

Central Scene

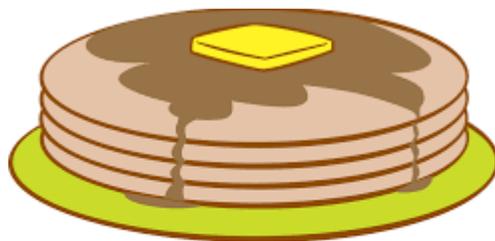
Central Presbyterian Church

Church Mission Statement

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

Church Membership

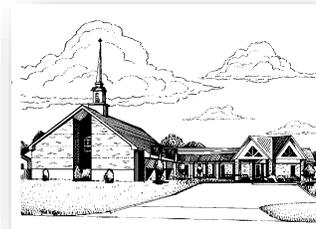
Membership in Central Presbyterian Church is open to all who profess faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. New members will be received upon baptism and profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or by letter of transfer.



SHROVE TUESDAY

February 25th, is the Annual Shrove Tue. Pancake Supper at 5:30 pm. The Men of the Church will be cooking Bacon, Sausage, and of course, Pancakes. It will be \$8.00 per person. We hope to see you there!

Shrove Tuesday gets its name from the ritual of shriving, when the faithful confessed their sins to the local priest and received forgiveness before the Lenten season began. As far back as 1000 AD, "to shrive" meant to hear confessions. Historically, Shrove Tuesday marks the beginning of the 40-day Lenten fasting period.



Upcoming Events

CPC Women's Circle meets on Monday February 10th at 6:30 p.m.

Valentines Banquet is Sunday Feb.16th following the worship service. This will take the place of the third Sunday fellowship luncheon. The cost of the banquet is \$6 per person and kids eat free. Proceeds will go toward the youth fund.

Our Lent Activities start with our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday February 25th at 5:30pm. Pancakes will be \$8 per person and will benefit our Men's Group. Ash Wednesday service will be on February 26th at 6pm.

Central's Commissioners to Trinity Village for 2020 are Rev. Tim Reeves, Zac Cosner, Connie Detmers, Jane Judkins, George Mosley, Linda Vick. If you are interested in Trinity Village please feel free to ask one of our commissioners!..

Sunday School 9:45 am

Young Adults Sunday School 9:45 am

Ash Wednesday Services

On February 26th, Ash Wednesday Services will be held at 6 p.m. All are invited to attend.

Ash Wednesday begins the day after Shrove Tuesday and is the first day of Lent as celebrated by Western Churches. For 14 centuries the season of Lent has been a time for self-examination and penitence in preparation for Easter. The name comes from the Saxon lengten-tide, referring to the lengthening of the days and the coming of spring. This 40-day period of abstinence recalls the fasts of Moses, Elijah, and Jesus, all of which—according to scripture—lasted 40 days.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

MORE THAN 29 YEARS AGO, the Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group:

“Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Central Presbyterian Church has collected over \$1,200 for Neighbor to Neighbor of Pine Bluff through our work with the Souper Bowl of Caring since 2011. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around the Big Game into the nation’s largest celebration of giving and serving.

Through this mission, young people learn what it’s like to make a positive difference in the world – as they collect food, raise money and volunteer to work in charities that provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to those in need.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God’s love with those in need. The Souper Bowl of Caring will take place on Souper Bowl Sunday, February 2nd. This year all donations collected will again support the work of Neighbor to Neighbor of Pine Bluff.

February 2020

| 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 6:30 p.m. | 11 | 12 Choir Practice 6:30pm | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 Valentines Banquet / Session Meeting | 17 | 18 | 19 Choir Practice 6:30pm | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 Shrove Tuesday 5.30 | 26 Ash Wednesday 6:00 Choir Practice | 27 | 28 | |

Events:

**CPC Women's
Circle meets on
Monday February.
10th at 6:30 p.m.**

February 16th
Valentine's Banquet
Session Meeting

February 25th
Shrove Tuesday 5:30

February 26th
Ash Wednesday 6:00

Sunday School 9:30 AM

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

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

Lectionary Readings

February 2020

Sunday, February 2

Micah 6:1–8

Psalm 15

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

Matthew 5:1–12

Sunday, February 9

Isaiah 58:1–9a [9b–12]

Psalm 112:1–9 [10]

1 Corinthians 2:1–12 [13–16]

Matthew 5:13–20

Sunday, February 16

Deuteronomy 30:15–20 or Sirach

15:15–20

Psalm 119:1–8

1 Corinthians 3:1–9

Matthew 5:21–37

Transfiguration of the Lord—

February 23

Exodus 24:12–18

Psalm 2 or Psalm 99

2 Peter 1:16–21

Matthew 17:1–9

Ash Wednesday—February 26

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 or Isaiah 58:1–12

Psalm 51:1–17

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

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

Soundboard Operators:

Zac Cosner

George Mosley

Presbyterian Women Moderator:

Kay Cromwell

Class of 2020

Laura Cosner

Suzy VonTungeln

Denise Mosley

Jemmie Moseley

Session Class of 2021

Zac Cosner

George Mosley

Danny Reeves

Brad VonTungeln

Clerk of Session - Zac Cosner

Budget & Finance - Zac Cosner

Fellowship & Education

- Suzy VonTungeln

Missions & Outreach - Denise Mosley

Building & Grounds

George Mosley & Danny Reeves

Worship & Music –

Laura Cosner & Jemmie Moseley

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the March issue of Central Scene is February 21. Please let us know if you would like to continue your subscription by emailing us at office@centralprespb.com.

History of Hymns

“Precious Lord”

by Thomas Dorsey

Many hymns are conceived in the throes of tragedy. "Precious Lord" was written in Chicago in 1932 following the death of Thomas Dorsey's wife Nettie and infant son during childbirth.

Dorsey (1899-1993) was born in Georgia. His father was a Baptist preacher, and his mother a piano teacher. Known as the "Father of Black Gospel Music," Dorsey combined African American church hymns such as those by Methodist minister, Charles A. Tindley (1851-1933), with blues and jazz. This "worldly" combination was not without controversy at first, but set the tone for gospel music for decades to come.

Born in Villa Rica, Georgia, Dorsey was reared in Atlanta from the age of five, where he came in contact with the musical sounds of the blues. He moved to Chicago in 1915 and studied at the Chicago College of Composition and Arranging and began playing in nightclubs under a variety of names as a young man, including, "Georgia Tom," "Texas Tommy" and "Barrelhouse Tom." Dorsey started to play rent parties — house parties in which tenants would hire a musician or band to play for a party and pass the hat to raise money to pay their rent. The rent party played a major role in the development of jazz and blues music.

Dorsey put together the "Wild Cats Jazz Band" to play for Ma Rainey in 1925. His wife, Nettie, was Rainey's wardrobe mistress. After suffering a severe illness in 1926, Dorsey was converted in 1928 and became active in Pilgrim Baptist Church in Chicago. Beginning in 1932, he served as the church's choir director for forty years. Of his 1,000 musical works, at least 200 were gospel songs. He promoted the gospel song through the formation of the National Association of Gospel Choirs and Choruses, serving as the organization's president. Black musicians during the pre-Civil Rights era often formed their own publishing companies in order to make their music available. He began the Thomas A. Dorsey Gospel Song Music Publishing Company, a publisher of inexpensive gospel blues music.

Even though he had hundreds of jazz and blues songs to his credit, he turned to gospel music, one of the first to use that term, following the tragic death of Nettie and their infant son in 1932. Dorsey provides an account of the circumstances surrounding the composition of this famous song:

| |
|---|
| “Precious Lord” |
| by Thomas Dorsey |
| ¹ Precious Lord, take my hand, |
| lead me on, help me stand, |
| I am tired, I am weak, I am worn; |
| Through the storm, through the night, |
| lead me on to the light: |
| Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home. |
| When my way grows drear, |
| precious Lord, linger near; |
| when my life is almost gone, |
| hear my cry, hear my call, |
| hold my hand lest I fall; |
| take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home. |

"Back in 1932 I was 32 years old and a fairly new husband. My wife, Nettie and I were living in a little apartment on Chicago's Southside. One hot August afternoon I had to go to St. Louis, where I was to be the featured soloist at a large revival meeting. I didn't want to go. Nettie was in the last month of pregnancy with our first child. But a lot of people were expecting me in St. Louis. . . .

". . . In the steaming St. Louis heat, the crowd called on me to sing again and again. When I finally sat down, a messenger boy ran up with a Western Union telegram. I ripped open the envelope. Pasted on the yellow sheet were the words: YOUR WIFE JUST DIED. . . .

"When I got back, I learned that Nettie had given birth to a boy. I swung between grief and joy. Yet that night, the baby died. I buried Nettie and our little boy together, in the same casket. Then I fell apart. For days I closeted myself. I felt that God had done me an injustice. I didn't want to serve Him any more or write gospel songs. I just wanted to go back to that jazz world I once knew so well. . .

"But still I was lost in grief. Everyone was kind to me, especially a friend, Professor Frye, who seemed to know what I needed. On the following Saturday evening he took me up to Malone's Poro College, a neighborhood music school. It was quiet; the late evening sun crept through the curtained windows. I sat down at the piano, and my hands began to browse over the keys."

Dorsey remembered an old pentatonic (five-note) melody from his Sunday School days, MAITLAND (The United Methodist Hymnal, No. 424) by George Allen (1812-1877), paired with the text "Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone." Arranging this tune and adding his own words, "Precious Lord" became the most famous of his many gospel songs. He gave the song to Frye who introduced it to the choir at Atlanta's Ebenezer Baptist Church the next Sunday, an event that, Dorsey later remarked, "tore up the church." Martin Luther King, Sr. was the pastor of Ebenezer at this time, beginning his ministry there in 1931.

The three stanzas capture the grief not only of Dorsey, but also of any who have suffered significant loss. The incipit or opening line of stanza one, "Precious Lord, take my hand. . . .," indicates a suffering soul that is reaching out. The singer acknowledges that they are at the end of their rope: "I'm tired, I'm weak, I'm worn." Perhaps Dorsey was referring to Matthew 28:23-27, the narrative where Christ stills the storm, when he penned, "Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light."

Stanza two draws upon the imagery of a journey, one in which the "way grows drear." The traveler cries out, and once again reaches for the hand of Christ. The third stanza begins, "When the darkness appears," reminiscent of Psalm 23:4: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death . . ." By the time we reach the third stanza, the terrain has changed from a stormy sea (stanza one), a long road (stanza two), to a river of hope (stanza three). Upon singing, "at the river I stand," the singer reaches at last the final destination, the symbolic Jordan River. Each stanza concludes effectively with the refrain, "Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home," perhaps an image of the Good Shepherd in the Gospel of John.

"Precious Lord" has been recorded by many famous singers including Elvis Presley, Mahalia Jackson, Roy Rogers, and Tennessee Ernie Ford. Martin Luther King Jr. drew inspiration from this, his favorite song. It was sung at the rally in Memphis the night before the civil-rights leader's assassination. President Lyndon B. Johnson requested that "Precious Lord" be sung at his funeral.

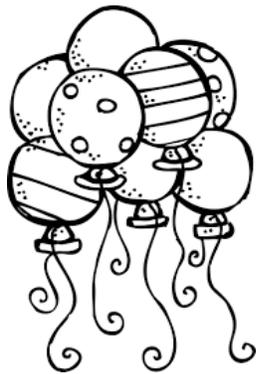
C. Michael Hawn is University Distinguished Professor of Church Music, Perkins School of Theology, SMU.

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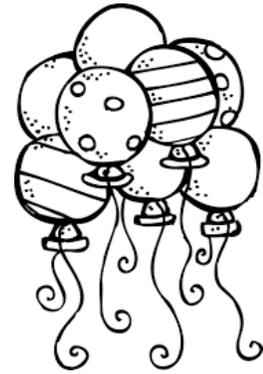
P.O Box 1105

Pine Bluff, AR 71603

Happy Birthday



12 *Darren Reeves*
17 *Adam Vick*
19 *Zac Cosner*
21 *David Perdue, Jr.*
23 *Hollis Hughes*



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.