



Ponderings from a Rocking Chair

CENTRAL LIFE

Central Presbyterian Church
February 22, 2023

Today (February 22) we begin the liturgical season of Lent. We move from Epiphany when we focus on the revelations of God in our lives and the light that shines in Christ to a season where we pause and consider the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem and his sacrifice and gift of life and salvation for us all. Lent lasts 40 days (not including Sundays) and goes until Easter Sunday. The liturgical color is purple, which is a reminder that it is a season of reflection, penitence, and preparation.

Oftentimes we associate Lent with a season of fasting or the giving up of something we like, for example, coffee or chocolate or caffeine or soft drinks. It was originally a time to give up something that was in the way of your faith, and deepening in your trust in God. But Lent is more than just a season to give up something. It is a time to reflect on our journey with Jesus as we move toward Good Friday and the Crucifixion.

But what if instead of giving up coffee or chocolate, we decided to fast from something in order to take on a new discipline or a new spiritual practice. So I offer these words as a way to consider our journey in this Lenten season.

- Let us fast from speaking hurtful words, and be willing to say kind words.
- Let us fast from sadness, and be filled with gratitude.
- Let us fast from anger, and be filled with patience for one another.
- Let us fast from pessimism, and be filled with hope.
- Let us fast from worries, and develop a trust in God.
- Let us fast from complaining, and consider a simpler life.
- Let us fast from pressures, and be more prayerful.
- Let us fast from self-criticism, and to see ourselves as children of God.
- Let us fast from bitterness, and allow our hearts to be filled with joy.
- Let us fast from selfishness, and become compassionate toward others.
- Let us fast from holding onto grudges, and seek to be reconciled to one another.
- Let us fast from just speaking words, and live with silence so that our listening improves.

Through this season, you are invited to use one of the devotionals for Lent. This year, we are focusing on celebrating that the hymn *Amazing Grace* has been a part of church life for 250 years. This familiar hymn was written by Rev. John Newton, an Anglican clergyman and English poet. He wrote 6 verses and later added a seventh to tell his story of his spiritual journey which led him from his scandalous past as a slave trader to discovering the saving grace of Jesus Christ and his strong faith and trust in God to forgive. We have three versions of the devotional available: **A Season of Grace** (which is large print), **Amazing Grace**, and then for children **God's Grace is Great** with a mobile that can be constructed throughout the Lenten season. You can pick a copy up either at the Ash Wednesday service or on Sundays in the entry area or in the church office.

As we walk together this journey to Holy Week and Easter, let us support one another and care for each other. Let us learn together about this powerful hymn of the church and also engage with reflections on what it means to be people who live by grace. Then as we come to the rejoicing of Easter, may the reality of grace be understood and a part of our daily living as we seek to be faithful in this time and in this place.

I hope you will join us this Lenten season as we journey together.

Ann Aichinger

Let's go to Lunch is Feb. 26 at Bella's

There are menu's on the table outside of the church office.

Earth Touching Heaven: An Appalachian Requiem
Saturday, March 4, at 7:30 PM Toy Reid Center in Kingsport

Tickets are \$35 each and may be purchased at:
symphonyofthemountains.org



In memory of my parents Rose & Gene Campbelle, and for all the people worldwide who lost their lives in the pandemic.

The work will be premiered by the Symphony of the Mountains, the Voices of the Mountains, the Highlands Youth Ensemble, and the Milligan Concert Choir.

— Robert Campbelle

Lenten Organ Meditations

The Lenten Organ Meditations this year will feature three organists and will be held on Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. It is our hope that the change from Wednesdays at noon to Sunday afternoons, will allow people who otherwise could not attend, to come and enjoy the programs.

Sunday, **March 12**, will feature Timothy Hagy. A native of Bristol, Timothy graduated with honors from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York where he studied organ with David Craighead and Russell Saunders. As a Fulbright scholar, he enrolled in the Vienna Conservatory in the studio of Herbert Tachezi. He has held positions as Music Director for Episcopal churches in Swarthmore, PA, Washington, DC, Memphis, TN, and Winchester, MA, as well as the Episcopal cathedral in Providence, RI. A lifelong Francophile, Mr. Hagy taught at the *Universite de Cergy-Pontoise*, while living in Paris as an expatriate for six years. In the Tri-Cities area, he has served as musician for State Street UMC and Reformation Lutheran Parish in Greeneville. Mr. Hagy's choral compositions are published by Paraclete Press.



Mr. Hagy will be followed by Donna B.Fowlkes on Sunday, **March 19**. Donna, no stranger to Central Presbyterian, is currently serving as the organist at State Street Methodist. Donna is a graduate of Waynesboro High school, Waynesboro, VA and earned a Bachelor of Music Education from James Madison University with a concentration in organ and voice. Donna taught public and private school music in all grades in southwest VA from Wythe County to Bristol but felt her calling was to middle school students. She retired after 25+ years of teaching. Starting at age 14, Donna's piano teacher gave her organ lessons to provide a substitute in the community which led to her first full-time organist position at First Baptist Church in Waynesboro. She has enjoyed leading music and worship at area Roman Catholic, Presbyterian (PCUSA), and United Methodist churches. Donna is married to Tom Fowlkes and has 3 children and 3 grandchildren.

The Series will conclude with Joy Smith-Briggs, organist at Central Presbyterian Church, on Sunday, **March 26**.

Wednesday Night Fellowship and Activities for All Ages (5:30—7:00 p.m.)

We will continue our Wednesday night dinner and program for all ages and we hope that you will join us for a time of fellowship and study and conversation. There will be a nursery as well as activities for our children and youth.

During the Season of Lent, the adult study time on Wednesdays will be an opportunity to consider several of the people connected to the Passion of Jesus. Also Ann Aichinger will provide insights from her experience at the Oberammergau Passion Play that she attended last September. Each of these people are familiar to us, yet we might learn new things about their role in the events that led up to Jesus' death and in the days of Holy Week. There will be two Wednesdays in March that Ann will be away and Dr. Brandon Story will be here to lead a discussion on C.S. Lewis' book, *The Four Loves*. He will talk about two of the loves each week.

Wednesday, Feb 22:	Ash Wednesday service
Wednesday, March 1:	Mary, the Mother of Jesus and Mary Magdalene
Wednesday, March 8:	Peter
Wednesday, March 15:	The Four Loves: Affection and Friendship Dr. Brandon Story
Wednesday, March 22:	The Four Loves: Eros and Charity Dr. Brandon Story
Wednesday, March 29:	Pontius Pilate and Nicodemus
Wednesday, March 8:	Judas Iscariot

Sermons

Sunday, February 26:	Matthew 4:1-11	Being Shaped by the Wilderness
Sunday, March 5:	John 3:1-17	God's Amazing Love Seen
Sunday, March 12:	John 4:4-52	Water, Spirit, Life
Sunday, March 19:	Dr. Martin Dotterweich, guest Preacher	
Sunday, March 26:	John 11:1-45	The Power of Living Anew
Sunday, April 2:	Matthew 26-27	Palm/Passion Sunday



The Session has called for the Annual Congregational Meeting of Central Presbyterian Church to be held on **Sunday, March 5, 10-10:45 a.m. in Central Hall.**

The purpose of the meeting is to elect the 2023 Nominating Committee (Missy McCord (Session), Cindy Hale (Session), Jane Morison, Diane Abbey, Becka Reese (Youth), Nancy Kiser, and Linda Barker), to hear the State of the Church and update on the Renewal Grant, and to receive the 2023 budget.

Following the Congregational Meeting, there will be the Annual Meeting of the Corporation. **All members of the church are encouraged to be in attendance.** There will be nursery available and Sunday school class for children.

Youth Activities

Wednesday, February 22nd

5:30-7:00 p.m. Dinner and activities at church

Sunday, February 26th

2:00-3:00 p.m. Activities at church

3:00-4:00 p.m. Confirmation class for those involved

Wednesday, March 1st

5:30-7:00 p.m. Dinner then hanging out with the kids

Sunday, March 5th

2:00-3:30 p.m. Youth/Confirmation Class with Ann (Josie out of town)

Central Life



Presbytery Highlights

Thank you to everyone who helped with hosting Abingdon Presbytery on Thursday, Feb 9. The meeting went very smoothly and Linda Waldron attended as our commissioner. John Barker, Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery presided and did an excellent job in conducting the business of the day. We began with worship in the Sanctuary with Rev. Dr. Dave Gilbert preaching. The Sanctuary Choir offered beautiful music as a part of the worship, and Rev. Ann Elyse Hicks served as liturgist. As a part of this meeting, Dave's wife Lynn was able to attend and it was delightful to catch up with her. The offering collected 40 jars of peanut butter for the backpack program.

Then the participants moved to Central Hall where we were welcomed by Ann Aichinger. The children from Apple Academy sang several of their favorite songs. The work of the Presbytery included:
The honorable retirement of Rev. Tim Bird and Rev. Dr. Dave Gilbert effective December 31, 2022;
The dissolution of the Communications Committee and the Way Forward Advisory Committee;
The formation of an Administrative Commission for the Dissolution of Congregations;
The transfer of Rev. Jon Martin to Salem Presbytery and Rev. Susanne Martin as a member at large to Salem Presbytery;
Rev. Deidra Crosby, Teaching Elder member of East Tennessee Presbytery, was examined and admitted into the membership of Abingdon Presbytery (she is serving as the interim pastor at Green Spring);
Examination and commissioning of Rusty Gilly as a Commissioned Lay Pastor for service at Powell Valley Presbyterian Church.

At the conclusion of the business, those attending were invited to participate in two workshops:
an Alternate Sunday School presented by Wytheville Presbyterian Church
a discussion on Matthew 25 led by Rev. Ann Elyse Hicks.

We returned to Central Hall for closing and adjournment and then were served a delicious meal made by Trish James, and served by several members of Central. Thank you again for everyone's participation in hosting this meeting.

Souper Bowl of Caring/Tackle Hunger 2023

Thank you to everyone who participated in making contributions to our Super Bowl of Caring campaign. We collected 3,258 food items and dollars. The Bristol Emergency Food Pantry received all of this, and helps with providing food for our neighbors in need. As a national campaign, over 1.8 Million dollars and food items were collected and distributed to local food agencies.

One thing we saw in abundance was cat and dog food. That is one thing that you may not think of being needed, but families also have pets who are hungry. Thank you for responding so generously to this effort.

The barrels are available to collect food items. On the first Sundays of the month, we also collect a special offering to go to the PCUSA hunger program which supports our own backpack program. Central Presbyterian takes seriously our call to care for those who are hungry and in need in our local community and around the world. Thank you for your ongoing support.



tacklehunger.org

Calendar for February 22, 2023 - March 7, 2023

Wednesday, February 22	12:00 Noon 5:30 P.M. 7:15 P.M.	Central Life Published Wednesday Night Dinner and Program Choir Rehearsal
Friday, February 24	9:00 A.M.	CL Gamers—Caldwell residence
Sunday, February 26	9:00 A.M. 10:00 A.M. 11:00 A.M. 12:15 P.M. 2:00 P.M. 3:00 P.M.	Contemporary Worship Sunday School for all Ages Traditional Worship Let's Go to Lunch—Bella's Youth Group—meet at church Confirmation Class—at church
Monday, February 27	7:00 P.M.	King University Lecture— at church
Tuesday, February 28	7:00 P.M.	Renewal Team meeting
Wednesday, March 1	1:30 P.M. 5:30 P.M. 7:15 P.M.	Widow's Grief Group Wednesday Night Dinner and Program Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, March 5	9:00 A.M. 10:00 A.M. 11:00 A.M. 2:00 P.M.	Contemporary Worship—Central Hall Congregational Meeting Traditional Worship—Sanctuary Youth Group/Confirmation Class

Session Highlights

The Session met on Tuesday, February 22 at 7 p.m. Missy McCord led the devotional and opening prayer. The session spent some time sharing what they were most proud of in our ministry and work here at Central. After Ann Aichinger gave her pastoral report and reviewed the calendar, we heard the report of the Abingdon Presbytery meeting from Linda Waldron, Ann Aichinger and John Barker.

Linda Waldron reported on communications received and presented the PCUSA Annual Statistical report which is sent to the denomination. Also the Session called a congregational meeting for Sunday, March 5, 10-10:45 a.m. This meeting will be the Annual Meeting of the congregation where the 2023 nominating committee will be elected and also the Annual Corporation meeting of Central Presbyterian Church of Bristol, VA, Inc.

- The following items were approved as a part of the meeting:
- The names of those being nominated for the 2023 Nominating committee;
- The Food Pantry Volunteer luncheon at the church;
- Apple Academy new hires of staffing;
- The Child Protection Policy, which will be a part of the Manual of Operations;
- The second vote on using up to \$165,000 from the Endowment fund as needed
- Reviewed the Service Fund of 2022 expenses
- The dates for Communion in 2023
- Easter flowers this year will be hydrangeas
- Request from the Memorial Committee funds to purchase a new white parament for the sanctuary (the current one being used is stained)

The Session heard an update on the Mashkins and how they are getting settled here in Bristol, and also an update on the Renewal Grant which will be submitted by March 15 to the Lily Foundation. After hearing about the pastoral concerns in our church family, the meeting was adjourned and John Dodge closed the meeting with prayer. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 28 (a week later than usual due to Ann Aichinger's vacation).

Congratulations to:

Lindsey Hale for being named to the Dean's List at ETSU in Fall, 2022;

Randy and Phyllis Morris in the birth of a great-grandson, **Liam James Cox** born on February 14 to Megan and Connor Cox, and weighing 7 pounds, 9 ounces. They live in Knoxville, TN.

Pastoral Concerns:

Rev. Jack Stephens is now at NHC Bristol doing rehab. He is very appreciative of all the prayers; Mary and William Wampler's new granddaughter, Charlotte had heart surgery and is still in the NICU in Tampa;

Woody McGlothlin is recovering from hip replacement surgery, but ended up in ICU on Monday morning with double pneumonia;

Jeanne Kiger is at home now;

Marguerite Buckley asks for prayer for her sister, Cathy, who is dealing with serious health issues;

Missy McCord will be having knee replacement surgery in March;

Diana White's brother-in-law, Ed Fortner, had a stroke and is in Ft. Sanders Hospital in Knoxville, TN.

Continued Prayers for:

Randy Broyles, Travis Campbell, Bill Canter, Mike Ellis, Bob and Becky Ingram, Jim & Joan Keith, Jeanne Kiger, Niki McGrew, Alice Owenby, Ed Updyke, Diana White, Linda Wise.

Prayers for Family members and friends:

Christy Blevins' Dad, Roger McGhee, doing much better; Jamie Butcher & her family, with their home restoration; Orion Callison III (son of Peggy Callison); Ray Vaughn Cassell, brother of Phyllis Morris, having serious health concerns; Connie Perry (Sandy Wilson's aunt); Mildred Rutherford (Doris Hall's Aunt) has now returned to Oakmont; Roy Smith (Cathy White's father); Eugene Waldron's sister, Joy, is dealing with serious health concerns; Dave Wilson (Sandy Wilson's husband).

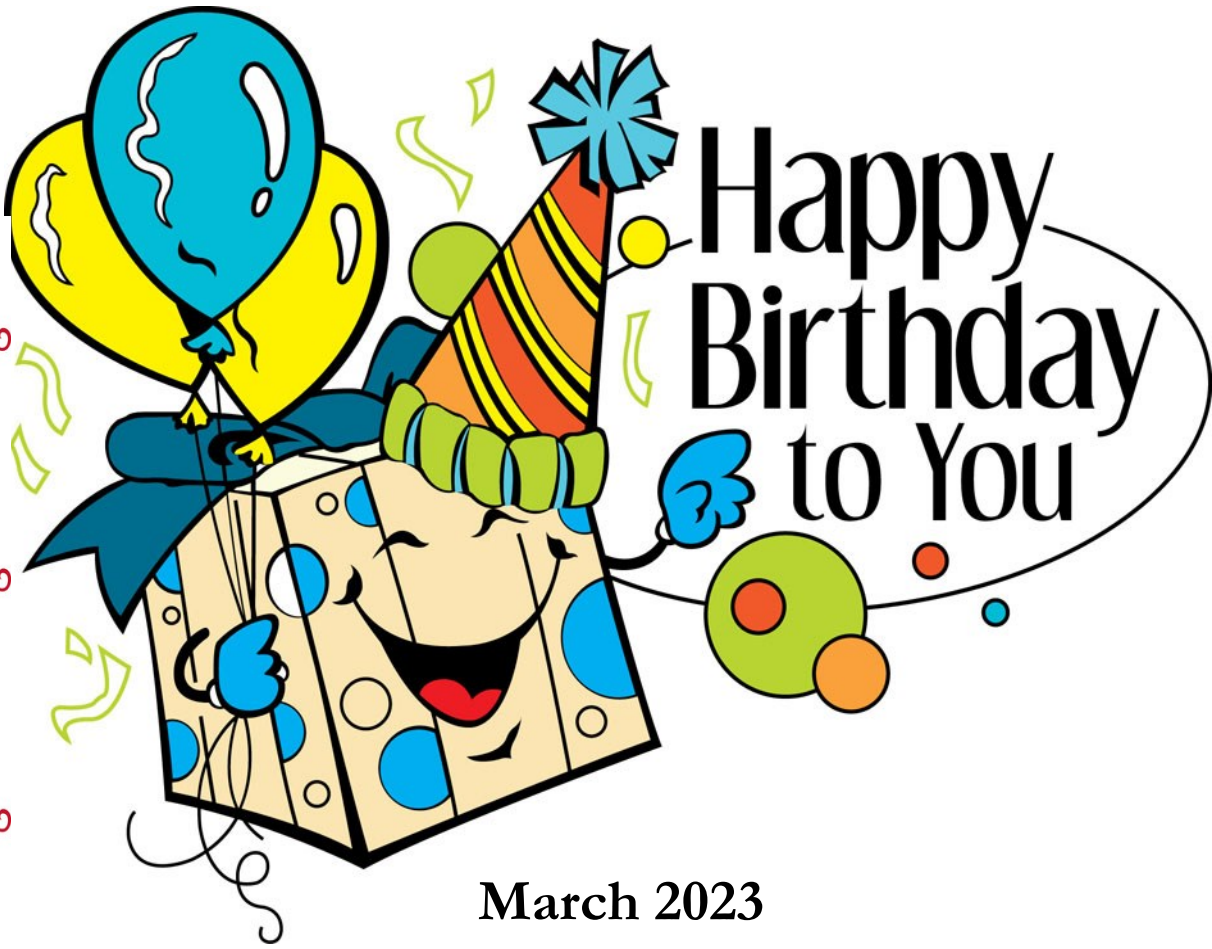
Please call the church office (276-669-3157) with any pastoral concerns.

A note of THANKS from Diana White for all of the prayers, cards, and well wishes she received during her knee replacement surgery and recovery process.



In 1979, Central Presbyterian welcomed a refugee from Bulgaria. This was during the time of the Iron Curtain and when Communism held Eastern Europe. Through the work of Church World Service, we welcomed Vladimir Radev into our church and into our lives. He was a mechanical engineer and found work here in Bristol. Over time his wife and daughter were able to join him in the US.

This last week, we found out that Vladimir died on October, 14, 2022 in Wilmington, NC surrounded by his family. You can read his obituary online at <https://www.quinnmcgowen.com/obituary/Vladimir-Radev>



March 2023

Ben Arnold	2	Bobby Davis	17
Larry Clarke	4	Lee Jones	18
Kellie Campbell	4	Ainsley Repass	19
Twana Meade	6	Winona Aday	19
Nicholas Wilson	6	Gena Prince	20
Eva McBride	8	Jim Otis	20
Jane Morison	9	Glenn Myers	21
Brian Scott	10	Bruce Hendricks	21
John Ellis	11	Tyler Franklin	21
Will Wampler	11	Courtney Reese	22
Monica Alderman	12	Wes Alderman	23
Donnie Spurell	13	Ethan VanDyke	23
Lois Clarke	15	Rebecca Meade	26
Greg Taylor	15	Robbie Blanton	29
		Missy McCord	30
		Linda Waldron	31

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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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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.

