



Central Life

Central Presbyterian Church

April 29, 2020



Reflections from a Rocker (in my house)

It is hard to believe that we have been dealing with the realities of the Corona Virus for 2 months and that our orders to stay sheltered in place have been in place for 6 weeks. As I have had opportunity to reflect on this time and to consider where we might be headed, I have realized that we are not returning to “normal”---whatever “normal” might be.

Statistics show that over the last six weeks, the American Church had faced more changes than it has in the last 10 years. We have had to change the ways we did ministry, to embrace technology and new possibilities for meetings and gatherings, and to learn new ways of being the church. In the fall at the Session Retreat, the Central Presbyterian Session set goals for this year, and one of those goals was to get to know the congregation better. From October until March, we worked on how to do this, and never really came up with doable ideas. But when the orders came to shelter in place and when the church building was officially closed, then it was time to do a new thing. So the congregation was divided up into lists and elders chose a list to contact and keep in touch with through this time. And it has been interesting to hear how new relationships have been built and caring teams have been created. I think it will be wonderful when we are able to be in community again with one another, to have people meet face to face and to connect with the whole church family.

Over the next few weeks, I will be “attending” several seminars and workshops looking at who we are as the Church, who are we as Christians and how we will be adapting in light of what we have learned in these last two months. One of these gatherings is in Abingdon Presbytery, and looks at how our work together and the relationships among churches will change. Another one is a gathering of church leaders from all over the nation, and it will be interesting to hear about changes in other parts of the nation and in other states. I am looking forward to being a part of those conversations because I hope that Central will embrace these new options for us as a church family and as a community.

I continue to pray for God’s guidance and grace for us all in this time. I know that there is fear about the unknown and how long will we have to wear masks and practice social distancing. But know that whatever we are facing as a world and as a nation and as a community and as a church family, God is with us. We are not alone, nor have we been abandoned. But I think that God is doing a new thing in us, and that as the church, we are a people who can offer a word of hope and a word of newness in our lives. So friends, take heart, and let us go together into this new thing that God is doing among us.

Grace and peace,

Ann Aichinger





Upcoming Sermons (online - see page 6):

- May 3 *Sheep and Shepherds* John 10:1-10, Psalm 23, Acts 2:42-47
With Communion (prepare at home for this sacrament. Questions? Ask Pastor Ann.)
- May 10 *I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life* John 14: 1-14
- May 17 *The New Commandment to Love* John 14:15-21
- May 24 Acts 1:6-14 Ascension Sunday
- May 31 Acts 2:1-21 Pentecost (please wear red in celebration of the Spirit)

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)

“**These Days**” (quarterly devotional booklets) are also available under the portico. So stop by sometime when you are out and pick up the April/May/June issue. No payment is needed at this time.

Ann Aichinger will be attending (virtually) two conferences in May. One is the Sprunt Lectures at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond on May 5-6. Then May 18-22, she will be virtually attending The Festival of Homiletics (from Minneapolis), which is an annual preaching conference. Both of these will be done in the safety of her home.

May Birthdays:

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 2 - Bill Canter | 15 - Connie Bullock |
| Sheree’ Taylor | Carly Hollo |
| 4 - Olivia Hollo | 16 - Terry Parks |
| Tyler Wilson | 20 - Mary Wampler |
| Hugh Wise | 21 - Leslie Taylor |
| 5 - Randy Morris | 22 - Jim Butcher |
| 6 - Carol Curry | 23 - Ed Updyke |
| 7 - Ann Lamie | 25 - Beth Timp |
| 8 - Sarah Poore | 27 - Elodie Blevins |
| 9 - Peggy Callison | Rachel Ellis |
| Steve Clark | Tim Landis |
| 10 - David McFarlane | Tal McBride |
| Alice Owenby | 29 - Hunter Meade |
| 12 - Collin McCord | Alex Kiser |
| 14 - Kathryn Smith | 30 - David Kalb |
| | 31 - Juanita Large |



**BLESSINGS
ON YOUR
BIRTHDAY**

Remember these folks in prayer on their birthday.





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 seek to continue the work and ministry of the church, support those agencies and organizations that are offering care, and share the Good news.

If you have wondered about how to care for people in our church family, you can continue to donate to the Service Fund. If you are in financial need, please talk to Ann Aichinger about receiving help from the church through the Service Fund.

GIVE FOR GOOD

In this time of uncertainty, individuals and families are in need of the basics for life. You are invited to contribute food items, clothing, and financial support.

Bristol Emergency Food Pantry needs the following items:

- 4 ounce cans of tuna
- 1 pound bags of rice
- 6 oz. packages of spaghetti
- Canned fruit

You can drop off your donations in the food barrel under the portico at church.

You can make contributions to Haven of Rest using the big blue bin in the alleyway as the drop-off for clothing and shoes.

Monetary donations for the Pantry, the Haven, and Bristol Faith in Action are welcome and can be sent to Central Presbyterian for distribution.

For other options for COVID-19 resources, look at www.bristolspromise.org.

SHOP FOR GOOD

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 a different browser.

Congregational Care update:

Sam Wagner, Jack Wagner and Terri Surber's brother, as he continues chemotherapy for his cancer;
Doris Hall, continuing to recover from heart surgery and also dealing with some fluid on her lung (which came as a side effect of the surgery);
Heather Kiser, recovering from her surgery and continuing prayers for her healing;
Chauncey Solinger (Ann Aichinger's son) is now virus free and out of quarantine though still struggling with pneumonia and low energy levels.



Congratulations to Aaron and Katelyn (Doss) Sims on the birth of Lincoln Brooks Sims, born April 20, 2020. He weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. He has a big sister, Finley, age 3, and his proud grandmother is Jerrie Doss.

Sympathy to:

Caroline Jones on the death of her brother-in-law, Tom McLaughlin, in Arizona on April 26, 2020.

New Address:

Ed and Betty Whitehead will be moving to Roanoke on May 5, and they will be renting while their house is being built. Their address is: Ed and Betty Whitehead, 4320 William Court, Roanoke, VA 24018

Please keep these groups in your prayers:

- The Session as they seek to lead in this new time, and as they look forward into how we are going to adapt to these new ways of being the church.
- 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 prepare a list of Elders for the class of 2023.
- The Search Committee for Central's Office Administrator position as they begin to conduct online interviews with candidates for the position.
- The Search Committee of Abingdon Presbytery, as they work on finding a leader for our work together in SW Virginia.

Memorial Gifts:

To the Memorial Fund for Ruby Brown by an anonymous donor; for Sara Burleson by the Henson family; for Jim & Mary Boyd and Jim & Mary Geiger by J. Peyton Boyd, Jr.;

To the Music Fund for Ruby Brown by Terry Parks;

To the Service Fund for Sara Burleson and Ruby Brown by Pat Harenberg.

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

276-669-3157

www.CentralPresBristol.org



How to Keep Up:

www.facebook.com/CPCBristol

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

Scroll down to find the latest message.

www.CentralPresBristol.org

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

SESSION UPDATE:

The session met on Tuesday, April 21 by Zoom.

- ◆ Appreciation was expressed to Mary Moffatt, the Finance Committee, and John Barker for their expedient efforts in applying for the Payroll Protection Plan and the SBA CARES funds. The church applied for and received \$110,000 for the purpose of covering payroll of the church staff and the APPLE Preschool staff as well as utilities in this time. A certificate will be given to Mary, John, and the Finance Committee.
- ◆ The job description for the Office Administrator was received and approved.
- ◆ Gray Vance Cobb will be reinstated to the active church roll.
- ◆ David White and Larry Clarke have worked with others in getting the new sections of the Columbarium installed. There are 24 new niches that have been added.
- ◆ Thank you to Connie Bullock and the Memorial Committee for their work on having the Euclid Ave sign updated and repaired.
- ◆ Thank you cards will go out to Ed Updyke, Ann Aichinger, and Robert Campbelle for their work in providing worship each week on the website.
- ◆ Mike Vollmer has scraped and painted the outside doors in the alleyway, and Gale Thompson has had the bathrooms upstairs in the APPLE area painted.

The next Session meeting will be on May 19, 7 p.m. by Zoom.

How to Get in Touch with us:

- Ann Aichinger, Pastor
ann.cpc@bvu.net
- Robert Campbelle, Music Director
robertcampbelle@gmail.com
- Joy Smith-Briggs, Organist
gvbjoyb@btes.tv
- Josie Russell, Youth & Young Adult Dir.
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, Dir. of APPLE Academy
applepreschool@yahoo.com
- Barbara Mann, Volunteer Parish Nurse
barbar632002@gmail.com

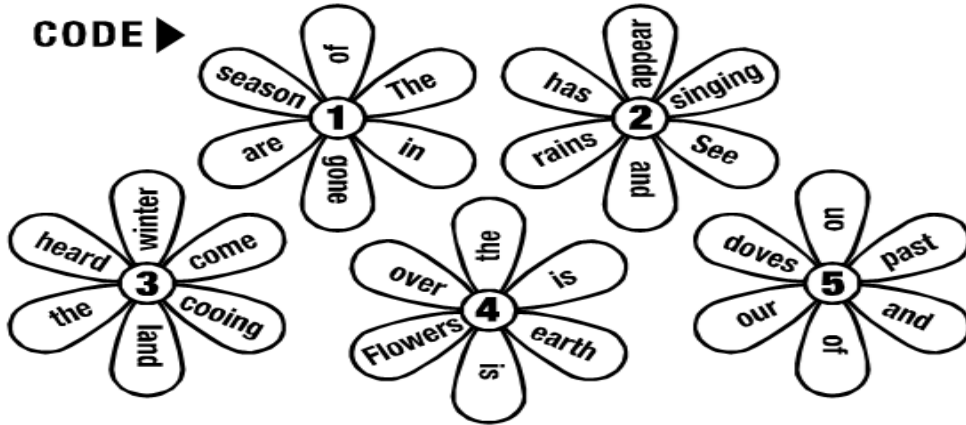
OFFICE HOURS: none set right now, please call first to see if anyone is in the office, 276-669-3157.



Puzzle!

Using the flower code, fill in the blanks to complete the springtime words from Song of Solomon 2:11-12, NIV.

CODE ►



_____ ! _____ ;
 [2] [1] [3] [4] [5]

_____ .
 [3] [2] [1] [4] [5] [1]

_____ ;
 [4] [2] [3] [3] [4]

_____ .
 [3] [1] [1] [2] [2]

_____ , _____
 [3] [3] [3] [1] [5]

_____ .
 [4] [3] [1] [5] [3]

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:11-12, NIV

Answer: See! The winter is past; the rains are over
 and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of
 singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our
 land. Song of Solomon 2:11-12, NIV

