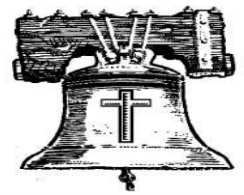


# CENTRAL Chimes



*Central Presbyterian Church*

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

Hello Friends:

How do you deal/cope with change? We have all had to on many an occasion. As you have heard more than once: “The only constant is change.” At the same time, change is not usually something we look forward to. We are comfortable with the status quo, “following the path of least resistance.” Some changes bring us quite a bit of grief. Some changes bring us quite a bit of joy. Most changes contain quite a bit of both!

The Christian Village (where I have served for 20 years in Lincoln, IL) is navigating some changing and unknown waters currently. Most of you probably know that our skilled nursing community will cease operations on September 8. Our Independent Living and Assisted Living ministries will continue, which we are very grateful for. We are also grateful that there are plans in place for a potential expansion of our assisted living ministry into the “nursing home” building. So even though we are feeling real and deep grief and loss, we are also feeling hope for tomorrow!

Disciples of Jesus Christ can, and should, be able to hold grief/sorrow and joy/gratitude in their hearts simultaneously. That doesn't necessarily mean that we hold them in equal percentages all the time! Sometimes we go through seasons where our grief seems to overshadow our joy— but the joy of the Lord is still present! Sometimes our gratitude for the mercies of Christ overwhelm us to the point that sorrow seems pushed out— those are times to cherish—giving us a taste of what eternity with Christ might be like! Sometimes we carry both sorrow and joy in our hearts in fairly equal proportions, always looking forward to the day when all will be made new and “there will be no more death or grieving or crying or pain.” (Revelations 21).

I am going through a grieving process here in Lincoln, IL—with a mixture of sadness, anger, guilt (what could I have done differently as an employee/as The Chaplain?), self-reflection, and even some lethargy (as if someone has taken the wind out of my sails!). You may be going through a similar process right now depending on your own individual circumstances. **BUT, I AM ALSO LEANING ON THE GOD WHO IS THE SAME, YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER. I AM LEANING ON THE GOD WHO REMAINS FAITHFUL AND STABLE AND SOVEREIGN WITHIN ANY CHANGE.** My faith is keeping me going. The message of the Life Giving Gospel is keeping me going. This same God will keep The Christian Village going through the abundance of His Amazing Grace. I believe that—even in those times when my feelings are unstable, confused, and contradictory. There is no other option for me. I must—we must—put our hand in the hand of The Good Shepherd and trust and he knows where He is leading us.

Thanks Be to God,

Amen



Ryan Edgecombe, Pastor  
Edgeness79@hotmail.com



## Highlights of Regular Session Meeting on July 20, 2023

- Bank balance as of June 30, 2023 is \$51,625.57.
- Home Communion was served to 4 members of the Congregation.
- Elevator repairs have been completed. The cost of the repairs are higher than anticipated.
- **MOTION: To increase the approved expenditure for the elevator repair to \$11,000.00 from the Major Maintenance Fund. From Admin. Committee. APPROVED**
- **MOTION: The name needs to be changed for the Vanguard Fund to Endowment Fund and add Christine Ford as the contact person. APPROVED**
- **MOTION: A check for \$500 be written to Petersburg Pharmacy to aid in paying for prescription drug for those in the community who cannot afford. Monies to be taken from the Ebersolt Fund. APPROVED**
- Home Communion Training is scheduled for September 9, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at Central. Rev. Kay Daniel will be conducting the training.
- Pastor Edgecombe Report for June:
  - Made 7 home visits and numerous telephone calls.
  - Sent cards to 4 families.
  - Conducted 4 Bible Study Sessions.
  - Attended 2 Food Pantry Task Force Meetings.
  - Attended Session and Committee meetings.

## Committee News

### Administration

#### Financial

- Income year to date is \$1,243.27 below budget and YTD expenses are below budget by \$7,197.88, which puts us below our overall budget. Regardless of budget, our income, YTD, is \$6,943.34 above our expenses.
- Two items are off budget at this point: elevator repair (this will be offset with MMF monies once elevator repairs are completed) and gas/electric, which should balance out before fall. Those two items are nearly \$1,400.00.
- 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, camping equipment inventory, and their checking account balances that need to be decided on their disposition.

#### Building

- Elevator repairs have been completed. George Alarm will meet Kone on July 26 to do the final inspection and to ensure that the signal panel is communicating with George Alarm. This repair is to keep in compliance with new State regulations.
- Tuck-pointing and the re-keying of the building have been completed and bills submitted to the church to be paid from MMF.
- Air Conditioning units need to be inspected. We are aware of two that are not working well, and we would like to purchase new units and have Ozella Construction do the installation.
- The Methodist Mission Camp will be staying in the Fellowship Hall from July 16 through July 20. Mark will be coming in daily to ensure the restrooms are clean.

Submitted by Steven Territo, Chair

## Communion Training Classes

The Presbytery, through our Moderator, Rev. Kay Daniel, will be offering Communion training for any ordained Elder or Deacon, current or past, interested in becoming a communion server. Training will consist of two classes held at Central; the first one will be Saturday, September 9. More information to be provided at a later date. If interested in taking the training, please contact the Church Office at 217-632-2651 no later than **August 15**.

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 11. When the creed speaks of "God the Father," does it mean that God is male?**

No. Only creatures having bodies can be either male or female. But God has no body, since by nature God is Spirit. Holy Scripture reveals God as a living God beyond all sexual distinctions. Scripture uses diverse images for God, female as well as male. We read, for example, *that God will no more forget us than a woman can forget her nursing child* (Isaiah 49:15).

*Isaiah 66:13 "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you," says the Lord".*  
*Matthew 23:37 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!"*

### **Question 12. Why then does the creed speak of God the Father?**

First, because God is identified in the New Testament as the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Second, because Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of this Father. Third, because when we are joined to Christ through faith, we are adopted as sons and daughters into the relationship he enjoys with his Father.

*John 17:2 "Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world."*

*Galatians 4:6 "Because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!'"*

### **Question 13. When you confess to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, are you elevating men over women and endorsing male domination?**

No. Human power and authority are trustworthy only as they reflect God's mercy and kindness, not abusive patterns of domination. As Jesus taught his disciples, *"The greatest among you will be your servant"* (Matthew 23:11). God the Father sets the standard by which all misuses of power are exposed and condemned. *"Call no one*

*your father on earth," said Jesus, "for you have one Father — the one in heaven". (Matthew 23:9). In fact God calls women and men to all ministries of the church. Galatians 3:28 "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 5:21 "Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ."*

**Question 14. If God's love is powerful beyond measure, why is there so much evil in the world?**

No one can say why, for evil is a terrible abyss beyond all rational explanation. Its ultimate origin is obscure. Its enormity perplexes us. Nevertheless, we boldly affirm that God's triumph over evil is certain. In Jesus Christ God suffers with us, knowing all our sorrows. In raising him from the dead, God gives new hope to the world. Our Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is himself God's promise that suffering will come to an end, that death shall be no more, and that all things will be made new.

*1 Peter 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead."*

*Romans. 8:21 "The creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God."*

**Question 15. What do you believe when you say that God is "Maker of heaven and earth"?**

First, that God called heaven and earth, with all that is in them, into being out of nothing simply by the power of God's Word. Second, that by that same power all things are upheld and governed in perfect wisdom, according to God's eternal purpose.

*Revelations 4:11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."*

*Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."*

## **Do You Need a New Key?**

New locks have been installed for all entrance doors to our building. New keys are available for members. Please call the church office (217-632-2651) informing us of your need; leave a message, if necessary.

## **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

<i>Worship Attendance</i>			
July 2	20	July 23	24
July 9	27	July 30	36
July 16	27		
Average Worship Attendance: 27			

## July Worship Enhancement



**July 2.** Coleen Janssen sings *Because He Lives*.



**July 9.** Bob Pinkston plays *Amazing Grace* on the violin.



**July 16.** A capella singers Sangamon Valley Chord Company share *Turn Your Radio On*, *Precious Lord*, and *While I Walk with God* during worship. Central member Pat Claussen leads the group.



**July 23.** Coleen Janssen and Sherri Roberts sing an old favorite, *Pass It On*.



Emma Lou Denton accompanies vocalists on July 2 and 23.



**July 30.** The congregation hears about Stronghold Church Camp and Central's past involvement from Janet Scheina.

## Thank You!

**From Joni Higginbotham:** As many of you might have heard, I recently went through major surgery and had to take time off from my office duties here at Central. I want to thank everyone that sent me "Get Well" cards, texts, or dropped off food. A special "Thank You" goes out to Pastor Ryan for stopping by and visiting with Carl and I shortly after my surgery and giving me words of encouragement as we waited for test results. I also would like to say a HUGE "Thank You" to Rhonda Plaeger for all her work here at the office while I was away. I am so blessed that all of you make me feel like family here at Central. Fondly, Joni

**From Your Obedient Servant Mission Camp:** Thank you so much for opening up your church for the YOSM campers. The girls really enjoyed your beautiful space. We were happy to have Ethan Satorius at the JH camp. He was a wonderful camper! Joe & Susie Pokorny

## **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 September 2023 *Chimes* to the church office no later than **Monday, August 21**. 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*

### **Mosquito Bites Can Make You Sick**

Almost everyone has been bitten by a mosquito, usually causing a soft or hard bump that itches. Some people have more severe reactions like a large area of swelling and redness, low-grade fever, hives, or swollen lymph nodes. To treat the bite, try the following: Wash the area with soap and water; apply an ice pack for 10 minutes to reduce swelling and itching (reapply ice pack as needed); apply a mixture of baking soda and water, which can help reduce the itch response; and use an over-the-counter anti-itch or antihistamine cream to help relieve itching.

Mosquitoes can spread pathogens (germs) through bites. A person who gets bitten by a mosquito and gets sick may have a mosquito-borne disease, like West Nile virus, dengue, or malaria. Some of these illnesses can be severe or deadly.

Mosquitos bite day and night and live indoors and outdoors. To reduce the risk of being bitten, the following actions can help. Use insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, IR3535, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, or 2-undecanone. Wear long sleeved shirts and long pants. Mosquito proof your home. Use screens on windows and doors. Use air conditioning if available. Keep mosquitoes from laying eggs in or near standing water. Once a week, empty and scrub, turn over, cover, or throw out any items that hold water like tires, buckets, planters, toys, pools, birdbaths, flowerpot saucers, or trash containers.

### **Menard County Food Pantry**

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 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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. 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Petersburg on the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. 7<sup>th</sup> 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. 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Scenes from Central



**Building Repair.** In June, Elite Masonry spent a few days working on Central's exterior. A tree was found growing inside the chimney which had to be removed, then bricks were replaced, some areas were rebuilt, and tuck pointing was completed.



**Co-op Vacation Bible School.** St. Paul's Evangelical Free Church hosted VBS July 24-27. The theme was Bible Boot Camp. Campers enjoyed a meal, lesson with music, craft, and games each evening. Pastor Ryan & Lonnie attended on Wed. Behind the scenes, puppeteer Cindy Godbey was the voice of Sargent Hugh Meeh. Marilyn Montgomery served as photographer throughout the week.

## Salsa Verde Chicken Casserole

*Taste of Home*

*“This is a rich and surprisingly tasty rendition of a number of Tex-Mex dishes fused into one packed, beautiful casserole. Best of all, it’s ready in hardly any time!”—Janet McCormick, Proctorville, Ohio*

### Ingredients

2 cups shredded rotisserie chicken	2 cups chopped tomatoes
1 cup sour cream	1/4 cup minced fresh cilantro
1-1/2 cups salsa verde, divided	2 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese
8 corn tortillas (6 inches)	Option: thinly sliced green onions



### Instructions

1. In a small bowl, combine the chicken, sour cream and 3/4 cup salsa. Spread 1/4 cup salsa on the bottom of a greased 8 inch square baking dish.
2. Layer with half the tortillas and chicken mixture; sprinkle with half the tomatoes, the minced cilantro and half the cheese. Repeat layers with the remaining tortillas, chicken mixture, tomatoes and cheese.
3. Bake, uncovered, at 400° until bubbly, 20 to 25 minutes. Serve with remaining salsa and toppings of your choice.

*Yield: 6 servings. Total Time: Prep/Total Time: 30 minutes*

## Macaroni Coleslaw

*Taste of Home*

### Ingredients

1 pkg. (7 oz.) ring macaroni  
1 pkg. (14 oz.) coleslaw mix  
2 medium onions, finely chopped  
2 celery ribs, finely chopped  
1 medium cucumber, finely chopped  
1 medium green pepper, finely chopped  
1 can (8 oz.) whole water chestnuts, drained and chopped

### Directions

1. Cook macaroni according to package directions; drain and rinse in cold water. Transfer to a large bowl; add the coleslaw mix, onions, celery, cucumber, green pepper and water chestnuts.
2. In a small bowl, whisk the dressing ingredients. Pour over salad; toss to coat. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

*Yield: 16 servings. Total Time: Prep: 25 minutes + chilling*







## Happy Birthday!

### Nonagenarian

August 27 Emma Lou Denton 522 W. Washington, Petersburg, IL 62675

### Octogenarian

August 8 Jerry Tice 16756 Schirding Ave., Petersburg, IL 62675

August 1	Sue Wilson	August 26	Grady Winkelmann
August 10	Ellie Montgomery	August 26	Alyssa Canady
August 12	Jim Mies	August 29	Linda Claussen
August 13	Alice Studzinski	August 29	Marcy Newbold
August 16	Marion Ring	August 29	Gage Godbey
August 23	August Wankel	August 30	Jackson Phillips

## Happy Anniversary!

August 25 Dan & Jane Stephenson August 28 Jim & Mary Mies



	<i>Usher/Greeter</i>	<i>Liturgist</i>	<i>Communion Steward</i>
Sunday, August 6	Jane Stephenson	Rebecca Rowe	Rebecca Rowe
Sunday, August 13	Chris Ford	Jan Costello	
Sunday, August 20	Jim Satorius	Camilla Long	
Sunday, August 27	Rich Ford	Julia Territo	

*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  
Bob Sampson  
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)  
Family of Rich Bradley (B. Kiningham's friend)  
Danny Coffey (J. Goeringer's brother)  
Michelle Rankin Eddings (M. Montgomery's friend)  
Jay Edgecombe (Pastor Ryan's father)  
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)  
Family of Larry Kyes  
Dave & Diane Ludington  
Jerry Naughton (D. & C. Long's friend)  
Wayne Patterson (P. & M. Montgomery's friend)

Jay Rebman (L. Claussen's friend)  
Dorothy Ricketts (R. Plaeger's mother)  
Mike Roberts and Family  
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 Richard Stout  
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)  
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:**

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](mailto:office@central-pres.org), or calling the church office at: 217-632-2651.*