



# The Herald

Volume XXXXXVIII,  
Edition 2



## **Operation HEART** **Helping Afghan Resettlement in Terre Haute**

*In welcoming the forgotten and marginalized - "the least of these"  
- we can answer the call of Matthew 25.*

Afghan families are coming to Terre Haute, through Operation HEART (Helping Afghan Resettlement in Terre Haute), a local project working with Church World Service. By February 15, four families are expected to arrive here to start new lives. Central is one of a dozen local congregations involved in Operation HEART with Mike Riggins and Andrew Conner helping lead the newly-established non-profit.

### **How can you help? To furnish four homes, we need: Furniture & Household items:**

Preferred New: Drying racks for dishes, brooms w/ dustpan, mops, pillows, 4 large living room rugs

New or Gently Used couches and beds in good condition, kitchen tables and chairs, rice cookers, dishes, cooking utensils, electric tea kettles, can openers, cutting boards, large & small trash cans, dish cloths and towels, cookware, silverware, mixing bowls, baking sheets, measuring cups and spoons, fancy serving dishes bath & hand towels, laundry room, bedding, vacuum cleaners, laundry baskets, umbrellas, clothes hangers etc.

**Non-perishable groceries** for their pantries (from the Taj Mahal restaurant on S. 3rd Street) See the list in fellowship hall.

**New Toiletry items:** Razors and shaving cream, trash bags, feminine hygiene items, shampoo, soap, toilet paper, sponges/rags, toothpaste, toothbrushes, paper towels, KN95 face masks etc...

**Financial donations** are being accepted to help with rent, utilities, clothing, and transportation. Mark gifts for "HEART" or "Afghans"

Donations can be brought to Fellowship Hall or contact Andrew (812-239-3825) for large items.

We have opportunities in the days and months ahead for volunteers to help with ESL, furniture moving and apartment set-up with donated items, financial mentors, drivers, medical and education advocates, fundraising, and orientation to American society and culture.

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# The Herald

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## A NOTE FROM PASTOR MIKE RIGGINS

As of this writing all 92 Indiana counties are in the red on the state COVID dashboard. While there is some evidence that the expected peak of Omicron-variant cases has arrived, we expect to stay red for at least a few more weeks.

Never has the church been more important than right now. COVID Fatigue is real and it is tough. We need the supportive fellowship of the Body of Christ as we battle through these times. I see and hear examples of Central folk reaching out to one another, and especially to the shut-ins among us. I urge that we try to make even more of these gracious efforts. Make that phone call, send that card or text, express support for whatever decisions individuals and households have made about how present and public they choose to be.

When Vigo County goes yellow for two consecutive weeks we can re-open our ministries. Until then, worship with masks and certain other mitigations is our sole in-person program. I know that Zoom Fatigue is also a real thing. But perhaps for the short term we can participate more often in our virtual communities, like the Highpoint youth group and the Bible Study and Brew group. I find real encouragement in these; the smiling faces that pop up on my screen honestly improve my mood. Of course I look forward to going back to the brew pub--and taking my very sociable dog with me while the crazy one stays home with "Mama". But until that can happen I receive solace and support from my church community.

May you receive the same!

[CPC Covid guidelines are on page 6]

*Love • ONE • Another*

### **CHURCH OFFICE NEWS—Welcome back Sarah!!**

Sarah Kelsheimer has returned to the office on a part time basis as she builds strength following her long recovery. Cheryl Moles will fill in as needed for another week or two. Thanks for your patience for the past 3 months and for the next few weeks as we return to full speed.

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT – Ellie Templeton, Christian Educator**

**Souper Bowl of Caring '22** - Highpoint Youth continues its annual “Souperbowl of Caring” with the collection of soup, rice and ramen noodles that will be donated to the food pantry at United Campus Ministries. Look for the soup pots in Fellowship Hall to leave your donations.



**Highpoint Youth Updates** - The youth group continues to thrive and has been meeting virtually since early January. Thanks to our great group of kids and our youth leader Tim Ghogle for his continued efforts to keep this group excited and engaged.

**Giving Tree A Success Again!**

We want to say a heartfelt thank you to all who assisted with the Giving Tree this year! So many of you stepped up with your time and effort to setup and stock the tree and with LOTS of donations!

By the grace of God and through your generosity we were able to keep the tree stocked with warm items, toiletries and more through the month of December. We were happy to be able to promote the tree to our friends at Manna from Seven as well to aid the folks who stop at their pickup next door on Fridays as well. Thank you again for your outpouring of love and support for this mission of our church.

**Sunday School Updates** - In Person Sunday School for all ages has been paused since January 9 due to Vigo County's Red COVID status and in accordance with church policies. Ellie, Pastor Mike and our Sunday School teachers have been in communication with each other and with our children and families to offer support and some resources to stay connected even while we cannot meet in person. We are hopeful that it will be safe to gather again soon and that we will be able to resume our lessons and begin our adult class on sin led by Al Holder. I am also preparing teachings for all ages for the upcoming Lenten season and am preparing for in person, virtual and hybrid offerings if necessary.

**2022 Lenten Series** - Plans are underway to offer a lenten series at Central this year. We would meet on Sunday March 6, 13, 20, 27 and April 3 in the evening. There will be offerings for all ages. While we hope to be able to gather in person, if we cannot, digital resources and virtual gatherings will be available to all who wish to take part.

# The Herald

## Session Notes from January for the February Herald

Session met on January 12 to hear reports and conduct routine business. Highlights from the meeting appear below.

### Featured Report: Worship Commission

Brad Bough explained the responsibilities of the commission to recruit liturgists, children's moment presenters, and ushers, prepare elements, place appropriate sanctuary hangings, and guide worship. There have been a number of adjustments to our worship over the last year as conditions change. Staffing the commission as well as staffing the worship activities has been a challenge. Outdoor worship in Deming Park was a positive experience and the commission will consider whether to continue it occasionally when warm weather returns.

### Pastor's Report:

Several items were raised for consideration and action.

- As chief of staff he has begun the process of the staff's annual performance review.
- We have not yet been matched with Afghan families by Exodus International but there are indications it may happen soon. The local group has incorporated as a not-for-profit and has a bank account. They are starting to collect both funds and household items and have found translators for two of the three languages the refugees commonly speak. Thanks to Andrew Conner for stepping in to assume a leadership role with the project.

Treasurer's Report: Our 2021 year to date surplus is \$25,666, helped in part by reduced expenses during the year. Yearend processing to the operating fund has been done, transferring unused continuing education to its fund and the final surplus to cumulative maintenance. These transfers are not reflected in the numbers below. In addition, investments have been marked to yearend market values and dividends have been distributed to fund assets accordingly. Although financial secretary Sarah Kelsheimer is not in the office, she is highly involved with the work.

<b>Operating Fund Summary</b>	<b>Month of December</b>		<b>Balance Sheet Summary</b>	<b>12/31/2021</b>
Beginning of Month	\$47,677.14		Current Assets	\$713,788
Income	\$32,771.49		Fixed Assets	\$2,980,000
Expenses	\$29,661.59		Short Term Liabilities	\$4064
End of Month	\$50,787.04		Long Term Liabilities	\$199,561
			Net Worth (Fund Balance)	\$3,499,163

Christian Educator's Report: We are thankful to have been able to hold most of the scheduled December programming. With the current suspension of Sunday School, Ellie is preparing materials for families to use at home and looking ahead to Lenten activities. She is taking an online class in Presbyterian polity and will attend the APCE conference in Chicago in February.

### Reports and Action Items from Committees and Commissions:

Mission: Andrew offered thanks for all the contributions to the giving tree and to the staff for keeping it filled. The response was tremendous. The committee recognizes that being a downtown church is part of our mission.

New Business: Leanne Holder asked for an explanation of the process for adding a request to the Koinonia prayer list and how requests are made public. The pastor explained that when one comes in to the office it is forwarded to Ellie for inclusion in the list, and that he decides which ones are announced during worship. The deacons process them as well. If a request has fallen through the cracks, please reach out again.



### February birthdays

1—Susanne Hawk, Bruce McLaren  
 3—Peter Ekstrom  
 4—P. J. Ekstrom, Zoe Payne  
 6—Kevin Christ,  
 7—Rowyn Holder  
 8—Ryan Giltner  
 10—Danny Rader, Grace Ann Spencer  
 13—Charles Hoffman  
 15—Lilly Guell, Pam Quiroz  
 17—Cora Glenn, Robert Symon, Charlie Weber  
 19—Hannah Marlow  
 22—Anna Tilstra-Smith  
 24—Koby Powers  
 25—Susan Bough, Margaret Clem, Marcella Guthrie  
 27—Liv Judge, Linda Riggins, Fred Simmons, Benjamin Spencer

### DEACONS NOTES:

We met by Zoom on January 12th. We had a good turn out for the meeting. It turned out to be a conversational meeting/get together. We are comfortable with each other. We spoke of the little miracles in our lives as well as the big. We are even more concerned about our church family. The COVID news is so up and down. And yet, we are trusting our God.

We were grateful to hear of Sinwon's mother being able to see Grant and hear Mike. Her mother was so grateful to be able to understand what Mike was saying - which helped her in learning more English, plus she was hearing God's Word. She saw us as a loving caring church.

We are dedicated to praying and helping as much as possible.

Blessings, Kay

### Online Giving Updates

The GivePlus app is being replaced by a new app called Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement. The last day of operation for the GivePlus app will be January 31, 2022. The new Vanco Mobile app is available for your use now! Download it and sign up. If you have a recurring gift set up in the GivePlus app, it will continue to be sent to the church or ministry. Questions? Please email or call the Presbyterian Foundation Online Services team

at [onlineservices@presbyterianfoundation.org](mailto:onlineservices@presbyterianfoundation.org) or 844-299-4011.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Worship Services at CPC are dependent on volunteers to assist. It is understood that some members are not comfortable attending in-person right now. If you are comfortable and willing, please sign up for:

- \* Worship Liturgists
- \* Children's Moment presenter
- \* Ushers
- \* Bus Assistants

The sign up lists are on the fellowship hall bulletin board. Thank you to all that help.

# The Herald

A **sign-up for flowers** has been posted in the fellowship hall. The cost for the flowers is \$33 per Sunday. Sign up for the day you would like to donate flowers. You may also call the church office to see if your special Sunday is available. On days when flowers have not been purchased, the silk bouquets will be used.



## Per Capita payments

Every Presbyterian congregation has the opportunity to pay an annual per capita assessment to the denomination. Central Presbyterian, maintaining its traditional support for the PC(USA) to which we belong, makes this payment in full. We ask every member prayerfully to consider making an additional contribution--over and above your offering pledges--to cover this expense for our church. In 2022 the amount is \$46 per active member. You will find a special envelope in your offering boxes for this purpose.

### A REMINDER OF THE CPC COVID GUIDELINES

Because of the growing number of COVID-19 cases reported, it is becoming increasingly likely that even fully vaccinated, apparently healthy individuals are carrying the virus. While they may be asymptomatic or have only very mild symptoms, they are still capable of passing the virus to others. We therefore propose we take steps to minimize the rate of re-infection that are consistent with the apparent viral load that is in the local community. We have, for our ready reference, an indication of the local viral load as manifested by the number of COVID cases in our county; the Indiana COVID19 Dashboard and Advisory Map. At the same time, we recognize that the high vaccination rate in the church community is helping to keep the viral load low within the church building.

When Vigo County is:

- Blue conditions - Normal services without restriction.
- Yellow - Normal services without restriction, masking and distancing would be recommended.
- Orange - Masking required, distancing strongly recommended. Choir and other music subject to the individual participants comfort level.
- Red - Masking and distancing required, suspension of choir and children's school/worship (children to remain with parents and not go forward for children's moment)

# FEBRUARY 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Bible Study & Brew 7:30	3	4	5
6 Worship 10:30 Youth Night 6:00	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Worship 10:30 Youth Night 6:00	14 	15	16 Youth Design Team 4:00 Bible Study & Brew 7:30	17	18	19 Officer Retreat Deacons & Session 9:00 Commissions 1:00
20 Worship 10:30 Youth Night 6:00	21 Church Office Closed 	22	23 Personnel 12:30 Bible Study & Brew 7:30	24 Seekers & Searchers 10:00 (if possible)	25	26
27 Worship 10:30 Youth Movie Night 5:00	28					





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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**

**Sarah Kelsheimer, Church Secretary**

## Church Happenings

### **Women's Book Club**

The Women's Book Club will not meet in February due to covid restrictions.

The book for March is *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman.

### **Women's Bible Study**

The Women's Bible Study is suspended until covid restrictions are lifted.

All women are invited to the study of *The New Testament You Never Knew* by N. T. Wright. when meetings resume.

**Next Herald  
Deadline —  
Feb 27, 2022**