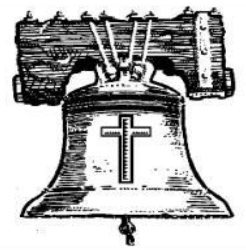


CENTRAL

Chimes



Central Presbyterian Church

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

Happy New Year Everyone!

I was glad to find a New Year's Hymn by Charles Wesley the other day and wanted to share the lyrics with you. I had no idea there were Hymns for the New Year, but have found several. I like that the words emphasize that life goes by very fast and that we want to be good stewards of the time God has given us. We don't want to "stand still till the Master appear," for there is a lot to do in proclaiming and living out the gospel. It is our prayer that we can echo the Apostle Paul in saying: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith!" (2 Timothy 4:7-8). I am looking forward to a New Year with all of you in Christ's service!

Come, let us anew our journey pursue,
Roll round with the year,
And never stand still till the Master appear.
His adorable will let us gladly fulfill,
And our talents improve by the patience of hope and the labor of love,
By the patience of hope and the labor of love.

Our life as a dream, our time as a stream glide swiftly away,
And the fugitive moment refuses to stay;
For the arrow is flown and the moments are gone.
The millennial year presses on to our view, and eternity's here,
Presses on to our view, and eternity's here.

Oh, that each in the day of His coming may say,
"I have fought my way thru;
I have finished the work thou didst give me to do."
Oh, that each from his Lord may receive the glad word:
"Well and faithfully done; enter into my joy and sit down on my throne;
Enter into my joy and sit down on my throne."



Ryan Edgecombe, Pastor
benjaminryan132011@gmail.com

Highlights of Regular Session Meeting on December 26, 2024



- Bank balance as of November 30, 2024 is \$27,622.15.
- Home Communion was served to a total of two (2) individuals on December 7, 2024.
- **MOTION: That Communion shall be served on the first Sunday of each month, Maundy Thursday, Easter, Christ the King Sunday, and Christmas Eve. Motion from Committee. APPROVED.**
- Worship is working on recording hymns on memory cards. This will allow for hymn singing on occasional Sundays when an organist or pianist is not available.
- Christmas decorations will be taken down immediately following worship service on Sunday, January 5.
- Christmas program was a big success with a big thank you to Linda Claussen, the children, and volunteers who participated.
- COATS had a successful trip; a big thank you to Rebecca Rowe for spearheading this program.
- A thank you to those who stepped up and took a family from the “Angel Tree.”
- The Nominating Committee: Rodney Davis, Beth Kiningham and Marilyn Montgomery have filled the slate of Deacons and Elders for the 2025 Class year. This is not an easy job, and we thank them and everyone who stepped up to serve.
- **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING WORSHIP.**
- Pastor Edgecombe Report for November:
 - Made numerous pastoral home visits, contacts by phone, text, etc.
 - Performed two (2) funerals.
 - Sponsored/facilitated weekly Sunday afternoon service for Sunny Acres Nursing Home during the month of November.
 - Regularly attends Food Pantry meetings.
 - Bible Study continues.
 - Helped with Meals on Wheels.
 - Prepared for the 2024 Blue Christmas Service. Sent out 50 invitations in the mail to those who had lost loved ones in the last year in the Petersburg area.
 - Had yearly evaluation by the Personnel Committee.

Administration Committee News

Financial

- Our income year to date is \$3,811.98 above budget and YTD expenses are below budget by \$8,898.94. Regardless of budget, our income, YTD, is \$11,028.22 lower than our expenses. We are on line to be negative \$12,000 this fiscal year.
- Treasurer’s report, General, Obligated Funds and MMF were reviewed by the Committee. Designated and Endowment Funds were also reviewed.
- Julie Wankel from Edward Jones attended our meeting and presented a proposal for our current investments. Since 10/2010 our investment with Edward Jones was in a fee-based account and our net return over the life of the investment was 5.75% with an annual fee of 1.35%. Julie has proposed a non fee-based account. She presented a Hypothetical Portfolio Illustration to the Committee that would (based on historical data) net the church approximately 9.2% return with NO fees.

- *****MOTION*** That CPC moves their investments from a fee-based to a non fee-based account with Edward Jones. Also, to name Christine Ford and Rhonda Plaeger as authorized signers on the account.**
- The checkbook balance, including Obligated Funds, is \$27,039.99, which is down over \$9,000 from the first of this year.
- 2025 Stewardship drive is completed. We have received 24 pledges as compared to 29 in 2024 (not counting the 2 pledges from members that we lost this year) and total \$62,830 as compared to \$80,884 in 2024. There are two new pledging units.
- 2025 MMF pledges have exceeded 2024 pledges and total \$7,740.
- Work nears completion on our 2025 budget. We are waiting on one agency to give us an alternate bid on insurance. Currently our income is projected to be down by \$15K from 2024 and our expenses are increased by \$9K.
- A reminder that we have \$40K in a CD that came from our General Fund earlier in 2024 and will be transferred back as our checking account declines. Administration Committee wants to maintain two months expenses in the checking account
- *****MOTION*** \$500.00 to Linda Clausen for ongoing CRE studies. Monies to come from the Janet Waring Fund (for use of seminary students).**

Building and Ongoing Projects

- We will be signing a contract with KONE in January for a cell phone in the elevator. This must be installed prior to our inspection on February 13.
- The computer changeover in the Sanctuary will be completed in January by DIS.
- *****MOTION*** Boiler repairs were completed by Smith Plumbing with a new circulation pump installed. To pay invoice of \$1,190 and take the monies from MMF.**
- *****MOTION*** To purchase and install a 98 inch TV where our current projector screen is located. Monies to come from Memorial Fund and with the TV, mounting bracket, and all cabling not to exceed \$4,000.**

Submitted by Steven Territo, Chairperson

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 73. Are infants also to be baptized?

Yes. Along with their believing parents, they are included in the great hope of the gospel and belong to the people of God. Forgiveness and faith are both promised to them as gifts through Christ's covenant with His people. These children are therefore to be received into the community by baptism, nurtured in the Word of God, and confirmed at an appropriate time by their own profession of faith.

Genesis 17:7 *"I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."*

Acts 2:38-39 *"Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.'"*

Question 74. Should infants be baptized if their parents or guardians have no relation to the church?

No. It would be irresponsible to baptize an infant without at least one Christian parent or guardian who promises to nurture the infant in the life of the community and to instruct it in the Christian faith.

Ephesians 6:4 *"Bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."*

2 Timothy 1:5 *"I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lived in you."*

Question 75. In what name are you baptized?

In the name of the Trinity. After he was raised from the dead, our Lord appeared to his disciples and said to them, "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19).

Matthew 28:16-20 *"Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"*

Matthew 3:16-17 *"And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'"*

Question 76. What is the meaning of this name?

It is the name of the Holy Trinity. The Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. And yet they are not three gods, but one God in three persons. We worship God in this mystery.

2 Corinthians 13:13 *"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you."*

John 1:1-4 *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people."*

Romans 8:11 *"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you."*

Quotation Station

Thoughts on "Peace"

"Peace isn't a place to arrive at but a person to abide in."

--Ann Voskamp

"When the world is falling apart around you, understand you have no power to hold it together. The only power you have is letting go and releasing the chaos of your life into the loving hands of Christ to carry you through it."

--Paul Bane

"The heart's fierce effort to protect itself from every slight, to shield its touchy honor from the bad opinion of friend and enemy, will never let the mind have rest."

--A.W. Tozer

"See that your faith brings forth obedience and God, in due time, will cause it to bring forth peace."

--John Owen

"We need to find God, and he cannot be found in noise and restlessness. God is the friend of silence. See how nature—trees, flowers, grass—grows in silence; see the stars, the moon and the sun, how they move in silence. We need silence to be able to touch souls."

--Mother Teresa

Monthly Jokes

What New Year's resolution should a basketball player never make?

Answer: To travel more!

What do you call someone who says they know all the words to "Auld Lang Syne"?

Answer: A liar!

How can you keep a New Year's resolution to read more while never opening a book?

Answer: Watch TV with subtitles!

What is a spider's New Year's resolution?

Answer: To spend less time on the web!

Last year, I was able to keep all of my New Year's resolutions.

Answer: Tucked away in a journal on my bookshelf!



The January Inventory

My husband worked for a family-owned men's clothing store for decades, and on the third Sunday of January, the crew would get together to take inventory. About 10 people participated, including the owners, employees and a couple of willing spouses like me. I treasured those Sundays in January because they were "*people-powered days*" filled with laughter and fun, even though the job itself seemed pretty boring on the surface.

We found unexpected joy in counting everything from suits, shirts, ties, jeans, and gloves to bib overalls, long underwear, sweaters, coats, boots, and Pendleton blankets. We worked in pairs, and together we went through every rack, every box, and every shelf. It wasn't long before we would see pattern—some colors, fabrics and styles were obviously quite popular and nearly or totally sold out; others were absolute losers, and would probably end up as super-sale items on the store's "Ridiculous Day." Whatever the case, the remaining stock would dictate what kinds of changes were needed in the coming year.

The amazing thing to me was that even though we were taking an inventory of "things," the day was more about people than anything else. These "born salesmen" loved sharing memories about their diverse cadre of customers. After all, it was the salesmen who served as personal shoppers and confidants for generations of families, ultimately being a part of every Christmas, as well as baptisms and birthdays, graduations and job interviews, weddings and funerals. At the end of inventory day, I learned more about the caring connections between those customers and their sales team than anything else.

Those January inventories of the past encourage me to think more about self-inventories in 2025. What's on the shelves, in the boxes, and on the racks? What are the patterns, what's worth keeping, and what changes need to be made? Are the "things" in our lives crowding out what's really important? Are we listening and responding to the people who need us, and do we take the time to make and keep connections? Are we listening to God? Are we aware of our blessings? Can we find the joy, even when the tasks are mundane?

Taking a self-inventory is indeed a little more intimidating than those one-day inventories in the clothing store, especially when you don't own the store. There are some assurances, however, that can keep us going as we think about answers.

First, God will always love us and guide us, whether the racks are full or empty. Second, he not only supports people-powered days, he gives us Holy Spirit powered days—the most fulfilling kind of all. Third, he called on Jesus to show us that inventories are what you make of them, and it really is possible to feed 5,000 with a few loaves of bread and a couple of fish.

Perhaps the self-inventory is simply about rediscovering the joy of being God's children. The counting isn't as important as the believing. God loves, God forgives, and God saves. If faith is in the inventory, everything else will fall into place.

Submitted by Jan Costello

COATS

Nine very grateful students were taken on the COATS shopping trip on Wednesday, December 11. Adults from Central who accompanied the group were Pastor Ryan, Rebecca Rowe, Beth Kiningham, Cheryl Drake, and Nicole Drake. This local mission project began many years ago when the Christian Education Committee, with Janet Scheina as chair, identified a need for older students in the community. Central's congregation has supported the program and assisted many youth through the years. Rebecca Rowe has organized the event for several years, coordinating with staff at PORTA Jr./Sr. High School.

Children's Christmas Program

The Children's Christmas Program entitled "A No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant" was held on Sunday, December 15 during regular worship service. The children were joined by 11 adults from the congregation, who filled needed roles in the pageant. Thanks to Linda Claussen for directing, Bethany Edgecombe for providing piano accompaniment, and Brianne Satorius for costuming.



Christmas Fellowship

Following the Children's Christmas Program on Sunday, December 15, the congregation enjoyed the traditional Christmas Fellowship.



Chimes Deadline

Please have your articles and pictures for the **February 2025 Chimes** submitted to the church office no later than **Friday, January 24!** 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.

Annual Report Deadline

Committee Chairs: submissions for the 2024 Annual Report are needed no later than **January 15, 2025**. Early submissions will be greatly appreciated!!!



Keep Connected

Pastor Ryan Edgecombe is in 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.

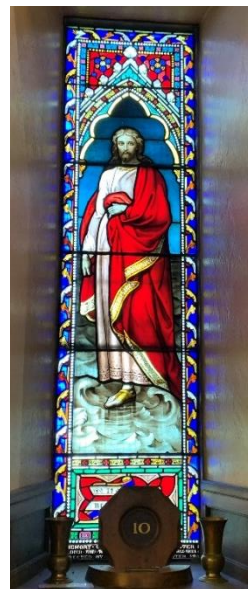
Members are encouraged to continue to stay connected with the church family. If you have an emergency or are in need of assistance from Central, please contact:

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!

The Old West Kirk, Greenock, Scotland

This past May, Mary Ann Beard (a member of CPC, daughter of Judy Stahl) and her husband were able to take a trip to Scotland. She wanted to share one of the many highlights of their trip. Pictured is The Old West Kirk and two of its stained glass windows. The Old West Kirk is the first Presbyterian Church built in Scotland following the Scottish Reformation, and the first approved by the Parliament of Scotland. It first opened in 1591.



Menard Caring Food Pantry

The Menard County Food Pantry is now **Menard Caring Food Pantry**, and its new location is at The Community Cottage in Petersburg, 119 W. Douglas Street. Hours of operation are the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and the 3rd Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. until noon. The new location will offer fresh garden vegetables in season and refrigerated/frozen items as available in addition to pantry items. Households can utilize the food pantry once a month.

For questions or more information, please contact: Lindsay Wilken, Food Pantry Coordinator at 217 717-2551, or Anne Smith, Menard Caring Treasurer at 217-303-8968.

January is “Brr...Bring Us Some Soup” (canned soups). Donations can be put in the basket in the Narthex.

Diaper Bank Needs

The Diaper Bank is currently in need of **sizes 1-4 diapers** and **pull-ups** as well as **baby wipes**. They are well stocked with adult briefs and pads at this time. Rather than purchasing items to donate, a monetary donation is always accepted.

Health Notes: *submitted by Alice Studzinski*

January is National Blood Donor Month

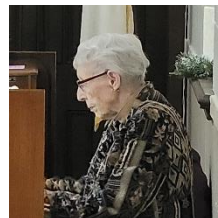
National Blood Donor Month is celebrated in January to recognize blood donors and to encourage more people to donate. It is a time when we honor the generosity of America's blood donors and remind people about the importance of donating blood regularly for those who are able to do so. The winter months result in a special need because of reduced donations due to increased illness from COVID-19, flu, and RSV.

Blood is needed to ensure that blood products are available at 2,500 hospitals nationwide. Blood transfusions are used to help patients under all kinds of circumstances, including surgeries, cancer treatments, anemia, and childbirth. The American Red Cross is an intrinsic part of our nation's blood supply, providing about 40% of the nation's blood and blood components. A blood donation takes about an hour from start to finish but the actual donation itself only takes between 8 to 10 minutes. This short commitment can save as many as three people with each blood and platelet donation.

There are several types of blood donations: whole blood, power red (red blood cells), platelets, and plasma. Each donation has specific donor requirements.

To donate, contact your local Red Cross for an appointment or for information about upcoming blood drives in your area. The South and West Central Illinois Chapter located at 769 South Durkin Drive, Springfield, IL 62704 serves Menard County; **Phone: (217)787-7602.**

December Scenes from Central





Turkey Tetrazzini with Cream of Mushroom Soup

Taste of Home

Ingredients

- 1 pkg. (7 oz.) spaghetti, broken into 2-inch pieces
- 2 cups cubed cooked turkey
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 can (10-1/2 oz.) condensed cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 2 jars (4-1/2 oz. ea.) sliced mushrooms, drained
- 1/3 cup 2% milk
- 1/4 cup chopped green pepper
- 1 jar (2 oz.) chopped pimientos, drained
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375⁰. Cook spaghetti according to package directions; drain. Transfer to large bowl. Stir in the next 10 ingredients.
2. Spoon into a greased 2 1/2-quart baking dish; if desired, sprinkle with additional cheese. Bake, uncovered until heated through, 40-45 minutes.

Total Time: Prep Time:15 min. Bake Time: 40 min.



Doritos Casserole

Taste of Home

Ingredients

- 1 lb. ground beef
 - 1 medium sweet red pepper, chopped
 - 1/2 medium onion, chopped
 - 1 tbsps. taco seasoning
 - 1 can (15-1/4 oz.) black beans, rinsed and drained
 - 1 can (10 oz.) diced tomatoes and green chilies, undrained
 - 1 cup sour cream
 - 1 pkg. (9-1/4 oz.) Doritos
 - 3 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided
- Optional: Sliced or cubed avocado, salsa, sliced jalapeno peppers and/or additional sour cream.

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350⁰. In a large skillet, cook ground beef, red pepper and onion over medium heat until beef is browned, 7-8 minutes.
2. Stir in taco seasoning, black beans and diced tomatoes; let simmer until thickened, 1-2 minutes.
3. Remove from heat and add sour cream until well combined.
4. In a greased 13x9-inch baking dish, layer half the Doritos, half the meat mixture, and 1-1/2 cups cheddar. Repeat layers.
5. Bake until cheese is melted and bubbly, 25-30 minutes.
6. If desired, top with avocado, salsa, jalapenos and/or additional sour cream.

Total Time: Prep Time: 15 min. Cook: 25 minutes



Happy Birthday!

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

Happy Anniversary!

Jan. 9 Paul & Marilyn Montgomery

Worship Leaders

	<i>Usher/Greeter</i>	<i>Liturgist</i>	<i>Communion Steward</i>
Sunday, Jan. 5	Camilla Long	Dave Long	David Drake
Sunday, Jan. 12	Ben Kiningham	Beth Kiningham	
Sunday, Jan. 19	Dan Stephenson	Jane Stephenson	
Sunday, Jan. 26	Steve Territo	Chris Ford	

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

December 1	38	December 22	51
December 8	29	Christmas Eve	41
December 15	70	December 29	22

Average Worship Attendance: 42



Members:

Emma Lou Denton
Steve Hollis
Alia Montgomery
Marilyn Montgomery

Jo Ann Morris
Ken Morris
Ron Sanert
Jim Satorius

Judy Stahl
Linda Williams

Friends of the Congregation:

Jim Allen (P. & M. Montgomery's cousin)
Mike Anderson Family (D & C. Long's neighbor)
Raeleigh Bess (P. & M. Montgomery's great niece)
Kelly Bessie (M. Montgomery's friend)
Clarice Blout (B. Satorius' grandmother)
Dale Blout (B. Satorius' father)
Danny Coffey (J. Goeringer's brother)
Serge Davis
Jim Daugherty (former Boy Scout Leader affiliated w/CPC)
Barb Deihl (L. Williams' cousin)
Bethany Edgecombe (Pastor Ryan's wife)
Vicki Edgecombe (Pastor Ryan's mother)
Ellen (W. Carter's friend)
Katie Embrey (Phyllis Hunsaker's granddaughter)
Linda Ewing (D. & C. Long's friend)
Liam Grogan (D. & C. Long's nephew)
Marlene Hartsook (R. Ford's sister)
Lucien Hill (M. Montgomery's friend's grandson)
Ron Kelso (C. Godbey's brother)
Dorothy King (A. Montgomery's sister)
Cade Leesman (D. & C. Long's friend)
David "Anthony" Long (D. & C. Long's son)
Kathy Long (D. & C. Long's sister-in-law)
Family of Jason Magerl (D. & C. Long's friend)

Manny Martinez (D. Long's friend)
Family of Carol McLin (Former CPC member)
Jerry Naughton (D. & C. Long's friend)
Family of Seth O'Neill (Pastor Ryan's cousin)
Wayne Patterson (P. & M. Montgomery's friend)
Jay Rebman (L. Claussen's friend)
Dorothy Ricketts (R. Plaeger's mother)
Kathy Ruppel (M. Montgomery's friend)
Robert Sandidge (M. Gheen's brother)
Kevin Scarlett (B. Edgecombe's uncle)
Dawn Schafer (S. Schafer's daughter-in-law)
Richard Schafer (S. Schafer's husband)
Co Shelton (J. Tice's friend)
Kay Siegrist (L. Williams' friend))
Jeff Smith (D. & C. Long's friend)
Mary Stephenson (D. Stephenson's mother)
Nancy Swift (R. Pinkston's cousin)
Randy Throckmorton
Roger Whitaker (Pastor Ryan's friend)
Carol White (J. Morris' friend)
Family of Debbie Woods
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:

Our young people on college campuses
Our youth so that they may find Christ
Victims of sexual assault
Racial equality

Peace between nation neighbors
Victims of gun violence/mass shootings
Displaced peoples in the world
Our country and our world

Please keep our healthcare workers, law enforcement, 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. Call the church office at 217-632-2651 or send an email to office@central-pres.org.