



# Central Press

APRIL 2021

Central Presbyterian Church ■ 3501 Campbell ■ Kansas City, MO 64109

## Calendar

### **April Wednesdays**

Pantry & Clothes Closet

**April 13**

B & G Committee

**April 15**

Holy Happy Hour

**April 6, 20**

Staff meeting

**April 21**

Session

### **April Birthdays**

Mark Murphy 3

Pattie Corwin 7

Chris James 21

Rebecca Merola 22

Matthew Mullins 26

Barbara Curry 28

### **Anniversary**

Kristin & Matt



## Holy Week

A year ago many of us did not think it possible we would celebrate Holy Week and Easter virtually again in 2021. Yet, here we are. Trumpet fanfares and loud, jubilant singing of, "Christ, the Lord, Is Risen Today" remain activities that could result in a super-spreader event even as Covid positivity rates improve and vaccines become available to more and more people. All that said, here is the way we will observe this Holy Week.

Our April 1, Maundy Thursday worship will be pre-recorded and posted on our Central Presbyterian Facebook platform at 5 p.m. that day to be watched then or anytime thereafter. It will include scripture reading, prayer, a meditation, a quartet anthem and the Lord's Supper (provide your own elements in the place where you are).

On April 2, Good Friday, our observance will be sent as an E-devotion and will include a written meditation and an anthem prerecorded and offered by our quartet of section leaders.

Easter is Sunday April 4. This service will also be pre-recorded which allows for a slightly different worship setting than what has become standard for our Sunday mornings. The service will be set in our sanctuary, and posted on the Central Presbyterian Facebook page Easter morning, to be watched at 10:30 a.m. or whenever you wish.

Easter Monday, April 5, is a holiday for the church staff so the office will be closed.

**Our Sympathy**

*to Pattie and Jim Corwin on the sudden death of Pattie's nephew Kevin Ryan, March 18. He was a student at the University of Arkansas.*

**Holy Happy Hour —**

*Will be by Zoom again this month on Thursday April 15.*

**Thank you**

*to **Anna Lisa Lawton** for keeping us current with our certification as an PC(USA) Earth Care Congregation. We have been re-certified for another year.*

*to **Cindy Sheppard** who provided most of the Lenten E-devotions, including links to music*

*to **Sandae Custard** for interpretation of our local mission through informative and reflective E-Devotions for Mission*

## Dear Friends . . .

At the annual congregational meeting in January a question was raised about the cost of the minister's medical benefit. With a pastoral change in the offering for Central, a refresher on the Presbyterian Church (USA) Board of Pensions seems in order.

The PC(USA) benefits plans for ministers who are called and installed to serve in local congregations has 3 parts: medical coverage, pension and a death/disability plan. Our Book of Order stipulates that called/installed (permanent) pastors must be enrolled in this plan, whose cost is borne by the employing congregation. The cost of the plan is based on a percent of a pastor's salary rather than on a pastor's personal insurance needs. Every pastor's whole family is covered by the medical portion. This makes the plan "call neutral", meaning, no matter who a church calls to be their pastor, the number of dependents that person has does not affect the cost of the plan.

For 2021, PPO medical coverage is 27% of effective salary; the contribution to the defined benefit pension plan is 8.5% of effective salary; Death and Disability insurance is 1.5% of salary. There are different benefits options for temporary supply or interim pastors.

The Plan calls for all who are in the PC(USA) faith community to share in the care of the servants of the church. The biblical understanding of sharing based on needs and abilities means that a congregation's dues pay for that congregation's share of the total costs of providing benefits for all pastors and church workers in the Plan, including its own employees. Dues are not directly related to the cost of benefits of that congregation's employees; the costs of the benefits program is apportioned on the basis of each employing organization's compensation expense. Larger organizations with more highly paid personnel contribute more to the cost of the plan than the smaller employing organizations of the Church. This is sometimes referred to as the 'community nature of the plan'.

*Heidi*

## Pantry News by Julie Smith

As the weather turned to spring the food pantry was open and ready to help meet the food needs of the patrons.

May 1<sup>st</sup> will mark my 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary serving Central Church's mission through this work. It has been a positive experience for me and I appreciate the faith you have placed in me to fulfill these duties. Meeting people from the variety of demographics and helping people with their food and clothing needs, as well as household items; assisting patrons with food stamp applications; giving away the bounty of fresh produce from our garden; and being in a position to make referrals to appropriate agencies for other types of assistance has been meaningful work. Extras like the Christmas gift table and Thanksgiving meat distribution help our neighbors with more than just their nutritional needs.

During these unprecedented times, food and hunger insecurity have been rising and I am grateful to be able to help ease the burden of those who are in need. Our volunteers have dedicated their time to help in all aspects of the pantry and clothes closet (we are able to pre-sack socks and underwear for distribution during this contact-restrictive pandemic time). The contribution of volunteer time and talent is essential to making this ministry possible. Our volunteers see this work as one way to help the neighbors of Central Presbyterian, and make God's love tangible.

Our continued outreach and assistance to those who are in need is a gift to everyone who is involved.

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**Many thanks** to everyone who made a gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing Lenten offering. Central's support is joined with that of other congregations to multiply the impact of our mission giving.

### **Member News**

We welcome into membership at Central our friend **Terry Miller**. Here is Terry and Rev. Tamara Miller's contact information:

3625 Campbell  
KC MO 64109  
(816)808-3608 (Terry cell)

Also:

Our member **Scott Vroegindewey** has a new address:

121 Ward Parkway  
Apt. 209  
KC MO 64112

**We welcome** a new tenant to a 3rd floor office space in our church building. **Te Deum** is a choral ensemble with the mission of bringing a diverse international repertoire of sacred music to the Kansas City area. Te Deum's artistic director is Matthew Shepard.

**E-devotions** continue with fluctuating frequency, depending on how often a staff person or member is inspired to write one. Send your submissions to [cin-dy@centralpreskc.org](mailto:cin-dy@centralpreskc.org)

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## Central Church

*Serving Jesus with  
Good Energy  
More Light  
Musical Worship  
Radical Love  
Justice*

**Adult Sunday School** meets for an hour each week via Zoom at 9 a.m. Sundays. We have just finished an exploration of the Biblical book The Acts of the Apostles. Beginning April 11 we will take a dip in the waters of Reformed Theology, examining some of the essential tenets of our faith—some of which are beloved and some of we may learn we have mis-understood.

Everyone is welcome. All that is required to register is letting Heidi know you would like to check it out so she knows to send you the Zoom link.

### **Central Presbyterian Church Staff**

**Heidi Peterson**, *Pastor*

**Cindy Sheppard**,  
*Director of Music*

**Sarah Jacobs**, *Organist*

**Jan Powell**, *Secretary*

**Julie Smith**  
*Director Community Ministries*