

**Montreat
Middle School Conference
July 13-17, 2021
Theme: *Just as I Am***

CENTRAL LIFE

**Central Presbyterian Church
July 28, 2021**

In the middle of July, three of our Middle School youth, two high school youth, and two adults headed to Maryville College in Maryville, TN to participate in the Montreat Middle School Conference. Along with 350 other youths and adults, we explored the theme of *Just as I Am* and how God welcomes us into his family. We explored stories from the Bible, including Zacchaeus, Mary and Elizabeth, and Ruth and Naomi. As we are welcomed into God's family, we are to welcome one another and accept each one as God has made us.

Each of us were put into different, smaller groups where we got to dive deeper into the scriptures, and get to know others in the conference. Every afternoon and evening, we had recreation time and got to play games, do some crafts, and watch a movie together. In worship each evening, we focused on the liturgical church year by celebrating Advent and Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. At night we had our "back home" group where we talked about the day and prepared for the next day.



Ada Ritchie and Sydney Collier were a part of the Work Crew which helped with the recreation events and running errands for the conference. Becka Reese, Bella Ritchie, Cara Dixon, Josie Russell, and Ann Aichinger participated in the conference events. Below are some reflections:



Bella Ritchie: I have enjoyed going to the Montreat Middle School Conference so much! I have made so many memories and new friends. I learned so much about Christ and the theme, *Just as I Am*.

Cara Dixon: I've had so much fun at the Montreat Middle School Conference. This will be something that I will never forget and want to do again. I have learned so many wonderful things here!

Becka Reese: Montreat meant I felt safe. One thing I learned is that each one of us is good enough for God.

Thank you goes to this church family for its continued support and encouragement for our youth program, and for making funds available for these groups to go to Montreat and other meaningful experiences.

Youth Sunday

On Sunday, July 25th, 11 of our youth led worship and shared their experiences of Montreat with us. Even though the power went out in the middle of the worship time, the youth continued on and did well. There is a recording of the service in its entirety on the church website at CentralPresBristol.org.

Thank you to Ed Updyke for having battery backups for the cameras in worship!



At Home: Bob and Becky Ingram and Bessie Kitts.

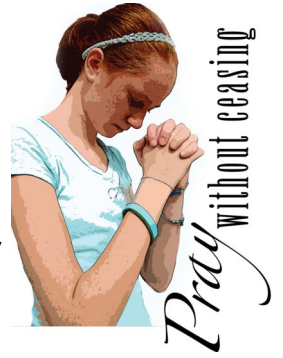
At Brookdale Bristol: Carol Duhaime, Jean Thomason, and Mary Kay English.

At Dominion Senior Care: Hugh and Linda Wise

At Oakmont: Allen Vance, Dora Webb

Pastoral Concerns:

- ♦ Dora Webb has been moved to Oakmont at Gordon Park Care Center, Room #1244, for some additional therapies;
- ♦ Travis Campbell has been admitted to the hospital for pneumonia and other issues;
- ♦ Doris Crabtree is dealing with severe pain in her back;
- ♦ Randy Broyles as he is seeking help for his pain;
- ♦ Barbara Mann will have a follow up appointment for her hip issues;
- ♦ Jim Butcher is recovering from knee surgery;
- ♦ Jack Wagner, Jr. had his second cataract surgery on July 13 and hopefully his vision will improve over the next two weeks;
- ♦ Bob and Becky Ingram who are at home and dealing with continued health concerns;
- ♦ Don Miller is at home and struggling with serious health concerns;
- ♦ Ellie Rampe is waiting for information about her lung cancer and heart issues.



Continued Prayers for:

Lois Clarke, Carol Duhaime, Mary Kay English, Rick Griffin, Jim and Joan Keith, Mark McCord, Fred Osborne, Alice Owenby, Courtney Reese, Jean Thomason, and Allen and Retta Vance.

Prayers for Family Members:

- ♦ Josie Russell's grandfather, Leo Long is back home in Houston, TX;
- ♦ Mary Wampler's mother, Barbara;
- ♦ Connie Bullock's sister, Linda is now in hospice care at her home;
- ♦ Barbara Mann's brother in Indiana.

Please call the church office (276-669-3157) with any pastoral concerns, and please feel free to contact Ann Aichinger or any of the Elders through email, Facebook, or by phone.

We Extend Our Christian Sympathy to:

"Blessed are those who die in the Lord; they will rest from their labors and their deeds will follow them."

Revelation 14:13

To the family and friends of Corrie (McCord) and Bud Bloom in the death of their son, Spencer, on July 9, 2021 in WA. Condolences can be sent to:

Corrie and Bud Bloom
1129 5th Place
Mukilteo, WA 98275



August 1	Enough Bread for All	John 6:1-14 (Communion Sunday)	Sanctuary
August 8	Food for the Soul	John 6:24-25	Central Hall
August 15	Relationships Matter	John 6:41-51	Sanctuary
August 22	Can you follow Jesus? What it means today. Rev. Bill Wing, guest preacher Joshua 24:14-15, John 6:56-69		Central Hall
August 29	Dr. Don Hudson, guest preacher		Sanctuary
September 5	No Pre-Requisites	Mark 7:24-37 (Communion Sunday)	Central Hall

COVID Update: MASKS REQUIRED

The Session met electronically on Wednesday, July 28 to decide about returning to masking while inside the church building. **It was a unanimous vote to return to wearing masks while in the church building.** This issue was raised due to the new CDC guidelines, which state:

"To maximize protection from the Delta variant and prevent possibly spreading it to others, wear a mask indoors in public if you are in an area of substantial or high transmission."

"Wearing a mask is most important if you have a weakened immune system or if, because of your age or an underlying medical condition, you are at increased risk for severe disease, or if someone in your household has a weakened immune system, is at increased risk for severe disease, or is unvaccinated. If this applies to you or your household, you might choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission in your area."

The statistics in our area show a rapid rising of COVID cases. All of East TN and Washington Co. VA are in the "substantial or high transmission areas as per current CDC stats. Sullivan and Washington County, TN cases are up 221% and 329%, respectively, over the last 14 days. Hospitalizations are 62% and 75%. The **trend** is what is **very important**, not the actual cases. Bristol, VA City cases are up 42% and Washington County, VA 68%. Hospitalizations are up 41% and 90%.

Though most of our church family is vaccinated, we still have our children and those with underlying medical issues who are a part of our community to consider, as well as the possibility of even those vaccinated being able to contract the virus.

Therefore, **beginning Sunday, August 1, masks will be required while in the building.** We do ask that everyone abide by this guideline for the care and concern of the whole community. Coffee time and Lemonade in the Shade opportunities will be suspended at this time as well. Please take any precautions you need to take. Know that there is still the pre-recorded worship service, which is posted on Saturday evenings, and on Sunday afternoons, the recording of the Sunday morning service is posted online.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Ann Aichinger or any member of Session. Thank you for your understanding as we seek to be flexible and compassionate in light of the rising crisis and concern.

The session met on Tuesday, July 20 by Zoom.

We welcomed three new members into the fellowship of Central Presbyterian:

Randy Broyles, by Transfer of Letter from Windsor Avenue Presbyterian Church in Bristol, TN., which closed this past spring.

Leslie Mumpower, by Reaffirmation of Faith. Leslie is one of our nursery staff members.

Christie Roberts Davenport by Affirmation of Faith. Christie is married to Cody and they have two daughters, Rosie and Lily who are a part of APPLE preschool.

The Session will have a two hour in-person retreat on Sunday, August 8, 2021 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at the church. We will be evaluating the past year and a half, and begin dreaming about the future.

There were two notes to the Session:

From the Middle School Youth thanking us for the support to go to the Montreat Middle School Conference, and from **Ed Whitehead** in appreciation for the Session and their work.

“Dear Session Friends,

I wanted to write and thank you for the many years I have served on the Session with you and for the privilege of knowing you as devoted members of Central. Through all the years we have faced many challenges and had so many pleasures to celebrate together.

Please know that Betty and I will always find Central “home” as we now search for a new church. We are not looking for another Central - there is not one out there in Roanoke. We send you our love and prayers as you continue to service our church and our Lord.

Thank you for the lovely “departure service” Sunday. Just what we needed on our weekend when we were saying goodbye to Daphne (McCord.)” Ed (and Betty) Whitehead

John Dodge and Ann Aichinger gave a report on the July 8th Stated Meeting of the Abingdon Presbytery:

- ♦ The highlight was the reception of the new Presbytery leader, Rev. Ann Elyse Van Winkle who will begin as leader on August 1, 2021.
- ♦ Rev. Mike Klumpp will be the new pastor of both the Rich Valley and Locust Cove Presbyterian Churches.

With the COVID updates, there is a high need to have accurate records of those who have been vaccinated in the church family. It is important that everyone understands that wearing a mask, or not, in worship is according to best judgement. Because we do not have to wear a mask inside does not mean we all don't need to consider wearing a mask in public out of love and care for others. But masks do have to be worn in the church building during the week as the APPLE Preschool is in session and the children have not yet been vaccinated.

The Presbytery leadership event, Mountain Top, will be held on Saturday, October 16, 2021 at the Royal Oak Presbyterian Church in Marion, VA. The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Ray Jones, who is the General Assembly Director of Evangelism for the PCUSA. There will be several workshops offered during the event. A lunch will be available for \$10.

The Technology Committee's recommendation to upgrade the broadband in the church and in the Sanctuary was approved.

The Adult Bible Study Sunday School class will begin meeting on Sunday, July 25 at 9:00 a.m. in the parlor.

There will be Lemonade in the Shade on Sundays when worship is in the Sanctuary, and there will be coffee in the kitchen on Sundays when worship is in Central Hall.

The property Committee is working on getting bids and a proposal for replacement of the windows in the old part of the church, not including the Sanctuary windows. This proposal will come to the session in August.

New Members...



On Sunday, July 25, 2021, Central Presbyterian welcomed into the membership of the church:

Randy Broyles, by letter of transfer from Windsor Avenue Presbyterian Church.
100 Skytrail Drive, Bristol, TN 37620

Leslie Mumpower, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
218 Jaybird Court, Bristol, TN 37620-5877

Christie Jackson Davenport, by Affirmation of Faith.
617 Hagy Street SW, Abingdon, VA 24210-3015



Calendar for July 28 - August 18, 2021

Wednesday, July 28	12:00 Noon	Central Life published
Saturday, July 31	9:00-10:30 a.m.	Gardening Group - Meet at the Church - bring tools
Sunday, August 1	10:00 a.m.	Worship in Sanctuary - Communion
Monday-Wednesday, August 2-4		APPLE CLOSED
Wednesday, August 4	7:00 p.m.	Choir Resumes
Thursday, August 5		APPLE Pre-School Starts -Fall
	10:30 a.m.	Meals on Wheels from Central
	4:00 p.m.	Care & Concern Committee Meets
Sunday, August 8	10:00 a.m.	Worship in Central Hall
	2:00-4:00 p.m.	Session Retreat at the Church
Monday, August 9	5:30 p.m.	Embroiderer's Club Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 11	12:00 Noon	Finance Committee Meets
Saturday, August 14	3:30 p.m.	Installation of Rev. Anne Elyse Van Winkle
		Glade Springs Presbyterian
Tuesday, August 17	12:00 Noon	Staff Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Session Meets by Zoom
Wednesday, August 18	12:00 Noon	Central Life published

Thank You...

Central Life

The Session of Central Presbyterian passed a resolution to thank **Joy Briggs** for her actions to arrange the organ recital by John Dixon on July 14. Thank you, Joy for a wonderful evening of music. There is a recording of the concert on the church website.

Presbytery News...



Abingdon Presbytery is excited to introduce the **Rev. Ann Elyse Van Winkle** as the new Presbytery Leader of the Abingdon Presbytery. Ann Elyse will begin serving our presbytery on August 1, 2021.

Her installation service will be held at Glade Spring Presbyterian Church on Saturday, August 14, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to share in this new time for Abingdon Presbytery. Patty Caldwell, John Dodge and Ann Aichinger will be attending. If you would like to ride with them, or get more information, please talk with Ann Aichinger.

Below is a brief introduction to Rev. Ann Elyse Van Winkle:

MY PERSONAL FAITH

The Lord said, "Behold! I am doing a new thing!" These words echo from Isaiah down through the centuries to ring in my heart even now. If I have to choose one passage which guides my faith, I choose Isaiah 43:16-21. I love the image of God making a way through the wilderness in order to show us new paths. So often, I think we get stuck in ruts about "how it's always been done." And then I think about the God that we serve--the God of new life, the God who conquered death itself, the God who can make a jungle out of a desert wasteland. Whenever I read Isaiah, I have hope. Things don't have to stay the same, not if we have the courage to follow where God is leading. I can do bold, new, exciting things, if only I see what God is doing, right in front of me. Behold!

MY VISION FOR THE CHURCH

Going right along with the imagery from Isaiah 43, I often think of church life as a group, together on a pilgrim journey. We are all going to the same place--God's eternal kingdom--but the route that we take and the difficulties that we encounter are different. That is why it's important for us to be connected. When I am struggling along the way, I know that there are others who are there to offer encouragement and lend support. But there are times on the pilgrim journey that we find an impassable route or hit a dead end. I imagine that there are many churches who feel that they are there right now. The journey can be difficult, especially when we must forge a new path through the wilderness. My vision of the church is one where we are not afraid to try new things, to head in new directions. We serve the God of life, and that requires courage to do the brave new thing. I see my role as a pilgrim guide, helping and encouraging us to see what we can accomplish if we step away from the boulders of fear and discouragement that keep us stuck.

ABOUT ME

I received my call to ministry at seven years old, and I've been inspired to "work for God" ever since. I am married to Matt, and we have two dogs and two cats to keep us company. I am obsessed with Basset hounds. I love to hike, and my favorite color is aqua blue.

Graduate of William and Mary (2010) with a B.A. in Religious Studies, and Princeton Theological Seminary (2014) with a M.Div.

Ministry Interests: Small Town and Rural (STAR) Ministry, Faithful hospitality, Community building, sustainable agriculture and nutritional food security, and whole person wellness.



Reflections From a Rocking Chair.....

Who would have guessed that in 2019 Central Presbyterian would be a church offering in-person gatherings as well as having an online presence? Certainly not me. But as March, 2020 arrived, and we were no longer able to gather in person, we had to re-learn how to conduct worship, meetings, and gatherings so that we could remain connected with one another. So many of you were wary of Zoom and said that you “did not think you could do it.” But with a little help, we have had people attend Wednesday night gatherings, Session meetings, and church committees by Zoom, and Zoom has allowed more people to be in attendance than if we only had in-person gatherings.

Central has a presence online connecting with people in many different places. For one, I know that my parents in Virginia Beach, and several of their friends, have connected with Central through the pre-recorded worship option, and have also joined our Bible Studies and Presbyterian Women gatherings. I also know that there is a group in Texas that has connected with us as well, plus (as Ed Updyke has kept track of) we have people on every continent who check in on our website and videos.

Since May 9, when we returned to in-person worship in the building, we have had an average attendance of 70 people each Sunday. U.S. statistics show that in-person worship attendance is on the decline especially with the availability of online and pre-recorded services, and this is in part the impact from having experienced a shut down for nearly 15 months due to the pandemic. We all got used to the idea of not having to get ready on Sunday morning to leave the house in time to get to worship. Instead, we enjoyed an extra cup of coffee and watched worship from our sofas.

It is important to remember that we need to be a part of the life of a local church, and attending in-person worship is the way to be a part of that life. Scripture reminds us that the Body of Christ needs everyone to be a part. For the body cannot say to the eye, “I have no need of you”, or to the ear, “I have no need of you.” Where would the gift of sight or hearing be? If the foot said to the hand, “I have no need of you,” how would we be able to offer cups of cool water to the thirsty or care for those in need? The body needs each part to make it work at its best.

As followers of Christ, we are a part of an incarnate ministry. This means that who we are is about flesh and blood. God broke into our neighborhood, and our world, and came to us in the person of Jesus. We, as Christians, are contributors. We do not sit on the sidelines and watch. We engage. We give. We partake in Christ’s sacrifice, by communing together. We sing. We encourage. We hug. We fellowship together. It is important then that we often get together with one another to share our joys and our concerns, and to see one another.

As a church family, we need you and your God-given gifts and talents, no matter how insignificant they may seem. For when we all are together in community with one another (both online and in-person), we can accomplish much more for the glory of God. As we are coming to the end of summer vacations, getting ready to go back to school, and with the regular routines of work, I hope that you will make the commitment to connect and be involved in the life of Central. We need you. We need everyone. For without all the parts, the church is deficient. We are called to serve together.

We will continue to offer the online option for worship, Bible study, and groups, and we are looking at having live streaming which means you can join us online as the gathering is happening in real time. I am grateful for technology and for those who know how to make things happen online. Having the option for online worship and gatherings is great for those who are home bound or who are unable to come out due to illness or schedules. It also offers us opportunity to connect when away on a vacation or a business trip. But there is something special in being with one another and to be in the presence of the Body of Christ that reminds me of our connections and our interdependence on one another. Being together and sharing our gifts and talents with the whole community helps to advance God’s kingdom work, and our outreach to others.

August Birthdays



Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Katelyn Sims	1	Leslie Campbell	15
Laura Blanton	2	Brandon Hall	17
Dawson Meade	4	Mike Vollmer	19
Carolyn Newell	4	Ada Ritchie	19
Sydney Collier	5	Alexandra Ingram	20
Jerrie Doss	6	Peter Morison	20
Brenda Otis	8	Ellie Ann Calloway	26
David Faulkner	11	Bob Ward	27
Jack Wagner	11	Linda Wise	28
Rebecca Thompson	13	Sophie Smith	28
Clara Repass	14	George Parks	29
Peyton Meade	14	Brandon Blanton	31
Mason Campbell	14		

Happy birthday!

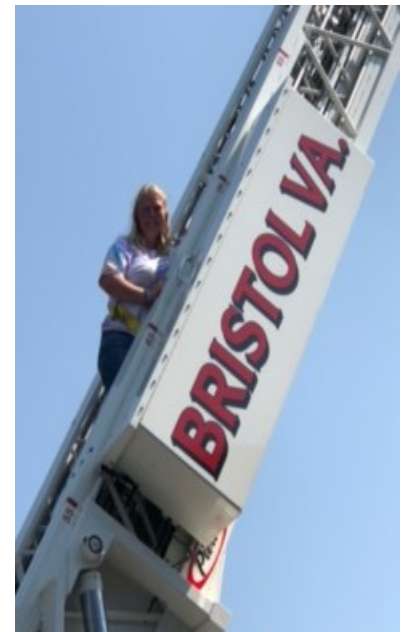
Happy birthday!

On Friday, July 23rd, the APPLE Pre-School had a visit from Fire Station #1 (Lee Street) here in Bristol!

The visit was part of a community appreciation week with Sonya Collins' class that included local policemen, nurses, and firefighters. The pre-schoolers enjoyed making crafts and presenting them to this "fearless" community of First Responders. Even Sonya demonstrated her fearlessness as she climbed the firetruck ladder, and proclaimed it as "Wow! Great fun!"

The fireman showed the eager preschoolers the firetruck, ladders, hoses, and other interesting items that are essential to their important work here in our community.

We thank Fire Station #1 for being here for this special APPLE Friday, and for everything that they do in our community.



331 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
331 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
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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.

