



Central Life

Central Presbyterian Church

December 4, 2019



*Ponderings
from a
Rocker*

Advent has arrived, and this year it is a very short season---only 25 days, since the first Sunday of Advent was on Dec 1. In some ways, that makes this holiday season seem to be moving even faster than it usually does. But I think that Advent is one of those gifts given to us Christians and is a call for us to slow down---to pause---to even take moments of rest. Advent is a season for us to reflect upon the coming of the Christ child as well as the presence of God in our lives and world---but really it is a time for us to consider the return of Jesus and how we are ready for that event.

The color of Advent is purple (the same as Lent), which is the color for royalty and repentance. Typically the hymns and music are in minor keys and more contemplative in their message. The scripture of this season does not have shepherds and babies---but instead focuses on being prepared and ready for the coming of the Lord.

One way to approach Advent is to consider it to be a Spiritual Practice. Take those moments in our days and weeks leading up to Christmas to pause, to be silent, to ponder the incompleteness of our world - a world which still faces conflict and violence, suffering on so many levels, as well as the darkness waiting for the True Light to come in. Advent is a time to practice patience and kindness, gentleness, and goodness ---maybe to the stranger in our midst. Advent is a season to see the humanity of one another and also to recognize the image of Christ in one another.

Here at Central we have all kinds of events and activities. Yes, it is a busy schedule with things happening for all ages. But you do not need to feel obligated to attend everything. Choose what will help you in this Advent time to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Maybe it is worship each of the Sundays and to hear the words of scripture that call us to be prepared. Maybe it is to be in fellowship on Wednesday nights and to find a sense of community in Central hall as we make ornaments and go caroling and have Dinner and a Movie. Maybe the Longest Night Service is what you need, to acknowledge the grief and pain of this world in the midst of the angels song to rejoice. Maybe it is the Christmas Eve services---as we sing carols, and hear the Christmas story and sit in the dimness and watch the candle light fill the space. There is in the center fold of the Advent devotional a Calendar with Random Acts of Kindness suggestions for each day of the season; let that guide you to care for those around you.

I hope that you will take this season as a gift to you and your family, to receive it with gentleness and wonder as we draw closer to Christmas Day. As the season of Christmas approaches, may you and your family and friends, as well as all of the church family here at Central, be blessed as we prepare for the Lord's return.

Happy Advent, my friends!

Ann





JOURNEYS' END, Tuesday, December 17 at 6:00 pm

On Tuesday, Dec 17, at 6 p.m., everyone is invited to join us for Los Posadas, or Journey's End. This is the 21st year in Bristol of this event. We will meet at the Country Music mural at the Farmer's Market in Bristol, TN and then follow Mary and Joseph as they search for a place to be where Jesus can be born.



As we wander down State Street, we will sing carols, and approach six places that are "inns." Mary and Joseph will ask if they can come in and find lodging, but are continually turned away. Then the group will end up at the Paramount Theater, where we all will be welcomed in, and have time for fellowship and refreshments. We will have the alpacas join us for this journey. This is fun for all ages. Dress warmly and come on the journey to find a welcoming place. There is no rain date, so watch for information if the weather is inclement.



On **Thursday, December 19, at 7 pm**, we will have A **Longest Night Service of Worship**. This is an opportunity for all who find this season difficult or tiresome, who feel the losses in life, and need a place to pause and reflect.

So why have a Longest Night Service? The Christmas season is often marked by expressions of joy, excitement, and happiness. It's a time for family to

gather and for churches to worship, pointing to the hope that is found in the coming of the Christ child. However, this time of joy and expectation can often overshadow the pain and hurt many experience during this season, when the world's merriment puts their grief and sorrow in the shadows.

It's a worship service scheduled around the winter solstice (the longest night of the calendar which is December 21). It is noted that this day is the traditional feast day for Saint Thomas the Apostle. This linkage invites making some connections between Thomas' struggle to believe the tale of Jesus' resurrection, the long nights just before Christmas, and the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with loss.

This service is a witness to all, that the Christ child comes as a sign of hope in the face of despair. It is a way for our church family to acknowledge the various seasons of life in which people may find themselves. You are invited to come away from the busy-ness of the season, to reflect and remember, and to see that the light of Christ does come into our darkness.





Special Organ Music during Advent



Special music, a longer than usual organ *Prelude*, began last Sunday, which was the first Sunday in Advent. The prelude will begin at 10:50 and will include Advent and Christmas music. I will continue playing longer preludes through the 4 Sundays of Advent. Over the years I have collected more Christmas music than I could ever play, so this will provide an opportunity to play and hear more Christmas music, and hopefully be an extra incentive for you to get to church early!

I hope that you will come and use this time to prepare for the coming of Christ, Our Lord, which is the reason for Advent. Since Central Presbyterian Church has one of the best (if not **THE BEST**) organs in the Tri-cities, it makes sense to use it to the fullest extent to bring glory to God and to provide inspiration, comfort, and peace to those who have the opportunity to hear it. Who doesn't love to hear the carols at Christmas? As in the past, both the hand bell choir, hand chime choir, and the brass will also play during Advent. We hope that the *extra* music being offered during this special season leading up to **Christmas** will be accepted as a special gift from the musicians at Central.

If you arrive after the music has begun, do not hesitate to quietly come in and take your seat.

Joy Briggs



Reminder:
Angel Tree
gifts are due by
Sunday,
December 8.

If you took a tag from the Angel Tree, please return the gift(s) by Sunday, Dec 8, to Room 100 (The Session Room). There will be a party on Saturday, December 14, 10 a.m. -12 noon, for the children and caregivers to come and pick up the gifts.

Thank you to Vicki Wilson for taking the lead on this project. If you have any questions, please contact Vicki at 423-646-3174.



Mark your Calendars:
Friday, Dec 6, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Parents' Night Out

Drop your children off at the church in the care of our youth, and head out to go Christmas shopping or to dinner, or however you want to spend your evening. (Please feed your children before coming.)

Cost is \$15 per child with a discount for larger families. We will care for children from 6 months-4th grade. This is a Youth fund raiser.





2020 Vision Update

Thank you to all who have made a pledge to support the work and ministry of Central Presbyterian Church in 2020. The Session and leadership appreciate everyone's efforts to increase the giving for 2020. As of Monday, December 2, we have received 68 pledges with \$ 251,451 pledged. This is a wonderful beginning. If you have not gotten your pledge in, please do so as soon as you can, so the Session can set the 2020 Budget for the Mission and Ministry here at Central.

If you need a card or have questions about the finances or your giving options, please contact Mary Moffatt, Finance Director, at finance.cpc@bvuu.net or 276-669-3157, or Rob Hollo, Finance Chair.



Wednesday Night Activities

Join us each week for Wednesday Night Supper and Activities. Supper is at 5:30 PM (\$5.00 donation) with prayer and programs starting at 6:00 pm.

There will be informative and fun activities for all ages, including Children's Choir, and a nursery for under 3 year olds.



December 4: Making Christmas Ornaments to give away

December 11: Caroling and Christmas questions

December 18: Dinner and a Movie: Come have dinner and we will watch The Star together as a church family.

December 25: Merry Christmas!!

January 1: Happy New Year!

Menus: December 4—Chili beans, Mexican corn muffins, salad bar, and treats
December 11—Baked spaghetti, bread, salad bar, dessert
December 18—Deli night, salad bar, cookies

Don't miss this great time of good food (from Trish & crew), fellowship, and fun!

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MEETING****Tuesday, December 10, 11:00 AM**

We are having a special program, featuring the children of APPLE Academy presenting their Christmas program, in the Sanctuary. Our meeting will begin in the Sanctuary at 11:00.

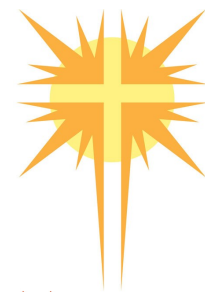
Our Bible Study, led by Reverend Ann Aichinger, is #4, "Words of Love, Honor the Life-givers" and will be in the Small Dining Room after the APPLE presentation.

Lunch will be served following the Bible Study at a cost of \$7.00.

Your Co-Chairmen, Thais Sikora and Mary Ann Blevins

**Joyful Sharing... *Did you know?***

- ♦ The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s.
- ♦ The offering will be taken at Central on Sunday, December 22.
- ♦ Text JOY to 56512 to learn more or to give to the Christmas Joy Offering
- ♦ Or visit pcusa.org/christmasjoy

**Wooden Nativities: Part 4 ---The Star and Donkey**

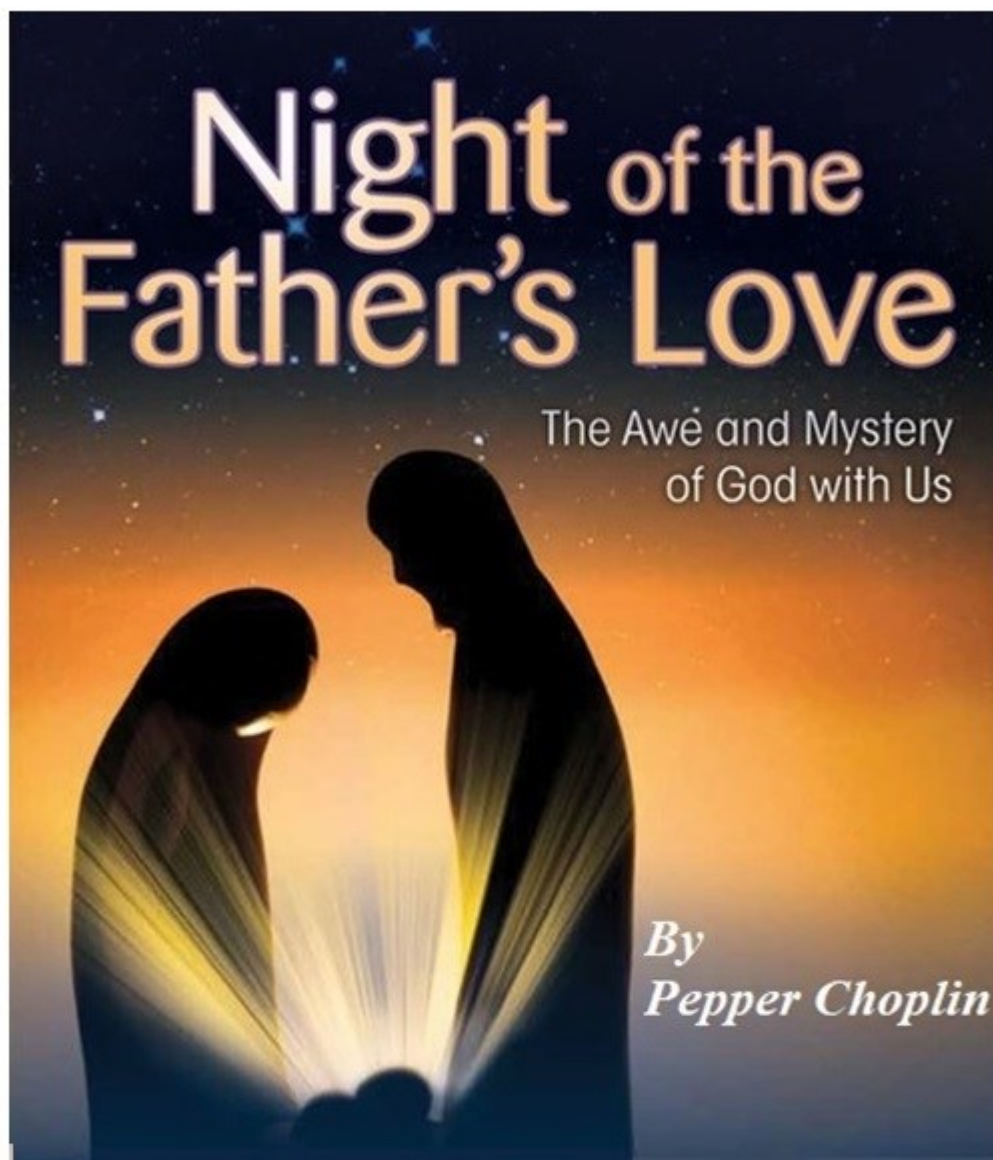
Over the past three years, the Christian Education Committee created and assembled the characters of a Christmas nativity: Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus, a shepherd with a sheep, an angel, and three wisemen with their gifts. This year, there are two new pieces for sale: the star that sits above the nativity characters and the donkey. The money raised will be going to support our youth programming, events, and trips.

If you purchase all four parts of the nativity, the cost is \$50. The cost for the star and donkey only or any single group is \$15 each. Please make checks to Central Presbyterian and in the memo: Nativities. These items are available on the table in the entry area.



We have had a limited number of Mary and Joseph sets available, but if you need this group, please sign up on the table in the entry, and we will get you that part. If you have any questions, please see Ann Aichinger or these members of Christian Education committee - Sandy Wilson, Josie Russell, Jane Morison.





7:00 p.m. December 15, 2019

The Sanctuary Choir, Handbells, Brass, and Friends of

Central Presbyterian Church

301 Euclid Ave, Bristol, Virginia 24201

Robert Campbelle, Director

Joy Briggs, Organist

Tyler Franklin, Narrator

Admission Free Donations Gratefully Accepted



December Church Calendar

The Evangelism Committee has been working hard at designing the December calendar for the activities and events happening here at Central. It is a lovely poster and everyone is invited to take 3-5 and put them up in places around town or give them to your neighbors to invite them to be a part of Central Presbyterian's Christmas celebrations.

Statistics show that people are more inclined to come to church events and worship when they have been invited by a friend, and up to 80% will attend if invited. So this is an easy invitation to extend to friends and neighbors. During the weeks leading up to Christmas, people are looking to connect with a church family, and to have a place to celebrate the holiday. So help us to open the doors of Central to our community. Invite someone to come with you to worship or to a Wednesday night event or any other opportunity this month. To offer invitations is to model the way Jesus called his disciples to follow him.

So pick up several copies and invite people to join us here at Central. The poster is also attached to this newsletter so you can see what's happening this month and print one if you want.

Coming up...

The Men's Bible Study and Prayer Group meets each Monday, 7:00 a.m. at Shoney's.
(Note—Dec. 30 will be breakfast at Central.)

Meals on Wheels - Thursday, December 5

Lessons & Carols (including Central's choir) - Sunday, December 8, 6:00 pm, at First Presbyterian Church

APPLE Committee - Tuesday, Dec. 10, 6:00 pm

Finance Committee - Wed, Dec. 11, 12:00 pm

Session - Tues, Dec. 17, 7:30 pm (Time change)

The next "Central Life" Newsletter will be published December 18. A "Central Life Lite" will be sent out on January 2.



9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
(or time as noted)

- Dec 8: Second Sunday of Advent:
A Season of Waiting and Declaring
- Dec 15: Third Sunday of Advent:
A Season of Waiting and Asking
- Dec. 15: "Night of the Father's Love" (7:00)
- Dec 19: The Longest Night Service (7:00 pm)
- Dec 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent:
A Season of Pondering
- Dec 24: Christmas Eve Services at 5 and 7
- Dec 29: Be the Church Sunday (9:30 am)
Unity Service at 11:00 am



Young Adult Party and



Saturday, December 7, 5:30 PM

Rob & Carly Hollo's home, 136 Free Hill Ext, Gray, TN 37615

- ♦ Wear Christmas pajamas.
- ♦ Children welcome.
- ♦ Dinner will be provided by Rob & Carly.
- ♦ Bring cookies for the Cookie Exchange and boxes to take your choices home in.

RSVP, please, by Friday, Dec. 6, to Rob at 423-432-9350.

Questions? Directions? Call Rob at 423-432-9350.

Youth Events for 5th-12th graders

Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, and 18

5:30 p.m. -7:00 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 15

2:30 Meeting of Parents and Youth

3:00 to 5:00 p.m. is the Youth Christmas Party at Central.

Wear cute or tacky attire, bring a \$5.00 gift to exchange



Josie Russell, Youth Director

josieannrussell@gmail.com

423-383-9291

Parents of Youth

It is time to sign up for our 2020 trips.

There is a **\$50 non-refundable** deposit for each event.

Winter Retreat, January 24-25, in Pigeon Forge (Total cost \$100), then we will help with worship on Sunday, January 26.

Montreat Youth 1, June 7-13, in Montreat, NC (Total cost \$150)

Montreat Middle School (completed 5th-8th grade), July 15-19, Maryville College, Maryville, TN (Total cost \$150)

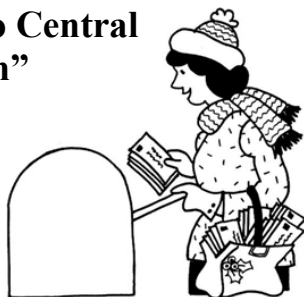


We will have a meeting on **Sunday, December 13, at 2:30 pm** to discuss dates and a place to go for the Summer Mission Trip.



“Christmas Cards to Central Presbyterian Church” Bulletin Board

This year, we invite you to bring a Christmas card and greeting to your friends and family here at Central. Instead of spending postage on mailing cards locally, you may use that money to give to a charity. Then bring a card from you to the Central family and place it on the bulletin board outside of Ann Aichinger’s office. There will be pushpins available.



Then throughout the Advent and Christmas season, everyone is invited to stop by and read the Christmas greetings from your family here at Central.

CENTRAL STAFF:

Ann Aichinger, Pastor

ann.cpc@bvu.net

Robert Campbell, Music Director

robertcampbelle@gmail.com

Joy Smith-Briggs, Organist

gjbjoyb@btes.tv

Josie Russell, Director of Youth & Young Adults

josieannrussell@gmail.com

Patty Caldwell, Office Manager/Newsletter Editor

pcaldwell.cpc@bvu.net

Mary Moffatt, Finance Director

finance.cpc@bvu.net

Trish James, Food Service Director

tjames1234@charter.net

Becky Widner, Director of APPLE Academy

applepreschool@yahoo.com

Barbara Mann, Volunteer Parish Nurse

barbar632002@yahoo.com

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 to 4:30, Monday-Friday

Volunteers

For Sunday, December 8:

Coffee helpers - David & Cathy White

Greeters

9:00 - Casey McComish, Gena Prince

11:00 - Linda Fisher, Dick Gordon

Children’s Church Leaders

9:00 - Twana Meade

11:00 - Nancy Kiser

Head Usher for December – John Barker

Food Pantry Volunteers on December 12 -

Laraine Williams, Laurel Broadfoot, Diane Abbey

For Sunday, December 15:

Coffee helpers - Ken & Cindy Hale

Greeters

9:00 - Sheree Taylor, Bernice Hagaman

11:00 - Caroline Jones

Children’s Church Leaders

9:00 - TBD

11:00 - TBD

Head Usher for December – John Barker

For Sunday, December 22:

Coffee helpers - Trish James & Lois Clarke

Greeters

9:00 - Barbara Oakley, David White

11:00 - Allen & Retta Vance

Children’s Church Leaders

9:00 - TBD

11:00 - TBD

Head Usher for December – John Barker

Attendance:

November 24, 2019 - 151 in worship

December 1, 2019 - 139 in worship

News for the Church family



Continue in prayer for...

Ruby Brown, Charles McChesney (Christian Care Center), Randy Broyles, Jim Matson, Darla & Jonathan Vandyke, Jackie Phillips (Elmcroft), Sara Burleson (Oakmont), Daphne McCord, Bobby Davis, Duke James, Hugh (Dominion Senior Care) & Linda Wise, Candy Ellis, Patsy Wampler (Elmcroft), and Bill English.

Sympathy...

Central member, Mary Inman Boyd Geiger, died on November 27, 2019, with a memorial service being held at Central on Dec. 1. We offer our Christian sympathy to her daughter, Amy Morris, and her brother, Peyton Boyd, and their families.

Memorial Gifts...

To the Children's Fund for Hannah Marie Roosen by Eugene & Linda Waldron, and an anonymous donor; To the Gutter Repair Fund for Mary B. Geiger by Eugene & Linda Waldron.



If you would like to order a poinsettia to be placed in the church for Advent, please contact the church office by Thurs, December 5. Plants are \$9.00 each.



Thank you to all those who helped decorate the church for Christmas and put up the trees in the Sanctuary and Central Hall, and helped decorate the church inside and out. We could not have done it with you.

The Worship Committee

A big THANK YOU to all who bought items we needed and donated money for the Christmas back pack boxes for the families of children who get our back packs for each week. The boxes will be delivered to the school system in the next couple weeks for distribution. Again the Backpack Committee says "Thank you " for all your support.

The Backpack Committee

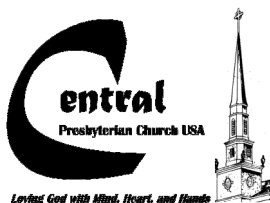


Congratulations to Sarah Poore who graduates from Radford University on December 14 with her B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies with concentrations in English and Political Science. She plans to stay in the Radford area substitute teaching while looking for a permanent K-3 elementary teaching position.

Central Presbyterian Church
301 Euclid Ave
Bristol, VA 24201-4013

276-669-3157

www.CentralPresBristol.org



Faithful Friends is a small group experience open to all women. The group meets to discuss the study book (*Experiencing the Spirit*) and to have prayer and fellowship. They meet once a month on Saturday morning.

The next gathering will be on **Saturday, December 28, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. for lunch at Bloom Café**, downtown Bristol. They will look at options for the study for Jan-May, and enjoy the fellowship of one another.

All women are welcome to be a part of this event. Come see how the Spirit is working in our church and in our lives together.

Schedule of Services & Rehearsals:

Sunday:

Coffee Time	8:45 and 9:45 a.m.
Informal Worship	9:00 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages	10:00 a.m.
Liturgical Worship	11:00 a.m.

Wednesday Night Activities:

Supper	5:30 p.m.
Programs for all ages	6:00 p.m.

Youth Group (5 to 12 graders):

Wednesday Night	5:30 p.m.
Special Events as scheduled	

Music Rehearsals:

Praise Team, Sunday	7:45 a.m.
Sanctuary Choir	
Wednesday rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Sunday warm-up	10:30 a.m.
Handchime Choir, Wednesday	5:00 p.m.
Handbell Choir, Wednesday	6:20 p.m.
Children's' Choir, Wednesday	6:00 p.m.
Central Brass	

Various times, ask Robert Campbelle