



CENTRAL LIFE

Ponderings from a Rocking Chair

**Central Presbyterian Church
June 14, 2023**

What an exciting time to be at Central Presbyterian Church! On Monday, June 12, there was a significant meeting of leaders in the church who are discerning the will and way of God for us as a community of faith. Bringing this group together for this conversation has been in process for a while.

About 16 months ago, I put together a dream team to write the grant proposal for the 2024 Sabbatical/Renewal time. This group worked diligently looking at who Central is, and dreaming about the new possibilities for our life together. One of the big projects was to revisit and revise the Mission and Vision Statement of Central. It is important for a church to check on where we are going and how we are getting there and a vision statement is one way to put concrete ideas on paper to give a roadmap.

Then last summer, Montreat Conference Center (NC) invited our congregation to be a part of a 5 year grant program called Thriving Communities. We accepted that invitation and last October, we sent a team of 7 to begin learning the practices of reviving and enlivening communities of faith. This project puts us with 14 other churches from around the country to share and learn from one another about best practices in being the church. This team has increased and will continue to add people to be a part of this training in October, 2023 and March, 2024. Their work is not about a destination, but rather about best practices in how to live as a faith community and as disciples of Jesus Christ.

So on Monday evening these two teams, along with a few individuals, gathered in Central Hall and had an exciting and enthusiastic conversation about who Central Presbyterian Church is and how we are to be moving forward into God's great vision for us. We discussed examining the missions and ministries with whom we are involved in our work here. Also, we want to clarify the on-going ministries and invite everyone to be involved in some aspect of service in our local community and beyond. We talked about how this church is one of the best kept secrets in Bristol, and wanting to work on changing that image so people know who we are and where we are located. We agreed that we DO church well, and we need to involve more in this work. We discussed the nature of our finances and how our future will be impacted and that what we need to do is not simply *survive*, but to actually *thrive* in our future.

We are planning on having some picnics and fellowship time at one of the local parks this summer. We are looking at new ministry opportunities in which we might want to consider being involved, as well as considering new ways that God might be calling us to be Christ's disciples. We will expand this group again and invite more people to come and be a part of future conversations. Our hope is that when you are invited that you will accept and come share with us as we seek to work together to discern how God is leading us in this time.

What happened on Monday night is a start to following the path of God for us. We affirmed that we are a church of compassion and care for one another, that we are welcoming to all, and that we are a place of JOY! We ask that you continue to pray for our church and for the leadership that they might guide us well into the future. If you have any questions or want to know more about what is happening, feel free to ask. We are in an exciting time as the church here on Euclid Ave, and God is guiding us into new things.

Grace and Peace,
Ann Aichinger

SunnySide Communities Father's Day Offering June 18th

Have you ever made a plan and thought you had covered all of the bases? Then something came up that wasn't expected and before you knew it, your plan no longer worked. Sometimes unexpected changes in health can alter a plan, or an abrupt change in the stock market could alter a plan, like a recession or depression triggering a negative economic event that you have little to no control over. How about if you live longer than you thought you would? Do you think your plan would still cover all expenses, including inflation costs that we have been seeing recently since COVID hit?

Any of these changes can impact whether you have shelter, food, or even transportation. This is why we, as Presbyterians, will be taking up an offering to assist some residents who have "outlived their resources" at SunnySide Communities. Our generosity during this annual offering may be the last hope the residents have, since many have no other "resources" or "family remaining" according to SunnySide Communities.

Consider making a monetary donation to SunnySide Communities on June 18—Father's Day. An informational flyer and envelope will be provided on June 18 in the Summer Worship Bulletin.

Newly Elected Elders

On Sunday, June 11, Central Presbyterian Church elected the following to serve as the Class of 2026 Ruling Elders:

Marguerite Buckley, Susan Campbelle, Matt Coker, Barbara Mann, and Glen Van Dyke.

Thank you to the Nominating Committee for their work:

Missy McCord and Cindy Hale from the Session, Diane Abbey, Linda Barker, Nancy Kiser, Jane Morison, and Becka Reese.



Lemonade in the Shade

We have begun Lemonade in the Shade—a summertime event after services on Sundays. If your group would like to host one Sunday's Lemonade in the Shade, the schedule is on Ann Aichinger's office door, or call Kim in the office (276-669-3157) and she'll sign you up for a Sunday! We are asking that we keep this simple with lemonade, water, and cookies.

Calendar

Central Life

June 15—July 18, 2023

Thursday, June 15	6:00 p.m.	Youth to Just Jump—goodbye party for Becka Reese and Lee Jones
Saturday, June 17	10 a.m.-2 p.m.	Presbytery Youth Event—PCHH Wytheville
Sunday, June 18	Fathers' Day! 9:00 a.m.	Please donate to SunnySide Communities Adult Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Summer Worship—Central Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Lemonade in the Shade—Christian Education
Tuesday, June 20	12:00 Noon	Staff Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting
Wednesday, June 21	1:30 p.m.	Widow's Grief Group
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Friday, June 23	9:00 a.m.	CL Gamers at the Caldwell's
Sunday, June 25	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Summer Worship—Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Lemonade in the Shade—open
	11:10 a.m.	Healing Service—Chapel
	2:00 p.m.	Ordination Service for Katherine Campbell with reception to follow in Central Hall
Wednesday, June 28	Central Life goes out	
	7:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal (Final rehearsal until August)
Thursday, June 29	6:00 p.m.	Throwback Thursday (movies, fun, games!)
Sunday, July 2	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Summer Worship—Central Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Lemonade in the Shade—Choir
Monday, July 3	APPLE CLOSED	
Tuesday, July 4	APPLE & CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	
Wednesday, July 5	1:30 p.m.	Widow's Grief Group
Sunday, July 9	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Summer Worship—Sanctuary
		Martin Dotterweich is preaching
	11:00 a.m.	Lemonade in the Shade—Worship Committee
Wednesday, July 12	7:00 pm	Thriving Communities Meeting
Thursday, July 13	Ann's Birthday!	Wish Ann a very Happy Birthday today!
	6:00 p.m.	Throwback Thursday (movies, fun, games!)
Sunday, July 16	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Summer Worship—Central Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Lemonade in the Shade—Admin & Staff
Tuesday, July 18	12:00 Noon	Staff Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Session Meeting



Upcoming Sermons

June 18	God of Outrageous Possibilities	Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-17
June 25	God of the Outcasts	Genesis 21
July 2	Our God Given Freedoms	Various verses
July 11	Guest Preacher—Martin Dotterweich	

Montreat 2023

Josie Russell

It was another amazing year at Montreat! We definitely grew closer as a group, and strengthened our relationship with God through our experiences at Montreat. Our theme this year was all about JOY and each day provided an excellent reminder about how important true joy is for each of us. My two biggest takeaways were that WE are the source of God's joy, and that there is no joy without Sabbath. This past year, Sabbath has been very low on my priority list as I've been juggling four part time jobs, studying for my Master's Degree in Special Education, making time for friends and family, and trying to maintain some level of physical fitness. Some of you may have noticed that I have allowed my crazy life to steal some of my joy. This past week, I decided to reclaim that joy! I am going to remember that there is no joy without Sabbath and that I am a source of God's joy! Thank you to everyone who prayed for us, provided funding for us to attend, and who support the youth program in so many ways at this church!



Becka Reese

I loved Montreat this year. The theme of this year was "In-Joy". I thought the theme of this year was exactly what I needed. Last year I was not able to go because of family issues and band. The family issues last year caused me to lose all of my confidence. Montreat has helped me regain the confidence I needed. This last year I packed my life in a way that was unimaginable. I am so glad I went because I am happier than ever. I am doing better at keeping myself positive and dependable, and I am just a joyful person.

Keira Hamrick

I attended the 2023 Montreat Youth Conference. I had so much fun learning about joy with my small group. My small group and I had a bond and we felt like a friend group rather than strangers. Keynote was probably my favorite part of the conference. We went in and did these fun energizers and they announced the question of the day.

When I arrived at Montreat, I had no idea what it would be like. I went and immediately loved it. This week has brought me closer to God. I have a different perspective of things. I've learned that no matter the situation, joy will always be there. This was such an amazing experience and I can't wait for next year.



Kelly Hamrick

Let me begin by saying that we aren't the typical "parent finds church and introduces child" type of family. My daughter Keira's strong faith began shortly after we moved to Bristol in 2020. She quickly introduced me to the church and although still questioning, I continued to support her calling, slowly becoming more and more a part of this beautiful community.

Fast forward to our amazing week at the 2023 In Joy Montreat Youth Conference where I was honored to accompany not only Keira but Pastor Ann, Youth Leader Josie, and Miss Becka as well. I truly didn't know what I was in for, but it quickly became apparent that I was

supposed to be there, to learn all about joy and strengthen my faith. How do I cultivate joy, where does joy come from, how can joy survive, where do I find joy, and does my joy matter? I discovered that witnessing people doing good for others, my family, my dogs, volunteering, my faith, our church, coffee shops, bakeries, and getting lost in nature truly brings me joy. I am the source of God's joy and I choose joy. I wouldn't trade this experience for anything. Finding my joy, as well as connecting on a deeper level with our group, has been such a blessing.

Ann Aichinger

As you know, I love going to Montreat Youth Conferences. This year was my 30th year to attend as an adult leader. Frank started this for me many years ago. Over the years, we have taken many youth and adults, and most share fond memories of our weeks there. This year's conference messages and lessons were exactly what I needed to hear. It is so easy to lose our joy in light of all that is happening in this world and in our lives. But Living into Joy is a choice that we make daily. Joy is different from happiness, and the source of joy is deeper and sustaining. Though we were



a small group this year, we enjoyed having dinner with the group from Dothan, Alabama, and getting to know the group from Central Presbyterian, Atlanta, GA, who sat behind us in the auditorium. The big event happened on Monday evening at worship, when the power went out (first time in the recent memory of Youth Conferences). But the Christ candle continued to glow and the conference raised our voices in song in the dimness of the huge room. It was a powerful time to be there with everyone singing praises to our God. Thank you to everyone who prayed for us, supported us and provide funds for us to attend this annual conference. It truly impacts us all---and hopefully renews us and inspires us to live into JOY!

Pastoral Concerns:

Ann Pratt-Proctor will be having procedures on her back to help with the pain;
 Frances Van Dyke as she works with doctors about treatment plans for cancer;
 Heather Kiser as she has met with doctors at Vanderbilt for treatment plans for cancer;
 Vicki Myers as her toe and leg are healing;
 Missy McCord as she is recovering from knee surgery with additional stiffness in her knee.

Extend our Christian sympathy to Vicki and Glenn Myers in the death of their dear, lifelong friend, Mary Lou, on Sunday, June 11;
 Sandy Wilson's uncle, Junior, who is dealing with cancer.
 Barbara Mann's sister-in-law, Carol, who is hospice care in Pennsylvania.

We rejoice with Norma Donnelly that she has had her neck brace removed and she is able to drive again after nine weeks of recovery. We continue to pray for her complete recovery.

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

Butterfly Garden Project

In 2022, APPLE Academy Preschool children had several caterpillars that transformed into butterflies and then were set free. After that experience, the leadership of APPLE asked about having a butterfly garden at the church as a teaching point for the preschool, and to help the children to learn about the lifecycle of butterflies.



Becka Reese was working on coming up with a project for her Eagle Scout award, and she has been working with APPLE and others to

design and plan on establishing a butterfly way- station and garden on the west end of the alley at the church. Many volunteers from the church and from her scout troop have helped with the work of weeding and clearing the area and then planting butterfly attracting plants. This is her Eagle Scout project and she hopes to have it completed soon. Thank you to all the volunteers who have spent hours helping and being a part of this project.

Our New Office Administrator/Finance Director



Hi! My name is Kim Profitt. I am your new Office Administrator and will be “learning the ropes” to become your new Finance Director when Mary returns from her much-deserved vacation. Born in Nebraska, I moved to North Carolina in my 30s and raised my two sons, Cameron and Aaron Randol. They continue to live in the Raleigh/Durham area and I love visiting them. Three years ago, God “suggested” I move to Bristol, where I could purchase a condo and afford to live on one salary. I listened, and made the move during Covid. Aargh! The first Sunday Central had in-person worship after Covid, God “suggested” that I attend service here. I was greeted at the door by Ann and Barbara Mann, and knew I had come home. I felt so welcomed by everyone here and quickly became involved in the Church; joining the choir and volunteering during Wednesday night fellowship. I found a job in Gate City and fell into the habit of going to bed and getting up VERY early to make it to work by 6:30 a.m. I loved the work that I did as HR Manager and Bookkeeper and the people with whom I worked. But God “suggested” again that I make a change and when I was offered this position with Central, I jumped at the opportunity. I always thought that God spoke in a GREAT BOOMING voice (think Bill Cosby’s skit as Noah) and made demands that MUST be followed. I’m learning to listen to that quiet voice and follow His “suggestions” when making life decisions. Love to all! *Kim*

Calling all Children!!

The Christian Education Committee is hosting three events this summer for our children pre-school through rising 5th grade. These will be held on Thursday, June 29, 6-7:30 p.m., Thursday, July 13, 6-7:30 p.m., and Thursday, July 27, 6-7:30 p.m. We will have some games and play time together, have a story or video with snacks, and then arts and craft time. You are invited to bring friends and let's have some thrilling and fun-filled time together.



There will be check-in at 5:45-6 p.m. under the portico of the church, and then pick-up will be by 7:30 p.m. We are looking for any adults or teenagers interested in helping to lead. If you are interested, please let Linda Waldron or Christy Blevins or Ann Aichinger know.

WANTED: STAND UP FREEZER FOR CHURCH

The large freezer in the church is no longer working. We need one for food storage and as we prepare for the fall Wednesday evening dinner and programs. If you have a good condition stand up freezer that you want to give or sell to the church, please contact David White at 276-696-1931.



Ordination Service for Katherine Campbell

On Sunday, June 25, at 2 p.m. Abingdon Presbytery will gather to ordain Katherine Campbell as a Teaching Elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA). She has been called to serve at the VA Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA as a part of the Clinical Pastoral Education Program. She will be seeking certification as a director of a CPE program as a way to live out her call. This service will be held at Central in the Sanctuary, and everyone is invited to come and celebrate this accomplishment of



Katherine's mother will be preaching, and others from the Presbytery and Central will be a part of leading the service.

Katherine has been in the process of pursuing her call for over 10 years and many people from Central have been a part of this journey with her. There will be reception in Central Hall following the service. Come and celebrate with Katherine and her family in this next step in her faith journey.

331 Euclid Avenue
Bristol, VA 24201-4013
Phone: 276-669-3157
Fax: 276-669-7362
E-mail: office.cpc@bvuv.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 with 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	gybjovb@btes.tv
Josie Russell, Youth & Young Adult Dir. Social Media Coordinator	josieannrussell@gmail.com
Kim Profitt Administrative Assistant, 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:

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

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



Serve the Lord with Gladness