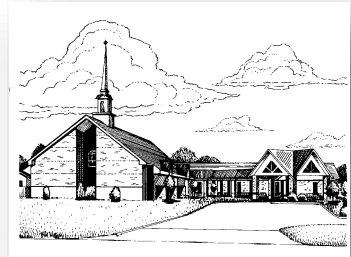


Central Scene

Central Presbyterian Church



Upcoming Events

March 12th

PW Circle 6:30 pm

March 18th

Fellowship Luncheon
Session Meeting

March 25th

Palm Sunday

March 29th

Maundy Thursday
Communion & Potluck 6:00 p.m.

March 30th

Good Friday Worship 7:00 p.m.

April 1st

Easter Sunday
Easter Breakfast 8:00 a.m.
Egg Hunt 9:00 a.m.
Easter Worship 10:00 a.m.

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**

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.

Central Presbyterian



Holy Week

March 25th

Palm Sunday

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship 11:00 a.m.

March 30th

Good Friday

Worship Service

7:00 p.m.

March 29th

Maundy Thursday

Communion & Potluck

6:00 p.m.

April 1st

Easter Sunday

Easter Breakfast 8:00 a.m.

Egg Hunt 9:00 a.m.

Easter Worship 10:00 a.m.

History of Hymns

“Rock of Ages”

Augustus Toplady

By Tim Challies

Augustus Toplady was born in England in 1740. His father was a Royal Marine and died on duty soon after his son’s birth, leaving the boy to be raised by his mother. Toplady had an interest in religion during his younger years, and showed this in spiritual journals and moralistic behavior. However, it wasn’t until his fifteenth year, while attending a Methodist revival in an Irish barn, that he felt “brought nigh to God.” It was at this point that he determined to go into ministry.

Having been converted under Methodism, Toplady initially aimed to become a Methodist minister. This changed, however, when he began to consider more closely the distinctions between Arminianism and Calvinism. The Methodist movement was decidedly Arminian, and Toplady, as an offspring of that movement, initially adopted that understanding. But, as [Louis Benson writes](#), after he studied the 39 Articles of the Church of England, he became convinced of the Calvinistic perspective and thus became a minister in the Church of England.

The issue of Calvinism versus Arminianism was a hot topic in the church in those days, and for the remainder of his life Toplady would write and debate on the subject, arguing at length (and at times viciously) for the doctrine of election. Unfortunately, towards the end of his short life, the debate grew increasingly ugly, resulting in a major and public rift between him and John Wesley that would never find resolution.

Toplady died in 1778 (aged 38) from tuberculosis. He never married, his life and ministry were short, and he certainly had his share of flaws. But God was pleased to use him to write a hymn that would so powerfully communicate the gospel and encourage the saints that his name and story have been preserved to this day.

“Rock of Ages”

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy wounded side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
save from wrath and make me pure.**

**Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law’s commands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.**

**Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.**

The Hymn

Toplady wrote a number of hymns in his life, but “Rock of Ages” is by far his most famous. When Benson wrote about it in 1923, he claimed it “is to-day in more church hymnals than is any other English hymn.” Not only is it well known among churchgoers, but it is also recognizable in popular culture. A 2006 Broadway musical about rock ‘n roll (and a corresponding Hollywood film in 2012) adopted the name “Rock of Ages.”

As for the hymn, the first stanza appeared in public in 1775 in a periodical called *The Gospel Magazine* (a periodical which, incredibly, is still in print!). The full version of the hymn was printed the following year in Toplady’s book *Psalms and Hymns for Public and Private Worship*.

There is a common story of the hymn being inspired by (and even written from within) a rock cleft that Toplady once took refuge in during a storm. The particular rock is in Burrington Combe gorge in North Somerset, England, and it has a plaque on it with this claim to fame. However, the story is probably apocryphal.

As Benson persuasively argues, Toplady was most likely inspired to write the hymn after reading the preface of John and Charles Wesley’s *Hymns on the Lord’s Supper* (1745) which contains a prayer voicing many of the themes and words that are also found in the hymn. This is ironic, given the poor condition of Toplady’s relationship with John Wesley; but one can perhaps see the hand of God in it.

Regardless of where and how Toplady got his inspiration, the hymn is a blessing. For generations it has remained a solid testimony to the powerful sacrifice of our Savior and a great encouragement to saints around the world. May God continue its influence, and grant us many more songs with such enduring legacies.



Central Women

Upcoming events for all Central women:
Saturday, July 14--Brunch at Margland--\$15.
Tuesday, December 11--Dinner at Margland--cost unknown
at this time

More details as the dates are closer.

Trinity Village Assisted Living

Betty Coles has been designated as your "go to" person for Central Presbyterian Church. If you are interested in Assisted Living at Trinity Village or you know someone who may be interested but hesitant to make a phone call, she will be more than happy to meet with you or that person and/or go with you on a tour of the facility. Three of our church members are now enjoying the Assisted Living at Trinity Village – Mildred Gaunt, Bonnie Rawls, and Bea Magee.

Most of you are aware that the Assisted Living is not a brand-new facility, but one that has been expanded. And the expansion was done along with the addition of the new Rehabilitation Center. And you know, also, that Central is one of the five sponsoring churches of Trinity Village.

We are very proud to be a part of Trinity Village. Please contact Betty Coles (501)-535-3729 for more information.

Gifts to the Church

In Loving Memory of Billy Ray VonTungeln

Mildred Guant
Walter & Bernice Collins
Karen Perdue
Jimmie Moseley
Zac & Laura Cosner
NCTR Division of Biochemical
Administrative East Employee Assoc.
Bob & Linda Hunt
Peter & Linda Fu
Lawrence Mayor
Mike & Becky Hall
Dennis Ruby Hall
Betty Coles
Ann Woolley
Jimmy & Sheila Horn
Cathy & Douglas Donald

Richard W. & Kim Brown
Nelson Buchanan
Bea Magee
David & Patricia King

In Loving Memory of Bonner Grier Davis, Jr.

Jimmy & Sheila Horn
Rose Von Tungeln
Betty Coles
Ann Woolley
Lawrence Fikes
Sarah Clifton

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

Office Number (870) 879-9074
Email: office@centralprespb.com
Website: www.centralprespb.com

Pastor:

Reverend Jai D. Kwak
pastor@centralprespb.com

Secretary:

Justine Anton

Nursery Attendants:

Laura & Zac Cosner

Treasurer & Clerk of the Session:

Zac Cosner

Presbyterian Women Moderator:

Kay Cromwell

Session

Class of 2018

Kay Cromwell
Mike Kelley
Lynda Vick
Karen Perdue

Class of 2019

Zac Cosner
George Mosley
Brad VonTungeln
Logan Mosley

Standing Committee Moderators:

Zac Cosner	Budget & Finance
Zac Cosner	Fellowship & Nurture
Kay Cromwell	Missions & Outreach
George Mosley	Building & Grounds
Logan Mosley	Education
Lynda Vick	Worship & Music

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the April issue of Central Scene is Friday March 19, 2018. Please let us know if you would like to continue your subscription by emailing us at office@centralprespb.com.

The Easter Story



Most of the crowd spread their coats on the road ahead of Jesus, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.
Matthew 21:8



Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests and asked, "How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?" And they gave him thirty pieces of silver.
Matthew 26:14-15



As they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and asked God's blessing on it. Then he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples, saying, "Take it and eat it for this is my body."
Matthew 26:26



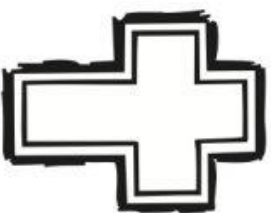
Peter declared, "Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will." Peter: Jesus replied, "The truth is, this very night before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times."
Matthew 26:33-34



He went on a little farther and fell face down on the ground, praying. "My Father! If it is possible, let this cup of suffering be taken away from me. Yet I want your will, not mine."
Matthew 26:39



The soldiers made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on his head, and they put a royal purple robe on him.
John 19:2



Then the soldiers nailed him to the cross.
Mark 15:24a



They gambled for his clothes, throwing dice to decide who would get them.
Mark 15:24b



Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long linen cloth. He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance as he left.
Matthew 27:59-60



He isn't here! He has been raised from the dead, just as he said would happen. Come, see where his body was lying.
Matthew 28:6

Lectionary Readings for March 2018

Third Sunday in Lent—March 4, 2018	Fourth Sunday in Lent—March 11	Fifth Sunday in Lent—March 18	Passion/Palm Sunday—March 25
Exodus 20:1–17	Numbers 21:4–9	Jeremiah 31:31–34	Liturgy of the Palms
Psalm 19	Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22	Psalm 51:1–12 or Psalm 119:9–16	Mark 11:1–11 or John 12:12–16
1 Corinthians 1:18–25	Ephesians 2:1–10	Hebrews 5:5–10	Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29
John 2:13–22	John 3:14–21	John 12:20–33	Liturgy of the Passion

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 “Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, 32 not like the covenant which I made with their fathers when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant which they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33 But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it upon their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34 And no longer shall each man teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

March 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 No Bible Study this week.	2	3
4	5	6	7 No Choir Practice this week.	8 No Bible Study this week.	9	10
11	12 PW Circle 6:30 pm	13	14 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	15 Noon Bible Study Evening Bible Study at 6:30	16	17
18 Fellowship Luncheon Session Meeting	19	20	21 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	22 Noon Bible Study Evening Bible Study at 6:30	23	24
25 Palm Sunday	26	27	28 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	29 Maundy Thursday Communion & Potluck 6:00pm	30 Good Friday Service 7:00pm	31

Events:

March 12th

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March 18th

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March 29th

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6:00pm

March 30th

Good Friday Service
7:00pm

Sunday School 9:30 AM

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

**Choir Practice
Wednesdays at 6:30pm**

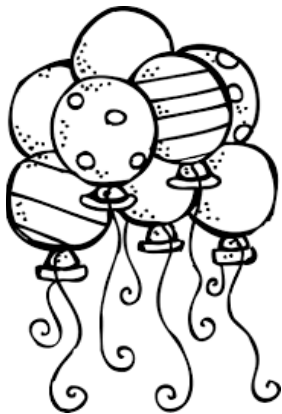
**Noon Bible Study
Thursdays**

**Evening Bible Study
Thursdays at 6:30pm**

Central Presbyterian Church

P.O Box 1105

Pine Bluff, AR 71603



Happy Birthday!

- 06 *Dana Neal*
- 16 *Emma Massey*
- 18 *Nina Reeves*
- 23 *Bea Magee*
- 25 *Mary Shannon Fikes*
- 26 *Sydney Hayes*
- 28 *Carol Brown*



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.