

# CENTRAL Chimes



*Central Presbyterian Church*

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

*On Sunday, January 23, 2022, Clerk of Session Jane Stephenson introduced Robert Lackie as a Preaching Associate for Central. An agreement has been made between Session and Bob for him to conduct worship on the second and fourth Sundays each month through May, as well as some special services. WELCOME, Bob!*

It is bleak and cold as I look out my window, but every time I come to CPC I feel a welcoming warmth and am grateful to all of you for making it that way. I have been coming roughly once a month to do “pulpit supply” since July of last year, but beginning last month (January), I began a commitment to preach there twice a month, usually the “even” Sundays. I thought I might take a few paragraphs to familiarize you with my background.



My wife Lucy and I live in Springfield, and have since 1990. We have two grown children: a daughter Kate and son David, who is married since October 2020 to our beautiful daughter-in-law, Elodie. We live in between them all, with Kate up in Chicago and David and Elodie down in St. Louis. I attended Wheaton College, then the University of Illinois for graduate work, then worked for 32 years for BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois. Starting 4 years ago, I “scratched the itch” I have had most of my life to study the Bible more deeply, and began a Biblical Studies degree at Lincoln Christian Seminary. I was doing that part-time until early 2020, when I left BCBS. I also work part-time as a “TA” for the Greek class in the seminary, coaching students and grading their translations.

I never actually expected to go into preaching, as I see myself more a teacher than a preacher. However, in order to stretch myself and to help smaller churches whose pastors needed a weekend off, I signed up to do “pulpit supply.” Before too long, I got an assignment to do it at CPC. Since July, I have come to really love the people, the wonderful worship there, and your engagement with the messages. Your worship elements, especially the reading of so much Scripture, hit me right in my “sweet spot.” I also enjoy doing the “Young Disciples” time because, one, they are great kids, and two, it motivates me to distill my message into a core that they can (hopefully) understand.

I also am actively involved at our home church, Hope Church in Springfield, where I teach an adult Bible study (on the Sundays I don’t come to CPC) and serve as an elder. My wife and I have been members there since 1991.

I am very excited to see where God takes CPC in 2022. I know it has been a rough season without a full-time pastor, but as you proceed in the search for one, I see how God has equipped the people there to take up the reins and serve. You are a real-life picture of what we see in Ephesians 4, and 1 Cor 12, where Paul talks about the working together of the Body of Christ through the gifts he provides. I am humbled to be able to play a small part in that!

Robert Lackie  
Preaching Associate  
*Central Chimes*

*February 2022*

## Highlights of January 20, 2022 Session Meeting



- Checking account balance as of December 31, 2021: \$36,704.81.
- Pledges to date are the highest number and the highest amount in the past 10 years.
- Proposed Distribution to Central Presbyterian Church of Ebersolt Funds for 2022 is \$2,312.13.
- **Motion – To approve the Final Budget as presented. Motion made by Steve Territo, seconded by Patrik Claussen. Motion carried.**
- **Motion – To approve the slate of offices as presented: Jane Stephenson - Clerk of Session, Rhonda Plaeger – Treasurer, and Janene Tice – Trust Fund Treasurer. Motion made by Steve Territo, seconded by Patrik Claussen. Motion carried.**
- Session will be sending out a letter to update Membership information.
- Discussion of possible Ash Wednesday Service at Central to be coordinated between Central and the Methodist Church.

## Committee News

### Administration

#### Financial

- Income for 2021 was \$6,060.44 above budget and expenses are below budget by \$14,247.88, which put us below our overall budget. Regardless of budget, our income was \$19,536.50 above our expenses. Within Income, our Member Gifts are \$4,533.96 below budget. These are the monies that are received from members who do not do an annual pledge.
- Treasurer's report and financials were reviewed.
- General, MMF, and Endowment Funds were also reviewed.
- A draft budget for 2022 was completed by the Committee for submission to Session with pledges being up from 2021 with several new pledges being received. Overall, expenses are slightly lower than income. This is without a full-time minister and relying on pulpit supply.

#### Building

- The new projector wiring and installation is in the works. Discussion was had regarding replacing the b/w camera at the back of the sanctuary with a color one.
- We are waiting for a bat removal person to look at our organ loft and bell tower.

#### Personnel

- Annual personnel reviews were completed.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Territo & Jane Stephenson, Co-chairs

## Mark Your Calendars for February 20

On Sunday, February 20, 2022, the newly-elected Elders and Deacons will be installed into office. Those elected last month to begin terms in 2022 include Elders Barb Sampson and Steve Territo; Deacons Coleen Janssen and Sherri Roberts. PNC members to be commissioned: Emma Lou Denton, David Drake, David Long, Linda Claussen, John Godbey, Jane Stephenson.

The Annual Congregational Meeting for Central Presbyterian Church will also be held immediately following Worship on Sunday, February 20, 2022. The 2021 Annual Report will be emailed to members and printed copies will be available in the Narthex for members to pick up no later than Sunday, February 6.

## **Ash Wednesday**

An Ash Wednesday Service will be held at Central this year. Service will start at 7:00 p.m.

## **Thank You!**

A big thank you to Alice Studzinski for taking on the role of contributing a health-related article for the monthly Chimes! Her first submission is later in this edition.

A thank you goes out to Rhonda Plaeger for setting up the Narthex table. There is now an organized spot for the MMF, General Offering, and Per Capita envelopes.

## **Emergency Contacts**

Although Central does not now have an installed pastor, 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

Camilla Long, Deacon Chair, 217-306-8086

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

You are also requested to inform the church office of changes in addresses and phone numbers.

## **New at Central**

We now have doorbells at both the front and back entrances of the church. Please feel free to use them during regular church office hours if you forget your key. Just ring the bell and Joni will be happy to let you in!

## **Chimes Deadline**

Please have your articles and photos for the March *Chimes* submitted to the church office **no later than Friday, February 18!** A Microsoft Word file attached to an email is the preferred method of submission. Our email address is [centralpreschurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:centralpreschurch@sbcglobal.net).

## **Food Pantry Open Two Days a Month**

The Menard County Food Pantry is open and staffed by volunteers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. To receive a food order, persons in need should contact the Menard County Community Services Office located in the Menard County Courthouse at 217-632-4412 in order to schedule an appointment to receive a food referral.

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

## **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 infant diapers. Rather than purchasing items to donate, a monetary donation is always accepted.

## **The Story Behind Valentine's Day February 14**

Flowers, candy, pretty cards, gifts, love and romance in the air...that's what Valentine's Day is all about...right? At least, that's what the celebration has become in our modern-day society. What is the real story behind Valentine's Day?

Most sources believe that Saint Valentine's Day began with a feast in honor of an early Christian martyr named Valentinus and is celebrated in mid-February to coincide with his burial. Some believe it may also be celebrated at this time in an effort to Christianize the pagan Roman celebration of Lupercalia – a fertility festival related to agriculture, while others deny this link.



### **The Legend**

Saint Valentinus is remembered as a loving, compassionate and heroic person.

He was a priest during the time when the Emperor Claudius II was persecuting the church, around 250 AD. Claudius had issued an edict that young men were not to marry, as single men made better soldiers. They would not be distracted by thoughts and care of their loved ones, but could focus on their call to duty. In the very permissive society of that day (polygamy was popular), the church still viewed marriage as sacred between one man and one woman.

Valentinus believed those who were in love should be able to marry within the Christian church and remain monogamous. He defied the emperor's orders, and performed marriages in secret.

Valentinus was caught, imprisoned, tortured and eventually killed for performing forbidden marriages and for ministering to Christians. Legend is that while Valentinus was in prison, he prayed with and saw the healing of the blind daughter of his jailer Asterius. Asterius and his entire household are said to have come to Christian faith as a result. It is widely believed that before his execution, Valentinus wrote a farewell letter to Asterius' daughter signed "Your Valentinus." This was the first "valentine."

### **What It Means Today**

The celebration of Saint Valentine's Day has evolved from sending letters, poems, and homemade paper valentines to loved ones to a lucrative business for card publishers, florists, chocolatiers, and jewelers.

While the celebration has become more materialistic, we can grasp the opportunity to show our love and concern for others through acts of kindness and compassion. We can share God's love with the world around us. We can make something good out of this special day.

### **What Does Valentine's Day Mean to You?**

Father Frank O'Gara (Whitefriar Street Church in Dublin, Ireland) said that what Valentine's Day means to him "*is that there comes a time where you have to lay your life upon the line for what you believe. And with the power of the Holy Spirit, we can do that—even to the point of death.*"

Take time to reflect on what Valentine's Day means, or can mean, to you.

**God's Valentine to us is and will forever be the greatest Valentine ever given, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

Church Growth.org. Cindy Spear

February 2022

## Congratulations!

John and Cindy Godbey would like to introduce you to Quinn Revna Godbey. She arrived on September 27, 2021. Gail and Austin are starting the wonderful journey of parenthood and are totally in love with this sweet girl. She was 7 lbs., 6 oz. and 19.75 inches long. Gail is staying home with her, and Austin works at home full time. Their cat, Koko, enjoys the new member of the family, too.



## Directory Updates

Barry Free  
Cedarhurst of Springfield  
3520 Old Jacksonville Rd., Apt. 26  
Springfield, IL 62711

Raymond Montgomery  
Villa West Senior Care  
100 Stardust Dr., Rm. 90  
Sherman, IL 62684

<i>Church Attendance</i>			
January 2		January 23	35
January 9	18	January 30	31
January 16	34		
Average Worship Attendance: 29.5			



# 28 Days Toward a Healthy Heart

Try one of these tips each day for a month, then keep up the momentum and make your favorites part of your regular routine.

#OurHearts  
are healthier together

## Day 1

Call a friend and join the #OurHearts movement.



## Day 2

Make a heart-healthy snack.



## Day 5

Squat it out. Do 1 minute of squats..



## Day 6

Make today a salt-free day. Use herbs for flavor instead of salt.



## Day 7

Visit [Smokefree.gov](http://Smokefree.gov) to take the first step to quitting smoking.



## Day 8

Get your blood pressure checked.



## Day 9

Walk an extra 15 minutes today.



## Day 10

Aim for 30 minutes of physical activity today.



## Day 11

Plan your menu for the week with heart-healthy recipes.



## Day 12

Reduce stress using relaxation techniques.



## Day 13

Give the elevator a day off and take the stairs.



## Day 14

Protect your sweetheart's heart: Plan a heart-healthy date.



## Day 15

Swap the sweets for a piece of fruit for dessert.



## Day 16

Stress less. Practice mindful meditation for 10 minutes.



## Day 18

Add a stretch break to your calendar to increase your flexibility.

## Day 19

Eat vegetarian for a day.



## Day 20

Share a funny video or joke that makes you laugh.



## Day 21

Dance for 15 minutes to your favorite music.



## Day 22

Call a relative and ask about your family health history.



## Day 23

March in place during commercial breaks to get your heart going.



## Day 24

Get a tape measure and find out the size of your waist.



## Day 26

Fill half of your lunch and dinner plates with vegetables.



## Day 27

See how many push-ups you can do in 1 minute.

## Day 28

Pay it forward and tell a friend about [The Heart Truth](http://TheHeartTruth.org).



National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute





**Members:**

Will & Harriet Carter  
Barb Churchill  
Jan Costello  
Ray & Alia Montgomery

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

Judy Stahl  
Linda Williams

**Friends of the Congregation:**

Michelle Baker (C. Long's friend)  
Allen Blout (B. Satorius' grandfather)  
Dale Blout (B. Satorius' father)  
Bob Bolt (P. & L. Claussen's brother-in-law)  
Alan Bronson (S. Wilson's friend)  
Jake Dennison (C. Long's friend)  
Michelle Rankin Eddings (M. Montgomery's friend)  
Greg Grogan (C. Long's brother)  
Mike Hance (husband of Kristi Hance; PES teacher)  
Marlene Hartsook (R. Ford's sister)  
Kelly Holtsman (B. Churchill's daughter)  
Theresa Hulbert (P. Claussen's friend)  
Dave & Diane Ludington  
Bob McLin (B. Winkelmann's brother)  
Family of Ann Peters  
Cindy Rankin (S. Wilson's friend)

Dorothy Ricketts (R. Plaeger's mother)  
Co Shelton  
Sheila Smoron (Pastor M. Smoron's wife)  
Gary Sorenson (L. Williams' friend)  
Family of Joe Spivey  
Stahl family (S. Carlson's neighbor)  
Tom Stelte (P. Claussen's friend)  
Cindy Thomas (R. Ford's niece)  
Eric Wallace (B. Rowe's friend)  
Carol White (J. Morris' friend)  
Mike Whitehurst (P. & M. Montgomery's 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:**

All who are affected by COVID-19  
(Including those not yet vaccinated)  
Pray for racial equality  
Peace between nation neighbors

Victims of gun violence  
Displaced peoples in the world  
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: [centralpreschurch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:centralpreschurch@sbcglobal.net) or calling the church office at: 217-632-2651.*

# Birthdays & Anniversaries

## Happy Birthday

February 3	Doug Stark	February 20	Dan Stephenson
February 8	Lindsey Carter	February 21	Lakin Bennett
	Blair Rowe	February 22	Matt Hutton
February 11	Lori Ann Denton		
February 16	Jackie Horn		

## Happy Anniversary

February 1	Ben & Beth Kiningham
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## Worship Leaders

	<i>Usher/Greeter</i>	<i>Liturgist</i>	<i>Communion Liturgist</i>
February 6	Rhonda Plaeger	Dave Long	Pat Claussen
February 13	Rebecca Rowe	Sue Wilson	
February 20	Jane Stephenson	Ron Sanert	
February 27	Patrik Claussen	Sherri Roberts	

*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.*

