



Central Presbyterian Church

Where Christ is Central to All we Do!

November 10, 2021

MASKING is PREFERRED at all church services and events, 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 Upreach

Reach up to God through worship and study.



Advent Candle Lighters and Liturgists Wanted

Please let Pastor Judith know if and when you would like to light an advent candle or help with liturgical readings for the following worship services:
11/28, 12/5, 12/12 (David Rogers preaching), 12/19 (No-rehearsal Christmas Play),
12/24 (evening service).

Christmas Decorations

We will be decorating the church for Christmas after worship on Sunday, November 21. The decorations are already in the main building, and the more hands, the quicker we can knock it out. Everyone is welcome!

Adult Sunday School

Learning what it means to welcome others--to create that open, safe space where all can enter and experience the welcoming spirit of Christ in one another.

9:45 Adult Class (using *Follow Me Curriculum*) on [Zoom](#) (click to join Sunday mornings);
9:45 Men's Class (using *Follow Me Curriculum*) meets in the church parlor (**in-person**).
Adult Reflection Guides are available in the Narthex for the above classes.
Please let us know if you need one delivered!

CPCWaco Hybrid Worship

You Are Invited to Praise and 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.

Order of Worship
November 14, 2021

Welcome & Announcements
Sharing of Joys & Concerns
Opening Prayer
Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the beginning was the Word,
And the Word was with God,
And the Word was God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

God moved into the neighborhood to invite and welcome us.

Let us welcome strangers as friends to worship God together.

STF HYMN # 2236 vv. 1-2 "Gather Us In" GATHER US IN

Here in this place a new light is streaming,

Now is the darkness vanished away,

See in this space our fears and our dreamings,

Brought here to you in the light of this day.

Gather us in—the lost and forsaken, gather us in—the blind and the lame;

Call to us now, and we shall awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our name.

We are the young—our lives are a mystery,

We are the old—who yearn for your face,

We have been sung throughout all of history

Called to be light to the whole human race.

Gather us in—the rich and the haughty, gather us in—the proud and the strong;

Give us a heart so meek and so lowly, give us the courage to enter the song.

CONFESSION

Loving God,
you created us to live in relationship with you,
to love and serve one another,
and to care for all your creatures.
Yet, in the hardness of our hearts,
we dismiss your commandments and
seek to go our separate ways.

(time for silent meditations)

Lord, have mercy on us.

Redeem us, restore us, and re-create us,
for the sake of Christ our Savior. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON
PASSING OF THE PEACE

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING—Luke 18:15-16; Hebrews 13:2; Matthew 25:35

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

SCRIPTURE READING—Genesis 18:1-10

SERMON—Welcoming Others as God Welcomes Us

PASTORAL PRAYER

Offertory

All Things Bright and Beautiful

Vickie Wright

Judith March-Hardie & Denyse Rodgers, handchimes

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

PH HYMN # 358 “Help Us Accept Each Other” BARONITA

***Help us accept each other As Christ accepted us,
Teach us as sibling, cousin, Each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us And bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted And meant to love and live.***

***Help us accept each other As Christ accepted us;
We struggle to be human And search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, For all, not just for some
To love them as we find them
Or as they may become.***

***Lord, for today's encounters With all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance, For righteousness and bread,
We need new eyes for seeing, New hands for holding on:
Renew us with Your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one.***

CHARGE & BLESSING

May God's welcome be a place of shelter for you;
may Christ's welcome enfold you,
and may the Spirit's welcome create community among all. Amen.

Invitation to Outreach

Reach out to serve Christ in our community and beyond.



Mission Partnership News!!

The Mission Waco Toy Store will be held in the AC on Thursday, 12/2, through Saturday, 12/4. There will be lots of volunteer groups on site over the next few weeks to get everything organized and ready. One big day will be this Sunday, Nov. 14th, when MW will begin reorganizing everything to set up and decorate for the store. If you can volunteer to help that Sunday afternoon from 2-4, please let Judith know.

Rev. David Rodgers will be contacting families with kids to organize this year's shopping day. If you would like to give donations of money for toys, please do so by Sunday, 11/14.

Please bring unwrapped toys and rolls of wrapping paper to the church before 11/28 for Santa's Biker-helpers to pick up and bless that Sunday morning.

Please also watch for announcements regarding the change in schedule expected for that Sunday's activities (11/28).



SUPPORT our TEAM

Sunday, November 14th, CPCWaco will participate in the
2021 CROP Hunger Walk

benefitting Church World Service and Caritas.

You can sign up to join the team [here](#).

We will walk beginning at 3pm in Bledsoe Miller Park.

Contact [Denyse](#) for more information!

Don't forget to support our team members!!! Click [here](#) to donate!
(You can donate to the CPC team, or scroll down to donate to individual team members.)

Invitation to Inreach

Reach inward with the Spirit of Love, for God, self, and one another.

WANTED!!!

This year, because of Covid, we want to have more smaller Advent groups instead of one or two larger groups. If you would be willing to host a group at your home on either or both (12/5 & 12) evenings for a potluck (or fare of your choice) dinner, fellowship, and a brief time of worship together with a few other people, please let us know soon!

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 Luna (10 year old fighting Cancer), Martha, Joyce, Sara, Billie Kathryn and Ken (both recovering from heart valve replacement surgery), Mrs. Rodgers in Arkansas, Sara, Haley, Andrew S, Helen K. 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!

Celebrating Birthdays

Billie Kathryn Kuhnle - November 13

Witten Williams - November 22

(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!)



UPCOMING ON THE CALENDAR

11/14--Toy Store Expansion 2-4pm in AC
11/14--CROP Walk 3-5pm at Bledsoe Miller Pavilion
11/16--Session 6-7:30pm in Sanctuary
11/17--Choir Practice at 5:30, Personnel Mtg. at 6:50pm
11/18--Outreach Mtg on Zoom at 7pm
11/21--Consecration Sunday (Pledge cards to be mailed)
11/21--Decorating the Church for Christmas, after worship
11/28--Biker Run, Toy Dedication, Volunteer Luncheon, and First Sunday of Advent!
12/5--Second Sunday of Advent
12/5--Advent Groups in homes
12/12--Third Sunday of Advent
12/12--Advent Groups in homes
12/19--Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Pageant (No-rehearsals)
12/19--Church neighborhood caroling and hot chocolate (save the date!)
12/24--Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
(We will celebrate communion throughout Advent)

Pastor's Ponderings

God loves you, and so do I!

This is both a greeting and reminder.... It is always good to start everything with the feeling of being loved. And, with God's love comes God's grace. St. Augustine said, "The grace of God does not find us fit for salvation, but makes us so."

God's love and grace are sacrificial--carrying something of God's very self to and for us. This love, this grace, begins to refine and perfect us simply through its offering--drawing us closer, turning us away from fear and toward God/Love/Christ/Grace.

As I began to think about all of the things coming up as the year ends, I recognized a hint of chaos or anxiety returning. I've learned through experience (and mentors) that when I begin to feel empty or overwhelmed, I need to spend some time with God--to draw on the strength of Christ by simply praying and listening. Generally, I take a few breaths and give thanks-- for the ways God completes and perfects us through Christ, for the relationships and challenges that teach me to have faith, and for the ways I get to work for God in my life. And, I ask for guidance in moving forward, even with crawling or baby steps, on the path of my purpose in God.

One of the things we all do at this time of year is consider how well we have walked this path, and how we can learn to do it even better in the new year. How will I better spend my time? What new things am I willing to try to get Christ's message of love out there? When will I feel ready to take that next step I've dreamed about?

As I think about Advent, our new mission partnerships, post-pandemic lessons about church and community, I would like to move forward, following Jesus to new levels of relationships and of faith. I know this means new learning, new practices, and hopefully new friends and companions in Christ; I know such growth requires prayer, faith, and a willingness to sacrifice out of Love.

Through prayer, I've made my individual decision regarding my church pledge. And through prayer and discernment, I believe we will soon be making decisions about church staffing and continued mission partnerships and ministry. Would you please join me in praying about your part in this ministry for the coming year? It is my hope that you will sense, as I did, the good and positive things yet to come through Christ in our community!

Please take some time in the next several days to pray for God's guidance on your own path. How can you draw closer to God this Advent season? What ministry might God be about to equip you for? What blessings will God give you to share? Why might God want you to give more generously of your time, treasure and talents? I've included one of my favorite prayers below.

Here is a prayer from Thomas Merton (who said, "Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy...and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors (better off)."):

*My LORD GOD, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But, I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And, I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I never do anything apart from that desire. I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road even though I may know nothing about it. Therefore, I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.
Amen.*

Remember, God loves you, and so do I!

Judith