



Central Life

Central Presbyterian Church

June 17, 2020



We are living in such uncertain days right now, and I have heard many people say that we are living in the end times. I don't know about that, and considering Jesus' words that when the last days might happen, we are not supposed to be overly concerned. But Jesus reminds us to live each day fully and faithfully.

I have also heard people say that they wish everything would just return to normal. As I have quoted Ann Landis, "Normal is a setting on a washing machine." There really is no such thing as normal. But again, we are called to live in these days fully and faithfully.

So what does this mean? How are we to continue to move in our living and live with our faith in such uncertain times? I think one thing we can do is to consider how people lived throughout Scripture and found themselves in uncertain times. For example, when the Israelites were freed from Egypt, they lived with lots of uncertainty and even complained to Moses about wanting to go back to Egypt. Yet in that very activity of walking by faith, following God, who led by pillar of cloud and fire, they found themselves growing in their faith, moving towards that promised land, and developing connections with one another and with God. In the times of the Babylonian exile, Israel, though scattered in a strange and foreign land, found themselves having to define what it meant to be God's people. They were challenged to figure out what they were to hold on to and what they needed to let go of. The early church faced the idea of inclusion of the gentiles into the community, and persecution by the Roman government and that helped spread the church to the limits of the known world. They had to figure out what faithful living looked like and how they were going to continue bearing witness to the presence of Christ in this world.

I am not sure that we should expect to be able to live life easily and without uncertainty. For these are the times when the people of God have matured in their faith, when they have had to question what it meant to be the people of God, and how to live into this new time. There are things, that as we move forward, we will hold on to. For example: Scripture will continue to be at the center of our learning, we will follow Christ and keep him as our focus, and we will continue to trust in God's guidance and provision. Now there are things that will change so that we can meet this new time with faith. We will continue to provide worship in a variety of options: In-person (starting July 5), Facebook Live, recording on the church's website, and broadcasting to the parking lot on FM 108. We will continue to examine what we have learned in these last 3 months about who God is calling us to be as the Church. We will find new ways to have Bible studies and small group gatherings as well as providing faith-based activities for families and children. I am certain that we will discover new things along the way as we go.

In living with uncertainty, we are called to trust even more on God and God's guiding. We are called to hold on more tightly to our hope in Jesus Christ who is present with us wherever we are and who continues to call to us to follow. We are called to continue to sense where the Spirit is leading us as a congregation, and how we might reach out into our community and into our world bearing witness to Jesus Christ and his love for all people.

So, I invite you to come along with me, and the leaders of the church, as we seek to continue to live in this uncertain time. We know that there is anxiety and concern on wanting to go back to the way things once were. But that is not the journey of faith that we know and have read and see throughout the way of God's people. May we be people who dare to dream new dreams, to see visions, and to be aware of the new things that God is doing in our midst. Let us have hope. Let us live by faith. Let us show the Love of Christ to those around us. And let us live as the people of God.

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 has been meeting to prepare for in-person worship at Central on Sunday, July 5, at 10 a.m.

In preparing for the in-person worship option, we ask that you consider for yourself the level of risk that you might be taking in attending. Church services are still ranked at an 8 on a scale of 1-10 for most risky activities. If you have an underlying medical concern or compromised immune system, or live with someone who has medical concerns, you are encouraged to not attend the in-person worship. 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 toward worship on July 5.

To answer some possible questions:

Why are we meeting in the Sanctuary? Because this is considered a clean space in the church. Only worship will be happening in the Sanctuary whereas Central Hall is open to Apple Academy as well as other groups. It is also the largest space to accommodate the most people while exercising social distancing.

Why do I need to wear a mask in worship? This is a part of the orders from the Governor's office in Virginia at this time. It is also a preventative to spreading the possible virus.

Will we have hymnals and Bibles in the pews? Yes. We plan to leave those in place, but the words for the hymns and songs will be included in the bulletin.

Will I be able to sit in my favorite seat in the Sanctuary? We cannot guarantee this as there will be pews and sections taped off so that social distancing can be maintained safely for everyone attending. Ushers will escort you and your family to a seat on that Sunday. We hope that you will be flexible and understand that we are learning in this process as well.

What time can I come to the church on July 5 and enter the Sanctuary? Our plan is to have the Sanctuary doors open for people to enter safely and well. Watch for the specific time in the next newsletter as we work on that aspect.

Will there be Communion? Yes. Each person will pick up a Communion kit and take it to your seat. Then, at the time of the Sacrament, you will be instructed to open the kit and eat the bread and drink the grape juice.

Will the restrooms be available? Yes. However, we ask that you plan on not using the restrooms unless you need to. We will have an attendant at both the men's and women's room at the end of the hall. We do ask that you practice good hand washing methods as well as help us clean the bathrooms.





Continued from page 2:

Do you need people to help staff doors and tables on that Sunday? Yes. We need some volunteers who are willing to greet, take attendance as people come in, staff the table with communion kits and masks, to offer hand sanitizer, and to help with a children's time (if needed). If you are willing to help, please let the church office know (276-669-3157.)

Will there be a specific door to use to come in and then to exit? Yes. Everyone will enter by the first door on the porch area where you will be greeted and offered a mask if you need one, be given hand sanitizer and invited to take a communion kit for yourself. Then at the end of worship, everyone will leave by the way of the door off the choir area.

Are there other ways to be involved in the worship? Yes. We will be live streaming the service on FacebookLive as well as having it recorded and posted on the church website in the afternoon (CentralPresBristol.org.) You may also come and sit in your car and listen to the live service on the radio at FM108.

Please continue to pray for this group to have wisdom and to follow God's guiding as we move forward together in this time.

Thank you for making the Virtual Congregational Meeting a success!!

Thank you to everyone who came to the Virtual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, June 14. We had 63 attend, and we were able to elect the new class of elders for Class of 2023: Briggs Allen, Carolyn Anderson, Cindy Hale, Niki McGrew and Wes Ritchie.

Thank you also goes to the Nominating Committee for their work on securing this group: Nancy Kiser, David White, Lynn Butcher, Alisa Harris, Jay Hall, Tim Landis, and Gena Prince.

Thank you go to the class of 2020 elders for their faithful service and leadership: John Dodge, Doris Hall, Allen Harris, Gale Thompson, Linda Waldron, and David White.

At a worship service in the near future, we will ordain and install these new elders and give thanks publically for the class of 2020.

Upcoming Sermons

June 21: The God of Outrageous Possibilities	Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-17
June 28: The God of the Outcasts	Genesis 21:8-21
July 5: Finding true Freedom	Galatians 5:1-15 (Communion Sunday)





Session Meeting

The session met on Tuesday, June 16 at 7 p.m. by Zoom. Sue White from the Abingdon Presbytery Committee on Ministry came for a visit with us, and to see how the Presbytery could be helpful to Central, and to answer any questions. Then we examined the new elders for Class of 2023 and thanked those who are rotating off the Session.

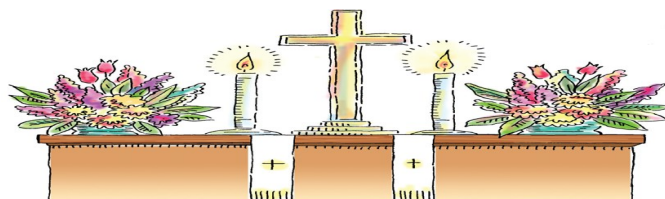
Other actions taken:

- Heard the report from the What's Next taskforce about continuing plans for the July 5 worship service
- Heard the Financial report and updates
- Heard the Presbytery report from John Dodge
- Elected the new clerk of Session: Niki McGrew
- Elected the new clerk pro-tem: Sandy Wilson
- Approved 2 weeks vacation pay for Patty Caldwell at the end of June
- Trish James requested to be on an unpaid leave of absence, but will be paid for projects or events she is asked to provide with food
- Considered several outside groups to use the building for meetings, and others will be considered in July
- Elders of the class of 2023 will be ordained and installed as a part of worship on July 12

The Board of Director's of Central Presbyterian Church, Inc., (the Session members), met and elected the following as the new officers of the Corporation of Central Presbyterian:

John Barker, President
Briggs Allen, Vice President
Secretary, Niki McGrew
Treasurer, Lois Clarke

Reminder: Please continue to send in your pledges and financial support for Central Presb. Although the church building may not be fully operational, the work and ministry is still happening.





We sent 9 high school girls, Josie Russell and Ann Aichinger to Montreat to participate in the Montreat Youth conference online June 7-13. The theme for the week was ***We Are***, and the daily themes were, *We are here and God is here, We are Connected, We are searching, We are called, and We are the Body of Christ.*

Our group enjoyed being in Montreat, going to Black Mountain on our free afternoon, hiking Lookout Mountain, having a talent show for the neighborhood and going to Lake Susan for a candlelight service. Those attending with Ann and Josie were Maddie Harris, Camden Richards, Alisa Harris, Brooklyn Carter, Ada Ritchie, Bailey Vining, Caitlyn Vining, Ainsley Burke, and Sydney Collier.

We thank everyone for your prayers and for your financial support as we grew in our faith and in our relationships with each other. We look forward to sharing our time with you soon.



Montreat Middle School Youth Conference Information and Update

Montreat Middle School Conference is having to do some figuring out where to have the conference. 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 is at Exit 7 Rehab Center as she recovers from her broken ankle.
Gale Thompson is recovering from his colon cancer surgery and is waiting to hear from pathology.
Betty Watson with her health concerns.
Barbara Mann recovering well from her second corneal transplant.
Bob Ingram has been in the hospital for pneumonia, but is home now.
Becky Ingram is having heart rhythm issues.
Heather Kiser is going through cancer treatment
Sam Wagner he continues with his treatment for cancer.
Vickie Salyer's sister, Lillian, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 cancer.

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).



Thank you to Linda Waldron and Ed Whitehead for their work on Frank Aichinger's pastor plaque in the Columbarium room at the church.

Also, thank you to the Memorial Committee for purchasing it and to David White for installing it on the wall.





Children's ministry activity bags

On Friday, June 19, there will be children's activity bags available for the families of Central. Through the creativity of Suzanne Goyette, these bags will focus on being a part of the Family of God, and the importance of our parents. Families are invited to stop by the church as of noon on Friday, June 19 to pick up your bag of activities.

- 1 Bethany Lewis
- 2 - Christian Dodson
Vicki Wilson
- 3- Caroline Jones
Greyson Meade
- 5 - Clark Wilson
- 6 - Allison Estes
Jennifer Estes
- 8 - Becca Reese
Emily Ann Thompson
- 10 - Carolynn Anderson
Frank Sikora
- 11 - Madeleine Harris
- 12 - Winnie Hendricks
Kim Moore
- 13 - Ann Aichinger
- 14 - John Barker
Michelle Mercer
- 15 - Eugene Waldron
- 18- Barbara Oakley
- 19 - Mary Moffatt
Collin Waldron
- 20 - Madalyn Arnold
L Lindsey Hale
Jessee Wagner
- 21- Meredith Hale
Morgan Hale
David White
- 22 - Sam Scott
- 25 Emma Prince
- 28 - Mike Dodge
Jenna Wagner
- 29 - Jeanie Franklin
- 30 - Doris Gordon
- 31 - Alice Blanton
Bob Ingram



Wed.	June 17	Youth Group ZOOM Meeting
Sun.	June 21	Worship Online Happy Father's Day!
Wed.	June 24	Youth Group ZOOM Meeting
Sun.	June 28	Worship Online Middle School Youth ZOOM Meeting
Wed.	July 1	Youth Group ZOOM Meeting Happy July 4th!
Sun.	July 5	10:00 am Re-gathered Worship in Sanctuary Face Book Live Worship Radio Broadcast on FM 108 Middle School Youth ZOOM Meeting





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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:

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