



*Ponderings
from a
Rocky*

Here we are in the season of Advent. It seems that each year these four weeks leading up to Christmas move faster and faster. This year, Advent is exceptionally short—only 3 ½ weeks because of where Christmas lands.

Advent is one of those gifts given to us as Christians and is a call for us to slow down---to pause---to even take moments of rest. (*I know that I am preaching to myself as I need to slow down and pause as well.*) Advent invites us to reflect upon the coming of the Christ child as well as the presence of God in our lives and world. It is also a time for us to consider the return of Jesus and how we are preparing for that event.

The color of Advent is purple (the same as Lent), which is the color for royalty and repentance. Typically the hymns and music are in minor keys and more contemplative in their message. The scripture in the season does not have shepherds and a baby---but instead focus on being prepared and ready for the coming of the Lord.

One way to approach Advent is to consider it to be a Spiritual Practice. To take those moments in our days and weeks leading up to Christmas to pause, to be silent, to ponder the incompleteness of our world which still faces conflict and violence, suffering on so many levels as well as the darkness waiting for the True Light to come in. Advent is a time to practice patience and kindness, gentleness and goodness---maybe even to the stranger in our midst. Advent is a season to see the humanity of one another and also to recognize the image of Christ in one another.

Here at Central we have all kinds of events and activities. Yes, it is a busy schedule with things happening for all ages. But you do not need to feel obligated to attend everything. But choose what will help you in this Advent time to prepare for the coming of the Lord and live into the joy of the season. Maybe it is being in worship each of the Sundays and to hear the words of scripture that call us to be prepared. Maybe it is to be in fellowship on Wednesday nights and to find a sense of community as we share a meal together, go caroling, and share in the Nativity story, and have Christmas fun. Maybe the Longest Night Service on Wednesday, Dec 20 is what you need to acknowledge the grief and pain of this world in the midst of the angel's invitation to rejoice. Maybe it is the Christmas Eve services---as we sing carols, and hear the Christmas story and sit in the dimness and watch the candle light fill the worship space.

I hope that you will take this season as a gift to you and your family. To receive it with gentleness and wonder as we draw closer to Christmas Day. As the season of Christmas approaches, may you and your family and friends, as well as all of the church family here at Central be blessed as we prepare for the Lord's return, and celebrate our God who breaks into our world and moves into our neighborhood.

Happy Advent, my friends!

Ann





Backpack Bags

Thank you for the donations of gently used grocery bags for our Backpack program. Please place the bags in the bin next to the church office door. Bring **flattened bags** to make it easier on our volunteers.

Backpack Food Drive - November 10 - December 15

For five weeks, you are invited to bring in items to help with the Backpack program here in Bristol, VA. Each week, we have a team that packs 140 bags of food for children and teenagers for weekends. Below is the list of items needed, and you can bring them to the church and drop them off in the entry area.

For the week of:

Please Bring:

December 1 Poptarts or peanut butter crackers

December 8 Trail Mix packets or individual oatmeal packets

If you have any questions, please talk to Laurel Broadfoot.



Backpack Ministries has been awarded a grant from Feeding SW VA in the amount of \$1838.16. Congratulations and thank you to Laurel Broadfoot for her great work applying for this grant.



We are participating in the **Community in Schools Holiday Clothing & Toy Drive**. Names are in a green folder near the table at the entrance to the Sanctuary. They are asking that we adopt a boy or girl and purchase items from the child's list. Preferably 1 shirt and 1 pair of pants, and an item of the "want" list off the back. Or you may donate a check for \$125 if you cannot do the shopping. Please return these items by Sunday, December 8. Stop by the office between 9 - 3 p.m. during the week to pick up a child's list.

Nativities Available...

Miniature nativities are from France. They are available for purchase in the church office and are on display outside of the church office. You may purchase and take your Nativity with you. Please complete the order form and return with your payment to the church office.



Sunday Attendance:

November 24 90 attended worship in Sanctuary

December 2 104 attended worship in Central Hall

Please pick up your **Advent Devotionals** or contact Kim in the office 276-669-3157 to have one mailed to you.

Sermons



December 8 A New Way of Life Luke 1:68-79; Luke 3:1-6
 December 15 A New Way of Hearing Matthew 1:18-25
 December 22 A New Way to Understand Luke 1:39-56

Calendar

December 4 - December 18

Wednesday, December 4	Central Life Delivered	
	11:30 a.m.	Widows' grief group - meet for lunch at Olive Garden, exit 7
	5:30 p.m.	Dinner - Baked spaghetti, salad, dessert
	6:00 p.m.	Program - caroling at Brookdale
	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice
Thursday, December 5	10:30 a.m.	Meals on Wheels Delivery
Friday, December 6	3:30 p.m.	Bobby Davis' Memorial Service with reception
Sunday, December 8	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday school
	9:45 a.m.	Pre-worship organ music
	10:00 a.m.	Worship in Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Youth meet in small dining room
	3:00 p.m.	Advent Organ Meditation in Sanctuary
Monday, December 9	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible study at Perkins, exit 7
	1:30 p.m.	Finance committee meeting
Tuesday, December 10	11:00 a.m.	Presbyterian women meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Session meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Gamers meet in Central Hall
Wednesday, December 11	5:30 p.m.	Dinner - Sandwich & Soup
	6:00 p.m.	Program - Christmas Trivia
	7:00 p.m.	choir practice - final rehearsal for Messiah
Friday, December 13	Office Closes at 11:00 - Kim has eye appointment at Duke	
Sunday, December 15	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday school
	10:00 a.m.	Worship in Central Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Youth Christmas Party
	3:00 p.m.	Messiah Sing-Along in Sanctuary - all are welcome
Monday, December 16	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible study - Perkins, exit 7
Tuesday, December 17	12:00 p.m.	Staff Christmas luncheon
	6:00 p.m.	Journey's End (on State Street)
Wednesday, December 18	Central Life Delivered	
	1:30 p.m.	Widows' grief group
	5:30 p.m.	Dinner - Breakfast for dinner
	6:00 p.m.	Program - The Christmas Story
	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice

Wednesday, December 4th

5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Dinner and going Christmas Caroling at Brookdale

*Please consider bringing a box of Pop Tarts and/or box of individually wrapped packs of peanut butter crackers for our Backpack Program Food Drive



Sunday, December 8th

Youth meeting right after worship 11:00 a.m. with Ann

Wednesday, December 11th

5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Dinner and service project: helping sort food for the Backpack Program

*Please consider bringing Trail Mix in individual bags and/or boxes of oatmeal packets for our Backpack Program Food Drive

Sunday, December 15th

Youth meeting right after worship 11:00 a.m.-CHRISTMAS PARTY!

December 22nd-January 5th: No Youth for Christmas Break!

SNOW POLICY FOR CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN

Always check the website, Facebook, and your email for last minute changes and updates.



The policy Central is:

Information will be posted at www.CentralPresBristol.org and on the Central Presbyterian Church Facebook page as well as sent out by email to the church family;

If Bristol, VA schools are closed (or are dismissed early), large group weekday activities at the church likely will be cancelled, including Presbyterian Women and Wednesday Night Activities, Committees, Music Rehearsals, Small Groups, etc.

Please contact your leader to decide whether to meet; or not;

10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship will almost always be held. Come if you can get here safely, but be aware that the parking lot can be extremely slick even when roads are clear.

Before coming to church when the weather is challenging, always check the above sources or call the church office (276-669-3157) for updated information.

December 4, 2024

Have you wondered what it means to be a Presbyterian?

Do you want to find out what the Session does? Would you like a tour of the church building to see the theater room, or the bomb shelter? Do you want to know why we worship the way we do, or what ministry opportunities Central is involved in? Then you are invited to join Ann Aichinger on **Sunday, January 12 following worship at 11-12 Noon.**

We will meet in Room 100 and this is a great time to ask your questions and also to find out about becoming a member of Central Presbyterian. Please talk to Ann Aichinger and let her know if you plan to attend, or if this time does not work, ask to set up a special meeting for you.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**



JOURNEY’S END, Tuesday, December 17, 6:00 p.m.

On Tuesday, Dec 17 at 6 p.m., everyone is invited to join us for Los Posadas, or Journey’s End. We will meet at the Country Music mural at the Farmer’s Market on State Street in Bristol, TN. We will follow Mary and Joseph as they search for a place where Jesus can be born. As we wander down State Street, we will sing carols, and approach 6 places that are “inns.” Mary and Joseph will ask for a place to stay and be continually turned away. Then we will end up at the Paramount Theater, where we will be

welcomed in, and have time for fellowship and refreshments. We will have the alpacas join us for this journey. This is fun for all ages. Dress warm and come on the journey to find a welcoming place.

Following Journey’s End, you are invited to the Senior Show Choir Christmas program at the Paramount at 7:30 p.m. Our very own Linda Waldron is a part of this group, and it is always a fun evening. No tickets are needed but a \$5 donation is requested.

Thank you to all those who helped decorate the church for Christmas and put up the tree in the Sanctuary and the tree in Central Hall, and help decorate the church inside and out. We could not have done it with you.



Upcoming events:

Tuesday, Dec 17	6 p.m.	Journey’s End (downtown Bristol)
Thursday, Dec 19	7 p.m.	Longest Night Service in Central Hall
Friday, Dec 20	12 Noon	Apple Preschool Christmas program (sanctuary)
	1-3 p.m.	Holiday Food Box Drive-Thru Distribution
	7:30 p.m.	Highland Youth Ensemble Lessons and Carols at First Presbyterian Church (donations)
Tuesday, Dec 24	7 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service (Sanctuary)
Friday, Dec 27	6-8 p.m.	Cumberland Park Hot Chocolate and Greet our neighbors
Sunday, Dec 29	10 a.m.	Worship and Be the Church Sunday

December 4, 2024

Thank you to all who have made a 2025 pledge to support the work and ministry of Central Presbyterian Church. The Session and leadership appreciate everyone’s efforts to increase the giving for 2025 and for the extra end of year gifts for 2024. If you have not returned your pledge card, please do so as soon as you can, so the Session can set the 2025 Budget for the mission and ministry here at Central. If you have any questions about the finances or about your giving options, please talk to Kim Profitt, Finance Director, or John Barker, Finance Chairperson.



**Little Library at Central
(in the Parking Lot)**

Cleaning out books and need a place to put them? Why not bring them to the Little Library at the top of the Parking lot. This was Peter Morison’s Eagle Scout project several years ago, and it is well used by people in the neighborhood. All kinds of books are welcome to be shared. And if you see a book you want to read, feel free to take it and enjoy.

*The choirs & friends of Central Presbyterian Church
and State Street United Methodist Church
invite you to a Performance/Sing-along
of*

G. F. Handel's


MESSIAH
Christmas portion

soloists

Sara Hrivnak	Jane DeLoach Morison
Anne Pratt-Proctor	Kimberly Profitt
Mark Davis	Timothy Landis
Matthew Potterton	
Steve Sensenig, piano	Joy Smith-Briggs, organ
Robert Campbelle, director	

Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.
Central Presbyterian Church
331 Euclid Ave, Bristol, VA

276-623-3050 or 276-669-3157 for more information



Pastoral Concerns:

- * David White had surgery on his knee today;
- * Jean Thomason is concerned with medical issues;
- * Rich Williams is working with an oncologist;
- * Frances Van Dyke has continuing issues with her treatment;
- * Mark McCord is recovering from having one of his big toes amputated.

Continued Prayers for:

Nancy Arnold, Guy Briggs, Randy Broyles, Doris Crabtree, Dick Gordon, Bob and Becky Ingram, Heather Kiser, Missy McCord, Woody McGlothlin, Ken Moss, Archer Parsons, Gale Thompson, Ed Updyke, and Linda Wise.

Prayers for Family Members and Friends:

Jennifer Booth, Cathy White & Christy Blevins' friend; Cathy White's cousin, Laura Modena - bleeding ulcer; David White's brother in law, Kenny Hagy - heart surgery; Scott Rasnake, Cathy White & Christy Blevins' friend; Cathy White's friend, Audrey Funair - heart surgery; Ruby Parker, Cathy & David White's friend - cancer; Cathy & David White's friend, Jack Sensmier - stroke; Marvin Tadlock's brother, Donald; Barbara Mann's daughter-in-law, Pamela; Wes Ritchie's work friend, Johann Coetzee; Glenn Myers' cousin, Heather; Donnie Spurell's sister, Barbara; Guy Briggs' daughter, Tracey Patterson; Joy Briggs' friend, Ginger; Amy Williams, friend of the church; Peggy Callison's son, Orion; Sandy Wilson's aunt, Connie Perry; Doris Hall's aunt, Mildred Rutherford; Doris Hall's good friend, Becky.

We extend our Christian sympathy to friends and family of Bobby Davis, who died on November 17. A Memorial Service will be in the Sanctuary on Friday, December 6 at 3:30 p.m. with a reception and visitation in Central Hall following. Cards may be sent to Bobby's daughter, Beth, at:

Beth Davis
432 Hardendorf Ave. NE
Atlanta, GA 30307

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.

Presbyterian Women Monthly Bible Study

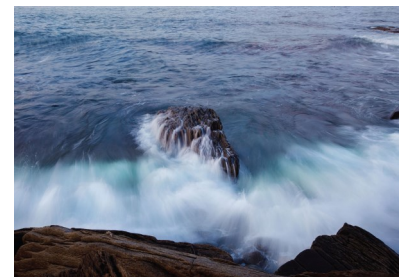
Tuesday, December 10th, 11:00 a.m. in the small dining room.

Subject: Water Justice. Lesson #4

Led by Rev. Ann Aichinger

“Water is So Essential, and its presence and absence so impactful, that both scripture and contemporary events reflect its multi-dimensional effects on human life.”

We hope to see you there!
Mary Ann Blevins & Thais Sikora, co-moderators



December 4, 2024

Central Life

Gifts were made in memory of:

Larry Surber & Ken Brittle by Jim & Lynn Butcher
Larry Surber & Ken Brittle by Archer Parsons
Bobby Davis by Gloria Blankenship,
Archer Parsons,
John & Anita Priest
Ann Aichinger
Matthew Trammell



Gifts were made to:

The Backpacks Ministry by Susan Harkins
by George & Amy Fitzgerald

Poinsettias were given in memory of:

Elizabeth & Haskel Weaver by Jackie Weaver Dennison
Bill, Kent & W.A. Dennison by Jackie W. Dennison
Rev. Cindy Patishall-Baker & Geoff and Nancy Baker by David Pattishall Baker
Bob Thomason by Jean Thomason
Marvin & Iris Tadlock and Kim Tadlock by Marvin Tadlock
Ralph, Vivian, & Jerry Clarke by Patricia James
Allen Vance by Retta Vance & Helen Scott
Maxine Howell by The Williams Family
Bill Kiser by Nancy Kiser
My Loved Ones by Carol Bryer
Peter & Ann Morison, Rufus Morison, J.A. & Lena DeLoach by the Morison Family

Poinsettias were given in honor of:

Nancy Kiser, Joe & Janis Davis, Tommy & Patty Caldwell, Bob Ward, Mike Vollmer, Glenn & Vicki Myers, Chris Ingram, Barbara Mann, Ann Aichinger by Becky & Bob Ingram
Mashkin & Moha families by John & Linda Barker

Gifts were made to Bristol Faith in Action:

by Terry Graybeal,

by Tyler & Jeannie Franklin

in memory of Rev. Cindy Pattishall-Baker & Geoff and Nancy Baker by David Pattishall-Baker

in memory of Buck & Jane Coulthard and George & Erma Myers by Glenn & Vickie (Coulthard) Myers

in memory of Bob Thomason by Jean Thomason

in honor of Pat Engle by Rob & Alice Blanton

in memory of Frank & Sally Blanton, Henry Engle by Rob & Alice Blanton

Advent

Organ



Meditation

Joy Smith-Briggs, organist

Enjoy inspiring music of the season as you prepare your hearts for the coming of the Christ Child.

**Sunday, December 8, 2024 3:00 pm
Central Presbyterian Church
331 Euclid Ave. Bristol, VA**

Admission is free.

Holiday Food Box Drive-Thru Distribution will be held on Friday, December 20, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in the Central Presbyterian Church parking lot. Feeding Southwest Virginia will give out boxes to backpack families containing enough food for a great holiday meal!

Join Central as we set up a table to give out hot chocolate and cookies for our neighbors while they pick up their boxes.

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-Emerita	gvbjoyb@btes.tv
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