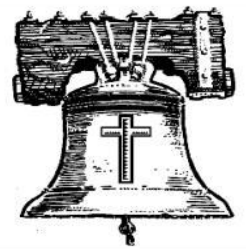


CENTRAL Chimes



Central Presbyterian Church

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

Hello Friends:

I have an excerpt for you from a famous holiday work of literature. Do you know where it is from?

"He went to church, and walked about the streets, and watched the people hurrying to and fro, and patted children on the head, and questioned beggars, and looked down into the kitchens of houses, and up to the windows, and found that everything could yield him pleasure. He had never dreamed that any walk—that anything—could give him so much happiness. In the afternoon he turned his steps towards his nephew's house.

This is from *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. I don't know about you, but I love this story and love the movie adaptations of the story as well. My favorite film versions include the one starring George C. Scott (1984), the musical version with Albert Finney (1970), and the Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)! If you have watched these versions of *A Christmas Carol*, you probably don't remember seeing Ebenezer Scrooge attending Church Services on Christmas Morning. There is only one film adaptation to my knowledge that includes this, being faithful to Dickens' original story.

In the 1999 version with Patrick Stewart, Scrooge is walking through the streets of London wishing everyone he comes across a "Merry Christmas." He hears a hymn being sung from a local church: "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen." He is drawn in by the music and decides to go to the service. He is a fish out of water! He doesn't know that he is supposed to remove his top hat upon entering, but is kindly encouraged to do so. He finds an empty spot in an otherwise full pew and tries to sing but doesn't know the words. Thankfully, the person that is standing next to him shares his hymnbook and Scrooge, with the music in front of him, starts to sing with great joy and gusto! "O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy!" It is a truly beautiful scene!

I hope and pray that we might have someone come into our sanctuary at Central this Advent/Christmas season. Maybe they will come not having been in church for a long time. Maybe they will come as one not being familiar with the traditions of our church or how we "do" church on Sunday. Maybe they won't know the songs we sing or when to stand or when to sit. It is my prayer that if we are blessed by the presence of a "Christmas Visitor," that we might be a welcoming environment, coming alongside that person, helping them to "get their bearings" in such a strange environment, and helping them to feel at ease. What a great Christmas Gift that would be for our congregation, to welcome in a new face for the purpose of worshiping the New Born King!

The Edgecombe Family wishes you a very Merry Christmas.
Thank you for allowing us to serve Central Presbyterian Church.
Thank you for accepting us into the Central Family!

Ryan Edgecombe, Pastor
benjaminryan132011@gmail.com



Highlights of Regular Session Meeting on November 21, 2024



- Home communion was served to a total of 2 individuals on November 2.
- Worship Committee is working on recording hymns on memory cards using the keyboard in the Sanctuary. This will allow for hymn singing on occasional Sundays when an organist or pianist is not available.
- Nominating Committee has reported that they have completed their work and have filled the Deacon and Session positions. Great work Nominating Committee!
- Motion from Administration Committee:
 - **MOTION: That \$500.00 be given to Scout Troop 52 for re-chartering costs. Monies to come from Obligated Funds, Scouts.**
 - **MOTION: That \$500.00 be given to the COATS Program. Monies to come from Memorial Funds, specifically Janet Scheina donations.**
 - **MOTION: That \$500.00 for exterior lights. Monies to come from Memorial Funds, specifically Janet Scheina donations.**
- **Central Presbyterian Church would like to express our GRATITUDE to the life and dedication Janet Scheina provided to CPC.**
- In 2025, members of Session and Administration will be exploring the safety options and protocol to be put in place to assure the safety of Central's Congregation.
- Pastor Edgecombe Report for October:
 - Made numerous pastoral home visits and telephone calls.
 - Officiated funeral service at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Emden, Illinois.
 - Coordinated the World Communion Sunday with Pastor Rick Pierce from the United Methodist Church. It was very well received.
 - Assisted Linda Claussen in passing out candy and fun bookmarks communicating God's love during the Jaycee's "Safe drug and alcohol free Halloween" event.
 - Attended PORTA Ministerial meeting.
 - Regularly attends Food Pantry meetings.
 - Bible study continues.
 - Special thanks to Linda Claussen and Deacons for making the wiener roast after church possible.

Administration Committee News

Financial

- Our income year to date is \$4,811.54 above budget and YTD expenses are below budget by \$8,680.48. Regardless of budget, our income, YTD, is \$8,970.67 lower than our expenses. We are on line to be negative \$10,000 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 will be putting together proposals for our current investments. Several CDs come due prior to the end of the year and the Edward Jones rates look strong compared to local options.
- The checkbook balance, including Obligated Funds, is \$28,602.91, which is down nearly \$7,400.00 from the first of this year.
- 2025 Stewardship drive is nearing completion. We have received 22 pledges as compared to 29 in 2024 (not counting the 2 pledges from members that we lost this year) and total \$60,230 as

compared to \$80,884 in 2024. We have 8 potential pledges outstanding that could total \$10,000. There are two new pledging units, so far.

- 2025 MMF pledges have exceeded this year's pledges. We have 3 potential pledges outstanding and the new total should be over \$9,000 compared to \$6,860 this year.
- Work is ongoing on preparing our 2025 budget. The two areas that are potentially increasing are payroll (increasing by \$5,298.00, as being presented currently) and insurance (which is showing a 45% increase with Church Mutual or \$4,000). Steve has reached out to other churches to find out who they use for insurance and has a local agent getting us competitive quotes from multiple providers.

Building and Ongoing Projects

- We continue to investigate options for the phone in the elevator.

Personnel

- Annual evaluations are being administered

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 70. What is the main difference between baptism and the Lord's Supper?

While I receive baptism only once, I receive the Lord's Supper again and again.

Being unrepeatable, baptism indicates not only that Christ died for our sins once and for all, but that by grace we are also united with Him once and for all through faith.

Being repeatable, the Lord's Supper indicates that as we turn unfilled to Him again and again, our Lord continually meets us in the power of the Holy Spirit to renew and deepen our faith.

Acts 2:41 *"So those who welcomed His message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added."*

John 6:51 *"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."*

1 Corinthians 11:26 *"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."*

Question 71. What is baptism?

Baptism is the sign and seal through which we are joined to Christ.

Romans 6:3-4 *"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him by*

baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we might walk in newness of life."

Galatians 3:27 "As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

Question 72. What does it mean to be baptized?

My baptism means that I am joined to Jesus Christ forever. I am baptized into His death and resurrection, along with all who have received Him by faith. As I am baptized with water, He baptizes me with His Spirit, washing away all my sins and freeing me from their control. My baptism is a sign that one day I will rise with Him in glory, and may walk with Him even now in newness of life.

Colossians 2:12 "When you were buried with Him in baptism, you were also raised with Him through faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead."

1 Corinthians 6:11 "You were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God."

Ephesians 4:4-6 "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling one lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."

Quotation Station

Thoughts on "Christmas"

"Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect."
--Oren Arnold

"For outlandish creatures like us, on our way to a heart, a brain, and courage, Bethlehem is not the end of our journey, but only the beginning—not home but the place through which we must pass if ever we are to reach home at last."
--Frederick Buechner

"There has been only one Christmas—the rest are anniversaries."
--W. J. Cameron"

"Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home."
--G. K. Chesterton

"To the American People: Christmas is not a time or a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. If we think on these things, there will be born in us a Savior, and over us will shine a star sending its gleam of hope to the world."
--Calvin Coolidge

Monthly Jokes

What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

Answer: Frosted Flakes!

What did the big candle say to the little candle?

Answer: I'm going out tonight!

What are people who are afraid of Santa Claus called?

Answer: Claustrophobic!

Why does Scrooge love Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer?

Answer: Because every buck is dear to him!



Hanging of the Greens

A big thank you to all those that helped in the “*Hanging of the Greens*” following the Sunday, November 24 worship service. The Sanctuary once again comes alive with the “Spirit of the Season.”



Thanksgiving Service

The annual Thanksgiving Service, conducted by the PORTA Ministerial Association, was held Sunday evening, November 24 at Central. Eight pastors led the service with 78 worshippers filling the sanctuary. The message was given by Nick Sutton, followed by the pastors' choir singing “*For the Beauty of the Earth.*” Pianists for the evening were Linda Claussen, Anne Smith, and Julia Territo. Refreshments and fellowship were enjoyed at the conclusion of the service.



Blue Christmas Service

Central will be providing a “Blue Christmas” Service for our congregation and the community on Sunday, **December 8, at 4:00 p.m.** You may or may not be familiar with this type of service. A Blue Christmas Service is similar to a community memorial service. We are recognizing that the Holiday Season, so often associated with joy, may not be something that grieving individuals and families are looking forward to as they adjust to not having their parent, child, sibling, spouse, or a friend at their side this Christmas, as in years past. We want to give our community an opportunity to continue in the grieving process this holiday season, while at the same time embracing the love of that baby born of Mary for all of us. Please come and remember those special to you, whether you have been missing them for a short time or for a very long time!

COATS

The shopping trip with the students is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 11**. There is still time to volunteer your time if you wish to accompany the kids with their shopping. Please call Rebecca Rowe.

Children's Christmas Program

This year's Children's Christmas Program is entitled "A No Rehearsal Christmas Pageant." Linda Claussen states, "Yes, we have been asked for an encore of last year's program!" Children and adults can volunteer to participate the day of the pageant. Be sure to join us in the first Christmas story done in poetry on **Sunday, December 15** during the worship service.

Christmas Fellowship

Also, on Sunday, **December 15**, following the Children's Christmas Program, there will be the traditional Christmas Fellowship. Volunteers are asked to provide "**finger foods**" as in the past—meat, cheese, veggies, fruit, sweets. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Narthex. Thanks to the Deacons for coordinating this event.

Christmas Eve Service

The annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be held at **8:00 p.m.** Come Join Us!

2024 Giving Deadline

Sunday, December 29, will be the **absolute last Sunday** for giving to Central Presbyterian Church to be included on the current year 2024 Giving Statement. Any contributions received later that week will not be deposited until January 2. Per IRS guidelines, any pledges deposited in the new year, will be shown on the 2025 Giving Statements.

2025 Giving Envelopes

General Fund giving envelopes for 2025 will soon be available on the Narthex table for those who requested them. There will likely be a different number on the envelopes than you are currently using; please discontinue using any old numbered envelopes. If you have 'leftover' envelopes with an old number, please return them to the basket provided in the Narthex and they will be recycled for pew envelopes. Blue Major Maintenance Fund envelopes will also be available.



Church Office Closed for the Christmas/New Year Holidays

Pastor Ryan will be taking a much-needed vacation and will be unavailable from December 25 through January 4, 2025. He will be back in the church office on Monday, January 6, 2025!

The Church office will be closed Wednesday, December 25 (Christmas Day) and Wednesday, January 1, 2025 (New Year's Day). Please call Marilyn Montgomery, Deacon Chair, if you have an emergency.

Chimes Deadline

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

Annual Report Deadline

Committee Chairs: submissions for the 2024 Annual Report are needed by **January 15, 2025**. If you know now that there will be no more activity in your particular committee for the rest of the year, please feel free to send your report in as soon as possible. Early submissions will be greatly appreciated!!!



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!

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.

December is “*Tis the Season*” (seasonings, spices, sauces). 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. They are well stocked with baby wipes, as well as adult briefs and pads. Rather than purchasing items to donate, a monetary donation is always accepted.

Health Notes: *submitted by Alice Studzinski*

An Unlikely Health Champion

Someone once asked me who I would like to meet if I had the chance to meet a public figure. For many reasons, I said former president Jimmy Carter. In addition to what he accomplished as president, after leaving office he used his former position and his Christian faith to help live a life of service to his fellow man.

James Earl Carter Jr. (born October 1, 1924) is an American politician and humanitarian who served from 1977 to 1981 as the 39th president of the United States. Opposing racial segregation, Carter supported the growing civil rights movement. He created a national energy policy that included conservation, price control, and new technology.

Carter is a key figure in the nonprofit housing organization Habitat for Humanity. After leaving the presidency, he built homes in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. He also partnered with former presidents to work with One America Appeal to help the victims of Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma in the Gulf Coast and Texas communities. In 1982, Carter established the Carter Center to promote and expand human rights; in 2002 he received a Nobel Peace Prize for related work.

A nongovernmental and non-profit organization, the Carter Center has helped to improve life for people in more than 80 countries by resolving conflicts, advancing democracy and human rights, preventing diseases, and improving mental health care. The Carter Center is a leader in the global effort to eradicate and eliminate diseases, including guinea worm, river blindness, lymphatic filariasis, and blinding trachoma. The efforts many times include health education and simple, low-cost methods.

One very successful effort has been the contribution of the Carter Center working alongside the World Health Organization to nearly eradicate dracunculiasis, also called Guinea worm disease. The incidence of this disease has decreased from 3.5 million cases in the mid-1980s, to 25 cases in 2016, and four in the first seven months of 2024, according to the Carter Center's statistics. From a young age, Carter showed a deep commitment to evangelical Christianity. Carter taught Sunday school at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia. As president, Carter prayed several times a day, and professed that Jesus was the driving force in his life. As of 2019, he was still teaching Sunday School.

November Scenes from Central



Happy Birthday!

Octogenarians

Dec. 25	William Carter	89 Almond Lane, Petersburg, IL 62675		
Dec. 1	Jane Stephenson		Dec. 19	Rebecca Stark
Dec. 5	Hannah Kyes		Dec. 19	Ron Sanert
Dec. 6	Marisa Gerdes		Dec. 22	Marilyn Montgomery
Dec. 11	Shannon Willhite		Dec. 23	Jamie Canady
Dec. 16	Pam Brown		Dec. 25	Holly Davis
Dec. 18	Debbie Davis			

Happy Anniversary!

Dec. 31 Kyle & Carrie Winkelmann



	<i>Usher/Greeter</i>	<i>Liturgist</i>	<i>Communion Steward</i>
Sunday, Dec. 1	Steve Territo	Barb Sampson	Barb Sampson
Sunday, Dec. 8	Beth Kiningham	Steve Territo	
Sunday, Dec. 15	David Drake	Ron Sanert	
Sunday, Dec. 22	Coleen Janssen	Dan Stephenson	
Christmas Eve	Pat Claussen	TBD	TBD
Sunday, Dec. 29	Jerry Tice	Janene Tice	

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

November 3	33	November 17	33
November 10	31	November 24	41

Average Worship Attendance: 35



Members:

Emma Lou Denton
Steve Hollis
Alia Montgomery
Marilyn Montgomery

Jo Ann Morris
Ken Morris
Rebecca Rowe
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)
Family of Nancy (Hollis) Brown (Past CPC member)
Danny Coffey (J. Goeringer's brother)
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)
Janet (J. Gamage's sister)
Rich 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)
Jason Magerl (D. & C. Long's friend)

Manny Martinez (D. Long's friend)
Jerry Naughton (D. & C. Long's friend)
Wayne Patterson (P. & M. Montgomery's friend)
Family of Jeremy Potts (son of G. & J. Horn's friend)
Jay Rebman (L. Claussen's friend)
Dorothy Ricketts (R. Plaeger's mother)
Blair Rowe (R. Rowe's daughter)
Kathy Ruppel (M. Montgomery's friend)
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)
Annie Territo (S. Territo's step-mother)
Jimmie Thompson (R. Rowe's friend)
Randy Throckmorton
Roger Whitaker (Pastor Ryan's friend)
Carol White (J. Morris' friend)
Clara Willox (R. & C. Ford's granddaughter)
Debbie & Rick 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
People who are affected by the Ukraine/Russia
& Israel/Gaza conflicts
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 by sending an email to: office@central-pres.org, or calling the church office at: 217-632-2651.

Ham & Cheese Tortilla Roll Ups

The Cookie Rookie- Author Becky Hardin

Ingredients

- 16 oz. cream cheese (room temperature 2 bricks)
- 1.5 oz. Hidden Valley Original Ranch Seasoning Mix (1 packet)
- 1/2 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 5 flour tortillas
- 1/2 cup finely chopped ham
- 1/2 cup chopped green onion



Directions:

1. In a medium bowl, mix the cream cheese, ranch mix, and shredded cheese together.
2. Spread 1/5 of the cream cheese mixture onto each tortilla in a 1/4-inch layer.
3. Sprinkle each tortilla with ham and onion. Roll each tortilla tight to make sure the cream cheese binds the tortilla together.
4. Place in the refrigerator until fully chilled, about 1-2 hours.
5. Cut each tortilla into 1/2-inch wheels and serve.

Storage:

Store in an airtight container in the fridge up to 4 days or in the freezer up to 1 month.

Total Time: Prep Time:10 min. total Time: 10 minutes. Servings: 10 roll-ups

Christmas Punch

Taste of Home

Ingredients

- 2 cups water
- 1 can (46 oz.) pineapple juice, chilled
- 3/4 cups sugar
- 4 cups cranberry-apple juice, chilled
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 liter ginger ale, chilled

Optional: Fresh or frozen cranberries, sliced apples, orange wedges, fresh mint leaves and cinnamon sticks.



Directions

In a large saucepan, bring the water, sugar and cinnamon to a boil, stir until sugar is dissolved. Chill. Just before serving, combine the syrup mixture, juices and ginger ale in a punch bowl or large pitcher. If desired, garnish with fruit and mint, and serve over ice with cinnamon sticks.

Total Time: Prep Time: 10 min. + chilling

***Merry
Christmas!***

