



Ponderings from a Rocking Chair

**Central Presbyterian Church
July 19, 2023**

Recently I read a very interesting book entitled Wisdom from 52 churches: Yearlong Journey: Encountering God, His Church and Our Common Faith by Peter DeHaan. The premise is that Peter and his wife decided to take one year (52 Sundays) and visit 52 different churches in their local area. The only requirement was that the church had to be Christian. So they did not visit mosques or temples or synagogues. For each of the churches, they investigated the website and then attended one of the worship services (if they offered more). They attended mainline denominations as well as independent churches, large churches as well as very small churches. Each chapter is a reflection of their visit, how they were received as guests, what they encountered at each church and they offer a lesson learned. In my reading of this book, I, too, learned things about how we, at Central, can continue to improve our welcome and reception of visitors and guests.

The first message is people who show up at a church, as a visitor or guest, come with great anxiety as to how they will be received. Are they dressed appropriately? Will they be able to find the door to enter the building? Will they meet anyone upon arrival? It is important that finding the entry door is easy and open, and that there is someone to welcome them and show them the way to worship as well as to restrooms and other places in the church building that they might need to know. We do pretty well with having doors open and unlocked and having people in the portico area as people arrive for worship.

The second insight is while there may be individuals who are designated greeters, handing out bulletins and offering a welcome, everyone in the church needs to be a greeter and welcome those who are visiting. Not only to offer a kind word and a handshake, but also tell them your name and ask for theirs. Then after you know their names, take the time to introduce them to others in the church. The more connections made within a faith community, the better the guests feel in being a part of worship.

The third lesson is about making the worship experience easy to follow. We do this well with either words on the screen or one hymnal being used. We have bulletins available with the order of worship as well as activities happening in the church with contact information. We announce when to sit or stand, when we have the passing of the peace, and special things that happen within worship. When it comes to the Lord's Supper, we make it clear that all are welcome to share in the bread and cup.

The fourth message is regarding the website. It needs to reflect the reality of the church. I think we do ok with this, thanks to Josie Russell, who keeps our website and social media updated. How we are seen in the community affects how people see us before they ever arrive on the campus. We ask that when there is a posting on Facebook or on Twitter for an event or happening, please share it on your page so that the life of Central gets spread even further.

The last lesson is visitors and guests make their decision about the church in the first 5-10 minutes of arrival. This means that their impression is not determined by the music or even the preaching. But about how they are received from the start. If you see someone you don't know, welcome them. Even if they have been members for 30 years, it is important for you to get to know one another. Don't be shy. Be bold. Get to know one another so that we can be able to welcome others into our fellowship.

This book was written in 2018 and with Covid, so much of church life has changed. But some of these basic lessons are still applicable to who we are and how we welcome everyone into our fellowship. May we be truly a place that welcomes everyone to come and encounter the Living God, and to experience a loving faith community.

Grace and peace,

Ann Aichinger

July 19, 2023

Central Life

We had a fantastic afternoon at our July Picnic in the Park. There were over 51 people in attendance, including guests, and an abundance of food (oh, and the food was so, so good!) and games. Some said they wished they had come earlier to play more games with others, not realizing the fun and fellowship they would enjoy. Keep that in mind when thinking about our next picnic! Our next picnic is scheduled for Saturday, September 9. Yes, that's Rhythm and Roots weekend, and we've taken that into consideration by scheduling the picnic from 9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon and will consist of hamburgers, hotdogs, and drinks supplied by the church. Please bring side dishes, salads, and desserts to share. Invite guests and share in the fellowship and games. Sit with people you've always wanted to meet and learn more about each other. Join in with a group playing a game (some are very simple and easy to learn) and experience being a child again. The picnic will take place at Pavilion G as you enter Steele Creek Park, which is located off of Blountville Hwy 126, south of Bristol, TN. The church will pay entrance fees and lunch is free, so take a break from the Rhythm and Roots crowds and noise, and have lunch with us! Thank you to David White and the Fellowship & Dining committee for setting up the meal and thank you to the Thriving Communities/Renewal Dream Team for suggesting a picnic event and making the reservations.



Thank you to my church family for the thoughts, prayers, gifts, calls, and cards sent during my time of loss. — Barbara Mann

A gift has been given to the Back Pack Ministry of Central Presbyterian Church in memory of Carol Baillie by Jean Thomason.



Lemonade in the Shade

We are continuing with Lemonade in the Shade—and it has been a Summer blast! We still have a few hosting dates that are open... July 23, September 3, 17, and 24. If your group would like to host one Sunday's Lemonade in the Shade, the schedule is in the office or call Ann or Kim and they'll sign you up for a Sunday! We are asking that we keep this simple with lemonade, water, and cookies.

Calendar

July 19—August 9, 2023

Wednesday, July 19	Central Life goes out	Ann leaves for Middle School Retreat - and returns Saturday.
Sunday, July 23	1:30 p.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:10 a.m.	Widow's Grief Group Adult Sunday School Summer Worship—Sanctuary Lemonade in the Shade— Open, Need Volunteers Healing Service—Chapel
Thursday, July 27	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Throwback Thursday— Won't You be My Neighbor?
Friday, July 28	9:00 a.m.	CL Gamers at the Caldwell's home
Sunday, July 30	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School Summer Worship—Central Hall—Martin Dotterweich preaching Lemonade in the Shade—Property & Maintenance
Monday, July 31—August 1	APPLE CLOSED	Teacher workdays
Wednesday, August 2	1:30 p.m. 3:00-5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Widow's Grief Group APPLE OPEN HOUSE Choir Rehearsal (Weee're baaack!)
Thursday, August 3	10:30 a.m. 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Meals on Wheels delivery from CPC Care & Concern meeting Christian Education meeting - Zoom
Friday, August 4	11:30-2:00 p.m.	Board of Pensions Retirement Luncheon—Central Hall
Sunday, August 6	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School Summer Worship—Sanctuary—Communion Lemonade in the Shade—Finance Committee
Tuesday, August 8	7:00 p.m.	CL Gamers at the church
Wednesday, August 9	Central Life goes out 4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Finance Committee meeting Choir Rehearsal



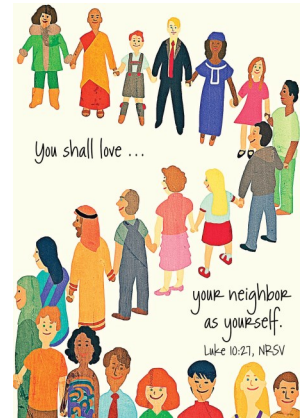
Upcoming Sermons

July 23	Don't Pull the Weeds	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
July 30	Guest Preacher—Martin Dotterweich	
Aug. 6	Where Faith and Ministry Collide	Matthew 14:13-21
Aug. 13	In the Midst of the Storm: Where Faith and Fear Meet	Matthew 14:22-33

Calling all Children!!

The Christian Education Committee is hosting our final event this summer for our children pre-school through rising 5th grade. This will be held on 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. Our theme this week is "Won't You Be My Neighbor" and the children will be creating Blessing Bags.

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.



CONGRATULATIONS to Rich Williams and Hannah Bittner on their engagement!

Pastoral Concerns:

Nancy Norman fell and broke her ankle —and will be in rehab for a few weeks.
 Joy and Guy Briggs for their ongoing health issues;
 Peyton Boyd is recovering well at home;
 Woody McGlothlin is awaiting results from his surgery;
 Frances Van Dyke is going to Vanderbilt for cancer treatment;
 Heather Kiser has begun her cancer treatment;
 Bob Ingram is recovering from back surgery;
 Bobby Davis will have hernia surgery in Atlanta soon;
 Missy McCord is recovering from a procedure on her knee;

Continued Prayers for:

Randy Broyles, Travis Campbell, Doris Crabtree, Mary Kay English, Bob and Becky Ingram, Jim and Joan Keith, Nicki McGrew, Alice Owenby, Jean Thomason, Ed Updyke, and Linda Wise.

Prayers for Family Members and Friends:

Mary Moffatt's uncle, Freddie Taylor, and her cousin, Joni Cambron; Christy Blevins' father, Roger McGhee; Peggy Callison's son, Orion; Sandy Wilson's aunt, Connie Perry and her uncle, Junior; Doris Hall's aunt, Mildred Rutherford; Diana White's brother-in-law, Ed Fortner, and her sister, who will have heart surgery this week; The family of Nancy Kiser's sister, Sarah, and brother-in-law, Will Frazier, who are dealing with health issues.

Extend our Christian sympathy to Cathy White in the death of her father, Roy Smith, on July 1; and Missy McCord in the death of her father, Billy Joe Farmer, on July 5.

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

Session Notes:

The session met on Tuesday, July 18 for its regular monthly meeting. After a devotional and opening prayer, they shared their favorite smell or taste of summer. Ann Aichinger expressed her thanks for everyone's kindness on her birthday. She also reminded everyone of her vacation time and that Dr. Martin Dotterweich will be preaching on July 30 while she is away in Florida.

Other reminders were:

We will have a pulpit exchange on Sunday, August 20 with Richlands Presbyterian Church. Victoria Krebs will be preaching at Central and Ann will be at Richlands.

September 9 will be a fellowship picnic at Steele Creek Park, 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Dates for the King Lecture series for the fall were approved: Monday, September 25 and Monday, November 13.

Other approvals and reports:

Linda Waldron was elected as the clerk of the Session and John Dodge was elected as Treasurer.

Barbara Mann was approved to be commissioner to the Abingdon Presbytery meeting on August 10 at the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands

Job description for co-organists and an agreement with Joy Briggs and Tim Hagy to split the current position.

Christian Education gave updates on Throwback Thursday for Kids which have been well received.

Finance report was received and approved the work on the Employment Retention Credit program worked on by Mary Moffatt and Kim Profit.

Reminder about the Communities in Schools clothing drive for children in the Bristol, VA schools.

Following the Session meeting the Directors of the Corporation of Central Presbyterian, Inc met to elect new officers. Those serving 2023-24 are:

President: John Barker; Vice President: John Dodge; Secretary: Linda Waldron; Treasurer: John Dodge; and Agent (lives in Virginia): Missy McCord

The next Session meeting will be on August 15 at 7 p.m. hybrid



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Katelyn Sims	1	Mason Campbell	14
Laura Blanton	2	Leslie Campbell	15
Dawson Meade	4	Brandon Hall	17
Carolyn Newell	4	Mike Vollmer	19
Sydney Collier	5	Ada Ritchie	19
Jerry Doss	6	Peter Morison	20
Brenda Otis	8	Ellie Ann Calloway	26
David Faulkner	11	Bob Ward	27
Jack Wagner	11	Rosie Davenport	27
Courtney Van Dyke	12	Linda Wise	28
Rebecca Thompson	13	George Parks	29
Clara Repass	14	Brandon Blanton	31
Peyton Meade	14		

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

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@bvumet.edu
Robert Campbelle, Music Director	robertcampbelle@gmail.com
Joy Smith-Briggs, Organist	gvbjoyb@btes.tv
Josie Russell, Youth & Young Adult Dir. Social Media Coordinator	josieannusell@gmail.com
Kim Profitt, Administrative Assistant, Newsletter Editor	office.cpc@bvumet.edu
Mary Moffatt, Finance Director	finance.cpc@bvumet.edu
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