



# CENTRAL LIFE

**Central Presbyterian Church**

**July 15, 2020**

## **Reflections From a Rocking Chair**

variety of books that are read to you. One of the books that I am working through is How to Lead When You Don't Know Where You're Going: Leading in a Liminal Season by Susan Beaumont. Beaumont offers the idea that when leaders are leading and we don't know where we are going, we are in fact standing between two places. One example is of Moses, leading the Israelites out of Egypt. They had left one place but had not arrived at the Promised land. The crisis is that it took 40 years to get there. But they were living in a liminal (in-between time) place, where they couldn't put down roots and they were always on the move.

Another book that I have just finished is N.T. Wright's God and the Pandemic: A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and Its Aftermath. His idea is that where we are in a time of exile. Not an exile where we have been taken captive, but an imposed exile due to circumstances. So to understand how to live in exile, we have to look to the Psalms and to Jeremiah where we are led to lament the things that have been missed or left behind due to this irregular virus, and then to look with hope for the new options. Wright says that instead of asking "Why won't God do something about this virus and get rid of it?," we should be asking what we can do in the midst of this time. He encourages everyone to be faithful in prayer; for those who are working on a vaccine and for those who are caring for the sick, those who are family members of the ill and dying and unable to be with their loved ones, for children who are confused by this strange time, and for God to be doing a new thing in our midst.

Wright also encourages us, as Christians, to not be in fear or be alarmed, but to remain faithful and steadfast in our Christian living, and not to become complacent or lazy. For God's heart breaks when the world faces such detrimental events as this virus. God grieves when evil (anything that seeks to destroy God's good creation) seems to be overwhelming all of life. Yet, we are to be the ones to carry the image of Christ into the world. We are called to offer hope and calm and to offer the Good news that God is with us.

I want to invite you, as a part of the Central Presbyterian Church family, to be engaged in the act of lamenting and also of dreaming new ideas and considering new ways of being the church. I invite you to consider reading and reflecting upon Scripture, including the following passages: Psalm 72, Psalm 73, Psalm 43, 1 Corinthians 7, and Acts 11. I am also working on this by attending a variety of meetings with PCUSA ministers and with others who are on this journey of discovering of how God is at work in our world and in our lives.

As we are living in this exilic, very tenuous and fluid state of our being, I am reminded that God is faithful, and God is present, and God is with us even in our laments and in our dreams. We are only starting this journey, but I hope that we will work together in reflecting on, and considering, how God is calling Central Presbyterian to be the church now.

Grace and Love and Peace,  
*Ann Aichinger*

## Committee News...

Dear friends,

In light of the rising number of Covid-19 cases in our area, the worship Committee and the *What's Next* committee are recommending to the Session at this time, that we **not** have in-person worship on August 2, and that we continue with the pre-recorded worship services until further notice. The worship recording will be uploaded to the website on Sundays for you to engage in as a congregation. This decision comes not only because of the rising number of cases, but also in light of the need to improve and add to our technology in the Sanctuary as we prepare for Live streaming of worship and other options. We are working on hosting and providing community-building and connectational events where members are able to be together either online or in person (preferably outside and soon.)

I know that this is frustrating, but we know that we need to be taking precautions to lessen the risk levels. We must also work toward protecting the work and ministry of APPLE academy which is offering an essential ministry to working families in caring for their children.

Continue to pray for your Session and for the committee leadership. Also, watch for up-coming community building events.

Grace and peace, Ann Aichinger



## Upcoming Sermons...

July 19	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of Weeds Among the Wheat
July 26	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Parables of Mustard Seed, Yeast, Hidden Treasure, Pearly Net,--Treasures of the Old and new
August 2	Matthew 14:13-21	Feeding the 5000
August 9	Matthew 14:22-33	Jesus Walking on Water
August 16	Exodus 1:8-2:10	Israelites in Slavery in Egypt/Birth of Moses
August 23	Exodus 3:1-15	Moses and the Burning Bush

\*\*August 23-30 Ann Aichinger is away on Continuing Education



**Conference News**

The Middle School youth will be heading to Montreat to attend the online middle school conference, June 15-18. This year, they will be staying at *Trevor's Retreat*, which is the house we rent for youth conferences each year. Those middle school youth attending are Juleeana Jones, Becka Reese, Bella Ritchie, and Vivian Wycoff.

Please keep Josie Russell and Ann Aichinger in your prayers as they lead them in this time together, and as they engage with the presence of God.

## Reminder...

**The Session will meet on Tuesday, July 21, at 7 p.m. via Zoom. All Chairs of Committees need to get any information, or items needing session action, to Ann Aichinger and Lynn Gilbert by noon on Friday, July 17. The agenda will be sent out on Monday, July 20 by noon.**

**Congregational Prayer Concerns...**

*At Home:* Jean Thomason, Bob and Becky Ingram, Bill and Mary Kay English

*At Brookdale Bristol:* Carol Duhaime for rehab and care

*At Dominion Senior Care:* Hugh and Linda Wise

*At Elmcroft:* Patsy Wampler and Jackie Phillips

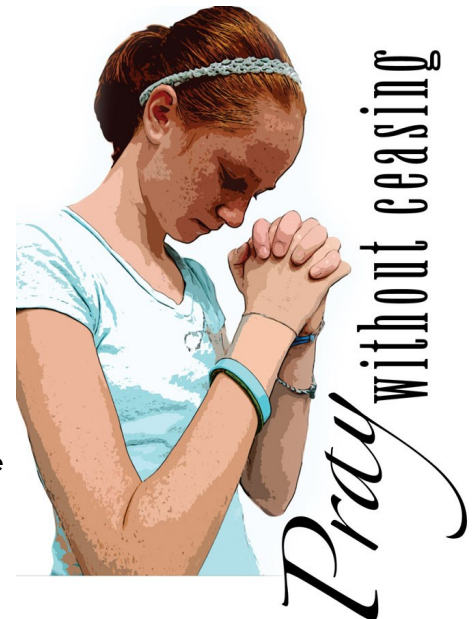
Jean Bane’s daughter, Martha, has been dealing with the Coronavirus for several weeks and is improving.

Rich Williams is having medical tests

Bessie Kitts broke her hip and is at Bristol Regional

Kim Sorenson has shingles

Sydney Solinger, Ann Aichinger’s granddaughter has tested positive for the virus and has a fever.



**Continue in Prayer for...**

Daphne McCord, Bobby Davis, Alice Owenby, Gale Thompson, Betty Watson, Candy Ellis, Coleen Wheeler, Randy Broyles, Jim Matson, Darla Van Dyke, and Heather Kiser.

**We Extend our Christian Sympathy to...**

Cathy (David) White on the death of her mother, Betty Thomas, who died July 1, 2020 in South Carolina.

Doris Crabtree on the death of her brother, Daryl Goodman, who died June 26, 2020 in Atlanta, GA.

To the family of Mary Kay Stanberry, who served throughout Abingdon Presbytery and was a part of the Presbyterian Women Coordinating team for the Presbytery.

*“The God of love and peace shall be with you...”  
2 Corinthians, 13:11*

**Memorial Gifts...**

To the Service Fund for Betty Thomas by Viola White and Amy Hagy.

To the General Fund given in honor of Patty Caldwell by Jean Thomason.

To the Bristol Emergency Food Pantry given in honor of Donnie Spurell by Donna Leonard.



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## How to Keep in Touch:

[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.

## Options for giving to the work and ministry of Central Presbyterian:

- \* You can give in a check, or cash, in the offering plate, dropped by the office, or mailed to:

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

- \* You can give through your online banking to Central.
- \* You can set up an automatic deposit from your account; please talk with the Finance Director on how to do this.
- \* You can TEXT to **CentralPres** (no spaces and Capital C and P) to **73256**. You will be directed to make your donation through Realm.
- \* You can give one time, or regularly, through your **Realm Connect** profile.



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

## How to contact us:

Ann Aichinger, Pastor	<a href="mailto:ann.cpc@bvum.edu">ann.cpc@bvum.edu</a>
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## Office Hours:

The current office hours are 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday-Friday. Please call 276-669-3157 for office hour changes and updates.

