

In Our Prayers ✨

We pray for in gratitude for the ladies of Circle 20/20 and Women of the Word.
We pray for our Special Care Friends, Kitty Mills and Hal LeFever.

Central Happenings

SUNDAY – December 29

10:00am Worship (Sanctuary/Online)

MONDAY – December 30

6:30pm Boy Scouts (Scout Room/Large Fellowship Hall)

TUESDAY – December 31

Church Office Closes at 12:00 p.m. for New Year's Eve

WEDNESDAY – January 1

Church Office Closed for New Year's Day

Help us unhang the greens! Join us on Sunday, January 5, 2025 immediately following worship to take down and store the Christmas decorations. Many hands make light work—thank you for your help!

The Christmas Joy offering is being accepted through 12/31. Please mark your checks “Christmas Joy” on the memo line.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Shepherds' Run last week. Your donations and efforts made it possible to assemble and deliver baskets of goodies to our local fire, police, and emergency rooms. Together, we showed our appreciation for their dedicated service on Christmas Eve.

Pastor: Wil Reinowski
Adult Handbells: Janice Spitalniak
Director of Contemporary Music: Paul Foster
Organist: Doug Fletcher
Custodian: Bob Hill

A Matthew 25 Congregation
31 North Seventh Street
Lafayette, IN 47901
Hours: Weekdays 9am-Noon
765-742-8481

news@centralpreschurch.org
www.centralpreschurch.org

** Please stand as you are able.*



Central Presbyterian Church

Christmastide

How does a weary world rejoice?

Sunday, December 29, 2024



Welcome

Prelude

“Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella”

(arr. Chip Davis)

*Call to Worship

Terry Phillips

Leader: There are some days when I need the reminder that I belong to God. Do you ever feel that way?

People: Yes. We do.

Leader: The world can be a harsh place; we often need that reminder.

People: Well then, let us care for one another. Let us speak the truth we each need to hear.

Leader: Church, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.

People: Friend, you belong to God. You are God's beloved.

Leader: Let us worship the God who knows our names.

People: Let us worship the God who calls us beloved. Amen.

*Hymn

"God of Wonders"

(Tomlin)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of rhythms, we confess: our faith would not be what it is without rituals. Unlike you, we depend on bread and water. We have to return to this space again and again to hear old, familiar stories. For if we stopped, we know it would not take long before we lost our way. Forgive us for our fragility, and thank you for giving us ordinary rituals and rhythms to hold onto. With grateful and humble hearts we pray. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

Leader: Friends, it is not enough to hear once a month or once a year that we are forgiven. We need to hear it every single week. Every single week we need to be reminded that we are held in God's loving embrace. So hear this good news: no matter where we are on your journey of life, love, or faith, and no matter what we have done or left undone, we belong to God. We are claimed. We are known. We are forgiven. This is the good news of the gospel!

People: Thanks be to God! Amen!

***Congregational Response** "Glory to God in the Highest" (back cover, hymnal)

*Passing of the Peace

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Psalm 148

Anthem

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

(French Melody, From the Liturgy of St. James.)

* Please stand as you are able.

Second Reading

Luke 2:21-38

Message

"Rooted in Ritual, Anchored in Faith"

Rev. Wil Reinowski

*Hymn

"Oh Weary Soul Return"

(Insert)

*Affirmation of Faith (Unison):

We believe that faith is a journey marked by rituals and rhythms. We come to worship. We confess our sins. We pass the peace. We offer grace. We hear the Word. We baptize children. We break the bread. And we tell the story of a loving God. And through these sacred rituals, we are reminded: we are not alone. God is near, and we have work to do. May this belief shape the rhythm of our lives. Amen.

*Congregational Response

"Gloria Patri"

(back cover Hymnal)

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Offering

The offering basket is located at the back of the west aisle of the sanctuary. Feel free to leave your offering at any time.

Offertory

"A Babe is Born!"

(Wm. Mathias)

*Doxology

606

*Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Loving God: We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Receive the gifts we offer in union with Christ's gift for us. Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, that we may be Christ for others. In his name we pray. Amen.

*Hymn

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

127

*Benediction

Postlude

"It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

(arr. G. Young)



Please use the Ritual of Friendship pads to let us know you're with us today.

Whether you are in person or on-line, you can also sign in at centralpreschurch.org/friendship

In our effort to be inclusive of those who are unable to be with us in person, we live stream our worship services online. For those who are camera-shy, seating is available in the back two rows of the main floor or anywhere in the balcony.