

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 20, 2026

No. 10

Welcome New Members!

With joy and thanksgiving, we welcome Chris Milligan and John and Jan Allen to the Central faith family. All joined at the 10:30 service this past Sunday, May 17. Chris and the Allens have been regular attenders of that service for over a year. They each attended Welcome 101 and have found Central to be the place God is calling them to continue their faith journey. Welcome Chris and welcome John and Jan!



Central Celebrates with Our Graduates!

Central Christian Church celebrates with all of our graduates! We are praying for you and look forward to the things that God will do through you....



- **Calvin Andrews**, graduating from Heyworth High School, going to the U of I
- **Jenny Baumann**, graduating from the University of Iowa with a Masters in Speech Language Pathology
- **John Baumann**, graduating from the University of Illinois with a Bachelors in Community Health, with a focus on Healthcare Administration
- **Jonas Fagin**, graduating from Webster Groves High School in Missouri, will be attending the University of Alabama
- **Wes Fagin**, graduating from the University of Illinois with a Bachelors in Agriculture Business Marketing and Management
- **Ted Jones**, graduating from Meridian High School
- Declan Kilday, graduating from Plainfield High School, will be attending Arizona State University
- **Jarrett Newsome**, graduating from Millikin University with a Bachelors
- **Brooke Swinford**, graduating from Loyola University with a Bachelors in Business Administration—International
- **Lukas Thompson**, graduating from the University of Missouri with a Bachelors in Finance and minor in Economics

SUNDAY, MAY 24, 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 5/24/26

Pentecost

Acts 2:1-12

Michael E. Karunas



Happy Birthday!! (5/24—6/6)

Bill Bass, Merle Chapman, Mary Jane Oliver, Jean Pease, Kelly Swallow, Christine Swim, Linda Zinn, Julie Jacoby, Herb Knudsen, Kristi Niles, Jim Hoffert, Joe Morelli, Mimi Scircle, Harrison Hyde, Jackson Baum, Kate Matherly, MacKenzi Sargeant, Nina Emmons, Hayden Irby, Barbara Brooks, Kirsten Kilday, Meredith Dull, Bill Deetz

In Sympathy...

- We mourn with Carole Holbrook and family upon the death of Richard Michael "Mike" Holbrook, who passed away on May 6th. Mike & Carole had been members of Central since December 1992, though they've been living in Indiana and Florida for the past several years. Service information: Thursday, May 28, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. for an open-house gathering at Porter-Oliger-Pearson Funeral Home in Greensburg, IN. A memorial service will follow at 3:00 p.m. Mike was 79.
- We also mourn with the family of Florence Magee, who we just learned passed away on November 22, 2025. She and her husband Don had been living out of state for the past several years. The Magees joined Central in May of 1986. She was 89.
- We also mourn with the Bean family upon the loss of Justin Bean on April 21, 2026; Justin was the son of Jerry & Susie Bean. He was 47. There will be a graveside service for Justin on May 30, at 1:00 PM, at Graceland Cemetery, in Decatur, IL.
- Thank you for joining us in prayer for these families.

Reminder: Funeral Services

for Jody Featherstun

Friday, May 22nd
Central Christian Church
9:30 AM - Visitation
11:00 AM - Service

Counting On You

Sunday, May 17, 2026

Total worshipping online = 93
Total worshipping in-person = 275

Sunday, May 10, 2026

Total worshipping online = 127
Total worshipping in-person = 335

Minister's Article

Being Present to Someone Who is Suffering Loss

Melinda McDonald

How many of us have wondered what to say to someone who has just suffered a devastating loss? How many of us have tried to console someone who is experiencing deep loss... whether it is a terminal diagnosis or the death of a loved one or the termination of a long career or the complete loss of a home due to flooding or fire. Sometimes words can add more hurt and this is the last thing we want to do, right?

Here are some commonly used "platitudes" that are NOT helpful to say.

"God needed an angel or her/him." **"Name is in a better place or they are with God."** The reason why these are not comforting: Such comments can be offensive, particularly if the person is questioning their faith or simply wants their loved one here.

"This (death/bad event) was God's plan." **"Everything happens for a reason."** These two comments are not helpful because these words can cause anger and distress rather than comfort.

At least..." (Minimizing Statements): Examples include **"At least he lived a long life"** or **"At least you have other children"** are deeply hurtful because they minimize the pain of the loss of a parent or the untimely death of a child.

"I know how you feel." Even though you may have experienced a similar loss, you do not know exactly how this person/your friend feels. Your relationships with people are not the same as someone else's. This sentence also can be perceived as downplaying or diminishing someone's specific and unique experience. And, please refrain from sharing your experience. Listen to the one in need of comfort.

The simplest and most helpful thing to do and to say is to listen. Let the person share their feelings/grief. If your relationship is one that allows hugs, or holding hands, those touches can speak volumes of comfort. Then, when/if there is space for you to speak, you can say, **"I am sorry that you are experiencing this loss."** Listening is the best way for us to be present to that person. We can take our cues from what s/he says to us.

And if we wish to do something tangible, it is best to offer something specific for a particular day/time like "I will bring you supper on Wednesday – do you have any food allergies? Let us remember that it is difficult for people to be cognitive/think at the beginning of a serious loss event. (And sometimes for a whole year or longer!) We extend care and concern in small ways and large... and for a long period of time afterward. The fast pace of Western society does not give people much grace for deep losses so let us remember to be sensitive to others whose lives have been impacted by severe and/or sudden loss.

We hope you feel the love of Christ not merely at worship times, but for all the days of the week when life is tough. I am available by email: melinda.mcdonald@cccdisciples.org, as are the other pastors here. You may call the office to get a message to us. You are not alone.

Save the Date!

Central Christian Church Neighborhood Picnic

June 27, Noon—3:00 PM

Reminder: Wear Red on Pentecost

This Sunday, May 24, is Pentecost Sunday, the birthday of the church! If you feel so inclined, join us in wearing the color red for this special day.

VBS Registration Forms are Due May 22

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 and were sent to families in an email. VBS is for children who are 4 years old – those finishing 5th grade.

Please return your VBS registration forms AND a Child Information Form for each child by May 22. We want to know that your child will be coming to VBS so we can include them when we place our order for VBS t-shirts soon.

Please reach out to Pastor Vicky with any questions.

Sunday School News for Families

On Sunday, May 24, the children's Sunday School classes will celebrate Pentecost by meeting together in the Disciples Room (rather than going upstairs).

We will begin summer Sunday School for our 4 year old – 5th grade children on Sunday, June 7. Sunday School is from 9:30-10:15.

We will be meeting throughout the summer in the Disciples' Room. We meet each Sunday of the month, except for the last Sunday, when children stay in worship with their families. Our 6th-12th grade class will take a break from meeting in the summer and will resume meeting again in September.

Save the Date!

Thursday, June 11th, 401 upstairs 1:30 – 2:30 pm

Praying with Color is a way to “visibly” pray. This style of prayer is based on Sybil MacBeth's book, *Praying in Color*. If you joined me in the first session (November, 2025), please bring your blue folder with resource info. If you are new to this group, please email me at melinda.mcdonald@cccdisciples.org or call the church office to register. Supplies provided; please let me know if you can come.

“Praying with color in the way that you introduced really helped to relax and get in a good frame of mind.”

Lunch with the Staff – May 31 and August 23

One of our core values at Central is connection (connection with each other and with the church). One of the connections that is important is a connection with the staff. We believe church members who feel positively about their staff are more likely to invest in their church community. With more and more people attending Central over the past few years, we want to increase the number ways our staff is able to connect with them.

To that end we are offering two connection opportunities in the next few months: **“Lunch with the Staff”** - Sunday May 31 and Sunday August 23

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (right after 10:30 worship), in the Great Hall

We'll provide a light lunch and have some mixer activities to get to know the staff and one another.

These are designed for those who been attending Central in the recent past. If you started attending Central sometime since 2024 and are interested in attending this event, please RSVP for one of these events. Contact the church office ([central@cccdisciples.org](mailto:centeral@cccdisciples.org)) and let us know which of the two dates you'd like to attend (this is a one-time event; you need not attend *both* sessions as the same material will be covered at both).

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

CLOSED: DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room
CLOSED: Church & Offices

Tuesday (26)

7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café
9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
11:45-Macon Co. Interagency meeting, GH
12:00-Personnel

Wednesday (27)

12:00-Caretaker Staff meeting
1:00-DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room, 407
3:30-PR/Evangelism committee
6:00-Contemporary Worship committee

Thursday (28)

10:00-Alanon, 401
3:00-John bible study, Great Hall
3:00-Safety Committee, Disciples Room
6:00-Men's Group meeting, Disciples Room
7:00-Chancel Choir, Choir Room

Friday (29)

Saturday (30)

Sunday (31)

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
12:00-Lunch w/ CCC Staff, Great Hall

Monday (June 1)

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

Tuesday (2)

7:00-Journeymen, Connection Café
9:30-ChristCare Stitchers, 3R
9:30-Card Ministry, 411/412

Wednesday (3)

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

Thursday (4)

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

Friday (5)

Saturday (6)

Sunday (7)

Summer Children's Sunday School starts— Meets in the Disciples Room

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

Serving Schedule — Sunday, May 24, 2026

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Jim Fitzpatrick, Matthew Swarhout
9:15 - Jim Fitzpatrick

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

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Peggy Carpunky, Ellen Hearn
9:15 - Laurie & Rod Damery
10:30 - David Martin, Ron Oliver

Ushers:

8:00 - Team 1 - Carolyn Sunderlik, Capt., Dianne Devore
10:30 - Team 7 - George Virgil, Capt., Linda Virgil, Hugh & Linda Rowden

Greeters:

8:00 - Al & Chris Fagin
9:15 - Andy & Theresa Fulk
10:30 - Andy & Theresa Fulk

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Krista Rohrschein
10:30 - Keith Backes

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Keith Backes
9:15 - Theresa Fulk

Contemporary Snack Table: Laurie & Rod Damery

Contemporary Perishable Snacks: Theresa Fulk

Nursery and Children's Sunday School Schedule

Sunday, May 24


Nursery: Abigail Clark, Stephani Martin, Jolie Witts

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

Sunday, May 31

Nursery: Stephani Martin, Kate Neumann, Kaylee Sommer

Children's Sunday School: No Children's Sunday School today



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www.facebook.com/CCCDecatur

Serving Schedule — Sunday, May 31, 2026

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Tom Spry, David Wagner
9:15 - Tom Spry

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

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Jim Fitzpatrick, Bobby Munos
9:15 - Erik Barnes
10:30 - Julie Jones, Rick Thomas

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 - Cheryl & Dave Zollinger
10:30 - Dick & Sue Ann Cain

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

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

Contemporary Snack Table: Cheryl & Dave Zollinger

Contemporary Perishable Snacks: Steve Turner

“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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