



**Central Presbyterian Church**  
6300 Trinity Drive, Pine Bluff, Arkansas  
(870) 879-9074



**Sunday, December 2, 2012**  
**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**GREET THOSE AROUND YOU IN THE NAME OF CHRIST**

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES**

**CHIMING OF THE HOUR**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP**

**PRELUDE** *Savior of the Nations, Come* Erfurt

**LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE** Laura & Rick Pierce

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: To You, O God, I lift up my soul. In You I put my trust.

**People:** **Make me to know Your ways, O God; teach me Your paths.**

Leader: Lead me in Your truth, and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation.

**People:** **According to Your steadfast love remember me, for Your goodness sake, O God!**

**All:** **Let us worship God!**

**\*OPENING HYMN #361** *How Firm a Foundation*

**CALL TO CONFESSION**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Great Deliverer, we entrust to You our confession of sin. We are easily discouraged when our good deeds do not make things better. We fear harm to ourselves if we take too firm a stand. Portents of danger arise about us, and we doubt the future You have promised. We close our eyes to the signs and live for the moment. God, in Christ, forgive our cowardice and blindness, for the sake of Him who endured the cross for us. (Silent Prayer) Amen.

**KYRIE ELEISON** ("Lord, Have Mercy") *Hymnal #572*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: The words of the psalmist remind us that the Lord is upright and good.

**People:** **God instructs sinners in the way of righteousness and leads the humble along paths of steadfast love.**

Leader: So wait upon God all the day long, abide in the covenant, and rely on the truth:

**People:** **God is our salvation and worthy of trust.**

**All:** **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

**\*GLORIA PATRI** ("Glory be to the Father") *Hymnal #579*

**PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

**ANTHEM** *Come, Emmanuel, Come* Besig

**TIME WITH OUR YOUNG ONES**

*Preschool-aged children may go to the nursery after the children's message. Children of kindergarten age and above may remain in worship.*

**MINUTE FOR MISSION**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** Jeremiah 33:14-16

**GOSPEL LESSON** Luke 21:25-36

**EPISTLE LESSON** I Thessalonians 3:9-13

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON** *Strengthen Your Hearts* Dr. Dan Festa

**\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *Apostle's Creed (Traditional)* p.14 Hymnal

**\*HYMN #289** *O God of Every Nation*

**RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**CALL FOR THE OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

*In dulci jubilo*

Bach

**\*DOXOLOGY** ("Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow") *Hymnal #592*

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION**

**SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS** (You are each 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**

**\*RECESSIONAL HYMN #2** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

**\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE\*\***

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

Smith

**EXTINGUISHING OF THE CANDLES**

*Go forth into the world with rejoicing to love and serve the Lord.*

**\* Those who are able, please stand.**

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

**Ushers: Connie & Bill Detmers**

**Lay Reader: Dr. Laura Festa**

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 our hearts and offers welcome to all in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Pastor**

Dr. Dan Festa

**Secretary**

Erin Shaw

**Choirmaster/Organist**

Marty Shell

**Nursery Attendant**

Laura Cosner

**Youth Sponsors**

Marty Shell

George Mosley

**Website:**

**[www.centralprespb.com](http://www.centralprespb.com)**

Member Login: cpcmember

Member Psswd: 6300trinity



**The Session (Board of Elders)**

**Class of 2012**

Zac Cosner

Laura Festa

Mike Kelley

Jemmie Moseley

Bubba VonTungeln

**Class of 2013**

Lawrence Fikes (Clerk)

Steven Howsen

George Mosley

Dana Neal

Laura Pierce

**Standing Committee Moderators**

Mike Kelley

George Mosley

& Steven Howsen

Zac Cosner

Dana Neal

Laura Festa

Laura Pierce

Budget & Finance

Building & Grounds

Education

Fellowship & Nurture

Missions & Outreach

Worship & Music

*Announcements*

**The Church Office Is Accepting Orders** for poinsettias. They will be placed in the sanctuary beginning December 16, and will remain through December 26. If you prefer not to purchase an actual plant, you may designate your gift for the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund instead. To place an order, please fill out the enclosed form, and return it to the church office by December 14. The cost is \$12.50.

**All Are Invited to Join us** this evening at 5:30 p.m., in the sanctuary for the Moravian Love Feast. The Moravian Love Feast is an annual tradition here at Central, one which has grown and developed over the years. Folks are invited to bring sweet breads, soup, and sandwiches to share. We will gather as members of the family of God, and together we will seek God’s blessing for our community and for our world.

**The Ordination and Installation** of the Sessional Class of 2014 will be next Sunday during morning worship.

**A Meeting of the Congregation Will Be Held** next Sunday at the end of worship. The purpose of the meeting is to approve Dan’s terms of call for 2013.

**The Evening Circle Will Meet** Monday, December 10, at 6:30 p.m., in the Perdue Library.

**The Morning Circle Will Meet** Tuesday, December 11, at 10:00 a.m., in the Perdue Library.

*Announcements continued on insert*



# WRAP IT UP FUNDRAISER

Benefits:

Central's Presbyterian Women's Missions

Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> 2012

10:00-3:00

And

Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 2012

10:00-3:00

At

Central Presbyterian Church Youth Building

Fused-glass jewelry made by our own Dr. Dan Festa  
and various other crafts will also be available for sale.



Wrap it up Price list

Small Gifts-\$3.00

CD's, Books, jewelry, candles.

Medium Gifts-\$5.00

Shirt sized boxes, board games, dolls, calendars, and  
shoe boxes.

Large Gifts-\$10.00

Large clothes boxes, coats, small kitchen appliances.

Donations Needed:

Wrapping paper, wired ribbon, boxes (all sizes),  
Scotch tape

For more information or to volunteer to help,  
contact Amber Poss (870-550-1592) or Laura Pierce  
(870-247-5392).

## *Announcements* (cont.)

**Mark your calendars** for Thursday, December 13, from 5:30 - 9:00 p.m. Central Presbyterian Church members will act as volunteers for the donations received at the Enchanted Land of Lights and Legends at Regional Park. A sign up sheet is posted in McElyea Hall for you to let us know if you plan to attend. The display opened November 20, and runs through December 31.

**It Is Time Once Again for the Magi's Market.** The Missions Committee, in cooperation with First Presbyterian Church, is again offering the opportunity for you to purchase gifts for family and friends while supporting important mission ministries in our church, our community, and around the world. This is a wonderful opportunity to give a gift that keeps on giving. Your friends and/or family members will receive a Christmas card acknowledging a gift in their honor from you, and the ministry you choose will receive 100% of your financial donation to use as you have specified. Booklets &

Order forms are available on the round table in the Narthex with more specific information about the Magi's Market and a Christmas catalog so that you can decide beforehand which gifts you would like to give. Please be in prayer for our successful participation in this unique occasion to give meaningful gifts in the true Spirit of Christmas.



Poinsettias

### **Christmas Poinsettias**

The church office is accepting orders for Christmas Poinsettias. The cost is \$12.50 each. If you would like to place an order, please fill out the form below and return to the church office. The deadline to place an order is December 14.

Donor(s)

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In Honor of:

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In Memory of:

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No. of Poinsettias \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please check here if you prefer not to purchase a plant, and have your contribution donated to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.



**Jeremiah 33:14-16**

- 33:14    The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.
- 33:15    In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
- 33:16    In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

**Luke 21:25-36**

- 21:25    "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.
- 21:26    People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.
- 21:27    Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.
- 21:28    Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."
- 21:29    Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees;
- 21:30    as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.
- 21:31    So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.
- 21:32    Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.
- 21:33    Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.
- 21:34    "Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly,
- 21:35    like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.

- 21:36    Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

**1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

- 3:9        How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?
- 3:10      Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.
- 3:11      Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.
- 3:12      And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.
- 3:13      And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

**Come, Emmanuel, Come**

All of the world is awaiting a king,  
Anxiously seeking the joy He will bring.  
Soon He will be with us,  
God's love revealed to us.  
Come, Emmanuel, Come

We must believe that the moment is near,  
Faithfully knowing He soon will appear,  
Cast every doubt away, let us prepare the way.  
Come, Emmanuel, Come.

Soon angels will sing,  
Earth and heaven will ring.  
Soon, soon He will come  
The world will know God's Son.

Out of the darkness will come a great light  
Radiantly guiding us on through the night.  
Then we will welcome Him,  
We will rejoice in Him.  
Come, Emmanuel Come.

Soon heaven will shine,  
God will send us a sign,  
Soon, soon we will see  
How great God's love can be.

Now let us watch and prepare for the King,  
Humbly awaiting the joy He will bring,  
Let us believe in Him, Open our hearts to Him,  
Come, Emmanuel, Come.

***PRAYER CONCERNS FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 2 , 2012***

*MEMBERS:*

***Bea and Grady Magee***  
***Bernice and Gene Lackey***  
***Jo Weaver***  
***Mary Wooten***

***Hester Insley***  
***Agnes Hughes***  
***Nell Horne***  
***Mildred Gaunt***

*THOSE WITH RESTRICTED MOBILITY AND HOMEBOUND:*

***Bud Elam***

*FRIENDS AND RELATIVES:*

***Nick Tschepikow***, friend of the Festa's  
***The family of Ray Doss***, acquaintance of Laura Cosner  
***The family of Betty Ward***, aunt of Dana Neal  
***Zach Towers***, friend of Austin Howsen  
***The family of Marcella Anderson***, stepmother of Amber Poss and Lauren Anderson  
***Franklin Ward***, uncle of Dana Neal  
***Orrin Robinson***, friend of the church  
***Mildred Patterson***, former member  
***Gail Davis***, former member  
***Jaycee from Monticello***, daughter of a coworker of David Perdue, Jr.  
***Sherry Costello***, friend of the Cosner family  
***Sheila Starkey & family***, friend of the church  
***Ruby Cox***, grandmother of Laura Cosner's friend  
***Eddie Lackey***, friend of the Reeves family  
***Roxanne Melgarejo***, caregiver of Jo Weaver  
***Pat Mosley***, mother of George Mosley  
***Bonita Hankins***, aunt of George Mosley  
***Alyssa and Shawn Brock & their 7-month-old son***, friends of the Cosner family  
***Brad Morris***, nephew of Bernice Lackey

***Jacki Drewett***, Pat Drewett's mother-in-law  
***Loy Horne***, sister-in-law of Lynda Vick  
***Anita Rodriguez***, mother of Brianna Rodriguez and Kodee & Jacob Vick  
***Kelly Robinson***, friend of Karen & David Perdue  
***Doris McCoy***, mother of Kay Cromwell  
***Helen Knoll***, grandmother of Amber Poss  
***Marian Parks***, aunt of Bill Detmers  
***Cissy Bailey***, sister-in-law of Betty Coles  
***Anne Logan***, friend of Jo Weaver  
***Lori Partridge***, friend of Rose VonTungeln  
***Verlon Wright***, friend of the Cosner family  
***Jane Dean***, friend of Mildred Gaunt  
***Tracy Robinson***, friend of Karen & David Perdue  
***Wayne Benson***, friend of the Vick Family  
***Carla Fennessee***, friends of Laura & Rick Pierce  
***Brooke Wells***, granddaughter of Connie & Bill Detmers  
***Son of Mary and Phil McBee***, friends of Grady & Bea Magee.  
***Helen Gaunt***, sister-in-law of Mildred Gaunt  
***Sheila Black Yarbrow***, former member  
***(Leah) Pud Harris***

*PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR FELLOW PRESBYTERIANS:*

***Mountainburg Church***, Mountainburg

***Retired Ministers and Educators***

*OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD:*

***Keith Camferdam***, Air Force

***Chris Hill***, Army

*To share your joys and concerns or to update the information listed in this week's Joys & Concerns, contact the church office at 879-9074, fax 879-9076, or email the church at CentralPC@cablelynx.com.*