

I am thankful for this church, for the staff and for the leadership. I am thankful for my call to serve here in this place at this time. Though we are still living with lots of uncertainty, I am confident that we will follow the leading of God's Spirit as we seek to continue impacting our local community as well as our engagement in the world.

May we all express our gratitude in this season as we have much to be thankful for. Throughout Scripture, we are called to live in thanksgiving to our God. Many of the Psalms are songs of thanksgiving. One verse that is expressed in the Psalms comes from the writer of Chronicles: "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." 1 Chronicles 16:34 Paul reminds us in his first letter to the people of Thessalonica, that we are to thanks to God in all circumstances (5:18). This reminds us that when we face difficult times, we can give thanks that God is with us, and we can lean into the presence of Christ with us. But we are not only to be mindful of God's presence in tough times, but also in the good times as we seek to live faithfully. May we be a thankful church for the ways that God continues to call us and challenge us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

If you are traveling, please be safe. If you are having family or friends in for the holiday, enjoy one another's company. However you spend this holiday, may we all live joyfully and in gratitude. This is a spiritual practice for us all that we might live this way every day.



Happy Thanksgiving!

Ann Aichinger

Special Organ Music for Advent

Joy will be playing 15 minutes of Advent and Christmas music prior to the start of service on November 26, December 10 and December 24. Please come a little early and enjoy 15 peaceful minutes during your hectic holidays. It will be one of the most pleasurable “Make Room for Jesus” moments this season.



Sermons:

November 26	Joyful Gratitude: Intentional Living	Matthew 25:31-46
December 3	Endings & Beginnings	Matthew 13:24-37
December 10	Life & the Wilderness	Matthew 1:1-8
December 17	The Light is Coming	John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 24	Holy Encounters	Luke 1:26-38



Poinsettias will be placed in Central Hall and the Sanctuary for the Christmas season. If you would like to give one (or more) in honor or memory of a loved one, they are available for purchase for \$9.00 each. **Gifts to Bristol Faith in Action are also encouraged as an alternative to poinsettias.** All donations will be listed in the bulletin. Please mail or bring the order form (make checks to Central Presbyterian) to the church office. *Please return by Monday, Nov. 27.*

We will begin **decorating** the church for Advent and Christmas next **Sunday, November 26**. Any able-bodied men available to climb the ladders and help put up the large Christmon tree in the sanctuary are encouraged to remain after the service. There will be plenty of on-the-ground (handing up decorations for the tree, candles, wreaths, etc) projects for those who would like to be a part of this fellowship. We need to decorate throughout the church, including the tree in Central Hall. There will be lots of other decorating options for family members and children who would like to help throughout the church. The more the merrier--and the quicker it will go.



A special thank you goes out to Valerie Coker, her family, and her committee, for a fabulous first annual Tri-Cities Fall Fair! They were here most of the day Friday, working on decorations and setting up activities. Then started all over again on Saturday. It was a very manageable crowd for our first year, and everyone had a great time.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the **Worship survey**. We had 97 responses which is an excellent engagement by the congregation. We thank everyone for their participation and for the comments given. As we move forward together, we hope you will continue to be a part of the worshipping community here at Central. The Session took seriously their work in discerning the path forward as a church family, and voted unanimously to continue as we are with combined worship at 10 a.m. on Sundays, alternating between the Sanctuary and Central Hall. We hope to continue to add to our attendance, and encourage you to invite friends and neighbors who do not have a church home to come and be a part of Central. Thank you again for your participation.



I just wanted to formally say thank you for stepping up in a huge way by increasing your snack bags (backpack ministry) to 55 per week! Your contribution and commitment to Washington-Lee is truly a blessing in our community. Thanks to your partnership, families in need are able to fill the gap that would otherwise have left many children with hungry bellies. I truly treasure our partnership!

Sincerely, Kayla Varble, CIS at Washington-Lee Elementary

Advent calendars and Devotionals are at the printer. We expect them to be completed by the week after Thanksgiving. You will all be delighted with this year's heartfelt stories. Thank you to everyone who took the time to write these creative devotional moments for us. A special thank you to Ivy Ritchie for coordinating this project!

Thank you to all who filled **Samaritan boxes**. They have been packed and delivered to the proper shipment site.

Session Notes:

The session met on Tuesday, November 21 at 7 p.m. After a devotional led by Rev. Ann Aichinger on discernment and the process of prayer using the Ignatian way (the Examen), the session spent time sharing about the things they are thankful for about Central Presbyterian Church.

Three deaths were acknowledged: Mary Kay English, Marvin Tadlock's wife, Kimberly Tadlock and Eugene Waldron's sister, Joy Waldron. Ann Aichinger gave her pastor's report and reviewed the calendar. Linda Waldron gave the clerk's report which included the minutes of the October Session meeting and communications received.

Each of the Committees reported on their work. Approval was given for the Christian Education events in December which were included in the calendar. Mission Committee thanked everyone for their participation in the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox project in which 36 boxes were packed and delivered. The Finance Committee reported that due to the delay in the Employee Retention Credit monies (total of \$66,013.58), a withdrawal from the New Covenant funds of \$66,000 was taken to help cover cash flow and expenses until the end of the year. The property committee is planning on changing out the lights under the portico area of the church as they are mostly inoperable at this time. We do have a new cleaning service at the church and we thank Gale Thompson for working on this and with this new team. The worship team thanked everyone for participating in writing of this year's Advent Devotional, and a special thanks to Ivy Ritchie for coordinating this project. Elders to serve Communion on December 3 were recruited. Reminder about decorating the church will happen on Sunday, Nov 26 after worship. All are welcome to be a part of this.

The **results of the Worship Survey** were presented. We had **97** responses which is an excellent engagement by the active members of the church. With the data presented, the Session discussed and approved, unanimously, to continue with the combined Unity services at 10 a.m. on Sundays, and alternating between the Sanctuary and Central Hall for now. We will continue to offer the online option as there is a significant group who uses this means to be at worship.

With no new business for the session to consider, Ann Aichinger reviewed the pastoral concerns, and John Barker closed the meeting with prayer. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 19 at 7 p.m. (hybrid).

Calendar

November 22 - December 31

Wednesday, November 22

Central Life delivered

Church office closes at Noon

APPLE Closed

7:00 p.m. AA Alcolthon begins

Thursday, November 23

Happy Thanksgiving!

Office Closed

APPLE Closed

11:00 a.m. AA Alcolthon ends

Friday, November 24

Office Closed

APPLE Closed

Sunday, November 26

9:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School

9:45 a.m.

Advent music in Sanctuary

10:00 a.m.

Worship - Sanctuary

11:00 a.m.

Youth Group

11:15 a.m.

Healing Service

11:30 a.m.

Decorate the church for Advent and Christmas

Wednesday, November 29

1:30 p.m.

Widow's Grief Group

5:30 p.m.

Wednesday night dinner - packing back packs and making Christmas crafts

Sunday, December 3

7:00 p.m.

Choir practice

1st Sunday of Advent

9:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School

10:00 a.m.

Worship - Central Hall - Communion

11:00 a.m.

Youth Group - Christmas cards for nursing homes

Wednesday, December 6

Central Life delivered

1:30 p.m.

Widow's Grief meeting

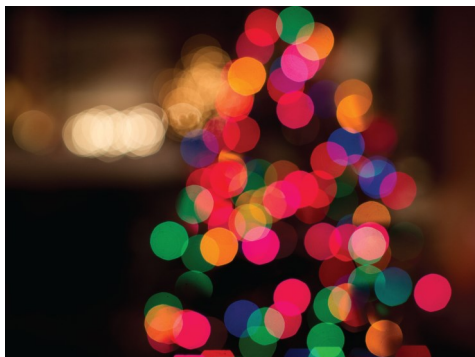
5:30 p.m.

Wednesday night dinner & program

All invited to go caroling

7:00 p.m.

Choir practice



We have been asked by Community and Schools to provide Christmas gifts for 19 children at Washington-Lee Elementary school. We have the children's "Wish Lists," including clothing and some small fun items. Community and Schools is requesting that the total amount spent for each child be no more than \$125 each. To make it financially easier, you are welcome to go together with a buddy and "adopt" a child between you. Gifts must be unwrapped and please return to the church office no later than December 6th so that we may be the light in the darkness for these children.

Thank you! Marguerite and Sheree'

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

Rob Hollo	1	Robert Campbelle	11
Carol Duhalme	1	Sandy Wilson	16
Terry Eckley	2	Travis Campbell	16
Harper Lewis	2	Allen Harris	18
Madison Campbell	2	Mike Barnes	20
Lauren Calloway	4	Brody Campbell	20
Jack Wagner III	5	Leslie Mumpower	21
Joan Keith	6	Merrie McInnis	25
Callie Eckley	7	Archer Parsons	26
Jean Thomason	9	Peggy Johnson	28
Bernice Hagaman	11	Barret Blevins	30
		Cathy Moss	31

A gift has been given to Habitat Fund in Memory of Coleen Wheeler and Nancy Norman by Stephen & Vickie Clark

A gift has been given to Backpacks in Memory of Coleen Wheeler by Mike Ellis

A gift has been given to Meals on Wheels in Memory of Candy Ellis by Mike Ellis

A gift has been given to Food Pantry in Honor of Patty Caldwell by Mike Ellis

A gift has been given to Flower Fund in Honor of Linda Waldron by Mike Ellis

A gift has been given in Memory of Coleen Wheeler by Elbert & Boots Kinzie

A gift has been given in Memory of Coleen Wheeler by The Christiansburg Presbyterian Church family

A gift has been given in Memory of Coleen Wheeler by Terry & Barbara Lovins





Wednesday, November 22nd

NO CHURCH-Happy Thanksgiving!

Sunday, November 26th

Youth Group Following Worship 11:00 a.m.-noon

Wednesday, November 29th

Dinner and activities at church-crafts and packing backpack meals 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 3rd

Youth Group Following Worship-Christmas Cards for Nursing Homes 11:00 a.m.-noon

Wednesday, December 6th

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

Sunday, December 10th

Pancakes and Pajamas Youth and Kid Event
5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 13th

Dinner and activities at church-No Rehearsal
Christmas Pageant 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 17th

Youth Group Following Worship-Christmas
Party? 11:00 a.m.-noon

Wednesday, December 20th

Dinner and activities at church-"Blue
Christmas"/Longest Night Service 5:30-7:00
p.m.



We will take a break from youth activities beginning after December 20th and will resume again on Sunday, January 7th!

Pastoral Concerns:



Ken Moss had a very successful surgery on his face with more reconstruction;
Bessie Kitts will be having heart valve surgery in December;
Diana White will be having knee replacement surgery on January 11;
Bob Ingram is going to UT-Knoxville Medical for a consultation about his
jaw and the infection on Thursday, Nov. 30. (Delayed one week due to doctor's schedule;)
Frances Van Dyke;
Heather Kiser;
Woody McGlothlin is waiting to see if he is a candidate for a lung transplant;
Jack Wagner III;
Mike Ellis is having knee surgery on December 13;
Doris Hall is recovering at home;

We extend our deepest sympathy to:

Family and friends of Mary Kay English, who passed away on November 16th at Brookdale. A service for her will be planned in the future.

Marvin Tadlock and family in the death of his wife, Kimberly, after an extended illness.

Eugene and Linda Waldron & family in the death of Eugene's sister, Joy Waldron, who passed away November 20th in Bedford, VA . Her service will be on Friday, November 24 and Rev. Ann Aichinger will be officiating.

Continued Prayers for:

Randy Broyles, Doris Crabtree, Bob and Becky Ingram, Jim & Joan Keith, Missy McCord, Niki McGrew, Alice Owenby, Jean Thomason, Ed Updyke, and Linda Wise.

Prayers for Family Members and Friends:

Christy Blevin's 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; Mary Moffatt's cousin, Joni Cambron; Nancy Kiser's brother-in-law, Will Frazier; Josie Russell's cousin, Carey Jo Davis.

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

Maxine Howell will be at this address from November through December.

Maxine Howell
c/o Brenda Boozer
3914 Waldorf Ct.
High Point, NC 27265

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

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.
- * Use the QR Code to connect to the website and the “Give Online” link.
- * You can give one time, or regularly, through your **Realm Connect** profile.



How to contact us:

Ann Aichinger, Pastor	ann.cpc@bvu.net
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@bvu.net
Kim Profitt, Finance Director	finance.cpc@bvu.net
Jeremy Kline, Kitchen Coordinator	
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