

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, January 14, 2026

No. 1



Welcome New Members!!

How fitting it is that our theme on Sunday was “coming home” as three new members joined the Central family with each being a sort of homecoming. At the 9:15 service, Cathy Wilkinson joined Central after a long absence away. As a baby and toddler, she was part of Central’s nursery during the Flewelling years and she was baptized as a 12 year-old by Rev. Jo Riley. Most recently she began re-attending at the invitation of recent new member Marla Eovaldi and proudly spoke on Sunday about how God had been leading her back to Central for some time now. Then, at the 10:30 service, Bob and Bev Dondeville transferred their membership to Central. Bev began attending during the Nichols era, even serving as Sunday school superintendent, and the two of them were later married by Rev. Charles Watkins. How nice it is Central helped provide a foundation for each of their life journeys while also remaining as a place of constancy to which they could each come home! Welcome home!!



SUNDAY, JANUARY 18, 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**

Scripture for 1/18/26
Exodus 3:1-13; 4:1, 10
One Direction
Michael E. Karunas

Have You Heard the Bells?

If you heard music as you entered or left Central Christian on Epiphany Sunday, likely the sound was coming from the church’s bell tower! A new digital carillon and new speakers in the bell tower have replaced the carillon that was installed in the 1950s when Central’s current building was first constructed. The original carillon ceased to function a number of years ago and could not be repaired. The new unit, built specifically for Central, was installed in late December and played for the first time on Christmas Eve. The carillon offers many options and a large library of music. For now, you can expect to hear it on Sunday mornings between 10:15 and 10:30 and 11:45 to noon. It will toll the time at noon and 6 p.m. each day, and will play familiar hymns for 15 minutes weekdays at noon and 6 p.m. We hope its music will provide comfort and encouragement for all who hear it!

Choosing a suitable carillon was the work of a committee over the summer months of 2025. Committee members Donna Dash, DeeDee Gain, Mike Kirby, Shirley Swarthout, Karen Wade and David Williams had video conferences with multiple vendors and traveled to hear functioning carillons before deciding which would be best for Central. The new carillon is a gift of Shirley and Steve Swarthout.

Upcoming Closure

The church and offices of Central Christian Church, the Preschool, and the DOVE Children's Clothing Room will be closed on January 19th, in observance of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Women's Book Club

Please note that book club will not be meeting until March 10. Please plan to attend March 10 at 3:00 pm at the church. Plan to share books you have been reading and suggestions for the new year.



Happy Birthday!! (1/18—1/31)

Pamela Bednar, Jan Baird, Sue Ann Cain, Judy Wagner, Felicity Williams, Hannah Swim, Mary Waldmier, Debbie Foster, Coleen Myers, Reese Mahannah, Nancy Hanover, Jane Hickman, Nola Redden, Alyssa Bottom, Parker Campbell, Eileen Iverson, Julia Munos, Tina Shambaugh, Mark Virgil

Found: Coat

Ladies— did you lose a black coat about 1 year ago? We may have found it. Call the church office to discuss.

Live Stream Outages on Website

If you are watching our live-stream on our website and there is an outage, please see the text below the video. There is now updated verbiage below the video on our webpage to direct you how to find the live-stream on YouTube.

Counting On You

Sunday, January 11, 2026

Total worshipping online = 136
Total worshipping in-person = 282

Sunday, January 4, 2026

Total worshipping online = 137
Total worshipping in-person = 292

Milestones and Anniversaries

One of the congregational fellowship highlights of the past few years has been our Milestones and Anniversaries fellowship dinner held in February. In an often bitter and divided world, we want to stand out as an alternative. Not only is the Milestones and Anniversaries fellowship dinner an opportunity to experience connection, it is a chance for us to encourage and congratulate one another for our achievements and accomplishments. This year's Milestones and Anniversaries Fellowship Meal will take place on **Sunday, February 1st at 12 noon**. We will enjoy an Italian-themed fellowship dinner in the Great Hall. After the meal we will celebrate all the milestones and anniversaries we look forward to experiencing in 2026.

If you would like to attend the dinner, please RSVP by contacting the office (central@cccdisciples.org or 428-4336). Just as importantly, please answer the questions below and submit your answers to central@cccdisciples.org or to myself (mkarunas@cccdisciples.org). Submissions are due **January 28**. We will also have these forms available every Sunday before or after worship. If you are unable to attend the meal, please feel free to answer these questions and share your answers with us. We want to celebrate your accomplishments with you.

Milestones and Anniversaries – 2026

Name _____

If married, what number **anniversary** will you be celebrating in 2025? _____

Are you celebrating a **“big” birthday** this year (ending with a “5” or “0”)?

If yes, what number birthday? _____

What **milestones** did you celebrate in **2025 (last year)**?

What other **“milestones”** or big events are you looking forward to observing in 2026 (this can be in your family or at work, trips that are planned, graduations, other achievements, awards, recognitions, accomplishments, etc...)

Blessings – Michael

In Sympathy We Mourn

We learned this weekend that Don Boyd passed away this past Friday morning. According to the family wishes, Don will be cremated and his ashes spread over the Chesapeake Bay. Don was a longtime member of Crestview Christian Church before it closed. When it did, Don attended the 10:30 service faithfully and loved this church very much. He especially appreciated the beautiful music in the sanctuary every Sunday. When he was able to bring himself to worship, he would often come extra early just to hear the choir rehearse and always made a point of showing his appreciation for our wonderful worship music. Without family in the area, Central became his family. A special thanks to David Sheffer for bringing Don to worship for years when Don no longer could bring himself, and to Jim and Debbie Hoffert, who cared for Don compassionately over the years.

Men's Group to Meet this Winter

Pastor Michael will be leading a men's group – Fathers and Sons - for eight (8) weeks beginning January 22 and continuing through March 12. The group will meet on Thursdays (at the church) from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Men of all ages are invited, but in order to plan accordingly, an RSVP is required. Please contact the church office (central@cccdisciples.org). For those interested but for whom the time is prohibitive, Pastor Michael plans to lead a second session of the group in May. All men are sons and whether those sons grow up to be fathers themselves, all sons are the sons of fathers. This group is designed to explore men's identity as sons, with the goal of becoming the best versions of ourselves as men in the world today. The group will have a scriptural component each week, but will be much more than a bible study. Contact Pastor Michael (mkarunas@cccdisciples.org) if you have questions.

Girl Scout Cookies Available for Purchase on February 15

Our church members involved in Girl Scouts of America will have boxes of cookies for sale after all three services on Sunday, February 15. Look for them in the Friendship Center. There will also be an opportunity to purchase a box(es) of cookies to be sent to our troops serving overseas. Those donations will be collected February 15 and then gathered into a larger donation to be shipped overseas. So even if you're not a "cookie monster" yourself, consider supporting our troops (and the Girl Scouts) with a purchase on February 15.

A Central Winter Tea

Central will be hosting a Winter Tea for all women and girls on Saturday, January 24 at 2pm, in the Great Hall. Come and bring friends and family for an afternoon of sipping tea/coffee (milk and cider) and enjoying tasty treats. You are welcome to bring a tea or coffee cup/mug and/or a small memento to share a story with us if you would like. Please RSVP by signing up at church by January 19. You may also call the church office to RSVP (217-428-4336).

Fun on the Ice

All Central families are invited to join us for ice skating on Sunday, January 25 from 2:30-4:30pm at the Decatur Civic Center. We will meet in the main lobby. Central will cover the cost for admission and skate rental. Come and join the fun, whether you are just learning to skate or are an expert. Reach out to David Martin with any questions.

Sunday (18)

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

Monday (19) - Rev. Dr. MLK Jr. Day

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

Tuesday (20)

7:00-Journeymen, Conn. Café
9:30-Christcare Stitchers, 3R
9:30-Card Ministry, 411/412
5:00-P.E.O. I.F., Great Hall

Wednesday (21)

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

Thursday (22)

10:00-Alanon
6:00-Fathers & Sons small group
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (23)

Saturday (24)

9:00-Faith Quest
2:00-Women's Winter Tea, Great Hall

Sunday (25)

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
2:30-Family Ice Skating outing

Monday (26)

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

Tuesday (27)

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

Wednesday (28)

1:00-DOVE Inc. Children's Clothing Room, 407
1:00-PR/Evangelism
6:00-Contemporary Worship committee

Thursday (29)

10:00-Alanon
6:00-Fathers & Sons small group
7:00-Chancel Choir

Friday (30)

Saturday (31)

9:00-Faith Quest

Sunday (February 1)

8:00-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
9:15-Sunday School
9:15-Contemporary Worship, GH & online
10:30-Traditional Worship, Sanctuary & online
11:30-Milestones & Anniversaries luncheon

**Please mark your calendars
now and SAVE the DATE for
VBS - June 15-18, 2026.**

Serving Schedule — Sunday, January 18, 2026

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Jim Fitzpatrick, Kim Maple
9:15 - Jim Fitzpatrick

Outreach Communion Elders: Jim Fitzpatrick, Kim Maple, Linda Rowden,
Tom Spry, Karen Wade, David Wagner

Jan. Prep Deacons: Gregg & Linda Foltz*, Becky VanMeter

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Jane Davis, Julia Munos
9:15 - Deb & Randy Trei
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 - Al & Chris Fagin
9:15 - Deb & Randy Trei
10:30 - Bob & Mary Jane Linton

P.A. Operator:

8:00 - Krista Rohrschreib
10:30 - Jordan Backes

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Keith Backes
9:15 - Travis Wilcoxon

Contemporary Snacks: Deb & Randy Trei

Nursery and Children's Sunday School Schedule

Sunday, January 18


Nursery: Stephani Martin, Kate Neumann, Kaylee Sommer

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

Sunday, January 25

Nursery: Abigail Clark, Stephani Martin, Kate Neumann

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



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e-mail: central@cccdisciples.org
www.facebook.com/CCCDecatur

Serving Schedule — Sunday, January 25, 2026

Elders:

8:00 & 10:30 - Angie Ingram, Shirley Swarthout
9:15 - Shirley Swarthout

Jan. Prep Deacons: Gregg & Linda Foltz*, Becky VanMeter

Offering Deacons:

8:00 - Debbie Hoffert, Carolyn McCall
9:15 - Ellen & Ryan Damery
10:30 - Roberta Gorden, 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 - Dianne Devore, Carolyn Sunderlik
9:15 - Ellen & Ryan Damery
10:30 - Jeannie & Keith Backes

P.A. Operator:

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

Liturgist:

8:00 & 10:30 - Ellen Hearn
9:15 - Rebecca Monroe

Contemporary Snacks: Ellen & Ryan Damery

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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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