

Central Life

Central Presbyterian Church

April 15, 2020



Reflections from a Rocker (in my house)

“Change is inevitable. When it comes knocking at the door, you can cooperate with it and see it as an opportunity for growth. Or you can resist change and eventually get run over by it. It’s your choice” – Jack Canfield

Those words ring true for us all right now. Like it or not...change is here. Everything about the way we do ministry, family life, holidays, and church has shifted. I think as a church family, we have worked really hard to embrace this new reality and go with the changes rather than resist. I know for me, I have had to learn how to conduct and attend meetings on Zoom, how to record my daily videos and upload them (and not giving up if it does not work the first time), and how to stay in contact with lots of people and how valuable technology has become to allow all of these new things to happen.

But now that we have been on this journey for a month (yes, it was a month ago that I returned from my trip to Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, and started the daily videos), we are getting into a routine. But I find it interesting that people are saying, “When will we return to normal.” I’m guessing that means to the time before the virus. Now a friend of mine says “the only thing that has a normal setting is a washing machine.” And that is true. I am not sure that we can go back to life on March 1, 2020, nor that we would want to.

If I remember right, the church was struggling to find its identity in the world and how to move out from the building and to engage with the community. But in this new reality, with much of our communications online, we are having more impact in our local (and farther reaching) community. More people are “tuning in.” As a church, we have wondered how to be out in the community and to maybe have other locations, but in this new reality, we have lots of new locations in being the church. Our homes and our neighborhoods have become those locations. I know that Ed Updyke keeps up with where our worship services are being viewed, and he says that we have viewers on 6 of the 7 continents. He’s trying to figure out how to reach out to the scientists and penguins of Antarctica.

I was thinking about when we do go back to having worship in the Sanctuary and Central Hall, we will appreciate our fellowship and one another more. I know that Fellowship and Dining Committee members are planning to have a big party on that Sunday (and I hope it will be sooner than later). Last fall the Session had set as a goal to get to know the congregation better and to encourage each of us to get to know one another better. Though it was a goal and talked about, it was hard to implement and to put into practice. But this virus and the isolation has moved the Session to check in on our church family, and it has also encouraged you to check on one another (by phone, mail, Facebook or email). And so we are growing in our relationships.

— continued on page 2 —



We have known that technology was a source for ministry, and younger pastors have really been able to use it to further their ministry reach. But now more pastors and church staff members and congregations have had to embrace the various possibilities that technology offers us. For me, the learning curve has been steep. I am using the house computer, which was Frank's computer to pay bills and work on his projects. But I have had to embrace the quirks of it, and find ways of downloading programs and apps needed for this new time.

So are we going to return to normal of the past? Or is this our new normal? Hopefully we will not remain in the social isolation, but find ways of embracing technology, of moving the church out into our world and growing deeper in our relationship with each other. The Easter story reminds us that the world did not return to "normal" after the resurrection, but instead, it was a new way of doing things, and with a new message: that Jesus is alive, and everything in the world is different. So let us find ways to embrace this new time and this new way of doing things, and to know that with Christ, our life is constantly changing, but always for the good. Happy Easter!

Grace and peace,

Ann Aichinger



Upcoming Sermons (online - see page 4):

April 19	<i>Seeing is Believing</i>	John 20:19-34 and 1 Peter 3:5-7
April 26	<i>On the Road to Emmaus</i>	Luke 24:13-35
May 3	<i>Sheep and Shepherds</i>	John 10:1-10, Psalm 23, Acts 2:42-47 with Communion
May 10	<i>I am the Way, the Truth and the Life</i>	John 14: 1-14
May 17	<i>The New Commandment to Love</i>	John 14:15-21

Please keep these groups in your prayers:

- ♦ The session as they seek to lead in this new time
- ♦ The Confirmation Class (Sydney Collier, Callie Eckley, Maddie Harris, and Ada Ritchie) along with their mentors as they prepare to make public professions of faith and join the church.
- ♦ The Nominating Committee of Central as they propose a list of Elders for the class of 2023.
- ♦ The Search Committee for Central's Office Administrator position as they begin to receive resumes.
- ♦ The Search Committee of Abingdon Presbytery, as they work on finding a leader for our work together in SW Virginia.

There are DVDs of the Worship services and Daily Videos available on the table under the portico at the back of the church. Feel free to take one if you are unable to be online or see those offerings on the church website (www.CentralPresBristol.org)





Remember when you are ordering items from Walmart or Amazon, please use the Shop for Good tab on the CentralPresBristol.org website.* This way the church receives a small fee for connecting to that merchant. All contributions are confidential, and we do not have any access to your information. Encourage your family and friends to use the Shop for Good tab as well, which can help the church.

*From the church website, click on the "Shop for Good" tab. Then click on the picture for the merchant you want to use. If there is no picture, you may need to use another browser.



Thank you to all those who have been sending in contributions to Central Pres. Everyone is encouraged to continue to support the church with your offerings. We understand that for some this is a financially difficult place to be, but we also know there are others who are able to contribute a bit more. You can send in your offerings by mail: Central Presbyterian Church, 301 Euclid Ave, Bristol, VA 24201 or by going to the church website: www.CentralPresBristol.org and donate using the giving online tab. All offerings and gifts are greatly appreciated as we are seeking to continue the work and ministry of the church and supporting those agencies and organizations that are offering care, and sharing the Good news.

If you are in financial need, please talk to Ann Aichinger about receiving help from the church through the Service Fund.

Ann Aichinger was supposed to be away on April 22-24 for Continuing Education at the Q Conference in Nashville, TN. But this conference was changed to be a virtual conference. So though she will be still in town, she will be attending those talks and gatherings and events online.

Memorial Gifts:

To the Memorial Fund for Erinn Hollo by David and Cathy White;

To the Church Flower Fund for Sara & Bill Burleson by their children and grandchildren, and for Dr. Graham A. Vance and Dr. Fred V. Vance, Jr. by Allen & Retta Vance (both were brothers of Allen and grew up at Central Presbyterian Church).

Thanks:

Many thanks to everyone who provided supplies or helped make the face masks for Healing Hands Health Center. This effort was headed up by Thais Sikora, Janis Davis, and Joan Keith. The masks were VERY MUCH appreciated. These ladies may call on volunteers again to help when more are needed. If you are interested in helping later, please contact the church office (276-669-3157 and leave a message).



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

276-669-3157



www.CentralPresBristol.org

How to Keep Up:

[www.facebook.com/
CPCBristol](https://www.facebook.com/CPCBristol)

You do not have to sign-in or log on. Just click “not now” and the site will pop up.

www.CentralPresBristol.org

Click on “View Sermons” to see Ann’s videos for each day.

Congregational Care update:

- ♥ Vickie Salyer’s nephew who was robbed;
- ♥ Alice Owenby: recovering from a small stroke and improving;
- ♥ Jean Thomason is at Bristol Rehab at Exit 7 (near Cracker Barrel);
- ♥ Diana White’s family in the death of her uncle and as her mother is dealing with diagnosis of advanced cancer;
- ♥ Chauncey Solinger (Ann Aichinger’s son) is slowly recovering from the corona virus;
- ♥ Sam Wagner, Jack’s brother, as he is dealing with cancer and will start his chemotherapy treatments on Thursday;
- ♥ Doris Hall, continuing to recover from heart surgery and also dealing with some fluid on her lung (which comes as a part of the surgery).

♥ Ed and Betty Whitehead will be moving to Roanoke, VA to be closer to their children and grandchildren. They have sold their home here in Bristol, and are looking for a house in Roanoke. Their moving date is May 5, but as they have spent time in Roanoke while living in Bristol, they have reassured me that they will be back in Bristol and to keep in touch with Central. Hopefully, when we get back together as a church in one place, we can send them with blessing and with our love as they make this move and get involved in a new community.



Church Leadership

On Sunday, March 1, the congregation of Central Presbyterian Church met to elect an Officer Nominating Committee. Those recommended by the Administrative Committee were elected by acclamation and will begin their work soon.

Please take time to pray for the Nominating Committee and to pray for guidance as to who God wants as elders and to pray for the members who are asked to serve to follow God's will in their decision.

Below is a form on which you can make recommendations for elders for the Class of 2023. You are also welcome to call Nancy Kiser (423-956-5289) or David White (276-696-1931) with your suggestions.

Suggestions for New Officers

The Nominating Committee is seeking wisdom concerning the recommendation of five elders for the Class of 2023.

The Nominating Committee for 2020 is Nancy Kiser and David White from the Session, and Lynn Butcher, Jay Hall, Alisa Harris, Tim Landis, and Gena Prince from the congregation.

Elders are chosen to discern the will of Christ and the wind of the Spirit as they seek to guide the congregation. They should be people who have lived out their faith and demonstrated their commitment to the PCUSA and Central Presbyterian Church. The current elders who have served three year terms are not eligible for reelection this year.

All who are recommended must be members in good standing of Central Presbyterian Church and should be involved in the life of this church: worship, education, and fellowship, as well as faithful givers.

Current Session

2020: John Dodge, Doris Hall, Allen Harris, Gale Thompson, Linda Waldron, David White

2021: John Barker, Lois Clarke, Nancy Kiser, Donnie Spurell, Jenna Wagner

2022: Laurel Broadfoot, Sandy Wilson, Mike Vollmer, Don Hagaman, and Rob Hollo

My suggestions to consider for Elders:

PLEASE send this form in to the Church Office by April 22.