



Central Life

Central Presbyterian Church

December 18, 2019

Christmas Eve Services

The Christmas Eve services are a highlight in the Advent/Christmas season. The familiar carols sung, the retelling of the Christmas story, and raising our candles as we sing *Joy To the World*, all remind us of something which happened long ago that changed the world and continues to impact our world. The Christmas story tells us of a God who so loved the world, that God sent his own Son. The Christmas story reminds us that in Jesus, God has shown us God's very self. The Christmas story is a reminder of how God has moved into the neighborhood and is at work.

The Christmas Eve Services are a great time to invite someone to come to church with you. There is a special openness for people at this season to take part in the celebration of our faith. So invite someone to join you here at Central in this holiday season.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019...

5:00 FAMILY CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

This is an early and short service for those who want to worship before the family celebrations begin. We will be in Central Hall with the Praise Team. It lasts about 45 minutes.

7:00 CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

This traditional service will be in the Sanctuary. The Christmas music will be with Bells, Brass, and Chancel Choir. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper.

THE CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING goes to the Service Fund that allows us to meet extraordinary situations for our members and friends of Central. This is used at the discretion of the Pastor.



**From
the Staff of
Central Presbyterian Church**

*Ann Aichinger
Robert Campbell
Barbara Mann
Patty Caldwell
Becky Widner*

*Josie Russell
Joy Briggs
Trish James
Mary Moffatt
Angie Wright*





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 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.

Be the Church Sunday
Service projects
9:30-10:45



Sunday, Dec. 29
Worship at 11
in Central Hall

Sunday, Dec 29, is Be the Church Sunday. During the Sunday school time (9:30-10:45), everyone is invited to come and participate in a variety of mission projects. Why? Because when we work together as the church, we discover our gifts and talents and are able to come alongside one another and demonstrate the work of the Church.

Starting at 9:30 a.m. there will be light brunch items, coffee, tea, and juice. Then everyone will be involved in a variety of things throughout the church building which may include:

- o Tying Fleece Blankets for the Police and EMTs to use when helping families
- o Assembling Dental Kits for Healing Hands
- o Making Cards for elderly with words of hope and love
- o Knitting or crocheting with purpose (lap blankets, hats, or scarves)
- o Letters and cards to Service members who are recovering from injuries
- o Make Birdfeeders to take home to feed the animals

Don't know how to do a project? That is the best part. You will work alongside of those who can help you to be a part of this.

Then at 11:00, we will bring our projects as a gift for our worship time, offer our prayers over the items and for those who will receive them.

This is for all ages of children, youth, and adults. Everyone is able to be a part of Be the Church Sunday. This is a great way to be a part of something BIG to make a difference in our community and world.



Special Organ Music during Advent



Special music, a longer than usual organ *Prelude*, will continue this Sunday at 10:50 and will include Advent and Christmas music.

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? 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



BACKPACK CHRISTMAS BOXES DELIVERED

The backpack crew and other volunteers worked hard last Friday packing and delivering the 30 boxes of food for the children in need and their families. A picture of the assorted items to be packed is above.

The Committee wishes to thank all who made contributions of food and money to help with the purchase of needed items to fill the boxes. A special thanks to those who set up the tables, packed, loaded, and delivered the boxes. **A job well done!**



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

- Dec 19: The Longest Night Service (7:00 pm)
- Dec 22: Fourth Sunday of Advent:
A Season of Pondering
- Dec 24: Christmas Eve
Candlelighting Services
5:00 in Central Hall with Praise Team
7:00 in the Sanctuary with Chancel
Choir, Handbells, and Communion
- Dec 29: Be the Church Sunday (9:30 am)
Unity Service at 11:00 am
- Jan 5: Epiphany, The arrival of the wise men, celebration of the Lord's supper



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 next year. If you have not gotten your pledge in, please do so as soon as you can.

Remember that the Gutter Fund pledges were for a three year period. We appreciate that some people have been able to pay their full pledge in 2019. This allowed the church to make a large payment to reduce a portion of the debt. The campaign runs for 2 more years and your gifts are still needed to pay the remaining amount.

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



Central's 2020 Vision

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.

Programs:

December 18: Dinner and a Movie: Come have dinner and we will watch The Star (starting at 5:45) together as a church family.

December 25: Merry Christmas!!

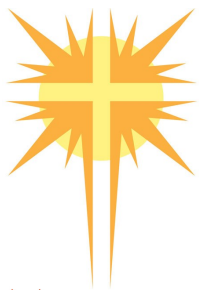
January 1: Happy New Year!

Menus: December 18—Deli night and cookies

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

Wednesday Night Activities start up again on Wednesday, January 8, with a soup and salad supper.





Christmas Joy Offering

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Since the 1930s, it has been an annual tradition to receive the Christmas Joy Offering in the PCUSA. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges.

- ★ 50% of your gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.
- ★ 50% of your gifts provide assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs.

This offering will be taken on **Sunday, December 22** as a part of our regular offering. There are special envelopes available. If you want to make a gift to the Christmas Joy offering, please mark your check or envelope with Joy Offering

Text JOY to 56512 to learn more or to give to the Christmas Joy Offering or go online at presbyterianmission.org/christmasjoy.



Do you have an artificial Christmas tree that is going to be replaced this year? Instead of putting it in the trash, donate it. Holston Habitat for Humanity Restore wants your discarded tree. They sell 400+ used trees a year. Contact Holston Habitat for Humanity Restore in Kingsport or talk to Steve Clark. For more information call (423) 378-4760.

SNOW POLICY FOR CENTRAL PRES...

Always check the website, Facebook, and your email for last minute changes and updates.

The policy Central follows is:

- ❄ Information will be posted at www.CentralPresBristol.org
- ❄ If Bristol, VA schools are closed (or are dismissed early), large group weekday activities at the church may be cancelled, including Presbyterian Women and Wednesday Night Activities
- ❄ Committees, Music Rehearsals, Small Groups, etc. please contact your leader to decide whether to meet;
- ❄ 11:00 am Sunday Worship will almost always be held though 9:00 am Worship could be canceled. Come if you can get here safely, but be aware that the parking lot can be extremely slick even when the roads are clear.

Before coming to church when the weather is challenging, always check the above sources or call the church for updated information.





At the Session Retreat and Meeting in October, the leadership of the church set some goals for the new year. In November, three were chosen to work on through February.

- Grandparenting group established and promoted in the congregation and community as an option for those who are helping to raise or who are primary caregivers for their grandchildren.
- Getting to know the congregation better through intentional conversations and activities to bring people together to share their life stories. This has been a part of the Advent Devotional this year where individuals shared their favorite music of the season or a memory of Christmas.
- Use of the Website, Facebook, and other social media to inform the faith community as well as the local community of life here at Central. Be sure to check regularly on www.CentralPresBristol.org for upcoming events and information you may need to know.



Session meeting December 17, 2019:

Ann Aichinger reported on upcoming events as well as her own well-being in this holiday time. She thanked the session and the congregation for their continued compassion and care.

Actions of the Session:

- Approval to hire someone to help with the website and for Laurel Broadfoot to oversee this.
- Approval of the Christmas bonus to the Church Staff, Nursery staff, and Parish Nurses.
- Acceptance of the review of the finances of 2018 by Glenn Myers.
- Approval of the request for the Unified Mission giving to the Presbytery, Synod and GA.
- Approval of the 2020 budget and updated report on the Stewardship campaign: 74 pledges of \$258,951.67 for 2020.
- Approved the Housing Resolution concerning the pastor's housing allowance.
- Approved (on the first reading and vote) to allow for \$75,000 to be taken from the Endowment in 2020 as needed.
- Taking down of the Christmas decorations is scheduled for Sunday, January 5.

Coming up...

AMen Chorus: Christmas Concert, Friday, Dec 20, 7:30 p.m. at Central in the Sanctuary

The Church is closed on Wednesday and Thursday, December 25 and 26 and Wednesday, January 1, for the holidays.

The Central Men's Bible study group usually meets at Shoney's at Exit 5 on Monday mornings. But on Monday, December 30, at 7:00 a.m. they will meet at Central for breakfast and study and fellowship. All men are invited to be a part of this group.

The next "Central Life" newsletter will be published on Thurs, Jan. 2. Due to the holidays, this will be a "lite" edition, with news summaries and brief information. Deadline for info is Monday, Dec. 30, noon.



Ornaments for those who work on Christmas Day

During our Wednesday evening program on December 4, ornaments were made to be given to those who have to work on Christmas Day. It is a great way to offer the joy of the season to those who provide services for us: convenience store workers, EMTs, Fire and Police, Hospital workers, restaurant wait staff, and many others. You may pick up ornaments at the welcome desk to take with you and deliver to those who serve in this season.

Youth Events for 5th-12th graders



Wednesday, December 18, 5:30p.m.-7:30 p.m.
Dinner and watching *The Star*

We will pick up Wednesday night activities again beginning on January 8 with dinner at 5:30 then our lesson and fellowship from 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Our first Sunday get-together for 2020 will be on January 12 at 3:00 p.m.

A schedule for the second half of the school year will be sent out via email.

Josie Russell, Youth Director

josieannrussell@gmail.com

423-383-9291

Please start making your commitments and paying your deposits (\$50.00 non-refundable deposit for each event) for our 2020 trips:

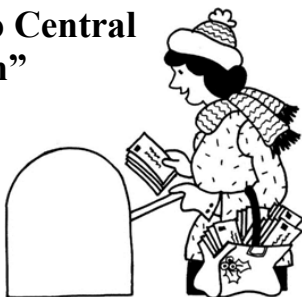
1. Winter Retreat-January 24 and 25 in Pigeon Forge. We need these **ASAP**. (Total cost \$ 100.)
2. Montreat High School-June 7-13 We need these by **January 15**. (Total cost is \$200.)
3. Montreat Middle School-July 15-19 For rising 6-9th graders, at Maryville College, Maryville, TN. (Total cost is \$200.) Deposit is due **by January 19**.
4. **GROUP Mission Trip-Dates and location TBD**

Please send us your preference for date and location by January 15 as well:

We have three dates to consider: June 21-26, June 28-July 3, July 5-10. We also have three locations as possibilities: Cincinnati, OH, Nashville, TN, and Pittsburgh, PA. The cost to you is \$175. Please check your calendars and see what best works for your family. If you want more information about Week of Hope and Group Workcamps, please check out the website: www.groupmissiontrips.com. This is a great way to get to know our group better, and to be involved in being the hands and feet of Christ in this world. You don't want to miss out.

“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. 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 Campbelle, Music Director

robertcampbelle@gmail.com

Joy Smith-Briggs, Organist

gvbjoyb@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 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

For Sunday, December 29 (11:00 in
Central Hall worship only):

Coffee helpers - TBD

Greeters

11:00 (Central Hall) - Caroline Jones, Jean Thomason

Children’s Church Leaders

11:00 - TBD

Head Usher for December – John Barker

For Sunday, January 5:

Coffee helpers - Don & Bernice Hagaman
Greeters

9:00 - Sydney Collier, Niki McGrew

11:00 - Nancy Kiser, Casey McComish

Children’s Church Leaders

9:00 - TBD

11:00 - TBD

Head Usher for January – Barret Blevins

Food Pantry Volunteers for January 9 - Lorraine Williams, Diane Abbey, Trish James

Attendance:

December 8, 2019 - 138 in worship

December 15, 2019 - 146 in worship



News for the Church family

Continue in prayer for...

Ruby Brown, Randy Broyles, Jim Matson, Darla & Jonathon 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 friend, Dr. Charles McChesney, died on December 11, 2019, with his funeral service being held at Central on Dec. 14. We offer our Christian sympathy to his family and many friends.

Our sympathy also goes out to Dot & Mike Chamberlain (former Interim Pastor) on the death of Dot's mother, Vida Mae Davis, in Kentucky this week.

Memorial Gifts...

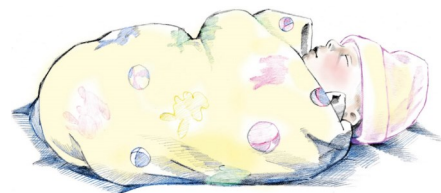
To the Memorial Fund for Mary Inman Boyd Geiger by George & Beth Parks, Mark & Wrenda Hull, William & Nancy Parris, John & Meta Braymer, and Scott & Connie Bullock;
for Charles McChesney by Ralph and Terri Davis.



Thank you goes to Vicki and Myron Wilson and Helen Scott for organizing this wonderful project to provide Christmas gifts for children whose parent(s) is in prison. The families caring

for the children picked up the gifts on Saturday, December 14, at the church. Thank you to all who chose an Angel and shopped for that child. You have made a difference in the life of a family, and have extended the love and joy of the season to others.

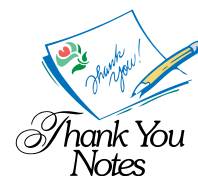
Congratulations...



To Brett and Jonaé Davis on the birth of Leo Wilder Davis on December 10, 2019. He weighed 10 lbs 1 oz and was 20 inches. He has a brother, Owen, and his proud grandparents are Ralph and Terri Davis.



Andrew Stephen Clark, (son of Steve and Vickie Clark) graduated Magna Cum Laude from Pellissippi State Community College with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Audio Production Engineering. He plans to stay in Knoxville as Assistant Manager of the Sound Engineering Equipment Department at Pellissippi and as an adjunct instructor.



Thank You Notes

Thank you to all the carolers who came to sing to us last Wednesday. We really enjoyed the songs and the visit.

Linda and Hugh Wise

The family of Charles McChesney wishes to thank the ladies who provided the family meal before the funeral, but especially to thank all the people who have cared for and loved Charles over these many years.

Marcia Norwood, Lee and Joe McChesney



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	