

CENTRAL

Chimes



Central Presbyterian Church

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

Dear Congregation,

The gripping cold of late December has descended on us as I write this. Time to get out hats and gloves and buckle down for the unpredictability of Illinois winters. It could well be in the 60s next week, for all we know! Our ability to predict our weather is no worse, though, than our ability to predict the events of 2023. What will happen in the Ukraine? What new scandals will hit national or state politics? Will the stock market continue downward (as it is today) or move upward? Who will be born and who will die?

It's probably good we cannot predict the future because we wouldn't know what to do to hurry along the good stuff—and keep it coming—and prevent the bad before it “hits the fan.” Rather, we are at our best as humans when we endure the difficulties and learn from them, and conversely when we can humbly and gratefully accept the good we receive and try to multiply it. As Christ-followers, we need to always recognize that our lives are ultimately under the control of the “Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or the slightest hint of change” (James 1.17, NET Bible).

I am reading a book on unanswered prayer, called *God on Mute*, but this idea pertains to *all* prayer and in fact all of life, that God gives us the freedom to make choices, but if he gives us a choice that means that as far as that choice goes, God relinquishes control over his perfect will. That doesn't mean he does not know the end result of all of our choices, but it may mean that our choices may not bring the best outcome, from God's perspective. That helps me better understand how bad things can happen under the eye of God. In the midst of all that, he remains “without variation or the slightest hint of change.” That's why God is our Rock in times of trouble, fear, and doubt.

Let's let him do His work, and have His way in the workings of Central Presbyterian Church. That doesn't mean being passive or unsure, but rather that we each exercise the spiritual gifts each of us can bring—gifts of administration, helping, prophesy, teaching, leading, etc.—and offer them knowing He is Lord of all and we are not. Let's take any new opportunity God gives us to serve him faithfully and to be little Immanuel's—“God with us” people—wherever he puts us, with whatever he calls us to do.

Lastly, I want to send all of you wishes for a meaningful Advent and Christmas season, with joy and rest as you spend time with loved ones. I am both grateful and humbled to have a role at Central Presbyterian Church!

Robert Lackie, Preaching Associate
(217) 971-8641
Lackier26@gmail.com



Highlights of Regular Session Meeting on December 15, 2022

- Bank balance November 30, 2022, \$51,903.50.
- A Thank You was received from Heidi Jacobus and the 11 students from PORTA that went shopping on December 7.
- Annual Congregational Meeting and Nomination/Election of Slate of Officers is scheduled for February 5, 2023.
- **MOTION: Communion will be served on the following dates in 2023: The first Sunday of every month; Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday, Christ the King Day, and Christmas Eve. Motion made by Patrik Claussen, seconded by Steve Territo. Motion carried.**
- **MOTION: That \$500.00 be moved from the Ebersolt Fund to C.O.A.T.S. Motion made by Steve Territo, seconded by Ron Sanert.**
- **MOTION: Approval for \$4000 to Elite Masonry (Doug Flanders) to repair/remove/replace bricks and trim trees on the east side of the building and work on the stair area on the west side. All work to be performed in the spring and paid from MMF. Motion made by Steve Territo, seconded by Barb Sampson. Motion carried.**
- We ask that you continue to keep all of our health care providers in your thoughts and prayers.

Committee News

Administration

Financial

- Income year to date is \$6,604.18 above budget and YTD expenses are below budget by \$2,644.62, which puts us below our overall budget. Regardless of budget, our income, YTD, is \$9,684.25 above our expenses.
- We currently have an outstanding pulpit supply team, but our budget is in the positive because we do not have a full time minister. Budgetary expenses will increase considerably once we hire a pastor.
- Treasurer's report and financials were reviewed.
- General, MMF, Obligated Funds were also reviewed.
- The majority of the work has been completed on the 2023 budget. We are waiting to put in the final pledge amount. We have received 27 pledges for 2023.
- Updated computer software will be through a subscription starting in 2023.
- Numerous suggestions were made for the Presbytery monies that were returned to CPC. Calls to local groups will be made and funds disbursed starting in January.

Building

- We are waiting for a bat removal person to inspect our organ loft and bell tower.

Steven Territo and Jane Stephenson, Co-chairs

Mission/Outreach

I would like to take a moment and thank everyone for their generosity in volunteering this past year with time, talent, and treasures.

Barbara Sampson, Chairperson

Boy Scouts' Service Project



Boy Scout Troop #54 has a long-standing relationship with Central Presbyterian Church. This fall several boys along with fathers helped church families with yard clean-up. They filled 65 bags with leaves at one home, raked leaves at 2 other homes, and spread

mulch around trees and shrubs at another. The spirit of service demonstrated by these Boy Scouts is very much appreciated!

Thank You

Following the COATS shopping trip on December 7, Central received the following from Heidi Jacobus: “Thank you so very much for your extremely generous donations that enable our students to get items they need. Many of the students have shared with me that they desperately needed new shoes, clothes, and undergarments. The students are so proud to wear their new items to school! One student told me his walk to school was so much warmer because his new clothes don’t have holes in them. Many thanks to all the adults who help our students shop! The students need kindness, patience and some shopping expertise, and all were provided with a smile! Thank you again for your continued support of our students. I wish you all a blessed Christmas and New Year!”

Heidi also included a typed sheet of thank you notes from the students themselves. The letter and student’s comments are on the board in the Narthex for your viewing.

PETERSBURG OBSERVER

Thurs., December 15, 2022

Sec. 1, Pg. 9



Students treated to shopping

Every year, Central Presbyterian Church in Petersburg, takes a group of High and Sr. High students shopping in December for needed clothing items. The program is called C O A T S (Clothing of Any Type and Size) and is funded by members' donations from the congregation. Rebecca Rowe is the chairperson and Heidi Jacobus is the contact person at PORTA.

Members of the church, school staff, and housing staff

go shopping at Kohl's with the students. This year, 11 students were taken shopping at Kohl's. To top off the evening, the students and volunteers all enjoyed a meal together at Texas Roadhouse.

The volunteers are pictured: John Jacobus, Marilyn Montgomery, Camilla Long, Lindsey Wilken, Heidi Jacobus, Lora Puckett, Rebecca Rowe, and Janet Scheina. Not pictured is Anne Smith

Keep Connected!

Although Central does not have an installed pastor at this time, Preaching Associate, Robert Lackie, has agreed to make himself available to the congregation. Bob is in the church each **Wednesday** from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you wish to make an appointment to visit with him, please call his cell phone, 217-971-8641, or the church office.

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. or

Friday 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Camilla Long, Deacon Chair, 217-306-8086

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

Please note that messages can once again be left on the church phone if called after hours.

Chimes Deadline

Please have your articles and pictures for the February, 2023 *Chimes* submitted to the church office no later than **Friday, January 20**. A *Microsoft Word file* attached to an email is the preferred method of submission. **Please reference “Chimes article” in the subject line.** Please email the church with any suggestions as to what you may want to see in the *Chimes*. Our email address is office@central-pres.org.

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 2:00 p.m. for any resident who resides within the PORTA School District.

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.

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.





Health Notes:

submitted by Brianne Satorius, Church member & Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor

It's been on my heart to check in with a little "mental health minute". There are fresh losses to suicide, both locally and in the news, which have many people commenting about needing to "check on people even when they seem happy, or seem like they have it all together", etc.—Really stressing the need to check on others. Truth is, when someone is truly struggling with unmanaged depression, they will show you and tell you what they need to, to maintain the mask they are wearing. Don't get me wrong, DO stay in contact with your people because they matter to you, whether there is anything going on or just to send a random text or meme to make them smile; maintain your connections. They would never have to wonder if you might care enough to be there for them if/when they did need someone. But unfortunately it won't prevent suicide. Checking in might delay it, but won't prevent it. The only thing that will, is for EVERYONE to consistently check in and pay attention to THEMSELVES.

Thoughts about not wanting to live anymore, that life no longer has worth or value, that others could be better off without you, etc, etc, etc, ARE. NOT. HEALTHY. At that point, an emergency alarm of sorts needs to be activated. At that point, you can no longer fully trust your own judgment. Depression, as with many other diagnoses, varies greatly based on type and severity. Depression is very a-la-carte, where there is a significant list of symptoms and any combination of five or more can meet criteria. One can't sleep, while one sleeps all day. One isn't eating and is losing weight, while others are emotional eating and gaining. One isn't smiling and is withdrawn, while the other is laughing and seems the life of the party. One could be having suicidal ideations, while the next would never dream of it. Both meet criteria for depression but look completely different.

Type and severity, will determine need. For some, it's allowing your loved ones in to support you; possibly making changes to your routine, your environments, and most certainly your perspectives; setting up an appointment with your doctor, considering therapy. Some could benefit from medication to raise their baseline. I am by no means one who pushes medication; however, suicidal ideations are on the severe end of the depression spectrum, and there is most certainly a chemical component. Some need medication long-term—no different than someone who is low in iron and needs a supplement, or needs insulin to manage diabetes. You just need it. For others it could just be a period of time in your life, due to situations, stressors, losses, that effect your chemistry for awhile. You may need medication for just a period of time, like pushing the reset button. Whatever the path, it is up to the individual to recognize that how they are thinking is not ok, and to make the decision to live. Fight for life.

Even if you're in a dark place right now, uncertain how/when/if it could get better, you can't be certain that it won't. WHAT IF this way you're feeling could improve? WHAT IF something amazing is just around the corner? WHAT IF we allow our stories to play out, rather than cutting them short? WHAT IF the story is about to get really good? It would be a shame to miss it.

Don't accept the dark, deceiving, narrative that depression can brainwash you with. Even on a cloudy day, we know the sun is still up there, somewhere, and will shine again on another day.

For everyone reading this, check in with YOURSELF! Regularly! Know what the warning signs are, and seek help if needed.

Choose LIFE! ♥

Central Chimes

January 2023

Did You Know:

January, the beginning of the new year and the time to make New Year resolutions. January was established as the first month of the year by the Roman Calendar. It was named after the god Janus (Latin word for door).

The first day of the month is known as **New Year's Day**. It is, on average, the coldest month of the year within most of the Northern Hemisphere (where it is the second month of winter) and the warmest month of the year within most of the Southern Hemisphere (where it is the second month of summer).

January, **first month of the Gregorian calendar**. It was named after Janus, the Roman god of all beginnings. January is the doorway to the new year. It is also the first of seven months with 31 days. January replaced March as the first month of the Roman year no later than 153 bce.

January horoscope sign is Capricorn or Aquarius. If you were born before January 20, you are a Capricorn (December 22 – January 19). What is the most valuable resource? For Capricorn, the answer is clear: Time. Capricorn is climbing the mountain straight to the top and knows that patience, perseverance, and dedication is the only way to scale.

If you were born after January 19 (January 20 – February 18), you are an Aquarius. Aquarians are thought to be intelligent, quirky, and independent. They also tend to be curious and communicative and will keep you entertained and it is difficult to get bored when they are around. They are a kid at heart and only turn mature when the situation demands it. They are, though, the most humanitarian in the astrological signs. At the end of the day, they are the most dedicated to making the world a better place.

<i>Worship Attendance</i>			
December 4	26	December 18	32
December 11	35	December 24	24
Average Worship Attendance: 29			

Scenes from Central



December 11 Worship/Children's

Program: Ava & Ethan Satorius and Linda Claussen provide background and scripture readings for "We Three Camels." Portraying camels who carried the Maji are Marilyn Montgomery, Cindy Godbey, and Rich Ford.



Pastor Nagel provides guitar Christmas offertory music.

Christmas Eve Service



Easy Sweet Potato Pancakes

m.giantfood.com

Cottage cheese and canned sweet potatoes are the secret ingredients in these fluffy and moist pancakes. Mixing the batter in a blender makes this recipe a breeze for breakfast or brunch.

Ingredients

1 cup all-purpose flour	¼ tsp. salt
½ cup low-fat cottage cheese	Cooking Spray
1 cup canned cut sweet potatoes, drained	¼ cup nonfat Greek yogurt
2 Tbsp. canola oil	1 cup mixed berries (optional)
2 large eggs	Honey (optional)
2 tsp. ground cinnamon	Coconut flakes (optional)



Instructions

1. In a blender, add the flour, cottage cheese, sweet potatoes, oil, eggs, cinnamon, salt, and 1 tbsp. water. Blend until smooth. If batter is too thick, add another 1 tbsp. water and blend.
2. Coat a 12-inch nonstick skillet with the cooking spray and heat on medium. Add the batter, ¼ cup at a time, to form pancakes and cook 1-2 min., until edges begin to set and bubbles start to form.
3. Flip pancakes and cook another 1 min., until bottoms are golden brown. Repeat with remaining batter. Serve with the Greek yogurt, mixed berries, honey, and coconut flakes, if desired.

Nutrition Information: 12.0g sugar, 4.0g fiber, 13.0g protein, 106mg cholesterol

Yields: 4 servings, prep time: 5 min., Cooking Time: 12 min.

Strawberry Syrup Recipe

An Elite Cafemedia Food Publisher

“Strawberry syrup made with fresh fruit. A healthier pancake topping full of flavor, inspired by what you’d get at Ihop!”

Ingredients

2 cups diced strawberries
½ cup white sugar or honey
1 cup + 2 tbsp. water, divided
1 Tbsp. cornstarch

Instructions

1. In a small dish, combine 2 tbsp. water with 1 tbsp. cornstarch and set aside.
2. In a medium saucepan, combine the water, sugar and diced strawberries and bring to a boil stirring occasionally. Reduce heat and simmer for about 10 minutes.
3. Add the water-cornstarch mixture and stir to combine. The sauce will thicken and the strawberries will begin smelling like warm jelly. Turn off heat and allow the mixture to cool slightly before serving.
4. If you prefer a smooth syrup, carefully pour the cooled strawberry sauce in a blender and process until smooth, slowly adding an additional ¼ cup of water while blending.
5. Serve the warm strawberry syrup over the pancakes.
6. Refrigerate the leftover syrup in a lidded jar for one to two weeks. Remove the syrup from the fridge prior to serving.

Nutrition: Serving Size: 1 tablespoon, Calories: 32, Sugar: 7.1g, Fat: 0.9g, Saturated Fat: 0g Carbohydrates: 8.1g, Protein: 0.1g, Cholesterol: 0mg, Fiber: 0.4g





Members:

Harriet Carter	Jo Ann Morris	Judy Stahl
Barbara Churchill	Ken Morris	Nancy Van Etten
Jan Costello	Rebecca Rowe	Lisa Willhite
Steve Hollis	Dale & Mary Rose Satorius	Linda Williams
Mary Mies	Marilyn Schafer	

Friends of the Congregation:

Jane Arnold (K. Westervelt's mother)	Wayne Patterson (P. & M. Montgomery's friend)
Lois Bastien (D. & C. Long's friend)	Jay Rebman (L. Claussen's friend)
Dale Blout (B. Satorius' father)	Dorothy Ricketts (R. Plaeger's mother)
Judy Boutelle (Rev. J. Boutelle's wife)	Sheila Smoron (Pastor M. Smoron's wife)
Alan Bronson (S. Wilson's friend)	Gary Sorenson (L. Williams' friend)
Family of Linda Christensen	Family of Nancy E. Stout
Susan & Geordie Crossen (K. Hutton's in-laws)	Ann Termine (C. & R. Ford's friend)
Michelle Rankin Eddings (M. Montgomery's friend)	Dean Territo (S. Territo's father)
Greg Grogan (C. Long's brother)	Cindy Thomas (R. Ford's niece)
Liam Grogan (C. Long's nephew)	Libby Trone
Marlene Hartsook (R. Ford's sister)	Alana Wachtel (M. Montgomery's cousin)
Kelly Holtsman (B. Churchill's daughter)	Carol White (J. Morris' friend)
Theresa Hulbert (P. Claussen's friend)	Mike Whitehurst (P. & M. Montgomery's friend)
Angie Janssen (C. Janssen's daughter-in-law)	Clara Willox (R. & C. Ford's granddaughter)
Sydney Janssen (C. Janssen's granddaughter)	Lauren Woodley (J. Satorius' friend J.D. Proehl's granddaughter)
Anthony Long (D. & C. Long's son))	Debbie Woods
Dave & Diane Ludington	
Bob McLin (B. Winkelmann's brother)	

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

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.

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday!

Jan. 2	Sherrie Leezer	Jan. 20	Paul Montgomery
Jan. 6	Lydia Winkelmann	Jan. 22	Greg Brown
Jan. 13	Lisa Willhite	Jan. 23	Hanna Roberts
Jan. 14	Harriet Carter	Jan. 23	Grace Canady
Jan. 16	Henry Phillips	Jan. 28	Chris Ford
Jan, 17	Steve Territo	Jan. 29	Ashley Rutz

Happy Anniversary!

Jan. 9, 1982 Marilyn & Paul Montgomery



	<i>Usher/Greeter</i>	<i>Liturgist</i>	<i>Communion Steward</i>
Sunday, Jan. 1	Patrik Claussen	Jane Stephenson	Jane Stephenson
Sunday, Jan. 8	Camilla Long	Chris Ford	
Sunday, Jan. 15	Steve Territo	Coleen Janssen	
Sunday, Jan. 22	Dan Stephenson	Marilyn Montgomery	
Sunday, Jan. 29	Marilyn Montgomery	Rhonda Plaeger	
Sunday, Feb. 5	Jan Costello	Rebecca Rowe	Rebecca Rowe
Sunday, Feb. 12	Janet Scheina	Sherri Roberts	
Sunday, Feb. 19	Patrik Claussen	Steve Territo	
Sunday, Feb. 26	Jim Satorius	Ron Sanert	

Preaching Schedule

Sunday, Jan. 1	Martin Nagel
Sunday, Jan. 8	Robert Lackie
Sunday, Jan. 15	Jonah Steele
Sunday, Jan 22	Robert Lackie
Sunday, Jan. 29	Robert Lackie
Sunday, Feb. 5	Martin Nagel
Sunday, Feb. 12	Robert Lackie
Sunday, Feb. 19	Jonah Steele
Sunday, Feb. 26	Robert Lackie

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.