



## Central Presbyterian Church

*Where Christ is Central to All we Do!*

**November 18, 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 for the following worship services:

11/28, 12/5,  
12/24 (evening service).

### Christmas Decorating

We will be decorating the church for Christmas after worship **THIS 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!

No Sunday School Next Sunday 11/28 because of the Biker Run.

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## **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 21, 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Opening Prayer

Prelude

Call to Worship

Blessed are those who serve the poor,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who share the wealth,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who work for good,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who open doors,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who break down walls,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who challenge hate,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who live their faith,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who speak the truth,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

Blessed are those who show Christ's love,  
**they will be called the children of God.**

### **HYMN #554 "Let All Things Now Living" ASH GROVE**

#### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**Lord Jesus, Judge of the nations: We confess  
that we have not seen your face among our  
neighbors in need. We have not shared  
our food with the hungry; we have not  
offered clothes to the destitute or shelter to  
the homeless. We have not welcomed the  
stranger, nor have we visited prisoners. We  
have not paid attention to these, your siblings,  
and, in our neglect, we have failed to serve you.**

*(time for silent confessions)*

**Lord, forgive us; open our eyes to recognize Christ  
in others, and give us the blessing of sincere  
repentance that we may know the joy  
of eternal life with you and all the saints in  
this world and in the world to come. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**PASSING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION--HYMN #2086 "Open Our Eyes"**

*Open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus,  
to reach out and touch him,  
and say that we love him.  
Open our ears, Lord,  
and help us to listen.  
Open our eyes, Lord,  
we want to see Jesus.*

Luke 24:13-24 (Pew Bibles, NT pg.90)  
Time with Young Disciples  
Matthew 25:31-46  
Sermon: Where Is Christ?  
Pastoral and the Lord's Prayer

Offertory

**Hymn #2222, vv.1-3 "The Servant Song"**

*Brother, sister, let me serve you,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant, too.*

*We are pilgrims on a journey,  
we're together on this road.  
We are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.*

**CHARGE AND BLESSING**

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## Invitation to Outreach

*Reach out to serve Christ in our community and beyond.*

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**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.

**THIS SUNDAY, DAVID WILL MEET CENTRAL KIDS & FAMILIES AT CHURCH AT 4pm.** They will go to Walmart to shop for the Toy Store!

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.

There will be no Sunday School on 11/28 as the Bikers are scheduled to come between 9:45 and 10:15am. This year, Bikers will again be able to let kids get pictures on the bikes!

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# Invitation to Inreach

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

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## 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!

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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 Luna (10 year old fighting Cancer), Martha, Joyce, Sara, Billie Kathryn and Carl, Mrs. Rodgers in Arkansas, Sara, Haley, Andrew S, Helen K., Hope, and all who need healing, strength, & comfort;
  - for guidance, strength, open-mindedness and kindness;
  - for all who travel for the holidays, and for those who may be hungry or alone;
  - 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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## Celebrating Birthdays

Witten Williams - November 22

Quinn Rhoden - December 3

Andrew Bryngelson - December 12

**(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!)



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## UPCOMING ON THE CALENDAR

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 Chili Potluck Supper

(Carolers will meet around 4, Supper will start around 5:30 with an Advent Lesson)

12/24--Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

(We will celebrate communion throughout Advent)

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## Pastor's Ponderings

Life is certainly busy and full these days; change is happening all around. I continue to hear the phrases, "back to normal," "a sense of normalcy," and, "the new normal," daily.

So just what is "normal"?

Did you know that this term comes from Latin mathematics and construction? A Norma was a carpenter's square, and so normal meant perpendicular, or at a right angle. In construction, right angles are good, and desirable--even beautiful. Who wants a leaning wall?

Be careful--it is a big rabbit hole of etymology that scrambles through anatomy and physiology, psychology and culture. Basically, a wall is square, or it is not. A liver is normal, or it is abnormal. A behavior is "within normal limits," or it is not.

Because of the pandemic, we've become aware of something--our routines have been changed, and we no longer feel like we know what to expect. This can be disquieting. The truth, however, is that we, ourselves and our cultures, have been undergoing consistent change throughout time.

There is only one thing that doesn't change--Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and yes, forever (Hebrews 13:8). Christ is the true square, against whom all are measured and fall short (i.e. none of us is normal). And we are Christians; we choose to follow Jesus, to try to become more like Jesus.

When we gather and worship, when we join together in work, when we aspire to love and serve and live better, we commit ourselves to change. This day and every day, when we commit to working together to care for others as Christ cares for us, we let go of everything else (fear, complacency, the status quo). Commit to this way of living. Commit your life to Christ. Commit to change, not normalcy. Give what you have, go where you are called, and bless others as Christ blesses you. For Christians, this is the only way. Amen.

Grace and Peace,  
Judith

PS Be on the lookout for our 2022 Commitment Cards.  
Pray about how you might step up and contribute financially and through your love and work in Christ. We are better together!