



# Central Press

DECEMBER 2021

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

## Calendar

### **December Wednesdays**

Food Pantry  
& Clothes Closet

### **December 7, 21**

Staff meeting

### **December 14**

B & G meeting

### **December 15**

Session

### **December 27**

Church Office closed

## Dec. Worship Leaders

Margaret Barger	5
Mary Merola	12
Sonja Carlson	19
Allison Dodds	26

## Dec. Ushers/Greeters

Sandae Custard	5
Peg McMahan	
Jim Corwin	12
??	
Carol Marley	19
Roberta McBride	
Terry Miller	26
Sandae Custard	

## December Birthdays

Sara Boyd	9
David Alonzo	18
George McCall	27
Charlene McGarvey	29
Nathan Bushue	31

## Life Stories edited by David Alonzo

This month the spotlight is on Margaret Barger. Margaret and I both graduated from William Jewell College in the bicentennial year of the founding of the USA. Find out where she inherited her ability to listen to others in her story below:

### APPRECIATION

"When I was growing up my father, Vincent Appleton, and I would sometimes run errands together on the weekends. This could be a trip to the hardware store, dry cleaners or just the gas station. Inevitably he would interact with strangers, although, in his mind they were not strangers, rather people waiting to engage.

"Truly curious about a person's attitude, opinion or approach to life, he would chat about the weather or inquire about their job and then listen. Just listen. When the conversation concluded, Vincent would frequently say, 'I appreciate what you do.'

"In my impatience to complete our list of errands I remember being annoyed, as in major eye rolling and thinking 'they don't need you to tell them you like what they do.'

"One day last year I was in one of these conversations waiting for a person to engage; the words 'I appreciate what you do' tumbled out of my mouth as our exchange was coming to an end. I was so surprised to hear myself say that phrase that I laughed out loud!

"As the years have passed and my father has passed, I have come to realize that Vincent was doing his part to offer encouragement through validation of others.

"We may never know the impact of making time to listen to a person waiting to engage."

## Transition Team Update by Anna Lisa Lawton

Welcome Reverend Jeff Light!

The ink on Rev. Heidi Peterson's resignation had barely dried when the Committee on Ministry forwarded an email with a resume attached to the Transition Team, the first of nearly 40 resumes reviewed during the search. Yes, Jeff's resume reached us first and lasted through the long vetting process. To think the Team could have stopped there and hired Jeff immediately would have eliminated many meetings and some angst but would have failed the intent of the process: to be still and listen for the quiet word of God guiding Central.

Although the formal duties of the Transition Team have ended, we will still work closely with Jeff in the coming months to ensure a smooth start to his call at Central. Again, many thanks for all your prayers over the last seven months and the trust you placed in the Team. We're especially grateful for the assistance of Rev. Becky Chamberlain and Marge Eckhardt, our COM representatives, Session, the congregation, and other Friends of Central who supported, prayed, and provided much insight as we worked to find the best match for our church at this point in its journey.

Jeff will begin his service on January 3, 2022 and we look forward to working with him to discern God's next

plan for Central. His bio is included below:

*Jeff Light is a third-generation Presbyterian minister. He grew up in Topeka, Kansas and graduated from Washburn University and Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. Jeff served churches in Joplin, Missouri, Lake City, Colorado, Lawrence, Kansas, and Oskaloosa, Kansas. He also served as Guest Relations Director at Heartland Presbyterian Center. In addition to pastoral work, Jeff has been a Leadership and Talent Development Manager for Sprint, IBM, and most recently the American Academy of Family Physicians.*

*Jeff has two adult children. Rev. Jessie Light-Wells is the Presbyterian UKirk Campus Minister at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Her husband Zach is the Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church in Dallas. Josh Light is a stage manager living in Chicago, IL. Jeff also has a rescue Border Collie named Dobby.*

*Jeff is an active runner (Marathons and triathlons), hiker, and reader and sings (bass) in the Heartland Men's Chorus. He lives in Mission, Kansas.*

Warmly,

The Transition Team

Lynda Raner, Susan Borge, Jim Corwin,  
Peg McMahon, and Anna Lisa Lawton

## Pantry News by Julie Smith

As the year comes to an end our pantry is busy helping to make the Holiday season better for our patrons. We had our annual Thanksgiving meat gift distribution and gave out 85 turkeys and chickens.

Preparing this, my last newsletter article, I am filled with many emotions, mainly grateful to the Church for giving me this opportunity to serve the community around Central. I have become familiar with several patrons and enjoyed my time working to give them a bright spot in their often difficult lives.

I am inspired by the work of many volunteers who have dedicated their time to helping with this important work. I want to thank Becky Chamberlain for her help in the pantry and garden and the support and friendship she has offered to me during her time here. I also want to thank David Aguiar, Lynda Raner, Kathy Sheppard, for coming to cover vacancies during the pantry and clothes distributions. Sandae Custard has been a great help, shopping for items needed to prepare the grocery bags and is obtaining either blankets or a shopping cart as the Christmas gift from central this year.

All of the volunteers help to make this food pantry and clothing closet one of the best in the area and I believe that will continue. Thank you for allowing me to serve in this mission work.

## Heidi's Tree

Shortly after our former pastor, Rev. Heidi Peterson, announced her retirement, [More Light Presbyterians](#) contacted the church about honoring her in a meaningful way that commemorates her advocacy for the organization and LGBTQIA+ people. In early November, the church's landscape partner planted a sugar maple tree near the monument sign on Armor Boulevard which provides a lasting tribute to Heidi and her work.

*continued next page*

### December Preachers

- 5 Rev. Glenda Watts
- 12 Rev. Don Wilson
- 19 Rev. Becky Chamberlain
- 26 Elder Darron Story

### January 2 Preacher

Rev. Tamara Miller

*There is a volunteer*

### Pastoral Care team

*available for your pastoral care needs. For information, please contact the office.*

### Thank You

Friends,  
I am grateful for the many condolences I received on the death of my brother Scott, and also for your many prayers over the last two years.

Pastor Heidi



**Central Presbyterian Church**  
**3501 Campbell**  
**Kansas City, MO 64109**  
**Phone: 816 931-2515**  
**[churchoffice@centralpreskc.org](mailto:churchoffice@centralpreskc.org)**

**Central Church**  
*Practicing love*  
*Serving our neighbors*  
*Worshipping God*  
*Because Jesus*

*continued from page 3*

Says Susan Robertson, More Light's Operations Assistant, "Heidi dedicated so much time and energy to More Light when she served as a Board member and then as a Co-Moderator of the organization. She also worked tirelessly for years to move the PC(USA) forward towards inclusion of LGBTQIA+ folk and we are grateful to have her along side of us as we champion greater inclusion of LGBTQIA+ people in our communities and further our witness to justice in the world."

Thank you, More Light, for your magnificent gift to Central Presbyterian Church recognizing Heidi!

**Central Presbyterian**  
**Church Staff**  
**Cynthia Sheppard,**  
*Director of Music*  
**Sarah Jacobs**  
*Organist*  
**Jan Powell,**  
*Secretary*  
**Julie Smith**  
*Director*  
*Community Ministries*