



Central Presbyterian Church

September 22, 2021

Masks are required while in the buildings until further notice.

*Responses to messages left at the church office will be delayed;
please email or text when possible.*

office @cpcwaco.org; pastorjudith@cpcwaco.org/7792002247; drodgers@cpcwaco.org

Invitation to Inreach (Fellowship/Care)!



Enjoy Singing? The Choir with resume practicing Wednesdays at 5:30pm!!

Wednesday Live @ 5

recordings remain available for viewing anytime by going to [Facebook.com/cpcwaco/live/](https://www.facebook.com/cpcwaco/live/)

MANY THANKS to Phil and David for a beautiful idea for ministry during covid times!!!!

Interested in Kitchen Events?

If you like fellowship and are handy in the kitchen, and would like to help serve our congregation (drive-thru dinners) and community (gratitude deliveries to "helpers"), please join our group and contact Melissa Rhoden by [email](#) or by calling 254-722-2678

Invitation to Outreach

The residents of the Compassion Ministries apartment sponsored by Central graduated successfully. Laura Clifton restocked the apartment for a new family to take residence. We are now sponsoring a mother, her 21 year old, 8 year old, and 1 year old. Now that the apartment has been restocked, CPC's cupboard is bare and the pantry needs to be replenished. The Outreach Team will be hosting a shower in January with a full wishlist. At this time, if you would like to donate non-perishable food items or cleaning supplies, please contact [Laura](#) or [Angela](#) or bring the items to church.



This summer the Outreach Team enjoyed a baseball-mom shopping trip to help Waco Eastern Little League get some much needed equipment. During that process we learned that there were many repairs needed to the complex. The simplest was new signage. This week we celebrated a new sign! We'll be campaigning to have the parking lot repaved and the t-ball field updated next. Continue to pray for our city leaders, the Parks and Recreation department, the baseball moms, and the children who play at that complex.

Save the Date!!

Sunday, November 14th, CPCWaco will participate in the
2021 CROP Hunger Walk
benefitting Church World Service and Caritas.

Please join our team by signing up [here](#).
We will walk beginning at 3pm in Bledsoe Miller Park.



Contact [Denyse](#) for more information!

Invitation to Upreach!

CPCWaco Hybrid Worship

Getting Ready to Follow Jesus!

Meet , Greet, and Worship via [Zoom](#) (click to join anytime 9:10-11:45am);
worship live (at 10:45am, or anytime convenient for you) on [Facebook](#);
or come in-person (masked) to worship in the Sanctuary.

Welcome and Announcements

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Prelude

How He Loves by David Crowder Band
Andrew Bryngelson, guitar

Call to Worship

The Law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

The Decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

The Precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

The commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the vision.

More are these to be desired than gold...sweeter also than honey.

Clear us from hidden faults, O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer.

Hymn # 457 I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art, verses 1-2

*I greet Thee, who my sure Redeemer art,
My only trust and Savior of my heart,
Who pain didst undergo for my poor sake;
I pray Thee from our hearts all cares to take.*

*Thou art the King of mercy and of grace,
Reigning omnipotent in every place;
So come, O King, and our whole being sway;
Shine on us with the light of Thy pure day.*

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession (from Hymn 347)

Forgive our sins as we forgive, you taught us, Lord, to pray. On you alone we lean for Grace to live the words we pray. How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart? Your cross reveals, in blazing light, the truth we dimly know--what trivial debts are owed to us--how great our debt to You!

(time for personal prayerful confessions)

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease. Then bound to all in bonds of love, our lives can spread your Peace. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Gloria Patri

Gospel Reading: Mark 9:38-42

Message for Young Disciples

Epistle Reading: James 5:13-20

Sermon God's Power, Our Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Call to Offering

Offertory

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn # 181 Come Sing to God, vv 1, 4

***Come sing to God, O living saints, Sing praises to God's name.
God's anger is not permanent, God's love will never wane.
Though tears may tarry for the night With sighs of deepest pain,
Yet joy comes with the morning sun, A peace that is not vain.***

***You change my grief to joy-filled dance, My sorrows You destroy.
In faithfulness You hear my cry And fill my life with joy.
And so to You my heart shall sing, My voice Your goodness raise.
You are my God, forevermore, My life shall sing Your praise.***

Charge and Benediction

Passing of the Peace of Christ.

Prayer Concerns

- for people caught in times of war or famine, earthquake, hurricane, tornado or fire;
- for the Riley's grand-niece, Luna, who is still courageously battling through her cancer treatments;
- for Virginia, Martha, Les and Joyce, Char, Sara, Billie Kathryn and Carl, Rita and Ken, David R's mother, Latisha's daughter Haley, and others ill or recovering who are needing healing, strength, and comfort;
- for all who sorrow, and for those who rejoice;
- for those in need of healing, and for those called to heal;
- for any called to carry the Good News in word or deed;
- for guidance, strength, open-mindedness and kindness;
- for all involved in systems of education and health and pandemic relief;
- for our congregation to sense God's presence, strength, and Call to serve; and

- for everyone born, a place at the table!

Pastor's Ponderings

In this day and age when fear and hate and greed seem to be ever-brewing, I think it is good, and necessary to one's sanity, to focus on faith and love and gratitude. Take these important verses:

Which commandment is the most important of all?

Jesus answered, "The most important is, 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ~Mark 12:28-31

This passage is a foundational text expressing the heart, soul, and intention of living the Way of the Christ. Many have related this text (also found in Matthew and Luke) to the Golden Rule, which unites many branches of our faith, and even some other faiths.

St. Augustine wrote, "Whoever supposes to understand the divine Scriptures, or any part of them, so that it does not build up this double love, of God and our neighbor, this person does not understand it at all."

I like that in Mark's telling, Jesus includes the Shema (a Jewish prayer/doctrine). In the work and ministry we do, I find that my heart, soul, mind and strength are bound up in it. Care for God and others draws connects to something deep within each of us...Love. I believe that Love is God abiding in and working through us to love one another. By taking time each day, even through out each day, to focus on God, to focus on Love, our willingness and capacity to love increases.

In the context of Mark, Jesus has answered questions and critics about the power of the wealthy, the authority of government, and the focus of religion. These questions still pull at society, yet there is no salvation in earthly power, wealth or authority. We are saved instead by and for the work of Christ; we are saved by and for Love! As we draw nearer to the source of Love, as we begin to recognize how much God is doing in and through us, our gratitude deepens, and living in gratitude deepens our joy and ignites our passion to give back. As Jesus taught so long ago, in the economy of God, there is no need to fear;

May your day include as many God-sightings as you need to discern your call to the saving work of Love. Seek and you shall find. Be on the look-out for God. Watch for Love. Be love--in all of your work, your relationships, and your worship, and you will know and show peace even in the midst of suffering and fear. God loves you (and so do I)!

Grace and Peace,
Judith

Celebrating Birthdays

Ruth Oodo - September 23

Randy Castillo - September 26

Judith March Hardie - September 28

Morgan Williams - September 29

Nancy Jackson - September 30

(We are missing many birthdays in our database; please let us know yours!

We need the year to enter the date in the database, but will never print it!)

