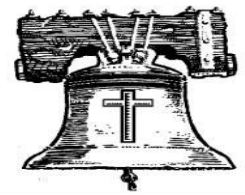


CENTRAL Chimes



Central Presbyterian Church

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

Hello Friends:

Advent is here and Christmas is coming! Are you ready? I'm certainly not as I write this. This can be such a busy time of year. It can be very enjoyable, to be sure, but sometimes I think we all miss something in the busy-ness that is the holiday season. Thankfully, Advent is a time of preparation for the Joy of Christmas, and this type of preparation is less about "busy work" and more about slowing down, taking an honest look at ourselves and our own imperfections and spiritual need, and turning to that baby who has come to redeem us and bring us true and enduring freedom.

Make room in your heart for the coming of our Lord Jesus this Advent Season! As Stephen Covey so beautifully illustrated in his books (*The 7 habits of highly effective people & First Things First*), there are those things that are urgent, and those things that are important. Sometimes those things that are both urgent and important solicit our time, and it is appropriate for us to "answer the call," but there are some things that we don't necessarily assign much urgency to things that are extremely important. The Advent season may not have an urgent spirit about it, but we must not let it be displaced by the tyranny of the urgent that fills up our calendars to the brim!

Do you have some time this advent season to slow down, read an advent devotional or some other devotional resource, and pray each day that your heart may be molded and open in anticipation of the Christ Child? Some of you may have advent wreaths at home that you could dust off and make good use of. Do you have favorite Advent or Christmas Hymns that are calling on you to sing out in the comfort of your own home? Make time for the Christ Child. I know that this is a crazy and chaotic and busy time of year. You need to slow down and sit with Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus this year. We all need time to sit by the shepherds and livestock in the manger and just take in the beauty of the moment that changed, and is still changing, the world (and us!).

This old familiar Christmas Hymn rings in my heart as I write this little article...

*"O come to my heart, Lord Jesus! There is room in my heart for thee!
Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown when thou camest to earth for me.
But in Bethlehem's home there was found no room for Thy holy nativity:*

*O Come to my heart, Lord Jesus! There is room in my heart for Thee.
Heaven's arches rang when the angels sang, proclaiming Thy royal degree.
But in lowly birth Thou didst come to earth, and with great humility.*

O come to my heart, Lord Jesus! There is room in my heart for Thee!"

Merry Christmas from the Edgecombe Family

Ryan Edgecombe, Pastor
Edgeness79@hotmail.com



Highlights of Regular Session Meeting, November 16, 2023

- Bank balance as of October 31, 2023 is \$58,917.14.
- Home Communion was served to a total of 5 members of the Congregation.
- **MOTION: That Central Presbyterian Church donate \$100.00 to PORTA After Prom with the \$100.00 to be paid out of the Ebersolt Fund. Motion made by Steve Territo, seconded by Patrik Claussen. Motion Carried. APPROVED**
- **MOTION: With Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday, Central to have two services to be held on December 24: a regular morning service at 10:30 a.m. and a Christmas Eve Service at 9:00 p.m. Motion by Patrik Claussen, seconded by Steve Territo. Motion Carried. APPROVED**
- **MOTION: That Central Presbyterian Church host a Blue Christmas Service on December 10 at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Ryan will have the information in the weekly bulletin and distribute a flyer to area businesses and Churches regarding the same. Motion by David Drake, seconded by Patrik Claussen. Motion Carried. APPROVED**
- **MOTION: That Pastor Ryan will have vacation leave December 25, 2023 thru January 3, 2024. Motion made by Steve Territo, seconded by David Drake. Motion Carried. APPROVED**
- Children's Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 17, with fellowship to follow the service.
- Pastor Edgecombe Report for October:
 - Made 2 home visits and numerous telephone calls.
 - Conducted 3 funerals.
 - Hosted a Lunch with Pastor Ryan. About 15 in attendance.
 - Attended the annual Midwest Retreat at Lincoln Christian University.
 - Attended at least 1 meeting and had several conversations with board members from the Food Pantry. Communicated CPC's willingness to allow the pantry to use the upstairs room.
 - Continues weekly Bible Study.
 - Attended Session, Deacons' meeting, and Worship Committee meeting.

Administration Committee News

Financial

- Income year to date is \$1,782.55 above budget and YTD expenses are below budget by \$18,514.97. Regardless of budget, our income, YTD, is \$4,706.83 lower than our expenses.
- Gas/electric expenditures are very close to budget and almost all other expenses are running close to budget after three quarters.
- Treasurer's report and financials were reviewed.
- General, MMF, Obligated Funds were also reviewed.
- Consolidating of CD's is ongoing at both banks.
- Stewardship letters were sent out and 2024 pledges are starting to come in with five new or renewed pledges. The same is true for the MMF with 4 new or renewed pledges.
- 2024 budgeting work is ongoing and the committee discussed several line items.
- Insurance is being reviewed:
 - The Committee is discussing increasing the deductible to \$10K or \$25K with significant annual savings.
 - The Committee will be adding Earthquake insurance.

- In addition to Church Mutual two additional carriers are quoting our coverage.

Building

- Ongoing issues are occurring with the phone system. Discussion of people to inspect the system for repair or replacement.

Personnel

- The Personnel Committee is completing 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 28: What is the second article of the Apostles' Creed?

"And I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead"

Question 29: What do you believe when you confess your faith in Jesus Christ as "God's only Son"?

That Jesus Christ is a unique person who was sent to do a unique work.

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 1:14 "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."

Question 30: How do you understand the uniqueness of Jesus Christ?

No one else will ever be God incarnate. No one else will ever die for the sins of the world. Only Jesus Christ is such a person, only He could do such a work, and He in fact has done it.

Isaiah 53:5 "But He was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon Him was the punishment that made us whole, and by His bruises we are healed."

Colossians 1:15-20 "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for Him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He Himself is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He might come to have first place in everything. For in Him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through Him God was

pleased to reconcile to Himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of His cross."

Question 31: What do you affirm when you confess your faith in Jesus Christ as "our Lord"? That having been raised from the dead, He reigns with compassion and justice over all things in heaven and on earth, especially over those who confess Him by faith; and that by loving and serving Him above all else, I give glory and honor to God.
1 Corinthians 15:3-4 "For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures."
Revelations 11:15 "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Messiah; and He will reign forever and ever."
Philippians 2:9-11 "Therefore God also highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Quotation Station *(Thoughts on Advent)*

"Immanuel, God with us in our nature, in our sorrow, in our lifework, in our punishment, in our grave, and now with us, or rather we with Him, in resurrection, ascension, triumph, and Second Advent splendor."
--Charles Spurgeon

"The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord."
--Henri Nouwen

"The season of Advent means there is something on the horizon the likes of which we have never seen before—what is possible is to not see it, to miss it, to turn just as it brushes past you. And you begin to grasp what it was you missed, like Moses in the cleft of the rock, watching God's (back) fade in the distance. So stay. Sit. Linger. Tarry. Ponder. Wait. Behold. Wonder. There will be time enough for running. For rushing. For worrying. For pushing. For now, stay. Wait. Something is on the horizon."

--Jan L. Richardson, *Night Visions: Searching the Shadows of Advent and Christmas*

"Into this world, this demented inn in which there is absolutely no room for him at all, Christ comes uninvited."
--Thomas Merton

"Let's approach Christmas with an expectant hush, rather than a last-minute rush."
--Anonymous



Children's Christmas Program

The Children's Christmas Program is entitled "A No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant." Children and adults can volunteer to participate the day of our pageant. How fun will that be? Be sure to join us in the first Christmas story done in poetry on **December 10 during the worship service**. This is a change from the date originally planned and reported in the Session Highlights; the Christmas Program and Blue Christmas Service dates have been flipped.

Christmas Fellowship

On Sunday, **December 10**, following the Children's Christmas Program, there will be the traditional Christmas Fellowship. Volunteers are needed to provide finger foods as in the past—meat, cheese, veggies, fruit, sweets. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Thanks to the Deacons for coordinating this event.

Blue Christmas Service

Central will be providing a *Blue Christmas Service* for our congregation and the community on Sunday, **December 17, at 2:00 p.m.** You may or may not be familiar with this type of service.

A *Blue Christmas Service* is similar to a community memorial service. We are recognizing that the Holiday Season, so often associated with joy, may not be something that grieving individuals and families are looking forward to as they adjust to not having their parent, child, sibling, spouse, or a friend at their side this Christmas, as in years past.

We want to give our community an opportunity to continue in the grieving process this holiday season, while at the same time embracing the love of that baby born of Mary for all of us.

Please come and remember those special to you, whether you have been missing them for a short time or for a very long time!

Christmas Eve Service

The annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at **9:00 p.m.** Come Join Us!

2023 Giving Deadline

Sunday, December 24, will be the last Sunday for giving to Central Presbyterian Church to be included on the current year 2023 Giving Statement. Any contributions received later that week will not be deposited until January 2. Per IRS guidelines, any pledges deposited in the new year, will be shown on the 2024 Giving Statements.

Have You Considered Your Giving Options?

We're living in changing times! Our church is experiencing change, as well, in the methods used by our church family to provide financial support. What is the best way for you to continue to meet your pledge or contribution to support the church, even when you are not able to attend in person?

Following are several options that have been or are currently being used by our congregation to provide an "offering." Whether you are able to attend regularly or not, we welcome any of these methods.

- The traditional offering comes in the form of cash or a check in an offering envelope during the worship service.
- Checks may also be dropped off or mailed to the church office.
- Most banks now offer online services. Both Alliance Bank and Petefish, Skiles in Petersburg allow you to log into your account online and schedule a payment to the church from your account. A printed check is mailed to the church. It is very likely that other banks provide the same service. There is no fee for this service at the Petersburg banks.
- Another online service offered by many banks allows you to set up a Recurring payment. You can schedule a payment to be made automatically according to your preference. For example, you can schedule a specific amount to be paid on a specific date each month. This is also a free service in Petersburg.
- If you do not use online banking, either of the previous 2 options can be arranged by visiting the bank and working with bank personnel.
- A link for PayPal can be found on the church's website. You may use this service to transfer funds to the church. Please be aware, however, that PayPal collects a fee from the church for the service. For example, a payment from your account of \$50 results in PayPal keeping about \$2 and the church receiving about \$48.

If you are curious about or interested in trying a new method for making donations to Central Presbyterian Church, feel free to contact Rhonda Plaeger for more information.

Thank You

A big thank you to all those that helped in the "Hanging of the Greens" in the church following choir practice, Wednesday evening, November 29! The Sanctuary once again comes alive with the "Spirit of the Season."

Annual Report Deadline

Committee Chairs: submissions for the 2023 Annual Report are needed soon. If you know now that there will be no more activity in your particular committee for the rest of the year, please feel free to send your report in as soon as possible. Early submissions will be greatly appreciated!!!

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 January 2024 *Chimes* to the church office no later than Wednesday, **December 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.

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Ryan will be on a much-needed vacation from Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day) through Wednesday, January 3, 2024. Please call Cindy Godbey, Deacon Chair, if you have an emergency.

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*

Cataracts

(Information taken from the National Eye Institute web page)

A cataract is a cloudy area in the lens of your eye (the clear part of the eye that helps to focus light). Cataracts are very common as you get older. In fact, more than half of all Americans aged 80 or older either have cataracts or have had surgery to get rid of them.

At first, you may not notice that you have a cataract. But over time, cataracts can make your vision blurry, hazy, or less colorful. You may have trouble reading or doing other everyday activities. You can get cataracts in one eye or both eyes—but they can't spread from one eye to the other.

Over time, cataracts can lead to vision loss. Most cataracts are related to age—they happen because of normal changes in your eyes as you get older. But you can get cataracts for other reasons—like after an eye injury or after surgery for another eye problem (like glaucoma).

No matter what type of cataract you have, you'll need surgery to treat it. During cataract surgery, the doctor removes the clouded lens and replaces it with a new, artificial lens (also called an intraocular lens, or IOL). The surgery is very safe, and 9 out of 10 people who get it can see better afterwards. Most people don't need to rush into surgery and waiting to have surgery usually won't harm your eyes or make surgery more difficult later. Talk about your options with your eye doctor.

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



November 19: A great pre-Thanksgiving worship service . . . with the choir singing and extended families of CPC members joining us for the Sunday morning service.



Left: Ethan and Ava were joined by visitors throughout November for Pastor Ryan's Children's Messages. **Above:** November 5 Worship leaders include Chris Ford as Liturgist, Marilyn Montgomery as Communion Liturgist, and John and Cindy Godbey as ushers. Rebecca Rowe is Communion Liturgist on November 26, and Camilla Long and Marilyn Montgomery served the congregation.

Octogenarian

Dec. 25 Will Carter 89 Almond Lane, Petersburg, IL 62675

Happy Birthday!

Dec. 1	Jane Stephenson	Dec. 19	Rebecca Stark
Dec. 5	Hannah Kyes	Dec. 19	Ron Sanert
Dec. 6	Marisa Gerdes	Dec. 22	Marilyn Montgomery
Dec. 11	Shannon Willhite	Dec. 23	Jamie Canady
Dec. 16	Pam Brown	Dec. 25	Holly Davis
Dec. 18	Debbie Davis		

Happy Anniversary

Dec. 31 Kyle & Carrie Winkelmann



	<i>Usher/Greeter</i>	<i>Liturgist</i>	<i>Communion Steward</i>
Sunday, Dec. 3	Steve Territo	Steve Territo	TBD
Sunday, Dec. 10	Coleen Janssen	Ron Sanert	
Sunday, Dec. 17	Beth Kiningham	Barb Sampson	
Sunday, Dec. 24	Pat Claussen	Jan Costello	
Christmas Eve	TBD	TBD	TBD
Sunday, Dec. 31	Rebecca Rowe	Marilyn Montgomery	

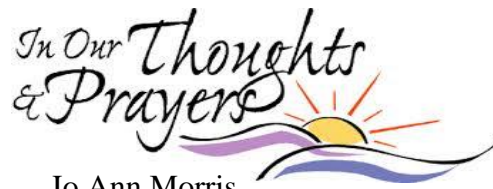
If you cannot fulfill your duty as usher/greeter or liturgist, please find someone to take your place.

Also, let the church office know of the changes as soon as possible.

Worship Attendance

November 5	33	November 19	50
November 12	34	November 26	23

Average Worship Attendance: 35



Members:

Will Carter
Steve Hollis
Alia Montgomery

Jo Ann Morris
Ken Morris
Dale & Mary Rose Satorius

Judy Stahl
Linda Williams

Friends of the Congregation:

Jim Allen (P. & M. Montgomery's cousin)
Lois Bastien (D. & C. Long's friend)
Steve Blaum (Pastor in Lincoln/Pastor Ryan'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
Family of Keith Cason-Gossett (P. Claussen's friend)
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)
Liam Grogan (C. Long's nephew)
Barb Harrison (N. Mehr's sister-in-law)
Marlene Hartsook (R. Ford's sister)
Jessie Heinz (C. Godbey's sister-in-law)
Gene Horn
Andrew Kelso (C. Godbey's nephew)
Cade Leesman (D. & C. Long's friend)
The Mack Family (Pastor Ryan's friend) (mother & infant passed)

Manny Martinez (D. Long's friend)
Greg Mathis (M. Montgomery's friend)
Nancy Mehr
Family of Marsha Miller (D. Drake's friend)
Family of Nancy Nannen (Edgecombe family friend)
Jerry Naughton (D. & C. Long's friend)
Wayne Patterson (P. & M. Montgomery's friend)
Family of Mona Rakestraw (L. Willhite's sister)
Jay Rebman (L. Claussen's friend)
Dorothy Ricketts (R. Plaeger's mother)
Joy Rogerson (J. Gamage's sister)
Andy Rowe
Melissa Schaaake (S. Territo's sister)
Karen Stark (D. & R. Stark's sister-in-law)
Dean Territo (S. Territo's father)
Ted & Arlyn Tisdale (E.L. Denton's friend)
Family of Joanie Vincent (P. Claussen's friend)
Carol White (J. Morris' friend)
Clara Willox (R. & C. Ford's granddaughter)
Lauren Woodley (J. Satorius' friend J.D. Proehl's granddaughter)

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:

People affected by the Ukraine/Russian conflict
People affected by the Israel/Gaza conflict
Our country
Victims of sexual assault
Relief for island of Maui, HI

Memorial Health lay-off workers
Racial equality
Peace between nation neighbors
Victims of gun violence/mass shootings
Displaced peoples in the world

A special prayer to all of those that will be traveling this joyous Christmas Holiday. May they arrive safe and sound at their destination!

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.

Cheesy Ham Chowder

Taste of Home

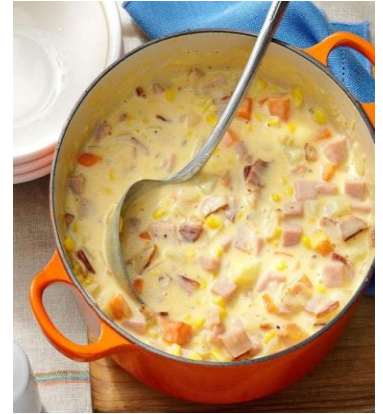
Ingredients

10 bacon strips, diced	1 ½ cups cubed potatoes
1 large onion, chopped	1 can (15 ¼ oz.) whole kernel corn, drained
1 cup diced carrots	2 tsp. chicken bouillon granules
3 tbsp. all-purpose flour	pepper to taste
3 cups whole milk	3 cups shredded cheddar cheese
1 ½ cups water	2 cups cubed fully cooked ham

Instructions

1. In a Dutch oven, cook the bacon over medium heat until crisp. Using a slotted spoon, remove to paper towels to drain. In the drippings, sauté onion and carrots until tender. Stir in flour until blended. Gradually add milk and water. Bring to boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened.
2. Add the potatoes, corn, bouillon and pepper. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, for 20 minutes or until potatoes are tender. Add cheese and ham; heat until cheese is melted. Stir in bacon.

Yield: 10 servings. Total Time: Prep: 30 min. Cook: 30 min.



Appetizer Wreath

Taste of Home

Ingredients

2 tubes (8 oz., each) refrigerated crescent rolls
1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup sour cream
1 tsp. dill weed
1/8 tsp. garlic powder
1 ½ cups chopped fresh broccoli florets
1/2 cup finely chopped sweet red pepper
1 cup finely chopped celery
Celery leaves

Directions

1. Remove crescent dough from packaging (do not unroll). Cut each tube into 8 slices. Arrange in an 11 inch circle on an ungreased 14 inch pizza pan.
2. Bake at 375° for 15 to 20 minutes or until golden brown. Cool for 5 minutes before carefully removing to a serving platter; cool completely.
3. In a small bowl, beat the cream cheese, sour cream, dill and garlic powder until smooth. Spread on wreath; top with broccoli, red pepper, chopped celery and celery leaves.

Yield: 16 servings. Total Time: Prep.: 20 min. Bake: 15 minutes + cooling

