



## Central Presbyterian Church

*Where Christ is Central to All we Do!*

Click [HERE](#) to fill out an Estimate of Giving Card for 2022

**December 7, 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.*



### The Christmas Creche

**NO REHEARSALS; NO SIGN-UPS!**

**Narrators' Script and a Shepherd Will Guide You.**

**Bring friends, families, out of town guests.**

**Bring or borrow costumes and props!**

**The cast and crew is all of God's children who  
show for the 10:45am service on 12/19**

### 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.



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Order poinsettias now!  
Please fill out a form at the church,  
or leave a voicemail or email and mail in your check.  
\$15 each

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### Adult Sunday School

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

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

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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 (masks preferred) to worship in the Sanctuary.

Order of Worship to come soon!

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## Invitation to Outreach

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

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**CPC will host a vaccination clinic  
with vaccines and boosters, for ages 5 and up:  
THIS SUNDAY, 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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**Church Neighborhood Caroling and Advent Chili Supper**

## December 19

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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## Decorating Christmas Cookies

Monday, December 20

11am in the Activity Center

Help us to gather lots of kids (accompanying adults welcome, too!) to come decorate enough to both eat some and have some left to give away!

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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 12/12. 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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## 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), Sarah Preddy (hospitalized w/possible leukemia) Martha, Joyce, Sara, Billie Kathryn and Carl, Ken S., 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

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

12/12--Third Sunday of Advent

12/12--Advent Groups in homes

12/14--PW Christmas at Melissa's

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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### Pastor's Ponderings

#### Another Year Over

What? It's December--nearing mid-December already--how did we make it through the year? It is SO good to be worshiping together again. We are just about back to pre-pandemic attendance in-person (PLUS the "regular suspects" attending on zoom and Facebook. We have had worship leaders, readers and preachers share remotely.

We've welcomed a number of new liturgists and voices in the choir. Isn't it nice to have the choir singing in-person again? I just love that the whole bunch is willing to mask while singing in order to protect anyone with low immunity, or who isn't vaccinated. Let me tell you--Those Choir Masks Are Thick! Such is the love that we have shown, and will continue to share, through our worship and service together as a church family!

It is now a regular thing for me to run into extended church family, only some of whom have visited on Sunday morning, who say they saw me preach or heard us sing. I was on a school campus and one young woman said she "noticed we came forward for actual bread" last Sunday. How did she notice? She wasn't there! Weird. The "New Normal" is going to feel...is going to BE weird and discomforting at times, but don't mistake all of the changes on the horizon for clouds. It's hard to grow when comfort is sought rather than hospitality shown.

I really love the things we have studied and learned together this year. I love the ways we are learning to grow and engage and work together. The impact we have been able to make for others through volunteerism in partnership with several ministries and charitable projects in town is admirable. The progress we have made in expanding our generosity in support of missions and benevolences is exciting. I love it when having heard about something CPCWaco has done (like help sponsor a Habitat House or bring in the biggest team and the most donations for CROP Walk), folks are surprised to find out how small a group we are. Small, but mighty, I tell them. Mighty in their love for God, one another, and their neighbors! In this day and age, most people agree, it is wonderful to have a community...a fellowship...a family to do life with year in and year out, year after year.

#### A New One's Just Begun

i have pondered too long already, yet I am eager to see what God will be up to within our family and community in the next 12 months. There are many more questions than answers right now, but I can name at least 4 or 5 points of possibility for us:

1. HOPE--The stories of wandering, oppression, redemption and rebirth that cycle through the Scriptures, are cycling through us as God guides *our story together!*

2. PEACE--As siblings in Christ, we will harmonize our gifts and passions in ways that welcome the lost, help systems to find more just and equitable rhythms, and create and enlarge safe spaces for all of God's children in *our story together!*
3. JOY--The Holy Spirit will birth in us new ways to celebrate living the life God is authoring for *our story together!*
4. LOVE--We will learn to love one another more and more like God loves us-- forever and always, unconditionally, as we live *our story together!*
5. CHRIST is not only the "reason for the season"; Christ brings our community, our lives, our pasts, our gifts, our futures, our stories together!

Help us to plan what we can do together by filling out an Estimate of Giving Card on Sunday, or by clicking [here](#). Remember, we can love better, reach farther, and convict others more deeply when we work to tell Christ's story, and our story, together!