

From the Rocking Chair

As we start this new year, we are beginning a special season for the life of Central Presbyterian Church. This is our 150th Anniversary of our first worship service on January 26, 1875. So as we gather on Sunday, Jan 26, 2025, we will have a special worship gathering in the Sanctuary, where a new hymn written by Robert Campbelle will be presented and sung by the congregation for this occasion. Also, Rev. Ann Elyse Hicks, Abingdon Presbytery Leader, will be here to preach and celebrate with us.

So the original story of Central goes like this. A group of people left First Presbyterian Church because they were denied access to receiving the Lord's Supper due to their participation in some "unacceptable behaviors" like dancing, playing cards and betting on elections. Not that they were not faithful, but they were not going to set up boundaries within the community of faith as to who would be accepted and who would not. They started a new church in Bristol, VA (once known as Goodson, VA), and named it Second Presbyterian. Then they realized that they were second to none, and instead they were Central. On January 26, 1875, they chartered as a church and had their first worship. They built the wooden church on the corner of Cumberland and Moore Streets. This church burned down and within a year and a half, they rebuilt the brick church on the same site, and worshiped there until 1948 when Central moved out to Euclid Avenue.

This church has had a long history of making a difference in this community. We have sought to open our doors to anyone and everyone and to make this a place where people can belong. It is a place where questions are welcomed, and where we seek to learn together about how best to live as God's people. As I have been a part of the life of this congregation, first as a child from 1973-1985, and now as your pastor since 2014, I have seen the many ways this church continues to live faithfully into the calling of Christ.

The theme for our year of celebrations is Faithful Past, Joyful Future. Throughout this year, we hope to have special events as a part of a year-long celebration. Sunday January 26 will be the kick-off for our festivities. After worship on that day, everyone is invited to come to Eggs Up (near Kroger) for brunch. We have reserved the large room for our group. No need to make reservations. Just come and enjoy the fellowship. On Thursday, February 13, we will host Abingdon Presbytery for the stated meeting. As a part of this time, we will highlight some of our history as well as what we are doing currently in ministry.

The big celebration weekend will be May 16-18. We will send out invitations to our local friends and church family as well as those who have been connected with our church through the years. We hope to have all living former pastors present for worship on Sunday, May 18. We are still working on plans for the weekend, but we hope to have a concert or music event as well as a dinner or picnic as a part of the schedule. If you have ideas for this weekend's events or other times in the year, please talk to me, and let's see what we can do to celebrate the life and future of our church.

We have lived a faithful past, and we are looking ahead to a joyful future. As we move through this year, I invite you to reconnect and recommit to our ministry and work together. One hundred and fifty years is a long time to be present in a community, but we know that going forward, we will seek to remain faithful to God's calling and joyfully serve in new ways and areas as needs arise.

As it is a joy to serve with you in ministry, I am looking forward to the many ways we will celebrate together our past, our present and look with joy to our future.

Ann Aichinger

Sermons



Sermon: Jan 12

Great Expectations
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Sanctuary with Communion

Sermon series:

In the season of Epiphany, Ann will be preaching for 6 weeks (starting Jan 19) on Biblical leadership. We will be looking at the lives of particular people of the Bible and how we can learn how to lead in faith and live together in community. All of us have been given gifts of ability by the power of the Holy Spirit. But most of us do not recognize those gifts as ways for us to be engaged in the life of the church and in service to Christ. Yet there are gifts given to us to be used for God's work. Some of these gifts are humility, vision, courage, faith, integrity, and compassion. There are those in scripture to exemplify one or more of these abilities and from whom we can see our own gifts and abilities as God-given.

Wednesday Night Adult Class

Have you ever wondered what your spiritual gifts might be? Do you know what Spiritual Gifts even are? We will take 6 weeks and look at who we are as God's people and seek to discern our own spiritual gifts. We each have been given abilities to be used for God's Kingdom work. But what if we don't know what they are? How can we then use them for the good of the faith community and in service to God in Christ?

Come on Wednesday evenings 5:30 for dinner and 6:10-7 p.m. for discussion, starting January 8 when Ann Aichinger will give an overview of this class. We will begin looking at who we are and what God has given to us starting on Wednesday, Jan 15.

Outline for class: (subject to change)

Jan 8: **cancelled**

Jan 15: God's Gifts to God's people

Jan 22: God's gifts to me and my Story

Jan 29: What is my passion and how can it be used?

Feb 5: Using my gifts for the Common Good

Feb 12: Interconnectedness of Spiritual gifts

Feb 19: Conclusion and wrap up

Feb 26: Packing Backpack bags

NO Wednesday night activities tonight, January 8, due to snow policy.

Epiphany Star Words:

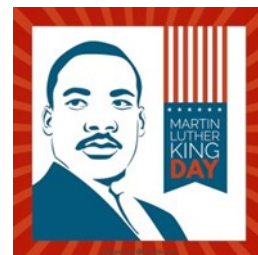
Welcome to Epiphany, the liturgical season from January 6-Ash Wednesday, which is on March 5. The word Epiphany refers to the idea of appearing or revealing. On Sunday, January 5, we celebrated the appearing of the Bethlehem star that led the wise men to this new born king, and that when they encountered the Christ, they went home a different way. Star Words were available at worship for people to choose. On Sunday, January 12, we will have the box of Star Words for those who did not get to choose a star. Each star will have a word on it to guide you through this year. Some possible words will be Seek, Love, Live, Laugh, Joy, Hope, Dream, and many others. Just as the Bethlehem star led the wise men to Jesus, may our Epiphany Star word guide us in living life in the light of Christ.



Thank you to everyone who participated in Be the Church Sunday. We had 80 people in worship and many of you stayed to be engaged in the fun and fellowship. Together, we assembled 140 bags of food for the backpack program, and packaged up snacks for the backpack bags, we bagged up 160 pounds of cat and dog food for the Food Pantry to give to families with pets, wrote over 35 cards to church and community friends, and made 40 bagel birdfeeders. Thank you for being willing to give some time to care for those in our community who are in need. Let’s keep serving in varied ways in our community and in the world as we continue to seek to Be the Church.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration in Bristol Monday, January 20, 12-3:30 p.m.

On Monday, January 20, the cities of Bristol, VA and TN will be celebrating Martin Luther King Day with a series of events. The theme this year is Mission Possible: Love---Hate is too great a burden to bear! Schools are out for the holiday, and this is a great opportunity for all ages to participate. There are activities at the YWCA for children and youth to learn about Martin Luther King, Jr, and the work of the Civil Rights Movement and how we continue that work. Everyone is invited to join in the festivities. The schedule is:



- 12 noon: YWCA Children’s events with organizations, churches, groups, providing children/youth activities
- 1:30 pm: Gather at YWCA parking lot for the public march to the Bristol Sign
- 2:00 pm: Program at First Baptist with refreshments in the Fellowship Hall of First Baptist Church following the program.

Because Central will not hold Wednesday evening activities today, we are moving the dinner menus back 1 week. NEXT Wednesday, January 15, we will have Baked potato & chili,

- January 22 Baked Spaghetti
- January 29 Soup & Sandwich
- February 5 Breakfast

January 8, 2025



Wednesday, January 8
No activities due to weather

Sunday, January 12
11:00 a.m. Youth meeting right after worship

Wednesday, January 15
5:30 - 7:00 p.m. Dinner and activities at church

Sunday, January 19
11:00 a.m. Youth meeting right after worship

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.



January 8, 2025

Discovery Class/New Member Class: Sunday, January 12, 11:15-12 noon, Room 100

Following worship on Sunday, Jan 12, we will have a gathering for those who have questions about Central Presbyterian and our work and ministry. It is open for everyone and this is a great opportunity to ask questions and learn more about who we are, what we believe and how you can become involved. There will be the option for a tour of the building: to the theater room, to the basement, and maybe even to show you where our fallout shelter is located.



If you are interested, but cannot meet on this day, please talk to Ann Aichinger about setting up another opportunity to meet with her.

Calendar

January 8 - 22, 2025

Wednesday, January 8	Central Life Delivered No activities due to weather	
Sunday, January 12	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday school
	10:00 a.m.	Worship in Sanctuary with communion
	11:00 a.m.	Discovery / New Members meeting
	11:00 a.m.	Youth meeting
	11:00 a.m.	Take down Christmas decorations
Monday, January 13	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible Study at Perkins, exit 7
Tuesday, January 14	11:00 a.m.	Presbyterian Women meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Gamers meet in Central Hall
Wednesday, January 15	1:30 p.m.	Widows' grief group
	4:00 p.m.	Finance Committee meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Dinner - Baked potato & chili
	6:00 p.m.	Program
	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice
Sunday, January 19	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday school
	10:00 a.m.	Worship in Central Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Youth
	11:00 a.m.	Healing Service in Chapel
Monday, January 20	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible study at Perkins, exit 7
	12:00 p.m.	MLK Youth events at YMCA
	2:00 p.m.	MLK event at First Baptist Church
Tuesday, January 21	12:00 p.m.	Staff meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Session meeting
Wednesday, January 22	Central Life Delivered	
	5:30 p.m.	Dinner - Baked spaghetti
	6:00 p.m.	Program
	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice

Pastoral Concerns:

- * Makenzie Self, grand-daughter of Diana White, will have medical tests on January 15;
- * Sherry Wilson, Sandy’s sister-in-law is in the hospital;
- * Alderman family as they continue to travel twice a week to Knoxville for Wes’ medical appointments;
- * Rich Williams is working with his oncologist;
- * Mark McCord is home.

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, Jean Thomason, Ed Updyke, and Linda Wise.

Prayers for Family Members and Friends:

Sue White, David White’s mother; Drake Steele, Joy Brigg’s great-grandson; 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; Ruby Parker, Cathy & David White’s friend - cancer; 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.



A gift was given in honor of Ed & Betty Whitehead by John & Linda Barker.

An anonymous gift was given in memory of President Jimmy Carter.

A gift was given in memory of Bobby Davis by Karla & Blair Preston

Please extend our Christian sympathy to Christy Blevins and her family in the death of her grandmother.

Dear Central Presbyterian Family,

It is with deep gratitude that we send you this card acknowledging your role in Wes’s quick recovery. Thank you so very much for the calls, texts, messages, cards, and gifts. We are especially thankful for all of the prayers!! And we are certain that you played a part in Wes’s Christmas miracle. Thank you again for uplifting him and supporting us during this time.

All of our love,

Brian, Monica, Ella & Wes

Nancy Arnold has a new address! She is currently living at Brookdale:

Nancy Arnold
375 Liberty Place Apt. 137
Bristol, VA 24201-0017





Souper Bowl of Caring Food Collection Challenge

During the month of January until February 9, Central Presbyterian Church will be engaged in five week Souper Bowl food and money collection challenge to support the Bristol Emergency Food Pantry. This year we are inviting the whole 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. The Mission Committee encourages 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 area. We will keep the donation amount posted for all to see. Then on Sunday, February 9 (Souper Bowl Sunday), we will conclude our formal collection. 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 for have food insecurity issues.



Though our efforts will be within our church family, the real winner will be **Bristol Emergency Food pantry**. This is something everyone can participate in. Let's make a difference together, and continue to be about the work of Christmas (caring for the needy, feeding the hungry, and welcoming the stranger), and living as a Matthew 25 Church.

Items needed: (PLEASE no glass jars or containers; no ramen noodles)

Meal kits that **don't** require extra ingredients (ie. Hamburger Helper)

Pancake and muffin mix that only require **water**

Canned soups

Canned pasta meals (ravioli, spaghetti)

Canned meat (tuna, ham, chicken, beef stew, Spam)

Canned vegetables

Canned pork and beans

Canned fruit (no fruit cups)

Dry rice or pasta

Instant mashed potatoes (plain or flavored)

Spaghetti sauce (no glass jars)

Cereal (hot and cold)

Jelly and peanut butter

Breakfast bars/granola bars



Macaroni and cheese (preferably not needing milk or butter)

Pantry staples (small containers of flour, salt and pepper, sugar, catsup, oil, etc.)

Please do not bring anything in glass jars; they tend to break and are hard to handle.

If you have any questions, please talk to Sheree Taylor, Bernice Hagaman or Ann Aichinger. Let's work together to meet the GOAL!!! For more information about the Souper Bowl of Caring, see the website: <https://tacklehunger.org>

331 Euclid Avenue
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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