

August 31, 2021



The Herald

Volume XXXXXVII,
No 8

Holypalooza

September 12, 2021

10:30am Worship at Central Presbyterian Church

11-2 drive thru BBQ benefitting United Campus Ministry
(held at Central Presbyterian Church)

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All are invited to attend our

Celebration Sunday!!

September 19

We will celebrate the start of regular Sunday school classes
beginning at 9:30 a.m.



Church Dinner

After morning worship, Church Life will host a carry-in lunch in the fellowship hall . Church Life will provide sliced ham and drinks. Please bring a dish to share.

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In April the session of the Central Presbyterian Church passed a resolution declaring ourselves a Matthew 25 church. (In this chapter Jesus tells his followers that when we minister to "the least of these" we minister to him.) Since then, the elders have worked on how to live out our Matthew 25 status in terms of inclusion in church life for people across the spectrum of gender identities. At their August 11, 2021 meeting, the elders adopted this statement:

Christ welcomes everyone, no matter where you are in your faith and life journey. In faithfulness to our understanding of Christ, Central Presbyterian Church affirms the full inclusion of all God’s people in the life and ministry of the church. We love persons of all races, ages, genders, ethnicities, sexualities, family and economic status. We welcome everyone into full participation in our faith community.

High Point Youth — Timothy Ghogle

Highpoint Youth's Fall '21 kickoff started with a fun blind-fold game. Our youth enjoyed learning about what it means to be "**Lost, but Found**" (our theme for this year) by focusing on that one leading voice amidst the chaos throughout the game! **Highpoint Youth** continues to help the youth take '**One Step Closer to Christ**' by diving deep into several topics related to our theme. Exciting activities are also in the works, so keep looking at our social media! And, we're also looking for people to feed our fantastic youth at Youth Nights. So, if that's you - contact Ellie Templeton or Tim Ghogle for more information!

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/THHighPointYouth>
Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/thhighpointyouth/>



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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT – Ellie Templeton, Christian Educator

Blessing of the Backpacks was a fun morning for all on Sunday, August 15. We celebrated during the Children's Moment and enjoyed all of the children getting to come to the front of the sanctuary for the first time since early 2022. We discussed how to be an includer this school year by looking for the person who might need a friend the most and to reach out to make them feel special and welcome. We prayed over our students and teachers that they may have a safe, happy and blessed school year and sent them off with the backpack tag reminding them to "Be Loved. Be Kind. Be You."



We are seeking Sunday School teachers for all ages as well as nursery workers at Central. Workers must be at least 18 and work to provide a loving and safe environment to our babies and toddlers during Sunday morning worship and other church events. Please contact Ellie at the church or via email (ellie@thcpc.org) for more info about both opportunities.

The **Sunday School Kick-off** event is set for Sunday, September 19 at 9:30 am. Come for donuts, fellowship and information about the new school year. A luncheon provided by our Church Life committee is planned following worship.

Classes for all ages begin on September 26 and meet from 9:30 to 10:20 am

Children and Youth:

Preschool for 3 & 4 year olds (& 5 year olds not going to Kindergarten)

Kindergarten through 4th grade

Tweens 5th through 8 th grade

High School 9 th through 12 grades

Adults -- This fall we are excited to offer a new class aligning with our efforts as a Matthew 25 congregation. Beginning in October Andrew Conner will lead a discussion series "Engaging Matthew 25 through film, Dismantling Structural Racism". Participants are to watch the films on their own in preparation for Sunday morning discussions. Films are available on most streaming services and at the public library.

The film's discussed will be as follows: -12 Years A Slave -If Beale Street Could Talk -Selma -Do The Right Thing -The Hate U Give Adults and high school youth (with parent permission) are invited to join the series. More Info will be shared soon.

PYOCA is in October! Save the date for our annual **PYOCA family retreat** that is set for October 1-3. RSVPs can be made to Ellie (ellie@thcpc.org) or call the church office. More info coming soon!

Session Notes from August for the September Herald

Session conducted its stated meeting on August 11 at the church to hear reports and transact business.

Featured Report: Finance Commission

Bruce McLaren thanked the members of the commission and summarized their general duties and the specific actions they have taken this year. The commission oversees all the financial aspects of the church, dealing with the financial condition of the church, investments, long term planning, financial policies, collections, online giving, insurance, and the annual financial review, among other duties. We currently owe less than \$200,000 on the mortgage. Our rate of return on investments is competitive when compared to other socially aware funds.

Pastor's Report and Discussion Items

Can the Volunteer Coordinator position be filled by an outside person? It would need to be someone who attends regularly. There is someone interested in the Kids Hope director component of the position.

Reopening considerations: choir will resume for vaccinated singers on September 12 and children's moment will resume with precautions. We will delay resumption of Parents' Night Out.

Session discussed the future of the video ministry. The number of views remains higher than expected, but we don't really know who is watching, for how long, or why. In order to continue, we need more volunteers. Both formats have advantages. The FB Live format is valuable for those who want a synchronous experience. The YouTube offering can be edited, can be watched at any time and by those who don't do Facebook, and offers closed captioning. Session agreed to continue both formats for now and to attempt to recruit additional volunteers.

Session opened discussion on the tension in our congregation stemming from actions supporting inclusion that were taken in the last two months and congregational reaction to them. The pastor summarized the wide-ranging conversations he had had after we first placed and then relocated the rainbow PCUSA sign. There is concern that the general congregation is unaware of many of the discussions that have taken place, leading to rumors and confusion. Session agreed that any congregational gatherings to address inclusion should be educational, informative, and constructive. There was general agreement that we need to determine as the session and as a church what we believe about inclusion before we can address what actions we take. Consensus arose for creating a statement that would be shared with the congregation and set the stage for the educational meetings. In the days after the meeting, session considered the language of the statement of inclusion. In an email vote conducted beginning August 19, session approved the following statement (10-1-1).

Christ welcomes everyone, no matter where you are in your faith and life journey. In faithfulness to our understanding of Christ, Central Presbyterian Church affirms the full inclusion of all God's people in the life and ministry of the church. We love persons of all races, ages, genders, ethnicities, sexualities, family and economic status. We welcome everyone into full participation in our faith community.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce McLaren presented the report and noted July's small deficit was less than expected. We still have a year-to-date surplus.

Operating Fund Summary	Month of July	Balance Sheet Summary	7/31/2021
Beginning of Month	\$59,172.64	Current Assets	\$696,092
Income	\$22,819.12	Fixed Assets	\$2,980,000
Expenses	\$24,704.56	Short Term Liabilities	\$3472
End of Month	\$57,287.20	Long Term Liabilities	\$199,172
		Net Worth (Fund Balance)	\$3,473,499

Committees and commissions provided updates and session addressed action items from the Mission Committee: Session approved (10-0-1) the committee motion to send \$1500 to 14th and Chestnut Community Center, as budgeted. Session considered the motion to send our pledged \$1500 to the HEME fund, noting concerns that this might put William Seo at more risk. With the understanding that we would strongly encourage William not to go to Afghanistan on August 31 as planned, yet hoping that our money might be put to a good immediate use, the motion was approved.

New Business

With Vigo County's return to orange status on the Covid case count, we will ask the reopening task force to consider any new recommendations. For now, we reiterate that masks are optional but encouraged.

September Birthdays

- 2—Barbara Schmitt
- 13—Larry Clinkenbeard, John Ragle
- 15 — Jon Ford, John Whalen
- 18— Grant Racop
- 20—Mary Jean DeMarr
- 21 — Carol Ennis, Eunice Pate
- 22 — Marci Shaw
- 24 — Julian Moulton
- 29 — Henry Connor



September 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Bible study and beer 7:30	2 Women's Book Club 2:00	3 	4
5 Choir 8:45 Worship 10:30	6 Labor Day 	7 Reopening Task Force 6:30 Bible study and beer 7:30	8 Staff 11:15 Deacons 5:00 Session 7:00	9	10	11
12 Choir 8:45 Worship 10:30 UCM BBQ	13 Church Life 5:00	14	15 Youth Design Team 5:00 Bible study and beer 7:30	16	17	18 
19 Choir 8:45 Worship 10:30 Youth 6:00	20 	21 Commission/Committee meetings	22 Bible study and beer 7:30	23	24	25
26 Choir 8:45 Worship 10:30 Youth 6:00	27	28 Seekers & Searchers Bible study 10:00	29 Bible study and beer 7:30	30	30 	

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Central Presbyterian Church
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Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Mike Riggins, Pastor

Ellie Templeton, Christian Educator/Communications Coordinator

Sarah Kelsheimer, Church Secretary



Church Happenings



Next Herald

Deadline —

Sept. 28, 2021

Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will be meeting on September 2 at 2:00 in the church fellowship hall. The book to be discussed is [American Dirt](#) by Jeanine Cummins. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Women's Bible Study

The 2021 Bible study will resume from 10:00 to 11:30 am on Tuesday, September 28. The discussion will be on [The New Testament You Never Knew](#) by N. T. Wright. All women are welcome. Distancing will be observed and masks will be worn.

Congratulations to Lucas and Megan Rubey on the birth of their son, Henry Parks, born August 24. Proud grandparents are Charles and Sally Rubey and great-grandparents are Fred and Nancy Rubey!! Welcome to the church family, Henry.