



# Central Press

JANUARY 2019

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

## Calendar

### **January Wednesdays**

Pantry/Clothes Closet

#### **January 1**

Church Office closed

#### **January 8, 29**

Staff meeting

#### **January 13**

Worship Committee

#### **January 14**

Bldg. & Grnds. meeting

#### **January 16**

Session

#### **January 21**

Church Office closed

#### **January 27**

Annual Meeting

## Jan. Birthdays

Phil Utton	1
Sarah Thurman	1
Pat Haguewood	8
Travis Joyce	14
Don Haring	15
Erin Barger	16
Terry Miller	22
Pat Johnson	29
Gloria Normand	30
Mark Ihde	31

## Worship Leaders

Carol Marley	6
Mary Merola	13
Peg McMahon	20
Phil Utton	27

## From the Pantry *by Julie Smith*

In November and December we were busy in the food pantry and clothing closet. We served 90 households (19 new) with 134 adults and 20 children. We gave out Thanksgiving meats to approximately 110 households and provided each client with some items from the gift table, a much anticipated offering to our patrons. Some tell me that they look forward to those selections all year long! Thanks to the work of the volunteers our pantry remains a warm and friendly space where people come in need of the services we provide and usually leave feeling that they are cared about and have a good amount of food and extra items to make their lives better. The volunteers donate their time and goods to make this possible. I appreciate their work and dedication. Thanks to Sonja Carlson, Susan Borge, Neta McCall, Xavier White, Thomas Gaston, Kathy Sheppard, Stephanie Stowe, Susan Wyssmann, Ray Hill, Rebecca Merola, Jan Long, Chip Barger, Anna Lisa Lawton, Maggie Evans, Mary Kay Marxsen, Markus Mack, Lynda Raner, Don Haring, Janice Atkins, Dave Enslin, the shoppers from Second Presbyterian Church, Barbara Stevenin, Kay and Eric Postma. Without them our pantry could not be the great place it is for all to come and feel welcome. To become a volunteer please contact me: [julie@centralpreskc.org](mailto:julie@centralpreskc.org), or call me at the church. 816-931-2515.

Thank you for donating pantry goods corresponding to Advent tree ornaments. They totaled: 31 boxes of tissue, 23 cans of fruit, 22 tubes of toothpaste, (plus toothbrushes), 17 rolls of paper towel. Also, the KC Women's Chorus collected a full 3 month supply of hygiene products for the party including sanitary napkins, deodorant, toilet paper, lotion, shaving cream, razors and cosmetics.

### Elders Serving Communion 01-06

Carol Marley  
Lynda Raner

### Ushers/Greeters

David Aguiar 6  
Jim & Pattie Corwin  
David Alonzo  
Matthew Mullins 13  
Sarah & Mark Thurman  
Neta McCall  
Mark Murphy 20  
Phil Utton  
Pat Haguewood  
Allison Dodds 27  
Ray Hill  
Susan Borge

### Thanks

To **Dean Frech** who is completing his term of service on the Session.

To **Louise deMarteau**, spouse of Cynthia Sheppard, for making all our Advent worship cut-out ornaments.

To many **volunteers** who contributed to our congregational life all during 2018.

To the **hand bell & vocal choirs**, members & friends who provided special music for Advent & Christmas.

**Rev. Peterson** is away Jan. 18-22.

**Rev. Becky Chamberlain** is on call.  
(817) 829-1667

## Dear Friends . . .

Social media and various forms of instant communication make public many things about people's lives. But as we move through Advent and Christmas every year I am struck by how unsensational Jesus's birth was and how little of his life was lived in the Empire's spotlight. Henri Nouwen, (a 20th century Dutch priest, writer and professor of pastoral theology) made this observation:

*The largest part of Jesus' life was hidden. Jesus lived with his parents in Nazareth, "under their authority" (Luke 2:51), and there "increased in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and with people" (Luke 2:52). When we think about Jesus we mostly think about his words and miracles, his passion, death, and resurrection, but we should never forget that before all of that Jesus lived a simple, hidden life in a small town, far away from all the great people, great cities, and great events. Jesus' hidden life is very important for our own spiritual journeys. If we want to follow Jesus by words and deeds in the service of God's Kingdom, we must first of all strive to follow Jesus in his simple, unspectacular, and very ordinary hidden life.*

Nouwen's words ring true personally and also for us as a congregation. God's activity in the world is not usually main stage, but is always life-affirming. The insulation, LED bulb swap out and climate control projects undertaken in 2018 lower Central's energy bills and also help protect the environment. Many church neighbors' dinner tables and wardrobes were made fuller because of our food pantry and clothes closet. Our garden reconstruction not only will enable the provision of fresh produce for our pantry clients in 2019, it also provided two neighborhood teenagers with the opportunity to earn their Eagle Scout awards. Our weekly worship—gathering around the Word as it comes alive for us in prayer, sacrament, community and song—nourishes mind and soul for the facing of each new day. The devotion represented by these and countless other acts will never headline the NYTimes. But this is us, following Jesus' ordinary, hidden path of service into a new year.

*Heidi*

## G.R.O.W. 2019

### **(Growing, Reaching, Opening, Welcoming)**

February 2, 2019, 9 a.m.—4 p.m. Heartland Presbytery will host a day of 15 workshops for clergy, elders and members. The Rev. Cindy Kohlman, co-moderator of the PUC(USA) is keynote speaker. The wide variety of workshops focus on Elder and Clerk of Session training; Liturgical Arts; Encouraging Congregational Singing; Environmental Justice; Ministry in a Smaller Church; Adaptive Leadership; New Models of Faith Formation; and more. Location is Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church, 9300 Nall in Overland Park, KS.

Speak to Heidi or check flyer on bulletin board to learn more. Session will cover the \$40 registration fee for those who wish to attend.

## January Worship

Regardless of weather, we gather to worship in a warm and welcoming environment. Come and bring a friend.

- January 6 Start the new year with Holy Communion & Epiphany stars
- January 13 Ordination of Officers
- January 20 The Rev. Becky Chamberlain, preaching
- January 27 Worship and Annual Congregational Meeting

## Congregational Meeting

Session has called the annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of Central Presbyterian Church for Sunday, January 27 at 11:30 a.m. in the sanctuary of the church. Reports from church committees and entities will be available; pastor's terms of call will be voted; a recap of 2018 and preview of known plans for 2019 will be offered. Fellowship time will follow the meeting. Please make a note of the date and plan to be present.

### **Annual Reports**

are due by January 22 in order that everything can be ready for the congregational meeting January 27.

### **Choir News**

If you have been thinking of joining the choir, now is a very good time! The vocal choir rehearses at 9:00 every Sunday morning. Try it out! Come and make a joyful noise to the Lord, become friends with other church music folk and let Cindy tease out your innate talent.

### **Practice Hospitality**

It is not necessary to have the means to provide the treats if you are willing to host Coffee Hour. Ask Heidi how that would work. Sign up on the hallway bulletin board.

Each month we invite you to bring a specified item(s) for our **pantry ministry**. The collection basket for these items is in the sanctuary. If you are able to contribute in this way please do. Your offering frees up dollars for other pantry needs.

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3501 Campbell  
Kansas City, MO 64109  
Phone: 816 931-2515  
churchoffice@centralpreskc.org

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

**January Pantry Offering:**  
**Canned Goods**

## Un-decorating the sanctuary

We all enjoy the beauty of the sanctuary decorated for Christmas, but what goes up must come down. Please plan to stay for a little while after worship Jan. 6 to help remove & stow decorations, and return the sanctuary to ordinary time.

**COFFEE HOUR**  
*needs YOU!*  
Sign up to host on hallway bulletin board

**Central Presbyterian Church Staff**  
**Heidi Peterson**, *Pastor*  
**Cindy Sheppard**, *Director of Music*  
**Sarah Jacobs**, *organist*  
**Jan Powell**, *Secretary*  
**Julie Smith**  
*Director Community Ministries*