



the Herald

Volume XXXXXIX,
No 11

Christmas Eve

Candlelight Service

7:00 p.m.

Carols, Lessons & Candles

Pre-service music begins at 6:30 p.m.

Childcare provided.



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The Children and youth will present
Love Came Down
during the worship on December 17





“You've talked about it for so long...a few of us think it's time to do something.”

If not a direct quote, these words capture the message of one attendee of our adult Sunday school class this fall. They refer to the theme I have hit pretty hard for months: the need for the Central Presbyterian to decide whether to evolve with the times.

Make no mistake, the world has changed. Most of us were born into a culture in which church participation was the norm. That has ended. Nowadays people choose to spend their Sunday mornings in all sorts of ways—most of them having nothing to do with worshipping God.

Rather than judging them, I want us to take a hard look at ourselves. We have continued “doing church” in substantially the same way since long before our oldest member was born. Some time ago, that stopped working for many people. Many remain active—and our church is better off than many—but participation in almost all Presbyterian churches has dropped. It has at Central.

What do we propose to do about this? Anything? Do we who remain active just want to keep on doing things the way we always have? You know the definition of insanity: to do things the same way while expecting different results.

As your pastor, I cannot countenance the idea of not addressing this situation. If we want to help people enter into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, and to lead them into service to him and his creation, we need to consider adopting different practices.

In early January the next Strategic Planning Task Force will start its work. The thoughts in the previous paragraphs will be its focus. Please pray for this process. The Task Force's work will matter to our church, our members and people we may not yet have met, whom by the grace of God we may reach.

Pastor Mike Riggins



2023 Advent Devotional

Central Presbyterian's annual Advent Devotional is now available! Booklets are printed and available in the fellowship hall at the church and a digital version is sent in our weekly e-news email. Thank you to all who worked to contribute and compile this year's devotional.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT – Ellie Templeton, Christian Educator

Sunday School Updates

Sunday School for all ages meets weekly on Sundays at 9:30am. Elementary and younger age children will meet in their assigned classrooms most weeks, Middle and High school youth will meet in the youth room upstairs.

Pastor Mike has wrapped up his class and series discussing the “Canoeing the Mountains” book by Tod Bolsinger. Anyone who would like to borrow a copy of the book can contact Pastor Mike.

There will be a pause in our adult classes for the month of December. We will resume in the new year, more info coming soon!

We will occasionally pause Sunday School if it is a school break or holiday weekend.

Updates for schedule changes will be shared in the enews and bulletin.

Nursery care will be available during Sunday School and worship time for our younger children ages birth to 2 years.

Hanging of the Greens

Thank you to all who joined for a wonderful evening to “Hang the Greens”. Our church is dressed for the holiday season and we had a great group of kids, youth and adults working together. Thank you to church life for providing the delicious pizza dinner.

Christmas Program

Our annual children’s Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 17 during worship. “Love Came Down” will tell the traditional story of Jesus birth through narration and song. We hope everyone can join for this special morning. Rehearsals are scheduled for December 10 at 9:30am and 16 at 10am in Fellowship Hall.

Best wishes for the Holiday season

from the staff of Central Presbyterian Church

*Mike, Sarah, Ellie,
Mark, Steve, Tim, and Alvin*



Session Notes from November for the December Herald

Session met on November 8 to hear reports and conduct routine business. Highlights from the meeting appear below.

Treasurer’s Report:

Treasurer Bruce McLaren presented the report and provided updates. A CD has matured and a new one will be purchased.

Operating Fund Summary	Month of October	Balance Sheet Summary	10/31/2023
Beginning of Month	\$38,228.68	Current Assets	\$837,693
Income	\$31,999.69	Fixed Assets	\$5,093,693
Expenses	\$25,095.23	Short Term Liabilities	\$4139
End of Month	\$45,133.14	Long Term Liabilities	\$151,189
		Net Worth (Fund Balance)	\$5,776,057

Reports and Action Items from Committees and Commissions:

Facilities: Facilities will discuss HVAC issues further at their next meeting after more information becomes available. They have signed a service agreement that covers all units. By consensus, session agreed that if timing makes it necessary, we will review a recommendation from the commission and conduct an electronic vote on the use of cumulative maintenance funds.

Finance: The contract for installing video equipment has been signed. A motion from the commission to use up to \$4000 from the session discretionary fund and up to \$8000 from the Louise Danner fund to cover the cost of the equipment and installation for worship streaming was approved. The total cost is expected to be \$13,000 - \$14,000. Several contributions are expected and the work should be completed around the first of February.

Interpretation and Support: The committee has begun its work and will provide additional minutes for mission. Pledge Sunday is December 3 and right now the asking budget is \$17,000 over last year’s.

Mission: We will have two Christmas mission trees this year. The angel tree will be focused on gifts for foster children. The giving tree will be moved indoors to collect items for the loyal veterans’ battalion, who will distribute them as needed. The motion from the committee to allocate \$1000 in local benevolence to the Vigo County School Corporation backpack program and \$1500 to Reach Services for the day center was approved.

Farrington Grove Chorale Service of Lessons and Carols

Get into the Christmas Spirit with the Farrington Grove Chorale! Join us on Sunday, December 10th at 7 pm, at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 215 N. 7th Street. People from the city of Terre Haute, ISU, WTWO, VCSC School Board, legal, youth,

medical and faith professions. The chorale will sing the carols. A community service of lessons and carols patterned on a 19th century English worship service will be read. Following the service, we will host a reception and provide child care.

There is no charge for admission.



You're also invited to attend the FGC's winter concert, which will be part of the city's Miracle on 7th Street celebration. The concert will feature some of the Lessons and Carols music, plus secular holiday favorites. The concert commences at 7:00 pm on Friday, December 1st, at First Congregational Church, 630 Ohio Blvd.



- 1—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, Merri Kelley
- 25 — David Giltner, Annie Templeton

Highpoint Youth

Our Highpoint youth group will meet on December 3, 10 and 17. They will enjoy at outing to Springhill Bowling Center on December 3, be hosted by the Tevlin family on December 10 and have their Christmas "fiesta" party here at Central on the 17. All gatherings are held from 6-7:30pm.



Angel Tree is ready!

Central Presbyterian and our mission committee are once again sponsoring local children to help all have a special Christmas this year. There are 10 ornaments on the small tree in Fellowship Hall each with an ID number, age and wish list for that specific child.

Gifts should be returned to church unwrapped and labeled with the ID number by December 11, 2023.

These children’s lists are provided to us through our local Dept. of Child Services.

Thank you for supporting this special church mission.

2023 Giving Tree Item Donations

This year we are once again collecting warm items and toiletries to be distributed to those in need in our community.



Bins are in fellowship hall and we are asking for **Winter coats, shoes/boots, socks, hygiene items, and blankets.**

Items will then be given to our local Veterans Battalion who will distribute them directly to homeless adults in our area. We are doing this in lieu of setting up the tree our front and hope this helps get items into the hands of those who need it the most.

Thank you for your support of this mission!

Christmas Eve Cookies!



Our Worship Commission will host a reception of cookies and wassail following the Christmas Eve evening service on December 24. We invite all to bring their favorite cookies to add to this festive occasion. Cookies may be brought in early and placed in the freezer, please label the type and “Christmas Eve” or anytime closer to the service and placed in the kitchen.

DECEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Choir 8:45 Sunday school 9:30 Worship 10:30 Youth 6:00	4 Monday morning Bible study 9:00	5	6 Bible study & brew 7:30	7 I & S Commission 12:00 Women's Book Club 2:00	8 	9
10 Choir 8:45 Sunday school 9:30 Worship 10:30 Youth 6:00	11 Monday morning Bible study 9:00	12 	13 Deacons Session 5:00 - 7:00	14	15	16
17 Choir 8:45 Sunday school 9:30 Worship 10:30 Youth 6:00	18 Monday morning Bible study 9:00	19 Commission/Committee meetings	20 Bible study & brew 7:30	21 Seekers & Searchers Bible study 10:00	22	23 
24 Choir 8:45 Worship 10:30 Candlelight service 7:00 	25 Office closed. 	26	27 Bible study & brew 7:30	28  MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!	29	30
31 Choir 8:45 Worship 10:30						



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. 27, 2023

Women's Bible Study

Bible study will be held from 10:00 to 11:30 am on Thursday, December 21. The discussion will be on In the Footsteps of the Savior by Max Lucado. All women are welcome.

**2023 ANNUAL
REPORTS MUST BE IN
TO THE CHURCH
OFFICE NO LATER THAN
JANUARY 4**