

**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

9191 WOODWAY DRIVE WACO, TX 76712
(254) 754-3544 CPCWACO.ORG



December 20, 2018

This Sunday:

9:30 am - Sunday School - Luke 1:39-55

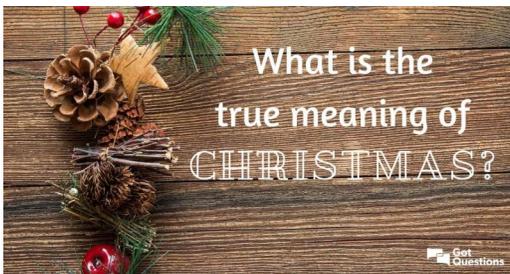
10:45 am - Worship

Rev. Judith March Hardie preaching

The Best Little (No-Rehearsal, All-Church) Christmas Pageant Ever



Season's Greetings from Pastor Judith



What is the true meaning of Christmas? From the word itself, we can infer that it is the Christ Mass, or the Christ Celebration--the celebration of the Son of God, Jesus the Christ, Emmanuel. We celebrate the coming of the Anointed One through the story of the Christ-Child in the Manger.

This Sunday, the 23rd, we will be truly celebrating Christ as we all join together to worship and to act out a retelling of the Nativity. I have enjoyed Children's Christmas Pageants all of my life, and fondly remember reading *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* by Barbara Robinson (1971) when I was young. I have found that the more we can all engage in the retelling and acting out of this story, the more likely we are to truly begin to understand it and begin to let it really seep into our lives, our being, our church, our world!

So, please come, dressed in the Christmas fashion of that first century culture, or in the Christmas fashion of today. Some costumes and props and such will be placed in the front pews of the church, labeled by their parts (angels, shepherds, etc.) and all children young and extra-experienced are encouraged to participate! I also hope that more than one of you will feel comfortable using a camera or your phone to capture any sweet moments during this new celebration of Christ!

This Christmas, my hope and prayer for all of us is that we can turn from the shadows of disagreements and the darkness of hate and evil in the world, and center our focus on the light of Christ. And, in the coming new year, my prayer and focus will be for all of us to keep Christ Central! I'm sure you have heard the often repeated and cyclical arguments for keeping Christ in Christmas. Whether you say Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, or as I heard just last night, Happy Christmas and Merry New Year, what is truly of utmost importance is not in our vocabulary, but in our living. Let's keep Christ in Christian as we come to the manger to be fed and to celebrate the new birth of Christ among us even now!

May you know true Peace and Joy this Christmas and throughout the New Year!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Judith



**Christmas Eve
Communion, Carols, Candlelight
6 pm**

Stewardship Reminder

Please complete your Estimate of Giving card, if you have not already done so, and turn it in to the office. Extra cards are available in the narthex, or we can mail you another one. It is important to let the Finance Committee know your intentions so they can budget accordingly.

It is also important to consider how God may be calling you to help keep Christ Central, both here in the work and worship of the congregation, and beyond as we serve others in our community. Please make sure to consider pledging your time, your talent, and your ideas as well.

150th Anniversary

Save the DATES! We hope all of you have already marked your calendars for **Sunday, February 17, 2019**, when we will celebrate Central's 150th anniversary with a special worship service and festive luncheon. To highlight Central's many years of faithful service to the community, there will be an All-Church Service Day on **Saturday, February 2, 2019**. We hope that EVERY member, together with friends and family will participate in one of the planned service events:

- Caritas Hidden Treasures Resale store -- Sort donated items with Don Wall and others. (adults, older youth, ages 10-15 with a parent)
- Children Serving the Community -- Assemble blessing bags for the homeless and make cards to deliver along with homemade cookies to Woodway firefighters and police. (children, youth and adult leaders, and bakers)
- Sewing for Hospitalized Children and People Using Walkers -- Sew colorful pillowcases and pocket bags for walkers with Laura Clifton and Tricia Tolbert. (adults who can cut fabric, iron, or sew)
- Habitat for Humanity (tentative) -- Work with Jay Bryngelson and others on a current project. (adults, 16 and older youth-with a parent present)

Sign-up sheets are now available in the Narthex. Please sign up, and join us as we celebrate a history of service. And, more importantly, join us as we celebrate our New Beginning through Christ, as we step out to serve and follow Christ, who is Central to All we Do in God's Name!



December 24 - Christmas Eve service, 6 pm

December 24, 25, 26 - Church office closed

December 31, January 1, 2 - Church office closed

January 8 - Second Tuesday Supper Club, 6 pm, Salty Dog, 1004 North Valley Mills Drive. Please RSVP to Don Wall at 292-3292. (NOTE location change)

January 9 - Wednesday night activities resume

January 13 - Pastor Judith's Installation Service, 4 pm, in our sanctuary, with guests from all over the presbytery

February 2 - All-Church Service Day - sign up in the Narthex

February 9 & 16 - Church Clean-up Day (watch for details, projects, and improvements) in preparation for welcoming guests and celebrants for our 150th

February 17 - 150th Church Anniversary Celebration

Prayers

We lift up prayers for all families who are separated or unable to celebrate Christmas together. We offer our love, consolation and support, as well as our prayers, to the family of Mary Ann West Thompson, and to all who have lost loved ones. We hold Nancy Cagle, Betty Crouch, and others seeking solutions and recovery for health concerns. We continue to hold Lowell Cannaday, brother of Virginia DuPuy, and all of his friends and family in prayer as he remains in hospice care.

Celebrating Birthdays

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!)



The Weekly News is published each Thursday and sent to members via email. It is also mailed to members who do not have email or desire a printed copy. Printed copies are also available in the church narthex. Church activities and pertinent event information is available on the church website: cpcwaco.org