

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 17, 2025

No. 25



Welcome Reagan!

At the 10:30 a.m. service this past Sunday (December 7), Reagan Mae Shartzer was dedicated to God within this faith community. Welcome Reagan!

Christmas Offering: Behind Every Church Stands a Supportive Regional Office

The Christian Church in Illinois & Wisconsin and The Christian Church in Michigan, like the 29 other Disciples of Christ regions across the United States and Canada, are often recognized for their camps and conferences.

According to Clayton Summers, co-host of our camp near Dieterich with his wife Alix, "Camp Walter Scott continues to be a place for everyone who comes to experience the Divine flowing around and through them, in both the serious moments and in full-bellied laughter."

But these two partner regions do much more than that. Their staffs also nurture the next generation of pastors, assist congregations in calling their next minister, and come to our aid in times of crisis.

Our Christmas offering, to be collected Dec. 21 and 30, is our chance to support regional ministry. Please consider giving generously.

If you have an offering to give, you may place it in the brass bowl in the Narthex, give online or take it to the church office.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 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 12/21/25
Ephesians 2:13-18
In the Midst of Chaos
Michael E. Karunas



Happy Birthday!! (12/21—1/3)

Jarrett Bednar, John Funk,
Gerri Munos, Chris Stock, Dean Larrick,
Debbie Hoffert, Gabbi Morelli,
Maverick Luthy, Cruz Bottom,
Travis Wilcoxon, Braylon Wilcoxon,
Rebecca Monroe, Melinda McDonald,
Kathleen Dudley, Trajan Campbell,
Noelle Cohan, Caroline Dull

Thank you from the Cain family

Thank you Central for your outpouring of love and comfort through our grief of losing our son Brad. We were reminded, once again, how blessed we are to worship with you. As always, Michael's words were a source of strength and encouragement. May God's richest blessings be yours.
Sue Ann & Dick Cain

No Paper Visitor on 12/31/25

Due to the short week for the New Year holiday, there will be no paper Visitor mailed out on 12/31/25. We will do an email "Mid-Week Update" that week in lieu of the paper version.

Congregational Meeting, 12/7

On Sunday, 12/7, we collected ballots regarding the two items of business for the congregation to consider for 2025: a) the operating budget; and b) the nominating committees report presenting future church leaders. As many as 125 ballots were collected with both items passing unanimously. Thank you for your participation in this important church business and for your overall support of Central.

Women's Tea Rescheduled

Please Save the Date for the Central January Tea for All Women and Girls – Coming January 17, 2026.

Upcoming Closures

Please note that the church and offices of Central Christian Church will be closed on December 25th & January 1st, in observance of the holidays.

Counting On You

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Total worshipping online = 300
Total worshipping in-person = 231

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Total worshipping online = 91
Total worshipping in-person = 303

Advent Updates

As I write these words it is 8:08 on Saturday, December 13. The first inch of a predicted 8-inch snowfall is on the ground, and by the end of the day we will have received more November/December snow than probably any of us can remember in a long time. From a church programming perspective, both massive snowstorms have come on a Saturday which drastically impacts our Sunday schedules. Yet, the journey of Advent forges on, and I wanted to make everyone was aware of what is upcoming on our journey to the manger. Thank you for your flexibility, understanding and continued support.

December 21

Advent Week 4 - "O Come... Desire of Nations"

Bring a Bell to Church Sunday: bring a bell from home (if you have one) or receive one from us if you don't. You will be invited to ring your bell on the opening hymn and closing hymn (traditional worship) and on the more upbeat songs (contemporary worship).

Kids Chorus and Come for Christmas

The Kids Chorus, which was scheduled to sing at 9:15 and 10:30 on December 14, will now sing on 12/21. The same goes for the Come Home for Christmas brunch and dinner. They will also now be served this coming Sunday, 12/21.

Handle's Messiah – Decatur Oratorio Society

3:00 p.m.

The Decatur Oratorio Society is a new organization dedicated to the creation of community through music. invites you to experience one of the greatest musical traditions of all time—Handel's *Messiah*. Since its first performance in 1742 Handel's *Messiah* has thrilled and inspired audiences. Come be part of our inaugural performance as we bring this timeless masterpiece to life in Decatur Dec 21st, at 3:00 pm right here, at Central Christian Church and directed by our own Dr. Ben Hawkinson.

Special Christmas Offering Collected

On Sunday, December 21 we will be collecting a special offering to support the ministries of our region, the new Living Waters Region (Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan). World Outreach chair, Andy Fulk, will offer an announcement during worship about the significance of this offering. During in-person worship, special envelopes will be provided. Donations may also be made online by looking for the "Christmas Offering" option.

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.)

January TBD

The Women's Christmas Tea (for women and girls of all ages) is being move to a date in January, due to the Saturday snowfall.

- Blessings, Michael

Central Supports Decatur Moves Bringing You to Church!

Decatur Moves is a new type of transportation service available from Decatur Public Transit. It operates very much like Uber or Lyft, but very affordable (\$2.00 per ride). Central is working with Decatur Moves to help transport anyone from our church family for who needs assistance to attend worship. Here's how the process works:

- You call Decatur Moves and set up a time for them to pick you up Sunday morning and when you want to be picked up from Central to bring you home after worship.
- Central Christian Church is setting up an account with Decatur Moves to cover the cost of your ride to and from church.

For questions or more information, please contact the church office at 217-428-4336 or email central@cccdisciples.org.

Regarding SNAP Benefits

With the current government shutdown cutting – or at least reducing – the SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits provided to families and households, Central wants to do what we can to help those in our faith community who may be affected. If you, or someone you know connected with our church, has been compromised by the loss of SNAP benefits, we would like to know. Call the church office (217-428-4336) and we will put you in touch with one of our pastors. All information you share will be held in confidence.

Advent Surprise Boxes

All children are invited to come and open an Advent Surprise Box this Sunday, December 21. Inside you will find the last part of the Christmas story from the Bible. There will also be a special surprise for you to choose. We hope you have had fun opening a box and receiving these gifts from your church family. The Advent Surprise Boxes are near the fish tank.

Christmas Eve Info for Families

We will have an activity bag for all children who come to Christmas Eve worship at both the 5pm and 7pm worship services. We will also have battery candles for anyone who would like one. The nursery will be available for children (infants through kindergarten age) at the 7pm service.

Thank You from Camp Walter Scott

Thank you so much for awarding outreach funds from your Capital Campaign to Walter Scott! Our ministry has a long history of partnership with Central and we are grateful and excited for this next step as partners in ministry! At Walter Scott, thousands each year connect with God on this Holy Ground. It takes place through programmed encounters in our children, youth, and family ministry as well as through many unplanned encounters during family reunions, fishing trips, church leader retreats, and so much more. God's Realm breaks through here and now at Walter Scott, and it's because of the support we have been given by you and others. With these outreach funds, we will re-establish our chapel for the next generation of those who need hope and those who desire to leave with a changed life. We will create full kitchenettes in our sleeping structures to increase the types of groups we are able to serve. All of this will be based in sharing the Christ we know, the Christ we love, the Christ who first loved us, through our words and through our actions. We are excited for these projects and the projects to follow as your gift is multiplied here. Thank you, faithful stewards. Peace on the Journey, Rev. Clayton Summers

Sunday (21)

Come Home for Christmas

- 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

Monday (22)

CLOSED: Preschool. Winter Break.

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

Tuesday (23)

CLOSED: Preschool. Winter Break.

- 7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café

Wednesday (24) - Christmas Eve

CLOSED: Preschool. Winter Break.

CLOSED: DOVE Children's Clothing Room

- 5:00-Contemporary Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary
- 6:30-Harp Concert, Sanctuary
- 7:00-Traditional Christmas Eve Service, Sanctuary

Thursday (25) - Christmas Day

CLOSED: Church & Offices

CLOSED: Preschool. Winter Break.

Friday (26)

Saturday (27)

Sunday (28)

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 (29)

CLOSED: Preschool. Winter Break.

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

Tuesday (30)

CLOSED: Preschool. Winter Break.

- 7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
- 9:30-ChristCare Stitchers, 3R

Wednesday (31) - New Year's Eve

CLOSED: Preschool. Winter Break.

CLOSED: DOVE Children's Clothing Room

- 7:00-Swing In the New Year with Manley Mallard & the Blue Note Quintet concert, Sanctuary

Thursday (1) - New Year's Day

CLOSED: Church & Offices

CLOSED: Preschool. Winter Break.

Friday (2)

Saturday (3)

Sunday (4)

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

Serving Schedule — Sunday, December 21, 2025

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Theresa Fulk, Gretchen Kirby
9:15 - Theresa Fulk

Outreach Communion Elders: Jeannie Backes, Susan Bryant, Gretchen Kirby, Shirley Swarthout, Lea West

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

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Sandy Garver, Krista Rohrscheib
9:15 - Marci & Steve Baumann
10:30 - Dale Ford, David Martin

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 - Donna Dash
9:15 - Marci & Steve Baumann
10:30 - Dale & Judy Ford

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Andy Fulk
9:15 - Marci Baumann

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

Serving Schedule — Sunday, December 28, 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 - Julia Munos, Gail Prince
9:15 - Angie & Ron Ingram
10:30 - Mike Kirby, Ron Oliver

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 1 - Carolyn Sunderlik, Capt., Dianne Devore
10:30 - Team 6 - Mark Kincaid, Donna Dash

Greeters:

8:00 - Debbie & Jim Hoffert
9:15 - Marla Eovaldi (GH), Laura Kappler (upstairs)
10:30 - Mary Jane & Ron Oliver

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Gretchen Kirby
9:15 - Theresa Fulk

Contemporary Snacks: Susie Turner

Nursery and Children's Sunday School Schedule

Sunday, December 21


Nursery: Abigail C., Stephani Martin, Jolie Witts

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

Sunday, December 28

Nursery: Stephani Martin, Kate Neumann, Kaylee Sommer

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



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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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