



# Central Presbyterian Church

*Where Christ is Central to All we Do!*

October 6, 2021

**Masks are required while in the buildings until further notice.**

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

*office @cpcwaco.org; pastorjudith@cpcwaco.org; drodgers@cpcwaco.org*

## Invitation to Inreach !

### Drive-thru Fish Dinner--TODAY at 6pm

Fried Fish (caught by our own David Groman)  
and Fixings (including sides and dessert)

Order by contacting Melissa Rhoden ([email](mailto:melissa@centralpcwaco.org) or by call 254-722-2678)



### Help Us Support Area First Responders

We are collecting packaged snack items to be included in a treat bag for First Responders. Please bring items, such as: packaged nuts, candy bars, peanut butter crackers, etc. to the church to show our appreciation for the dedication shown by our police and firefighters. The items will be sorted into decorated bags with notes of thanks on Oct. 23rd. Our youth and children will be packaging the goodies and delivering them. Individually wrapped home-baked items can be brought to the church between 10:30 and 11 on the 23rd.

### 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](mailto:melissa@centralpcwaco.org) or by calling 254-722-2678



The music department at McLennan Community College is proud to announce the MCC Choirs' Fall Concert at Central Presbyterian Church on Monday, October 25 at 7:30 PM.

Three choirs will sing a variety of music including that of Josquin des Prez in commemoration of the 500th year of his death.

The Bosque Singers (SA), Highlanders (TB), and Chorale (SATB) are presenting this free concert in the sanctuary of the church. Classic choral music, as well as spirituals, will be featured.

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## Invitation to Outreach

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### Mark Your Calendars!!

Mark your calendars for a Halloween movie night on Friday the 29th of October. The showing will be outside by the Activity Center. Popcorn and treats will be served. Bring your blankets to sit on or snuggle in and join the fun!!



### JOIN the TEAM

Sunday, November 14th, CPCWaco will participate in the **2021 CROP Hunger Walk** benefitting Church World Service and Caritas. Sign up [here](#). We will walk beginning at 3pm in Bledsoe Miller Park.

Contact [Denyse](#) for more information!

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## Invitation to Upreach!

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### 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 at 10:45.

WELCOME & SHARING

PRELUDE *Goodness of God* (Denyse Rodgers, solo)

CALL TO WORSHIP (using Hebrews 4:12-16)

The word of God is alive and active, sharper than any two-edged sword,

piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow;  
it can judge our thoughts and intentions of our hearts.

**We cannot hide for we are naked and laid bare  
to the one for whom we must render an account.**

Let us hold fast to our confession before Jesus who was tested as you and I  
and yet was without sin.

**We approach the throne of grace with boldness,  
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in our time of need.**

OPENING PRAYER

**O God, you sowed the seeds of justice when you created this world.  
Though your bountiful creation has enough for everyone, it is hardly divided fairly.  
There are those who struggle to get their daily bread each day  
and then there are those who have more than they can use in their lifetime.  
May we remember that all we have comes from you  
and that you have entrusted to us all that we have to use wisely.  
May we take your commandments to heart so we can do as Jesus asks of us.  
Help us, O God, to know and enact your will through ministries to end this  
disparity. Amen.**

HYMN 697 vv. 1, 6 *Take My Life* HENDON

*Take my life and let it be  
consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise;  
let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
at thy feet its treasure store;  
take myself and I will be  
ever, only, all for thee,  
ever, only, all for thee.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty and Holy One, we cannot begin to count all our possessions.  
We have things in our closets, our attics, and our basements.  
We have things tucked away in boxes we haven't opened in years,  
and still we acquire more.**

**We have so much stuff and yet, there are those nearby  
who can fit all their worldly possessions in a shopping cart.  
We know that you, O God, will care for and come to them in their need.  
But we, O God, need your forgiveness**

*....(time for silent personal prayer)....*

**Forgive us, Lord, for we are more attached to our things than we think.  
Help us confront our attachment to possessions and things more honestly  
so we can share our own abundance more equitably. In Christ we pray, amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

We draw false and fleeting comfort from our material things.  
True comfort comes from God's love for us and by responding with that same love  
to family, friend, neighbor, and stranger.  
By God's love we are forgiven. Let us do likewise. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 90: 12-17

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

GOSPEL READING Mark 10: 17-31

SERMON Spiritual Decluttering  
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (debts)  
CALL FOR OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Be Thou My Vision* Arr. Carlton Young

DOXOLOGY  
PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 722 vv. 1, 4, 5 *Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak* CANONBURY

***Lord, speak to me that I may speak  
in living echoes of your tone.  
As you have sought, so let me seek  
your erring children, lost and lone.***

***O fill me with your fullness, Lord,  
until my very heart o'erflow  
in kindling thought and glowing word,  
your love to tell, your praise to show.***

***O use me, Lord, use even me,  
just as you will, and when, and where  
until your blessed face I see,  
your rest, your joy, your glory share.***

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST  
CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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## Prayer Concerns

- for people caught in times of war or famine;
- for all who sorrow, and for those who rejoice;
- for those in need of healing, and for those called to heal;
- for people called to bear the Good News in word or deed;
- for all involved in systems of education and health and pandemic relief;
- for Luna, Virginia, Martha, Les and Joyce, Char, Sara, Billie Kathryn and Carl, Rita and Ken, David R's mother, Haley, Andrew S, and all who need healing, strength, & comfort;
- for guidance, strength, open-mindedness and kindness;
- for our congregation to sense God's presence, strength, and Call to serve; and
- for everyone born, a place at the table!

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## Pastor's Ponderings

This is only the beginning--God is up to something amazing in you and in our church. Wait for it!

*May the Lord cause you to increase and enrich your love for each other and for everyone in the same way as we also love you. May the love cause your hearts to be strengthened, to be blameless in holiness before our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his people. Amen. ~1 Thessalonians 3:12-13*

The best kind of gift becomes more gifts. A poem becomes a composition for an orchestra. A birthday cake for one becomes slices for everyone. One act of kindness becomes

inspiration for multiple acts of kindness. The beautiful thing about gifts is that they can become more when they are shared.

In 1 Thessalonians, Paul writes to a church in conflict. So, he prays that God would cause their love, not only for each other but also for everyone else, to increase, to overflow. Paul asks God to take the gift of God's love they had already received and to make something more out of it.

Thankfully, there is more than enough love for everyone. It's the gift that keeps on giving and growing.

People and communities can do so many amazing things--but without love, they are meaningless. As we continue to turn to God, to focus on love, to listen to the needs of our community, Love will ask a lot of us. So, remember, the Love and Life we have in Christ is Abundant--there is enough, more than enough.

As your pastor I say, "Thank you. Thank you for your welcoming and grace-filled love!"  
As your cheerleader I say, "Wow! Keep it up! Keep going, keep growing, and don't quit!"  
As your coach I say, "Dig deep. The more love we give away, the more love we have to give!"

And as a community member, I realize how much more we are able to do when we come together in Christ to ask, "How can we better love God, ourselves and our neighbor?"

Though things may seem to be on a downward trend in the world, I believe it is but the pruning in preparation for the growth! This is not the end. God is up to something wonderful in the world through you--through all of you--through Christ's body which is the church. Remember to pray, to seek guidance, to act with love. With God, nothing is impossible. Watch for it!!

Grace and Peace,  
Judith

Eternal God, thank you for your love. Increase the love of Jesus in us today by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, so we can share the gift with others. Amen!

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## Celebrating Birthdays

Les Fisseler - October 5

Betty Crouch - October 9

Michelle Deivanayagam - October 10

David Rodgers - October 12

Gail Hegar - October 14

Madison Rhoden - October 15

**(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!)

