



CENTRAL LIFE

**Central Presbyterian Church
December 22, 2021**

Reflections From a Rocking Chair

As we approach the last week of 2021, we are given the gift to be able to look back over the year, and to look ahead with hope and expectations into the New Year. It is interesting how when we started 2021, we were into a terrible winter where we saw no end in sight of the pandemic, but there were hints of a coming vaccination for COVID. As our church family began to gather for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday in the parking lot, there was an excitement of new life and possibilities, of community and being able to be together again. Then, we were able to begin with one Sunday service in mid-May, and then two services at the end of November. Yet there was always the option to pivot and change course as needed.

The Session has been mindful and watchful as to how to lead us through this year, and has done a good job with the information that we have had. It has been difficult to know the right thing to do at the right time, and though we have been a bit more cautious, I am thankful that we have not had many people contract COVID (even as breakthroughs), and much of that is because we have taken seriously our concern and love for one another and for our local community.

In this season of Advent, we have considered the different gifts we have received. I have enjoyed reading the Central Advent Devotional with the stories of the gifts received over our lifetimes. The theme throughout the booklet has been the love of the one who gave the gift. Many of the stories connected gifts received with the greatest gift the world has been given: Jesus Christ. In worship, we have considered the gift of awareness of God's presence, the gift of a new understanding as to who God is, the gift of living in a new way that reflects our following of Jesus, and the gift of Good News which is for all people.

One of the things that I hear throughout Scripture is that we are called to imitate our God who is a God of LOVE. Jesus was one who preached God's love everywhere he went, even when he was dealing with difficult situations with religious leaders and Romans. Love is at the center of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, and the greatest of all gifts IS Love. This love is from a God who dares to break into our world, who came as a baby, who grew into a man who taught about God's love for everyone, and who demonstrated that love through his actions. In turn, we are to be people of love. Not just to say the word, but to let our lives and our actions reflect this very basic belief.

Love that is lived out is like a constant prayer. Love that is lived out is generous with time and resources. Love that is lived out is being available to one who needs to talk or to simply not be alone. Love that is lived out calls us to set aside our own agendas and to be about the work of God in the moment. Love that is lived out often inconveniences us, yet we discover the blessing in living this different way. Love that is lived out is hard to describe, but you know it when you see it.

Central is one of those churches that takes seriously the living out of Love in this world. My prayer for us as a faith community is that we will grow in our love for God and for one another and for the world. I don't know how that might manifest itself, but I think we will all know it when we see it.

As we enter into 2022, may we lead with Love. May we seek to demonstrate the Love of God in our local community. May we work to share the Love of Christ with all whom we meet along the way. For at Christmas, we know the story of when Love came down upon the earth and changed everything for the better.

Merry Christmas to you all!
Ann Aichinger

At Home: Bob and Becky Ingram and Bessie Kitts.

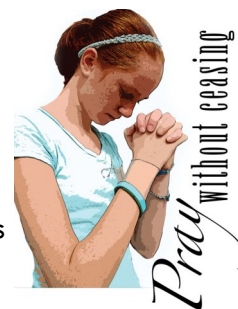
At Brookdale Bristol: Carol Duhaime, Jean Thomason, and Mary Kay English.

At Dominion Senior Care: Linda Wise

At Oakmont: Allen Vance and Dora Webb

Pastoral Concerns:

- ♦ Retta Vance is recovering from hip surgery at Encompass. She is in room #162 and loves to receive cards at: 103 North Street, Bristol VA 24201;
- ♦ Lynn Butcher is recovering from hip replacement surgery and is home;
- ♦ Mike Ellis had a procedure on his shoulder and is recovering;
- ♦ Randy Morris who has been in the hospital this week with unknown pain;
- ♦ Phyllis Morris who is having a CT Scan this week by ENT;
- ♦ Barbara Mann who is dealing with a severe head cold.



Continued Prayers for:

Randy Broyles, Travis Campbell, Maxine Howell, Bob and Becky Ingram, Jim and Joan Keith, Dr. Darlene Litton, Mark McCord, Don Miller, Alice Owenby, Allen and Retta Vance, Dora Webb, Linda Wise, and Rev. Mike Weller.

Prayers for Family members:

Beverly Bosch (Randy and Phyllis Morris' daughter); Barbara Mann's brother; Orin Callison, III, son of Peggy Callison; Cathy White's father, Roy; Mary Moffatt's brother, Paul is recovering from surgeries.

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

The family and friends of Glenn and Grace Himstedt in the death of Glenn's mother, Mary Himstedt who passed away on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 in Indiana.

Memorials...

To the Pastor's Service Fund in appreciation of Ann Aichinger, Patty and Tommy Caldwell, Larry and Lois Clarke, Janis and Joe Davis, Mike Ellis, Dick Gordon, Nancy Kiser, Barbara Mann, Mary Moffatt, Vicki and Glenn Myers, Marvin Tadlock, Gale and Paige Thompson, Mary and William Wampler, Deb, Jenna and Jack Wagner, Bob Ward, and Mike Vollmer, given by Becky and Bob Ingram.

Upcoming Sermons...

December 24

December 26

January 2

The Gift of Light in the World

The Gift of Great Joy

Epiphany

John 1:1-18

Luke 2:1-20

Matthew 2:1-12





Calendar for December 22 – January 5, 2021

Wednesday, December 22		NO YOUTH
Friday, December 24	5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service - Central Hall
	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service w/communion - Sanctuary
Saturday, December 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS!	
	2:00-4:00 p.m.	Christmas Service - Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Sunday, December 26	11:00 a.m.	Christmas Service - Sanctuary
Monday, December 27	OFFICE CLOSED	
Friday, December 31	OFFICE CLOSED	New Year's Eve
Saturday, January 1, 2022	HAPPY NEW YEAR!	
Sunday, January 2	9:00 a.m.	Worship - Central Hall - Epiphany Sunday
	10:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Worship -Sanctuary
		ONLINE Worship
Sunday, January 2-5		College Conference at Montreat
Wednesday, January 5	12:00 Noon	Central Life

Happy Anniversary to...



*Tommy and Patty Caldwell as they celebrate their golden wedding anniversary, December 28, 2021.
Tommy and Patty were married in the chapel at Central in 1971.
Congratulations, and best wishes to them both on this milestone 50th anniversary.*

Thank You...

"I would like to thank everyone that reached out to me via email or cards following Bill's passing. They all meant a great deal to me. For those that did not know my husband, Bill Dennison, he grew up in Central and was the son of Kent and W. A. Dennison. He was a first cousin to Edwin Lacy. Thank you again for reaching out to me with words of care and support."

Most Sincerely,

JACKIE W. DENNISON



Jim and Joan Keith have moved to...

**1420 Hatterdale Farm Road
Blountville, TN 37617**

Their home phone has been disconnected, but they can be reached by cell phone and email.

Congratulations to...

Central Life

Becka Reese

for being chosen for the All-District Band! Becka plays clarinet.

Vickie Clark

who recently retired from the University of Tennessee Extension Service in Elizabethton.

Thank You...

The Gilbert family would like to thank all of you who have offered your continued prayers, concern, and support for Geoff Gilbert who was diagnosed with eye melanoma. We learned this past weekend that the tumors on Geoff's liver are benign, and that his eye tumor is significantly improved. We are so very thankful and grateful to know that there is true healing happening through the spirit and through all of you here at Central, and we wish to share our joy with you! With much gratitude,

Lynn and Dave Gilbert

COVID Protocol Update

At this time, Central Presbyterian continues to require masks while in the building and we still ask that everyone continues to social distance as best as possible. Though we have had a few people test positive for COVID, they had been fully vaccinated and received their booster shots.

We are well aware that the wearing of masks is something we would all like to be done with, but at this time, and with the rise in case numbers in our local area, this will continue to be required. We appreciate your understanding and continued cooperation.



Drivers Needed...

We are needing bus drivers for the church bus. It is not hard to do, but we are needing several more able drivers on Sunday mornings. As we are having several from Brookdale interested in attending worship, we offer this service. Requirements are a valid driver's license, willing to have a background check, and under the age of 75. We will provide training in learning how to drive it as well as how to operate the handicap platform that allows those in wheelchairs to be on board. Please talk to David White or Wes Ritchie, or call the church office if you are interested in signing up. Thank you.

If you know of someone who might be interested in becoming our part-time

Kitchen Coordinator and Cook

please have that person send a resume to the church office by email (office.cpc@bvnu.net) or mail it to the office. We know many of you have contacts in the community, and we hope to find someone soon for this part-time position.

**Help
Wanted**

The Session did not meet by Zoom or in-person in December, and instead participated in electronic meeting. All members responded, and the following actions were taken via email:

- ♦ Approval to have Rev. Ann Elyse Van Winkle, Abingdon Presbytery leader, preach at Central on Sunday, January 2. Ann Aichinger will lead worship and they will co-preside at the Communion table at both services.
- ♦ To host the January 13 (Thursday) meeting of Abingdon Presbytery at Central. Worship will take place in the Sanctuary, and the meeting will be held in Central Hall followed with a catered lunch.
- ♦ To have the boiler and air handler in the Sanctuary area repaired with a new coil and new bearings. This would be paid out of the checking account.

The session will meet on January 18, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. by Zoom.

Presbytery News...

Abingdon Presbytery recently hosted a special online Christmas service covering the *12 Days of Christmas*. Many of the churches in the Presbytery participated, including Central. Central's Sanctuary Choir sang and Ann Aichinger read the scripture and information for Day 7.

This service is now available online at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PQf63_IVhk.

There is also a weekly newsletter available at www.abingdonpresbytery.org, and is a great way to stay connected to the happenings in our area churches.

Livestreaming Worship

Yes, we are now live streaming Sunday worship services and other special opportunities!

We will have our two services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. continuing into the new year, and we will also offer a pre-recorded service, located on the website (CentralPresBristol.org.) Also, you can access these services on either Ann Aichinger's or Robert Campbelle's Facebook sites.

Thanks to Ed Updyke, we are now able to live stream the services and you can join online a few minutes before the service begins (9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.) at vimeo.com/cpcbristol and it will be there for you to be able to participate.

The plan is to have Christmas Eve services (5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.) as well as Sunday, December 26, 11:00 a.m. worship live streamed. So if you are unable to attend in person, join us by live-streaming.



**THE STAFF AT CENTRAL
WISHES YOU AND YOURS
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A BLESSED 2022!**

Jim Borg

Art Archinger
Mel Shelton

Mary Moffatt

Courtney Re
Leslie Mumpower
Josie Russeel

Lynne Sillert

Robert Campbell
Rebecca
Reese

January Birthdays



Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Doris Hall	1
Bessie Kitts	2
Jamie Meade	2
Sawyer Meade	3
Allen Vance	10
Linda Brittle	13
Scott Bullock	13
Jeanne Kiger	13
Christy Blevins	14
Ivy Ritchie	15
Janis Davis	19
Diana White	20

Theresa Kalb	20
Dennis Meade	24
Linda Baker	24
Shelby Quesenberry	25
Vickie Salyer	25
Dillon Vaughn	25
Will Broadfoot	26
Sandy McGlothlin	27
Jackson Williams	28
Woody McGlothlin	30
Banner Ellis	30
Savannah McCord	31

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!

331 Euclid Avenue
Bristol, VA 24201-4013
Phone: 555-555-5555
Fax: 555-555-5555
E-mail:

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
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
Michelle Blankenship Dir. of APPLE Academy	applepreschool@yahoo.com

OFFICE HOURS: 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Monday - Friday.

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.

