



CENTRAL LIFE

Central Presbyterian Church
October 7, 2020

Reflections From a Rocking Chair

Can you believe that we are already in October, and Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner? It is amazing that we have endured this new normal for almost 7 months. We have learned how to conduct meetings and Bible Studies on Zoom. We have learned how to worship from our sofas and dining room tables while still engaged in worship online. We have learned that the church in fact is not the building, but that the work continues in this community, nation, and around the world. We have seen how God continues to challenge us to serve in new ways in our compassion and care for each other, in our growing in our faith and understanding of the Bible, and to see the positive things that have come out of this pandemic season.

I have had opportunity to online “attend” many different kinds of workshops, conferences, and webinars ranging in topics on Stewardship, preparing for online Advent and Christmas, the Underpinnings of Systemic Poverty in the U.S., and Anti-racism training. I have attended the online Worship and Music Conference at Montreat as well as both the Montreat Youth Conference and the Middle School Youth Conferences, both held online. Later in October, I will again attend online the Crossroads Training Conference on Anti-racism and how to enable churches to address systemic racism. I have also taken tutorials on how to improve your Zoom meetings and improving your recordings for worship.

Besides trying to learn all of this “new” stuff to better benefit our ministry and life together, I have now recorded over 200 daily update videos. In these daily videos I try to offer some word of hope and possibility as well as highlighting some kind of significance for that day, and I conclude with a scripture. What is interesting is that there are people all over the nation who check in daily. So our church’s outreach is expanding to include lots of people who don’t even live in our local community!

But I don’t want to just reflect on where we have been. I want to invite you to think about where we are going and how we are going to thrive in this pandemic situation. We do not know when things will allow us to be in-person. Again. We do not know when an effective vaccine will be available for all. We do not know what “being a church family” will be like in a year, or even two years. I don’t want you to lose hope, but I think we have to be realistic in the situation and not just be grasping at wishful thoughts.

We will continue to record worship until a time when it is possible to regather again for worship, and I think that the recording of worship will be more a part of our weekly offerings. I think we will be having more and more meetings online which will allow more people to be involved, especially those who are not comfortable driving at night. I think we will come through this time having grown in our trust, in our faith in God, and reliance on God’s promises more deeply. I think we will come through this time relying on one another in new ways as well as not taking for granted our time with one another and our in-person gatherings.

I am honored to be able to continue my service and ministry with you here at Central. Though I have moved my study to my house and do most of my work from there, I still seek to do pastoral connections as well as checking in on our church family. I am looking forward to having many more years together with you (if it is God’s will) to serve Christ in this community and in this time. You have offered me great care and compassion, and I keep you in my daily prayers. Continue to seek after the Lord, and to listen for God’s leading as we seek to live in the new life given by Christ, even in this difficult time.

Grace and peace,
Ann Aichinger

At Home: Bob and Becky Ingram, Bill and Mary Kay English, Bob Stuart, Bessie Kitts

At Brookdale Bristol: Carol Duhaime for rehab and care

At Dominion Senior Care: Hugh and Linda Wise

At Elmcroft: Patsy Wampler, Jackie Phillips

Donnie Alderman, Brian's father, has serious medical issues including COVID-19 and cardiac conditions. Please remember his mother, Linda, in this time as well;

Briggs Allen is back home after having radiation treatments for prostate cancer;

Donnie Spurell is recovering from surgery;

Fred Osborne is recovering from cataract surgery last week;

Dick Gordon is recovering from back surgery at home;

Rich Williams is at home recovering from surgery;

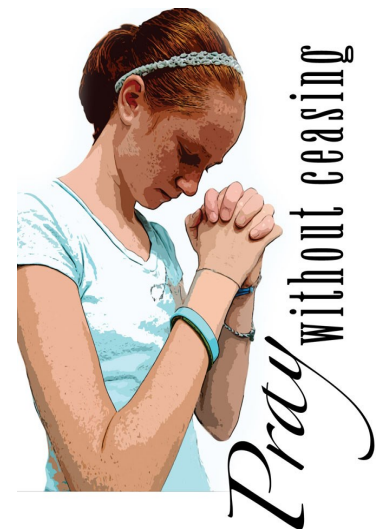
Linda Barker is recovering from reaction to her medication;

Larry Surber is recovering from shoulder surgery;

Daphne McCord is home recovering from an overnight in the hospital this week;

Stella and George Fitzgerald, Ann's parents, are dealing with healing of some skin cancer on their faces;

Mark McCord will be going to UT on Tuesday to begin the work toward a kidney transplant.



Continue in Prayer for renewed health and strength for...

John and Linda Barker and their family, Daphne McCord, Bobby Davis, Alice Owenby, Candy Ellis, Coleen Wheeler, Randy Broyles, Jim Matson, and Heather Kiser.

Memorials...

To the Food Pantry in Honor of Patty Caldwell, given by Patsy Wampler

To the Service Fund in Memory of Betty Watson, given by Scott and Connie Bullock

To the Memorial Fund in Memory of Joe Kowaczek, given by Robert W. Smith

To the Memorial Fund in Memory of Paula Green, given by Robert W. Smith

To the Memorial Fund in Memory of Sara Burleson, on the occasion of her and her daughter's (Lynn Hodges) birthdays on October 6, 2020, given by Michael and Sally Teden

Upcoming Sermons...

October 11

October 18

October 25

November 1

November 8

November 15

Exodus 32:1-14

Exodus 33:12-23

Stewardship

Stewardship

Stewardship

Stewardship

The People Make a Golden Calf

The Presence of the Lord



Bits and Pieces

That's the name of a company from which I purchase jigsaw puzzles. I've been thinking a lot about *bits and pieces* lately, not the *company*, just the fact that I seem to feel disconnected and scattered about like a bunch of *bits and pieces*. I'm sure many of you feel the same. Life doesn't seem to make sense right now and the hope for when/how/if it will to be put back together in some sort of cohesive fashion is yet to be determined.

Speaking of jigsaw puzzles, they seem to represent my life (and possibly yours) at this strange moment in our history. Now they seem like a hopeless situation, until you start to put the puzzle pieces together, and finally you have a beautiful picture, maybe of the mountains or a seaside scene. You don't 'get it' until you've started taking one piece at a time and fitting them together. Then you see that it's not just a pile of meaningless pieces of cardboard. It really is something beautiful.

When I was 9 years old, I spent a week in D.C. with my sister. She took me to all of the museums where I encountered for the first time in my young life, a *mosaic*. I was, and still am overwhelmed by the beauty of a mosaic. I couldn't imagine how anyone could take all those *bits and pieces* and create a work of such beauty. Not to mention that many of them have endured for thousands of years. It takes a real artist, who sees beyond the bits of colored glass or stone.

For many years I lived in Greentown, IN where the old Greentown Glass Factory used to stand before it went up in flames and was completely destroyed. Many *bits and pieces* of glass could still be found in the rubble. One of my sons became a collector of the small colored bits of glass. (Daniel collected just about anything as young boys are prone to do.) Many people collected the pieces with no more interest than having a souvenir of the famous Greentown glass, but others took the pieces and created beautiful pictures out of them. Broken *bits and pieces* turned into things of beauty.

So now, when I'm working on a jigsaw puzzle, I think of our lives and how they will before long, return to some semblance of normal. I think about the *bits and pieces* we are struggling with now, and how they will again make sense as things are put back together. I think of how God takes each of us and puts together a whole person and how he takes each of our lives and makes us ONE as his church. And I know that in his time, he will do it again. After all, he is the greatest artist of all.

Joy S. Briggs

Don't Forget About...

The *Understanding Dementia Educational Support Group* is still meeting at Oakmont At Gordon Park on the 4th Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m. All current safety and social distancing procedures are in place. For additional information, call 276-644-4800.

The *Virginia Family Nutrition Program* is offering to assist with budget-friendly recipes and meal preparation, meal planning and shopping advice while connecting with others in the community. To find out if you qualify for any of their available programs, call 276-676-6309.

October Birthdays



Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Cindy Hale	1	Doris Crabtree	18
Patsy Wampler	4	Lee Budd	20
Coleen Wheeler	5	Becky Ingram	21
Nelson Pyle	6	Trish James	21
Susan Campbelle	6	Brenda Miller	22
Ella Alderman	6	Charles Rest	22
CJ Lewis	7	Allston Wade	23
Quinton Repass	8	Richard Griffin	23
Joe Davis	8	Helen Scott	24
Hoye Vaughan	8`	Amy Morris	25
Ed Whitehead	9	Danny McInnis	27
Betty Whitehead	9	Maxine Howell	28
Jack Wycoff	10	Sandi Hendricks	29
Whit Morison	14	Heather Kiser	30
Robert Stuart	15	Clara Thomas	30
Brandon Reese	16	Ralph Davis	31
Blakeleigh Mathes	17	Ludy Van Zyl	31

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!

Let's go on a Youth Road Trip to a favorite destination. Montreat!

When: Saturday, October 17th.

Time: Meet at the church at 9:30 a.m.

Yes, it's a Montreat day package that includes eating lunch (yum!), doing some shopping, and hiking Lookout (if the weather is nice) while enjoying fellowship together.

LET'S GO!!

AND...for the younger adults?

It's a "Dinner Get Together" at the Southern Craft in Bristol! Meet us on Friday, October 16th at 6:30 p.m. for a great evening of fellowship! See you there.



Join us for "Wonderful Wednesdays" in October on ZOOM. You can join us with video or you can call in and be part of the group. We will have time to chat and catch up on life as well as spend time in prayer for one another and those on our hearts.

Over the next two weeks, we will be looking at a study on Peace: The Things that Make for Peace. This is a part of the PCUSA materials for the Season of Peace for the church.

Oct 7: Extending peace to others
Oct 14: Living in peace

Hebrews 13:1-3; Romans 12:13-21
2 Chronicles 6:13-40; Matthew 5:23-23;
2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Below is the Zoom information. The invite will also be emailed out to the church family on Wednesday mornings. **Remember:** This is the same meeting information from week to week.

Topic: Wonderful Wednesdays

Meeting ID: 829 2359 1544 Passcode: 787706

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82923591544?pwd=MTIHMEVwWnlWZ3dPRGIXUIZaRlpqQT09>

Thank You...

Central Life

WHAT A GREAT PARTY!!

I sure did enjoy my Retirement Party, seeing everyone who dropped by, and getting a chance to speak to my friends. Forty-three vehicles came by the Food Pantry last Sunday, each bringing canned food or a monetary gift. The Bristol Emergency Food Pantry benefitted from the drive-by visits, but it was also so much fun to sit in my yard chair and visit with each family as you went by.

Thank you to everyone who came, who brought food, or who gave a monetary gift in my honor (\$1,775.00 was donated!) Special thanks to Pastor Ann who set it all up, with a great Star Trek theme (a poster, a mask, a stand-up of Captain Kirk, stickers), and to the Youth Groups who helped make it all happen. I think everyone enjoyed coming by and getting a snack and seeing friends. I appreciate you all!

Guess I am now “officially” retired. ♥ Patty Caldwell



RIGHTNOW MEDIA MINISTRY RESOURCES

Have you set up your account? It is not too late! Each week, you are invited to watch various videos to extend understanding for Worship and for the “Wonderful Wednesdays” Bible Study. So check it out now!

If you have family members or neighbors you want added to our subscription, please send their email addresses to annaichinger@gmail.com and they will be added as soon as possible. An email invitation will be sent to them to set up their account. Let us know what you have found to be helpful and inspiring. Feel free to browse around the site and continue to grow in your Biblical understanding. www.RightNowMedia.org

Shower the Donations



Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands

Please consider donating these items:



Laundry Detergent Pods	McDonald's/Wendy's
Dishwasher Pods	Hardee's/Bojangle's Gift Cards
Clorox Wipes	Bottled Water
All Purpose Cleaner	Basketballs
Dryer Sheets	Lego Sets
Lysol Spray	Knex Building Sets
Dish Towels & Cloths	Volleyballs
Toilet Bowl Cleaner	WalMart or Amazon Gift Cards
Art Supplies	
Snack Items	
Cake/Cookie/Brownie Mixes	
Pool Towels	

Donations may be brought to the church office

We closed to the public on March 24th, although we have operated full force with even more services than ever via phone interviews, and an email verification of need process.

We have a brand new program called GRACE (Giving Relief Amidst Covid Environment) designed specifically for families verified to be impacted by Covid-19 in which we provide services and financial assistance up to \$300 per month for three consecutive months. This program is strictly privately funded by an anonymous donor. The vetting process we have in place now definitely ensures we are identifying the right families in need, as well as identifying all of their unmet needs.

We still provide commodities such as food, diapers, personal care, cleaning products, and medical equipment via a zero-contact process. We are very proud to say that no client needs have gone unmet at any time through this Covid-19 crisis!

Blessings, love, and peace,
DeVonne Phipps, BFIA



Hello Family,

The Missions and Outreach Committee is looking at getting started on the **Angel Tree** project. Vicki Wilson and Carolyn Anderson will be the persons of contact for any questions, concerns, and suggestions, or if you are willing to offer a hand.

We know Christmas will be here shortly, and I am hoping that many of you will be willing to participate in the Samaritan's Purse *Operation Christmas Child* Shoebox project. You can simply go online to:

samaritanspurse.org and pack a shoebox or make a donation! If you would like to pack your own shoebox, you may do so and drop it off at the church and I will pick them up. I also have 12 Samaritan shoe boxes for the first 12 people that would like to pack their own. So just holla.

Donnie



The Soup Kitchen: A Different Setup

The Soup Kitchen is undergoing some changes because of Covid-19. For the past few months, food has been purchased from **Feed Southwest Virginia** and then distributed. However, that is no longer possible or feasible. Canned food has been purchased in bulk from Food City at a better price and with more variety, and bags have been donated by the Robinette Company.

We are now in need of volunteers to bag those items, other volunteers to transport the bags on a pull-cart, and arranging the bags at the distribution area. The bags will weigh approximately 15 lbs. This is now being done in shifts: **1:00-3:00 and 3:00-5:00 on Tuesdays and Fridays**. The proper protocols are in place with each table spaced the required distance apart, masks required, temperatures taken, hands sanitized, and gloves provided. Plus, all the questions are being asked just like entering your medical facility. Hopefully this will be a temporary set up, but it will be at least for the next 2 or 3 months. We need 8 people per shift; 4 to bag, 3 to transport and arrange the bags, and one person to be the supervisor and help where needed.

Individuals are needed but what about a team of individuals...your family, your neighbors, and friends? Could you, as an individual, commit to one shift per week? That's just 8 hours per month! But any time you can give will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Nancy Kiser at 423-956-5289 or npkiser@charter.net if you have questions or wish to volunteer.

Calling all Women!!

Are you looking for a Monthly Bible study with other women in the church? Then you are invited to join us for our **Presbyterian Women Monthly** gathering. The PW of Central Presbyterian will be gathering on **Tuesday, October 13** at 11:00 a.m. by Zoom. We hope you can join us to spend time together and for Bible study.

This year's study is **Into the Light: Finding Hope through Prayers of Lament**. Bible Study books are available in the church office, or you can order your own copy from www.PresbyterianWomen.org/Resources. The books are \$10 each.

The Zoom invite is below. If you are unable to attend the live meeting, you may access the recording of the meeting on the church website: **CentralPresBristol.org**. If you have any questions about being a part of this group, please talk with Thais Sikora, Mary Ann Blevins or Ann Aichinger. If you need assistance to use Zoom, please contact Ann Aichinger at annaichinger@gmail.com

Topic: CPC Presbyterian Women Monthly Gathering
Time: Oct 13, 2020 11:00 AM Eastern Time



Join the Zoom Meeting by clicking this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89575029504?pwd=UIJKVlhLb0FCdERGdWwxM3J6M2lVQT09>

Meeting ID: 895 7502 9504

Passcode: 858189

Advent Devotional 2020...

One of the annual events at Central is the creation of our own *Advent Devotional*. Over the years, many people have submitted devotionals, poems, and drawings to be included. And it is now time to begin working on our 2020 *Advent Devotional*.

We are needing 27 submissions from you. It can be a poem or some thoughts about this upcoming season, or how in this pandemic, we are learning what it means to wait and watch. So the theme this year is **Watching and Waiting**. You can write using this theme as a reflection on past Christmases when you were watching and waiting, or as a way to express your hopes and dreams for the future.

If you are interested in writing a brief devotional, please let Lynn Gilbert in the office know so she can keep track of who is willing to be a part of this project. Send your submissions to: office.cpc@bvu.net.

We MUST receive your devotionals no later than Sunday, November 1.



301 Euclid Avenue
Bristol, VA 24201-4013
Phone: 276-669-3157
E-mail: office.cpc@bvuv.net
www.CentralPresBristol.org

CENTRAL LIFE

How to Keep in Touch:

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 Pastor 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	ann.cpc@bvuv.net
Robert Campbelle, Music Director	robertcampbelle@gmail.com
Joy Smith-Briggs, Organist	gjbjoyb@btes.tv
Josie Russell, Youth & Young Adult Dir.	josieannrussell@gmail.com
Lynn Gilbert, Admin. Asst. Newsletter Editor	office.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:

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.

