

September 30, 2026



The Herald

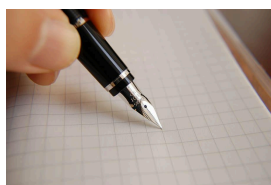
Volume XXXXXXXXI, No. 9



Sunday, October 4, 2026

This year marks the first time congregations across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are invited to receive the World Communion Offering. Through this new Offering, we join with other congregations in supporting the wider church in the work of racial justice, gender justice, peacemaking, global witness, and ecumenical and interfaith relations. In a world that often feels divided, this Offering helps us remember that we belong to one another, even to people we may never meet.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!



Thoughts Along the Way...

October is a busy month at Central. Our youth mission trip is coming up, stewardship is

gearing up, and we are continuing the conversations that are part of our transitional work. With

so much happening, I have been thinking about how these pieces fit together. We are living the life of the church even as we take time to understand it more fully.

At our first congregational gathering, we talked about Central's values. What has stayed with me is not the words but the stories. We heard stories of love, faith, and worship, and of the

community, fellowship, care, family, and outreach that grow from them. Those stories give the words their meaning. You can read more about what we heard in the article elsewhere in this month's newsletter.

Our second gathering, on October 18, will be more nuts and bolts. We will look at congregational demographics and other statistics to get a clearer sense of where we are, then consider some projections for the years ahead. We will also spend time exploring work on the congregational life cycle developed by Corey Slesher Hall and how it can help us understand Central's present and plan for the future.

I know that a gathering about statistics may sound less inviting than one about stories.

But the two belong together. The stories help us see what is precious about Central; the numbers

can help us see what it takes to sustain that life and make room for what comes next. I expect we

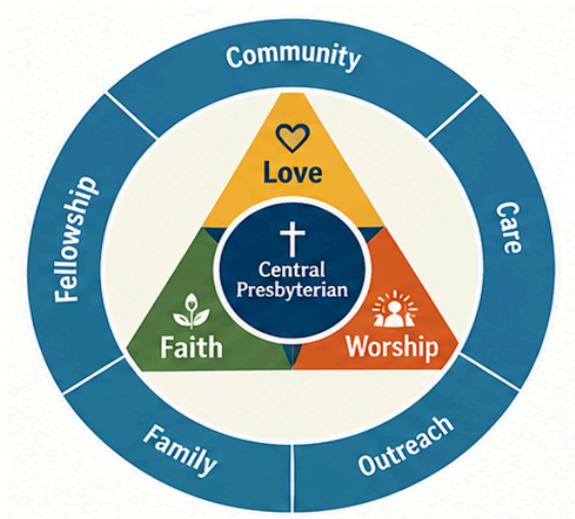
will find things that encourage us and things that ask us to think differently. We need to be able to talk honestly about both.

We will go directly from worship into the gathering. There will be cookies and breads to sustain us, and it will be shorter than our first gathering. I hope you will join us and bring your questions and observations. What we learn on October 18 will help shape the next steps in our transitional work.

Peace and Grace

Mark

More Than Words



As part of our transitional work, Session began with a simple but important question: What words describe Central Presbyterian Church? Through prayer and reflection, Session identified eleven words that seemed to express what the congregation treasures most. Those words were then shared with the congregation at the August 30 Fifth Sunday luncheon.

At the meal, each table worked together and narrowed the list. Across the room, eight words remained: Love, Faith, Worship, Community, Fellowship, Care, Family, and Outreach. Appearing most often in the tables' final rankings were Love, Faith, and Worship. Yet Community and Fellowship were also very strong, and Care, Family, and Outreach help us see how the first three values are lived. Our love takes shape in community. Our faith is strengthened through fellowship and care. Our worship sends us out to love and serve others.

However, the words themselves are not the most important part of what happened. The most powerful moments came when people explained why they had chosen them. We heard testimony from across the generations about the ways people have experienced love, faith, worship, community, care, and service at Central. Those stories begin to reveal what is truly at the heart of this congregation.

This is an update, not a conclusion. In the coming weeks, we will hear some of these stories in worship and create more opportunities for people to share how they have seen these values at work in the life of Central. Together, the words and the stories behind them will help us understand who we are, what God has entrusted to us, and where God may be calling us next.



From the Worship Commission –

We invite members to bake (or purchase) breads from around the world to share during fellowship time on Sunday, October 4th – World Communion Sunday.

Some breads with their ethnic origins are listed below:

Middle East: Pita Bread

India: Naan

Mexico: Conchas

Brazil: Pão de Queijo

Philippines: Ube Bread

Ethiopia: Injera

Finland: Pulla

Armenia: Lavash

Ireland: Soda Bread

Slovenia: Poteca

Sweden: Limpa

Denmark: Julekage

Italy: Ciabatta

Germany: Pretzels

India: Chapati

Italy: Ciambella

United Kingdom: English Muffins

United States: Cornbread

France: Socca

Ukraine: Kolach

Italy: Focaccia

France: Baguette

Germany: Stollen

Norway: Lefse

Venezuela: Arepas

Hungary: Beigli

United States: Fry Bread

United Kingdom: Hot Cross Buns

Asia: Milk Bread

Poland: Bagels

Korea: Cream Cheese Garlic Bread

United States: Sourdough

Sweden: Tea Ring

Eastern Europe: Rye Bread

Mexico: Tortillas

Ukraine: Paska

France: French Bread

Italy: Pane di Pasqua

Eastern Europe: Challah

October Birthdays

3 – Sophia Spencer

9 – Lance Weatherwax

13 – Maxine Bough

14 – Paul Foree

17 – Sinwon Racop

18 – Matthew Clinkenbeard, Theo Conner, Charlie Conner,
Nancy Edgerton, Stephen Payne, Rachael Spencer

20 – Zachariah Spencer

24 – Andrea Clinkenbeard, Christopher Johnson

25 – Mason Giltner, Brenda Green

31 – Alan Harder



Session Notes from September for the October Herald

At its stated meeting on September 9, session heard reports and conducted business. Highlights from the meeting appear below.

Treasurer's report:

Operating Fund Summary	Month of August		Balance Sheet Summary	8/31//2026
Beginning of Month	\$60,831.45		Current Assets	\$1,048,223
Income	\$23,547.27		Fixed Assets	\$5,093,693
Expenses	\$33,385.75		Short Term Liabilities	\$4334
End of Month	\$50,992.97		Long Term Liabilities	\$88,466
			Net Worth (Fund Balance)	\$6,049,116

Clerk's report: Member Linda Riggins has joined Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis.

Reception of New Member: Session welcomed long-time congregant Mike Wadsworth and a motion to accept his request for membership was unanimously approved.

Featured Report: Finance Commission: Beth Christ explained that everyone on the commission has professional financial or legal qualifications and the commission does financial planning for the church. They work closely with the Facilities commission to plan expenditures. The trust department at First Financial manages our investments in close review with the commission. With the resignation of Phillip Smith, they are looking for an additional member.

Christian Educator's Report: The confirmation class (6-7 students) is a delight and they have excellent questions. There were 20 kids at the first Youth Group meeting—they are bringing friends. The dessert auction raised about \$1500 for the mission trip and about 10 kids are expected to participate.

Pastor's Report: Noting that his work was the intellectual property of Central Presbyterian, Pastor Mark asked permission to post sermon clips on his professional YouTube account, and session approved the motion.

New Business: A motion from the Mission committee to award \$500 to CASA and \$1000 to Manna from Seven from the local benevolence budget was approved.

Session spent the remainder of the meeting in a workshop format discussing transition matters and reviewing our processes.

Sunday School for all ages is Sunday at 9:30am. Classes will be offered for elementary, middle and high school ages as well as adults. Nursery care is available for babies and young children.

Sunday School For October for Adults and High School-

The Gospel According to Monty Python lead by Paul Foree- Beneath their surrealism and absurdist humor, the Monty Python troupe consistently targeted human hypocrisy, blind institutionalism, self-deception, and the search for purpose—the exact themes addressed by the Prophets, the Gospels, and Reformed theology. Sunday School is held upstairs in the Parlor room on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am.

Youth Mission Trip

A prayer to remember our youth as they are as they prepare and are on their mission trip to St. Louis.

Dear God of Wonder and Love,

Prepare these youth to see the beauty, love, and hope that you have for the world. Help them to see the spaces that may spur them on to serving and caring for the creation you have made. Bless them and keep them in your protection and care. Bring them home rejoicing at the wonders you have shown them.
Amen

Breath Prayer- Breathing in and out reciting this prayer 5x to 10x

Inhale- God of Wonder

Exhale- Spur them on in Love

Inhale- God of Love

Exhale- Protect and Keep them

Come send our youth well with a prayer of blessing at 9:20am. Plan to meet at the church parking lot. Pastor Mark will lead a prayer over our youth and workers heading to St. Louis to love and serve the Lord. What a gift of support if you are able to join them and pray over them as they depart.

BONFIRE PARTY

*A night to remember,
with soup, music,
friends, and fire*

24 OCT
6-8pm

7760 N. Weger TH 47805
Kevin and Beth Christ's Home
Questions Email joy@thcpc.org



Church Life is providing chili, vegetable soup, sausage corn chowder soup, fixings for s'mores, various snacks and cider. You do not need to bring anything!!!

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Women's Book Club 2:00 Pastor Mark out of office	2 Pastor Mark out of office	3 Pastor Mark out of office
4 Choir 8:45 Sunday school 9:30 Worship 10:30 Highpoint Youth 5:30	5 Pastor Mark out of office	6	7 Bible study & brew 7:30	8 Pastor Mark continuing education class 11-4	9 Pastor Mark out of office Youth mission trip to St. Louis	10 Youth mission trip to St. Louis
11Choir 8:45 Worship 10:30 Youth mission trip to St. Louis	12Columbus Day – office closed 	13	14 Chair yoga 9:00 Growing Wiser 10:00 Deacons 5:00 Session 7:00	15 Pastor Mark continuing education class 11-4	16 Pastor Mark out of office	17 
18Choir 8:45 Sunday school 9:30 Worship 10:30 Highpoint Youth 5:30	19	20 Commission/ Committee meetings Pastor Mark out of office	21Chair yoga 9:00 Bible study & brew 7:30 Pastor Mark out of office	22 Seekers & Searchers Bible study 10:00 Pastor Mark continuing education class 11-4	23 Pastor Mark out of office	24 All church campfire @ the Christ home 6:00 
25Choir 8:45 Sunday school 9:30 Worship 10:30 Highpoint Youth 5:30	26	27	28 Chair yoga 9:00 Bible study & brew 7:30	29 Pastor Mark continuing education class 11-4	30 Pastor Mark out of office	31

The Herald

Central Presbyterian Church
125 North Seventh Street
Terre Haute, IN 47807
Phone: 812-232-5049
Fax: 812-232-5040

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Mark Miller, Transitional Pastor
Sarah Kelsheimer, Church/Financial Secretary
Joy Sutter, Christian Educator/Interim Highpoint Youth Dir.
Ellie Templeton, Communications Coordinator



Next Herald
Deadline –
October 25, 2026

Women's Book Club

The Women's Book Club will be meeting on October 1 at 12:00 noon at the home of Nancy Rubey. The book to discuss is *Calamity Club* by Kathryn Stockett. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Women's Bible Study

The 2026 Bible study will continue from 10:00 to 11:30 am on Thursday, October 2. The discussion will be on *From Widows to Warriors* by Lynn Japinga. Pam McKinney will be leading the discussion. Eileen Whalen will be the hostess. All women are welcome.