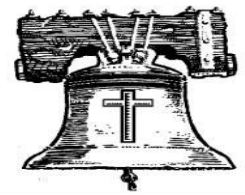


CENTRAL Chimes



Central Presbyterian Church

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

Hello Friends:

I want to begin this article by thanking all of you for the wonderful cards and words of encouragement that you shared with my family, and me, as well as the food, fellowship, and time after church on October 8 for Pastor Appreciation Month. Bethany and I were, humbled by your kindness, especially since we have only been among you for a few months! The cards were very thoughtful and several of the inscriptions within truly touched my heart. We are grateful for our Central Presbyterian Church Family and pray that God will give us the grace to serve faithfully and well so that He may receive the Glory!

I hope that you will see later in this newsletter some inspiring quotes on “thanksgiving,” since we are getting into that season. For this newsletter article, I want to share with you one of those quotations by a favorite author of mine, A.W. Tozer:

“Gratitude is an offering precious in the sight of God, and it is one that the poorest of us can make and be not poorer but richer for having made it.”

Our offerings to God take many forms. We give of our finances putting them in the collection plate. We give of our skills, gifts, and abilities when the congregation is in need or when there is an opportunity to serve and reach out in the name of Jesus and His Gospel. Sometimes we offer our presence to God when providing emotional support, a shoulder to cry on, or a silent source of strength to a neighbor. This too is our offering. There are so many ways to honor God! According to this quote, we can even offer our gratitude as a beautiful gift, acceptable and fragrant to the Lord!

Regardless of our economic station in life, this is an offering we can make, and like every type or category of offering, we are blessed in the giving. Those blessings are usually a mixture of the tangible and the intangible, and they are sometimes hard to define, but the blessings are there. We are “not poorer but richer for having made it.”

How do you express your gratitude as an offering and or act of worship during the week? Do you start your prayer time with a time of thanksgiving for who God is and what God has done for you? Do you walk around the house with a hymn of praise coming out of your mouth in song or in a whistle or in a hum? Do you keep a journal where you can record your heartfelt expressions of praise? Do you intentionally talk to your children and grandchildren or others in that younger generation about how thankful you are for the goodness and grace of God? I bet you have ways of expressing your gratitude to God that I haven’t thought of before! Share with your church family and me so that we can learn from one another!

Let us “count the ways” toward a November filled with a variety of authentic expressions of thanksgiving to a good and loving God.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving,

Ryan Edgecombe, Pastor
Edgeness79@hotmail.com



Highlights of Regular Session Meeting, October 26, 2023

- Bank balance as of September 30, 2023 is \$52,253.87.
- Pastor Ryan made five home visits and continues to have weekly Bible Studies.
- Average Sunday morning attendance for the month of October is 32.
- Sunday School has started for the year with 5-6 children attending weekly.
- Home Communion was served to five members of the Congregation.

Committee News

Administration

Financial

- Income year to date is \$994.34 above budget and YTD expenses are below budget by \$16,092.12. Regardless of budget, our income, YTD, is \$5,065.04 lower than our expenses.
- Almost all expenses are running close to budget after three quarters.
- Treasurer's report and financials were reviewed.
- General, MMF, Obligated Funds were also reviewed.
- The Boy Scout and Cub Scouts have joined in with the Athens Troop. There are three trailers and camping equipment inventory, which will need to be sold or given away. Their checking balances have been turned over to the church. Steve will make contact with Troop 52 to see what we can do to assist them.
- Consolidating of CD's is ongoing at both banks.
- Stewardship letters were sent out and 2024 pledges are coming in.
- 2024 budgeting preliminary work has begun, and the committee discussed several line items and potential changes for next year. Per Capita for 2024 will increase by \$1.00 to \$37.25.

Building

- Elevator repairs have been completed and our certification has been received from the State.
- Ongoing issues are occurring with the phone system. We do not believe that it is the individual phones, but the 'system' itself.
- The fire extinguishers have been serviced for the year.
- Mark will soon be doing fall/winter changes for the building including closing up the whole-house exhaust system.

Personnel

- Jane is working on annual evaluations.

Submitted by Chairperson Steven Territo

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 25: Did God need the world in order to be God?

No. God would still be God, eternally perfect and inexhaustibly rich, even if no creatures had ever been made. Yet without God, all created beings would simply fail to exist. Creatures can neither come into existence, nor continue, nor find fulfillment apart from God. God, however, is self-existent and self-sufficient.

Acts 17:24-25 “The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.”

John 5:26 “For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.”

Question 26: Why then did God create the world?

God’s decision to create the world was an act of grace. In this decision, God chose to grant existence to the world simply in order to bless it. God created the world to reveal God’s glory, to share the love and freedom at the heart of God’s triune being, and to give us eternal life in fellowship with God.

Psalms 19:1 “The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.”

Ephesians 1:3-4 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love.”

Question 27: Does your confession of God as Creator contradict the findings of modern science?

No. My confession of God as Creator answers three questions: Who?, How?, and Why? It affirms that (a) the triune God, who is self-sufficient, (b) called the world into being out of nothing by the creative power of God’s Word (c) for the sake of sharing love and freedom. Natural science has much to teach us about the particular mechanisms and processes of nature, but it is not in a position to answer these questions about ultimate reality, which point to mysteries that science as such is not equipped to explore. Nothing basic to the Christian faith contradicts the findings of modern science, nor does anything essential to modern science contradict the Christian faith.

John 1:1-3 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All Things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being.”

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Don’t forget to change your clocks before you go to bed Saturday, November 4! Daylight savings time ends on November 5 at 2 a.m.



Quotation Station

(Thoughts on Thanksgiving/Gratitude)

“The unthankful heart discovers no mercies; but let the thankful heart sweep through the day and, as the magnet finds the iron, so it will find, in every hour, some heavenly blessings?”

Henry Ward Beecher

“In ordinary life we hardly realize that we receive a great deal more than we give, and that it is only with gratitude that life becomes rich. It is very easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements in comparison with what we owe others.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

“Lord, I thank Thee first because I was never robbed before; second, because although they took my purse they did not take my life; third, because although they took my all, it was not much; and fourth because it was I who was robbed, and not I who robbed.”

Matthew Henry (when he was robbed)

“See that you do not forget what you were before, lest you take for granted that grace and mercy you received from God and forget to express your gratitude each day.”

Martin Luther

“Would you know who is the greatest saint in the world? It is not he who prays the most or fasts the most, it is not he who lives the most, but it is he who is always thankful to God, who receives everything as an instance of God’s goodness and has a heart always ready to praise God for it.”

William Law

Pledge Card Reminder

Your pledges to the General and Major Maintenance Funds are vital in the budgeting process for 2024! The General Fund is used for monthly expenses. The Major Maintenance Fund covers the costs of building needs (such as repairs and upgrades of the heating & cooling systems) without relying on the General Fund. The Time & Talent Survey card is also needed at this time for planning next year’s worship schedule, committees, and events. If you wish to volunteer as liturgist, greeter and/or usher duty, please mark the appropriate box on the yellow card.

Deadline for returning your cards was Sunday, October 22. However, if you have not done so yet, please do before November 9 as the Administration Committee will be meeting to start work on the budget process. Thank you for your faithfulness in making a pledge to our church.

Lunch with Pastor Ryan!

Thirteen faithful souls accepted Pastor Ryan’s invitation to lunch on Monday, October 16—and were not disappointed. Pastor Ryan wanted to practice his cooking now that Bethany (The “Most Valuable Player” of the Edgecombe Family) has gone back to school. The meal was a huge success, and all enjoyed good food and great conversation! This may become a regularly scheduled event!



Food Pantry Fundraiser

On Sunday, October 29, more than 120 music lovers attended a concert at Central with Pastor Ryan as MC. The Menard County Singers, Wildwood Strings, and Land of Lincoln Chorus performed at the 3:00 p.m. event. Mary Jane Hurie and LuAnn DeRocchi were recognized for their years of service to the pantry. Over \$2,000 was donated to the Food Pantry!



COATS

Planning has begun for the 2023 COATS (Clothing of All Types and Sizes) program. Rebecca Rowe is coordinating this program again this year. We will be collecting during the month of November. The shopping trip with the kids has not yet been set, but usually takes place the first week of December. If you would like to donate funds specifically for this program, please use a labeled offering envelope found in the center of each pew. Adult volunteers are needed for the day of the trip to assist the kids with their shopping. It is a fun day, which ends with the group going out to eat. Please contact Rebecca to indicate your interest in helping out.

Community Thanksgiving Service

There will be an ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service held at St. Paul Evangelical Free Church Sunday evening, November 19, at 7:00 p.m. An offering will be taken for local Menard County Christmas Food Baskets.

Church Office Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving

The Church office will be closed Friday, November 24, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Please call Cindy Godbey, Deacon Chair, if you have an emergency.

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 December 2023 *Chimes* to the church office no later than Monday, **November 20**. 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.

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!

Health Notes: *submitted by Alice Studzinski*

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the U.S. Smoking poses the greatest risk, but there are others such as exposure to radon and air pollution.

Many people with lung cancer don't have symptoms until the disease is in its later stages. Because there are very few nerve endings in the lungs, a tumor could grow without causing pain or discomfort. When symptoms are present, they are different in each person, but may include:

- A cough that doesn't go away and gets worse over time
- Hoarseness
- Constant chest pain
- Shortness of breath or wheezing
- Frequent lung infections such as bronchitis or pneumonia
- Coughing up blood

See your doctor if you notice any of these symptoms. If you think you are at risk for lung cancer, you can also talk to your doctor about being screened.

The USPSTF (Preventive Services Task Force) currently recommends annual screening for lung cancer with low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) in adults aged 50 to 80 years who have a 20 pack-year smoking history (*# of packs smoked per day multiplied by # of years smoking. For example: 1 pack per day X 20 years = 20 pack years*) and currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years. National agencies are also looking at expanding recommendations to non-smoking related risk factors for lung cancer such as family history, chronic lung disease, air pollution, and others. Expanded recommendations have not currently been implemented.

National Lung Cancer Screening Day is Saturday, November 11. Many medical centers will offer screening on that day, although Springfield area agencies have not advertised any local events at this time.



Menard County Food Pantry

The Menard County Food Pantry located inside Central Presbyterian Church is open and staffed by volunteers on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Persons needing food can visit every 30 days. There is also a Micro-pantry next to County Market.

Thanks,
Lindsay Wilken, FSS Coordinator

Diaper Bank Needs

The Diaper Bank is located at 101 W. Sheridan Road, Petersburg, IL 62675. This is the old Menard County Housing Authority office, now used by CCDC and Senior Services. Anyone in need of supplies, should either visit in person or call Lindsay Wilken at 217-717-2551. Office hours are from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Diaper Bank is currently stocked with most sizes of diapers and baby wipes, as well as adult briefs and pads. Needed items at this time are: sizes 1-4 diapers and pull-ups. Rather than purchasing items to donate, a monetary donation is always accepted.

Thanks,
Lindsay Wilken, FSS Coordinator

Scenes from Central



Communion is served by Elder Jane Stephenson. Accompanied by Bethany, Pastor Ryan sings *Come Unto Me* on October 8. David Long serves as liturgist October 15. Chancel Choir, led by Rich Ford & accompanied by Julia Territo, sings the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month.



Children's Messages: On October 8, eight children were in attendance for Pastor Ryan's message! JOY was the topic on October 15—Jesus, then Others, then You! Pastor Ryan shared how a Christian is like a pumpkin on October 22. "We are all given the ability to create" was Pastor Ryan's October 29 message.

Cranberry Ambrosia Salad

Taste of Home

Ingredients

- 1 lb. fresh or frozen cranberries
- 1 can (20 oz.) crushed pineapple, drained
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream, whipped
- ½ cup chopped pecans

Instructions

1. In a food processor, cover and process cranberries until coarsely chopped. Transfer to a large bowl; stir in pineapple and sugar. Cover and refrigerate overnight.
2. Just before service, fold in marshmallows, whipped cream and pecans. If desired, top with additional chopped pecans.

Yield: 9 servings. Total Time: Prep: 20 min. + chilling time



Pecan Pie Cookies

Taste of Home

Ingredients

- ¾ cup shortening
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 2 tsps. Vanilla extract, divided
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt

Filling

- 1 cup finely chopped pecans
- ½ cup packed brown sugar
- ¼ cup heavy whipping cream
- Frosting (your choice) optional



Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, cream shortening and brown sugar until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Beat in egg and vanilla. Combine the flour, baking powder and salt; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well.
2. Shape into 1-inch balls. Place 2 inches apart on ungreased baking sheets. Using the end of a wooden spoon handle, make a ½-inch deep indentation in the center of each ball. Combine filling ingredients; spoon into indentations.
3. Bake for 9-11 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool for 1 minute before removing from pans to wire racks. Top with frosting of your choice is optional.

Yield: 3 dozen. Total Time: Prep.: 45 min. Bake: 10 minutes/batch



New Arrival!

Congratulations to Matt and Robynn Roberts on the birth of their new baby girl. Cora Cheng Roberts was born on Saturday, October 7, weighing 6 lbs. 11 oz. Paternal grandmother is Sherri Roberts.



Octogenarian

Nov. 25 Judith Stahl Concordia Village, 4101 W. Iles Ave., #4135, Springfield, IL 62711
 Nov. 26 Janene Tice 16756 Schirding Ave., Petersburg, IL 62675

Happy Birthday!

Nov. 1	Cindy Godbey	Nov. 14	Lauren Johnson
Nov. 1	Vicki Johnson	Nov. 15	Jacob W. Gerdes
Nov. 3	James Kveton	Nov. 16	James Satorius
Nov. 4	Sadie Jane Groh	Nov. 17	Rodney Davis
Nov. 5	Sherrilyn Roberts	Nov. 23	Robert Winkelmann
Nov. 8	Wm. (Bill) Montgomery		



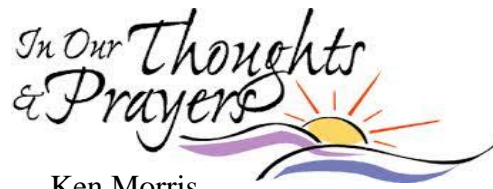
	<i>Usher/Greeter</i>	<i>Liturgist</i>	<i>Communion Steward</i>
Sunday, Nov. 5	Ron Sanert	Chris Ford	TBD
Sunday, Nov. 12	Cindy Godbey	John Godbey	
Sunday, Nov. 19	Jerry Tice	Dan Stephenson	
Sunday, Nov. 26	Steve Territo	Rhonda Plaeger	

*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.*

Worship Attendance

October 1	35	October 22	27
October 8	37	October 29	38
October 15	29		

Average Worship Attendance: 33



Members:

Will Carter
Steve Hollis
Alia Montgomery
Jo Ann Morris

Ken Morris
Dale & Mary Rose Satorius
Family of Marilyn Schafer
Judy Stahl

Family of 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)
Miriam "Mim" Brindley (Former CPC member)
Family of Ray Brown (M. Tice's father-in-law)
John Buehner
Danny Coffey (J. Goeringer's brother)
Jim Daugherty (Former Boy Scout Leader affiliated w/CPC)
Michelle Rankin Eddings (M. Montgomery's friend)
Katie Embrey (Phyllis Hunsaker's granddaughter)
Family of Linda Forbes (retired PORTA teacher)
Liam Grogan (C. Long's nephew)
Barb Harrison (N. Mehr's sister-in-law)
Marlene Hartsook (R. Ford's sister)
Gene Horn
Andrew Kelso (C. Godbey's nephew)
Family of Alta Mae "Susie" Lounsberry
Dave & Diane Ludington
Greg Mathis (M. Montgomery's friend)

Marsha Miller (D. Drake's friend)
Jerry Naughton (D. & C. Long's friend)
Wayne Patterson (P. & M. Montgomery's friend)
Family of Teresa "Terri" Pillsbury
Jay Rebman (L. Claussen's friend)
Dorothy Ricketts (R. Plaeger's mother)
Joy Rogerson (J. Gamage's sister)
Andy Rowe
Melissa Schaake (S. Territo's sister)
Family of Melvin "Bud" Schoeneweis
Sheila Smoron (Pastor M. Smoron's wife)
Karen Stark (D. & R. Stark's sister-in-law)
Dean Territo (S. Territo's father)
John Territo (S. Territo's brother)
Ted & Arlyn Tisdale (E.L. Denton's friend)
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:

Victims of sexual assault
Pray for relief for Island of Maui, HI
Memorial Health lay off workers
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 and Israel
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.