



# CENTRAL LIFE

## *Ponderings from a Rocker*

**Central Presbyterian Church**

Here we are in the middle of Advent. It seems that each year these four weeks leading up to Christmas move faster and faster. But I think that Advent is one of those gifts given to Christians and is a call for us to slow down---to pause---to even take moments of rest. (*I know that I am preaching to myself as I need to slow down and pause as well.*) Advent invites us to reflect upon the coming of the Christ child as well as the presence of God in our lives and world. It is also a time for us to consider the return of Jesus and how we are preparing for that event.

The color of Advent is purple (the same as Lent), which is the color for royalty and repentance. Typically the hymns and music are in minor keys and more contemplative in their message. The scripture in the season does not have shepherds and babies---but instead focus on being prepared and ready for the coming of the Lord.

One way to approach Advent is to consider it to be a Spiritual Practice. To take those moments in our days and weeks leading up to Christmas to pause, to be silent, to ponder the incompleteness of our world which still faces conflict and violence, suffering on so many levels as well as the darkness waiting for the True Light to come in. Advent is a time to practice patience and kindness, gentleness and goodness---maybe to the stranger in our midst. Advent is a season to see the humanity of one another and also to recognize the image of Christ is one another.

Here at Central we have all kinds of events and activities. Yes, it is a busy schedule with things happening for all ages. But you do not need to feel obligated to attend everything. But choose what will help you in this Advent time to prepare for the coming of the Lord. Maybe it is worship each of the Sundays and to hear the words of scripture that call us to be prepared. Maybe it is to be in fellowship on Wednesday nights and to find a sense of community in Central hall as we share a meal together, make ornaments and share in the Nativity story. Maybe the Longest Night Service on Monday, Dec 19 is what you need to acknowledge the grief and pain of this world in the midst of the angel's song to rejoice. Maybe it is the Christmas Eve services---as we sing carols, and hear the Christmas story and sit in the dimness and watch the candle light fill the space.

I hope that you will take this season as a gift to you and your family. To receive it with gentleness and wonder as we draw closer to Christmas Day. As the season of Christmas approaches, may you and your family and friends, as well as all of the church family here at Central be blessed as we prepare for the Lord's return and celebrate our God who breaks into our world and moves into our neighborhood.

Happy Advent, my friends!  
Ann

## **A Manger for the Messiah**

*by Mark Foster*

*adapted by Robert Campbell*

**Sunday, December 11, at 3:00 PM in Central Hall**



George F. Handel, whose oratorio *Messiah* has taken London by storm, has been invited by Charles Wesley and city fathers to conduct a performance of the work in Bristol, England. Wesley also invites Handel to dine at his house and to hear members of the church choir who want to sing in the performance. Some of the church choir members also hope to sing some of the solos.

The church congregation does not have enough money to pay an honorarium to Handel, so they plan to present him with an exquisite Nativity set from the Holy Land. Problems occur when Handel arrives in Bristol with his own professional soloists in tow. The Bristol singers who have been working on the solos are not happy! But Handel is very eager to hear the local soloists and choir.

After a rehearsal, dessert is served. While they are eating, Sarah Wesley gives her husband the bad news that the Baby Jesus from the Nativity set is missing. When dessert is over, Handel prepares to leave. Wesley offers their thanks to Handel for honoring them with his presence and presents him with the nativity. Just as Wesley starts to explain about the missing Baby Jesus, Charles Jr., the Wesley's son, comes in to save the day!

You won't want to miss this performance of "A Manger for the Messiah!"



### Central Presbyterian will be Sponsoring a Ukrainian Family

What an exciting time to be a part of Central Presbyterian Church! On Monday, Dec 5, the Session met in a Called meeting to hear about the option of sponsoring a Ukrainian family to come and be relocated here in Bristol, TN. The Session voted unanimously and with great enthusiasm to do this. So, as the paperwork is being filed through United For Ukraine (USA Government agency overseeing the Ukrainian refugee immigration) and as the family is given next instructions, we hope that you will be supportive in this mission.

The family we will be sponsoring consists of Igor Mashkin and his wife Ann, and their son Nikita who is 13 years old, and daughter Eva who is 8 years old. Currently they are in Odessa, Ukraine and living with daily bombings. Igor and Ann are both professional accountants with computer skills, and desire to live in the southeastern part of the US. They contacted the pastor at Celebration Church, and he connected this opportunity with us as a church.

At this point, what we know is that the family will move soon from Odessa to Poland, and then fly from there to Knoxville sometime in mid to late January. John and Linda Barker have graciously offered their basement as an apartment for them for several months. In the first 4-6 months, we as a church will be helping them to get acclimated to this area as well as helping them to get to appointments, classes, and to find employment. We will also be helping them connect with the other Ukrainians who are already settling here in the Tri-cities through Celebration Church's work since June, 2022.

As part of our work in caring for them, we will have a special fund for their expenses as needed. This will be a way to provide for them in acquiring an apartment and setting up their own home by summer. Also from this account, we will reimburse them for their flights from Poland to the US (estimated at \$4,000 total). and provide other needs as they arise. We need to have at least \$10,000 in this fund to secure their financial needs. If you would like to contribute to this fund, please mark your gift **Ukrainian account**. We will continue to be their support and sponsor for up to 2 years as they make Bristol their home.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us as a church to truly welcome a family who seeks safety, security, and desires a new place to call home. We are still learning the details involved, but the Session asks that you join us as we pray for Igor, Ann, Nikita, and Eva as they begin making the journey to a new life here in Bristol, TN.

Jesus said, "And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'" Matthew 25:40.

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### Presbyterian World Mission Co-worker Letter -

#### Dan & Elizabeth Turk

Dan and Elizabeth Turk are missionaries serving in Madagascar. They have written a letter entitled: Serving God through Addressing the HIV Crisis which first appeared on Presbyterian Mission Agency. Please use the link to access this letter.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/letter/serving-god-through-addressing-the-hiv-crisis/>





**Join us for the weekly  
Wednesday supper and program!**

**Upcoming programs and menus:**

December 7:	Breakfast for Dinner( Egg Casserole and Pancakes) Making Christmas Ornaments to give away
December 14:	Special Chicken Dinner Nativity Program
December 21—Jan 4:	No Supper or Activities
January 11:	Supper and Activities resume

**Making Ornaments for those who work on Christmas Day or during the holidays**

On **Wednesday, Dec 7**, after our Wednesday dinner we will be making ornaments to share with those who have to work on Christmas Day and on the holidays. These ornaments will be available for you to take and give away as you want to share Christmas joy with others. These ornaments can be given to many people who provide services for us: convenient store workers, EMTs, Fire and Police, Hospital workers, restaurant wait staff, and many others. You may pick up ornaments in the entry area and deliver to those who serve in this season.



**Just a Friendly Reminder to All Presbyterian Women!**

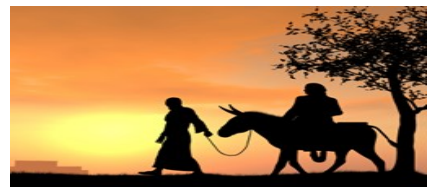
We will **NOT** have our regular meeting in December, but will meet in January and study two lessons then. Have a Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Your Co-ordinators: Mary Ann Blevins and Thais Sikora

**JOURNEY'S END, Tuesday, December 13, at 6:00 pm**

On Tuesday, Dec. 13, at 6 p.m., everyone is invited to join us for Los Posadas, or Journey's End. We will meet at the Country Music mural at the Farmer's Market in Bristol, TN and then follow Mary and Joseph as they search for a place where Jesus can be born. As we wander down State Street, we will sing carols, and approach 6 places that are "inns." Mary and Joseph will ask if they can come in and find lodging, but are continually turned away. Then the group will end up at the Paramount Theater\*, where we all will be welcomed in, and have time for fellowship and refreshments. We will have the alpacas from Dreamland to join us for this journey. This is fun for all ages. Dress warmly and come on this journey to find a welcoming place. There is no rain date, so watch for information if the weather is inclement.

\*Following Journey's End—the Senior Show Choir will have their Christmas Concert at the Paramount beginning at 7:30 p.m.



## Upcoming Worship Services

## Central Life

December 11: \*\* **One Combined Service at 10:00 a.m.** \*\*  
Third Sunday of Advent: A Season of Responding and Rejoicing  
December 18: Fourth Sunday of Advent: A Season of Rejoicing and Love  
December 24: Christmas Eve Services 5:00 P.M and 7:00 P.M.  
December 25: Christmas Day (11:00 a.m.) Lessons and Carols—Sanctuary  
January 01: New Year's Day Service—11:00 in Central Hall



### Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Services, December 24, 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The Christmas Eve services are a highlight in the Advent/Christmas season. As we sing the familiar carols, retell the Christmas story, and lift our candles singing Joy To the World, we celebrate God breaking into our world, and how our world is still shaped by the birth of the Christ Child. The Christmas story tells us of a God who so loved the world, that God sent his own Son, and that God is still at work doing new things.

### Christmas Day Worship, December 25, 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

We will gather for a time to sing carols and hear scriptures and other writings about the celebration of Christmas.

You are invited to dress casually and come join in celebrating the birth of Christ.

**THE CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING** goes to the Central Presbyterian Church Service Fund that allows us meet extraordinary situations for our members and friends of Central.

This is used at the discretion of the Pastor.

You can make donations to this fund at any time of the year.



**APPLE Academy is desperately in need of a new clothes washer.**

Their clothes washer stopped working this week.

If you or anyone you know has one in working condition that you would like to donate please let Michelle Blankenship or Angie know as soon as possible.

You can reach them at: (276) 669-9328 or [applepreschool@yahoo.com](mailto:applepreschool@yahoo.com)

**Monday, Dec 19 at 7 pm**

### **A Longest Night Service of Worship.**

This is an opportunity for all who find this season difficult or tiresome, who feel the losses in life, and need a place to pause and reflect.

So why have a Longest Night Service? The Christmas season is often marked by expressions of joy, excitement, and happiness. It's a time for family to gather, and for churches to worship pointing to the hope that is found in the coming of the Christ child. However, this time of joy and expectation can often overshadow the pain and hurt many experience during this season.

It's a worship service scheduled around the winter solstice (the longest night of the calendar) which is December 21. It is noted that this day is the traditional feast day for Saint Thomas the Apostle. This invites us to make some connections between Thomas's struggle to believe the story of Jesus' resurrection, the long nights just before Christmas, and the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with loss.

This service is a witness to all that the Christ child comes as a sign of hope in the face of despair. It is a way for our church family to acknowledge the various seasons of life that people may find themselves in. You are invited to come away from the busy-ness of the season, to reflect and remember, and to see that the light of Christ does come into our darkness. All are welcomed to this service. It will be about 45 minutes in length and held in Central Hall.



### **Christmas Joy Offering—Sunday, December 18, 2022**

Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Since the 1930s, it has been an annual tradition to receive the Christmas Joy Offering in the PCUSA. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions  
Racial Ethnic Schools and Colleges  
Racial Ethnic Leadership Development

To learn more about the Christmas Joy Offering, please visit:

The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions: [www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org), click on Plans & Programs

Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges: [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/resc/](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/resc/).

From this page, you can also link to the institutions supported.

This offering will be taken on **Sunday, December 18**, as a part of our regular offering.

There are special envelopes available. If you want to make a gift to the Christmas Joy offering, please mark your check or envelope with Joy Offering, or you can make an online gift at any time throughout the year at [www.specialofferings.pcusa.org/christmasjoy.html](http://www.specialofferings.pcusa.org/christmasjoy.html)



## Calendar for December 7, 2022 - January 1, 2022



Wednesday, December 7	12:00 Noon 1:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Central Life published Widow's Grief Group Wednesday Night Supper and Activities Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, December 11	10:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 3:00 p.m.	Unity Worship— Sanctuary Youth Group—meet at the church A Manger for the Messiah—Central Hall
Monday, December 12	12:00 p.m.	Security Meeting
Tuesday, December 13	6:00 p.m.	No Presbyterian Women's Group Journey's End
Wednesday, December 14	5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Supper and Nativity Program Choir Rehearsal
Friday, December 16	12:00 p.m.	Apple Academy Christmas Program
Sunday, December 18	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 2:00 p.m. 4:00 p.m.	Contemporary Worship - Central Hall Sunday School for all ages Traditional Worship - Sanctuary Youth Christmas Party Thriving Community Cohort—via Zoom
Monday, December 19	7:00 p.m.	Longest Night Service—Central Hall
Tuesday, December 20	12:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting & Lunch Session meeting—Hybrid
Wednesday, December 21	12:00 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Central Life published Widow's Grief Group No Dinner/Activity Choir Rehearsal
Saturday, December 24	5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service—Central Hall Christmas Eve Service—Sanctuary
Sunday, December 25	11:00 a.m.	Christmas Service—Sanctuary “Lessons and Caroling”
Monday, December 26 & 27		Church Office Closed
Thursday, December 29—December 31		No Activities
Sunday, January 1	11:00 a.m.	New Year's Day Service—Central Hall

## Youth Group

***Wednesday, December 7***

5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Dinner and making Christmas Ornaments to pass out to people who have to work on Christmas Day.

***Sunday, December 11***

**2:00 p.m.—3:00 p.m.**

Advent lessons and games THEN, stay and join me, and others from the church for “A Manger for the Messiah,” a play written by our very own Robert Campbelle which will be performed in Central Hall.

***Wednesday, December 14***

**5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m.**

Dinner and Christmas Play for Children—all are welcome to be involved.

No rehearsal or preparation needed!

***Sunday, December 18***

**2:00 p.m.—3:30 p.m.**

***Christmas Party at the Church***



We will resume our regular Youth Group meetings after the beginning of the New Year!



## **New Year's Day Worship, January 1, 11 a.m. in Central Hall**

This year as the new year comes in on a Sunday, we understand that many people stay up late to welcome 2023.

As it is a Sunday, we will gather for one service in Central Hall at 11:00 a.m. We will celebrate Communion together as a part of this service.

## **Nativities Available...**

Miniature nativities are from France. They are available for purchase in the church office and on display outside of the church office.

You may purchase and take your Nativity with you.

Please complete the order form and return with your payment to the church office.





### **Congratulations:**

To Callie Eckley for being inducted into the National Honor Society and the National Beta Club at Tennessee High School.

To Kiera Hamrick for being inducted into the Junior Beta Club at Vance Middle School.

To Bella Ritchie for being inducted into the Junior Beta Club at Vance Middle School.

### **Pastoral Concerns:**

Joan Keith as she recovers from her illness;

Jim Keith as he regains his strength from being ill;

Mildred Rutherford, Dori Hall's aunt who is recovering from a fall and is at NHC for Rehab;

Randy Broyles as he recovers from an infection;

Jeanne Kiger who is recovering from a car accident;

Paige Thompson as she recovers from bronchitis;

Ken and Cathy Moss as they travel to Knoxville for Ken's treatments.

### **Continued Prayers for:**

Randy Broyles, Travis Campbell, Bob & Becky Ingram, Jim & Joan Keith, Niki McGrew, Alice Owenby, Ed Updyke, Retta Vance, and Linda Wise.

### **Prayers for Family Members and Friends:**

Roy Smith (Cathy White's father); Roger McGhee (Christy Blevins' father); Connie Perry, (Sandy Wilson's aunt,); Jamie Butcher and family (with their home restoration); Orion Callison, III (son of Peggy Callison).

### **Deepest Sympathy for:**

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Terry Parks who died after a very short illness on Sunday, November 20. Her memorial service was held at Central on Saturday, November 26.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mary Moffatt and her family in the death of her step-mother, Dot Young on Monday, Dec 5, 2022. The memorial service will be at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7, at Farris Funeral Home.

We extend our deepest sympathy to the King University Community and to Abingdon Presbytery in the death of Rev. Dr. Don Hudson on November 15, 2022 in Anchorage, Alaska. A memorial service will be held at the King University Chapel on Tuesday, December 13, at 10 a.m.

***Please call the church office (276-669-3157) with any pastoral concerns.***

### **Memorial Gifts...**

To the Memorial Fund for Allen Vance by Tara Murnane;

To the Service Fund for Allen Vance by Ed & Verle Sutphin;

To the General Fund for Paul Cox by Jean Thomason;

To the Widow's Grief Group for Don Miller by Ed & Verle Sutphin.

To the General Fund in Memory of David Fletcher by Bob Smith;

To the General Fund in Memory of Allen Vance by Mary Kirkpatrick;

To the Misc. Contributions-Children's Program in memory of Terry Parks by Nancy Kiser, Marjorie (Skip) Taylor, Mrs. Ernie Marie Gross, and Mrs. Amy Francisco.

### **Honorary Gift...**

To the Service Fund in appreciation of Ann Aichinger by Ed & Betty Whitehead.



## The Sabbatical Team is changing their name

The Sabbatical Team is working hard on writing a grant to fund a time of renewal for Pastor Ann Aichinger in July-September, 2024. But this three month time will also be an opportunity for renewal for Central Presbyterian Church. As they are working on this grant which will be submitted to the Lily Foundation, there has been a change in the name of the project.

Often the word Sabbatical is associated with educational institutions and faculty who are given time away to write a book or do further research in a particular area. But the Lily Foundation has decided to change the focus of a pastor's extended time away from creating a report or project at the end to allowing pastors to have an extended time for renewal of body, soul and spirit.

So the name of the team overseeing the project and writing the grant is now the **Renewal Team**. Those serving are John Barker, John Dodge, Sheree Taylor, Marguerite Buckley, Tim Landis, Donnie Spurell, and Ann Aichinger. They ask for your prayers as they finish writing the grant. There will be opportunities for the congregation to ask questions and to learn more about the renewal time. Then at the Congregational Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 5, the team will present the grant for approval and then submit it by March 15.

If you have any questions, feel free to talk to any member of the team. The team is excited about how this will be a chance of renewal and refocus for our work and ministry here at Central and to offer Ann Aichinger some time away as well.



### CPC Backpack Ministry

The CPC Backpack Ministry supplies 36 food bags a week to two of our elementary schools. We have a volunteer group that purchases, stores, packs and delivers these bags each week. This past week we had a very welcome surprise. A group of student nurses from King University had offered to help with our supply of foods that we pack each week.

A list of our items were given to them and they delivered three cart loads of items to us this past week.

We are very appreciative of their donation.

The picture to the left shows the student nurses and the carts full of food they contributed the week of December 8, 2022.

## 2023 Pledge Cards

Thank you to all who have made a pledge to support the work and ministry of Central Presbyterian Church in 2022. The Session and leadership appreciate everyone's efforts to increase the giving for 2023. If you have not gotten your pledge card in, please do so as soon as you can, so the Session can set the 2023 Budget for the Mission and Ministry here at Central. If you have any questions about the finances or about your giving options, please talk to Mary Moffatt or John Barker, Finance Chairperson.

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[www.CentralPresBristol.org](http://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  
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	<a href="mailto:ann.cpc@bvuvu.net">ann.cpc@bvuvu.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. Social Media Coordinator	<a href="mailto:josieannrussell@gmail.com">josieannrussell@gmail.com</a>
Brenda Lester, Administrative Assistant, Newsletter Editor	<a href="mailto:office.cpc@bvuvu.net">office.cpc@bvuvu.net</a>
Mary Moffatt, Finance Director	<a href="mailto:finance.cpc@bvuvu.net">finance.cpc@bvuvu.net</a>
Sumer Lowry, Kitchen Coordinator	<a href="mailto:sumerlowry83@gmail.com">sumerlowry83@gmail.com</a>
Michelle Blankenship Dir. of APPLE Academy	<a href="mailto:applepreschool@yahoo.com">applepreschool@yahoo.com</a>

## Office Hours:

The current office hours are:  
9:00 to 3:00 Monday—Thursday  
9:00 to 12:00 Friday

Please call 276-669-3157 for  
office hour changes and updates.

