

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.



Upcoming Events

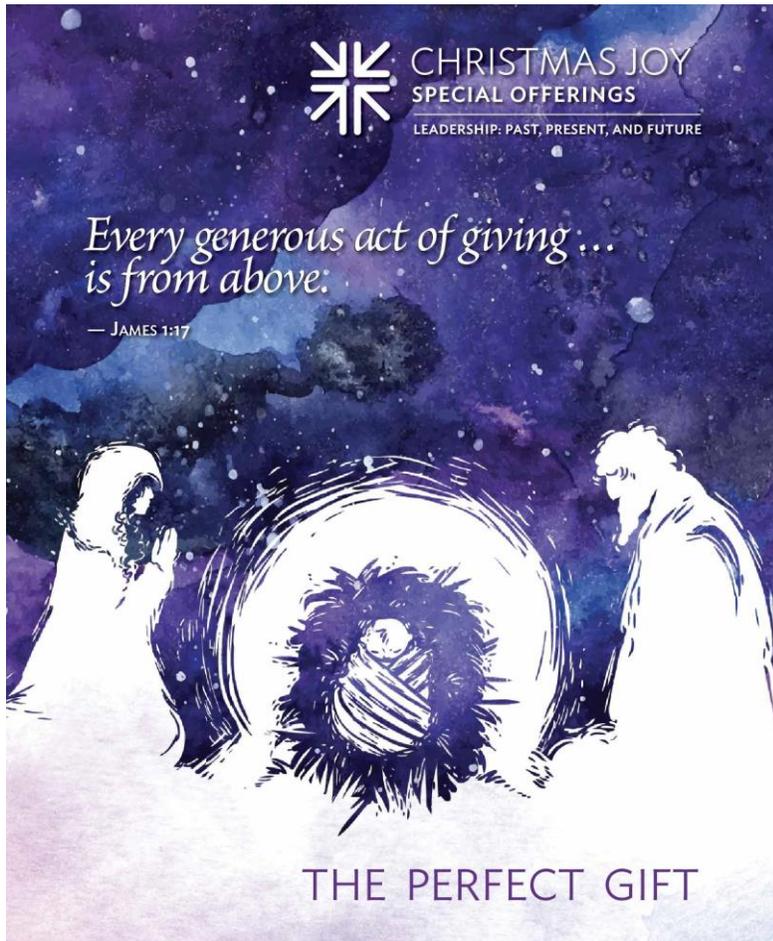
Tuesday December 11th @ 6:30 pm: Presbyterian Women's Christmas Dinner will be held @ Margland's the cost is \$22 per person & a sign-up sheet is available in the fellowship hall.

Our Christmas Eve Evening Service will be held at 3:30 pm.

We were also asked to consider sponsoring 4 or more children for Christmas with cash donation of \$60 per child. This will insure the child will have toys under the tree on Christmas Morning.

Sunday School 9:45 AM

Choir Practice Wednesdays at 6:30pm



Information on how to give to the Christmas Joy Offering is on page 2.

A Perfect Gift this Advent Season

In the lead up to Christmas, many of us spend time in search of the perfect gift — the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know and love them. We search our memories for indications of what gift might cause the faces of our loved ones to light up. We scour the stores and shops, hoping to come across the thing that will communicate a depth of love that our words cannot.

As important as gifts to loved ones are, we have an opportunity to give gifts that help many people we do not know through the Christmas Joy Offering. These gifts in particular draw us back to the manger and God's perfect gift to us — Jesus Christ.

Jesus came to live among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. A perfect gift from a gracious God.

During this Christmas and Advent Season, we celebrate leadership; past, present and future through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. We do so because church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith, walking with us down the path to be more like Jesus. We want those church leaders and their families who find themselves grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need which are provided through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. We also support the offering to help our future leaders in the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Supporting these students helps the whole church develop leaders who reflect the wideness of God's intended diversity.

For those supported through the Christmas Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above. May our gifts, and the leaders who receive them, point us always to the truth of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus Christ — the truly perfect gift.

Please give generously:

- * Through when we receive the Offering
- * Text JOY to 20222 to give \$10
- * presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy

To learn more about the Christmas Joy Offering, please visit: * Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions: www.pensions.org, click on Plans & Programs

* Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges:
www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/resc/

History of Hymns

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” Charles Wesley

For countless Christians around the world, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” signals the beginning of Advent.

It was first published in 1744 in Charles Wesley’s Hymns for the Nativity of Our Lord, a little collection so popular that it was reprinted 20 times during Wesley’s lifetime. Published in two eight-line stanzas, this hymn is now generally sung in the Advent season rather than during the nativity of Christ as the title of the collection indicates.

The Wesleys published several small collections of hymn texts that were affordable for a wider number of people. They were usually on themes associated with a particular season of the Christian year or the sacraments. These volumes offered a way to disseminate Methodist theology and enhance the personal devotional life of those in the Society. The collections also provided a corpus of songs to sing together when the Society gathered.

Interestingly enough, “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” appeared in an American Methodist hymnal in 1847, nearly 30 years before it was included in a British Methodist hymnal. Only the rare North American hymnal omits this hymn now. It is part of the fabric of our preparations for the Incarnation.

“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” has the quality of a petition—a prayer that implores Christ to be among us.

Imperative verbs are used six times in the two stanzas found in the hymnal: “Come, thou long-expected Jesus”;

“From our fears and sins release us”; “Let us find our rest in thee”;

“Now thy gracious kingdom bring”;

“Rule in all our hearts alone”; “Raise us to thy glorious throne.” The cumulative effect of these petitions is a tone of supplication. Wesley succeeds in recalling the deep longing of ancient Israel for the Messiah—the Promised One.

He also draws upon another cumulative technique, the repetition of a single word for effect. In this case it is the word “born” which appears four times. Each time “born” is sung, an aspect of Jesus’ mission to a troubled world is revealed: “Born to set thy people free”; “Born thy people to deliver”; “Born a child and yet a king”; “Born to reign in us forever.”

British hymnologist J.R. Watson notes that this hymn’s “uniqueness comes from its skillful conjunction of several elements into one simple-sounding discourse. Those elements include the Old Testament promise of the Messiah, ‘Israel’s strength and consolation’ who has been long expected and who will set his people free; the New Testament story of the birth of the child who is also a king (Matthew 2:6); and the idea of the Christ-child not only as the strength and consolation of Israel, but also the hope of all the earth, a Christ who is born for the Gentiles as well as the Jews.”

While many hymns of the Advent and Christmas season recount parts of the narrative of the Christmas story, Charles Wesley offers us a poetic theological discourse that allows us to apply the story of Christmas to our lives. Perhaps the greatest example of this is to be found in Wesley’s famous Christmas hymn “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”—a hymn that moves theologically well beyond recounting the story of Christ’s birth to an exploration of its meaning.

Although we live in a different time than Charles Wesley, the longings of people’s hearts are just as deep. We long for security, love, relationships, meaning. To those who open themselves up to its message, this hymn identifies with that longing at the deepest levels of our existence. Where there is no longing, there can be little meaning. Hope is central to Christian experience.

And where will our longing, our hopeful waiting lead us? Where is the ultimate home of our hope? In the final line Wesley takes us there: “Raise us to thy glorious throne.”

Dr. Hawn is professor of sacred music at Perkins School of Theology, SMU.

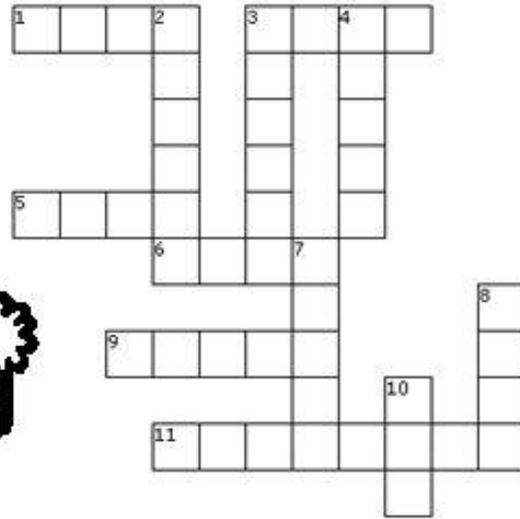
“Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”

Charles Wesley

- 1. Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**
- 2. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

The Good Shepherd

John 10:11-18 (NIV)



ACROSS

1. Wild animal that looks like a dog and hunts in packs
3. The period from birth to death
5. A strong feeling of affection
6. Goes faster than walking
9. What we use to speak
11. One who takes care of the sheep

DOWN

2. The male parent
3. To hear or pay attention to something
4. A group of sheep herded together
7. Woolly animals which are similar to goats
8. The opposite of bad
10. A small place where animals are kept

Words Used

good	sheep	runs	listen
shepherd	wolf	father	pen
life	flock	voice	love



Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to help decorate the church for the Advent season. We will decorate the morning of Saturday, December 1st. Time to be announced soon.

Upcoming Events

Our Christmas Eve Evening Service will be held at 3:30 pm.

Choir News

If you have a favorite hymn that you would like to see included in the Worship Service, please tell Laura Cosner.

Do you know someone who knows how to play the organ? The Choir is in search of an Organist who is available to play on Sunday mornings and at choir practice on Wednesday Nights. Contact Lynda Vick if you or someone you know is interested.

Central Women News

Tuesday December 11th @ 6:30 pm: Presbyterian Women's Christmas Dinner will be held @ Margland's the cost is \$22 per person & a sign-up sheet is available in the fellowship hall.

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

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
Karen Perdue
Lynda Vick
Laura Cosner

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 January issue of Central Scene December 17, 2018. Please let us know if you would like to continue your subscription by emailing us at office@centralprespb.com.

**Lectionary Readings for
December 2018**

1st Sunday of Advent—December 2

Jeremiah 33:14–16

Psalm 25:1–10

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

Luke 21:25–36

2nd Sunday of Advent—December 9

Malachi 3:1–4

Luke 1:68–79

Philippians 1:3–11

Luke 3:1–6

3rd Sunday of Advent—December 16

Zephaniah 3:14–20

Isaiah 12:2–6

Philippians 4:4–7

Luke 3:7–18

4th Sunday of Advent—December 23

Micah 5:2–5a

Luke 1:46–55 or Psalm 80:1–7

Hebrews 10:5–10

Luke 1:39–45 (46–55)

Christmas Eve—December 24

Isaiah 9:2–7

Psalm 96:1–13

Titus 2:11–14

Luke 2:1–14 (15–20)

Nativity of the Lord Christmas—December 25

Christmas Dawn

Isaiah 62:6–12

Psalm 97:1–12

Titus 3:4–7

Luke 2:(1–7) 8–20

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7–10

Psalm 98:1–9

Hebrews 1:1–4 (5–12)

John 1:1–14

1st Sunday after Christmas Day—December 30

1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26

Psalm 148

Colossians 3:12–17

Luke 2:41–52



In Loving Memory of

Doris McCoy

Jimmy & Sheila Horn

Karen & David Perdue

Rose VonTungeln

Lawrence & Mary Shannon Fikes

Betty Coles

Ann Woolley

David & Jane Judkins

Jemmie Moseley

Suzy VonTungeln

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5 Choir Practice 6:30pm	6	7	8
9	10 Women's Circle Meeting	11 PW Christmas Dinner 6:30	12 Choir Practice 6:30pm	13	14	15
16 Fellowship Luncheon / Session Meeting	17	18	19 Choir Practice 6:30pm	20	21	22
23	24 Christmas Eve Service 3:30	25 Christmas	26 Choir Practice 6:30pm	27	28	29
30	31					

Events:

Tuesday December 11th @ 6:30 pm:

Presbyterian Women's Christmas Dinner will be held @ Margland's the cost is \$22 per person & a sign-up sheet is available in the fellowship hall.

December 16th

Fellowship Luncheon
Session Meeting

**Our Christmas Eve
Evening Service will be
held at 3:30 pm.**

Sunday School 9:30 AM

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

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

Central Presbyterian Church

P.O Box 1105

Pine Bluff, AR 71603

Happy Birthday

*01 Kodee Vick
04 Mary Light
06 Lan Kelly
11 Sheila Horn
11 Bernice Collins
17 Denise Moseley
28 Chris Walker
30 Rich Cromwell*

Happy Anniversary

*01 Sheila & Jimmy Horn
28 Jane & David Judkins*

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.