



the Herald

Volume XXXXXIV,
No 11

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

7:00 p.m.

Carols, Lessons & Candles

Pre-service music begins at 6:45 p.m.

Childcare provided.



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The Children and youth will present

His Name is Jesus

during the worship on December 12

Join Church Life Commission for **lunch following worship** on December 12 to celebrate the season and the children's program.

Church Life will provide the meat, drinks, and service.

Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.

the Herald

From the Pastor's Desk —



New Member "Class"

We have one person who has asked to join the church and I suspect there may be others. So how do you join Central Presbyterian?

You tell your pastor. Well, there is a bit more to it, but that is how you start the process.

I am making three videos that cover the material we would--in non-COVID times--offer in face-to-face new member classes. In fact I was ready to schedule those, but I am now waiting to see what happens with the new Omicron mutation.

At any rate, I will notify all who wish to join when I have posted those videos. They would watch them whenever it was convenient. The only remaining step would be to appear at the January 12 session meeting. They would join the elders and me at 7pm in Fellowship Hall (provisionally). The elders would ask a few questions to get to know those joining and then vote them into membership.

Again, if you wish to join Central--or even if you have questions about it--please contact me.

Pastor Mike Riggins

Church Office News:



Sarah Kelsheimer's recovery from surgery is unfortunately much longer than originally expected. Cheryl Moles will continue to cover the office work 2 days a week, typically on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am to 3:30 pm. This schedule will be different during the week before Christmas and possibly the week after (or any other time her granddaughters need her!). During Sarah's absence please send all communications to cpcoffice@thcpc.org or call the church office. Sarah will not be monitoring her email regularly.

Thank you for your patience as all of the staff tries to keep things going in the absence of Sarah's excellent abilities.

The church office will be closed on December 24 and 31 as these are the days that the holidays are observed. Please note that end of year financial gifts need to be in the office by Dec. 30.

Christian Education News — Ellie Templeton

Bible Sunday was held on Sunday, November 21. We rejoiced in presenting a bible to our first grader, AnnaBeth Spencer and our sixth grader Ethan Kershaw. The bibles were filled with signatures and messages from their Central family and it is my prayer that both children treasure and use their bibles for many years to come.

Hanging of the Greens was a fun evening with over 40 people attending! We had a fantastic group effort to get the sanctuary decorated and add some cheer to many other spots around our building. We thank the Church Life commission for providing delicious pizza, salad and desserts and were so glad to be gathering together again.

Christmas Pageant - Our Christmas Pageant is set for Sunday, December 12. It will be held during worship and we will be presenting the program "His Name is Jesus". We are excited to share the traditional story of Jesus' birth along with some modern narration songs. Please plan to attend worship to celebrate the children and youth of our church as we look forward to the birth of our Savior!

The Giving Tree will be setup again in front of the church by Sunday, December 6 and donations are being collected now. Please consider donating hats, gloves, socks, other warm clothing items or hygiene items that can be easily hung and taken by anyone in need. Gently used sweaters and coats are also needed. We hope to keep the tree stocked throughout the month of December.

Sunday School - Please note there will not be Sunday School on Sunday, December 26.



Session Notes from November for the December Herald

Session conducted its stated meeting on November 10 to hear reports and transact business.
A summary of actions follows.

Featured Report: Nominating Committee

Judy Duffy reported that the committee has confirmations from four deacons. They are still working on two more elders, but have commitments for two three-year terms and one one-year term

Pastor's Report:

Several issues were raised for consideration and action.

The Interfaith Council has expressed support for the Afghanistan refugee resettlement project and meetings continue. It is still early, but participants are positive and the council will take the lead in Terre Haute. The interest group is called Welcoming Circle and has representation from churches, ISU, Rose-Hulman, and St. Mary of the Woods. They anticipate twelve areas of need, including housing, interpreters, school, security, food, medicine, employment, ESL tutoring, and religious integration.

Should we resume fellowship in the building now that Vigo County is in yellow status? There will be concerns as well as some relief now that children can be vaccinated. Session approved (with two abstentions) a motion to serve food after Hanging of the Greens on November 21 and to begin coffee hour in December as long as the county Covid status does not worsen. Messaging will be adjusted so that no one feels pressured or left out.

Session approved a motion to resume regular communion operations (although bread will still be bagged) as long as the county Covid status does not worsen. Participants will be reminded to put cups into the pew racks and not back into the trays.

The Riggins are expecting their third grandchild.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce McLaren presented the report. The October deficit is slightly larger than predicted. Yearly expenses are well under control. The cost to repair the bus was taken from the Memorial Fund.

Operating Fund Summary	Month of October		Balance Sheet Summary	10/31/2021
Beginning of Month	\$48,902.83		Current Assets	\$678,240
Income	\$23,145.41		Fixed Assets	\$2,980,000
Expenses	\$27,090.25		Short Term Liabilities	\$3487
End of Month	\$44,957.99		Long Term Liabilities	\$194,002
			Net Worth (Fund Balance)	\$3,460,750

Christian Educator's Report: Ellie reported that much is planned for the rest of the year. The Giving Tree will again be out in front, and the pageant is December 12. She shared ideas for a banner showing both the PCUSA rainbow sign and the Matthew 25 logo to display below the permanent church sign. General support for the new banner was given.

Clerk's Report: Session reviewed the list of historical church documents and had no objection to having the clerk, in consultation with others in the church, decide which items to deliver to the Presbyterian archives at Hanover College.

Deacons: Philip Smith will coordinate a schedule for bus assistants.

Reports and Action Items from Committees and Commissions:

I&S: The committee will meet December 1 to begin to fine-tune the draft budget. They expect insurance and utilities to increase.

Mission: The Afghan Resettlement Project has the potential to be big. Federal funding is available and a total of \$5000 will be expected from the Terre Haute community. We have heard from William Seo, who is working under the HEME fund's secular, non-profit umbrella to assist people remaining in Afghanistan.

Discussion: It is premature to look for technology grants until we have a better idea of whether the digital ministry will continue now that pandemic restrictions are easing.

***Best wishes for the Holiday season
from the staff of Central Presbyterian Church***

Mike, Ellie, Sarah,
Mark, Steve, Tim, and Alvin
(and Cheryl)



It is time for Christmas giving at Central.

2021 GIVING TREE

Our much loved Giving Tree will be setup again in front of Central for this holiday season! If you recall, Cheryl spearheaded this effort in 2020 to celebrate the spirit of giving in our church and we transformed our Easter cross into a tree of Giving displayed outside of our front doors on 7th street.

Central members and others in the community donate hats, gloves, socks, hygiene items and more that can be easily taken by anyone who is in need. Gently used sweaters and coats are also needed. It is helpful to have items placed in zip lock bags. The tree will be ready for donations on Sunday, December 5.

Leave donations throughout the month in the labeled basket in fellowship hall. Ellie (and willing volunteers!) will help to keep the tree stocked through the month of December. We are confident that our church family will once again come together to support this meaningful and much needed opportunity for giving during the holiday season.



Highpoint Youth News — Tim Ghogle

Our Fall weekend retreat at Camp Pyoca was incredible. 11 kids participated and they loved every bit of it! See pictures on our social media.



Just to let you know of our upcoming activities...

- a trip to [Urban Air Trampoline and Adventure Park, Bloomington, IN](#), on Sunday, December 5.
- Lock-In is on December 10 & 11. We'll be at Central Presbyterian from 6:00 PM on the 10th to 10:00 AM on the 11th. It's a sleepover at church with tons of fun!
- Central Presbyterian's Christmas Pageant is on Sunday, December 12.



Dear Friends,

It's been quite the month. As I sit at the computer tonight writing this note, I had anticipated returning to work today - at least part time. The reality hit me today that I still have another 5 weeks of doing nothing. At one time, that sounded like a good idea. At this point in my recovery, I wish to be doing something.

Little did I realize when I went in for surgery on the 26th of October, the extent of the required work that would need to be done. An overnight hospital stay turned into a 4 night stay. Upon my return home, I had (and still have) numerous restrictions. Recovery was going well until two weeks ago when I dislocated that hip. I spent the next day in the emergency room receiving treatment. The surgeon accessed the x-rays and found a problem with the hip socket when it was popped back into place. On Monday, November 22, I underwent a third surgery on the hip to replace the ball. I am once again home recovering.

Through this time, I have been blessed by the many cards, texts, phone calls and food that has been delivered to our house. I thank you for the many prayers that have been lifted on my behalf. They have been felt and much appreciated. I am truly blessed to be a part of such a caring church that has become like a family to me. I miss you all. I do not anticipate the doctor will let me return before the middle of January. I'm counting the days until I can return to work.

During this time at home, as I sit looking at the Christmas tree, I am reminded of the true reason for the season. I have not traveled this journey alone. I have felt calmness and peace through it all. That tiny babe born so long ago brought that peace and calmness. I will enjoy my tree with the lights this year (as I did last year also!), and remember to share His love and goodness with others this season.

Blessings --
Sarah K



Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 12!

You are invited to enjoy this foretaste of the Christmas season with the Farrington Grove Chorale, a chamber music ensemble that includes CPC members Maggie McCormick, Alan Harder, Bruce McLaren, Luanne Tilstra and Mark Carlisle.

The traditional service of Lessons and Carols is on Sunday, December 12th, at 4 pm is at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 215 N. 7th St.

The FGC will provide the music, interspersed with readings by representatives of the academic, legal, youth, medical and faith professions. Child care will be available, and a reception will follow the service. There is no admission cost.



- I—Luna Moulton
- 4 — Donna Wilson
- 6 — Chuck Shutt
- 7 — Alisa Ennis
- 11—Barbara Goltry
- 12—Phil Farmer
- 14—Jim Moles
- 17—Monica Hawkins
- 22 — Matthew Ford, Samuel Ford
- 23—Katlyn Powers
- 25 — David Giltner, Annie Templeton

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Bible Study and Brew 7:30 pm	2	3	4 Giving Tree setup 10:00
5 Sun. School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Youth 12:30	6 	7	8 Deacons 5:00 Session 7:00	9	10 Youth Lock-In 6:00	11 Pageant Rehearsal 9:30
12 Sun. School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Christmas Pageant	13	14 Mission Comm 5:00	15 Youth Design Team 4:00 Bible Study and Brew 7:30 pm	16	17	18
19 Sun. School 9:30 Worship 10:30	20	21 Tuesday Night Meetings	22 Bible Study and Brew 7:30 pm	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7:00 Church Office Closed	25 
26 Worship 10:30 Herald Deadline	27	28	29 Bible Study and Brew 7:30 pm	30 Seekers & Searchers 10:00	31 Church Office Closed	



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

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Church Happenings

**Next Herald
Deadline —
Dec. 26, 2021**

Women's Bible Study

Bible study will be held from 10:00 to 11:30 am on Thursday, December 30. The discussion will be on The New Testament You Never Knew by N. T. Wright. All women are welcome.

**2021 ANNUAL
REPORTS MUST BE
IN TO THE CHURCH
OFFICE NO LATER
THAN JANUARY 2**