

July 31, 2024



**Reflections From
a Rocking Chair**

we have to navigate this life on our own. But when we got lost or when we found a nice restaurant or store to stop in, the people were kind and willing to offer assistance to us. But really more than that, they wanted to hear where we were from and what kind of things we had seen and done while in the Big City.

Recently at Food City, I was getting a few groceries, and waiting in line at the checkout. A man ahead of me was paying for his items, but his card would not work. His grandson was with him and holding close to his hip. When the cashier said that the card was declined, the man indicated that he could not get the items he needed. I was not paying a lot of attention, but when the man walked away without his groceries, I said to the cashier, "I'll pay for it. How much is it?" The total was about \$30. She sent one of the other staff members to get the man to come back. As he approached the cashier, he looked at me, puzzled, and then mouthed, "thank you." I told him that it was my pleasure.

The surprising thing is what happened next. After the man left, and I was paying for my own groceries, the clerk said, "you are the first person that has ever done that since I have worked here, and I have been here almost 5 years." I said, "Ever done what?" She said, "Ever paid for someone else's groceries when their card didn't work. And it happens a lot." I told her that I hoped I would not be the only one in the future.

As most of you know, we have been a very busy church family this summer. We have prepared to welcome the Moga family on Thursday as they are coming from Ukraine to Bristol to make a new home. So many people have been a part of setting up their apartment, and getting items needed for them. Though we have not met them, they are already a part of Central.

We have been challenged to work with Robert Taylor on repairing and refurbishing a neighbor's home and making it a safe place for the family to live. We have had several people be involved in that project. The family and officials from Social Services have been surprised at our willingness to help as needed.

We have provided clothing for children and youth in our community so they can start school with new outfits. This year, 20 children had bags provided and then money was given to provide for 14 more with clothes.

On one level these events are huge, in that we are impacting families for the good, and offering them new possibilities. But really, they are small scale events. We see a need, and respond with faith that God is challenging us to care for those ones in need.

We have made a commitment to be a Matthew 25 congregation, which means that we are challenged to live out the teaching of Jesus from Matthew 25:37-40: *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.'* The work of faith involves welcoming strangers, improving housing, providing clothing for kids, and responding to the needs as we see them.

I know not everyone can pay for someone else's groceries, but each of us can offer what we have. If you have resources that can be shared with someone in need, then do it. If you have time to volunteer at the food pantry or deliver meals or read to a child, then do it. If you see a need, respond with faith and offer that person hope. It is often the small acts of kindness that make a difference in this world. Thank you for your continued faithfulness and willingness to be the hands and feet of Christ in this world, and for responding to the needs of others.

Grace and peace,
Ann Aichinger

Sermons



- August 4: ReEvangelism: Generosity Acts 5:1-6; Matthew 14:13-21
- August 11: Planting Peace while in the Middle of it all Youth and Children Sunday Matthew 13:1-9
- August 18: Food for the Soul John 6:24-35
- August 25: Rev. Ann Elyse Hicks, Guest preacher
- September 1: Patricia Neel, CLP, guest preacher
- September 8: No Pre-requisites Needed Mark 7:31-37; James 1:17-27



Rise
AGAINST HUNGER

riseagainsthunger.org

Saturday, August 24th, 2024
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM (please arrive by 1:45 PM!)
Glade Spring Presbyterian Church
33234 Lee Highway, Glade Spring VA 24340





Hands & Hearts from every Congregation needed!
Help prepare over **14,250** meal boxes! Register by contacting the Presbytery Office TODAY! (276) 378-7688 or april@abingdonpresbytery.com
Co-Sponsored by the Education & Leadership Development and the Mission Committees

Saturday, August 10 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Practice for Youth & Kids Sunday

Sunday, August 11
Youth & Kids Sunday

Saturday, August 24
Picnic in the Park from 9:30 - 2:30 p.m.
Steele Creek Park, Pavilion G



Reflections from Montreat Middle School Conference

Ann Aichinger

This year, three of us went to the conference. Ella Kate Alderman and Madalyn Arnold were first time attendees and I went as their back home leader and as a small group leader. This year’s theme was “In the Middle of it All.” How true that we are all in the middle of it all. Even when we want to step away from the struggles of life and the difficulties around us, we are still in the middle of it all. But the good news is that God is right there with us—in the Middle of it all. That God does not abandon us or leave us on our own when life gets hard.



The challenge this year was to find ways of making a difference in the places we find ourselves. To see how God is calling each of us to extend grace and mercy, to show love and kindness, to be open to how God is at work in our world. We practiced different spiritual activities: making finger labyrinths, writing thank you notes to mission co-workers, offering our own stories to be incorporated into worship.

Thank you to this congregation for its continued support for and encouragement to our youth to participate in Montreat Conferences. These are times of growth in faith as individuals, and strengthen our own youth group.

Ella Kate Alderman

Goodness, for a first time, I can for sure say I will be coming back to the Montreat Conference. Though this is one of the most loving and fun camps I have been to, from meeting new friends to the last worship service, this has been the most fun I have had. I have gotten closer with Maddie (Arnold) and with Ann and of course with God!! If you are on the edge of wondering if you want to go to Montreat, Don’t think twice...”Just do it.” Nike slogan

You won’t regret it, as you will have so many new memories with friends and adults and God. My favorite thing was the evening worship services. I just love the feeling of coming from worship, cleansed of sin for the night. I had so much fun, and ready for next year.



Madalyn Arnold

This was my first time to go to Montreat. My favorite part was the worship and the food. Small group time was fun and exciting. I met lots of new friends. I got to spend my birthday at the Conference, and everyone celebrated with me. Thank you for letting us go.



Kaylee Hamrick	2
Carol Newell	4
Sydney Collier	5
Jerrie Doss	6
Brenda Otis	8
David Faulkner	11
Courtney Van Dyke	12
Ellie Thompson	13
Clara Repass	14
Mike Vollmer	19
Ada Ritchie	19
Peter Morison	20
Ally Ingram	20
Ellie Ann Calloway	26
Bob Ward	27
Rosie Davenport	27
Linda Wise	28
George Parks	29
Brandon Blanton	31

Join the **Lunch Bunch on August 18** at 11:30. We'll be eating at Valentino's which is located at 1501 King College Rd, Bristol, TN. You can see their menu at valentinositalianbristol.com/ website. It looks like you can get just about anything your heart desires! And the fellowship is great, too!



Pastoral Concerns:

- * Elena Dodson and Terry Surber are at home from UVA after stem cell retrieval, Larry will go to UVA to receive stem cells soon;
- * Ken Moss is recovering from nose surgery;
- * Josie Russell’s Granddaddy (97 years) fell and has a broken pelvis;
- * Rebecka Reese is recovering from knee surgery;
- * Tom Tanner (frequent visitor) will have knee replacement surgery on Sept 3;
- * Matt Coker’s grandfather died. Matt and William will travel (drive) to Texas for the funeral.



Continued Prayers for:

Ken Brittle, Randy Broyles, Doris Crabtree, Dick Gordon, Bob and Becky Ingram, Jim and Joan Keith, Heather Kiser, Missy McCord, Woody McGlothlin, Vicki Myers, Niki McGrew, Archer Parsons, Jean Thomason, Ed Updyke, Frances Van Dyke, Linda Waldron, and Linda Wise.

Prayers for Family Members and Friends:

Joy’s friend, Ginger; Julie Vance Brown, sister of Helen Scott and daughter of Retta Vance; Donald Tadlock, brother of Marvin Tadlock; Eric Martin, friend of Paige Thompson; Mike Ellis’ cousin’s son; 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; 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.



CONGRATULATIONS!!

Allen and Angel Harris were married on August 27th. After honeymooning in Florida, they will make their home at 228 Colony Dr., Bristol, TN 37620.

Powerful News!

This note was submitted to the office to share with everyone...

“My hairdresser and I were talking while she cut my hair. Her brother is a teacher at VA High and he had told her about students that were hungry and some are homeless. I told her about our backpack program. When I started to leave she gave my money back to me and said donate this to your church for your project that feeds the children. There are angels among us!”

~Frances Van Dyke

Joy Smith-Briggs donated money in memory of DaveWilson.



Calendar

July 31 - August 21

Wednesday, July 31	Central Life Delivered	
	1:30 p.m.	Widows' Grief Group
Thursday, August 1	10:30 a.m.	Meals on Wheels Delivery
	7:00 p.m.	Christian Ed meeting
Sunday, August 4	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship in the Sanctuary - Communion
	11:15 a.m.	Lemonade in Shade - Finance hosting
Monday, August 5	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study at Perkins, exit 7
	4:00 p.m.	Care & Concern meeting
Tuesday, August 6	Bristol, TN schools back in session	
Wednesday, August 7	1:30 p.m.	Widows' Grief Group
	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice in Sanctuary
Sunday, August 11	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship in Central Hall
	11:15 a.m.	Lemonade in the Shade - Choir hosting
Monday, August 12	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study at Perkins, exit 7
Tuesday, August 13	7:00 p.m.	Gamers meet in Central Hall
Wednesday, August 14	Bristol, VA schools back in session	
	12:00 p.m.	Finance Committee meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice in Sanctuary
Sunday, August 18	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship in Central Hall
	11:15 a.m.	Healing Service
	11:30 a.m.	Let's Go to Lunch - Valentino's
Monday, August 19	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study at Perkins, exit 7
Tuesday, August 20	8:00 a.m.	Rotary to help pack bags for BackPacks
	12:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Session meeting
Wednesday, August 21	Central Life Delivered	
	1:30 p.m.	Widows' Grief Group
	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice in Sanctuary

Save the date...We're having our **Picnic in the Park** on August 24 at Steele Creek Park, Pavilion G from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. More information will be forthcoming.

Lunch Bunch dates: **Aug. 18** Valentino's
Sept. 29 Taco Riendo



Kim Profitt will be out of town on August 15 and August 16, visiting family in Houston. Diane Abbey will be in the office Thursday early afternoon, and Friday until noon. If you have any questions that Diane can't answer, please contact Ann Aichinger.



“Who are they? What do they do?”

They are the technology support volunteers of Central. You see them at the rear of Central Hall, or in the balcony of the sanctuary. They operate the cameras and sound board for sound and live streaming, as well as running slides on the computer in Central Hall for visuals.

What you might not know is that the crew is small in number, and could use more volunteers to help with the tasks. You can help if you are a responsible person who wants to serve others. You will receive training to operate the equipment, and can serve on the Technology Committee to offer your input in the future direction of streaming and worship support. You need not work every week (although the current crew does so—which is why we need help.) If interested, talk to Josie Russell, or John Dodge. Thank you!

Help Wanted: Nursery Worker

We are looking for nursery staff that would be willing to serve on Sunday mornings, 8:45-11:15 a.m. and care for our youngest children. During the school year, this includes also Wednesday nights and special services throughout the year. If you know of someone who might be interested, please let Kim Proffitt or Ann Aichinger know. There is a job description and application on Ann Aichinger’s office door. PLEASE NOTE...This is a part-time PAID position for qualified personnel 18 and over.



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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
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Josie Russell, Youth & Young Adult Dir. Social Media Coordinator	josieannrussell@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
Nursery Staff	

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