



## Central Presbyterian Church

*Where Christ is Central to All we Do!*

**November 30, 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.*

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

## Invitation to Upreach

*Reach up to God through worship and study.*



### **Christmas Eve Candle Lighter and Liturgist Wanted**

We are looking for an individual, group or family to light the center candle during the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Let Pastor Judith know if you are interested or have a suggestion!

### **Advent-Epiphany Devotional Booklet Howard Thurman joins us**

Each week we will reflect on a verse of a lesser known reflection, "The Sacrament of Christmas." Thurman — an

African American theologian, preacher and activist known for his deep spirituality — viewed the seasons of Advent and Christmas not only sacramentally, but as a time for taking stock of and adjusting our lives. I believe the 2021 Advent and Christmas seasons are asking us to do exactly what Thurman observed: It is time to take stock of and make adjustments in our lives so that we, the body of Christ, can be loving, relevant, and active in our community and the world!

### **Daily morsels of hope**

As Thurman's wisdom feeds us, we will also break open God's Word, with daily Scripture verses to ponder, followed by a reflection and prayer. We will journey to Bethlehem, which in Hebrew means "House of Bread". We will also make bread and share those loaves with others. We will discover how the placing of our newborn Savior in an animal's feeding trough, because there was no bed available for him, was symbolic of how — in him — all our Advent hungers would indeed turn into Christmas joys.

If you are entering this holy time weary and worried, you are not alone. I am there with you. Let us go to the House of Bread. Let us read, listen and share. Let us light the candles around the Advent wreath. Let us bake bread. Let us share those loaves with others. Let us find hope again — together.



Click [HERE](#) to read online, or to download on your device.

Click [HERE](#) to request a printed copy.



### Help CPCWaco Make a Difference on #GivingTuesday

Following Jesus means answering Christ's call to respond to a world in need. Please take some time in prayer today to consider the collective power of our generosity as we profess by our actions — and with our gifts — that we can accomplish far more together than any one of us can do alone.

Please pray about this, and if you are able, give an extra offering this year. You can also pick up a 2022 estimate of giving card to fill out at church (a link on our website (cpcwaco.org) and a letter is soon to come, as well)....We are the Church--the Body of Christ--together!

### Adult Sunday School

9:30ish on [Zoom](#) with Pastor David

9:30ish in-person Men's Class with Jay in the Parlor

### 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 (masks preferred) to worship in the Sanctuary.

Order of Worship  
December 5, 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Sharing of Joys & Concerns

Prelude

Call to Worship from *Zechariah's Prophecy of Salvation and Peace (Luke 1:76-79)*

"You, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

**for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,**

to give knowledge of salvation to his people

**by the forgiveness of their sins.**

By the tender mercy of our God,

**the dawn from on high will break upon us,**

to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,

**to guide our feet into the way of peace."**

God of hope, God of peace,

**into our darkness, come.**

Lighting of Two Advent Candles: Hope and Peace

Opening Prayer

**Prepare our hearts, O God, to welcome Jesus Christ, Your Son. Deepen our joy in preparations and gatherings. Open us to Christ's presence now and always, that we may receive hope and peace to share wherever we go. Amen.**

**Hymn #100 (GTG)**

**My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout, vv1&4 *Star of the County Down***

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?  
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
And the world is about to turn.*

*Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around.  
My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
And the world is about to turn.*

Prayer of Confession

**Refining God, you gave commandments, but we misunderstood. You sent prophets, but we failed to hear. You sent us Jesus, but we went our own way. We have not always chosen love; we forget our hope and promote strife rather than peace. Forgive us, we pray, and renew your covenant within us. Help us to keep Christ central in all we do and to prepare the way for your Kingdom come. Amen.**

*Period of silent reflection, meditation and prayer*

Assurance of Pardon and Passing of the Peace  
Gloria Patri

First Testament: Malachi 3:1-4  
Time with Young Disciples  
Second Testament: Luke 3:1-6  
Sermon: A Season of Welcome, A Season of Peace

Offertory "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Advent Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Noel, Noel; Noel, Noel; Born is the King of Israel.***

Invitation to the Table  
Prayer of Great Thanksgiving  
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise...**

Communion of the People  
The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

**Hymn #106** (GTG)

Prepare the Way, O Zion, vv. 1-2

Bereden Vag For Herran

***Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!  
Let every hill and valley a level way appear.  
Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story  
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.  
  
He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.  
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.  
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.  
O blest is Christ who came in God's most holy name.***

Charge and Benediction  
Postlude

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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 this weekend!  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 12/2,3, and 4.  
Thanks to all who have given, collected, cooked, and volunteered to help make this happen!

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**CPC will host a vaccination clinic  
with vaccines and boosters, for ages 5 and up:  
December 12 ~ 9am - 1 pm  
Activities Center**

**[Click here to sign up.](#)**

The blood drive is the next Saturday, December 18th.  
So many needles!!!



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### A Thank You Note

Dear Church Family,

Allow me to express my appreciation for the support given to a xcause that I deeply believe in--Waco Habitat for Humanity. The Harvest Dinner on the 18th of November is this nonprofit's main fundraiser, and was attended by 20 or more Central folks. There were table sponsors (Judith, DuPuy Oxygen, the Deivanayagams. A guided fishing trip was donated to the silent auction by David G. The church, through Session, approved a financial gift at the "Platinum Level" of Sponsorship, which included another table for CPC. I am certain there were many individual contributions as well.

The mission of Habitat is to provide affordable and safe housing for families in need. We witnessed the testimony of past and future homeowner-partners and learned what home ownership can mean for families. Stability, financial security, community involvement (and taxes), renewal for rundown neighborhoods, and a strong foundation for children to assure their successful futures. Eighty percent of a Habitat home is built by community volunteers bringing people together.

Our church can be counted as a great and long-time supporter of these efforts. Central provided office space in our church basement on Washington Street at its first beginnings in 1987. Of course Nancy and Charles Cagle were loyal volunteers, being recognized as "Volunteers of the Year" one year. Our church has contributed a small amount monthly through the years. Chris Wolfe's firm, Big Creek Construction, provided a concrete pour for a home's foundation. Many a meal has been delivered and served to volunteers on build sites and at the offices by church classes, PW, and more recently the Hegars. There are also many hours of "sweat equity" donated by members and groups of our church--house raisings, accessible ramp installations, painting, planting, roofing and more! The men of our church have set up and hand dug trenches for foundation pours at least twice.

Habitat is not a "gimmie" organization. Partner families must pay for the home mortgage, insurance and taxes. They must also provide a large number of "sweat equity" hours by helping to build homes for other partner families, volunteering at the ReStore, and working on their own homes. The outstanding advantage of Habitat is that no interest is incurred in the home cost. Each family goes to "home owners college" to learn about budgeting, home maintenance, home security, financial planning, etc. Each family is mentored through the process and their first year of homeownership. Of course their ongoing mortgage payments go towards the building of additional homes. A gift to Habitat builds hope and community in places where it is most needed.

Central truly does reach out to the community and those in need. I am grateful and proud to be a part of this family of faith.

In Christ,  
Jay

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## Invitation to Inreach

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

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### It's Time for Advent Groups!

Click [here](#) (or leave a voicemail at the church) to participate in Advent Groups 12/5 and 12, Please let us know how many adults and children you will bring.  
Watch for a call or email to come with instructions for where to go and what to bring!

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### PW Christmas Gathering--12/14 at 10:30am

We will gather this year at Melissa's house on Rambler.  
Bring a treat to share and a favorite Christmas story, book, or memory. Perhaps one that involves a grandparent to go along with our lessons would be nice

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### Church Neighborhood Caroling and Advent Chili Supper

David Fleuriet and the Choir are inviting one and all to come and sing together, spreading good Christmas cheer around the neighborhood.  
Carolers will meet in AC at 4 pm to divide up and choose a street/location; we will meet back at the church before dark falls!  
Chili Supper will start around 5:30 with an Advent Lesson by Pastor David!  
Come one, come all...please click [here](#) (or leave a voicemail at the church) if you are coming for the Chili Supper (you are welcome to bring a dessert or side)

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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, Ken and Rita, Gwynn, 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

Quinn Rhoden - December 3  
Andrew Bryngelson - December 12

Linda Williams - December 22

Melissa Rhoden - December 25

**(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

12/1--**No** First Wednesday Cookout

12/2-4--Mission Waco Toy Store Event

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-rehearsal)

**12/19--Church neighborhood caroling and Chili Potluck Supper**

(Carolers will meet in AC at 4, Chili 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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