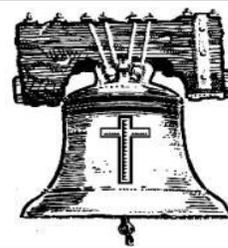


CENTRAL Chimes



Central Presbyterian Church

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

Greetings in the Name of Christ, our Resurrected Lord:

By the time you receive this newsletter, that has been specially crafted for you by Joni and Rhonda, Passion Week and Easter will have come and gone. "Gone," however, is not truly accurate, for we are called by our Lord to live as "Resurrection People." The fact that Christ is Risen is not just something we visit briefly on an annual basis, but in actuality is our source of true, timeless, and transcendent life and identity!

Because of the Resurrection, we meet every Sunday for sacred worship. We do this on the first day of the week because Christ rose on the first day of the week. We receive instruction from God's Holy Word. We commune with God and with each other through the sacrament of The Lord's Supper. We hear some of the most beautiful music ever composed to lift us up into the presence of our Creator and Redeemer. Truly the most beautiful hour of the week! If there's no resurrection, I'll just start sleeping in on Sundays or maybe go to my favorite local restaurant for a nice sit-down breakfast!

Because of the Resurrection, we have a mission to make Jesus known to a broken world through communicating the Gospel message of unconditional love, grace, redemption, adoption, and comprehensive/full life. If there's no resurrection, what would our purpose for living entail? I suppose we would have to echo Solomon's melancholy refrain: "Meaningless! Meaningless! Utterly meaningless! Everything is meaningless. What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun." (Ecclesiastes 1)

Because of the Resurrection, we have an eternal hope, that death will not have the final say over our lives. As the Apostle Paul says so beautifully, "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15) I have always liked the image that this scripture imprints upon my mind, as though death is a snake that has been defanged, or a cat that has been declawed, or an old man without his dentures! If there's no resurrection, death becomes much more powerful, much scarier, and FINAL.

Let us live as "Resurrection People" so that we can face tomorrow with hope, expectancy, and purpose!



"Because He Lives"

1971 - Bill/Gloria Gaither

How sweet to hold a newborn baby, and feel the pride and joy he brings;
but greater still the calm assurance: This child can face uncertain days because He lives!
Because He lives, I can face tomorrow, because He lives, all fear is gone;
because I know He holds the future, and life is worth the living,
Just because He lives!

Ryan Edgecombe, Pastor
Edgeness79@hotmail.com

Highlights of Regular Session Meeting on March 21, 2024



- Bank Balance as of February 29, 2024 is \$74,260.15.
- Home Communion was delivered to 4 individuals.
- **MOTION: That the following monies be distributed from the Ebersolt Fund:**
 - **Menard County Transport \$500.00**
 - **Friends in Need \$500.00**
 - **Petersburg Pharmacy \$500.00**
 - **Potter Drugs \$500.00**
- **Motion carried. APPROVED.**
- Christian Education reported that we have three (3) Sunday School classes.
- **MOTION: That Steve Territo, Linda Claussen, and David Drake be approved to take Communion Training. Motion carried. APPROVED**
- Sunday, May 19, 2024 (Pentecost Sunday) will be Central Presbyterian Church Homecoming Sunday.
- Church Audit for 2023 has been completed.
- Pastor Edgecombe Report for February:
 - Made numerous home visits, hospital visits, nursing home visits and telephone calls.
 - Held Ash Wednesday Service jointly with Petersburg Methodist Church. UMC will be joining us for Maundy Thursday Service with Pastor Rick giving the message.
 - PORTA Good Friday Service will be held at First Christian Church in Petersburg; Pastor Ryan will deliver the message.
 - PORTA Ministerial will go to Sunny Acres Nursing Home with local Churches taking the following months: Tallula Christian – March; Faith Assembly and St. Paul’s – April; First Baptist and First Christian – May; Rock Creek Presbyterian – October; Central Presbyterian – November and December.
 - Regularly attends Food Pantry Meetings.
 - Weekly Bible Study has been canceled for the Lenten season in order to focus support on the interdenominational Men’s and Women’s Lenten gatherings.
 - Set Sunday May 19 for “Homecoming Sunday.”

Administration Committee News

Financial

- Income year to date is \$189.82 above budget and YTD expenses are below budget by \$1,631.17. Regardless of budget, our income, YTD, is \$2,594.71 lower than our expenses.
- Treasurer’s report, General, MMF and Obligated Funds were reviewed.
- The Committee approved the following monies to be distributed from the Ebersolt Fund:
 - Family Dental \$400.00
 - Daily Bread \$100.00
 - Committee took to Session request to distribute from the Ebersolt Fund to Menard County Transportation, Friends in Need, Petersburg Pharmacy, Potter Drugs.
- Session approved to remove Janene Tice from both local banks as well as the Edward Jones and Van Guard accounts. This is due to her retiring from overseeing the Endowment Fund and investment accounts. This will include the one lockbox at Alliance Community bank that has financial information in it. Janene will remain on the lockbox that contains church historical data.

- The 2023 audit has been completed and will be presented to Session.

Building

- DIS Tech from Tallula presented three proposals for the church:
 - Proposal for a new phone system was approved by Committee for four new phones with an approximate \$145.00 per month fee. This will provide the church with VOIP service. Rhonda to contact DIS to get the phones ordered.
 - Session approved DIS Tech proposal to update the church computer system to include battery backup, wireless system, wall rack system and new Cat 6 wiring. Price not to exceed \$2,350.00 (the majority of the monies to come from the Taylor Fund).
 - Session reviewed but has additional questions for DIS Tech for management of our computer system remotely on a continuous basis.

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 42: What do you affirm when you say that he “suffered under Pontius Pilate”?

First, that our Lord was humiliated, rejected, and abused by the temporal authorities of His day, both religious and political. Christ thus aligned himself with all human beings who are oppressed, tortured, or otherwise shamefully treated by those with worldly power. Second, and even more importantly, that our Lord, though innocent, submitted Himself to condemnation by an earthly judge so that through Him we ourselves, though guilty, might be acquitted before our heavenly judge.

Isiah 53:3 “He was despised and rejected by others; a man of suffering and acquainted with infirmity; and as one from whom others hide their faces he was despised, and we held him of no account.”

2 Corinthians. 5:21 “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

Question 43: What do you affirm when you say that He was “crucified, dead and buried”?

That when our Lord passed through the door of real human death, He showed us that there is no sorrow He has not known, no grief He has not borne, and no price He was unwilling to pay in order to reconcile us to God.

Matthew 26:38-39 “Then He said to them, ‘I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with Me.’ And going a little farther, He threw Himself on the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not what I want but what You want.’”

Galatians: 3:13 “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, ‘cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree.’”

2 Corinthians 5:19 *“That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.”*

Question 44: What do you affirm when you say that He “descended into hell?”

That our Lord took upon Himself the full consequences of our sinfulness, even the agony of abandonment by God, in order that we might be spared.

Mark 15:34 *“At three o’clock Jesus cried out with a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?’ which means, ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?’”*

Romans 4:24-25 *“It will be reckoned to us who believe in Him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.”*

Question 45: Why did Jesus have to suffer as He did?”

Because grace is more abundant—and sin more serious—than we suppose. However cruelly we may treat one another, all sin is primarily against God. God condemns sin, yet never judges apart from grace. In giving Jesus Christ to die for us, God took the burden of our sin into God’s own self to remove it once and for all. The cross in all its severity reveals an abyss of sin swallowed up by the suffering of divine love.

Romans 8:1, 3-4 *“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us.”*

1 Corinthians 1:18 *“For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”*

Romans 5:8 *“But God proves His love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ dies for us.”*

Quotation Station *(Thoughts on “Revival”)*

“The story of Christian reformation, revival, and renaissance underscores that the darkest hour is often just before the dawn, so we should always be people of hope and prayer, not gloom and defeatism. God the Holy Spirit can turn the situation around in five minutes.” Os Guinness

“Revival is the visitation of God which brings to life Christians who have been sleeping and restores a deep sense of God’s near presence and holiness. Thence springs a vivid sense of sin and a profound exercise of heart in repentance, praise, and love, with an evangelistic outflow.”

J. I. Packer

“Every revival in the Old Testament rested solidly on a new and powerful proclamation of the Word of God.” Walter Kaiser

“The word revive—may be interpreted thus—to live again, to receive again a life which has almost expired; to rekindle into a flame the vital spark which was nearly extinguished.”

C.H. Spurgeon

“Have you noticed how much praying for revival has been going on of late—and how little revival has resulted? I believe the problem is that we have been trying to substitute praying for obeying, and it simply will not work. To pray for revival while ignoring the plain precept laid

down in Scripture is to waste a lot of words and get nothing for our trouble. Prayer will become effective when we stop using it as a substitute for obedience.”
A. W. Tozer

Monthly Riddle/Joke

Why did the tomato turn red? Because he saw the salad dressing!

“Bring Them to Church!”

With the word of God. Even if they lay on the floor. Even if they need 437 goldfish and a sucker to be quiet. Even if you stand in the back swaying back and forth holding them. Even when it’s hard. Even when your row looks like a small hurricane just came through. Let them see you pray. Let them see you running toward the Savior—because if they don’t see and learn these things from you, who are they going to learn them from?



The world will teach them it’s not a priority. The world will teach them it’s okay to lay out, not to pick up their Bibles. The world will direct them so far off course, confuse them, and misinform them that just being “good” is enough. The world won’t teach them about Jesus. That’s our job. Bring them to church!

Submitted by John Godbey

Women’s Lenten Study

Central Presbyterian Church hosted the Women’s Lenten Studies on Wednesday, March 13 and was attended by 55 ladies. Many thanks to Coleen Janssen for coordinating the event for Central. Thanks also to our greeter June Gamage, all who contributed food, and those who took part in the lesson service: Julia Territo, Janet Scheina, Sally Schafer, Cindy Godbey, Jan Costello, Lisa Willhite, Beth Kiningham, and Pastor Ryan for the closing prayer. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and is looking forward to next year.



Men's Lenten Breakfasts

CPC hosted the last of the Men's Lenten Breakfasts this year on Wednesday, March 27. There were 52 in attendance at CPC. After a hearty breakfast at 7:00 a.m., Pastor Ryan provided the devotional message. Thanks to all the men who helped to set up, cook the eggs and sausage, and clean up. It was a great time of fellowship and worship. Churches that participated: First Christian Church, St. Paul Evangelical Free Church, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church, St. Peter Catholic Church and Central Presbyterian Church.



Meals on Wheels

For many years Central has provided delivery of Meals on Wheels in the Petersburg area in the month of May, and we are again scheduled to do so this year. May is almost here! **There is a need for volunteers to make deliveries.** There are 2 routes—one inside the city of Petersburg and one for the Lake and rural area around Petersburg. Meals need to be picked up between 10:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. at the High-rise, and the routes take about an hour to complete—5 days a week. So, we need to deliver 22 days in May; 2 routes each day. There is no delivery on Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day) so the Friday before (May 24) there will be an extra “cold” meal delivered to each person on the routes. That means filling 44 routes throughout the month!!! There are 36 **meals** delivered on the “in town” route with several deliveries of two meals at one residence and 10 **meals** delivered on the “out of town” route.

Also, you are asked to PLEASE:

- Prayerfully consider how you can assist with this very worthwhile mission in our community.
- Check your May calendar to see if you could schedule 1 day or more for making deliveries.
- Contact someone to partner with you—it's easiest if one person drives and another delivers to the door. If you have not participated before and want to start, pair up with an experienced volunteer to learn the routine.
- Feel free to invite friends outside the church to assist. This does NOT have to be only Central members.



A calendar is in the Narthex at the church for sign-up. You may sign up at the church or call the church office at 217-632-2651 on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Group 1 is the City route; group 2 is the Rural route. Please be sure to include a telephone number when you sign up.

CPC Homecoming Sunday!

Mark your calendars: Sunday, May 19, (Pentecost Sunday) will be CPC Homecoming Sunday! We are going to try and “pack the church” on that Sunday with as many people as possible

who have been blessed over the years by the ministry of this congregation. Fellowship with refreshments will follow the service. So bring family and friends with you!

Congratulations!



On February 16, 2024, William Wood and Heidi Roberts were married at the San Ramon Cloud Forest and Nature Reserve, Costa Rica. Heidi's son, Henry, had the Ring Bearer honor; siblings Matt and Laurelyn were witnesses. The couple resides in Springfield.



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.

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. All messages will be forwarded to the appropriate committee or person.

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!

Chimes Deadline

Please have your articles and pictures for the May, 2024 *Chimes* submitted to the church office no later than **Monday, April 22**. 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 planning monthly food drives with the local churches and civic organizations on the first Sunday of each month. The committee is asking for specific items for each month. For April, they are collecting **canned vegetables** (“Eat Your Veggies!”), and May will be “*Mother, May I Have Some Toiletries?*” (*tissue, toothpaste, toilet paper*). Donations can be put in the basket in the Narthex. If more information is needed, contact Lindsay Wilken, FSS Coordinator.

Diaper Bank Needs

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.

Health Notes: *submitted by Alice Studzinski*

National Walking Day

The first Wednesday in April is National Walking Day and it encourages Americans of all ages to get out and stretch their legs and get their hearts pumping. The American Heart Association sponsors this day to remind people about the health benefits of taking a walk.

Wear your sneakers (or take them with you) to work, and at some point in the day, take a 30-minute walk. Walking is one of the best exercises to do. Some of the benefits of walking include:

- Improved cardiovascular health
- Maintaining a healthy weight
- Improved flexibility in joints
- Stronger muscles
- Improved mental health

A balanced diet and walking are a great combination for weight loss or maintaining a healthy weight.

To celebrate National Walking Day, take thirty minutes out of your day to go for a walk. Find a trail near you or walk around your neighborhood. You can also visit a local park or walk on your treadmill. Take your canine pals with you, too. They need the cardiovascular workout, too! Be sure to move your arms, drink plenty of water, and have good posture.

Stand for Truth

On Monday, April 22, there will be an all-school assembly at PORTA Middle School and High School, with a message that emphasizes to students the importance of caring for themselves, others, and their future. The students will then be invited back to PORTA High School (gymnasium) for a concert that evening at 7:00 p.m. where the band Attaboy will perform. This band seeks to minister to teens in public schools where they simply and clearly share the gospel. Visit www.sftoutreach.org/attaboy for more information. Their goal is to encourage students and their families to connect with a local church in the days and weeks following the event.

Scenes from Central



March 3: Communion.

March 10: Children's Message, Fellowship.

Left: Sunday School classes.

Palm Sunday, March 24



Slow-Cooker Lasagna

Taste of Home

“Convenient no-cook lasagna noodles take the work out of this traditional favorite adapted for the slow cooker. It is so easy to assemble for workdays or weekends. Accompany it with Parmesan bread or garlic cheese toast.”—Lisa Micheletti, Collierville, TN

Ingredients

1 lb. ground beef	1 tsp. salt
1 large onion, chopped	1 tsp. dried oregano
2 garlic cloves, minced	1 pkg. (8 oz.) no-cook lasagna noodles
1 can (29 oz.) tomato sauce	4 cups shredded part-skim mozzarella cheese
1 cup water	1 ½ cups 4% cottage cheese
1 can (6 oz.) tomato paste	½ cup grated Parmesan cheese

Instructions

1. In a skillet, cook beef and onion over medium heat until meat is no longer pink. Add garlic and cook 1 minute longer. Drain. Stir in the tomato sauce, water, tomato paste, salt and oregano.
2. Spread a fourth of the meat sauce in an ungreased 5-qt. slow cooker. Arrange a third of the noodles over sauce (break the noodles to fit if necessary). Combine cheeses; spoon a third of the mixture over noodles. Repeat layers twice. Top with remaining meat sauce.
3. Cover and cook on low for 4-5 hours or until noodles are tender.

Total Time: Prep/Total Time: 25 min. Cook: 4 hrs. Yield: 8 servings



Oklahoma Coconut Poke Cake

Taste of Home Test Kitchen.

“Coconut is the star of this cake. You get a double dose, once with the mixture that soaks into the cake and second with the coconut sprinkled on top. Don’t worry though, it is a nice flavor treat—not too much coconut.”

Ingredients

1 pkg. white cake mix (regular size)
1 can (15 oz.) cream of coconut
1 can (14 oz.) sweetened condensed milk
1 carton (16 oz.) frozen whipped topping, thawed
1 cup sweetened shredded coconut

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Prepare and bake cake mix according to package directions, using a 13x9 inch baking pan.
2. Meanwhile, in a small bowl, mix cream of coconut and milk. Remove cake from oven; place on a wire rack. Using a wooden skewer, pierce top of cake to within 1 inch of edge; twist skewer gently to make slightly larger holes. Spoon milk mixture evenly over cake, being careful to fill each hole. Cool completely.
3. Spread whipped topping over cake; sprinkle with coconut. Refrigerate until serving.

Total Time: Prep 10 min. Bake: 25 min. + cooling Yield: 20 servings.



Happy Birthday!

Octogenarians

April 7	Mary Gheen	704 South 10 th St., Petersburg, IL 62675	
April 17	Coleen Janssen	17678 Lone Oak Circle, Petersburg, IL 62675	
April 24	Barbara Churchill	602 Willow Ct., Bowling Green, MO 63334	
April 3	Jillian Kveton	April 20	Nicholas Territo
April 10	Susie Sanert	April 28	Dave Long
April 19	Linda Williams		

Happy Anniversary!

April 4	Joe & Nancy Mehr	April 28	Doug & Ruth Stark
April 6	Phil & Helen Deverman		



	<i>Usher/Greeter</i>	<i>Liturgist</i>	<i>Communion Steward</i>
Sunday, April 7	Rhonda Plaeger	TBD	TBD
Sunday, April 14	Cheryl Drake	Alice Studzinski	
Sunday, April 21	Sherri Roberts	Pat Claussen	
Sunday, April 28	Rich Ford	Janet Scheina	

*If you cannot fulfill your duty as liturgist or usher/greeter, please find someone to take your place.
Also, let the church office know of the changes as soon as possible.*

Worship Attendance

March 3	44	March 24	62
March 10	37	March 28 Maundy Thurs	50
March 17	36	March 31	55

Average Worship Attendance:



Members:

Linda Claussen
Steve Hollis
Ashley Kveton
Alia Montgomery

Jo Ann Morris
Ken Morris
Bob Sampson
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)
Raeleigh Bess (P. & M. Montgomery's great niece)
Dale Blout (B. Satorius' father)
Danny Coffey (J. Goeringer's brother)
Mike Damler (J. Scheina's friend)
Kay Daniel
Jim Daugherty (Former Boy Scout Leader affiliated w/CPC)
Barb Deihl (L. Williams' cousin)
Bill Dennis (Pastor.Ryan's friend)
Michelle Dorsey (L. Williams' granddaughter)
Michelle Rankin Eddings (M. Montgomery's friend)
Bethany Edgecombe (Pastor Ryan's wife)
Vicki Edgecombe (Pastor Ryan's mom)
Ellen (W. Carter's friend)
Katie Embrey (Phyllis Hunsaker's granddaughter)
Family of Carol Ann Ford (R. Ford's cousin)
Liam Grogan (C. Long's nephew)
Marlene Hartsook (R. Ford's sister)
Family of Kathy Houghtby (J. Costello's friend)
Janet (J. Gamage's sister)
Jimmie (R. Rowe's friend)
Cade Leesman (D. & C. Long's friend)

Manny Martinez (D. Long's friend)
Joe Mehr
Karen Myers (Pastor. Ryan's cousin)
Jerry Naughton (D. & C. Long's friend)
Wayne Patterson (P. & M. Montgomery's friend)
Jay Rebman (L. Claussen's friend)
Family of Tom Reiser (J. Territo's friend)
Dorothy Ricketts (R. Plaeger's mother)
Joy Rogerson (J. Gamage's sister)
Kevin Scarlett (B. Edgecombe's uncle)
Melissa Schaaake (S. Territo's sister)
Dawn Schafer (S. Schafer's daughter-in-law)
Richard Schafer (S. Schafer's husband)
Family of Martha Shores (mom of coworker of C. Ford)
Kay Siegrist (friend of Linda Williams)
Eric Skaggs (J. Tice's friend)
Dean Territo (S. Territo's father)
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)

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
Pray for racial equality
Peace between nation neighbors
Victims of gun violence/mass shootings
Earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria

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. or calling the church office at: 217-632-2651.