

October 6, 2020

*Responses to mail, reimbursements, messages, etc.
will be delayed, please use email or text, where possible.*

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This Just In!



PC(USA) Research Services is conducting 3 Listening Sessions and an Online Survey to help us in our search for a new General Presbyter.

Listening Sessions will be conducted via ZOOM, **registration required.**

Thursday 10/8, 7-8:15pm

Tuesday 10/20, 7-8:15pm

Thursday 10/22, 1-2:15pm

Dr. Susan Barnett will send out anonymous surveys by email.
Your address will be neither sold nor used for other notifications/ads.
Please **email ME Clary** in the presbytery offices to get a survey invitation.

Invitation to Innovate!

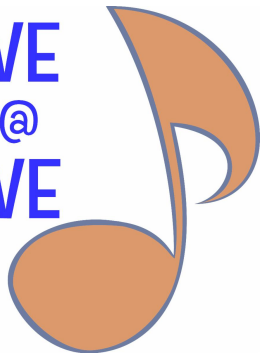


Tuesday 10/6 (today)

UPREACH (Worship) COMMITTEE

Meets *in-person* under the portico (masks + distancing = safety)
Come discuss innovative ways to gather, worship and build community!

LIVE
@
FIVE



Wednesdays

5pm

On Facebook

This week:

GOSPEL FAVORITES

Tune in to hear your old-time favorites!

[Click here to request a song.](#)

First Wednesday Cookout

Come through our Drive-Thru
(or request delivery [here](#))
from 6-6:45 on October 7th



Second Tuesday Supper

Join us ONLINE and enjoy a meal together!
Tuesday, October 13
6 - 7 pm

<https://mclennan.zoom.us/j/9968661260>



Join Central's Virtual CROP Walk Team!!

CPCWaco invites you to join our team for the Virtual Heart of Texas CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, November 15, 2020. Over the past 50 years, tens of thousands of walkers have raised more than \$500

million through the annual CROP Hunger Walk. The Heart of Texas walk always raises around \$2500, making it one of the most successful fundraisers for a small community walk. For 2020, our local beneficiary is Caritas of Waco. For more information, click the picture below.

Join our team as a walker or sponsor a member of our team who will walk in isolation or with their family. Contact [Denyse](#) for more information or to sign up.



Invitation to Upreach!

Creating Sacred Community Online

(Buttons for Zoom and Facebook can take you to our Sunday services
from the church webpage at www.cpcwaco.org)

Sunday Morning - Click [HERE](#) (a link to our Zoom services on Sunday)

9:10 AM Gathering/Fellowship

9:35 ish Adult Sunday School

Genesis Class is studying from the Letter to the Romans with Rev. Rodgers on Zoom.
The Men's Class studies from the lectionary with Jay, meeting this Sunday in the Memorial Garden. (Masks, distancing, and remaining outdoors will be observed).

10:30 AM Gathering and Prayer

10:40 AM Worship in the same zoom space ([link](#)), though we will also go [live on Facebook](#) (that's a link to our Sunday Worship at 10:45. A recording will remain posted for viewing "on demand" later).

When joining us for worship, whether "in sync" or "on demand," please use the chat room or comments section to pass the peace and let us know you are "here."

Order of Worship for this Sunday, October 11, is at the bottom of this email.

- for Les Fisseler's 90th Birthday yesterday;
- for David and Denyse as they spend time at Mo-Ranch for vacation this week;
- for those suffering with Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse;
- for Raul's cousin and family in Mexico City, fighting COVID;
- Denyse's father Frank, as he continues treatment for lymphoma (you can get updates on his care and condition here: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/frankseaman>);
- for Allison's mother Michelle, also being treated for cancer;
- for Libby, who will be taking a break from teaching kindergarten in order to better fight ovarian cancer;
- for Bill Carson, for Carl and Billie Kathryn, Les and Joyce, Don and Pat, and all who are isolated at home;
- for President Trump and all diagnosed with COVID;
- for Tessa, a 10 year old recently diagnosed with Lupus;
- for the team from Central creating community through a reverse Trick-or-Treat;
- for cities and nations who suffer from natural or social disasters;
- for everyone born, a place at the table!

Celebrating Birthdays

Betty Crouch - October 9
Michelle Deivanayagam - October 10
David Rodgers - October 12
Gail Hegar - October 14
Madison Rhoden - October 15
Carl Carson - October 20
Rich Riley - October 21
Matt Bierwirth - October 23
Patricia Tolbert - October 27
Charlie Tolbert - October 30



(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!)

Greetings,

I have been having dreams about ministry recently. In one, I teamed up with a couple of church members to open up housing for women. In another, we started a parenting support class with a meal and a concurrent babysitting/kids' program. And in another, we opened guided space for study hubs for public school students doing online learning while their parent's work. For some reason, in the last couple of months, my mind has been filling our empty spaces. I know I am ahead of myself--we are not yet listening and in touch with the needs of our immediate Woodway neighborhood--but I also know we have been given these facilities and spaces to be used in ministry.

Jesus' parable of the wicked tenants has historically been used to explain how Christianity has come to replace Judaism, but this is not a correct translation. The replacement or supersessionist doctrine really only replaces the Jewish religious authorities with Christian religious authorities. The problem of greed and preservation of the status quo still remains, only the actors have changed. As Jesus tells this parable, he is more concerned with the work of producing fruit. If the current hands are not producing, God will give the vineyard to hands that will. Sometimes pruning is needed; if necessary, even the stones will praise God.

Let's think about the vineyard God has given into our care. We have a deep connection with one another, and even in this pandemic are finding ways to share love and care. We have a rich worshiping community, and even in these strange times have increased our participation and "face-to-face" time. We also have a large home, with larger and smaller kitchens, fellowship halls and worship (if you include the choir room as a chapel) spaces, and many rooms beyond. We have meeting spaces, learning spaces, office spaces, storage spaces. And, even before the pandemic, these were mostly unused. Is that what God intends?

The triad of parables in the vineyard these last three weeks in worship really speak to me. God will continue to call workers to the vineyard from the beginning to the end of the work day, and there will be no seniority--all will be taken care of equitably. God will continue to ask us to work in the vineyard, with some saying yes (but doing no work) and some saying no (but thinking better and showing up to work). And, God will bring new and willing workers into the vineyard so that the vineyard can continue to grow fruit for God. How does this triad speak to you about our particular church and situation?

Fall has begun. The never-ending season of gratitude is now our focus. How can we best show gratitude and produce good fruits for the harvest? Pandemic, or no pandemic, this is our mission to fulfill:

In grateful response to God's love, Central Presbyterian builds community by:

welcoming diversity in our church family,
teaching the Gospel's unfolding story,
nurturing spiritual growth,
sharing joyous worship,
and fostering an ethic of service.

How might we show more gratitude and be of better service?

Grace and Peace,
Judith

Sunday Worship

Order of Worship October 11

Call to Worship

We gather as God's beloved children -

However glad we are, however out of sorts we are.

We come together as a people whom Jesus calls into community -

So this becomes a place where all are welcome.

We have come to give thanks, to pray and sing, to be with other -

Let us worship God.

Hymn # 422 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

***God, whose giving knows no ending, From Your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, Costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by You, we turn to You, Offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, Gracious donor of our days.***

***Skills and time are ours for pressing Toward the goals of Christ, Your Son:
All at peace in health and freedom, Races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor, Lest we strive for self alone;
Born with talents, make us servants Fit to answer at Your throne.***

***Treasure too You have entrusted, Gain through powers Your grace conferred;
Ours to use for home and kindred, and to spread the gospel Word.
Open wide our hands, in sharing, As we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, Serving You by loving all.***

Opening Prayer

Redeeming Sustainer, visit your people and pour out your strength and courage upon us, that we may hurry to make you welcome not only in our concern for others, but by serving them generously and faithfully in your name. Amen.

Psalm 23

Hymn #427 Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service (ABBOT'S LEIGH)

***Lord, whose love through humble service Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, Offered mercy's perfect deed,
We, Your servants, bring the worship Not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to Your purpose Every gift that You impart.***

***Still Your children wander homeless; Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love Your Spirit kindles Still to save and make us whole.***

***As we worship, grant us vision, Till your love's revealing light,
In its height and depth and greatness, Dawns upon our quickened sight,
Making known the needs and burdens Your compassion bids us bear,
Stirring us to tireless striving, Your abundant life to share.***

***Called from worship to your service, Forth in Your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged, Love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort, Counsel, aid, and peace we give,
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom May Your mercy know and live.***

Prayer of Confession

God of mercy and love, we know that sometimes we allow ourselves to be distracted by things that really don't matter all that much. We would rather pursue intellectual arguments than live the gospel. We would rather debate our equals than defend the vulnerable. We prefer to think about you instead of getting to know you. So help us, God. Help us to discern what does matter to you and to the vulnerable you call us to. Help us to open up our hearts, wide in love and grace, and so be living examples of your good news. In Christ we pray. Amen.

Children's Message

Matthew 22:1-14

Sermon

Offering/Offertory

Hymn # 430 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

***Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey and praise the Lord!***

***Long years have come and gone, And still God reigns supreme,
Empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey and praise the Lord!***

***Let courage be our friend, Let wisdom be our guide,
As we in mission magnify the Crucified!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey and praise the Lord!***

***Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey and praise the Lord!***