

CENTRAL CALLING

CENTRAL STEELE CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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November/December 2022

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From the Pastor's Pen

November & December, 2022

We are a few weeks away from celebrating Thanksgiving Day with our family and friends. Why is it that many of us struggle with remembering to give thanks? Why is it that sometimes we remember, and sometimes we don't? Why do we need to have a national holiday reminding us to give thanks? Perhaps the reason may be because we are too busy, and we forget to take the time to express our thankfulness. Take time each day and lift up prayers of thanksgiving to our God. John Wesley said, *"Thanksgiving is inseparable from true prayer; it is almost essentially connected with it. One who always prays is ever giving praise, whether in ease or pain, both for prosperity and for the greatest adversity. He blesses God for all things, looks on them as coming from Him, and receives them for His sake... not choosing nor refusing, liking or disliking, anything, but only as it is agreeable or disagreeable to His perfect will."* This Thanksgiving Day and every other day, take the time to pray with a grateful heart.

The Advent Season begins right after Thanksgiving Day and Central is really excited about this season as we anticipate and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The whole Bible is a redemptive historical account of the Savior, who is the essence of Christmas, and the central truth of the Christmas story is that the Child of Christmas is God. Christmas is more than a birth of the Savior... it is about His death and the reality of God being born into the world. I believe Paul's letter to the Christians in Colosse sums up the true meaning of Christmas... *"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in*

him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross." (Colossians 1:15-20)

When we fully embrace Advent and the challenging task it presents to us... making a full commitment to God by embracing hope, peace, joy, and love... then the Good News of the Advent Season is experienced with overwhelming delight and gratitude. God comes to us through the birth of Jesus Christ to overwhelm the dark reality of despair, violence, desperation, and hate. God shines a light in the darkness that the world has not been able to illuminate for over two thousand years. *"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."* (John 1:5) I pray that during this Advent Season the light and testimony of the Savior will come into our hearts, and our lives will reflect his life and attributes. I pray that people everywhere will accept the blessings of his mercy and grace that are made possible through his atoning sacrifice. May each of us be blessed during this joyous time of the year, and may we acknowledge with gratitude our Heavenly Father's incomparable gift to us... his Son, our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ. Let us open our hearts to him and prayerfully examine our lives so we may build that relationship with him and manifest the same love, hope, joy, and peace he brings to us.

Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas to you and your loved ones.

In Grace & Peace,
Mark



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We're on the web...

www.cscpc.org
or Facebook.com/

Central Steele Creek Presbyterian

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Central Steele Creek Presbyterian Church

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Mark Lee	Pastor
Nick Pierle	Director of Music Ministries
Joni Turner	Director of Central Fine Arts Academy
Allyson Haenlein	Administrative Assistant
Lauren Perkin	Financial Administrator
Jeanne McGrath	Financial Secretary
Erin Osborne	Children's Activity Director
Anthony Tucker	Custodian
Chet Knapp	Clerk of Session

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Sunday School	9:15am
Worship	10:30am

DEADLINES

*The winter 2023 issue deadline is
January 6, 2023.*

Articles received late will be included the next month.

Sunday Bulletin: Thursdays, 10:00am

Please let the church office know of any changes in your contact information, such as phone number, cell phone number, address, or email address. Thank you!



THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

Boxed Pasta or Potatoes

THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Canned Soups, Vegetables, & Meats

Please place items in the donation box located in the Church Narthex. Last month we delivered 73 pounds of food to the pantry.

UPDATE FROM THE FINANCE TEAM:

Income to budget (9/30/22): \$274,326

Expenses from budget (9/30/22): \$286,372

Capital Reserve Fund balance (9/30/22): \$316,640

From our Director of Music Ministries:

Greetings from the Music Ministry!



The Fall season is upon us and we are making a final push to the end of the 2022 calendar year. This fall, our handbells were refurbished by Jeffers Handbell Supply near Columbia, SC. Not only do they have a wonderful shine to them, they ring beautifully too! The handbell ensemble is excited to ring throughout the Advent season for you all. In addition to refurbishing the bells, members of the handbell ensemble will participate in the Mid Carolinas Handbell Festival. We are excited to hear them ring and learn new music!

As always, anyone is welcome to join either the handbell ensemble or the choir. The handbells ring 6:00-6:30pm and the choir rehearses from 6:30-7:30 in the choir room, both on Wednesday evening.

Lastly, I am in a production of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera, *Iolanthe*, at Queens University of Charlotte. The university has received an angel donation, and all members of CSCPC and their families are able to attend the performance for free. Performance run November 12-13. [If you would like to reserve your complimentary tickets, click here.](#)



As I continue to plan music for our weekly worship, I would greatly appreciate your input. Please consider suggesting music for our worship by [clicking here](#) or copying and pasting the URL below. Your hymn and contemporary music suggestions will be considered and used when possible.

<https://forms.gle/VumM8GbaQu66seEM6>

Yours In Christ,
Nick Pierle
Director of Music Ministries
nick@cscpc.org
<http://cscpc.org/small-groups/music/>

NOVEMBER HEAD ELDER & USHERS

Head Usher: Jeanne Smith

Ushers: Wade Shepard, Sandra Burke

DECEMBER HEAD ELDER & USHERS

Head Usher: Diane Price

Ushers: Pam Brooks, Mike Brown



I would like to thank each and every one of my church family for the kind words, phone calls, cards, food and flowers that were received on the

passing of my sister Martha. Thank you,
George Bostick

Dear Mighty Acts Sunday School Class,
I can't begin to tell you how much your donation to the Dare to Care program in honor of Clint means to me. He loved this class and church so much and children meant the world to him, and he would be thrilled to know that you were helping children in his honor. Thank you.
Sandra Burke

LADIES RETREAT RECAP

Christmount Christian Assembly in Black Mountain, NC hosted 18 excited ladies September 30-October 2, 2022. With hurricane Ian blowing in, we had to make a last-minute decision to go or not go. With the majority wanting to brave the elements, we were on our way early Friday morning. We left in a little rain but ended up in sunshine!! The weekend weather was beautiful, and we even saw a few fall colors. Our Bible Study, "Gods Will", was led by Kathy Bricker who had us go into small groups where we had a chance to share with each other and see God in new ways in the mountains. Rhonda, Charlotte, and Beverly led us in our music which is always a special part of our retreat. Judy Brown led us in our daily blessings and Jeanne McGrath presented everyone with an embroidered angel as another memory of our wonderful weekend. We hope everyone came home with new friendships, renewed friendships, and a revitalized relationship with God. Our next year's retreat has already been scheduled for October 13-15, 2023 at Christmount Christian Assembly. If you would like to lead or be a part of the retreat planning, please contact Diane Price or Pam Brooks. Hope to see everyone again next October!



Birthdays-November

- 1-Diane Hayes, Whitney Smith, Cathy Lee
- 2-Mark Lee & Rachel Cheek
- 3-Donna Stuart
- 4-Greta Lambert & Joyce Quinn
- 5-Bernard Simmons
- 6-Kevin Kronk
- 8-Wade Shepard
- 9-Dorothy Williams
- 11-John McGloughlin
- 12-Herman Canipe
- 14-Tim Hood & Karen Noblett
- 17-Bob Hunter
- 21-Johnny Burgess, Jr.
- 23-Hazel Wilson
- 24-Nick Pierle
- 29-Rozanna Lawing

Birthdays-December

- 4-Timmy Hood
- 6-Mark Clapham
- 10-Deborah Russell
- 12-Wilma Price & Eric Smith
- 13-Miles Shepard & Andrew Burns
- 19-Lynn McNeill & Jeanne Sikes McGrath
- 21-Kathy Bricker
- 28-George Bostick
- 29-Randi Clapham
- 31-Charlotte Burgess



MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

- In memory of Clara Whitley;** Circle of Friends
- In memory of Clint Burke;** Mighty Acts Class
- In memory of Martha Howle,** George Bostick's sister; Joy Cheek, Barbara & Barry Choate, Dorothy Williams, Ken & Diane Price, Rozanna Lawing, Bill & Donna Young
- In memory of James Edward "Eddie" Fowler II,** Mary Pat Fowler's son; Rozanna Lawing, Bill & Donna Young
- In memory of Toni Lambert;** Elizabeth & Joe McCutchen
- In memory of Bryan Bridges;** Elizabeth & Joe McCutchen
- In memory of Geneva Murphy,** mother of Rick Murphy; Bill & Donna Young, Dorothy Williams
- In honor of Reuben & Ann Mazingo;** Bud & Pauline Shaney
- In honor of Joy Cheek, Linda Blackwelder & the Disciples;** Susan Osmar



Reception for Jeanne Sikes-McGrath

Please join us in thanking Jeanne for her many years of service as our Financial Secretary. We will have a reception in the parlor on Sunday, November 27 following the service. Light refreshments will be served and there will be a basket for placing cards if you would like to express your appreciation for her dedicated service as our Financial Secretary.



Please contribute to the Christmas Joy Offering anytime during Advent. You may place a donation in the offering plate, send a donation to the church office or contribute on-line (special offerings). Thank you.

By giving to the Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges who work with communities of color.

In 2021, the Joy Offering provided:

\$1.1 million gifts in terms of financial aid and support to current and retired Presbyterian church workers. This included income supplements for retired church workers and their spouses, housing supplements in their homes or assisted living, and emergency assistance grants to address unforeseen circumstances.

\$1.1 million of gifts provided education and leadership development skills at Presbyterian related schools and colleges. Many who received support were first in their families to enroll in higher education.



Central Daily Prayer for 2022

- Monday... Growing faith for you and your family
- Tuesday... Central to fulfill its "Central Focus" and the Mission of the church
- Wednesday... Arrival of new members and Unity among current members
- Thursday... Growth of Central Fine Arts & Y Arts Preschool programs
- Friday... God's grace to be revealed in our church, community, country, and the world
- Saturday... Sunday Worship Service to be powerful, encouraging, and inspiring

REALM for Church Contributions

Please note that effective January 1, 2023, all church contributions, whether received online, via mail or in the Sunday morning offering plate, will be captured in REALM. An annual statement of your total year's contributions will be made available to you either via email, if you have an email address in REALM, or via mail if you do not, at the beginning of 2024. You will also have the ability to view your year-to-date contributions using REALM.

With this change, we would also like to announce that Jeanne McGrath is retiring as Financial Secretary after many years of dedicated service to this position. Donna Young will be assuming the position of Financial Secretary and is available at 803-325-5431 to answer any questions you may have about our transition to REALM for all church contributions. You should also call Donna in 2023 if you need help in viewing your contributions in REALM.

Finally, we no longer will be assigning unique envelope numbers to individuals or families. We will have generic, unnumbered envelopes available by request in 2023. Please see a member of the Finance Team if you would like envelopes or have any questions.



*Be sure to set your clocks back one hour on
Sunday, November 6th!*

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity is a continuing issue with many Steele Creek families. Across Charlotte, **Loaves and Fishes is finding that the need is greater than ever:**

- Visits to the L & F Mecklenburg County food pantries are up **81%** from last year.
- Food Shares throughout Charlotte have seen a **67%** increase from last year.

Central is helping to address this issue.

- Supplying food items for the Loaves and Fishes parties has been a community outreach project of our church for many years. And each year, our donations accumulate to total several hundred pounds. Each month we are asked to provide different foodstuffs: boxed pasta and potatoes for November; canned soup, vegetables and meat for December. Please contribute by placing the items in the cart in the narthex. The donated food is used in the Loaves & Fishes 'network of 30 emergency food pantries located throughout Mecklenburg County. They are able to provide a week's worth of groceries to individuals and families experiencing a short-term crisis. It is funded through donations of groceries through many sources (churches, businesses, Boy Scout Drive, and St. Andrews' gleaning program) and financial donations, which helps buy perishable foods such as eggs, cheese, meat, and bread.
- We hosted a Food Share event on October 15th serving 127 families in just an hour. Families received two boxes of meat, fresh vegetables and fruit, and items such as dairy or eggs, which were provided by Loaves and Fishes. With volunteers from the YMCA, we assemble the food boxes and then load them into cars which are lined up in our parking lot. This was our 8th Food Share event. Thank you to the eleven volunteers from Central who worked hard to help our neighbors.



- **Week-end Food Bags.**
Thank you for your help each month in assembling the week-end food bags. Each week during the school year, these are provided to children whose families have no permanent home and attend Steele Creek Elementary and South Pine Academy. The food bag items are chosen to be kid-friendly, able to be used with a minimum of preparation and only a microwave to heat. We have dedicated volunteers who deliver the food bags to the counselors at each schools – so that the children go home with a bag at the end of every school week



Central Fine Arts Academy

The Fall Session for the Central Fine Arts Academy is very busy with 45 lessons being held each week. This includes two group classes for sculpture and percussion. Most popular are piano lessons: there are now three piano teachers on Tuesday and one on Saturday. We continue to offer voice, guitar, percussion, violin and sculpture. Our director, Joni Turner, has provided strong leadership to handle this growth - in lessons, students and teachers.

Thank you for the many volunteers who are there each Tuesday and Saturday to observe and support the students.

Please plan on attending the next Showcase on Friday evening, December 16th in the sanctuary. This informal recital is a positive experience for both the children and the audience.



(August 2022 Showcase)

Planning has begun for the next academy session which will start in mid-January.

The CFAA provides a positive and creative environment for children in the Steele Creek community. It also is an important way that we can connect with young families and provide the nurture and support that a faith community provides. These are opportunities for you to help:

- ♦ Help monitor the classes so that CFAA can meet the youth protection requirements.
- ♦ Share information about the CFAA programs with family, friends or on social media.
- ♦ Be a member of the church oversight board.

Please contact Jeanne Smith (jessmith8412@gmail.com) to volunteer or for more information.

YMCA Preschool Halloween Fun!



The Veterans of Central Steele Creek Presbyterian Church

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Miles Shepard 2003-Present

AIR FORCE

Dean Bassett WWII
 John Z. Benton WWII
 Teresa Canipe Vietnam War
 Herman Canipe, Jr. Vietnam War
 Kelly Caudle Gulf War,
 Bob Caudle Korean War
 Glenn Litaker Korean War
 Reuben Mazingo Vietnam War
 Carl Eugene Neely WWII
 Edward Norman USA
 Harold Pratt WWII
 James Wilson Price WWII
 James Harold Price Vietnam War
 Bill Young, Jr. Vietnam War
 Bill Young, Sr. WWII
 Ralph Young, Sr. WWII
 Frel Youngblood WWII
 Lester Youngblood WWII

ARMY RESERVES

Clifford Austin 1953-1965
 Barry Choate 1955-1965
 Denny Deal 1969-1975

MARINES

Gary Russell Desert Storm
 Jack O. Wilcoxon Korean War
 Edgar Lee Grier, Jr. WWII
 John Thompson WWII

ARMY

W. David Abernethy, Sr. Korean War
 Jack C. Austin, Sr. WWII
 Charles F. Blackwelder 1946-1948
 John R. Blackwelder 1954-1960
 W. Haywood Bobbitt, Jr. WWII
 Bryan Bridges Korean War
 Joe Broughton 1941-1968
 Thomas Choate WWII
 Brad Clapham Korean War
 John Ervin WWII
 Jonas Ervin WWII
 Max Funderburk WWII
 Clifton Gallant WWII
 Thomas Gallant WWI
 Bill Gleaton WWII
 Harry Godfrey WWII
 Bill Gordon, Jr. WWII
 Robert Ralph Grier, Sr. WWI
 William Alexander Grier WWII
 William Crawford Grier WWII
 Toni Lambert 1954-1956
 Michael Lane Vietnam War
 Royston Merritt 1946-1947
 Carl Miller WWII
 Ken Price Berlin Crisis
 Sandy Grier Porter WWI
 Robert Madison Price WWII
 Bud Shaney Korean War
 Alan Sikes 1993-2012
 Bob Sikes 1961-1967
 Eric Smith Vietnam War
 Coelle Snyder WWII

NAVY

Mike Brown Vietnam War
 Bob Hunter 1974-1978
 John McGloughlin Korean War
 Buck Newsom WWII
 James H. Patterson 1962-1966
 Jim Stikeleather Vietnam War
 Robert Ralph Grier, Jr. WWII
 Bill Harkey WWII
 Bill Inman WWII
 Herman Lawing WWII
 Joe McGrath 1960-1964
 Wally Osborne Korean War
 Jerry Smith Vietnam War





2022 Thanksgiving & Advent Schedule

Community Thanksgiving Worship,
Tuesday, November 22, 6:30pm Steele Creek@Pleasant Hill

Fellowship & Hanging of the Greens
Saturday, November 26, 10:00am

First Sunday of Advent-November 27

Second Sunday of Advent-December 4
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Third Sunday of Advent-December 11
Special Music offerings by The Disciples and The Trio
Christmas Luncheon in Family Life Center following service.

Central Fine Arts Showcase
Friday, December 16, 6:00pm in Sanctuary

Fourth Sunday of Advent-December 18
Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship-December 24, 5:30pm

Christmas Sunday Worship—December 25, 10:30am



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