up at church or RSVP to the church office (217-428-4336) or (central@cccdisciples.org) **by noon on May 14**.

Reach out to David or Pastor Vicky if you have any questions.

Celebrating Graduates

We want to celebrate with our graduates. Please let us know if you know someone in the Central Church family who is graduating from high school, college, trade school, or with an advanced degree. We would like to list their names and congratulate them on their accomplishments. Please send their names and degree/school information to the church. central@cccdisciples.org 217-428-4336

It's Time to Register for VBS!

VBS is coming June 15-18, Monday – Thursday, 9-noon each day. Our theme is Snowball Mountain Challenge – Find Your Strength in God. Registration forms are available at church. VBS is for children who are 4 years old – those finishing 5th grade. Families, please watch for an email next week with an invitation to VBS, along with a fillable VBS registration form and Child Information Forms for your children. Please reach out to Pastor Vicky with any questions.

In Sympathy

We mourn with the family of Jo Ellen Cairns, who passed away on April 16th. Jo Ellen had been living in Florida for the past several years. She joined Central in June of 1991. She was 77. Thank you for joining us in prayer for her family.

Sunday (10)

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

Monday (11)

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

Tuesday (12)

7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café
9:30-Christcare Stitches, 3R
3:00-Women's Book Club, Connection Café

Wednesday (13)

11:30-Elderberries program, Great Hall
1:00-DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room, 407
5:00-Elders, Disciples Room

Thursday (14)

NO John bible study today

10:00-Alanon, 401
7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Friday (15)

Saturday (16)

8:00-Good Sam volunteer opportunity

Sunday (17)

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

Monday (18)

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

Tuesday (19)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:30-ChristCare Stitches, 3R
11:15-Dorcas meeting & Staff Appreciation Luncheon, Great Hall

Wednesday (20)

1:00-DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room, 407
1:00-Prayer Shawl Ministry, Fireside Room
5:30-Church Council, Disciples Room

Thursday (21)

8:00-Emmaus Reunion Group, 401
9:30-Card Ministry, 411/412
10:00-Alanon, 401
3:00-John bible study, Great Hall
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (22)

9:30-Featherstun visitation
11:00-Featherstun funeral service

Saturday (23)

Sunday (24) - Pentecost Sunday

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

Monday (25) - Memorial Day

Preschool, DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room, Church & Offices Closed

Serving Schedule — Sunday, May 10, 2026

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Linda Foltz, Gretchen Kirby
9:15 - Linda Foltz

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

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Doug Blakey, Mike Munos
9:15 - Deb & Randy Trei
10:30 - Christine Lyman-Harm, Linda Thomas

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 - Carolyn McCall, Gail Prince
9:15 - Deb & Randy Trei
10:30 - Larry & Michele Bafford

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Janet Lyman
9:15 - Rebecca Monroe

Contemporary Snack Table: Deb & Randy Trei

Contemporary Perishable Snacks: "Do Good Donuts"

Nursery and Children's Sunday School Schedule

Sunday, May 10

Nursery: Stephani Martin, Kate Neumann, Kaylee Sommer

Children's Sunday School: Janet Lyman, Christine Lyman-Harm, David Martin, Brittney Moran, Diana Ritter, TBA

Sunday, May 17

Nursery: Abigail Clark, Stephani Martin, Jolie Witts

Children's Sunday School: Janet Lyman, Christine Lyman-Harm, David Martin, Brittney Moran, TBA



Central Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

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www.facebook.com/CCCDecatur

Serving Schedule — Sunday, May 17, 2026

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Julie Martin, Lea West
9:15 - Julie Martin

Outreach Communion Elders: Angie Ingram, Kim Miller, Krista Rohrscheib,
Tom Spry, Shirley Swarouth, Karen Wade

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

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Dianne DeVore, Betsy Tietz
9:15 - Mark Glause
10:30 - Dale Ford, Tom Jones

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 1 - Carolyn Sunderlik, Capt., Dianne Devore
10:30 - Team 6 - Ron & Terry Grant, Mark Kincaid

Greeters:

8:00 - Sandy Garver, Karen Penn
9:15 - Marla Eovaldi
10:30 - Dale & Judy Ford

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

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

Contemporary Snack Table: Susie Turner

Contemporary Perishable Snacks: Donna Rutherford

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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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