



CENTRAL LIFE

Central Presbyterian Church

Reflections From a Rocking Chair

Once Upon a Time....what a great way to start a story. It invites us into a narrative and to be on a journey. I am currently reading *Once Upon A Wardrobe*, by Patti Callahan. It is a historical fiction story of the life of C.S. Lewis through the eyes of an 8 year old boy named George, who is very ill. He wants to know if Narnia is real. His sister, Megs, is a student at Oxford and meets with Lewis to ask her brother's questions. Both children are drawn into the reality of Narnia and its impact for their life.

We all like to hear a good story, whether it is a fairy tale, or the story about our family, or even just a funny story with a point. We have our origin stories that tell us who we are and to whom we belong. There are stories about growing up and lessons learned along the way. Often when we share our stories, we find out that others experienced that same event very differently. Brothers and sisters tell different perspectives of growing up in the same household. Couples tell about their lives differently. But the key to storytelling is to offer truth which leads to clarification and better understanding of who we are.

The Bible is filled with stories about all kinds of people: the good, the bad, and the ugly. The stories of the Bible are not sugar-coated. We read about people who lost their way or who made bad decisions or who decided to turn away from God. But the story of the Bible hinges on the presence of God. All through the Bible we see how God is constantly at work connecting with and building and rebuilding relationships with humans. God sends messengers to give words of warning as well as words of hope. God dares to break into our world and meet us on a human level to show us, in the person of Jesus Christ, what it means to be loving and to be faithful.

Here at Central Presbyterian, we have our origin story that goes something like this... In the mid-1800s, it was required for elders and pastors to visit everyone in the church quarterly before celebrating the Lord's Supper. Each member of First Presbyterian Church would be deemed either permitted to come to the table or not. If you were seen as acceptable, you were given a Communion coin, which would be presented at the time of the sacrament. One particular group of people who had been involved in some "unacceptable" and "worldly" behavior of dancing, card playing, and betting on elections were deemed as unworthy to participate in the sacrament, and opted to leave First Pres. and go start a new church on the Virginia side of town. So began Central Presbyterian.

But there are stories about our life together through these 147 years: stories about long pastorate and many new activities happening; years of short term pastors during difficult times in the life of the church; when the wooden church burned and the new stone church was built; how Central moved from downtown out to Euclid Avenue and built our present building which has been the site for so many different events and activities. At the center of all these stories is the fact that the leadership sought to be faithful and continued to provide a witness of Good News and grace for all.

One of the things I love about our story as a church is that we continue to seek to be faithful and to follow the guiding of God's Spirit. But that does not mean that we cannot have fun or enjoy our time with one another. We are very serious about our learning from Scripture and one another, about being followers of Jesus, but we enjoy one another's company. We seek to open our doors and welcome everyone into our church family, and find new ways of serving.

As we are moving forward into the future, we are going to be adding to our story. We will discover the new things that God is calling us to do. But in the end, we know that God is with us, guiding and leading us. Our job is to go together, remain faithful, and watch for where God leads. We are still in a place of unknowing about what is ahead, but by going together, we can follow the leading of the Spirit and discover how God is calling us bear witness to God's love in this community and world.

Oh, Those Golden Slippers

I don't suppose it's common knowledge that organists wear special shoes. The shoes are designed to facilitate playing the pedals. Most organists have several pair. I keep a pair in my car, a pair at another church, and I normally have two pairs at Central.

Several years ago I was invited to be guest organist at the Annual Council of the Southwestern Virginia Diocese of the Episcopal Church which was held in Roanoke. It was a mighty organ....a four manual as opposed to our three manual organ, (which is also a mighty organ). This was truly a great honor and since I needed a new pair of shoes anyway, I decided to get something special for this event.....a pair of gold slippers.

I keep them by the organ alongside the black ones I usually wear, but strangely, they are no longer there. So, you see this little commentary on organ shoes is simply a way to ask if anyone out there has seen my "golden slippers." I can't imagine what anyone would want them for. They are not *worn out*, but they definitely have some wear on them. They have great sentimental value for me and I'd really like to have them back. Perhaps someone took them and then changed his/her mind, dumping them in a closet somewhere.

So PLEASE, if you have seen any gold shoes around the church somewhere, do let me know. They are of little value to anyone but me (or maybe another organist with small feet.) I'd be so happy to find them in their place by the organ.

THANK YOU

Joy Briggs

King Institute of Faith and Culture Lecture Series



King Institute of Faith and Culture 2022-23 Lecture series will begin with a lecture at Central Presbyterian on Wednesday August 24, at 7 p.m. This will be held in Central Hall. The speaker is Jill Baumgaertner, who taught at Wheaton for years and is the poetry editor for the Christian Century. In the evening, Jill will do a reading, and then lead some discussion of the use of poetry in worship, which is one of her areas of expertise. Everyone is welcome to join us for this event.

Church Security...

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 and latch 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.

Grief Support Group for Widows

On Wednesday, August 24, at 1:30 p.m., there will be an organizational gathering for those who are widows and want to support and care for one another. This is an open group to those of our community as well as for our church. We will discuss the best day(s) and times(s) to meet as well as whether we want to use a curriculum. No matter where you are in your grief journey, you are invited to join us. If you have any questions or want to be a part of the group but cannot attend on August 24, please talk to Ann Aichinger.



The Gardening Group will meet on **Saturday, August 27**, at 9:00 a.m. to continue to work on the flower beds and weedy areas at the church. Everyone is welcome to help out. Please bring your tools, gloves, and water. There will be a break about 10:30 for devotion and snacks. This group will work until noon or they run out of energy!

Wednesday Night dinner and program

It is time to get things going again at the church, and we will start our Wednesday night dinner and programs on Wednesday, **August 31, 5:30-7 p.m.** with a cookout. We do ask that you **please sign up so we can plan meals adequately** for those who attend. Our programs for the month of September are:



- August 31: Getting back together
- September 7: Game night—Josie Russell will lead
- September 14: Table Bible Study---Valerie Coker will lead
- September 21: Ann Aichinger will share highlights of her Europe trip
- September 28: Making Blessing bags and Hygiene kits and “What is Forgiveness?”

Upcoming Sermons...

August 21	What If We Did What the Lord Required? Micah 6: 6-8	Central Hall
August 28	What If We Dreamed New Possibilities? Joel 2:28-29; Isaiah 61: 1-8	Sanctuary
September 4:	Rev. Ann Elyse Hicks, Presbytery Leader, guest preacher With Communion	Central Hall
September 11:	Dr. Martin Dotterweich, King Univ., guest preacher	Sanctuary
September 18:	Dr. Martin Dotterweich, King Univ., guest preacher	Central Hall



Session Highlights

Central Life

The Session met on Tuesday, August 16, both by Zoom and in person. John Dodge and John Barker reported on the Abingdon Presbytery meeting which was held on August 11. The Session took action on the following items:

- ♦ Received and welcomed into the membership of Central Presbyterian Church, Terry Graybeal and Frances and Glen Van Dyke who transfer from Windsor Avenue Presbyterian Church.
- ♦ Approved the guest ministers while Ann Aichinger is away in September.
- ♦ Approved the minutes of the July Session Meeting and the Meeting of the Board of Directors for the Corporation.
- ♦ Approved the hiring of Kevin Lyons as our new Office Administrator. He will begin work soon.
- ♦ Heard updates from the committees. Admin Committee reported that the Bristol Music Club will hold their annual Scholarship Event at Central on November 5, 2022.
- ♦ Approved the Christian Education report about starting Wednesday night dinners and programs on August 31, 5:30 – 7 p.m.
- ♦ Approved the start of Sunday School for children and an additional Adult Sunday School class on October 2 at 10 a.m.
- ♦ The Church computers have been updated and have daily backups. Thank you to Rich Williams for working on this for us.
- ♦ Accepted Connie Bullock's resignation as chair of the Memorial Committee. We thank her for her service through the years in this leadership role.
- ♦ Thank you to Mike Vollmer, Larry Clarke, and Gale Thompson for all the work they have been doing to maintain our building, cleaning floors and carpets, and repairing doors. We greatly appreciate your giving of your time.
- ♦ Gale Thompson will be working on re-establishing the Security Committee.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 20, 7 p.m. both by Zoom and in person.

Welcome to Kevin Lyons, Office Administrator

We welcome Kevin Lyons as our new office Administrator. He will begin work soon. He lives in Abingdon, and has had lots of experience managing an office. Be sure to stop by the church and introduce yourself to him. Remember there is one of him and many of us. Keep telling him your name so that he becomes more familiar with us as a church family. Welcome, Kevin!!



To Mask or not to Mask? That is the question!

The policy still stands that those who want to wear masks while in worship, or in the building, are encouraged to do so. It is not required, but with the rise in numbers of COVID cases in our area, as well as the presence of the very contagious BA-5 variant, masks or face coverings are encouraged. This is out of concern for each individual as well as for the community. We are continuing with our live-streaming option on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. as well as the pre-recorded service which is posted on Saturday evening.

September Birthdays



Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Happy birthday! Happy birthday! Happy birthday!

Ken Hale	1	Paul Conco	18
Ben Morris	2	Beth Parks	21
Jim Keith	5	Gale Thompson	23
Andrew Prince	5	Seth Hall	23
William Wampler	9	Carter Wade	24
Don Hagaman	9	Bill Lamie	25
Paige Thompson	12	Kimberly Parks	25
Katherine Campbell	12	Wes Ritchie	25
Maddy Wilson	13	Ken Brittle	27
Patty Canter	15	Thais Sikora	27
Niki McGrew	15	Randall Mercer	27
Rich Williams	15	Ashton Waldron	30
Myron Wilson	16		

Happy birthday!

Happy birthday!

A post-presbytery meeting meditation

By Zach Baker

I wish to express sincere gratitude to our beloved Pastor Ann Aichinger, as well as to John Dodge and John Barker for graciously allowing me to visit and observe Thursday's meeting of Abingdon Presbytery, held at Sugar Hollow Park. Sincere thanks also to Walnut Grove for their wonderful hospitality. It is always a blessing to pray with and for the church and for the world, and to be able to do so outdoors in God's creation is an added blessing, indeed.

As per the Book of Order, as a visitor and non-elder, I did not have vote or floor voice at Presbytery meeting, and that is okay! It is certainly a joy to reflect on how God's Spirit was moving in the midst of that moment and time, and praise God that God's Spirit continues to be at work.

Beloved, we truly are a connectional church. Not only as a community known as Central Presbyterian Church, or as Abingdon Presbytery, or the Mid-Atlantic Synod of the Presbyterian Church (USA). So much more than that. We are members of the household of God, beloved and highly valued members of the human family, as well as beloved and highly valued members of God's creation. As such, we have the awesome responsibility and pleasure to work in collaboration with our God. May God's name ever be praised, and may God's kingdom ever include ALL. After all, it's not about "us". And, in this kingdom, there is more than enough room!

I offer the following as a prayer in light of this meeting:

Living God, who is without end and whose love is beyond measure, in You we live, move, and have our being. With You and for You, may it be our earnest desire, by your grace and guidance, to proclaim the gospel, that humanity may know You and to make your love be authentically known. May all of Your children turn to You as our shelter, that You may nurture us all, and to ever enjoy fellowship with You and one another. May we never cease to worship and serve You, to the Glory of Your Divine Majesty, in all that we say and do, that Your truth may reign supreme. Help us to be ambassadors of Your Righteousness as Your Kingdom of heaven touches earth. Amen.

Abingdon Presbytery Highlights:

Abingdon Presbytery met on Thursday, August 11 at Sugar Hollow Park. We gathered at 10:30 a.m. and worship was interspersed throughout the business of the day. Rebecca Taylor, Pastor at Hillsville Presbyterian Church led us in a didactic style of Scripture study on "What is the Kingdom of Heaven?" by examining six different parables. We welcomed Olanda Carr from the Presbyterian Foundation who gave us a report and reminded us of the resources they offer to congregations. Ann Aichinger gave the Committee on Ministry report explaining what triennial visits are all about and how they are opportunities to strengthen our relationships in the Presbytery. Rev. Kevin Campbell, pastor at Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church gave a report from his experience at the 2022 General Assembly. He highlighted aspects to the changes of policy and to the Book of Order. Then we shared in a wonderful lunch. In the midst of the sprinkles of rain, we enjoyed the lovely setting among God's gift of creation.

Mission Aware:

Central Presbyterian Church is known for its involvement in a variety of missions and ministries. But you may not realize how we are involved both locally and nationally as well as with ministries around the world. We participate in the four PCUSA Offerings each year which go to support a variety of needs as well as advocating for issues and people. Those offerings are the Peace and Global Witness Offering (October), the Joy Offering (December), One Great Hour of Sharing (Easter), the Pentecost offering (take on Pentecost). A percentage of these offerings provide for local ministries, and the balance goes to assist globally. We also take up special offering for Sunnyside Communities (Mother's Day or Father's Day), the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands (Thanksgiving), Pastor's Service Fund (Christmas Eve), Bristol Emergency Food Pantry, and Bristol Faith in Action.

Part of our budget work is to be given from our annual resources to assist and strengthen ministries with particular interest of our church. These include supporting the care of children: the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands (in Wytheville) as well as our own Backpack ministry. We support local ministries of Abuse Alternative, Bristol Emergency Food Pantry, Healing Hands Health Clinic, Bristol Faith in Action, Crossroads Medical Mission, Holston Habitat for Humanity, and the Community Garden located at the Boys and Girls Club in Bristol, VA. We support the Central Appalachian Project team who goes to Eastern Kentucky to work for a week. Because we are a connectional church and we belong to the PCUSA, we support the work of Abingdon Presbytery, the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic and the General Assembly. The Wild Goose New Worshipping Community (Floyd County) receives a special gift as they continue to serve that area of our Presbytery. We support two PCUSA mission co-workers that serve in the world: Dr. Robert and Elizabeth Turk, and Revs. Scott and Elmarie Parker.

But our monetary giving is not the only way we support the work and ministry of Christ in this world. We have people involved in these local ministries serving as volunteers as well as several being on staff. We have volunteers who dig in the dirt and help children to learn about growing food. There are those who serve as Reading Buddies and assist children in learning to read. We have volunteers who gather weekly to pack bags of food for children for the weekend, and we have individuals who cook monthly for Meals on Wheels and four teams that deliver the meals. We have teams that work at the Food Pantry as well as at the United Company Soup Kitchen.

We know that we have missed mentioning many who are out serving in our community and making a difference by giving of time and sharing abilities. You are appreciated for your willingness to give of yourself and to truly make a difference in this world. We continue our prayers for those agencies that are willing to provide opportunities to serve. We wanted you to know and be aware of some of our ministries and missions that you support through your giving.



Thank You!...

Central Life



Thank you to Josie Russell and Ann Aichinger and all the youth for their hard work and for their sharing about their Montreat experiences as a part of the Youth Sunday Worship on August 7. Thank you to Ada Ritchie, Maddie Harris, Callie Eckley, Lee Jones, Bella Ritchie, Carly Bolling, Kiera Hamrick, Aiden Kite, JayCee Kite, Leland Lane, and Stella Kite (who worked the computer).

Thank you notes have been received from:

- > Sunnyside Community for our Father's Day offering gift and for our kind and generous support;
- > Communities in Schools for our support of the Back to School Clothing drive as well as our gift of \$1,870 for the high school kids' clothing purchases.

Have you seen the updated church Website?

CentralPresBristol.org has been updated and continues to be worked on. This is a great place to find out what is happening, to get a worship bulletin for the Sunday live-streamed service, as well as the pre-recorded service, and to get the current newsletter. **Thank you to Josie Russell for working on this and updating the pictures and information.**

Calendar for August 17 - September 1, 2022

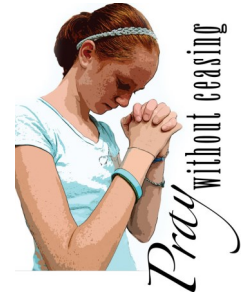
Wednesday, August 17	12:00 Noon 7:00 p.m.	Central Life published Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, August 21	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School Worship - Central Hall (pre-recorded and live-streamed available)
Tuesday, August 23	6:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	Embroiderers' Guild Sabbatical Dream Team
Wednesday, August 24	1:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Grief Group for Widows organizational meeting Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal King Institute Event
Saturday, August 27	9:00 a.m.	Gardening Group
Sunday, August 28	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School Worship - Sanctuary (pre-recorded and live-streamed available)
Wednesday, August 31	12:00 Noon 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Central Life published Wednesday Night Activities begin—Cookout Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, September 1	10:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m.	Meals on Wheels delivery Care & Concern Committee



Note: Names will be on the prayer list for one month, unless otherwise requested. Please help us keep this list up to date and accurate by contacting the church office to add or remove names from this list. Thank you!

Pastoral Concerns:

- ♦ Bob Ingram broke his leg and is at home;
- ♦ Ken Moss is waiting for word on treatment and/or surgery;
- ♦ Ed Whitehead had successful heart ablation on Tuesday;
- ♦ Mark McCord broke his big toe;
- ♦ Robert Campbelle continues radiation treatments;
- ♦ Niki McGrew continues to deal with her health concerns;



Continued Prayers for:

Randy Broyles, Bob & Becky Ingram, Bessie Kitts, Alice Owenby, Ed Updyke, Allen & Retta Vance, Linda Wise.

Prayers for Family Members and Friends:

Jane Davis Copenhaver, (Bobby Davis' sister) is having knee surgery; Roy Smith (Cathy White's father); Roger McGee (Christy Blevins' father) as he deals with some health concerns; Glenda Leonard (friend of Missy McCord); Kellen Napier Napier (7 month old with cancer); Connie Perry, (Sandy Wilson's aunt, who has cancer); Jamie Butcher and family (dealing with restoring their home after a fire); Orion Callison, III (son of Peggy Callison); Jean Bowman (Kevin Lyons' grandmother), who had a stroke.

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



Barbara Mann and Thais Sikora send out cards throughout the month to those on the prayer list. They need blank cards (and envelopes) and those with a "Thinking of You" or "Sending you a hello" type of greeting (also with envelopes). If you have cards and are willing to share them, please drop them off at the church office. They are greatly appreciated.

Memorials...

To the General Fund for Genie Vance Kilday by Jean Thomason;

To the General Fund for Don Miller by Price & Kara Fowler, Jean Thomason, and Dale & Molly Keller

New Directories:

We have a new directory that is updated. You can pick up a copy for your household in the entry area or in the church office. If any information has changed, please let the church office know (office.cpc@bvu.net).

NEW ADDRESS...**HOUSE NUMBER CHANGE ONLY:**

Jim and Joan Keith
1625 Hatterdale Farm Drive
Blountville, TN 37617-5358



331 Euclid Avenue
Bristol, VA 24201-4013
Phone: 276-669-3157
Fax: 276-669-7362
E-mail: office.cpc@bvuvu.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.



How to contact us:

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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.

