

This has been a long season of Epiphany, from January 12-March 4. But it is that in between time from Christmas to Lent. The length of Epiphany actually depends on the date of Easter and the season of Lent. But maybe it has been a necessary part of this year. Epiphany is associated with Light in all its forms. From nightlights that help us to find our way in our homes at night, to stars in the night sky that seem to be lining up for a celestial display, to traffic lights that guide us in our travels to sunlight that helps us navigate through the day. And if you have noticed, in the evening, the light lingers a bit longer, and the sunset is a bit later. Light is one of those things that we take for granted, and yet, without light, we would be blind.

The liturgical color for Epiphany is green, which signifies growth and change. I find this interesting since, we are usually in the middle of winter and there is little growth happening. Yet, maybe it is a reminder of the hope to come with spring and a challenge for us to be watching for those places of growth in our lives and in creation and in the world. In late January and early February we had a spell of warm weather, and it was as if flowers and plants and trees were being tricked into thinking it was time to bud and bloom. Even my lilac bushes have a bit of new growth on them. But with the cold snaps and snows that growth has halted and I hope the flowers won't be injured. But we will have to see.

Epiphany has been that season to see things anew and hopefully to hear things anew. As a part of worship, we have been looking at the topic of leadership in the church and how each of us is called to lead in the world as Christians. Then on Wednesday nights, we have been looking at our spiritual gifts, and how we are called to use them for the good of everyone. Maybe we have been seeking to see ourselves and those around us in new ways and to see how God is at work in us doing new things.

As we are concluding Epiphany, worship on Sunday, February 23 will focus on Love. But love is not to be hold only for those we like or those who like us. But we are challenged to extend our love to include even those who are considered enemies. And this is the hard part of the Gospel, when we are to live in new ways in sharing the Good News.

February is associated with Love because of Valentine's Day. But as I say to the Apple children in Monday Chapel, Valentine's Day is not the only day to love. We are to love every day, even when we don't feel like being loving. Love is an action word, not just an emotion. Love is a way of life. Love is a decision we make each and every day. And it is not easy. Especially when we seek to live into the light of Christ in this world, sharing of what we know and what we have heard.

So as we come to the end of Epiphany, and as we enter Lent, we are encouraged to continue to live into the Light of Christ, and to shine our light wherever we go. In shining our light, may others see the Love of God in us as we seek to respond to the needs around us.

Thank you for being a church that is willing to go into some dark places and places in need of love and grace. Thank you for being a church that hears the call to be engaged outside of the walls of the church building, sharing Christ's love and mercy. Thank you for being a church that seeks to make a difference in our local community but also willing to impact our world. May we continue to follow the winds of the Spirit which guides us in our work and ministry.

Grace and peace
Ann Aichinger



**Annual Congregational meeting
and
Annual Corporation Meeting
of Central Presbyterian Church
Sunday, March 2, following worship**

**The State of the Church
Elect the 2025 Nominating Committee
2025 Budget presented**

The Session has called for the **Annual Congregational Meeting of Central Presbyterian Church** to be held on **Sunday, March 2**, 11 a.m. following worship in Central Hall.

The purpose of the meeting is to:

elect the 2024 Nominating Committee: David White and Barbara Mann from the Session, Diane Abbey, Kim Profitt, Sheree Taylor;
hear the State of the Church;
updates from Committees;
and receive the 2025 budget.

Following the Congregational Meeting, there will be the Annual Meeting of the Corporation. All members of the church are encouraged to be in attendance.



Larry Clarke	4	Winona Aday	19
Jane Morrison	9	Ainsley Repass	19
Brian Scott	10	Jim Otis	20
John Ellis	11	Glenn Myers	21
Will Wampler	11	Tyler Franklin	21
Monica Alderman	12	Wes Alderman	23
Donnie Spurell	13	Ethan Van Dyke	23
Lois Clarke	15	Kelly Hamrick	24
Greg Taylor	15	David Pattishall-Baker	26
Gary Aday	15	Missy McCord	30
Jasper Jones	18	Linda Waldron	31



Thank you to everyone who gave food items or money to our Souper Bowl Challenge. The final amount that will be given to the food Pantry is \$3620 (money/food items).

Remember, this was only a Souper Bowl Challenge for a month. The Food Pantry is open all year long and will gladly accept donations of food and money anytime. The Food Pantry appreciates all the support our church gives to them.

~ Bernice Hagaman, Mission Committee

Sermons



Sermons:			
March 2	Oh, to Stay up on the Mountain	Luke 9:28-43	CH
March 9	Facing Difficult Times	Luke 4:1-13	Sanct
March 16	Guest Preacher, Dr. Martin Dotterweich		CH
March 23	Guest Preacher, Dr. Martin Dotterweich		Sanct
March 30	Who is really welcome?	Luke 15:1-3,11b-32	CH
April 3	What a waste!	John 12:1-8	Sanct

February 26	Baked Potato & chili
March 5	Baked Spaghetti
March 12	Soup & Salad
March 19	Barbecue from Delta Blues????



Session Notes:

The session met on Tuesday, Feb 18 for the regular monthly meeting. After Ann Aichinger opened the meeting with a devotion and prayer, each elder shared where they would like to travel to and why. Thank you to everyone who helped with the Presbytery meeting. John Barker and Ann Aichinger reported on the business of that meeting, noting that all the amendments to the Book of Order were passed.

The session approved the use of the building by several groups for events:

- * Flute Concert on Sunday, March 30, 3 p.m. in the Sanctuary;
- * Virginia Intermont Alumnae Group for Friday, May 2, dinner and walk to VI campus
- * Flute Recital by Kelsey Garmon (student of Martha Egan) on Saturday, May 3 (this is a private event).
- * AMEn Chorus Spring Concert on Friday, May 16 in Central Hall (this is a part of our 150th Celebration Weekend)
- * Healing Hands Mission Breakfast on Tuesday, June 10.

Ann Aichinger gave her report and reviewed the calendar. Each committee made a brief report on work in progress. The finance Committee presented the 2025 Budget for the second reading and it was approved. It will be presented to the congregation on March 2 at the Congregational meeting.

Christian Education encouraged each committee to prepare to participate in a video for the 150th Anniversary event highlighting the ministry and work happening here at Central. Thanks were expressed to everyone about the Souper Bowl of Caring effort of collecting food and money for the Bristol Emergency Food Pantry. A new pictorial directory of the church is in the works. Photographs will be taken on April 11 and 12 at the church and all families and individuals are encouraged to participate.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 25 at 7 p.m. After reviewing Pastoral Concerns, John Parker closed the meeting with prayer.

February 20, 2025

Central Life

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

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

Dinner and activities at church



Sunday, February 16, 2025

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

Wednesday, February 26, 2025

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

Dinner and activities at church - Backpacks!

Sunday, February 23, 2025

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

***We will make King Cakes on Sunday, March 2nd.

Abingdon Presbytery Event:

JAM-IT

Jesus and Music: Inspiring Testimony

Glade Spring Presbyterian Church

33234 Lee Highway, Glade Springs, VA

Saturday, March 1, 2-4 p.m.

Time of storytelling and music and how to incorporate those into worship and outreach of the church

Jam tasting (with biscuits)

Bring your homemade Jam for the competition.

All are welcome to come for a fun afternoon.

February 20, 2025

Calendar

February 20- March 5, 2025

Thursday, February 20	Central Life Delivered	
	1	
Sunday, February 23	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday school
	10:00 a.m.	Worship - Sanctuary
	11:00 a.m.	Healing Service
	11:00 a.m.	Youth meeting
	2:15 p.m.	Widows Grief Group - Barter Theatre
Monday, February 24	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible study at Perkins, exit 7
Wednesday, February 26	5:30 p.m.	Dinner - Baked Spaghetti
	6:00 p.m.	Program - Backpack packing
	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice
	5:30-7 p.m.	Youth dinner & activities
Friday, February 28	9:00 a.m.	Gamers at Caldwell's
Sunday, March 2	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday school
Communion	10:00 a.m.	Worship - Central Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Youth meeting - baking King Cakes!
	11:00 a.m.	Congregational & Corporation Meetings
Monday, March 3	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible study at Perkins Care & Concern meeting
Wednesday, March 5	Central Life Delivered	
	1:30 p.m.	Widows' Grief Group
	5:30 p.m.	Dinner - Soup & Sandwiches
	6:00 p.m.	Program
	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice



SAVE THE DATE!!!

We have scheduled a photographer to take directory pictures of everyone on April 11 & 12. Watch for more information about signing up for a sitting.

You will also be able to purchase pictures.

Pastoral Concerns:

- * Terry Graybeal’s sister has been diagnosed with dementia;
- * Marvin Tadlock is recovering from his surgery at home;
- * Barbara Mann is recovering at home and will begin radiation in a few weeks;
- * Jim Otis is recovering at home;
- * Sasha Moha is working in the North Pacific on a ship for 3 months;
- * Sherry Wilson, Sandy’s sister-in-law, is in rehab;
- * Alderman family as they continue to travel twice a week to Knoxville for Wes’ medical appointments;
- * Rich Williams is continuing treatments;
- * Glen Van Dyke is at home.

Continued Prayers for:

Nancy Arnold, Guy & Joy Briggs, Randy Broyles, Doris Crabtree, Dick Gordon, Bob and Becky Ingram, Heather Kiser, Mark McCord, Woody McGlothlin, Ken Moss, Archer Parsons, Jean Thomason, Ed Updyke, and Linda Wise.

Prayers for Family Members and Friends:

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.

Backpack Ministries and Ukrainian Support are both in need of funding. If you find it in your heart to give to a specific account, please choose either of these special programs. Your money will go a long way to help children with food insecurity and to help the Moha family until they can become secure in their American lives.



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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:

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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