

Welcome to Central Presbyterian Church, where we come together to celebrate God's love, nurture growth, share our faith and serve the needs of others. This congregation opens wide its doors and hearts and welcomes all in the name of Jesus Christ.

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Session

<u>Class of 2019</u>	<u>Class of 2020</u>
Zac Cosner	Laura Cosner
George Mosley	Suzy VonTungeln
Brad VonTungeln	Denise Mosley
Logan Mosley	Jemmie Moseley

Standing Committee Moderators:

Zac Cosner	Budget & Finance
Suzy VonTungeln	Fellowship & Nurture
Jemmie Moseley	Missions & Outreach
George Mosley	Building & Grounds
Denise Mosley	Education
Laura Cosner	Worship & Music

Announcements

Central's Session has postponed in person worship through the end of May. A decision about future in person worship will be made at that time. Follow us on social media, or check out our website www.centralprespb.com, for more information.

Congratulations to our graduating seniors... Logan Mosley, Weston Mosley, Lyndzie Sanchez, and Kodee Vick. We are so proud of you all!!

The deadlines for the Jr. High Jubilee and the Montreat Youth Celebration (for Sr. High Students), offered by the Presbytery of Arkansas, have extended their deadlines for registration. Both trips have a few openings left. If you have an interested youth, please contact Zac Cosner.

Ferncliff is asking for your recipes for a cookbook fundraiser! Check their Facebook, <http://www.facebook.com/ferncliffcamp>, for more information.

Archives of our Online Services can be found on Facebook and YouTube! Links to each are on our website, CentralPrespb.com

CPC now has onlive giving available! Check out our website www.centralprespb.com and look for the "Donate Now" Link. We take credit cards, debit cards and checks! You can also set up recurring donations (Weekly, Bi-Weekly or Monthly).



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
6300 Trinity Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Sunday, May 17, 2020
6th Sunday in Easter



GREET THOSE AROUND YOU IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Zac: In life, in death, in life beyond death,

People: Jesus Christ is Lord.

Zac: Over powers and principalities, over all who determine, control, govern, or finance the affairs of humankind,

People: Jesus Christ is Lord.

Zac: Of the poor, of the broken, of the sinned against and the sinner,

People: Jesus Christ is Lord.

Zac: Above the church, beyond our most excellent theologies and in the quiet corners of our hearts,

People: Jesus Christ is Lord.

Zac: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Eternal God, in whom we live and move and have our being, whose face is hidden from us by our sins, and whose mercy we forget in the blindness of our hearts: Cleanse us from all our offenses, and deliver us from proud thoughts and vain desires, that with reverent and humble hearts we may draw near to you, confessing our faults, confiding in your grace, and finding in you our refuge and strength; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Zac: As people born of water and the Spirit

we have died to the old life, and a new life has begun.

God's grace is poured out upon us day by day.

Come to the water and remember your baptism.

Be thankful, and live as one who has been raised to new life!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

People: Amen.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Acts 17:16-34

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: 1 Peter 3:13-22

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SERMON

Reason to Hope

Rev. Timothy Reeves

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

The Apostles' Creed

see insert

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

(You each are encouraged to give voice to your concerns or to name those for whom you love and pray.)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

(We use debts and debtors)

FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

****POSTLUDE**

Go forth into the world rejoicing. Love and serve the Lord.

Those who are able, please stand.

**** Please be seated and remain for the postlude if you can.**

Lay Reader: Zac Cosner

Scripture

First Reading: Acts 17:16-34

¹⁶While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and also in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Also some Epicurean and Stoic philosophers debated with him. Some said, "What does this babbling want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign divinities." (This was because he was telling the good news about Jesus and the resurrection.) ¹⁹So they took him and brought him to the Areopagus and asked him, "May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?" ²⁰It sounds rather strange to us, so we would like to know what it means." ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners living there would spend their time in nothing but telling or hearing something new.

²²Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. ²³For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. ²⁶From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, ²⁷so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. ²⁸For 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we too are his offspring.' ²⁹Since we are God's offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. ³⁰While God has overlooked the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."

³²When they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some scoffed; but others said, "We will hear you again about this." ³³At that point Paul left them. ³⁴But some of them joined him and became believers, including Dionysius the Areopagite and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Scripture Continued

Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-22

¹³Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? ¹⁴But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, ¹⁵but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;

¹⁶yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil.

¹⁸For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water.

²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.