



# Central Life

*Central Presbyterian Church*

*May 21, 2020*

---

## And Still We Rise

from Joy Briggs

Very few of you are old enough to have lived during WWII. You know about it from history books, historical novels, what your parents may have told you, etc. I was 9 years old when the war ended. I still remember that time very well. I still cringe when I hear a siren, reminding me of the frequent air raid drills to prepare us in case of a *real* raid. My bedroom was in the attic, a very lovely room my mother had decorated especially for a little girl. It was my private space, my retreat, but at night when the stairs creaked, I was frightened to death that the *Japs* were coming to get me and was too afraid to run down the stairs for fear I would run right into one of them. I didn't know we were German, nor did I know if that fact was deliberately concealed or if I just didn't realize it. I had no idea what was going on in Germany, nor that some ancestor of mine might have been a Nazi. I never even thought about that until about 25 years ago when that possibility hit me between the eyes.

I was mainly concerned with crushing tin cans for "the cause." I found it disappointing that my mother seldom had enough sugar to make cookies, especially missing them at Christmas. I remember going to my friend's house (her father was my dentist) at Easter time to find their buffet lined with chocolate chicks and rabbits. I proposed to my father that he ask Dr. Hummel where he got them since we had not a piece of candy in the house. He responded that he probably got the candy at the Black Market, so I insisted my father tell me where that market could be found. I remember my parents only had coffee occasionally because we didn't have enough ration stamps to buy it, not that any was available.

There were two flags in the bay window in the living room, one for my sister who was in the WAVES, the other for my brother who was a Naval officer aboard ship in the Pacific. I recognized my mother's fears that she may lose a precious son and daughter, especially concerned that my brother might die at sea, which he very nearly did when his friend, the ship's doctor, was struck by a Kamakaze minutes after my brother went below deck. He told of packing up his friend's belongings and sending them back to his wife.

I didn't have to stay home. I was free to go to school, or run to the store for my mother. Church was still happening, and I could play with my friends, but I will never forget that time. It marked me for life. On 9/11, I was in Kansas to celebrate my grandson's 5<sup>th</sup> birthday. We sat out on the driveway on the night that people were asked to put candles in their windows. The first planes flew over since before the devastation occurred. Suddenly, so many of my WWII experiences flew into my mind and I started telling my daughter and her husband how it had all affected me as a young child, something I had never done before. It was a time of great fear, hardship, and sacrifice,  
***But still we rose.***

Then there was the Korean War, Vietnam, and we are still in Afghanistan,  
***But still we rise.***

There is fear, disbelief, ignorance, disregard for the danger to self and others and conspiracy theories.  
***We continue to rise.***

We call ourselves a Christian nation, but our behavior is frequently less than Christian. We will ALL be changed by the Pandemic. Our children and grands will always be marked by it as will we.

---

But those of us who believe in and trust in God know that ***We will ALWAYS rise, Praise be to God!***



It is hard to believe that we have been in this new place as a society, nation, and world for over 9 weeks, and though we have been asked to stay home, I have found that I have been busy with church work and also house work. Yet, as I have reflected on this time, I have realized that there are several things I have missed.

The main thing I have missed is physical touch, and the need for a hug from another human. Last Thursday afternoon, I went to at Juleeauna Jones' drive-by graduation party from elementary school, and I thought it was a "drive by" to say hello and keep going. Instead it was a "park and get out to talk to people." So Juleeaunna comes running over and asks, "Can I give you a hug?" "Oh yes," I said. And it was the most amazing hug I have had in a long time. Even though hugging is still on the "be cautious list," we as humans are created for community.

Another thing I have missed is having time to talk to someone in depth without discussing the virus or pandemic or the statistics of it. Yet, it has permeated all conversations and though we might not talk about it in particular, it is ever present in the conversation. So I am trying to set some time aside to reflect on life and on where we are as people and as a church family.

The third thing I have missed is corporate worship where I can see you when leading worship. I understand that recording the service and making it available online is our best way right now. So when I am recording my portions, I imagine our church family gathered. I can see individuals and your faces. Yet when I am finished recording and get it uploaded to Ed Updyke to put together, I know that I have not seen you with my eyes, but with my heart.

So what have I learned in this time? What is it that is the gift we have been given from this opportunity? How has God been at work in the world and in our church? For I believe that God does not cause the bad things to happen in this world, but that God is able to work a new thing, a good thing in the midst of the difficulties and struggles of our life.

One thing I have learned is how to work technology. Frank was so much better at this than I ever was. He wanted to get a new tablet or phone, and I was happy with the old ones. So in this new time for me, I use "his" computer at the house, and have had to figure out how to record parts of worship and the daily update videos as well as run Zoom meetings. The thing I have gained is that I have become comfortable with lots of new parts of technology. So in my home study, I am surrounded by technology instruments. I have an iPad for my daily Zoom meetings (usually at least 2 and sometimes as many as 4 a day), as well as conferences and webinars. I have my cell phone and my house phone as well as a desk top computer where I do my writing and corresponding (emails mostly). I have an outlet to plug in the things that need recharging as well as a printer that likes to make strange sounds at times.

I have also learned that we are in a new place in time and in history. As a leader, I am to continue to move forward and not be so quick to go back to the way things were on March 1. I am reading an interesting book entitled, *How to lead when you don't know where you are going* by Susan Beaumont. When she wrote it, she didn't have any idea that the world and the church would be where we are today. But her premise is that we are in that in-between time. We are between what was and what will be. There is lots of uncertainty in this space and time as well as lots of questions. Where are we going? How long until we get there? What will the future be like? The problem is there are very few answers at this point.

But there is something I do know. God is with us in this in-between time, and God is at work doing a new thing in us as individuals and as a church family and as a world. Yes, I would like to be in the next stage already, where we can return to some kind of normalcy. But honestly, I don't think that is in our future. We are going to have to take what we have learned and to reconsider how to be church and how to be community. With God's compassionate leading, we together will get there. Where? I don't know. But I have hope and great expectations about what lies ahead. So I hope you will trust God and trust me and the session as we seek to lead into this new time.

Grace, peace and love to you all, Ann Aichinger





## “What’s Next” Report

A taskforce of Ann Aichinger, Jenna Wagner, Rob Hollo, Mike Vollmer, Linda Waldron, John Barker, and Robert Campbell met on Saturday, May 16, by Zoom to begin the conversation about having in-person worship at Central Presbyterian. We discovered that there are more questions at this time, but in looking at the science behind the virus, as well as the Virginia Governor’s plans for opening Virginia, the following information was reported to Session and approved:

We will work to have our first in-person worship opportunity on Sunday, July 5. We are still working on the details, but we are not making decisions out of urgency or panic. Instead, we see that it is important to consider the best way forward in this time of uncertainty and to be mindful of individuals involved in our church family.

We are working on establishing how to conduct worship and in which worship space. Everyone attending in person will be required to wear a mask or face covering to limit droplets of saliva being spread. We are encouraging people to consider your own safety and situation as to whether you are able to attend.

Meanwhile, Central Presbyterian worship will continue to be recorded and available on the website for viewing (CentralPresBristol.org). Please continue to pray for this group to have wisdom and to follow God’s guiding as we move forward together in this time.



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

We are not idled, just working in a different venue! The Healing Hands Health Center needed our assistance to make masks for the patients who come into the clinic with any illness, just to protect the staff! As we answered the call, Janis Davis, Barbara Mann, Joan Keith, Vicki Myers, Trish James, and Thais Sikora made a plan and came up with many masks, made from donated materials. We were able to supply other folks who needed them and were pleased to share.

We do hope to begin again as soon as it is safe, to meet and study together, and we do hope that will be before long.

PW Co-moderators, Thais Sikora and Mary Ann Blevins



## Upcoming Online Sermons:

May 24	Acts 1:6-14	Ascension Sunday
May 31	Acts 2:1-21	Pentecost (please wear red in celebration of the Spirit)
June 7	Communion and Katherine Campbell will preach and lead worship	



## Session Report



The Session of Central Presbyterian met on Tuesday, May 20, by Zoom and we had as guests the Confirmation Class and their mentors.

**New Members:** Sydney Collier, Callie Eckley, Maddie Harris and Ada Ritchie were welcomed into the membership of the church. They will be officially welcomed when we are able to meet in person. Callie Eckley will be baptized at our first face-to-face worship service.

The following actions were taken by the Session:

- Authorized Katherine Campbell to preach and lead worship for Sunday, June 7 (pre-recorded). Agreed to have Ann Aichinger take the week of June 1-7 off from the routine of church work. (It is the one year anniversary of Frank Aichinger's death.)
- Agreed for the High School Youth to be in Montreat to attend the Online Youth Conference June 7-13. They will stay at their rental house in Montreat.
- John Dodge will be the Commissioner to the Abingdon Presbytery meeting on Thursday, June 11 (by Zoom)
- Received the report from the *What's Next Taskforce* about next steps in our life as a church family. A brief report will be included in the current Central Life
- Heard the report of the Office Administrator Search Committee and approved the hiring of Deborah Lynn Gilbert as of June 1. She will work with Patty Caldwell for three weeks as Patty prepares to retire on June 30.
- Approved to open two new bank accounts at First Bank: one for the Payroll Protection plan money and one for the Shop for Good monies.
- Authorize Online Communion for June 7, July 5, and August 2 (as needed and if still out of the building)
- Received the Nominating Committee report and approved the call of a Congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, June 14, at 1 p.m. by Zoom for the purpose of electing elders for the Class of 2023. Invitations for that meeting will be sent out for all to attend by computer or by phone.
- Agreed to have APPLE preschool be considered to open in June, and a group will be working on the guidelines and proposed opening date.
- Called Session meeting (by Zoom) on Tuesday, May 26, at 6:30 p.m. to consider the APPLE preschool opening proposal.

Next Session Meeting will be Tuesday, June 16, at 7 p.m. by Zoom.





## Confirmation Statements of Faith

These four young ladies have participated in the Confirmation class since March and were received into membership at Central on Tuesday, May 20. When we gather together, we will make arrangements for Callie Eckley to be baptized and all four to be received officially by the church family. Below are their Faith Statements that they read to the Session.

### Faith Statement

#### Sydney Collier

I believe in the holy Trinity, that God is three and one. I believe that God sent his only son to save us from our sins and then teach us how to live as better Christians. I look upon God as my one true father. I believe that Jesus rose from the dead and sits on the right hand side of the father. I have faith that God is a forgiving and understanding God whose love is unconditional. I believe as Christians we are to love and serve God as Jesus did. I believe that the Church is a place where we worship and praise God as it is not just a building. I believe God put us on this earth to love and prosper, to teach and learn, and to forgive as he forgives us. I believe in everlasting life and that there is a heaven. I am beyond excited and blessed to become a member of Central Presbyterian Church.



### Faith Statement

#### Callie Eckley

I believe that we were made by one true creator, God. Life can throw many problems at you, but knowing that through it all with Jesus Christ leading the way is reassuring. Especially now, we are faced with the struggles of growing up.

Sometimes, the feeling of missing something to identify as comes in. I know now that you don't need a talent, a relationship, a sport, or anything else to shape who you are. My identity is now as a child of God. Our God is reliable and patient. He sent his son, Jesus Christ, to pay for our sins at the cross. He was resurrected from the dead, so that when we feel lost, we will always find our way back to Him. I also believe that putting all your faith into Jesus Christ is the only way we will live an eternal, peaceful life in Heaven.

My favorite Bible verse is Acts 17:27-28, and it reads, "That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also your own poets have said, For we are his offspring." This verse explains that the feeling of fullness and meaning comes from seeking and finding God. He is that missing piece in all of our lives. The empty feeling in our souls can only be filled by God.

Now that I have this new outlook on faith, I am ready to put it into action. I have started studying scripture on my own time, praying every night (not just in hard times), and spreading the good news. The next step I am ready to take is growing in my faith along with other believers by joining the church.







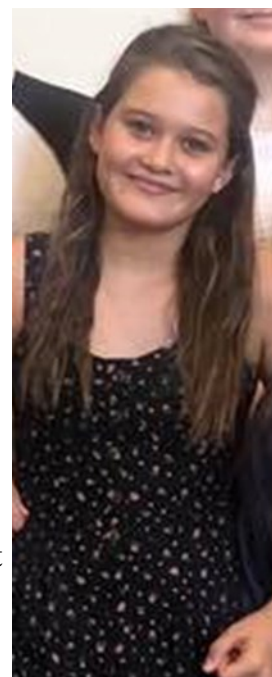
## Faith Statement

### Maddie Harris

This is what I personally believe in. I believe God's son died and was resurrected for us. I also believe he will love and look out for me endlessly. I believe he died and rose again for us. He did this all for us and to give us a chance at life. In return, I try to be the best Christian I can possibly be, but since I'm human I know I mess up and sin. We all do, but I will always strive to be the best me. I think it is important to have a relationship with Christ. I believe he is there and will love and forgive me no matter what. It's important to feel a special connection with Christ, especially when we have these sad and hard times upon us.

Church shouldn't just be somewhere you feel forced to go. It should be somewhere you feel you can go and worship freely. I have been attending Central throughout my life and I have had amazing experiences with God. I've been able to go to some amazing camps and conferences that brought me even closer to God. They all helped me grow and understand Christ in ways I would have never thought of. These experiences shaped me into the Christian I am today. I am so grateful for the amazing experiences which in the end brought me even closer to God.

Throughout my life I have been blessed with an amazing church and people that have helped me grow in my faith. God works in crazy ways, and is there for you even when the times get rough. When I feel sad and afraid I pray to him. When I am happy I thank God for the amazing blessings I have in life. It's easy to take everything you have for granted. I confirm my faith for myself. I confirm I will be a devoted Christian and take part in the church.

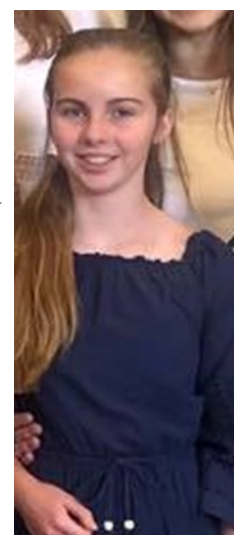


## My Faith Statement

### Ada Ritchie

I believe that our God is forgiving, and loving. God created us and loves us all and he even forgives us when we make mistakes. Jesus taught us to all be kind and loving. I believe that a Christian should be someone who follows and spreads the work of Jesus and also works to be a kinder and better person. Faith is important to me because it gives me a sense of hope and strength. I believe that we are saved through repentance and faith. I also believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for all of our sins and believe in the holy trinity.

I believe that the church is a place for us to come, worship, love, and serve God. We know and can learn about God from the Bible, personal experiences, and from the church and people around us. He calls us to trust and love him. I believe that as Christians we should strive to know, love, and tell others about God. I believe that God speaks to us and calls us to do amazing things. I am so excited to be a member of Central Presbyterian Church.





### Backpack Mission Update

We completed this school years BP mission this past week delivering 108 bags which was for the three remaining scheduled school weeks.

Our crew prepares 36 bags of food every week during the school session. Each bag has 12 - 14 items in it each week. Over the school year that represents around 1,260 bags we are able to prepare, plus we did 20 boxes at Christmas for families.

A big Thank You to all who support this Mission, and another huge THANK YOU to our Backpack Committee.

Thais Sikora  
Diane Abbey  
Barbara Mann  
Patty Faulkner  
Paige Thompson

Laurel Broadfoot  
Jeanie Franklin  
Terri Surber  
Eleanor Rampe



### June Birthdays:

- 1 - Ellena Dodson  
Don Miller  
Dave Wilson
- 2 - Linda Barker
- 4 - Bob Scott
- 6 - Elise Allen  
Stella Kite
- 8 - Bill Prince
- 10 - Mike Ellis
- 14 - Jackie Dennison
- 16 - Brian Alderman
- 17 - Alisa Harris
- 18 - Mark Ellis
- 19 - Retta Vance
- 21 - Ann Landis  
David Meade
- 22 - Cheryl Clark
- 23 - Joy Briggs
- 26 - Donna Leonard
- 28 - Patty Caldwell  
Kloe Thomas
- 29 - Barbara Pyle
- 30 - Kassidy Campbell



### Montreat Youth Conference Information and Updates

High School youth will be participating in the Montreat Youth conference which will be online June 7-13. The group from Central is planning to go to the house "Trevor's retreat in Montreat" and spend the week together as we experience the conference. We do have 2-3 more spaces available. If you are interested in going, the cost is \$150. Please talk to Ann Aichinger or Josie Russell.

Montreat Middle School Conference has to do some figuring out about where to have the conference. Maryville College will not be useable. So watch for more details on how this conference will occur and how we will participate.

**Remember these folks in prayer on their birthday.**





### ***Congregational Prayer Concerns:***

- \* Jonathan Van Dyke has been moved into Hospice care
- \* Vicki Myers fell and fractured her ankle and is in a boot for 6 weeks
- \* Nancy Arnold has her first cataract surgery on 5/21 in Bristol.
- \* Courtney Reese went to UVA for a checkup and MRI, and they found a new brain lesion that is no longer “active” So she will try a new medication for her MS.
- \* Bob Ingram is at home with pneumonia
- \* Becky Ingram is having heart rhythm issues
- \* Eleanor Rampe’s son, Ray, will be having heart surgery this summer
- \* Doris Hall is recovering from her heart surgery with some complications
- \* Vickie Salyer’s sister with cancer diagnosis
- \* Heather Kiser (Larry and Terri Surber’s daughter) - recovering from her surgery
- \* Sam Wagner - Chemotherapy
- \* Doris Crabtree’s brother Darryl, seriously injured and in a care facility outside of Atlanta, GA
- \* Ed Whitehead had his second cataract surgery on 5/20 in Bristol and it went well
- \* Betty Watson is in Bristol Regional Medical Center
- \* Terri Davis will have a partial knee replacement on May 26
- \* Barbara Mann will have her second corneal transplant on June 11, in Knoxville, TN

### ***Expressions of Sympathy to:***

- \* Theresa Kalb on the death of her father in Florida on May 2, 2020.
- \* Hoya Vaughn on the death of his brother, Stanley, in Bristol on May 5, 2020.
- \* Vickie Salyer on the death of her nephew.

### ***Memorial Gifts:***

To the Memorial Fund for Tom McLaughlin by Caroline Jones; for Mike Knighton by Robert W. Smith.

### ***Congratulations to:***

- \* Monica, Brian, and Ella Kate Alderman in the adoption of Wesley Brennan Alderman on May 1, 2020.
- \* To Katherine Campbell for passing the fourth (and last) of her ordination exams for the PCUSA.

### ***To all those who have graduated:***

- \* Madison Campbell from Virginia High and she will attend Emory and Henry College majoring in Psychology
- \* Austin Faris from Holston High. He will be attending Emory and Henry College and majoring in History and Mass Communications
- \* Brandon Reese from King University with a Masters in Education.
- \* Ashton Waldron from Rutgers University with a Masters of Fine Arts in Dance
- \* Savannah McCord from ETSU with a Masters in Sports Science and Coach Education.

If you have a graduate in your family and would like them included in the next newsletter, please send them to [annaichinger@gmail.com](mailto:annaichinger@gmail.com) and [pcaldwell.cpc@bvunet.net](mailto:pcaldwell.cpc@bvunet.net)







## *Shop for Good*

### **Sam's Club has now been added to Shop for Good!**

Here are the commission percentages Central earns on your online purchase:

**10%** for Basic Apparel, Children's Apparel, Domestics, Furniture, Grills & Gardening, Home Improvement, Housewares, some Kitchen Electrics, Ladies Apparel, Men's Apparel, Team Apparel, Mattresses, Office Furniture, Outdoor Living, Toys

**7%** for Nursery & Gardening, Power Equipment - Tools - Auto, Seasonal Decor

**5%** for Diamonds, Exercise, Fine Jewelry

**3%** for Auto Battery, Automotive, Baby Care, Bread, Pastry, CE Accessories, Entertainment, Exercise, Houseware, some Kitchen Electrics, Mobile Hardware, Office Furniture, Restaurant Supplies, Tires

**1%** for Major Appliances, Tablets, TV & Home Theatre

**0%** for Accessories, Baking, Beer, Candy, Camera, Coffee, Computers, Dairy, Staple Food items, Fresh and Frozen Foods, Gift Cards, Sodas, Snacks, Tobacco, Wine

**15%** for Memberships

How to Use:

- Go to the Shop For Good tab at Centralpresbristol.org
- Click the link or photo for the store
- Proceed to shop; you can still use coupons and promo codes and you can log in using your account.
- Central does not have access to any of your information, passwords, purchase etc. We simply get a small referral fee for sending the store customers
- That's it! You don't need to do anything else – just remember to click through the Central link so that we get credit for the sale!

This is a wonderful way to get the stores you shop at anyway to help support all the good work Central does.

Or you can follow this link: [Shop Sam's for Shocking Values!](#)



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

276-669-3157

[www.CentralPresBristol.org](http://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.

Scroll down to find the latest message.

[www.CentralPresBristol.org](http://www.CentralPresBristol.org)

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



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](http://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.

## How to Get in Touch with us:

Ann Aichinger, Pastor

[ann.cpc@bvu.net](mailto:ann.cpc@bvu.net)

Robert Campbelle, Music Director

[robertcampbelle@gmail.com](mailto:robertcampbelle@gmail.com)

Joy Smith-Briggs, Organist

[gjbjoyb@btes.tv](mailto:gjbjoyb@btes.tv)

Josie Russell, Youth & Young Adult Dir.

[josiannrussell@gmail.com](mailto:josiannrussell@gmail.com)

Patty Caldwell, Office Manager/  
Newsletter Editor

[pcaldwell.cpc@bvu.net](mailto:pcaldwell.cpc@bvu.net)

Mary Moffatt, Finance Director

[finance.cpc@bvu.net](mailto:finance.cpc@bvu.net)

Trish James, Food Service Director

[tjames1234@charter.net](mailto:tjames1234@charter.net)

Becky Widner, Dir. of APPLE Academy

[applepreschool@yahoo.com](mailto:applepreschool@yahoo.com)

Barbara Mann, Volunteer Parish Nurse

[barbar632002@gmail.com](mailto:barbar632002@gmail.com)

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