

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

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February 13, 2020

Invitation to Engage!

Coffee Chat Chix will continue meeting **Tuesdays around 4:30pm** at Common Grounds/Slow-Rise of Woodway.

Please pray for all to go well at our **Valentine's Banquet and Oldies Sock Hop** this **Saturday evening** from 6-8pm. Please make sure to get any door prizes you are able to donate turned in as soon as possible (Sunday is too late!). We are grateful for the outpouring of love and service hours that have gone into this event and trust that a wonderful time will be had by all--what a terrific way to honor the anniversary of our church, founded on the love of Christ on Valentine's Day one-hundred and fifty-one years ago! To God be the Glory!

Shrove Tuesday is February 25 - join us in the Activities Center at 5:30pm for a **Pancake Supper** followed by the **Burning of the Palms** at 6:15.

Ashes to Go February 26 - watch for updates on where Pastors David & Judith will be.

Ash Wednesday Service, with Communion, will be February 26 at 7 pm.

A **Community Involvement Workday** is scheduled for **Saturday, February 29** at several sites around Waco. We will celebrate our 151st anniversary much like we celebrated our 150th! Mark your calendar and come **LEAP into SERVICE** with us! Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex for a variety of service opportunities (sewing for local nursing home residents, testing items for Caritas in a thrift store, preparing donated tools for resale in a new local ministry for working laborers, and delivering gratitude to our community service folks) morning and afternoon.

Our Community Involvement Team is also working on a **community book drive** and project in memory of long-time Central saints, Ted and Dorothy. Upon picking up one of the books to use as an example, it fell open to the dedication page--given with a special note from Ted Talbot. And so, we felt led to start gathering sweet memories or inspiring stories of the Talbots. So, **today or sometime soon**, please share your memories with us and help us to honor their memory with a special book drive to be announced for March. Written memories can be dropped off in the office, or shared with the committee [here](#).

Prayer Requests

- for everyone born, a place at the table;
- for Carl Carson, who would love a call while at St. Catherine's (room 3105, 761-8105);
- for Carl Kuhnle, also rehabbing at St. Catherine's (next door to Carl Carson);
- for the family of Grandpa Bill Kelley (who passed away on Monday evening), and for Pastor Judith and her sons as they travel to be with the family in Arkansas this weekend;
- for Andrew Shull as doctors continue to seek better mobility and relief for him;
- for Neah J., who recently lost her son and is experiencing financial difficulties;
- for those affected by sudden or drawn out diagnoses, storms, or situations;
- for our members, friends, and congregation, that we may grow in health and wellness as we follow the light of Christ in service to our community!

Greetings from Pastor Judith

Greetings, Central Friends and Family!

These last several days have been a bit hectic and a bit sad for me. Yesterday, Christ appeared through the serenity (yes, my Star Word) of music. In my car on the way to church, from the administrative assistant's desk in the office of my lunch date, and then today on Facebook, a song by one of my favorite musicians has played-- Lauren Daigle's song, "Love Like This." (Here is the animated [video](#) a friend messaged.) The lyrics begin, "When I am a wasteland, you are the water. When I am the winter, you are the fire that burns. When I am a long night, you are the sunrise. When I am a desert, you are the river that turns to find me. What have I done to deserve love like this?"

I am incredibly blessed to be so loved, by my parents, by my kids, by my very-extensive and unconventional family, by my church and community of friends, and by my God. What have I done to deserve this? More importantly, what can I do to better share this love I have so freely been given? Like the crumpled and bashed gift in the video, my attempts to show people my love often fall short of what I had planned or imagined. But like the little girl, there is some force of Light and Love that guides and protects me, and that brings to fruition things in my life I could never have imagined!

There is a portion of the Gospel reading for this coming Sunday (see Matthew 5:23-24) that has become more prominent in my heart this last week. It is teaching that if we come to God with our thank-offering, yet harbor anger or resentment, our priorities are confused. We ought to leave our offering behind and go mend or reconcile with our sister or brother before returning to worship God with our offering. So many things in this life can take up more than their fair share of our time, our heart, our headspace. Sometimes when my serenity seems to be slipping away, I want to turn only to God, to pray harder, to barter with an offering, but what I really need to do is to go back and check on the broken place or the relationship, and to take action to reconcile the situation.

God's commandment not to kill is more than just a rule against murder; it is also a rule of reconciliation that can help people and communities to build trust and life-affirming relationships. When we take care to clean up our messes, to give and receive kindness and mercy, to do our part in building healthy relationships, then we will see that God can do far more with us and what we give of ourselves than we could ever imagine. As the boys and I travel to be with family and celebrate the life of Grandpa Bill, I am so grateful for the effort put forth on all sides to share the forgiveness, love and peace of Christ through these last years.

Whatever dry places you may be facing in your life or journey, I hope that the river of God's love seeks you out and helps you to bring the sunrise that overcomes even the darkest of nights.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Judith

PS The Lenten Season is coming soon. We will worship with the cross in the front of the sanctuary again. How many of you still have the wonderful Calvary Cross that Jay Bryngelson graciously made for each home last year? If you are new to us or did not get one last year, please email me by clicking [here](#) so that I can have Jay create a few more.



Celebrating Birthdays

Carl Kuhnle - February 14
Virginia DuPuy - February 18
Neal Rhoden - February 21

(We are missing many birthdays in our database; please let us know yours!
We need the year to enter the date in the database, but will never print it!)



