

Central Life

Central Presbyterian Church

June 3, 2020



Recently I was reading an article from BaptistNews.com written by Clare Johnson, a Baptist pastor in Spartanburg, SC. The article was entitled, *While Some Try to Politicize Wearing Face Masks, for Me It's a Spiritual Practice*, and I began to think about how we can bear witness to the love of Jesus by the simple act of wearing a mask. We know that there is a great debate among individuals and groups as to whether face coverings make a difference or not. But the science is showing that it truly is making a difference in the spread of the virus. But what about this might offer us guidance in growing in our relationship with God, and others and ourselves?

First, when I choose to wear a mask or face covering, it is not about me. I choose to wear a mask in public because I am concerned about you, and the strangers I encounter when in the world. I am seeking to offer to you and to others a sign of my love and care for you. By wearing a mask or face covering, I seek to offer you safety and to wish for you wellness and health. It is a demonstration of Jesus' call to care for the least of these among us and those at the greatest risk.

Second, wearing a mask or face covering means I am willing to set aside my own identity and my own personal comfort for the sake of another. It is a sign of humility. When I am ridiculed or looked at by strangers as weird and unacceptable, I know that as a Christ follower, the scorn and ridicule I bear is nothing like that of what Jesus bore for my sake and the sake of the world.

Third, I have several different masks. One is a blue disposable mask that I got in a travel kit when I went to Ecuador this winter. Another is a cloth one made for me by the ladies of Central who have been making masks, and it has purple butterflies on it. The third was given to me by a friend who was making masks and knew I liked cats, so she gave me a tiger print mask. I know that when I wear these masks, I am reminding myself of the love of people who care about me and know me. And in wearing the blue mask, I think of my incredible journey to the Galapagos Islands and the wonders I saw there. But this love I feel is more than just a human love, for I know that I am a part of a faith community and that I am blessed to have so many wonderful friends who love me and care for me. In fact, their love is a glimpse of the great love that God has for each of us. So by wearing a mask and dealing with the uncomfortable reality, I realize that in fact, this practice is surrounded with love, and I discover the love of God for me and for you.

In summary, I quote the final paragraph of Clare Johnson's article, and hope that you can ponder the practice of wearing a mask as a way to deepen your relationship with God and others. Clare Johnson writes that "I have found that choosing to wear a mask as a spiritual practice has deepened my faith and increased my commitment to my neighbors during this time of pandemic. I hope and pray for the time when protective face masks are no longer necessary. But I also hope that the lessons God is teaching through this practice remain an integral part of my life of faith."

Grace, peace, and love to you all,
Ann Aichinger



WORSHIP

SCHEDULE RESUMES

What's Next Report:

A taskforce of Ann Aichinger, Jenna Wagner, Rob Hollo, Mike Vollmer, Linda Waldron, John Barker and Robert Campbelle met on Tuesday, May 27, by Zoom to continue the conversation about having in-person worship at Central Presbyterian.

In preparing for the in-person worship option, we ask that you are mindful about your own personal risk in attending in-person or not. This is not a required event, nor will you be looked down on for not attending. We do not want anyone to feel obligated to attend.

We are working on setting clear boundaries and yet creating a low-anxiety, comfortable experience. We all are dealing with this crisis in various ways, and so there are lots of emotions as a part of looking to worship on July 5. We are planning on having Nursery for our very youngest children.

We will need many people to help with staffing and directions on that day.

- 2 people willing to hand out **masks** for those who do not bring their own;
- 2 **Greeters** who are comfortable NOT shaking hands or hugging but simply to welcome people as they come to the church; these folks would also take attendance and get information from any visitors that we might have;
- 2 ushers who will help people find seats in the Sanctuary since some pews will be closed and social distancing will be practiced;
- 2 people staffing the **Communion kit table**. As we are preparing to have Communion that day, we will have a table set up in the entry area with personal Communion kits. Each Communion kit will have a cracker and small cup of grape juice. You will be invited to pick one up;
- 2 people willing to spray hand sanitizer into palms of worshippers upon entry;
- 2 people willing to help with Children's time (possibly outside time);

If you are willing and able to do one of these jobs, please call the church office (276-669-3157) to sign up.

We are still working on the details, and will have these clarified in the next Central Life as well as in a letter to every household. 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 in the sanctuary. The wearing of masks or face covering will be required of everyone attending 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.

UPCOMING SERMONS

June 7 Katherine Campbell preaching, communion

June 14 Genesis 12:1-9 *The God of New Places*

June 21 Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7 *The God of Outrageous Possibilities*

June 28 Genesis 21:8-21 *The God of the Unexpected Endings (or Beginnings)*





Congregational Meeting June 14, 1 p.m. by Zoom

The Session has called for a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 14, at 1 p.m. for the purpose of electing elders for the class of 2023. Those being nominated are Briggs Allen, Carolynn Anderson, Cindy Hale, Niki McGrew, and Wes Ritchie. This meeting will be conducted on Zoom.

If you plan to attend by Zoom video or by audio (on your phone) you are asked to register to attend by calling or emailing the church office. Then on **Saturday, June 13**, you will receive by email an invitation to the Zoom meeting with the following web address to connect you to the meeting on Sunday. On Sunday, June 14, the meeting room will be open at 12:30 p.m. for people to begin to enter.

Using a Camera and Audio:

If you are able to use a camera and speaker on your cell phone, tablet, or computer, then you can download the Zoom app for your device. You will then be able to click on the web address (below) and enter the meeting. As Moderator, I will admit each person as they come to the waiting room.

Topic: CPC Congregational Meeting

Time: Jun 14, 2020 01:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86213392956?pwd=d0ozQzd5NIJWakRDZTQ4RUlKQ3huQT09>

Meeting ID: 862 1339 2956

Password: 765159

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,86213392956#,1#,765159# US (Germantown)

+13126266799,,86213392956#,1#,765159# US (Chicago)

Using only a phone for audio:

If you are only joining by **calling in** on your landline or cell phone, you can use one of the numbers below to enter the waiting room on Saturday, June 13. (these are the phone numbers for the US).

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 862 1339 2956

Password: 765159

Then you will enter the meeting ID on the number pad and the Password when prompted.

You will be in the waiting room, and will be admitted to the meeting.

Do not be afraid of doing this. Other churches actually have been doing worship using Zoom, and many of our committees and groups have been meeting by Zoom. Come and be a part of this important meeting in the life of Central.





Goodbye to Patty Caldwell and Hello to Lynn Gilbert

As you may know and realize, our Office Administrator/Church Manager/One who knows all things Central, Patty Caldwell, will be retiring at the end of June. She has been a part of the church office for 33 years. And though she is stepping down out of the everyday life of Central, Patty and Tommy will still be a part of Central as they are members. We wish Patty well in this transition time, and when we are able to be together for larger gatherings, there will be a planned retirement celebration for her.

The Administration and Staff Committee appreciates the hard work of the Search committee and their ability to find our new staff addition, Lynn Gilbert. Below is her biography that allows us to get to know a little about her. But you are reminded that as we are in this transition, Lynn does not know everyone's name or what areas of ministry you are a part of. So you will need to introduce yourself to her and tell her your name for a while. Everyone will know her, but she will not know everyone. So extend a little extra grace and love to her.

Also be aware that some of the jobs and tasks that Patty did around the church are not a part of Lynn's job. So if you are willing and able to help out, please do so around the church. If you need a personal task done or copies made, other arrangements need to be made. We are all going to have to make adjustments, and we will do fine with the changes.

For the month of June, Patty will be training Lynn on the basics of the Central Church office. So when you go by the church, go and meet Lynn, and be sure to express your thanks and gratitude to Patty for her work these many years.

Greetings, Central Presbyterian Family!

I am very excited to join the staff of Central Presbyterian Church, and would like to take a moment to share with you a little about myself. My name is Lynn Gilbert and I reside in Abingdon. I moved to Virginia two years ago from Ohio to help care for my parents and I continue to care for my mother. I am married to David Gilbert, the pastor of Tazewell Presbyterian Church. We have 4 children and 4 grandchildren between us. My daughter, Sharon, resides in Akron, Ohio and she has 3 boys; Cade, Trey, and Dominic. My son, Brian and his wife, Ashley reside in Houston, TX. Dave's son, Geoff, and his wife, Lindsey, reside in Seattle, WA with their daughter, Vannela. Dave's youngest son, Dan, also resides in Seattle, WA.



I was a Family, Consumer Science teacher in Ohio for 14 years teaching grades 7-12 before moving to Virginia. I also was a coach (boy's bowling!) and an advisor for our youth volunteer organization. I have been a substitute teacher here in Washington County for the past year and in January added Tazewell County to my substitute area. I enjoy teaching and working with our youth, and I consider myself a life-long learner. I have a prior professional background in human resources as well as administrative/secretarial experience.

My hobbies include gardening, sewing, cooking, reading, and walks with our dogs, Stanley and Baer, and enjoying our cat, Chi. Both dogs were rescues. Stanley is almost 18 and is the Jack La Lane of dogs, according to his vet! I also have realized that "binge-watching" is becoming a new hobby! I thought that was only for kids so I guess I am still a kid at heart. I look forward to joining the staff and meeting all of you. I am so blessed, and honored, to have this opportunity to become a part of your church family. I have some big shoes to fill, but I will do my best to fill them with your help.

Your new friend in Christ,
Lynn Gilbert





PENTECOST ACTIVITY BAGS

Thank you goes to Suzanne Goyette for her creativity in assembling the children's Pentecost activity bags. There were bags made for each family and for their children with activities, crafts, games, and other ideas to aid families in celebrating Pentecost.

Watch for new bags to be ready prior to June 21. We will celebrate families and being a part of the family of God.

Thank you to everyone for your cards, thoughts, and prayers on the death of my nephew, and for my sister's cancer. Your outpouring of support is greatly appreciated and I treasure your friendship.

Vickie Salyer

To the Sewing Group at Central:

Thank you all for the masks. We appreciate your taking the time to sew these for us. We will put them to good use. Blessings,

the Staff at Healing Hands Health Center (Helen, Katie, Barbara, Taylor, Dr. Arnold, Carol)



Apple Academy

Apple re-opened on June 1 with 58 total preschool children enrolled and staffing for the different classes.

They are working with very strict guidelines and keeping the children in their classroom groups throughout the day. As we all are learning new ways to function and live, our children are helping us to be mindful and careful with our interactions.

It is GOOD to have them back in the church building again! Things have been too quiet.

Montreat Youth Conference Information and Updates

Montreat Youth conference information and updates

Montreat High School youth will be participating in the Montreat Youth conference which will be done 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 to 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 is working to figure out where to have the conference, since Maryville College will not be useable. We are looking at going to Montreat and staying in a rental house, and participating in the online conference June 15-18.



Congregational Prayer Concerns:

- * Carol Duhaime broke her ankle and had surgery. She is at Health South Encompass (Bristol).
- * Gale Thompson has been diagnosed with colon cancer and had surgery in Abingdon, on June 3.
- * Betty Watson with her health concerns.
- * Terri Davis had partial knee replacement on May 26 and is at home recuperating.
- * Barbara Mann will have her second corneal transplant on June 11 in Knoxville, TN.
- * Bob Ingram is at home with pneumonia.
- * Becky Ingram is having heart rhythm issues.
- * Heather Kiser (Larry and Terri Surber's daughter) is recovering from her surgery
- * Sam Wagner (Jack Wagner, Jr.'s brother) continues with his chemotherapy
- * Doris Crabtree's brother, Darryl, seriously injured and in a care facility outside of Atlanta, GA

Congratulations:

To Eric Moffatt and Heather German on the birth of a daughter, Colette Estella Moffatt, born May 29, 2020. She weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. She has two brothers, Hudson (age 5) and Trevor (age 1). The family lives in Bethesda, MD. Her proud grandmother is Mary "Mimi" Moffatt.



Expressions of Sympathy to:

Darla Van Dyke in the death of her son, Jonathan, on May 22, 2020. No service is planned at this time. The family of Margaret Baumgardner who died May 24, 2020 in Knoxville, TN. Margaret was a regular attendee of Central until a few years ago when she moved closer to her son and his family. Chris, Lynne, and Patrick Long on the death of his mother, Rose Long, on May 23, 2020, in Bluff City.

Continue in prayer for...

Daphne McCord, Bobby Davis, Hugh & Linda Wise (Dominion Senior Care), Candy Ellis, Patsy Wampler (Elmcroft), Jean Thomason, Bill English, Coleen Wheeler, Randy Broyles, Jim Matson, Darla Vandyke, Jackie Phillips (Elmcroft), and Alice Owenby (Rehab in Asheville).

Memorial Gifts:

To the Memorial Fund for Sara Burleson by Eddie & Kim Booher;
To the Aichinger Memorial Fund for Frank Aichinger by Mr. & Mrs. Brandon H. Story.

**Shop for Good**

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!](#)

Puzzle!

Each year, the Israelites had three harvests.
Find and circle these foods that the people gathered.

almonds	gourds	nuts
apples	grapes	olives
barley	herbs	onions
beans	leeks	pomegranates
cucumbers	lentils	rye
figs	melons	wheat

H A C B R Y E B R V E N
G A U A S N O L E M S U
R L C R F I G S T A T T
A M U L I M B E H A N S
P O M E G R A N A T E S
E N B Y E S E L P P A K
S D E H R O N I O N S E
V S R E S G O U R D S E
T I S M E S L I T N E L
S E V I L O W H E A T H

Food for Thought...

The following description of true love is attributed to an unknown author:

Slow to suspect - quick to trust,
Slow to condemn - quick to justify,
Slow to offend - quick to defend,
Slow to expose - quick to shield,
Slow to reprimand - quick to forbear,
Slow to belittle - quick to appreciate,
Slow to demand - quick to give,
Slow to provoke - quick to conciliate,
Slow to hinder - quick to help,
Slow to resent - quick to forgive.

And this from Alan Redpath:

Before You Speak—Think

T - Is it true?
H - Is it helpful?
I - Is it inspiring?
N - Is it necessary?
K - Is it kind?

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.



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.

How to Get in Touch with us:

Ann Aichinger, Pastor

ann.cpc@bvuv.net

Robert Campbelle, Music Director

robertcampbelle@gmail.com

Joy Smith-Briggs, Organist

gjbjoyb@btes.tv

Josie Russell, Youth & Young Adult Dir.

josiannrussell@gmail.com

Patty Caldwell, Office Manager/
Newsletter Editor

pcaldwell.cpc@bvuv.net

Mary Moffatt, Finance Director

finance.cpc@bvuv.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.