



## Central Presbyterian Church

*Where Christ is Central to All we Do!*

September 29, 2021

**Masks are required while in the buildings until further notice.**

*Responses to messages left at the church office will be delayed;  
please email when possible.*

*office @cpcwaco.org; pastorjudith @cpcwaco.org; drodgers @cpcwaco.org*

## Invitation to Inreach !



**Enjoy Singing? The Choir resumes practicing  
Starting **Today** at 5:30pm!!**

**Wednesday Live @ 5** recordings remain available anytime by  
going to [Facebook.com/cpcwaco/live/](https://www.facebook.com/cpcwaco/live/)

**MANY THANKS** to Phil and David for a beautiful idea for ministry  
during covid times!!!!

**Drive-thru Fish Dinner--Wednesday, October 6th at 6pm**

Fried Fish (caught by our own David Groman)  
and Fixings (including sides and dessert)

Order by contacting Melissa Rhoden ([email](mailto:melissa@centralpcwaco.org)) or by call 254-722-2678)



### Help Us Support Area First Responders

This Sunday we will begin collecting packaged snack items to be included in a treat bag for First Responders. Please bring items, such as: packaged nuts, candy bars, peanut butter crackers, etc. to the church to show our appreciation for the dedication shown by our police and firefighters. The items will be sorted into decorated bags with notes of thanks on Oct. 23rd. Our youth and children will be packaging the goodies and delivering them. Individually wrapped home-baked items can be brought to the church between 10:30 and 11 on the 23rd.

### Interested in Kitchen Events?

If you like fellowship and are handy in the kitchen, and would like to help serve our congregation (drive-thru dinners) and community (gratitude deliveries to "helpers"), please join our group and contact Melissa Rhoden by [email](#) or by calling 254-722-2678

## Invitation to Outreach

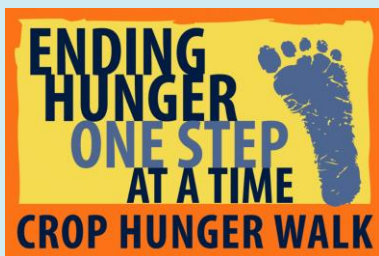


### First Sunday Gathering of Non-perishables!

Don't forget to bring some food for Caritas. As we turn towards Fall, canned soups, raviolis, chilis, and meats are appreciated! Checks and money gifts can also be given--in order for Caritas to purchase food from the Food Bank for pennies on the dollar.  
#NoOneShouldGoHungry

### Mark Your Calendars!!

Mark your calendars for a Halloween movie night on Friday the 29th of October. The showing will be outside by the Activity Center. Popcorn and treats will be served. Bring your blankets to sit on or snuggle in and join the fun!!



### Save the Date!!

Sunday, November 14th, CPCWaco will participate in the **2021 CROP Hunger Walk** benefitting Church World Service and Caritas.

Please join our team by signing up [here](#). We will walk beginning at 3pm in Bledsoe Miller Park.

Contact [Denyse](#) for more information!

## Invitation to Upreach!

### CPCWaco Hybrid Worship

Getting Ready to Follow Jesus!

Meet, Greet, and Worship via [Zoom](#) (click to join anytime 9:10-11:45am); worship live (at 10:45am, or anytime convenient for you) on [Facebook](#); or come in-person (masked) to worship in the Sanctuary at 10:45.

Welcome and Announcements  
Sharing of Joys and Concerns  
Prelude *O Lord How Manifold Are Thy Works* Joseph Barnby

Call to Worship ~  
We gather from the west to the east,  
**from the south to the north,**  
to celebrate the God of peace  
**who accompanies us in our acts of peace.**  
This God of peace is here with us always  
**in each and every circumstance.**  
And so we praise God's name!  
**God is here! The Lord's Name be praised!**

Hymn # 757 (Purple) Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples vv1,3

***Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.***

***Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,  
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.***

Opening Prayer

Our God who is Peace,  
bless us  
with discomfort at easy answers,  
with anger at injustice,  
with tears to shed for those who suffer,  
and,  
with enough willingness and courage  
to believe that we can make a difference in the world.  
In the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer  
of all Life, Love, and Peace,  
Amen.

Video Hymn--This Is My Song, FINLANDIA (a virtual PCUSA choir)

Call to Confession

Faced with God's goodness, we recognize our own failings.  
In the knowledge of God's mercy, we dare speak truth about ourselves and our world.  
In the confidence of God's children, let us confess where we have missed the mark:

Prayer of Confession

**Gracious Lord, Creator of this universe, in your generosity you have given us a world of abundance and diversity, yet we live guided by greed and selfishness. We confess that we have defaced your creation and poisoned our environment through our consumerist behavior and for personal gain.**

**In Christ, you made us siblings and intended for us to be united, yet we have built up walls of separation; you gave us wisdom and creativity, yet we spread misinformation and develop weapons of war, for war makes more money than peace.**

**We ignore the poor and weak, giving honor to the rich and powerful.**

**And, in all this, we fail to stay on the path of your will. Forgive us.**

(time for silent personal prayer)

Assurance of Pardon (Phil 3:9 and Eph 2:17)

God accepted us simply because of our faith in Christ through whom our sins were forgiven. May Christ continue to help us preach peace to those who are near and far. Amen.

Gloria Patri

Prayer of Illumination (PCUSA video)

Holy Spirit, grant us openness and give us understanding of what each one of us needs to receive through Holy Scripture. When we are facing a difficult choice between the easy and the right decision, help us to choose the narrow path. We also pray for all who are about to set on an adventurous journey of faith anywhere in the world. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 8

Message for Young Disciples

Scripture Reading: Romans 12

Sermon *Living At Peace*

Affirmation of Faith: Apostle's Creed Video

Call to Offering

Offertory *For Communion*

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Break forth in us, Light of peace, Light of the world. May your peace extend from our mouths, from our hearts and from our hands. May our gifts enliven all who work, and dance, and sing, and write, and act, and create peace with us and within us, until it exists, at all times, in all ways. Amen.

Invitation to the Table (video)

This is the table to which Jesus invites us! Let us participate joyfully!

Prayers of the World

1. From every place on this planet, we turn our face to you, O God. Gather us, gather all your people together, we pray. In the midst of the forces which would separate us, bind us in your love, strengthen us in your grace, charge us with your truth.
2. In a world aching to be made new, we cry out with those who suffer the pains of what powers and principalities extract from the world's poor. We cry out with those who are suffering illness, with those stinging from the sins of white supremacy, with those seeking equality, justice and peace.
3. In a world stretching toward wholeness, we celebrate with those whose lives bear the fruit of your Spirit and seek to share in your call to partnership. We celebrate and gather at Table with all who earnestly seek your transforming work in the world.
4. Make us a world that grows into the shape of your communion table, where all are welcomed and all are fed. Make us a people who grow your family by practices of peace, generosity and partnership. And, bring us together to pray:  
**Our Father... (debts)....**

Breaking of the Bread

We give thanks for this bread, fruit of the earth. We break it and share it, remembering the words and actions, gestures and glances, silences and sacrifices of the Teacher from Nazareth.

Sharing of the Cup

We give thanks for the fruit of the vine, for the joy of Communion, for friendships that

endure in the search for justice and wholeness in Christ. We take the cup knowing we are part of a community-people all over the world who seek to renew our covenant of Life.

#### Prayer After Communion

Each time we share The Lord's Supper, we remember our commitment to love and peace. May justice and mercy be our path, as we follow Christ, loosing every shackle, and loving God, neighbor and self. Amen.

Hymn # 372 (Purple) O for a World, vv 1,2,5

#### Charge and Benediction

Passing of the Peace of Christ.

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## Prayer Concerns

- for people caught in times of war or famine;
- for all who sorrow, and for those who rejoice;
- for those in need of healing, and for those called to heal;
- for people called to bear the Good News in word or deed;
- for all involved in systems of education and health and pandemic relief;
- for Luna, Virginia, Martha, Les and Joyce, Char, Sara, Billie Kathryn and Carl, Rita and Ken, David R's mother, Haley, Andrew S, and all who need healing, strength, & comfort;
- for guidance, strength, open-mindedness and kindness;
- for our congregation to sense God's presence, strength, and Call to serve; and
- for everyone born, a place at the table!

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## Pastor's Ponderings

It's not Tuesday, but here's a two-fer:

Dear friends, let's love each other, because love is from God, and everyone who loves is born from God and knows God.

1 John 4:7

Jesus replied, "Don't stop him. No one who does powerful acts in my name can quickly turn around and curse me. Whoever isn't against us is for us."

Mark 9:39-40

Jesus had been teaching about his purpose--welcoming God in welcoming even the lowly, the least, the children. When the disciples still don't get it, complaining and working against those who were not walking with them, Jesus responds.

Jesus speaks through time to our own our desire to judge one another, to feel smug and righteous, to complain and try to define how others should live and serve. We are often quick to condemn those who do things or say things a little differently.

But Jesus says folks who are trying to free and heal others, even those outside the disciple's group, are working for him. Three-fer alert: in another place (John 10:16), Jesus reveals there are others we don't know of who will come to follow and become one.

Sometimes, in today's culture, we can feel at odds with others: other churches, other religions, politics, mandates, etc. Remembering that everyone--some in very different ways--wants the best for themselves and their loved ones, perhaps we can keep Jesus' teaching in mind as we think about the work of the church. When we push for our own way, or act/speak against others working for a better world, we rob ourselves of teammates unnecessarily.

Let's keep our eyes open, looking for Love, looking for God...looking for teammates, partners in Christ (even if we don't call it that). We are more apt to find what we look for!

These Scriptures, and many more, remind us that we are not alone. There are others working to free the oppressed, give sight to the blind, feed the hungry.... We don't have to re-invent the wheel. We don't even have to turn or direct it. We only need to build bridges to partner with those already doing good work in the world, drawing nearer to God, relying on the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, and serving Christ together.

Pour your Spirit upon us, O Lord, Animate us with your gifts. Call us out upon this new and ancient way of following Jesus and partnering with others to continue the work of Jesus. Amen!

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## Celebrating Birthdays

Morgan Williams - September 29

Nancy Jackson - September 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!)

