

Central Scene

Central Presbyterian Church



Church Mission Statement

To celebrate God's love, nurture growth, share our faith, and serve the needs of others

Church Membership

Membership in Central Presbyterian Church is open to all who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. New members will be received upon baptism and profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or by letter of transfer.

Words from the Pastor

Is your GPS working all right?

I made a round trip between Pine Bluff and Athens GA on the Christmas day and the next day. It was about 1,300 miles trip. Since I am kind of terrible with direction, I heavily depend on my "old" GPS whenever I am on a road trip. Did I say my GPS is "old?" Yes, it is old... kind of "ancient" old. The map has not been updated for about 4-5 years. Its' battery is so old, so it won't take any recharging. It has to be plugged in all the time. Whenever I stop for refueling, I also have to restart the GPS. And its' suction cup has lost its' suction, so it falls off from the front windshield so often. Yet, I am still using it because the direction it gives is more reliable than my own ability to read the maps. However, sometimes my GPS brings me to the wrong places due to the building of a new road or the closure of the old road.

On the trip I made on Christmas day, I was driving down a road somewhere in Mississippi following the direction, given by the GPS. I was just driving down the street, obeying the commanding voice of the GPS. And suddenly, the road on the GPS disappeared. I was still driving down the same road, yet there was no road displayed on my GPS! Well, I was still moving, and the GPS indicated that I was moving. I chuckled a bit, and I said to my wife; "honey, according to the GPS, we are flying over a field where there is no road." It went on for about good long 10 minutes. Fortunately, the newly constructed road that I was on led me to the old road that my GPS was able to recognize. But that 10 minutes was long enough to make me worried

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Upcoming Events

January 9th (Tuesday) 6:30 PM

Session Member Training
(Mandatory for both New and Old Session Members)

January 14th

Ordination and Installation
Service for the New Session
Members

January 21st

Fellowship Luncheon
Session Meeting

Sunday School 9:30 AM

Young Adults Sunday School
9:30 AM
(New class forming)

Choir Practice Wednesdays at
6:30pm

Noon Bible Study Thursdays

Evening Bible Study Thursdays
at 6:30pm

Continued from Page 1

and scared. So I thought to myself, what if this GPS fails completely? Should I stop at a gas station and purchase an Atlas? Would I be able to read the map and follow? What if the Atlas is not accurate? Would I be able to go home from here?

In the book, *You Are What You Love* (Brazos Press, 2016 James K.A. Smith), I found an interesting, illustration of a case that displays the hazard of a faulty map.

“In the Kingdom of Ice is journalist Hampton Sides' compelling account of the failed nineteenth-century polar expedition of the USS *Jeannette*, captained by Lieutenant George De Long. It serves as a cautionary tale about the hazards of misorientation [sic]—not because of a faulty compass but because of a mistaken map. De Long's entire expedition rested on a picture of the (unknown) North Pole laid out in the (ultimately deluded) maps of Dr. August Heinrich Petermann. Petermann's maps suggested a "thermometric gateway" through the ice that opened onto a vast "polar sea" on the top of the world—a fair-weather passage beyond all the ice. De Long's entire expedition was staked on these maps. But it turned out he was heading to a world that didn't exist. As perilous ice quickly surrounded the ship, Sides recounts, the team had to "shed its organizing ideas, in all their unfounded romance, and to replace them with a reckoning of the way the Arctic truly is."

So, a New Year just started. You have a whole new set of life journey before you. I wonder if you have a good map for your life journey. Is the map accurate and reliable enough to bring you to your destination? Are you sure about that? Oh! I forgot that we are living in a technologically advanced society. Let me rephrase my question: “Is your GPS working all right?” Do you think it will take you to your home?

I want to share only the selected verses from Psalm 119 here due to the space limitation. Read the whole Psalm 119 from your Bible. You will find a good GPS for your life there.

(Verses 1-6)

*How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the Lord.
How blessed are those who observe His testimonies, Who seek Him with all their heart.
They also do no unrighteousness; They walk in His ways.
You have ordained Your precepts, That we should keep them diligently.
Oh that my ways may be established To keep Your statutes!
Then I shall not be ashamed When I look upon all Your commandments.*

Verses 33-35

*Teach me, O LORD, the way of Your statutes, And I shall observe it to the end.
Give me understanding, that I may observe Your law And keep it with all my heart.
Make me walk in the path of Your commandments, For I delight in it.*

Verses 105-106

*Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.
I have sworn and I will confirm it, That I will keep Your righteous ordinances.*

History of Hymns

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

by Folliot S. Pierpoint

Folliot Sandford Pierpoint (1835-1917), a graduate of Queens' College, Cambridge (BA, 1857), and a teacher of classics at Somersetshire College, has provided us with one of the most enduring hymns in Christian hymnals.

Pierpoint was the author of several poetry collections, including *The Chalice of Nature and Other Poems* (1855), *Songs of Love, the Chalice of Nature, and Lyra Jesu* (2nd Edition, 1858). The words of this hymn appeared in *Lyrical Eucharistica, The Hymnal Noted* (second edition, 1864).

As the title of the collection in which the hymn was published indicates, this hymn was originally written for the celebration of the Eucharist. The original poem was published in eight, four-line stanzas under the title, “The Sacrifice of Praise.” British hymnologist J. R. Watson suggests, “It is said to have been inspired by the view of Pierpoint’s native city of Bath on a spring day.” The original refrain, “Christ, our God, to thee we raise/This our sacrifice of praise,” reflects the theology of the Lord’s Supper as a sharing in Christ’s sacrifice. “For the beauty of the earth” appeared in the final “Miscellaneous Hymns” section of *Lyra Eucharistica*, echoing the post-Communion prayer in the *Book of Common Prayer* (1662): “. . . we thy humble servants desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. . . .” Alterations made to the hymn and approved by the author made it useful for a broader range of liturgical occasions.

The original eight stanzas have been pared down to five for *The Glory to God The Presbyterian Hymnal*. Each stanza paints a picture of gratitude embodied in some aspect of God’s creation: the earth (stanzas 1 and 2), the senses (stanza 3), “human love” (stanza 4), the church – in the original, “thy Bride” – (stanza 5), and the gift of God as manifest in Christ (stanza 6).

Omitted stanzas include themes characteristic of historical and theological views of hymns written by Church of England hymnwriters, the martyrs and prophets, and the Virgin Mary and the incarnation:

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

by Folliot S. Pierpoint

1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain:

Lord of all, to thee we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light:

[Refrain]

3 For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind’s delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight:

[Refrain]

4 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild:

[Refrain]

5 For thyself, best gift divine
to the world so freely given;
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven:

[Refrain]

*For thy Martyrs' crown of light,
For the Prophets' eagle eye,
For thy bold Confessors' might,
For the lips of infancy:
Christ our God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.*

*For thy Virgins' robes of snow,
For thy Maiden-mother mild,
For thyself, with hearts aglow,
Jesu, Victim undefiled:
Offer we at Thine own Shrine
Thyself, sweet Sacrament Divine.*

The later refrain, “Lord of all, to thee we raise This our hymn of grateful praise,” broadens the focus of the original hymn from Christ’s sacrifice to one of gratitude for all creation and “Lord of all.”

Alterations to the original “Christ, our God. . .” have been many, some of which are poetically and theologically weaker, for example, “Gracious God.” A long tradition exists that God died on the cross. The Fifth Ecumenical Council (553 C.E.) holds that “our Lord Jesus Christ, who was crucified in the flesh, is true God, and the Lord of glory [I Cor. 2:8], and one of the Holy Trinity.” Thus Pierpoint follows a long tradition that equates Christ and God. As a eucharistic hymn in its original form, this theology is continued. The late Australian hymnologist Wesley Milgate lamented the changes to the refrain: “Practically every recent hymnal has a different version of the refrain, apparently fearful of the treading on the corns of ‘liberal’ theologians and those who shilly-shally with an essential part of the Christian doctrine.” Pierpoint himself, according to Professor Watson, “defended his original text, noting that Pliny, in his letter to Trajan, had described Christians as singing hymns to Christ as God.”

The concrete images of this text make it ideal for children of all ages. The theological scope of this hymn differs from many others on this theme. For example, earlier hymns by Isaac Watts – “I sing the almighty power of God” from 1715 – and Cecil Frances Alexander – “All things bright and beautiful” from 1848 – focus on the natural created order. Both of these hymns were written to expound on the first article of the Apostles’ Creed, “I believe in God the Father, Maker of heaven and earth,” for children. Pierpoint, writing for the Eucharist, expands the discussion beyond the natural created order to humanity, the church, and, in the original, the martyrs, prophets, and the incarnation. The final stanza addresses Christ himself as a gift:

*For thyself, best Gift Divine,
to the world so freely given,
for that great, great love of thine,
peace on earth, and joy in heaven.*

In the final line, Pierpoint joins hymn writers throughout the ages by echoing the cosmic connection between heaven and earth found in Luke 2:14: “Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth” (KJV)

Conrad Kocher’s tune DIX (1838) is not the only tune to which this text is sung, but is undoubtedly the most popular in the United States. British Composer John Rutter (b. 1945) renewed interest in this text with his popular anthem setting composed in 1978.

C. Michael Hawn is University Distinguished Professor of Church Music, Perkins School of Theology, SMU.

Jesus' Birth Word Search

E	R	T	Y	M	T	H	U	J	K	I	O	L	P	E	D	I
E	L	I	Z	A	B	E	T	H	L	O	K	J	H	F	D	N
M	B	V	C	R	E	D	S	W	D	F	H	J	K	O	U	N
P	O	K	J	Y	S	A	I	R	A	H	C	A	Z	C	F	K
A	S	D	R	G	H	J	J	I	O	O	L	N	N	L	P	E
L	C	A	E	S	A	R	A	U	G	U	S	T	U	S	G	E
P	O	K	H	G	Y	G	N	R	D	V	B	N	M	O	Y	P
L	J	O	S	E	P	H	G	L	J	S	P	H	E	M	H	E
K	O	G	Y	J	K	L	E	E	D	J	E	S	U	S	J	R
J	H	E	G	Y	U	I	L	L	K	T	R	F	D	O	K	C
G	N	R	L	W	R	J	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	K
F	N	D	A	B	G	B	I	A	E	D	S	B	L	O	U	J
D	H	E	A	F	R	F	G	T	Y	H	J	I	K	M	N	U
S	J	G	O	D	G	D	O	K	I	U	Q	A	D	F	H	H
E	L	Z	D	E	R	G	B	N	U	D	F	J	O	N	H	F

JESUS	ELIZABETH	SHEPHERDS
MARY	JOHN	INNKEEPER
JOSEPH	ZACHARIAS	ANGELS
GOD	GABRIEL	CAESAR AUGUSTUS



Central Presbyterian Church

6300 Trinity Drive
P.O. Box 1105
Pine Bluff, AR 71613
...a congregation of the
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
through Synod of the Sun and
the Presbytery of Arkansas.

Directory

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Reverend Jai D. Kwak
pastor@centralprespb.com

Secretary:

Justine Anton

Nursery Attendants:

Laura & Zac Cosner

Treasurer & Clerk of the Session:

Betty Coles

Presbyterian Women Moderator:

Kay Cromwell

SESSION

Class of 2017

Denise Mosley
Laura Cosner
Betty Coles (Clerk)
Weston Mosley

Class of 2018

Kay Cromwell
Mike Kelley
Lynda Vick
Bill VonTungeln

Standing Committee Moderators:

Betty Coles	Budget & Finance
Laura Cosner	Fellowship & Nurture
Kay Cromwell	Missions & Outreach
Mike Kelley	Building & Grounds
Denise Mosley	Education
Lynda Vick	Worship & Music

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the January issue of
Central Scene is Friday December 15,
2017. Please let us know if you would
like to continue your subscription by
emailing us at
office@centralprespb.com.

Lectionary Readings for January 2018

Sunday, January 7. The Baptism of the Lord (Year B)	Sunday, January 14. The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)	Sunday, January 21. The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)	Sunday, January 28. The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)
Genesis 1:1-5	1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 29:1-11	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Psalm 62:5-12	Psalm 111:1-10
Acts 19:1-7	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:4-11	John 1:43-51	Mark 1:14-20	Mark 1:21-28

Genesis 1:1-5

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	4 Noon Bible Study Evening Bible Study at 6:30	5	6
7	8	9 6:30 PM Session Member Training (Mandatory for New and Old Session Members)	10 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	11 Noon Bible Study Evening Bible Study at 6:30	12	13
14 Ordination/ Installation Service for the New Session Members	15	16	17 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	18 Noon Bible Study Evening Bible Study at 6:30	19	20
21 Fellowship Luncheon Session Meeting	22	23	24 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	25 Noon Bible Study Evening Bible Study at 6:30	26	27
28	29	30	31 Choir Practice 6:30 pm			

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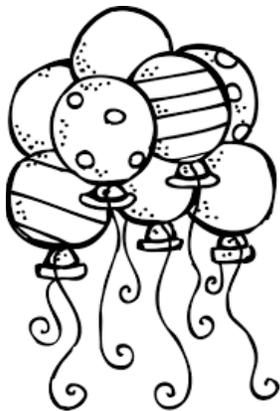
Evening Bible Study Thursdays at 6:30pm

Central Presbyterian Church

P.O Box 1105

Pine Bluff, AR 71603

Happy Birthday



- 05 *Hester Insley*
- 05 *Jemie Moseley*
- 09 *Logan Mosley*
- 09 *Weston Mosley*
- 10 *Benjimen Neal*
- 12 *Donald Walker*
- 19 *Tommy Dunlap*
- 19 *Randy Neal*
- 26 *Alexander Perdue*
- 27 *Avery Peyton*
- 28 *Weston Vick*



If you or a family member has been omitted or would like to be added to the Birthday and Anniversary list, please contact the church office.