

March 26, 2025

Central Life

As most of you know, I just returned from a 10 day trip to Italy. This was my sixth trip to Italy, but my first one without Frank. Our last trip was in the fall of 2018 when we flew into Milan and drove all over Tuscany which included going to cooking school for a day and a sailing trip to Cinque Terra in the Mediterranean. This trip was a bit different as I was on a tour, and we went to places I had not been before.

Arriving in Venice, seeing a city that is surrounded by water and how people manage life was intriguing. Having never been to Venice or Murano, the sights were wonderful. But I am not much for life on the water. In traveling from the airport to our hotel, the boat ride was rough, and I will not complain about the potholes in our roads. After two days, we traveled to Tuscany to visit a vineyard and olive farm for an amazing lunch and demonstrations about making wine and olive oil. Then on to Pisa, where I had been before, but this time I saw aspects that were new to me. Near the leaning tower in a green space, there is a statue of the classic Roman she-wolf nursing the twin babies, Romulus and Remus. As a classics language and history major in college, this story was the foundation for knowing how Rome was started, but here it was in Pisa. Most people had no idea what it was about. Yet there it was out in the open for all to see.

Next was Florence which included a lengthy walking tour of the city. In the afternoon, I joined a small group for a tour of the Duomo/Cathedral to see the dome which is a free standing engineering marvel. Then we traveled on to the hillside town of Assisi with beautiful views of the valleys below. Assisi was one place I had not visited, and I enjoyed seeing the beautiful cathedral with the frescoes of St. Francis' life as well as the stained glass windows.

Our journey then was a long ride to Rome where we had a walking tour of the piazzas and fountains, and a tour of the Vatican and the Sistine chapel. (On this day I walked almost 14,000 steps.) Though I had visited both of these, it was a chance to see some new art pieces as well as to help others to know what they were seeing. I opted for one day to venture into Rome by myself. Traveling by bus, I chose places to go and explore. I climbed the Palatine hill (one of the 7 hills of Rome), and discovered the church of St. Bonaventure and the beautiful gardens there. I made my way to Trevi fountain to throw three coins in and I searched for the restaurant where Frank and I had eaten 25 years ago. Though it was under different management, it had the same cozy feeling.

Our last day was to Pompeii which was on my bucket list. It is located south of Naples, and having been covered in volcanic ash in 79 AD, it is a city under excavation. What was curious was the people of ancient Pompeii knew about earthquakes and built their structures accordingly. But they had no idea about volcanoes or that Mt. Vesuvius was one. So when it blew its top on that fateful day, most of the people had no idea what was happening. Many did not panic or flee the city. Over three days, the city became buried under 40 feet of ash and rock. Everything was frozen in time. Our tour guide was very good, but at times hard to understand. So I spent some of the time clarifying to those in my group about the history and significance of the city.

Those with me on the tour were amazed that I knew so much about the history of Ancient Roman Empire but also the early Christian historical aspect. There was one woman who would ask me questions about different things, and I would help her understand the significance. But on this tour, many of my group had very little Christian understanding of things or history, so where they saw a "pretty church," I saw the meaning of the windows that told the Biblical story, or the wall decorations that highlighted saints and important people of the ages.

I am so appreciative of having time to be away, and to see the world. I truly loved revisiting Italy and discovering new places, new stories and reconnecting with old familiar ones. Knowing history and the significance of places may help us to understand our current situation and to appreciate our lives. I am still reflecting on my trip and hope to share more of it with you.

~Ann Aichinger

Sermons



Sermons:

March 30	Who Really is Welcome?	Luke 15:1-3,11b-32	Central Hall
April 3	What a waste!	John 12:1-8	Sanctuary
April 13 (Palm Sunday)	Reading of the Passion from Luke's Gospel		Central Hall
April 20 (Easter)	What are you Looking for?	Luke 24:1-12	Sanctuary
April 27	Guest Preacher: Dr. Martin Dotterweich	Ephesians 3	Central Hall
May 4	Guest Preacher: Dr. Martin Dotterweich	Ephesians 4	Sanctuary

Wednesday Night studies for Adults

On Wednesday nights, we will be looking at the themes of our Lenten devotional: Savior, Servant, Friend. The schedule is:

March 26: Healer	- 5:30 meals	Breakfast for dinner
April 2: Listener		Baked potato & chili
April 9: Encourager		Baked pasta
April 16: Protector		Soup & Sandwich
April 23: Comforter		Breakfast for dinner

Session Notes

The Session met on Tuesday, March 25 at 7 p.m. After Ann Aichinger gave the devotional and opening prayer, the Session welcomed into membership Kim King and Patricia Sturgill. They have been active at Central for a couple of years and are excited about being in the membership. Patricia is mother to Katlyn Taylor and grandmother to Daphne and Eloise, and Kim is Patricia's sister. Please make them welcome and tell them your name (many times) so they can get to know us better.

The Session members each shared a difficult thing that they had done. It is a good way to get to know one another. Ann Aichinger gave her pastor's report and reminded everyone about the Pictorial Directory, and being included. She reviewed the calendar for the church life, and highlighted several things coming up, especially Holy Week services.

After approving the minutes of the February Session meeting, congregational meeting, and corporation meeting, John Barker updated the Session about the Ukrainian situation. There was some discussion about how to help and protect our families in this time of uncertainty. Ann Aichinger gave an update on the expansion project called Choice Neighborhoods which is a long-term planning for the Virginia Hill Area (VI College property south to Scott Street, from MLK Blvd to Piedmont) and how Central is involved.

Each of the committees reported on their work, and the following things were approved:

- New hirings for Apple Academy and promotions of staff members
- Backpack sponsorship program (\$150 feeds a child for half a year; \$250 feeds a child for the entire school year) which is a part of our 150th Anniversary
- Financial monthly report was received.

After reviewing pastoral concerns and other matters, Ann Aichinger closed the meeting with prayer. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 15 at 7 p.m.



Diane Conco	1	Patty Faulkner	19
Tim Ferguson	4	Claire Morison	19
Tommy Caldwell	4	Todd Ellis	21
Ben McCord	7	Briggs Allen	23
Cody Calloway	9	Lizzy Coker	23
Laurel Broadfoot	13	Marvin Tadlock	24
Jeff Taylor	15	Fred Osborne	24
Ken Moss	18	Gray Vance Cobb	25
Jeremy Taylor	18	Cody Davenport	26
Jonathon Taylor	18	Aiden Kite	30
Matt Coker	18		

Save the Dates!!

Sunday, March 30 - 3:00 p.m. The Morningstar Flute Ensemble will be performing at Central. Come and listen to a piccolo, concert flute, alto flute, bass flute, and contra bass flute as they perform.



Holy Week Schedule

HOLY WEEK

Sunday, April 13	Palm Sunday Worship in Central Hall
Wednesday, April 16	Wednesday night dinner & program
Thursday, April 17	Maundy Thursday Service at 7 p.m. in Central Hall
Friday, April 18	Joint Good Friday service at State Street UMC 7:00 p.m. <i>Faure's Requiem</i>
Sunday, April 20	Easter Sunday Worship 10 a.m. in the Sanctuary Easter Egg Hunt for children

March 26, 2025

Central Life



Wednesday, March 26

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Dinner & activities at the church

Sunday, March 30

Youth meeting right after worship - noon

Wednesday, April 2

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Dinner & activities at the church

Sunday, April 6

No meeting - Josie out of town

Wednesday, April 9

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.

Dinner & activities at the church

Sunday, April 13

Youth meeting right after worship - noon

LET'S GO TO THE MOVIES!!!

Sunday, April 13th 2:00 p.m. showing
Legacy Theaters, Bristol VA (exit 7)

King of Kings (90 minutes, animated)
rated PG



Charles Dickens tells his son the greatest story ever told, and what becomes as a bedtime story becomes a life-changing journey. Through vivid imagination, the boy walks alongside of Jesus, witnessing his miracles, facing his trials and

understanding his ultimate sacrifice. The King of Kings invites us to rediscover the enduring power of love, hope and forgiveness through the eyes of a child. To see the trailer: <https://www.angel.com/tickets/king-of-kings>

Please sign up in the church office so we can order tickets ahead of time. Cost is \$10 per person. If you can't go with the church family, we hope you will go and see this movie as we prepare for Easter

Montreat Summer Conferences



It is time to sign up to take part in these amazing summer conferences. If there are financial issues, please talk to Ann Aichinger about a scholarship.

This year, we will attend the **High School** Youth Conference (Rising 9th-just graduated high school) at Montreat June 1-7. The theme this year is Light My Path. To reserve your place, let Josie Russell or Ann Aichinger know and reserve your place with \$200. The **first deadline for signing up is Wednesday, March 26**. After that date the cost will increase by \$25 each month. Don't hesitate----do it now and join us for a great week.

Montreat Middle School Conference (Completed 5th-8th graders) is held at Maryville College in Maryville, TN. The dates for this are Wednesday, July 16- Sunday, July 20. The theme is Wonder Full! The cost is \$250. It is time to reserve your place with \$250. **The deadline is March 26**. Don't delay. Let Ann Aichinger know to reserve you a spot, and turn in your money. Don't hesitate----do it now and join us for a great time together with other Middle School youth.



Right Now Media -Lent, Holy Week and Easter selections

Our church has been gifted an annual subscription to Right Now Media (rightnowmedia.org), which is an online video collection of Bible Studies and stories for all ages. You can load the app onto your TV or computer and then you can browse the library of videos. Check your email for your invitation or call the church office to have your invite re-sent.

As we are preparing for Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, you might want to check out some of the following videos:

- For Children: The Easter Party or Jesus comes into Jerusalem
- For Families: He is Alive!
- For Adults: Good Friday and Easter with Francis Chan or Holy Week Pilgrimage with Graham Tomlin

You may browse the entire library with key words or books of the Bible. This is a gift for you and your family. Feel free to share it with your extended family and enjoy learning more about what the Bible has to say and how we are called to live as Christ’s followers.



Do you like to cook or willing to put a meal together to share with someone in need in the church? Are you willing to be on a list to be called on to provide a meal for a family or individual who are in transition, or coming home from the hospital or rehab, or dealing with a new health issue? Through the Care and

Concern Committee, we seek to offer help to our church family and friends who are in need. If you are able to be a part of this group, you would have an occasional opportunity (as the need arose) to get the food together and deliver it, and you would be given plenty of time to do this. This is one of the ministries that our church has had in the past, but our list of available people to provide a meal has diminished. If you are willing to be on this list, please contact Ann Aichinger or Nancy Kiser, member of Care and Concern. Your participation is greatly appreciated and is a wonderful way to help those in our church family.



150th Anniversary Photo Directory

To make an appointment to have your picture taken with a professional sitting (you’ll receive a free 8x10 portrait) go to our website or FaceBook page and click on the link for scheduling

SAVE THE DATE
Make your appointment to be included in the new pictorial directory!
Central Presbyterian Church
Bristol, Va
Photo dates: APRIL 11,12 2025

If you don’t use a computer, call Kim at the office 276.669.3157 and she will make the appointment for you. Open appointments are Friday evening and Saturday afternoon.



There is no charge for this opportunity.

March 26, 2025

Calendar

March 26 - April 9, 2025

Wednesday, March 26	Central Life Delivered	
	5:30 p.m.	Dinner - breakfast for dinner (YES, this is correct!)
	6:00 p.m.	Program - Healer
	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice
Friday, March 28	7:00 p.m.	Gamers at Caldwell's
Sunday, March 30	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday school
	10:00 a.m.	Worship - Central Hall
	11:00 a.m.	Youth meet
	11:00 a.m.	Healing service
	3:00 p.m.	Flute concert in Sanctuary
Monday, March 31	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible study at the church
Apple closed until April 7		
Tuesday, April 1	12:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Worship committee meeting
Wednesday, April 2	1:30 p.m.	Widows' Grief Group
	5:30 p.m.	Dinner - Baked potato & chili
	6:00 p.m.	Program - Listener
	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice
Thursday, April 3	10:30 p.m.	Meals On Wheels delivery
Sunday, April 6	9:00 a.m.	Adult Sunday school
	10:00 a.m.	Worship - Sanctuary - Communion
	11:00 a.m.	Youth meeting
Monday, April 7	7:00 a.m.	Men's Bible study at Perkins
	11:00 a.m.	Care & Concern meeting
Tuesday, April 8	11:00 a.m.	Presbyterian Women Bible study
	7:00 p.m.	Gamers - Central Hall
Wednesday, April 9	Central Life Delivered	
	4:00 p.m.	Finance committee meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Dinner - Baked Pasta
	7:00 p.m.	Choir practice

New Members!!!

Patricia Sturgill
 561 Highway 126
 Bristol, TN 37620
 patricia.sturgill68@outlook.com
 423-502-4249
 Birthday: June 18

Kim King
 280 Pippin Street
 Abingdon, VA 24210
 bwkkhk01@gmail.com
 276-608-4796
 Birthday: March 21

Pastoral Concerns:

- * Mark McCord is in the hospital, recovering from foot surgery;
- * Carol Bryer has torn a tendon in her foot;
- * Jean Thomason has ongoing health difficulties.
- * Sherry Wilson, Sandy Wilson's sister-in-law is back in the hospital;

Continued Prayers for:

Wes Alderman and family, Nancy Arnold, Joy & Guy Briggs, Randy Broyles, Doris Crabtree, Dick Gordon, Bob and Becky Ingram, Heather Kiser, Barbara Mann, Woody McGlothlin, Ken Moss, Jim Otis, Archer Parsons, Marvin Tadlock, Gale Thompson, Ed Updyke, Glen Van Dyke, Rich Williams, and Linda Wise.

Prayers for Family Members and Friends:

Christy Blevins' father, Roger; Betty Russell, Josie's grandmother; Drake Steele, Joy Brigg's great-grandson; Cathy White's cousin, Laura Modena, David White's brother in law, Kenny Hagy; Scott Rasnake, Cathy White & Christy Blevins' friend; Ruby Parker, Cathy & David White's friend; 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.

We extend our Christian Sympathy to the families of:

Josie Russell's grandfather, Leo Long who died on March 16;

Pastor Jack Stevens, who died on March 6.



Congratulations to Angel and Allen Harris on the birth of a new granddaughter, Brighton Baylor Albany, born on March 20, 2025! Brighton weighed 7lbs 11oz and was 20 inches long!!! Parents are Angel's daughter, Alaina, and her husband, Bobby Albany.

Thank you to Nancy Kiser for donations in memory of Josie Russell's grandfather, Leo Long, and Pastor Jack Stevens.

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS OF PRAYER:

The Session discussed the situation in our nation in relation to our Ukrainian families and the uncertainty of their future. As an action response, everyone is invited to be engaged in prayer on Wednesdays for our Ukrainian friends, for our national response to the Ukraine/Russia war, and for peace to come to that area of the world. We know the power of prayer and we ask that you take some time on Wednesdays to offer special prayers concerning the people of Ukraine. As with any prayer, we ask for God's will to be done, and we offer ourselves as God's instruments of peace and hope. Please join us each Wednesday, wherever you are, and may we hold our friends in prayer before God.

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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
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