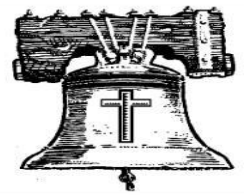


CENTRAL

Chimes



Central Presbyterian Church

P E T E R S B U R G , I L L I N O I S

Hello Friends:

It's back to school time!!!! Let us make it our priority to pray at the beginning of this school season for all of those involved in our school systems right here in Petersburg and Menard County. You know as well as I do, probably better than I do, how those teachers and support staff in many cases put their heart and soul into providing a good education for the kids of our community, and strive to provide a safe and loving environment where every child feels loved, accepted, and nurtured. I have seen this first hand in Logan County (where Zane, Seth, and Lonnie Jay go to school and where we live), and I have no doubt whatsoever that the same level of sacrificial commitment is taking place right here in Petersburg.

Do you have a teacher or other school employee as a part of your family or network of friends? Thank them for their work! Ask them how our Church might be able to meet a need that might exist at the school district. Are there certain supplies that the school could use? Is there a special project we could help support in some way? Is there a way we could offer encouragement to the school district employees? We all understand that local schools all over this land, whether they realize it or not, are doing God's work in educating, nurturing, and providing a safe environment for our most precious resource in which to grow. Scripture is pretty clear in revealing to us that God is pleased with us when we choose in faith to help provide for the most vulnerable of society, which Scripture defines as the youngest among us, and the oldest among us. **James 1:27** *"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."* So let us be a source of support and encouragement to our local schools—for they, in many respects, are doing the work of our God!

Let us pray this prayer regularly for our local teachers:

"Lord Jesus, You who are a master teacher, bless all teachers. Open them to the voice that calls from within, deepening their passion for education. Strengthen them with hope and enable them to see the good they do each day. Give them patience and endurance as they meet daily challenges and setbacks. Grace them with transparent vision in order to see the deeper needs of those they teach. Ignite an ongoing love of learning in their minds and inspire them to strive for open and compassionate hearts. In your sacred name, we pray. Amen."

Have a great month!

See you in Church on Sunday.

Thanks Be to God,

Ryan Edgecombe, Pastor
Edgeness79@hotmail.com



Highlights of Regular Session Meeting, August, 2023

No regular Session meeting was held in August.

Committee News

Administration

The Committee did not meet in August, but here is a summary of the financials and current building issues.

Financial

- Income year to date is \$206.91 below budget and YTD expenses are under budget by \$10,467.76, which puts us under our overall budget.
- Regardless of budget, our expenses are \$5,715.95 above our actual income.
- Treasurer's report and financials were reviewed.
- General, MMF, Obligated Funds were also reviewed.

Building

- Elevator repairs have been completed, and we have passed our annual inspection. George Alarm installed a cell phone dialer for our alarm system, and we are again communicating with George Alarm.
- \$5,000 was transferred from the Major Maintenance Fund long-term investments in order to cover the additional expense incurred this year to bring our elevator up to the new State code.

Submitted by Steven Territo, Chairperson

Communion Training Classes

The deadline to sign up for the communion training class was August 15, and hopefully, there are many of you interested in participating. There will be two classes. One will be held on Saturday, September 9 at 9:00 a.m., and the other date will be determined soon. Moderator, Rev. Kay Daniel, will be offering these classes.

Jane Stephenson, Clerk of Session

Catechism Corner

Catechism Corner From *κατηχέω*, ("to teach orally")

I thought it might be useful for us to review and reflect a little each month from a catechism used by the PCUSA. Hopefully this will serve a purpose in helping us think deeper about our faith and even inspire us towards a greater pursuit of Christian Theology grounded in Holy Scripture. I pray you find this new section in the newsletter helpful. I enjoy talking theology so come by the church if you have questions or thoughts about these!

The Study Catechism: Full Version Approved by the 210th General Assembly (1998) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Question 16. What does it mean to say that we human beings are created in the image of God?

That God created us to live together in love and freedom—with God, with one another, and with the world. Our distinctive capacities—reason, imagination, volition and so on—are given primarily for this purpose. We are created to be loving

companions of others so that something of God's goodness may be reflected in our lives.

Genesis 1:26, 27 "Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'" "So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

Question 17. What does our creation in God's image reflect about God's reality?

Our being created in and for relationship is a reflection of the Holy Trinity. In the mystery of the one God, the three divine persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—live in, with and for one another eternally in perfect love and freedom.

Luke 3:21-22 "Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'"

John 17:21-22 "As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one."

Question 18. What does our creation in God's image reflect about God's love for us?

We are created to live wholeheartedly for God. When we honor our Creator as the source of all good things, we are like mirrors reflecting back the great beam of love that God shines on us. We are also created to honor God by showing love toward other human beings.

Psalms 9:1 "I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."

Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in Heaven."

Question 19. As creatures made in God's image, what responsibility do we have for the earth?

God commands us to care for the earth in ways that reflect God's loving care for us. We are responsible for ensuring that earth's gifts be used fairly and wisely, that no creature suffers from the abuse of what we are given, and that future generations may continue to enjoy the abundance and goodness of the earth in praise to God.

Psalms 24:1 "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it."

Genesis 2:15 "The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it."

Question 20. Was the image of God lost when we turned from God by falling into sin?

Yes and no. Sin means that all our relations with others have become distorted and confused. Although we did not cease to be with God, our fellow human beings, and other creatures, we did cease to be for them; and although we did not lose our distinctive human capacities completely, we did lose the ability to use them rightly, especially in relation to God. Having ruined our connection with God by disobeying

God's will, we are persons with hearts curved in upon ourselves. We have become slaves to the sin of which we are guilty, helpless to save ourselves, and are free, so far as freedom remains, only within the bounds of sin.

Romans 3:23 "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:10 "There is no one who is righteous, not even one."

Isaiah 59:1-3 "See, the Lord's hand is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear. Rather, your iniquities have been barriers between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue mutters wickedness."

Question 21. What does it mean to say that Jesus Christ is the Image of God?

Despite our turning from God, God did not turn from us, but instead sent Jesus Christ in the fullness of time to restore our broken humanity. Jesus lived completely for God, by giving himself completely for us, even to the point of dying for us. By living so completely for others, he manifested what he was—the perfect image of God. When by grace we are conformed to him through faith, our humanity is renewed according to the divine image that we lost.

Philippians 2:8 "He humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross."

Colossians 1:15 "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation."

Romans 8:29 "For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn within a large family."

Church Office Closed Labor Day

The Church office will be closed Monday, September 4, in observance of Labor Day. Please call Pastor Ryan if you have an emergency. His number is 217-972-4859

Chancel Choir Begins a New Season

Central's Choir will begin practicing each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. on **August 30**. They will provide Special Music usually on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. New members are always welcome! Contact Rich Ford with questions.

Worship in the Park

September 10 is Worship in the Park and is held along the river at Lincoln's New Salem's Sangamon Picnic Area, Shelter #3, located across from New Salem on Pritcherville Road. Since



this is Grandparents Day, we invite and encourage all of the grandchildren and any children you can "adopt" for the day to join us for a special day at New Salem. Don't forget a lawn chair and your favorite dish to share for the picnic luncheon immediately following worship. Plates, plastic ware, napkins, lemonade and ice tea will be provided. Hope to see you there!

Sunday School Resumes

We will start Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday starting September 17, 2023. This is the week after Worship in the Park. Right now, we have two active Sunday School children. Please advise me at lrs1955@hotmail.com if you know of any other children who would like to attend on a regular basis. I also ask that you give me a few days' notice if you are bringing a child to Sunday School so that I have enough materials. Thank you!

--Linda Claussen

Keep Connected!

Pastor Ryan Edgecombe is in the church on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you wish to make an appointment to visit with him, please call the church office at 217-632-2651. You may also call or text his cell phone: 217-972-4859.

Members are encouraged to continue to stay connected with the church family. If you have an emergency or are in need of assistance from Central, please contact:

Church Office, 217-632-2651, Tuesday & Wednesday 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.,
Friday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; or leave a message anytime.

Pastor Ryan Edgecombe, 217-972-4859

Cindy Godbey, Deacon Chair, 217-652-9596

Jane Stephenson, Clerk of Session, 217-341-7599

Another option for keeping connected is through the use of the **Central Presbyterian Prayer Chain** on Facebook. Group prayer is so powerful. The congregation is encouraged to reach out with any prayer request—nothing is too trivial! The posts are seen only by group members. If you are a Facebook user but not yet a group member, look us up and join today!

August Worship Enhancement



Aug 6. Former member Rodney Dimmick sings *Amazing Grace*.

Aug 13. A message of *Grief and Hope* is shared by Jan Costello. Her "Words" are included on the next page.

Aug 20. *Hymn*, is beautifully offered by Rich Ford. Rich introduced it as being particularly challenging for him. We appreciate his willingness to share his talent.

Aug 27. Wildwood Strings, playing dulcimers and guitar, accompany Pastor Ryan & Bethany for *Sunshine in My Soul*. They also played *Let Us Pray for One Another* in response to prayer requests and *Farther Along* for the Postlude.



Grief and Hope

Jan Costello enhanced our worship on August 13. “I want to share WORDS—words of Scripture, words of Prayer, and words of Strength. The words are about Grief and Hope,” Jan stated. “All of us suffer grief—we have lost loved ones time after time, and grief is hard—and heartbreaking. The words I am sharing this morning have helped me, and hopefully they will help you. Words of Scripture, Prayer, and Strength are all part of God’s way to treat our broken hearts and crushed spirits. Through all the grief, God saves us and gives us hope.”

Words of Scripture:

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted . . . and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”

--Psalm 34:18

Words of Prayer:

I haven’t forgotten you, even though it’s been
Some time now since I’ve seen your face, touched your hand,
Heard your voice. You are with me all the time.

I used to think you left me. I know better now. You come to me.
Sometimes in fleeting moments, I feel your presence close by.
But I still miss you.

And nothing, no person, no joy, no accomplishment, no distraction,
Not even God, can fill the gaping hole your absence has left in my life.
But mixed together with all my sadness,
There is a great joy for having known you.

I want to thank you for the time we shared, for the love you gave,
For the wisdom you spread.
Thank you for the magnificent moments and the ordinary ones, too.
There was beauty in our simplicity. Holiness in our unspectacular days.
And I will carry the lessons you taught me always.

Your life has ended, but your light can never be extinguished.
It continues to shine upon me. Even on the darkest nights, it illuminates my way.
I will forever light a candle in your honor and your memory.
May God bless you as you have blessed me with love, with grace, and with peace.

AMEN

--Rabbi Naomi Levy

Words of Strength:

I Think It’s Brave

I think it’s brave that you get up in the morning even if your soul is weary and your bones ache for a rest.

I think it’s brave that you keep on living even if you don’t know how to anymore.

I think it’s brave that you push away the waves rolling in every day and you decide to fight.

I know there are days when you feel like giving up but I think it’s brave that you never do.

--Lana Rafaela

<i>Worship Attendance</i>			
August 6	33	August 20	23
August 13	38	August 27	39
Average Worship Attendance: 33			

Surprise!

Fellowship on August 13 was planned as a Surprise Party to celebrate Emma Lou Denton's 90th birthday later this month. The committee pulled it off beautifully ... and Emma Lou was truly surprised! Many blessings, Emma Lou, this year and for many more to come.



Happy Birthday EMMA LOU



So many thanks to you, my church family, for such a great surprise celebration for my 90th birthday. I'll cherish the memory and the cards. I'm blessed to be part of Central's family.

--Emma Lou

Robert Lackie Ordination

On Sunday, August 13, several friends from Central attended the Ordination of Robert Lackie at Hope Church, Springfield. Robert served as a temporary interim at Central through April. Our best wishes to Robert as he pursues his work in ministry.



Chimes Deadline

Do you have an event or news that would be of interest to our congregation? Do you have suggestions or requests for topics to be included in the Chimes? All are encouraged to submit articles and pictures for the October 2023 *Chimes* to the church office no later than **Friday, September 22**. A *Microsoft Word file* attached to an email is the preferred method of submission. Please reference “Chimes article” in the subject line. Our email address is office@central-pres.org.

Health Notes: submitted by Alice Studzinski

Heatstroke

It’s been a **hot** summer! Be aware of the symptoms of heatstroke to make sure that you or your loved ones don’t suffer severe effects.

Heatstroke is a condition caused by the body overheating, usually because of prolonged exposure to or physical exertion in high temperatures. It can occur if a person’s body temperature rises to 104 F (40 C) or higher. Heatstroke requires emergency treatment. Untreated heatstroke can quickly damage the brain, heart, kidneys, and muscles. The damage worsens the longer treatment is delayed, increasing the risk of serious complications or death.

Heatstroke signs and symptoms

- **High body temperature.** A core body temperature of 104 F (40 C) or higher, obtained with a rectal thermometer, is the main sign of heatstroke.
- **Altered mental state or behavior.** Confusion, agitation, slurred speech, irritability, delirium, seizures and coma can all result from heatstroke.
- **Alteration in sweating.** In heatstroke brought on by hot weather, the skin will feel hot and dry to the touch. However, in heatstroke brought on by strenuous exercise, the skin may feel dry or slightly moist.
- **Nausea and vomiting.** A person may feel sick or vomit.
- **Flushed skin.** The skin may turn red as body temperature increases.
- **Rapid breathing.** Breathing may become rapid and shallow.
- **Racing heart rate.** The pulse may significantly increase because heat stress places a tremendous burden on the heart to help cool the body.
- **Headache.** The head may throb.

When to see a doctor

If you think a person may be experiencing heatstroke, seek immediate medical help. Call 911 or your local emergency services number. Take immediate action to cool the overheated person while waiting for emergency treatment.

- Get the person into shade or indoors.
- Remove excess clothing.
- Cool the person with whatever means available—put in a cool tub of water or a cool shower, spray with a garden hose, sponge with cool water, fan while misting with cool water, or place ice packs or cold, wet towels on the person's head, neck, armpits and groin.

Menard County Food Pantry

The Menard County Food Pantry is open and staffed by volunteers on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. To receive a food order, persons in need can either contact the Menard County Community Services Office located in the Menard County Courthouse or Lindsay Wilkin at the CCDC (Housing Authority) office at 101 W. Sheridan Ave., Petersburg. Lindsay is there to take referrals on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Food donations are needed for the two Petersburg area Food Pantries, especially the Micro-pantry next to County Market. Please put food items in the large basket in the Narthex to be taken to the Micro-pantry.

New Micro Pantry Offered

A Micro Pantry is being provided at The Studio on the Square located at 115 N. 7th Street in Petersburg on the 3rd Saturday of the month from 10 a.m.-Noon. A free art project will also be offered at that time! There is a drive-thru in the alley between The Studio and VFW for a convenient pick up. Lindsay Wilkin with Menard County Housing Authority runs the Micro Pantry and Mary Kate Smith with The Studio runs the activity. They are in hopes of continuing this project throughout the year as long as there is a need. Donations of pantry and toiletry items are appreciated and can be picked up at the church or dropped off at Menard County Housing Authority located at 117 N. 7th St., right next door to the Studio. For questions, you can call or text Lindsay at 217-717-2551

Thanks,

Lindsay Wilken, FSS Coordinator

Menard County Housing Authority

117 N. 7th Street, Petersburg, IL 62675

Office: 217-632-7723 ext. 136 Direct Line: 217-717-2551 (call or text)

Diaper Bank Needs

The Diaper Bank, located at the Menard County Housing office, 101 W. Sheridan Rd., Petersburg, IL 62675, is currently not open to the public. However, if you are in need of any supplies, either visit in person (there is a doorbell at the front door) or call the office at 217-632-7723. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Senior Services Center is now in the Menard County Housing building, and they have a good supply of adult briefs and pads.

The Diaper Bank is currently well stocked with most sizes of infant diapers, but could use newborn and size 1 diapers, as well as baby wipes at this time. Rather than purchasing items to donate, a monetary donation is always accepted.



Caramel Apple Bars

Taste of Home

You can warm individual servings in the microwave and serve with a scoop of vanilla ice cream for a fall favorite dessert.

Ingredients

1/2 cup butter, softened	1 cup quick-cooking oats
1/4 cup shortening	1 teaspoon salt
1 cup packed brown sugar	1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour	1/2 cup chopped pecans, optional

Filling

4 1/2 cups coarsely chopped and peeled, tart apples
3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
1 package (11 ounces) caramels
3 tablespoons butter

Instructions

1. In a large bowl, cream butter, shortening and brown sugar until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Add flour, oats, salt and baking soda, mix well. If desired, stir in pecans. Set aside 2 cups. Press remaining oat mixture into an ungreased 13x9 inch, baking pan.
2. For filling, toss apples with flour, spoon over the crust. In a saucepan, melt the caramels and butter over low heat; drizzle over apples. Top with the reserved oat mixture.
3. Bake at 400⁰ until lightly browned, 25-30 minutes. Cool before cutting into bars.

Yield: 20 servings. Total Time: Prep: 25 min. Bake: 25 min. + cooling



Italian Shredded Pork Stew

Taste of Home

Ingredients

2 medium sweet potatoes, peeled and cubed
2 cups chopped fresh kale
1 large onion, chopped
3 garlic cloves, minced
1 boneless pork shoulder butt roast (1-1/2 – 3-1/2 lbs.)
1 can (14 ounces) cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
1-1/2 teaspoons Italian seasoning
1/2 teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon pepper
3 cans (14-1/2 ounces each) chicken broth
(sour cream is optional)

Directions

1. Place the sweet potatoes, kale, onion and garlic in a 5-qt. slow cooker. Place roast on vegetables. Add the beans and seasonings. Pour broth over top. Cook, covered, on low until meat is tender, 8-10 hours.
2. Remove meat; cool slightly. Skim fat from cooking juices. Shred pork with 2 forks and return to slow cooker; heat through. If desired, garnish with sour cream.

Yield: 9 servings. Total Time: Prep: 20 min. Cook: 8 hours



Happy Birthday!

September 1 Abigail Phillips
 September 4 Brittany Stout
 September 4 Willow Kyes
 September 5 Peggy Carter
 September 6 Mary Mies
 September 8 Barbara Hurt
 September 9 Chase Sanert
 September 10 Beth Kiningham

September 10 Abby Noel
 September 11 John Godbey
 September 15 Melissa Groh
 September 17 Brooklyn Groh
 September 22 Fisher Noel
 September 25 Emerson Hutton
 September 29 Camilla Long
 September 30 Mark Goeringer

Happy Anniversary!

September 4 Dave & Camilla Long
 September 9 Dale & Mary Rose Satorius
 September 15 Matt & Ashley Rutz

September 17 Patrik & Linda Claussen
 September 17 Mark & Joyce Goeringer



	<i>Usher/Greeter</i>	<i>Liturgist</i>	<i>Communion Steward</i>
Sunday, September 3	Pat Claussen	Pat Claussen	Pat Claussen
Sunday, September 10	WORSHIP IN THE PARK		
Sunday, September 17	Dan Stephenson	Sherri Roberts	
Sunday, September 24	Ben Kiningham	Beth Kiningham	

*If you cannot fulfill your duty as usher/greeter or liturgist, please find someone to take your place.
 Also, let the church office know of the changes as soon as possible.*



Members:

Will Carter
Steve Hollis
Alia Montgomery
Marilyn Montgomery

Jo Ann Morris
Ken Morris
Dale & Mary Rose Satorius
Marilyn Schafer

Judy Stahl
Nancy Van Etten
Linda Williams

Friends of the Congregation:

Jim Allen (P. & M. Montgomery's cousin)
Lois Bastien (D. & C. Long's friend)
Dale Blout (B. Satorius' father)
Judy Boutelle (Rev. J. Boutelle's wife)
Danny Coffey (J. Goeringer's brother)
Michelle Rankin Eddings (M. Montgomery's friend)
Jay Edgecombe (Pastor Ryan's father)
Vicky Edgecombe (Pastor Ryan's mother)
Katie Embrey (Phyllis Hunsaker's granddaughter)
Liam Grogan (C. Long's nephew)
Barb Harrison (N. Mehr's sister-in-law)
Marlene Hartsook (R. Ford's sister)
Gene Horn
Family of Jerry Hughes (R. Plaeger's cousin)
Andrew Kelso (C. Godbey's nephew)
Dave & Diane Ludington
Jerry Naughton (D. & C. Long's friend)
Wayne Patterson (P. & M. Montgomery's friend)
Jay Rebman (L. Claussen's friend)
Nancy Reed (Pastor Ryan's friend)

Dorothy Ricketts (R. Plaeger's mother)
Mike Roberts and Family
Joy Rogerson (J. Gamage's sister)
Melissa Schaake (S. Territo's sister)
Sheila Smoron (Pastor M. Smoron's wife)
Gary Sorenson (L. Williams' friend)
Karen Stark (D. & R. Stark's sister-in-law)
Family of Connie Stuhmer (P. & M. Montgomery's friend)
Dean Territo (S. Territo's father)
John Territo (S. Territo's brother)
Michael Territo (S. Territo's brother)
Ted & Arlyn Tisdale (E.L. Denton's friend)
Family of Alana Watchel (M. Montgomery's cousin)
Carol White (J. Morris' friend)
Clara Willox (R. & C. Ford's granddaughter)
Lauren Woodley (J. Satorius' friend J.D. Proehl's granddaughter)
Debbie Woods

Please pray for all we know who are homebound, residing in care facilities, undergoing surgery or medical treatment, serving in the military or who are away from their family and friends.

In Our Communities and In Our World:

Pray for relief for Island of Maui, HI
Memorial Health lay off workers
Christian Village Nursing Home, Lincoln
Food Pantry Task Force
Pray for racial equality
Peace between nation neighbors

Victims of gun violence/mass shootings
Displaced peoples in the world
Pray for the people who are affected by the
Ukraine/Russian conflict
Pray for our country

Please continue to keep our healthcare workers and those in the educational field in our prayers. They have been a guiding light to all of us in their courage and dedication to keeping us safe and helping the future generation. Thank You!

Please keep the church office informed of members or friends that need to be placed on or removed from our prayer list by sending an email to: office@central-pres.org or calling the church office at: 217-632-2651.