



Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year

from the Staff at Central Presbyterian Church

Ann, Kim, Josie, Robert, Joy, Jeremy, Michelle & Angie

Please join us in the Sanctuary for
Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24.

Children are welcome!

Special Communion will be served.

Sing Christmas Carols
Hear the story of Christ's birth.





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:

December 8 (Sanctuary) - 95 in attendance
 December 15 (Central Hall) - 86 in attendance



FOOD
Distribution

Feeding SW Virginia will be holding a food distribution for the holidays on Friday, December 20, 1-3 p.m. in Central's parking lot. Please join us as we welcome neighbors and give out cups of hot chocolate and cookies during this time.

Called Congregational Meeting, Sunday, January 5, 2024

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of changing the pastor's terms of call due to a change in Medical insurance costs. This meeting will be on Sunday, January 5 immediately following worship.



Rationale for the meeting: As your pastor, I am called by the congregation and so any changes to my terms of call (schedule or financial commitment) must be approved by the congregation. In 2025, the Board of Pensions (the PCUSA organization that covers medical and retirement coverage) has changed the ways medical coverage is calculated. Over the last 35 or more years, a pastor's medical coverage covered by the church has been based on a percentage of Effective Salary (total of salary and housing compensation). This cost has steadily risen to the point that many churches are unable to cover medical insurance for pastors or find it a heavy burden. In 2024, the percentage rate was 39% which includes 10% for retirement and 29% for medical coverage. But with a new structure, the cost for medical coverage is 16% and continuing with the 10% for retirement. So the overall calculations are for 26% of the Effective Salary (salary and housing combined). The difference is \$8950 which the session has reallocated as \$5,000 to my housing and then \$3,950 distributed to the staff to increase their compensation.

I want you to know that this does not change my medical coverage, but reduces the cost to the church. It is the right way for the Board of Pensions to be working within the denomination. I hope you will attend and approve these changes.

	2024	2025
Pastor Salary	\$55,000	\$55,000
Pastor Housing	\$20,000	\$25,000—increase by \$5,000
Pastors Expense account	\$4,500	\$3,000—reduced as needed
Pastors Insurance	\$21,750	\$12,800—significant change
Dental Insurance	\$444	\$311
Pastors Retirement	\$7500	\$8000
TOTAL	\$109,194	\$104,111

Sermons



December 22
December 29

January 5

The Gift of Good News
An Inspirational Christian Story
(based on the Lord's Prayer)
The Gifts We Pass to Others

Matthew 1:18-25
BE The Church Sunday

Matthew 2:1-12

Calendar

December 18 - January 8

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 - Christmas fun
	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice
Thursday, December 19	7:00 p.m.	The Longest Night Service - Central Hall
Friday, December 20	12:00 p.m.	APPLE Christmas Program (dismissal following)
		APPLE CLOSED until January 7th
	1-3:00 p.m.	Feeding SW VA holiday food distribution - come & help hand out hot chocolate & cookies to all.
Sunday, December 22	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Christmas Joy Offering	9:45 a.m.	Pre-worship music
	10:00 a.m.	Worship in Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Heal Service in Chapel
Monday, December 23	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible study at Perkins, exit 7
Tuesday, December 24	OFFICE CLOSED	
	7:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Service with Communion in Sanctuary
Wednesday, December 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS!!! OFFICE CLOSED	
Friday, December 27	9:00 a.m.	Gamers meet at Caldwell home
	6-8:00 p.m.	Help us serve hot chocolate & cookies at Cumberland Park!
Sunday, December 29	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
Be the Church Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Worship in Central Hall
	No Youth - Christmas	break
Monday, December 30	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible study at Egg's Up Grill
Wednesday, January 1	OFFICE CLOSED	
Thursday, January 2	10:30 a.m.	Deliver Meals on Wheels
Sunday, January 5	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
	10:00 a.m.	Worship in Central Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Congregational Meeting
	SOUPER BOWL COLLECTION BEGINS THRU 2/5	
Monday, January 6	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible study at Perkins, exit 7
	7:00 p.m.	Care & Concern meeting
Wednesday, January 8	Central Life Delivered	
	5:30 p.m.	Dinner - Baked Potato Bar
	6:00 p.m.	Program
	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice

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



Become Part of Our Church Family 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.

Friday, December 27, 6-8 p.m. Cumberland Park, Bristol, VA



Central Presbyterian Church has been invited to be a part of the Community Christmas Trees celebrations in Bristol. There are four parks with trees decorated by different groups, churches and organizations. On Friday and Saturday evenings, people are invited to walk through the parks and look at the different trees. This year, Believe in Bristol has invited groups to set up Hot Chocolate and Cookie tables in each of the parks.

We have chosen to be in Cumberland Park, Bristol, VA (across the street from the Country Music Museum on Friday, December 27, 6-8 p.m. We will have a table where people can have some refreshments as well as a chance to learn about our church. If you would like to help staff the table, come and join us. All are welcomed and it is a great opportunity to meet our neighbors and share about the work and ministry here at Central.

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 18, 2024



Doris Hall	1	James Van Dyke	20
Kim Proffitt	7	Dennis Meade	24
Linda Brittle	13	Vickie Salyer	25
Scott Bullock	13	Will Broadfoot	26
Jeanne Kiger	13	Sandy McGlothlin	27
Christy Blevins	14	Christy Davenport	27
Ivy Ritchie	15	Jackson Williams	28
Janis Davis	19	Woody McGlothlin	30
Diana White	20	Savannah Diebold	31

Special Request from Josie:

If you have taken any pictures during 2024 of church events, friends of the church or members, please send them to Josie at josieannrussell@gmail.com by January 1 so that she can create a montage of activities for 2024 and put them on the Central Facebook page.

Update and New Address:

We received an update on Caroline Jones from her daughter, Karen Kelly. Here is what she wrote: "Caroline is now in the skilled nursing area of her facility, following a bout of pneumonia in early November from which she never really bounced back. She's on oxygen and pretty much confined to a wheelchair. Her memory, of course, continues to be an issue but so far it's a slow decline. Most days she's oriented to the present, but sometimes she is in another reality (such as believing my dad is still alive.) We are now having her mail sent to our home address:

C/O Karen Kelly
609 Harwood St.
Jackson, MI 49203

Thank you for your continued prayers for her."



On Thursday, Dec 19 at 7 pm, we will have A Longest Night Service of Worship. This is an opportunity for all who find this season difficult or tiresome, who feel the losses in life, and need a place to pause and reflect.

So why have a Longest Night Service? The Christmas season is often marked by expressions of joy, excitement, and happiness. It's a time for family to gather, and for churches to worship pointing to the hope that is found in the coming of

the Christ child. However, this time of joy and expectation can often overshadow the pain and hurt many experience during this season.

It's a worship service scheduled around the winter solstice (the longest night of the calendar) which is December 21. It is noted that this day is the traditional feast day for Saint Thomas the Apostle. This invites us to make some connections between Thomas's struggle to believe the story of Jesus' resurrection, the long nights just before Christmas, and the struggle with darkness and grief faced by those living with loss.

This service is a witness to all that the Christ child comes as a sign of hope in the face of despair. It is a way for our church family to acknowledge the various seasons of life that people may find themselves in. You are invited to come away from the busy-ness of the season, to reflect and remember, and to see that the light of Christ does come into our darkness. All are welcomed to this service. It will be about 45 minutes in length and held in Central Hall.

Pastoral Concerns:

- * Josie’s grandfather had a successful surgery to repair his hip after his fall on Saturday;
- * Bella Ritchie is having her wisdom teeth removed on Friday, December 20;
- * Carolyn Jones is in declining health;
- * Wes Alderman is in a regular room at East TN Children’s Hospital in Knoxville;
- * Jean Thomason is concerned with medical issues;
- * Rich Williams is working with an oncologist;
- * Mark McCord is in the hospital with an infection.

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, Pastor Jack Stevens, Gale Thompson, Ed Updyke, and Linda Wise.

Prayers for Family Members and Friends:

Drake Steele, Joy Brigg’s great-grandson; 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.

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.

Christmas Joy Offering: Prepare the Way: The Perfect Gift

On Sunday, December 22 as a part of the worship offering, we will receive the Christmas Joy Offering which is one of the denominational offerings we collect each year. The theme this year is Prepare the Way which invites us to the center this holiday season, to find ways that we can follow Christ in his example of servant leadership by serving our brothers and sisters in faith. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we are able to support those in our community and give them the gift of hope.

Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering help the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provide critical financial assistance to eligible church workers and retired pastors and their families in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Christmas Joy Offering also supports the education and development of our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. These schools are dedicated to creating opportunities and environments for students built on a foundation of Christian values.

By supporting the Christmas Joy Offering, you share in the hope of Christ and celebrate his leadership by providing support to our church workers, racial ethnic young people, and their families. Please give generously to support these efforts. There will be envelopes available on Sunday. You can make checks to Central Presbyterian Church and in the memo: Joy offering.



Congratulations to Josie Russell in completing her Master’s degree in Special Education. She has worked hard on this and accomplished it in record speed. We will celebrate with her in 2025. Well Done, Josie! We are proud of you!

Gifts were made in memory of:

- Ken Brittle & Bobby Davis by Charles Flannagan II
- Bobby Davis by Carter & Kelli Hooper
- Bobby Davis by Walter Stewart
- Bobby Davis by Elizabeth Davis & Deadra Moore
- Bobby Davis by Sandy Carey
- Bobby Davis by Dr. & Mrs. Robert Harris
- Bobby Davis by Wayne & Louise LaRue
- Bobby Davis by James & Barbara Davis
- Bobby Davis by Richard Horner
- Bobby Davis by Sid & Joyce Oakley
- Bobby Davis by David & Patricia Faulkner
- Russ Young (Mary Moffatt's dad) by Nancy Kiser
- Ken Brittle by IVOR Community Hunt Center



January Souper Bowl of Caring Food Collection Challenge



During the month from January 5 until February 5, Central Presbyterian Church will be engaged in a five week Souper Bowl food and money collection challenge to support the Bristol Emergency Food Pantry. This year we are inviting the entire congregation to work together to meet the **goal of 5,000 food items and/or dollars.**

Each food item counts as \$1 toward the goal. Bernice Hagaman will be encouraging everyone to participate. There will be Food Pantry Barrels in the entry area, and blue buckets for your monetary gifts at the doors to worship areas. Then on Sunday, February 5 (Souper Bowl Sunday), we will conclude our formal collection with a Souper Bowl Luncheon. But we hope that this will encourage us all to continue to contribute to the Food Pantry as they help so many in our local area who have food insecurity issues.

On Sunday, Dec 29, we will have **Be the Church Sunday in Central Hall.** We will gather for worship at 10 a.m. in Central Hall and then everyone will be invited to participate in different activities for a few minutes as we work together in being the church. The projects will include:

- * creating bagel birdseed feeders to hang in your trees;
- * writing Christmas notes to US military service people;
- * helping with packing for the backpack program;
- * packing dog and cat food for the Food Pantry to give out
- * Adult dental kits for Healing Hands



This is a great opportunity to invite a neighbor or friend who does not have a church home to come and be involved and see what Central is all about. There will be things for everyone to participate in as well as to take home and continue to work on. Come join us for a wonderful Sunday together to be the church.

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