



July 6, 2022

Update on the General Assembly (2022) 225 Gathering

The General Assembly is the highest council of the Presbyterian Church USA and this group meets once every two years. The council consists of Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Ruling Elders chosen by each Presbytery. For the first time in four years, commissioners will gather in person (at least for committee meetings) for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s first hybrid assembly, built around the theme "From Lament to Hope." The assembly will be in extended meetings over three weeks, and will conclude on this Saturday. It has been three action-packed weeks with 471 commissioners and 111 advisory delegates. Committees have met in newly renovated space at the PC (USA)'s national offices in Louisville, KY. You are invited to follow along from home the General Assembly committee and plenary sessions via a live-stream on the internet. You can also find out more about what has happened at General Assembly through the GA website: [CentralPresbyterian.pdf](https://www.centralpresbyterian.org/2022/07/06/central-presbyterian-2022-225-gathering/).

Leadership: Two teams stood to serve as the assembly's co-moderators, and on June 18, the following were elected as co-moderators for the next two years:

• **Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis** of Charlotte Presbytery and **Rev. Ruth Santana-Grace** of the Presbytery of Philadelphia. Starling-Louis, 39, is pastor of Memorial Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. Santana-Grace, 69, is executive presbyter of the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

Climate change. The Committee on Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) recommended that the PC (USA) divest from five energy companies – Chevron, ExxonMobil, Marathon Petroleum, Phillips 66, and Valero Energy - that MRTI says are not making sufficient progress to protect the planet from global warming.

Racism. This assembly has a committee devoted specifically to issues of race and gender justice - including a report from the Special Committee on Racism Truth and Reconciliation, which calls for more work to be done to "explore and expose where White supremacy is embedded institutionally and foundationally" in the PC(USA), and encourages congregations to investigate their own histories involving people of color. An overture from the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy calls for the PC(USA) to apologize to African Americans "for the sin of slavery and its legacy." The committee will consider a report from the Disparities Experienced by Black Women and Girls Task Force.

Israel/Palestine. There have been rumblings in recent months over remarks that J. Herbert Nelson, the PC(USA)'s stated clerk, made describing Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories as "21st century slavery." Debate over that may rise up again - perhaps as the assembly considers an overture from Grace Presbytery to declare that Israel's policies, laws, and practices regarding the Palestinian people amount to apartheid.

Financial sustainability. The Special Committee on Per-Capita Based Funding and National Church Financial Sustainability is proposing a restructuring of the top levels of the national church - a recommendation that reflects concern about the ability of the current per capita funding system to sustain the denomination when so many mid councils and small congregations are feeling financial pressure.

Gun violence. Week after week, people of faith are called to pray for those killed and injured after yet another mass shooting. An assembly committee on Addressing Violence in the USA will consider overtures calling for the PC (USA) to support tighter gun control, including universal background checks before firearms can be purchased and a ban on the sale and ownership of assault weapons. The Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy wants the assembly to approve the "Decade to End Gun Violence," a 10-year campaign from 2022 to 2032 "to be conducted at all levels of the church."

Denominational matters. The assembly also will consider issues affecting the church itself, including a proposed amendment to the PC(USA) constitution to require that the minimum terms of call for all ministers would include 12 weeks of paid family medical leave. Also of interest: several recommendations to write new confessions for the PC (USA) and measures seeking to provide more flexibility for new worshipping communities and immigrant congregations in allowing their leaders to become ruling elders with voice and vote at presbytery.

At Home: Bob and Becky Ingram and Bessie Kitts.

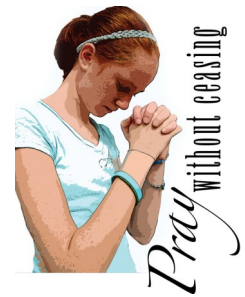
At Brookdale Bristol: Jean Thomason, Mary Kay English, and Diane Abbey.

At Dominion Senior Care: Linda Wise

At Oakmont: Allen Vance

Pastoral Concerns:

- ♦ Phyllis Morris as she continues to deal with health concerns;
- ♦ Larry Surber having tests for back issues;
- ♦ Rich Williams is having some medical testing.



Continued Prayers for:

Randy Broyles, Travis Campbell, Bob and Becky Ingram, Jim & Joan Keith, Darlene Litton, Mark McCord, Alice Owenby, Ed Updyke, Allen & Retta Vance, Linda Wise, Mike Weller.

Prayers for Family Members and Friends:

Beverly Bosch (Randy and Phyllis Morris' daughter); Orion Callison, III, son of Peggy Callison; Cathy White's father, Roy; Kimberly Fields and Mary Ann Bevins, dear friends of Vicki Myers.

Congratulations to:

Sheree Taylor in the birth of a nephew, Colin Patrick on Sunday, July 3, 2022, son of Shawn and Amanda Hogan in Charleston, SC.

"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 Nic Fuller in the loss of his
(maternal) grandfather,
Timothy Dean Salyers, on June 22, 2022.**

Memorials...

To the Backpack Fund in Memory of Frank Sikora, given by Ed Updyke.



Upcoming Sermons...

July 17	What If We Truly Loved Our Neighbors? Matthew 25	Sanctuary
July 24	Guest Preacher, Katherine Campbell	Central Hall
July 31	What If we cared for those in need around us? Luke 10:25-37 (The Good Samaritan)	Sanctuary
August 7	Youth Sunday with Communion	Central Hall
August 14	What if we shared out of our Abundance? (The Feeding of the 5,000)	Sanctuary



Dear Central Church Family,

As you already know, I will soon be leaving my position here at Central on July 15. This will be my last Central Life. It's hard to believe that I have been here 2 years now, and I was looking forward to having more time with you. However, the recent loss of my mother, and the sale of her home that I both lived and cared for her in, has caused my move to Tazewell, and my return back to Ohio. I am filled with sadness to be leaving this wonderful church family behind, but I will always remember you. I learned so much in my position, and have had the privilege to not only work with a wonderful pastor in Ann Aichinger, but to get to know many of you, and it has been an honor to do my best to support you all...you made that so easy for me to do!

I feel that I have shared a bond with all of you that is permanent. You took me in during a pandemic, and I weathered the changes alongside you and grew in my commitment to Central, and in faith. I have been overwhelmed with your many kindnesses and support during my mother's illness, and death. Your steady, faithful devotion and love for me and my family gave me the strength and courage to continue on in light of some true despair, adversity, and uncertainty. The memories I take from this church family will forever be etched on my soul and never forgotten. I truly couldn't have gotten through without your unwavering selflessness. It is an incredible feeling, and one that I am so, so blessed to have experienced.

Saying goodbye is not easy for me, so I'll just say to all of you, my friends, "until we meet again", and I do hope that we will. I am fortunate to have met people so committed and ready to help others like you, and my sincere hope for all of you at Central is that you keep doing what you do because your work is kind, compassionate, and the right thing to do. YOU are what we all need right now, and I gratefully thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this loving ministry.

*Your forever friend,
Lynn Gilbert*

Farewell...

Everyone is invited to stop by the church office on Wednesday, July 13 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon to wish Lynn Gilbert a farewell. Lynn will be leaving us on July 15 as she has had a life change and will be moving to Tazewell, VA where her husband, Dave, is pastor of the Presbyterian Church there. She has requested no gifts, but cards are welcomed.

Her new address is: 429 Hotel Avenue
Tazewell, VA 24651
330-719-1122
dlynngilbert@hotmail.com

Gardening Group...

The Gardening Group will be meeting on **Saturday, July 23** at 9:00 a.m. to continue to work on the flower beds at the church. Everyone is welcome to join this group. Please bring your tools, gloves, and water. This group will work until the heat gets to be too much!





We are seeking a new office Administrative Assistant to replace Lynn Gilbert. If you know of anyone who may be interested in this part-time position, please contact Ann Aichinger or Briggs Allen. We know that you are our first resource in connecting with those who might be interested in this position. Thank you.

Musician Needed...

Piano/Keyboard player for the Contemporary Worship Service

We are needing a keyboard player for the Contemporary Worship. The band rehearses an hour before the worship time, but all the music is distributed earlier in the week. If you are able and willing, or know someone who might be interested, please have them contact one of the band members (Josie Russell, Jack Wagner, Jay Hall, Savannah McCord, or Ann Aichinger.)

The Youth will be going to the Bristol Emergency Food Pantry on **Thursday, July 14** at 12:30 p.m. to help stock shelves and do any other tasks needed. If you have any questions, please talk to Josie Russell. If any youth need volunteer hours recorded, please bring your forms so they can be filled out and signed.

Youth Mission Outing...

Let's Go to Lunch...

On **Sunday, July 17** following worship, everyone is invited to join our group at **El 123 Tex-Mex** which is at 190 Linden Square at Exit 7 (previous location of Five Guys.) They have a Taco Buffet, or you can order off the menu. We will reserve a section for Central Presbyterian Church group. Please sign up by the Sanctuary or Central Hall, or contact the office at 276-669-3157.

Over the last few months, doors have been found to be either left open or unlocked. We ask that everyone help us with this issue, and make sure that doors close behind you and that you keep an eye out for anyone and anything that seems suspicious to you. The main church alarm will be re-engaged after worship on Sunday afternoons and over the weekend, as well as turned on earlier in the evenings after groups have left the building. So, please be aware that you need to check the alarm if there are no cars in the parking lot.

Church Security...



Montreat Middle School Conference, Maryville, TN

On July 20-24, we will have 5 youth and 2 adults attend the Montreat Middle School Conference in Maryville, TN on the campus of Maryville College. This year, Ann Aichinger will be a small group leader which is where the youth gather with adults to discuss the topics of the day, to get to know one another, and to work together in growing in faith. Josie Russell will be our Back-home group leader an adult participant in small group.

Our youth attending are: Bella Ritchie, Carly Bolling (friend of Bella) and Vivian Wycoff. Ada Ritchie will be attending as she is on the Planning Team for the 2023 Conference and will be shadowing the leadership in preparation for next year. Maddie Harris will be a part of the work crew which helps with set up of activities and events as well as running errands and helping out in Keynotes and with Worship.

This year's theme is **A Place for _____**, and we will work together in learning different ways to fill in that blank. We ask for your prayers as we go and experience this together. We look forward to sharing with you what we learned, and tell you our stories during Youth Sunday worship on Sunday, August 7.



Calendar for July 6-20, 2022

Thursday, July 7	10:30 a.m.	Meals on Wheels Delivery
	12:00 Noon	Central Life published
	2:00 p.m.	Care & Concern Committee
Sunday, July 10	10:00 a.m.	Worship - Central Hall (Pre-recorded and live-streamed available)
Wednesday, July 13	10:00 a.m.	Farewell Reception for Lynn Gilbert
	5:00 p.m.	Finance Committee
Thursday, July 14	12:30 p.m.	Youth to Bristol Food Pantry
Sunday, July 17	10:00 a.m.	Worship - Sanctuary Ordination and Installation of Elders ONLINE Worship
Monday, July 18	6:00 p.m.	Embroiderer's Group Board Meets
Tuesday, July 19	12:00 Noon	Staff Meeting
	4:30 p.m.	Bristol Food Pantry Board Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting
Wednesday, July 20	12:00 p.m.	Central Life
	12:30 p.m.	Middle School Youth to Maryville, TN
Sunday, July 24	10:00 a.m.	Worship - Central Hall (No pre-recorded Worship) Live-streamed Worship

Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands



**McDonald's/Wendy's/
Hardee's/Bojangle's Gift Cards
Bottled Water
Basketballs
Lego Sets
Knex Building Sets
Volleyballs
WalMart or Amazon Gift Cards**

GOOD USED VEHICLES

**Laundry Detergent Pods
Dishwasher Pods
Clorox Wipes
All Purpose Cleaner
Dryer Sheets
Lysol Spray
Dish Towels & Cloths
Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Art/Craft Supplies
Snack Items
Cake/Cookie/Brownie Mixes
Pool Towels**

***THANK YOU CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN FOR YOUR
LOVE AND SUPPORT OF OUR MINISTRY!***

REMINDERS:

- ♦ **Alumni Day is July 16, 2022**
- ♦ **The Annual Golf Tournament and Ball Drop is August 5, 2022.**



Christmas in July

We will be participating in the Christmas in July project through Communities in Schools with the Bristol, VA public schools. This is an opportunity for us to provide new clothes for those children of our community as they begin the new school year. There are two ways you can be a part:

SHOP FOR STUDENTS: Pick up a form from the table in the entry area and it will indicate the child's sizes, style, and color preferences so "adopters" can then shop for the student for the following items: 2 tops, 2 pairs of pants or shorts with elastic waist, 1 pack of socks, 1 pack of underwear. After shopping is complete, the items can be placed in one large bag per student with the shopping form attached to the bag, and return the bag to the church office by **Sunday, July 17.**

SPONSOR A STUDENT: Sponsor a student by making a monetary donation of \$75. High school students will be taken shopping to purchase their own school clothes. This allows CIS to meet the students' needs, ensuring that they get exactly what they need. **Donations** can be made rough their website: www.cisofswva.org/donations/christmasinJuly, or by donating to Central with *Christmas in July* in the memo line. All donors are asked to spend approximately \$50 - \$75 for each student sponsored. By placing a spending limit on each child, we can ensure that all children in the home receive a comparable amount of items.

APPLE ACADEMY STUDENTS CELEBRATE THE 4TH!



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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.



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. Social Media Coordinator	josieannrussell@gmail.com
Lynn Gilbert, Admin. Asst. Newsletter Editor	office.cpc@bvuv.net
Mary Moffatt, Finance Director	finance.cpc@bvuv.net
Sumer Lowry, Kitchen Coordinator	sumerlowry83@gmail.com
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.

