



# The Herald

Volume XXXXXXI,  
Edition I

## Annual Meeting of the Congregation — January 26, 2025



The next annual meeting of the congregation of Central Presbyterian Church and of the members of our church corporation (Central Presbyterian Church, Inc., of Terre Haute, Indiana) (the “corporation”), will be held in the church sanctuary immediately following 10:30 a.m. worship (that is, approximately 11:30 a.m.) on Sunday, January 26, 2025. Annual report booklets will be available for pickup beginning Sunday, January 19 in the fellowship hall.

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### 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 2025 the amount is \$55.00 per active member. You will find a special envelope in the pews for this assessment.

Also, there are a few sets of offering envelopes available for anyone wishing to receive envelopes. The families requesting envelopes during the summer of 2024 have already received their box for 2025.

## Christian Education Report – Ellie Templeton, Christian Educator

### Sunday School updates

Sunday School lessons for all ages at Central will resume on Sunday, January 12.

Children through middle school age will meet in classrooms.

Adults and high school age youth are meeting in the upstairs lounge through December 22 using “The Gospel according to the Simpsons” book by Mark Pinsky and will be led by Kyle Kershaw. This class will use this “entertaining and enlightening book, that shows how The Simpsons engages issues of religion and morality in a thoughtful, provocative, and genuinely respectful way.”

Nursery care will also be available during the Sunday School hour.

If you have questions about Sunday School schedules please reach out to Ellie anytime.

We also continue to hold our Children’s Worship lessons following the Children’s moment in worship, children ages 4 through first grade may leave the sanctuary to join in on children’s worship time led by Ellie Templeton or another designated adult leader. This group usually meets in the upstairs lounge room for bible lessons and activities.

They may occasionally meet in the preschool room to be supervised by nursery workers if our adult leaders are not available.

### Christmas Program a success!

The annual Children’s Christmas Program was held here at Central on Sunday, December 8 during worship. The program, “O come all ye faithful” featured 15 of our Central children and youth and told the traditional story of Jesus’ birth. Special thanks to Christian Nurture members, Steve McCullough and Chris Newton for assistance with costumes, music and preparations.

Also thank you to Church Life for hosting a wonderful lunch following the program.



Dear god, thank you for the blessings of last year. Thank you for my family, friends, school, and all the fun times we had. Please help us to have a year filled with love, kindness, and happiness.

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.



### Holiday Mission



Our congregation once again supported local foster children through our Angel tree. The mission committee worked with our local Department of Children's Services to identify 12 children in need. Each child had a wish list and our church was very generous in their donations and support.

Thank you for helping to make the holidays brighter for these local children. We also collected items for our Giving Tree efforts. Several baskets full of coats, sweaters, hats, gloves, socks and hygiene items were donated to the Loyal Veterans Battalion which is located near REACH services "Pathways" shelter that serves our

local homeless population and amenities such as showers and a place to stay during extreme weather. The items donated by our church will be given directly to our local homeless in need. This was done in lieu of the tree being setup out in front of the church as a way to get items more directly to those who need them. We thank all for their donations and support of local mission and charities.

Members and Friends of Central Presbyterian have been invited to an open house in celebration of the ministry of Andrew Black and to thank him for his faithful service to Unity Presbyterian Church. Andrew recently transitioned to long-term disability and is no longer serving as Unity's pastor. The celebration will take place at Unity on Saturday, January 25 from 4pm—6pm.



### Highpoint Youth

Highpoint youth had a fun Christmas fiesta party on December 15 with a taco bar, treats and games. We had a record number attend and are so grateful for this wonderful group and Tim Ghogle's leadership.

If you would like to provide a meal during one of their upcoming Sunday evening meeting nights or volunteer to support the youth please contact Ellie Templeton or Tim Ghogle.



Souper Bowl of Caring '24  
Sunday, February 9

Watch for more information to come.

# The Herald

## Session Notes from December for the January Herald

Session met on December 11 to hear reports and conduct business. Highlights from the meeting appear below.

### **Featured Report: Interpretation and Support Committee**

Brad Bough provided an update on the work of the committee, whose members also include Murray Pate, Richard Templeton, and Bruce McLaren, with assistance from the pastor and financial secretary. They work in the fall to plan the stewardship campaign and begin preparation of a candidate budget with anticipated expenses based on information from commissions and committees. The campaign includes materials for bulletin inserts and interesting Minutes for Mission. This year there were 77 pledging units and people remain generous.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

<b>Operating Fund Summary</b>	<b>Month of November</b>	<b>Balance Sheet Summary</b>	<b>11/30/2024</b>
Beginning of Month	\$31,716.26	Current Assets	\$1,000,414
Income	\$30,868.45	Fixed Assets	\$5,093,693
Expenses	\$29,934.14	Short Term Liabilities	\$4235
End of Month	\$32,650.57	Long Term Liabilities	\$127,875
		Net Worth (Fund Balance)	\$5,961,997

**Christian Educator's Report:** Ellie was pleased with the participation from all ages to make the children's Christmas program a success. Triennium will be in Louisville next summer.

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

**Christian Nurture:** Unhanging of the greens will be on January 5 during the Sunday School hour.

**Church Life:** In the spring, the commission will solicit ideas for additional church activities.

**Facilities:** The freezer compressor repair (around \$1500) was paid from cumulative maintenance. In anticipation of the use of the sanctuary for piano recitals, we will review the building use policy and may offer recording services.

**Finance:** Our mortgage should be paid off in about six more years.

**Worship:** The Christmas Eve service will consist of traditional lessons and carols. Music will begin at 7:00 and the service at 7:30.

**I&S:** Brad Bough presented the candidate budget. It is balanced based on expected revenue. Most expense requests are unchanged with the exception of utilities and a 3% increase in staff compensation. Session approved the budget.

Details of the pastor's budgeted compensation are

Salary	\$37,197
Housing	\$42,613
Pension/Medical	\$31,126
Mileage Allowance	\$500
Pastor Cont. Ed. and Prof. Exp.	\$2000
Total	\$113,436

With more online and electronic giving, members tend to overlook the per capita contribution without seeing an envelope. The pastor will be more intentional with announcements and the office will supply blue envelopes. We might try a push at a different time of the year, perhaps near Central's birthday on May 17.

**Mission:** There is close to \$1500 left from this year's local benevolence, and in support of Rev. Andrew Black, a motion was approved to donate this to the Unity Presbyterian Food Pantry.

**New Business:**

The section of the church bylaws dealing with the number of elders and deacons was reviewed, as was the process for amending the bylaws. A motion to bring the following language change to the congregation at the January congregational meeting was approved.

Article III, Section 3

**Current:** **Number of Ruling Elders; Qualification; Election; Removal.** The Session shall be composed of no more than twenty-four (24) Ruling Elders.

**Proposed:** **Number of Ruling Elders; Qualification; Election; Removal.** The Session shall be composed of no more than fifteen Ruling Elders.

Article XI, Section I

**Current:** Membership. The Board of Deacons will consist of fifteen Deacons in three equal classes and pastor as ex officio.

**Proposed:** Membership. The Board of Deacons shall be composed of no more than fifteen Deacons and pastor as ex officio.

## January Birthdays

- 4—David Rader, Nicholas Spencer
- 5 — Phillip Smith
- 7 — Amanda Mang
- 8 — Corrine Foree
- 9 — Mark Carlisle
- 12 — Mont Foree, Derek VanDyke
- 18 — Joe Harder
- 21 — Cetta DePaolo
- 22 — Kay Farmer
- 24 — Charlie Foree, Brenda Weatherwax
- 25 — Amanda Gilsinger, Rebecca Stinnett
- 26 — Warren Clem
- 28 — Alice Harder



To the church family:

*Thank  
you!*

Thank you so much for the cards, other expressions of good will and the most generous Christmas gift each of us received. We are so grateful for your love and support. Blessings to each of you for the new year.

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

A Note from Pastor Mike Riggins

Linda and I wish you a healthy and prosperous new year! Speaking of prosperous, we must thank you for the generous Christmas bonuses so many of you contributed to offer all seven staff members. We are grateful not only for the money (which must have set an all-time record), but more so for the support it represents.

Each member of the staff brings specific gifts to the table, gifts which fit well with the calling of each. We try to run what the British Royal Navy calls a “happy ship” a ship made happy not because leadership compromises on the mission, thereby allowing all aboard to loaf. No, a true happy ship does its work with a happiness born on the knowledge that each person is working to accomplish the mission with diligence and good humor.

I truly believe Central Presbyterian is a happy place. Sure, we will always have a few unhappy members and friends of our church. But to return to the staff, we are pulling together with good will. Thank you again for the tangible support you gave to us, and to our mission.

Dear friends of Central Presbyterian Church:

How generous, thoughtful, caring you have been to me with the loss of my forever sweetheart, Ben Stallings, October 16, 2024. I know several of you attended either the visitation, vespers, or funeral. Many of you gave your support through wonderfully written notes and cards of sympathy, including the entire Board of Deacons; and some of you have been up front and closely present with us throughout the cruel journey of dementia. I know all of you have offered your prayers for us at one time or another, and I am grateful—I cannot turn down a prayer; simply have not reached the point, and never will, in which I no longer need prayers of the faithful. Thank you, Central Presbyterian Church, for your warm embrace—please, do not release your hold!

With loving gratitude,

Susan Outlaw-Stallings

The church office has also received letters from CODA and Club Soda for the donations made to them through our Mission Committee.

# JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office closed.	2	3	4
						
5 Unhang greens 9:30 Worship 10:30	6 Monday morning Bible study 9:00	7	8 Deacons 5:00 Session 7:00	9 Women's Book Club 2:00	10	11 
12 Choir 8:45 Sunday school 9:30 Worship 10:30 Youth 5:30	13 Monday morning Bible study 9:00	14 	15 Bible study & brew 7:30	16	17 Staff meeting 9:00	18
19 Choir 8:45 Sunday school 9:30 Worship 10:30	20 Office closed. Monday morning Bible study 9:00	21 Commission/Committee meetings & meal	22 Bible study & brew 7:30	23 Seekers & Searchers Bible study 10:00	24	25 Reception for Andrew Black @ Unity from 4-6 p.m.
26 Choir 8:45 Sunday school 9:30 Worship 10:30 Annual meeting to follow Youth 5:30	27 Monday morning Bible study 9:00	28	29 Bible study & brew 7:30	30	31 	



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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/Communication Coordinator**

**Sarah Kelsheimer, Church Secretary**

## Church Happenings

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

The Women's Book Club will meet on Thursday, January 9 at 2:00 p.m.

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

The Women's Bible Study will meet on Thursday, January 23 at 10:00 a.m. All women are invited to the study. The discussion will be on *New Life in the Spirit* by Leonard Sweet.

### **United Campus Ministries board vacancy**

The church is seeking someone to serve on the United Campus Ministries board.

For more information please contact Andrew Conner or Mike Riggins.

**Next Herald**

**Deadline**

**Jan. 27, 2025**