CENTRAL Chimes
Central Presbyterian Church
PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS

Hello Friends:

I feel very blessed to serve here at Central Presbyterian Church. I continue to see the love of God in this congregation, and hope that you are seeing the love of God in me as well! Thank you for all the cards and notes for Pastor Appreciation Month, as well as for the very nice fellowship time after Services held on October 12. Bethany and I and our three boys really enjoyed and appreciated that extra time with those who were able to attend. God continues to use our congregation in Menard County and beyond for His Kingdom!

As I write this little article, harvest time is probably winding down. I really enjoy driving to Petersburg from Lincoln through the country, so I see the farmers at work! Sometimes I drive to Broadwell, and then to Sweetwater, and then to Petersburg. Sometimes I drive to Elkhart, and then to Indian Point, and then to Petersburg. Sometimes on the way home I drive near Middletown, to Irish Grove & "Polecat Hill," and then to Lucas Chapel Cemetery on my way to Lincoln. One day I cut across the country on 5th Street in Lincoln and drove West until it emptied out just south of Mason City. On the way I saw a neat little cemetery called "Swing Grove." I love going on a country drive, admiring our native landscape, and seeing what our local farmers are up to.

I grew up in the country right next door to where my grandfather farmed (one mile west of Oreana). I am not a farmer and don't pretend to know a lot about farming, but I am truly thankful for this Central Illinois soil that has nourished and provided for multiple generations of families all around this area. I have a vial of dirt in my office taken from our family farm. I believe soon it will be in the Edgecombe/Acom family for 125 years. That vial represents God's Grace and Provision and Love, not just for an individual family, but for countless others, for the work of the local farmer impacts people for the good literally all over the world!

We pray this prayer, by Kobin Fogle, along with those hard-working farmers in our own communities...

Lord, bless the land You've given me.
and may I always know,
as I tend each crop and creature,
You're the One who helps them grow.
Grant me the strength and wisdom,
please protect me from harm,
and thank You
for Your gracious gift—
the blessing of a farm.

Have a good month and hope to see you in Church sometime soon! Bring a Friend!!

Ryan Edgecombe, Pastor
Edgeness79@hotmail.com

Daylight Savings Time Ends

Don't forget to change your clocks before you go to bed Saturday, November 1! Daylight Savings Time ends on ***Sunday, November 2*** *at 2 a.m.*

Highlights of Regular Session Meeting, October 16, 2025

- Bank balance as of September 30, 2025, is $33,418.07.
- 2026 Stewardship letter is complete and being sent out.
- **MOTION: That $500.00 to go to Emergency Fund of Menard Caring, with monies to come from the Ebersolt Fund. Motion from Committee, Seconded. APPROVED.**
- Annual performance reviews will start soon.
- Mission/Outreach:
  - Central will participate in the Menard County Jaycees' Kids' Halloween Parade. Through Menard County Jaycees, Central will sponsor some angels, will work with Toy for Tots to purchase new toys for the Toys for Tots box, as well as a "Mitten Tree." More information on that is to come.
- Pastor Edgecombe Report:
  - Attended September PORTA Ministerial meeting.
  - Food Pantry—everything is going well.
  - Bible Study—finished watching Season 5 of "The Chosen." Also watched interesting videos on Science and Christianity and How They Interact (by Richard Knopp) and have started a movie on Martin Luther in celebration of Reformation Month.
  - Attended monthly potluck on September 3.
  - Attended Mandatory Boundaries Training for the Presbytery in Peoria.
  - Discussion with Rick Pierce from PUMC about joining his church for a brief "Blessing of the Animals" ceremony at 9:00-9:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 26.

Administration Committee News

<u>Financial</u>

- Our income YTD is $19,684.57 above budget and expenses are below budget by $9,253.45. We are above budget due to transferring $20,000 from the General Fund CD. Regardless of budget, our income is $9,947.86 lower than our expenses. Without the $20,000 transfer we would be $29,947.86 below budget and this amount is in line with anticipated shortfall of $40,000 for our 2025 budget.
- Treasurer's Report, General, Obligated Funds and MMF were reviewed by the Committee.
- The checkbook balance, including Obligated Funds, is $33,338.07. This balance does not include one additional $20K CD that is held in savings.
- The Committee is working on the 2026 budget and has requested bids for the insurance package for the church.
- 2026 Stewardship letter has been sent out and Pledges are due back on November 2.
- ***MOTION*** **$500.00 to the Emergency Fund of Menard Caring** with monies to come from the Ebersolt Fund.
- Julie Wankel from Edward Jones met with the Committee and discussed how our investments have done in the first three quarters (over 8.5% return). She also is going to look at how our monies are invested in Vanguard funds to ensure a strong return. She discussed options on how

to distribute proceeds from our investments which we anticipate needing to balance the budget in 2026.

- When our $20,000 CD matures in December, we are going to put those monies in an Edward Jones money market account (currently paying 3.9%). We can then draw monies out as needed for the General Fund.

Building and Ongoing Projects

- Mark Goeringer is working on the painting of Fellowship Hall. This is being paid for through the Memorial Committee.
- The Memorial Committee is requesting bids for painting of the door to the former Food Pantry entrance and the door on the southeast corner of the church.
- The Committee has decided to keep the old computer from the sanctuary as a backup.
- The exterior railings are in need of painting. They were last painted in 2020.

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 113: What is the ninth commandment?

"*You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.*" (Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20)

Question 114: What do you learn from this commandment?

God forbids me to damage the honor or reputation of my neighbor. I should not say false things against anyone for the sake of money, favor or friendship, for the sake of revenge, or for any other reason. God requires me to speak the truth, to speak well of my neighbor when I can, and to view the faults of my neighbor with tolerance when I cannot.

Zachariah 8:16-17 "*These are the things that you shall do: Speak the truth to one another, render in your gates judgements that are true and make for peace, do not devise evil in your hearts against one another, and love no false oath; for all these are things that I hate, says the lord."*

James 4:11 *"Do not speak evil against one another, brothers and sisters. Whoever speaks evil against another or judges another, speaks evil against the law and judges the law; but if you judge the law, you are not a doer of the law but a judge."*

Question 115: Does this commandment forbid racism and other forms of negative stereotyping?

Yes. In forbidding false witness against my neighbor, God forbids me to be prejudiced against people who belong to any vulnerable, different or disfavored social group. Jews, women, homosexuals, racial and ethnic minorities, and national enemies are among those who have suffered terribly from being subjected to the slurs of social prejudice. Negative stereotyping is a form of falsehood that invites

actions of humiliation, abuse, and violence as forbidden by the commandment against murder.
Romans 3:13, 15 "*Their throats are opened graves; they use their tongues to deceive. The venom of vipers is under their lips—their feet are swift to shed blood."*
Proverbs 31:8-9 *"Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute. Speak out, judge righteously, defend the rights of the poor and needy."*
Matthew 7:1-2 *"Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgement you make, you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get."*

Quotation Station for November

(Quotes on "Money")

"He who bestows his goods upon the poor shall have as much again and ten times more."
--John Bunyan

"If any prophet, speaking in a trance, says, 'Give me your money (or anything else),'do not listen to him." --The Didache

"Shun, as you would the plague, a cleric who from being poor has become wealthy, or who, from being nobody has become a celebrity." --Jerome

"I continually find it necessary to guard against that natural love of wealth and grandeur which prompts us always, when we come to apply our general doctrine to our own case, to claim an exception." --Wilberforce

"There is no such thing as Success—that a thing is successful merely means that it is; a millionaire is successful in being a millionaire and a donkey in being a donkey." --G.K. Chesterton

"Earthly goods are given to be used, not to be collected—hoarding is idolatry."
--Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Monthly Riddle/Jokes

Why do turkeys never finish their meals?
Answer: Because they're already stuffed!!

How does a turkey travel throughout the month of November?
Answer: By gravy train!!

What is a pumpkin's favorite sport?
Answer: Squash!

What is the best thing to put into a pumpkin pie?
Answer: Your teeth!

What was the Pilgrims' favorite music?
Answer: Plymouth Rock!

It's Time for 2026 Stewardship Drive

By now you should have received a mailing from Central that begins our annual Stewardship Drive. A steward is defined as "One who engages in Christ's mission using every resource at his command, both of **personality** and **possessions**, in grateful and obedient response to God's love." We encourage you to prayerfully consider your pledge for Time and Talent (personality), as well as to the General Fund and the Major Maintenance Fund (possessions).

The Time & Talent Survey card is needed at this time for planning next year's worship schedule, committees, and events.

Your pledges to the General and Major Maintenance Funds are vital in the budgeting process for 2026. The General Fund is used for monthly expenses (electricity & gas, insurance, payroll, supplies, etc.). The Major Maintenance Fund covers the costs of building needs (such as the removal of sanctuary radiators and carpet repair, painting of the sanctuary, exterior masonry repairs, repairs and upgrades of the elevator) without relying on the General Fund.

Please complete and return these cards, included in your mailing, no later than **Sunday, November 2.** Extra letters with cards will be available on the Narthex table if needed. Cards may be dropped off in the office, placed in the Admin. Asst. mailbox outside the office, mailed to the church (210 W. Douglas St.), or dropped in the offering plate on Sunday. The Administration Committee has already begun work on the budget process, so your submissions (no matter how great or small they may be) are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your faithfulness in making a pledge to YOUR church!

COATS

Planning has begun for the 2025 COATS (Clothing of All Types and Sizes) program and Rebecca Rowe is coordinating this program again this year. We will be collecting during the month of November. The shopping trip with the kids has not yet been set, but usually takes place the first week of December. If you would like to donate funds specifically for this program, please use a labeled offering envelope from the pews. There are also COATS envelopes on the table in the Narthex.

Community Thanksgiving Service

The PORTA Community Thanksgiving Worship Service will be at 7:00 p.m., Sunday, November 23, at First Baptist Church, 103 W. Sangamon Street. Our speaker will be Harold Smith, the new Interim Pastor at First Christian Church in Petersburg. The offering will support the Menard Caring Emergency Fund, helping local families in need. Snacks and fellowship time will be provided afterwards. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this special worship service!

Church Office Closed in Observance of Thanksgiving

The Church office will be closed Friday, November 28, in observance of Thanksgiving. Please call Marilyn Montgomery, Deacon Chair, if you have an emergency.

Congratulations!

We extend our congratulations to Adam and April Studzinski, who were wed September 13 in Chicago. Adam, son of Alice & Bill Studzinski, grew up a member of the Central family.

Health Notes: Health Articles
How to Approach Scary Health Facts on WebMD

Source*: AI Overview*

You should not use WebMD to diagnose yourself, especially regarding "scary" facts. The website and its symptom checker should be considered an informational starting point only, and a licensed physician should be your primary source of medical advice. However, if you do find concerning information on WebMD, you can verify its credibility by checking for red flags and cross-referencing with more definitive sources.

How to approach scary health facts on WebMD

1. **Look for extreme language and miracle claims.** Be skeptical of sensationalized headlines or language that evokes strong emotions like fear. Beware of "miracle cures" or "quick fixes," as real medical issues and solutions are rarely that simple.
2. **Check the publication date.** Health information, especially on WebMD, can become outdated. Scroll to the bottom of the article to find the most recent review or update date. For critical information, sources that are no more than two or three years old are ideal.
3. **Cross-reference with credible sources.** The most important step is to verify the information on more authoritative websites, such as those from government health agencies or major medical institutions.
    1. **Government health agencies (.gov):** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC.gov) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH.gov) are reliable sources for evidence-based information.
    2. **Academic medical centers (.edu):** Reputable university medical centers, such as the Mayo Clinic (MayoClinic.org) and Johns Hopkins Medicine (HopkinsMedicine.org), have extensive and trustworthy information.
    3. **Medical journals and databases:** For a deeper dive into research, you can search for peer-reviewed studies on PubMed or Google Scholar.

Why WebMD can be an unreliable source

- **Financial conflicts of interest:** As a for-profit company, WebMD's business model relies on advertising from the same healthcare industry it reports on. A study at the University of Michigan found inconsistencies in the evidence supporting some recommended treatments.
- **Variable accuracy:** The reliability of WebMD depends heavily on the specific article and topic. Different articles receive different levels of review, and some articles lack clear authorship or review dates.
- **Terms and conditions:** The site's terms clearly state that its content is "not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment." It also warns users to never delay seeking professional medical advice because of something they read on WebMD.
- **Online symptom checkers:** Studies have found that online symptom checkers from WebMD and other sites are inaccurate more often than not. A 2015 Harvard Medical School study found that these tools were only correct about one-third of the time.

What to do if you are still concerned

If, after cross-referencing and carefully evaluating the information, you are still concerned, the best and safest step is to schedule an appointment with a licensed healthcare provider. A doctor can give you a personalized diagnosis and treatment plan based on your unique medical history, which online resources cannot.

Chimes Deadline

Please have your articles and pictures for the **December 2025** ***Chimes*** submitted to the church office **no later than Wednesday, November 19!** 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

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
Marilyn Montgomery, Deacon Chair, 217-341-5361
Jane Stephenson, Clerk of Session, 217-341-7599

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 Honors Cindy Godbey

Menard Caring recently honored Cindy Godbey of Petersburg for her work with Menard Caring's Food Pantry. A longtime volunteer for the organization, Godbey served as President of Menard Caring's Board of Directors for the last two years. She was instrumental in helping the food pantry transition to its new location at the Community Cottage and Garden, 119 W. Douglas in Petersburg.

A faith-based organization, Menard Caring oversees the pantry and garden, as well as an emergency fund to help those with specific needs. The Food Pantry is open the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. and the 3rd Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

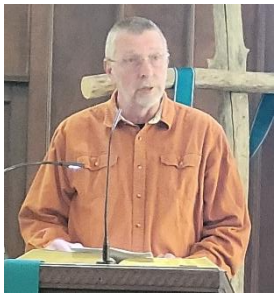
Menard Caring Food Pantry/Diaper Bank Needs

November is **"*Thanks for Giving—holiday side dishes.*"** Donations can be put in the basket in the Narthex.

Rather than purchasing items to donate, a monetary donation to the **Diaper Bank** is always accepted. Contact Lindsay Wilken for more information.

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

October Scenes from Central



Happy Birthday!

Octogenarians

Nov. 25	Judith Stahl	C/O Mary Ann Beard, PO Box 20, Arenzville, IL 62611
Nov. 26	Janene Tice	16756 Schirding Ave., Petersburg, IL 62675

Nov. 1	Cindy Godbey	Nov. 14	Lauren Johnson
Nov. 1	Vicki Johnson	Nov. 15	Jacob Gerdes
Nov. 4	Sadie Jane Groh	Nov. 16	James Satorius
Nov. 5	Sherrilyn Roberts	Nov. 17	Rodney Davis
Nov. 8	William Montgomery	Nov. 23	Robert Winklemann

worship leader

	Usher/Greeter	*Liturgist*	*Communion Steward*
Sunday, Nov. 2	Cheryl Drake	Marilyn Montgomery	Marilyn Montgomery
Sunday, Nov. 9	Steve Territo	Chris Ford	
Sunday, Nov. 16	Pat Claussen	John Godbey	
Sunday, Nov. 23	Sherri Roberts	Rebecca Rowe	Rebecca Rowe
Sunday, Nov. 30	Ron Sanert	Linda Williams	

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.

Worship Attendance

October 5	**22**	October 19	**29**
October 12	**31**	October 26	**25**

Average Worship Attendance: 27

Members:

Steve Hollis
Alia Montgomery
Marilyn Montgomery
JoAnn Morris
Charles (Sandy) Sandberg
Ron Sanert
Jim Satorius
Judy Stahl
Linda Williams

Friends of the Congregation:

Jim Allen (P. & M. Montgomery's cousin)
Tim Bellinger (R. Plaeger's nephew)
Raeleigh Bess (P. & M. Montgomery's great niece)
Tina Bidlingmaier (J. Higginbotham's daughter-in-law)
Clarice Blout (B. Satorius' grandmother)
Dale Blout (B. Satorius' father)
Judy Boutelle (Rev. Boutelle's wife)
Larry & Peggy Brandon (Pastor Ryan's friends)
Danny Coffey (J. Goeringer's brother)
Jim Daugherty (former Boy Scout Leader)
Serge Davis
Barb Deihl (L. Williams' cousin)
Sandy Dierks
Vicki Edgecombe (Pastor Ryan's mother)
Cheryl Esela (L. Claussen's sister)
Linda Ewing (D. & C. Long's friend)
Liam Grogan (D. & C. Long's nephew)
Marlene Hartsook (R. Ford's sister)
Lucien Hill (grandson to friend of M. Montgomery)
Angie Hodgson (C. Drake's sister)
Kristina Hutton & boys (D. & C. Long's daughter)
Karen Kelso (C. Godbey's sister-in-law)
Family of Tim Loafman (M. Montgomery's family)
David "Anthony" Long (D. & C. Long's son)
Kathy Long (D. & C. Long's sister-in-law)
Katie Niccolls (J. Koch's granddaughter)
Jay Rebman (L. Claussen's friend)
Steve & Kim Rebbe (C. Ford's friend)
Dorothy Ricketts (R. Plaeger's mother)
Stephanie Roseboom (J. Higginbotham's daughter)
Blair Rowe (R. Rowe's daughter)
Kathy Ruppel (M. Montgomery's friend)
Dawn Schafer (S. Schafer's daughter-in-law)
Co Shelton (J. Tice's friend)
Kay Siegrist (L. Williams' friend))
Jeff Smith (D. & C. Long's friend)
Janey Spangler (C. Long's family)
Nancy Swift (R. Pinkston's cousin)
John Territo (S. Territo's brother)
Carol White (J. Morris' friend)
Russell White (retired PORTA teacher)
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 Country and our World
Peace between nation neighbors
Victims of gun violence/mass shootings
Our youth so that they may find Christ!
Displaced people in the world
Victims of sexual assault
Racial equality
Homeless Veterans

Please keep the church office informed of members or friends that need to be placed on or removed from our prayer list. Send an email to: office@central-pres.org or call the church office at: 217-632-2651 with updates.

Ice Cream Cake

Submitted by Jan Costello

Ingredients

68 Ritz crackers, crushed
1 stick butter, melted
4 Tbsp. sugar
2 pkgs. vanilla instant pudding
2 cups milk
1 quart vanilla ice cream
1 small container of cool whip

Directions

1. Mix crushed crackers, melted butter, and sugar in a bowl. Press in a 9 x 13 pan (saving ½ cup for later).
2. Beat the two packages of vanilla instant pudding with the 2 cups of milk (adding a little at a time to prevent lumps)
3. Add 1 quart of vanilla ice cream and beat with electric mixer. Pour over crust and refrigerate for one hour.
4. Spread a small container of cool whip on top and the remaining cracker crumbs on top of that.

Pumpkin Bread

Taste of Home

Ingredients

1 2/3 cups all-purpose flour
1 1/2 cups sugar
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
3/4 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
1/4 tsp. ground cloves
2 large eggs, room temperature
1 cup canned pumpkin
1/2 cup canola oil
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup chopped walnuts
1/2 cup raison, optional

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350^0. Combine first 8 ingredients. Whisk together eggs, pumpkin, oil and water; stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in walnuts and, if desired, raisons.
2. Pour into a greased 9 x 5-inch loaf pan. Bake until a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean, 65-70 minutes. Cool in pan 10 minutes before removing to a wire rack to cool completely.

Total Time/Prep: 15 minutes Bake: 65 minutes + cooling Yield: 16 pieces