CENTRAL Chimes
Central Presbyterian Church
PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS

Hello Friends,

Lately I've been thinking more and more about The Family of God diffused throughout this beautiful world of ours. Men and women from every tribe, tongue, color, and nation, who proclaim the life changing power of the resurrection of our Savior and Lord. It brings me great comfort to know that Christ Jesus is glorified by countless people from a variety of cultures utilizing a variety of traditions. We can learn a lot from our neighbors miles upon miles away. We celebrate Easter in our own way and in our own context, honoring God in our own way. How do other communities celebrate Easter? How do other communities honor God during this special time of year?

In New Zealand and in Australia, they enjoy homemade hot cross buns that are spiced and sweet, with the Cross of Christ marked on top.

Christians in Ethiopia hold an all-night vigil before Easter morning. As you can imagine, things start off very somber and mournful as they reflect on Jesus' sacrifice and his body being sealed away in the tomb. As the sun rises on Easter morning, their grief turns into joy and loud music and dancing! What an awesome celebration!

In the Philippines, two festive parades come together, resulting in one big celebration. The men form one parade with a beautiful image of the resurrected Christ. The women take another parade route, and they have with them an image of Mary, the mother of Jesus, grieving the death of her son. When the two parades or groups of people come together, Jesus comforts his mother, revealing to her that he is victorious over death, and the grieving/mourning clothes that Mary is wearing come off and she rejoices!

In Bermuda, believers fly colorfully decorated kites to illustrate their belief in the Ascension of our Lord into Heaven 40 days after His Resurrection. It's not surprising that a teacher started this tradition!

In Greece, families play an Easter game with eggs that are dyed red (for the blood of Christ). Children take their egg and tap theirs against another child's egg. As one egg cracks they proclaim that Christ is Risen (egg cracking symbolizes the tomb being opened). The child with the strongest egg that does not crack wins!

It is such a blessing to remember that The Church is far bigger and grander than our own local manifestation of The Kingdom here in Central Illinois. I love our local churches, but it sure feels good to know that we are a part of such a large family! Happy Easter!

Ryan Edgecombe, Pastor
Edgeness79@hotmail.com

References: www.wycliffe.org & www.hellenic.org.au

Administration Committee News

Financial

- February financials show YTD income $3,238.13 above budget and expenses were below budget by $2,430.99. Regardless of budget, our income is $2,638.94 below our expenses and in line with our anticipated 2026 shortfall.
- The checkbook balance, including Obligated Funds, is $43,339.04. This balance does not include one additional $20K that is held in savings at Edward Jones.
- The Audit Committee has completed the 2025 review and will have the report on March 19.
- We received our 2026 distribution from the Ebersolt fund of $2,522.28. The following distributions were made from this fund:
  - $250 to Petersburg Pharmacy.
  - $250 to Potter Drugs.
  - $250 to Main Street Animal Clinic.
  - $250 to Petersburg Veterinary Clinic.
  - $250 to Backpack for Kids (for after school meals for local youth).
- The Committee approved the distribution of funds for the establishment of Troop 54 at Central. We do not have the final amount, but it will be under $500 and will come from the already established Scouts fund.
- The Church has committed to renewing the billboard South of New Salem Park with a final 2026 amount to be established when all churches have responded, but should be lower than last year due to additional churches being involved.

Building and Ongoing Projects

- Presbytery Safety & Security Training was held on February 28; David Drake and Ryan Edgecombe attended. Handouts were given to Session for discussion prior to instituting any possible interventions.
- Following an onsite inspection, our insurance carrier Goodville Mutual Casualty Company made several recommendations which will be completed by members of the Committee.
- We passed our annual elevator inspection on March 20.
- The Committee approved the installation of a 55" TV in the conference room for Zoom meetings and Bible study class use. Dave Long and Steve Territo to complete.

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 131: What is meant by the fifth petition, "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us"?

We pray that a new and right spirit will be put within us. We ask for the grace to treat others, especially those who harm us, with the same mercy that we have received from God. We remember that not one day goes by when we do not need to turn humbly to God for our own forgiveness. We know that our reception of this forgiveness can be blocked by our unwillingness to forgive others. We ask that we will not delight in doing evil, nor in avenging any wrong, but that we will survive all cruelty without bitterness, and overcome evil with good, so that our hearts will be knit together with the mercy and forgiveness of God.

Matthew 6:14-15 *"For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."*

1 John 2:1-2 *"My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also, for the sins of the whole world."*

Question 132: What is meant by the final petition, "Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil"?

We ask God to protect us from our own worst impulses and from all external powers of destruction in the world. We ask that we might not yield to despair in the face of seemingly hopeless circumstances. We pray for the grace to remember and believe, despite our unbelief, that no matter how bleak the world may sometimes seem, there is nonetheless a depth of love which is deeper than our despair, and that this love—which delivered Israel from slavery in Egypt and raised our Lord Jesus from the dead—will finally swallow up forever all that would now seem to defeat it.

2 Corinthians 4:8 *"We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair."*

Matthew 26:41 *"Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

Question 133: What is meant by the closing doxology, "For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever"?

We give God thanks and praise for the kingdom more powerful than all enemies, for the power perfected in the weakness of love, and for the glory that includes our well-being and that of the whole creation, both now and to all eternity. We give thanks and praise to God as made known through Christ our Lord.

Revelations 5:12 *"Singing with full voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.'"*

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

Question 133: What is meant by the word, "Amen"?

"Amen" means "so be it" or "let it be so." It expresses our complete confidence in the triune God, the God of the covenant with Israel as fulfilled through our Lord Jesus Christ, who makes no promise that will be kept, and whose steadfast love and mercy endures forever.

Revelations 22:20 *"The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"*

2 Corinthians 1:20 *"For in him every one of God's promises is a 'Yes.' For this reason it is through him that we say the 'Amen,' to the Glory of God."*

Quotation Station for April

(Quotes on "Easter")

"The resurrection of Jesus changes the face of death for all His people. Death is no longer a prison, but a passage into God's presence. Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there. You can nail it to a cross, wrap it in winding sheets and shut it up in a tomb, but it will rise!"."
--Clarence W. Hall

"There is more evidence that Jesus rose from the dead than there is that Julius Caesar ever lived or that Alexander the Great died at the age of thirty-three." --Billy Graham

"The cross of Christ only triumphs in the breast of believers over the devil and the flesh, sin and sinners, when their eyes are directed to the power of His Resurrection." --John Calvin

"After death something new begins, over which all powers of the world of death have no more might." --Dietrich Bonhoeffer

"The devil, darkness, and death may swagger and boast, the pangs of life will sting for a while longer, but don't worry; the forces of evil are breathing their last. Not to worry—He's risen!."
--Charles Swindoll

Monthly Riddles/Jokes

Why do omelets love April Fools'?
Answer: They enjoy practical yolks!

Why was the frog late to work on April Fools' Day?
Answer: His car got toad!

Did you hear about the Easter egg that starred in a movie?
Answer: Now it's a shell-ebrity!

Why did the chick go to the party?
Answer: He wanted to see his peeps!

Where does the Easter Bunny go if he loses his tail?
Answer: The re-tail store!

Congratulations, Linda!

Central member Linda Claussen recently received her Certificate in Congregational Leadership from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary! Linda is currently a Ruling Elder, chair of the Mission/Outreach Committee, and in charge of Christian Education at Central. Fellowship in February was held in her honor.

Central Hosts PGR Mid-Eastern Regional Cohort Group

We had a great turnout at the Presbytery of Great Rives Mid-Eastern Regional gathering hosted by CPC on Sunday afternoon, March 8. Folks from eight churches, including six representing Central, shared fellowship, exchanged stories about their ministries, and made plans to connect again soon. Thanks to Pastor Ryan and Beth Kiningham for arranging for refreshments.

Women's Lenten Service

On Wednesday, March 11, Central hosted 48 women from various churches for the Women's Lenten breakfast and service. Thank you to everyone who made and served a most delicious brunch.

Marilyn Montgomery and Sally Schafer were our greeters; Emma Lou Denton was our organist and Julia Territo our pianist. Rebecca Rowe gave our Welcome & Prayer; Rhonda Plaeger read scripture; and Beth Kiningham, Jan Costello and Linda Claussen lead a most interesting lesson on "*From Oil to Compassion*." Hymns were led by Coleen Janssen and Announcements and Closing Prayer was given by Cindy Godbey. Everyone attending received a bookmark.

Menard Caring Emergency Fund and Menard County Senior Transport were chosen as the recipients of this year's offering.

Holy Week Schedule

Community Lenten Gatherings

Wednesday is the final Men's Lenten Breakfast and Women's Lenten Study this year. The Men's Breakfast starts at 7:00 a.m., followed by a gospel-centered devotion focusing on the purpose of the season, and dismissal by 7:45. Women begin with refreshments at 9:30 a.m. and then a service starting at 10:00.

Men's Lenten Breakfast	April 1	Central Presbyterian Church, 210 W. Douglas
Women's Lenten Study	April 1	First Christian Church, 210 S. 8th St.

Maundy Thursday Worship Service

A combined Maundy Thursday communion service will be held at Central Presbyterian Church this year on **Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m.** This service of remembrance focuses on the night Jesus gave to his disciples the gift of The Lord's Supper (also called The Last Supper, Eucharist, and Communion) and begins the movement toward the cross of Good Friday. This is both a somber and a celebratory event: somber in respect of the sacrifice made by Christ, and celebratory in response to the gift received by all his disciples.

Community-Wide Good Friday Service

A community-wide Good Friday service will be held at United Methodist Church on **Friday, April 3 at 7:00 p.m.** Pastor Jack Piper from Faith Church will be speaker.

Easter Sunday Worship Service

Resurrection Sunday Worship service will be **Sunday, April 5**, at 10:30 a.m.

Countryside Celebration

April is Central's month for providing a Birthday Celebration at Countryside Estates. Though there are currently no April birthdays (that we know of), a "Birthday Party" will be held on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. There will be refreshments served. If you would like to help in making this a fun afternoon, please contact Marilyn Montgomery.

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 will soon be 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 at 10:45 a.m. at the High-rise, and the routes take about an hour to complete—5 days a week. So, we need to deliver 20 days in May; 2 routes each day. There is no delivery on Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day) so the Friday before (May 22) there will be an extra "cold" meal delivered to each person on the routes. That means filling 40 routes throughout the month!!! They're up to as many as **36 meals** delivered on the "in-town" route with several deliveries of two meals at one residence and up to as many as **10 meals** delivered on the "out-of-town" route.

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. If you have questions, please call Jan Costello, program chairperson. Her number is 217-899-2618.

Alcohol

World Health Organization (WHO)

Alcohol is a toxic and psychoactive substance with dependence producing properties. In many of today's societies, alcoholic beverages are a routine part of the social landscape for many in the population. This is particularly true for those in social environments with high visibility and societal influence, nationally and internationally, where alcohol frequently accompanies socializing. In this context, it is easy to overlook or discount the health and social damage caused or contributed to by drinking.

Alcohol consumption contributes to 2.6 million deaths each year globally as well as to the disabilities and poor health of millions of people. Overall, harmful use of alcohol is responsible for 4.7% of the global burden of disease.

Harmful use of alcohol is accountable for 6.9% and 2.0% of the global burden of disease for males and females respectively. Alcohol is the leading risk factor for premature mortality and disability among those aged 20 to 39 years, accounting for 13% of all deaths in this age group. Disadvantaged and especially vulnerable population have higher rates of alcohol-related death and hospitalization.

Alcohol as an intoxicant affects a wide range of structures and processes in the central nervous system and increases the risk for intentional and unintentional injuries and adverse social consequences. Alcohol has considerable toxic effects on the digestive and cardiovascular systems. Alcoholic beverages are classified as carcinogenic by the International Agency for Research on Cancer and increase the risk of several cancer types. Alcohol as an immunosuppressant increases the risk of communicable diseases, including tuberculosis and HIV.

Both the volume of lifetime alcohol use and a combination of context, frequency of alcohol consumption and amount consumed per occasion increase the risk of the wide range of health and social harms. The risks increase largely in a dose-dependent manner with the volume of alcohol consumed and with frequency of drinking, and exponentially with the amount consumed on a single occasion. Surrogate and illegally produced alcohols can bring an extra health rise from toxic contaminants.

Since any alcohol use is associated with some short-term and long-term health risks, it is difficult to define universally applicable population-based thresholds for low-risk drinking.

WHO has identified that the most cost-effective actions to reduce the harmful use of alcohol include increasing taxes on alcoholic beverages, enforcing restrictions on exposure to alcohol

advertising and restrictions on the physical availability of retailed alcohol. In addition, enforcing drinking driving countermeasures and securing access to screening, brief interventions and treatment are effective and ethically sound interventions. The most cost-effective interventions are at the focus of WHO-led SAFER initiative aimed at providing support for Member States in reducing the harmful use of alcohol.

WHO's work provides special attention to reducing harm to people other than the drinker and to populations that are at particular risk from harmful use of alcohol, such as children, adolescents, women of child-bearing age, pregnant and breastfeeding women, indigenous people and other minority groups or groups with low socioeconomic status.

Chimes Deadline

Please have your articles and pictures for the **May 2026 *Chimes*** submitted to the church office **no later than Monday, April 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

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 Food Pantry/Diaper Bank Needs

April is **"Eat Your Veggies"** ***(canned veggies)*** at the Food Pantry**.** Donations can be put in the basket in the Narthex.

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.

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

March Scenes from Central

Chicken Caesar Wrap

Taste of Home

Ingredients

3/4 cup reduced-fat creamy Caesar salad dressing
1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon pepper
3 cups cubed cooked chicken breast
2 cups of torn romaine
3/4 cup Caesar salad croutons, coarsely chopped
6 whole wheat tortillas (8 inches), room temperature

Directions

1. In a large bowl, combine the dressing, cheese, garlic powder and pepper. Add the chicken, romaine and croutons. Spoon 2/3 cup chicken mixture down the center of each tortilla; roll up

Prep/Total Time: 15 minutes Yield: 6 Wraps

Egg Puffs

Taste of Home

Ingredients

1/2 lb. sliced fresh mushrooms
4 green onions, chopped
1 tbsp. plus 1/2 cup butter, cubed, divided
1/2 cup all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
10 large eggs, lightly beaten
4 cups shredded Monterey Jack cheese
2 cups 4% cottage cheese

Directions

1. In a skillet, sauté mushrooms and green onion in 1 tablespoon butter until tender. In a large bowl, combine the flour, baking powder and salt.
2. In another bowl, combine eggs and cheeses. Melt remaining 1/2 cup butter; add to egg mixture. Stir into dry ingredients along with mushroom mixture.
3. Fill 30 greased muffin cups three-fourths full. Bake at 350^0 for 35-40 minutes or until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean. Carefully run the knife around the edge of muffin cups before removing.

Total Time/Prep: 15 minutes—Bake Time: 35 minutes—Yield: 2 ½ Dozen

Happy Birthday!

Octogenarian

April 7	Mary Gheen	704 South 10th 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 25	Ryan Edgecombe
April 19	Linda Williams	April 28	David Long

Happy Anniversary!

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

worship leader

	Usher/Greeter	*Liturgist*	*Communion Steward*
Thursday, April 2	TBD	TBD	TBD
Sunday, April 5	John Godbey	Cindy Godbey	Jan Costello
Sunday, April 12	Rhonda Plaeger	Jan Costello	
Sunday, April 19	Rodney Davis	Alice Studzinski	
Sunday, April 26	Will Carter	Coleen Janssen	

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

March 1	**26**	March 22	**33**
March 8	**27**	March 29	**53**
March 15	**30**		

Average Worship Attendance: 34

Members:

Will Carter
Emma Lou Denton
Rich Ford
Steve Hollis
Mary Mies
Family of Alia Montgomery
JoAnn Morris
Sherri Roberts
Charles (Sandy) Sandberg
Susie 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)
Lois Corrigan (J. Higginbotham's sister)
Serge Davis
Terry Davis (Pastor Ryan's friend)
Barb Deihl (L. Williams' cousin)
Bill Dennis (Pastor Ryan's friend)
Family of Kathy Diamond
Sandy Dierks
Pastor Ryan Edgecombe
Vicki Edgecombe (Pastor Ryan's mother)
Cheryl Esela (L. Claussen's sister)
Linda Ewing (D. & C. Long's friend)
Family of Debbie Feltmore
Susan Gaither (L. Williams' friend)
Liam Grogan (D. & C. Long's nephew)
Tyler Gurski (B. & A. Studzinski's grandson)
Marlene Hartsook (R. Ford's sister)
Lucien Hill (grandson to friend of M. Montgomery)
Angie Hodgson (C. Drake's sister)
Mary Jane & Tim Hurie
Kristina Hutton & boys (D. & C. Long's daughter)
Karen Kelso (C. Godbey's sister-in-law)
David "Anthony" Long (D. & C. Long's son)
Kathy Long (D. & C. Long's sister-in-law)
Katie Niccolls (J. Koch's granddaughter)
Janice Perry (daughter of a friend of Pastor Ryan)
Jay Rebman (L. Claussen's friend)
Steve & Kim Rebbe (C. Ford's friend)
Blair Rowe (R. Rowe's daughter)
Kathy Ruppel (M. Montgomery's friend)
Dawn Schafer (S. Schafer's daughter-in-law)
Harry Schirding
Co Shelton (J. Tice's friend)
Kay Siegrist (L. Williams' friend))
Family of Georgia Sinclair (E. Denton's 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)
Randy Throckmorton (former CPC member)
Gene Treseler
Carol White (J. Morris' friend)
Eric Wiant (D. & C. Long's friend)
Clara Willox (R. & C. Ford's granddaughter)
Caity Willox (R. & C. Ford's daughter)
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.