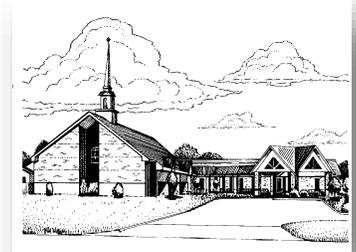


Central Scene

Central Presbyterian Church



Upcoming Events

April 1st

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

April 15th

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

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

Do you believe in the resurrection? Do you believe that Jesus really was raised from the dead, physically? There was a time when this question about the resurrection did really matter. The answers to this question determined your identity. You believe in the resurrection, then you called yourself a Christian. And if you didn't then you were not a Christian. There were clear boundaries between the faith and unbelief.

We now are living in an age where there are no clear boundaries. Everything is acceptable. Everything is tolerable if it is right for each person. We are in a culture that no one can tell others what to believe because in this culture each belief is valid in their own way. They say that the truth is subjective. The truth often is obscure than the reality. So, what others believe doesn't really matter. Even in the Christian society, some people feel that it doesn't really matter whether you believe in the resurrection or not because different people believe different things. Maybe it happened. Maybe it didn't. No matter what had happened, and no matter however you believe, as long as it helps you get along with your life, that is fine. I am a Christian because I have my name on a membership roll of a church. And I do not think anybody should bother to tell me what I should believe because what others believe does not really matter to me. Truth to me is what I find acceptable and helpful. I can still be a Christian without believing the resurrection because Jesus' teaching about life is helpful to me.

But it does matter. It does really matter whether you believe in His resurrection or not. Your belief in Jesus Christ and His resurrection does matters because it is the gospel that was preached to you, and by that Gospel, you are saved. Jesus' life, death and resurrection, everything that He taught, did, and happened to Him including the resurrection matters, because Jesus in entirety, not just His teachings, not just the death on the cross, but His whole life here on earth that was concluded by the resurrection is the only way to the truth and life. Your life hangs on that truth. It is the matter of life and death.

(From the sermon for the Resurrection Sunday)

History of Hymns

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

Charles Wesley

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today” is a classic Easter hymn by the great hymn writer Charles Wesley. It first appeared in a collection by John and Charles Wesley called Hymns and Sacred Poems (1739) without the "alleluia's," which were added in the early 19th century.

Only a few other minor changes have been made since that time. The six stanzas that appear in The UM Hymnal have been adapted from the original 11; stanzas six, seven, eight and nine have been left out entirely. The current second stanza is actually the first couplet of the original second stanza and the last couplet of the original third stanza.

One other change of note occurred in the second line of the first stanza, which has been altered from "Sons of men and angels say" to "Earth and heaven in chorus say." Though altered for inclusive language purposes, this change actually gives more emphasis to the metaphor in the second line that describes heaven and earth in chorus -- now they are antiphonal, with heaven singing and the reply coming back from earth.

Charles Wesley has written a hymn in praise of the power of Christ. The hymn begins with both heaven and earth singing in praise of Christ having won the battle and defeated death. The praise continues in the second stanza where

“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”

**¹ “Christ the Lord is risen today!”
Alleluia!**

**All creation, join to say:
Alleluia!**

**Raise your joys and triumphs high,
Alleluia!**

**Sing, O heavens, and earth reply,
Alleluia!**

**² Love’s redeeming work is done,
Alleluia!**

**Fought the fight, the battle won,
Alleluia!**

**Death in vain forbids him rise,
Alleluia!**

**Christ has opened paradise.
Alleluia!**

**³ Lives again our glorious King,
Alleluia!**

**Where, O death, is now your sting?
Alleluia!**

**Jesus died, our souls to save,
Alleluia!**

**Where your victory, O grave?
Alleluia!**

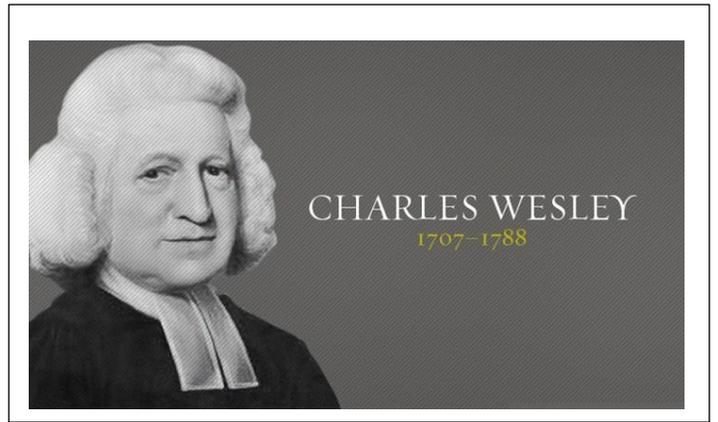
**⁴ Hail the Lord of earth and heaven!
Alleluia!**

**Praise to you by both be given,
Alleluia!**

**Every knee to you shall bow,
Alleluia!**

**Risen Christ, triumphant now.
Alleluia!**

Wesley first refers to Christ as "Love" and "redeemer." He quotes Paul's letter to the Corinthians (15:55) where Paul is taunting death: "Where O Death is now thy sting? Where's thy victory boasting grave?" The next stanza answers the question and says that we have the same power, if we follow Christ.



A striking feature of the hymn is that its text is written in the present tense. "Christ the Lord is risen today" -- not "has risen" or "rose." This is powerful because it places us in community with those who witnessed the resurrection in their own lifetimes, and reaffirms our own hope of being set free from death. "Made like him, like him we rise" -- also stated in the present tense -- conveys a hope that brings God's power and new life now, lifting us from our current situation of "death" and into everlasting life.

Hope? Now? Is Wesley saying that Christ's hope is now? And if so what does this mean for the suffering, the oppressed, the abused and the lost? Is Wesley calling us to action? If we follow the example of our "exalted head," will it take us to "the cross, the grave, the skies?" Alleluia, it will! I think he is calling us to action! The skies are exciting, but we also need to be willing to follow Christ to the cross and the grave even if we know that we will be triumphant over them.

The final stanza declares that if we are indeed made like Christ and we follow his example, then we can know everlasting life (John 3:16). This is our ultimate hope -- present, past and future. This is so empowering to us and to others, to know that Christ died for us, and that his power enables us to overcome suffering and death just like he did. "Thus to sing and thus to love, Alleluia."

Peyton Strouth is a master of sacred music candidate at Perkins School of Theology and a student of Dr. C. Michael Hawn.

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

Richard W. & Kim Brown
Nelson Buchanan
Bea Magee
David & Patricia King
Lynda Vick
Kay & Jay Cromwell

In Loving Memory of Valerie Reichen. Beverly Redler

In Loving Memory of Bonner Grier Davis, Jr. Suzy VonTungeln Central Women Lynda Vick Kay & Jay Cromwell

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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Website: www.centralprespb.com

Pastor:

Reverend Jai D. Kwak
pastor@centralprespb.com

Secretary:

Justine Anton

Nursery Attendants:

Laura & Zac Cosner

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 May issue of Central Scene is April 22, 2018. Please let us know if you would like to continue your subscription by emailing us at office@centralprespb.com.

**HE HAS
RISEN!**



Lectionary Readings for April 2018

Resurrection of the Lord / Easter—April 1	2nd Sunday of Easter—April 8	3rd Sunday of Easter—April 15	4th Sunday of Easter—April 22 Psalm 23	5th Sunday of Easter—April 29
Acts 10:34–43 or Isaiah 25:6–9	Acts 4:32–35	Acts 3:12–19	Acts 4:5–12	Acts 8:26–40
Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24	Psalm 133	Psalm 4	Psalm 23	Psalms 22:25–31
1 Corinthians 15:1–11 or Acts 10:34–43	1 John 1:1–2:2	1 John 3:1–7	1 John 3:16–24	1 John 4:7–21
John 20:1–18 or Mark 16:1–8	John 20:19–31	Luke 24:36b–48	John 10:11–18	John 15:1–8

Isaiah 25:6-9

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wine on the lees well refined. ⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸ He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth; for the LORD has spoken.

⁹ It will be said on that day, “Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the LORD; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Easter Breakfast 8:00 a.m. Egg Hunt 9:00 a.m. Easter Worship 10:00 a.m.	2	3	4 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	5 Noon Bible Study Evening Bible Study at 6:30	6	7
8	9 PW Circle 6:30 pm	10	11 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	12 Noon Bible Study Evening Bible Study at 6:30	13	14
15 Fellowship Luncheon Session Meeting	16	17	18 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	19 Noon Bible Study Evening Bible Study at 6:30	20	21
22	23	24	25 Choir Practice 6:30 pm	26 Noon Bible Study Evening Bible Study at 6:30	27	28
29	30					

Events:

April 1st

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

April 9th

PW Circle

April 16th

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

Central Presbyterian Church

P.O Box 1105

Pine Bluff, AR 71603



Happy Birthday!

01 Emil Brown
04 Karen Perdue
05 Ann Woolley
05 Suzy VonTungeln
09 James Hayes
19 Connie Detmers
20 Hayley Chandler



Happy Anniversary!

20 Mr. and Mrs. Paul Perdue

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.