



# CENTRAL LIFE

**Central Presbyterian Church**

**March 17, 2021**

## **Reflections From a Rocking Chair**

I am reading a book entitled, *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* by Tod Bolsinger. It is about the adventures of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark as they were sent by President Jefferson to find a waterway from the Mississippi River to the West Coast. It was to be a grand adventure.

There were reports about lakes and rivers on the Pacific side and the assumption was made that there should be a waterway connected to the Missouri River and the west coast. Everyone believed that the territory would be similar to that of the eastern part of the U.S. Lewis and Clark were trained in navigating waterways and so they traveled the Missouri River, starting in St. Louis. After arriving at the source of the river, they thought that the hard work was truly behind them. But little did they know that the Rocky Mountains were between them and the Pacific Ocean, and when those ominous mountains came into view, Lewis and Clark did not know what to do. How do you canoe the mountains? Well, you don't! So, they abandoned their canoes on the east side of the Rockies, and ventured into a vast unknown.

Lewis and Clark had to adjust to some new realities. They had to discover new ways of leading their group into new territory without relying on the training and skills they already possessed. They had to learn to climb rocky elevations, deal with grizzly bears, and endure bitter cold snowy days and nights. They had maps to follow but no trails to guide them. They had to adjust their thinking and learn new skills in order to be able to travel, explore, and survive.

Sometimes, this is how I am feeling. I have great skills to navigate ministry and to accomplish Christian discipleship. For decades, the Church has continued doing the same things in hopes of attracting new people as followers of Jesus. But in 2020, there was a pandemic and it called everything into question. Suddenly, all of my training and skills had to be retuned to adjust to new ways of doing things, especially to being technologically flexible. On occasion, I have gotten to the place where I want to say, "I don't know what to do anymore." Life has shifted on all of us and we are finding that we can't canoe through the mountains. So it is time to adjust, improvise, and try something new.

In considering the issues of when and how to return to in-person worship and gatherings, there are more questions than answers. The events and activities that we love about our church family are things that still carry precautions. We want to hug and be with each other, but it is not time for that...yet. We want to hang out with each other and catch up while sharing Lemonade in the Shade, but it is not time for that...yet. We want to pass the Peace of Christ in the midst of worship, but it is not time for that...yet. We want to sing hymns and songs of praise as we seek to connect with the presence of God and with each other, and to enhance worship services but it is not time for that...yet.

As I voice all of this to you, I want our church family to understand that the Session and staff are venturing into new territory. We don't have a map. We don't even have best practices from the past to help us move forward. We have to learn new ways and new skills in leading Central forward, just like Lewis and Clark. I invite you to be praying for the leadership of Central, as well as to dream new dreams. For I believe that God is doing a new thing, and He is preparing us for new possibilities as a church family. I don't know what that will look like, and yes, I am a bit scared because I am not sure how to do it. But, we need to trust the Lord that He will lead us through this time of exploring and navigating the waterways together.

Will you come on this new adventure? It will be exciting and it will be hard work. We will make mistakes, and may have to back up and try again...many times. But I know that in taking the risks by following Jesus Christ, and being guided by the Holy Spirit, we will live into this adventure and it will transform us, and we will grow in our trust and reliance upon God.

*Come join the adventure,*

*Ann Aichinger*

## Congregational Joys and Concerns...

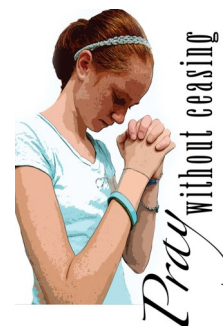


*At Home:* Bob and Becky Ingram, Bob Stuart, Bessie Kitts, and Jean Bane

*At Brookdale Bristol:* Carol Duhaime, Jean Thomason, Mary Kay English

*At Dominion Senior Care:* Hugh and Linda Wise

- \* Terry Parks who will have surgery on Friday, March 19;
- \* Betty Whitehead will have knee replacement surgery on Monday, March 22, in Roanoke, VA and will be doing her rehab at home;
- \* Doris Crabtree as she is struggling with her health, and will eventually have back surgery;
- \* Bob Ingram is dealing with severe back issues;
- \* Alice Owenby as she recovers from surgery;
- \* Allen Vance is home and doing well;
- \* Courtney Reese as she continues to seek help with her MS;
- \* Bob Stuart as he is at home and dealing with health issues;
- \* Joy Briggs' husband, Guy, is dealing with health concerns and is at home;
- \* Don Miller, as he continues to deal with health concerns;
- \* Mark McCord as he is continuing toward a kidney transplant;
- \* Vickie Salyer and her family, as several members are dealing with the CoVID virus and others with health concerns.



**Welcome, Marguerite Buckley who joined Central Presbyterian Church on March 16, 2021 during the monthly Session meeting. We are happy to have you as a new part of the church family!**

## Memorials...

*To the Backpack Fund in Memory of Frank Sikora, given by Whit and Jane Morison.*

*To the Music Fund in Memory of Candy Ellis, given by Samantha J. Green and Nancy Norman.*

*To the Music Fund in Memory of Bill English, given by Caroline Jones, Nancy Kiser, George and Beth Parks, Ann Aichinger, Tyler and Jeanie Franklin, Joy and Guy Briggs, David and Patty Browning, James and Laura Warren, Scott and Connie Bullock, Ralph and Terri Davis, Whit and Jane Morison, Anderson Compounding Pharmacy, Inc., and Genie Vance Kilday.*

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

John and Linda Barker and their family, Bobby Davis, Alice Owenby, Coleen Wheeler, Randy Broyles, and Jim Matson.



**Lenten Sermon Series: "Living as People of the Covenant"**

March 21	Lent 5: Hope in the Darkness	Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 12:20-33
March 28	Palm/Passion Sunday	Reading from Mark's Gospel
April 4	Easter: Where's the Good News?	Mark 16:1-8
April 11	Life after Easter: Doubt leads to Belief	John 20:19-31
April 18	Life after Easter: Moving through Fear	Luke 24:36-48
April 25	Brian Alderman, guest preacher and worship leader	
May 2	Brian Alderman, guest preacher and worship leader	

**Parking Lot Worship Sundays on March 28 and April 4**



We are planning to have both Palm and Passion Sunday, and Easter Sunday worship in the parking lot at 11:00 a.m., and will broadcast by radio in your car.

If it is a nice day, you can bring chairs to sit outside your car. There will also be activity bags for children available as well as worship bulletins. We are asking that **everyone** please maintain distance from each other, and wear a mask if near others. And, the church doors will be open if you need to use the restrooms.

**Please make plans now to join the church family for this time of worshipping together.**

**Lenten Organ Music**

Although we still are not meeting in person, the Lenten Organ Meditations that we have had for the past 7-8 years will continue via pre-recorded programs. We hope you will take the time to listen to these offerings of music in this Lenten season.



We invite you to listen to the program for this Wednesday, March 24 presented by Jacob Moorman.



Join us for Wonderful Wednesdays in March on ZOOM. We will have time to chat and catch up on life as well as spend time in prayer, and have time of discussion and study. For the season of Lent, we are looking at *Encounters with Jesus on the Road to the Cross*.

- Wednesday, March 17: Jealousy      Caiaphas the High Priest      Matt 26:57-68; 27:3-31,62-66; 28:11-15
- Wednesday, March 24: Cross bearing      Simon of Cyrene      Mark 15:21-41
- Wednesday, March 31: New Birth      Nicodemus      John 3:1-12, 7:45-52; 19:38-42

The invitation and access for each of the Wednesday gatherings on Zoom is Join Zoom Meeting:

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89657603909?pwd=ZXcyakYrYUYxcm84aGxKTWJ4SGhrQT09>**

**Meeting ID: 896 5760 3909      Passcode: 252722**

## Session News...



The Session met on Tuesday, March 16 by Zoom for our monthly meeting.

- \* We received into membership Marguerite Buckley who comes to us by Reaffirmation of Faith. She will be officially welcomed at one of our parking lot services;
- \* John Barker will be the Commissioner to the Abingdon Presbytery meeting on Thursday, April 8 by Zoom. Ann Aichinger will also attend. (If you are interested in attending, please let Ann know so she can forward the Zoom invite for that meeting);
- \* The Manual of Operations for the church was presented by the Administration and Staff Committee and was approved;
- \* APPLE Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 23 to work on details for graduation and Summer program;
- \* The Christmas Nativities fundraising project: \$525 profit. Thank you to Laurel Broadfoot;
- \* The quarterly financial reports will be going out in April;
- \* The 2020 financial review will be completed by Glenn Myers before May 31;
- \* There will be a newspaper ad in the Bristol Herald Courier for Holy Week and Easter;
- \* Discussion focused on when and how to return to in-person worship, and it was decided to have the Worship Committee work on a plan and bring a recommendation to the April session meeting about when to return to worship as well as the options involved. At this time, it will be mid-May before in-person worship begins. The on-going online recorded worship service each week will continue as well as broadcasting to the parking lot when we do return to in-person worship.
- \* Ann Aichinger will be away on vacation from April 22-May 2. Brian Alderman will be covering for her in worship.

## We Need to Know...

We are hoping everyone will get the CoVID **vaccination** as it becomes available to more and more of us. As we prepare to gather again in-person, we do want to have some idea of how many have been vaccinated. If you could contact us with an **email (office.cpc@bvu.net)** or **call the church office (276-669-3157)** and let us know if you have been vaccinated, we would appreciate it. Your information is confidential, and it gives us a better idea about herd-immunity to better prepare us to gather for in-person worship again.

In addition, we want to know if you:

- \* Would be comfortable to come to indoor worship or prefer to remain with Parking Lot services at this time.
- \* Would let us know if you are planning to attend the Easter morning parking lot worship service on April 4, at 11:00 a.m.

You can add that information to your email or phone call. This is so we will know how to proceed with meetings as well as with worship. Thank you.

## For Your Information...

**Central Life will NOT be published on March 31. The next edition will be on April 7.**



## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering (until April 4)

For over 70 years, *One Great Hour of Sharing* has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

This year's theme is from Isaiah 58: *You shall be called repairers of the breach*. The three programs supported by *One Great Hour of Sharing* - **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, the **Presbyterian Hunger Program**, and **Self-Development of People**, all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Through Easter Sunday, you are invited to give financially to this offering to provide assistance and resources to those in need.

You can send your checks to the church; be sure to mark the Memo: *One Great Hour of Sharing Offering*. To learn more about this special PC (U.S.A.) offering, or to read stories about how people have been helped through generous gifts, please go to the website: <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/oghs/>

### *Lenten Poem*

by Ann Weems

Lent is a time to take time to let the power  
of our faith story take hold of us,  
a time to let the events get up and walk around in us,  
a time to intensify our living unto Christ,  
a time to hover over the thoughts of our hearts,  
a time to place our feet in the streets of  
Jerusalem or to walk along the sea and  
listen to his Word,  
a time to touch his robe  
and feel the healing surge through us,  
a time to ponder and a time to wonder....  
Lent is a time to allow  
A fresh new taste of God!  
Perhaps we're afraid to have time to think,  
for thoughts come unbidden.  
Perhaps we're afraid to face our future  
knowing our past.  
Give us courage, O God,  
to hear your Word  
and to read our living into it.  
Give us the trust to know we're forgiven  
and give us the faith  
to take up our lives and walk.

--from *Kneeling in Jerusalem*---

## Summary from the Annual Congregational Meeting on March 7, 2021, 1:00 p.m. by Zoom

The Corporation of Central Presbyterian Church, Inc. had their annual meeting led by John Barker. We had 42 people attend the annual meeting along with 3 visitors.

The Administration and Staff Committee put the following names before the 2021 Nomination Committee: From the Session: John Barker, Chair, and Nancy Kiser; From the Congregation: Nancy Arnold, Barbara Mann, Barbara Oakley, William Wampler, and Maddie Harris (youth) and was approved by the congregation.

Ann Aichinger gave the State of the Church address, with a summary of her remarks (below:)

The reality of being in this CoVID situation for a year, and how much of our life together changed on March 13. The session met, and decided to move to online worship and gathering, and to shut down the building for about 2 ½ months to in-person gatherings. It has been hard and strange, and nothing prepared us for all that happened. We are thankful that we had the options of doing all we could do, and willing to try new things throughout this year.

We have learned a lot, and we have made mistakes, but we have moved forward. We have learned new language, including Zoom Meetings, online presence, having to upgrade computer memory and gadgets to make it work easier. Ann recorded daily videos, which started on March 13, as she was returning from her trip to the Galapagos Islands. These videos were a way to offer hope and a word that we were going to make it together. These videos have become, for many people, a daily touchstone....as of today, there are 369!

Ann expressed how proud she is of so many who have learned to navigate Zoom meetings and to adjust to online worship. In the summer, we provided activity containers for families and children. On the first Sunday of Advent we gave out 62 Advent activity bags. We had Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion service in a snow storm, which was a beautiful experience with about 45 people attending.

This year, the steeple has been repaired and it seems that there are no more leaks. Also, the Columbarium has had 24 new niches added. There have been other property repairs and concerns that have been taken care of. The Trumpet En Chamade in the Sanctuary had to be repaired because the trumpets were falling. The Backpack program has continued to provide food for children with food security issues in their families. Our Care and Compassion Committee has been busy keeping up with many of our church family. The other Committees have sought to continue their work ,and continue coming up with new ideas and options.

We have seen our outreach with our online presence connecting to people in our local community as well as those who have moved away, plus, we have welcomed new people into our worshipping community. There is a group from Virginia Beach that joins in worship, as well as with Presbyterian Women studies each month. Plus, we have a larger audience across the country as well as around the world.

There are a number of people who I want us to be thankful for with their willingness to adjust to new ways. You are encouraged to express your gratitude to these and many others for their thoughtfulness and compassion and care through this year:

- \* Robert Campbelle, Joy Briggs, and Ed Updyke for their work in making worship available each week with hymns and music from our large collection of worship videos. They have also recorded new music to be used in worship;
- \* The Session for their leadership through this year, as they have made decisions and looked at options for us as a church family, and how to continue our connections with each other through committee meetings, Bible Studies, and other gatherings through this year;
- \* Our amazing church staff that has been persistent and continued to keep things going. As Patty Caldwell retired and Lynn Gilbert was hired, there has been a smooth transition in the office;
- \* The Praise band for their willingness to record new music this last year, and we are looking forward to getting back to rehearsing and playing for worship soon;



- \* Mary Moffatt has been amazing through this year as she has applied for the Payroll Protection Plan monies that were available. We received \$120,000 in 2020 which helped with payroll for APPLE Academy staff and Church staff and utility expenses. This amount was forgiven in total;
- \* Josie Russell, who has continued with staying connected to our youth and young adults through this year, and being very creative in programs and activities;
- \* Trish James and her Committee who provided goodie bags and dinner for events;
- \* Others who have been making phone calls, sending cards, and checking in on people;
- \* Thais Sikora and Barbara Mann continue to send out cards and to assist families and individuals in decision making and in knowing options for care at home and in facilities;
- \* Archer Parsons, the master bread maker, delivered and provided loaves of bread for every household in the church, as well as her own bread making;
- \* Many others who have been working behind the scenes to keep our church family connected and in making a difference in our community. I hope that you will express your gratitude to these and so many others of our church community;
- \* Apple Academy has adjusted to the requirements set forth by the state of Virginia for continuing with their program for children 0-5 years. They began in June with 52 children enrolled and over the rest of the year, have increased those numbers to 65. Each classroom operates as a bubble, and then two classes are joined to create a pod. This limits the need to shut down the whole school if there is an exposure to the CoVID Virus.
- \* Over this last year, we have had 10 people from our church family die. We have not been able to join together as a community to celebrate their lives and offer comfort to one another and to the families. I hope that this summer we can have a time to celebrate their lives together with a "Celebration of Lives" service.

**Financial Report of 2020:** The finances of this last year have been okay; but remember we received the Payroll Protection Plan monies which totaled about \$47,000 for church usage. The rest was used to pay APPLE Staff for 3 months so that they could open in the summer when it was permitted. We did not have to take any money out of the endowment this year. We are deeply appreciative of the Harmon Estate which provides resources for four areas of ministry here at the church: Apple Academy, Youth, Music, and Fellowship and Dining.

The Gutter campaign is into the third year, and much of the pledges have been paid off. We still have a bit more to go, and those who have made the commitment we encourage you to help us to pay it off. Total loan for this project was \$108,876.05.

This year (2021) we cut the budget in order to get closer to our giving levels. We know that some giving is with the uncertainty about jobs and income. We hope that as we get back to in-person worship and events, that the giving will increase. But at this time, we are trying to be conservative in our spending.

I know there is still a lot of stress and concern about venturing out and into public. We can do this safely and well, but we all have to work together to make it happen. At no time in all of my ministry, have I been trained to deal with a pandemic and lead a church through it. But because of your support and encouragement, and the wisdom of so many, we are making steps in the right direction and will be back together again soon.

That is my prayer, but I also ask for God's continued guidance in this. I do not want us to create a place for super-spreader events or even to have one person contract the virus. So, the word is "Not Yet." Continue to pray for God's guiding spirit to be with our church, our nation, and our world as we continue to move forward together.

The meeting ended and everyone was thanked for being in attendance.  
Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Ann Aichinger



**“We are accepting reservations for Summer Camp!”**

Registration for Resident Camp, Day Camp, and Wildcat CIT summer programs is now open! This upcoming summer’s theme of “Living Roots” will encourage campers to discern what stabilizes and supports them, how to navigate moments they feel uprooted,” what makes their soil healthy, and how they can share their nutrients. The grounding scripture is Jeremiah 17:7-8.

**Details and Registration online at: [www.HolstonCenter.org](http://www.HolstonCenter.org)**

**Day Camp**

**M-F 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Rising Grades 1-8  
Each week from June 6 through June 27  
\$150 per session**

**Overnight Camp**

**Sun 3:00 p.m. - Friday 3:00 p.m.  
Rising Grades 3 -10  
June 6 -11, June 13 -18,  
June 20 - 25, June 27- July 2  
\$499 per session**

**Counselor in Training**

**Rising grades 11 & 12  
\$499 for 2-week sessions**

**Celebrate Summer Camp for Younger Campers**

**Rising Grades 2 - 3  
June 2 - 4  
\$199**

**To find out what other activities are available at Holston Camp & Retreat Center, visit:**

**<https://mailchi.mp/holstoncenter/march-newsletter?e=04119c46ab>**



**Calendar for the week of March 21, 2021**

Sunday, March 21	3:00 p.m. 4:30 p.m.	Middle School Youth at the church High School Youth at the church
Tuesday, March 23	6 p.m.	APPLE Committee meets
Wednesday, March 24	5:30-6:00 p.m. 6:30-7:00 p.m. 7:00-8:00 p.m.	Middle School Youth by Zoom High School Youth by Zoom Wonderful Wednesdays Prayer/Bible Study
Sunday, March 28	11:00 a.m.	Palm Sunday Worship in the Parking Lot



# April Birthdays



Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Diana Conco	1	Patty Faulkner	19
Tim Ferguson	3	Claire Morison	19
Tommy Caldwell	4	Paula Woolwine	20
Dora Webb	4	Lincoln Sims	20
David Browning	5	Mary Kay English	21
Lynn Gilbert	6	Todd Ellis	21
Ben McCord	7	Larry Surber	22
Cody Calloway	9	Briggs Allen	23
Katie Timp	10	Marvin Tadlock	24
Eric Moore	12	Fred Osborne	24
Laurel Broadfoot	13	Gray Vance Cobb	25
Jeff Taylor	15	Will Prince	25
Rush Powers	16	Patrick Long	28
Ken Moss	18	Cindy Timp	28
Jonathon Taylor	18	Aiden Kite	30
Jeremy Taylor	18		

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!

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](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 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	<a href="mailto:ann.cpc@bvuv.net">ann.cpc@bvuv.net</a>
Robert Campbelle, Music Director	<a href="mailto:robertcampbelle@gmail.com">robertcampbelle@gmail.com</a>
Joy Smith-Briggs, Organist	<a href="mailto:gjbjoyb@btes.tv">gjbjoyb@btes.tv</a>
Josie Russell, Youth & Young Adult Dir.	<a href="mailto:josieannrussell@gmail.com">josieannrussell@gmail.com</a>
Lynn Gilbert, Admin. Asst. Newsletter Editor	<a href="mailto:office.cpc@bvuv.net">office.cpc@bvuv.net</a>
Mary Moffatt, Finance Director	<a href="mailto:finance.cpc@bvuv.net">finance.cpc@bvuv.net</a>
Trish James, Food Service Director	<a href="mailto:tjames1234@charter.net">tjames1234@charter.net</a>
Becky Widner, Dir. of APPLE Academy	<a href="mailto:applepreschool@yahoo.com">applepreschool@yahoo.com</a>
Barbara Mann, Volunteer Parish Nurse	<a href="mailto:barbar632002@gmail.com">barbar632002@gmail.com</a>

## 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.

