

# THE OUTLOOK

## CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF WAXAHACHIE

402 N College Street  
Waxahachie, TX 75165

December 2023

### A Note from Fred:

Central Presbyterian Church is growing! Good things are happening. As we move towards the end of 2023 there are several things I want to highlight. First, on November 12, we received 28 pledges for close to \$150,000. That is a significant increase from last year. Thank you very much!

We have been making improvements on both our building and the grounds. We have a new parking lot; the front doors of the sanctuary are going to be refinished; and many improvements have been made inside. I am grateful to our Building and Grounds committee and their work to keep up with our facilities.

We will also make some additions to our Advent and Christmas celebrations. I will be giving a children's sermon each Sunday. This year we mailed 10,000 postcards inviting people to join us for the holiday season on Sundays and Christmas Eve. There will be a weekly prayer service in the chapel on Wednesdays at noon. Bethlehem Revisited takes place the first two weekends of December and we need docents to welcome guests to our sanctuary each evening. On December 21 we will have a Blue Christmas worship service at 6:00 pm. And on Christmas Eve we will have our regular 11:00 am service and we will also have two candlelight/communion services at 5:00 pm and 11:00 pm. I hope you will join us.

Finally, we have been involved in caring for our community. We collected 600 packages of lined paper for our school district and 600 cans of sweet potatoes for Waxahachie Care. Our congregation continues to support Presbyterian Children's Home And Services (PCHAS). Also, we are supporting Common Ground Ministries' Christmas With Dignity. Donate new toys, unwrapped, at the church. We need your toys before December 8.

Good things are happening here at Central Presbyterian Church. To God be the glory.

Grace and peace,

Fred





## December Birthdays

Patricia Whatley	2
Calianne Buie	2
Jake Hibbard	4
Ronnie Tapp	10
Jean Silvera	20
Larry Felty	25
Mike Collier	27
Vance Hinds	31

Please make sure the church office has your birthday.  
We would like to wish you a Happy Birthday.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.*

Proverbs 16:3



## BETHLEHEM REVISITED

Central Presbyterian's Sanctuary will be open for Bethlehem Revisited. We will be displaying the Lord's Supper Quilt by Dr. Don Locke. We would love for you to join us as a docent. It is a wonderful opportunity to share the beautiful sanctuary. Please call Johnna, in the church office, 972-937-2924, for details.

## OCTOBER 2023 FINANCIALS

Unrestricted donations	\$ 16,790	YTD Unrestricted	\$157,289
Other Income	653	YTD Other	\$ 70,873
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$17,443</b>		<b>\$228,162</b>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$29,606</b>	YTD	<b>\$204,437</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>\$ 12,163</b>		<b>\$ 23,725</b>

## UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER

**Dec. 3**

**Congregational Meeting** following worship to elect new officers.

**Dec. 2-3 and 9-10**

**Bethlehem Revisited**

Please sign up to serve as a docent inside the sanctuary to welcome visitors. There will be a sign-up sheet in the entrance of the church or call Johnna for more information.

**Dec. 6, 13, 20**

**Prayer Meetings**

Dr. Thrower will conduct prayer meetings at noon on Wednesdays in the sanctuary on the above

## *Blue Christmas Service*

*What is a blue Christmas service?*

*A Blue Christmas service is a worship service that names and holds space for the sadness that accompanies the holidays. Heightened by the advertising of our consumerist culture, there is a definite Christmas ideal that includes neatly iced gingerbread houses, smiling children, and an excessive amount of neatly wrapped packages. These standards and the church's sometimes solitary focus on joy can make the holidays an isolating time for anyone who can't muster happiness or meet the criteria. A blue Christmas service is an invitation for anyone who wants to come and set their burden down, for a community to hold pain collectively.*

*This service is for a group of people who recognize that joy and sorrow intertwine, and those who love them.*

*The service falls on December 21 — the shortest day of the year. This offers an opportunity for community to reflect on darkness and light in a literal sense. When the darkness feels overwhelming, we can take comfort in knowing that God meets us here. And whether it is a seed in the soil, a baby in the womb, or Jesus in the tomb, we know that life comes out of the dark.*

*Central Presbyterian Church of Waxahachie is offering a Blue Christmas service this year on Thursday, December 21st at 6 p.m. in the Patrick Chapel. Please enter through the side door adjacent to the parking lot off Jackson Street by Bethlehem Revisited. We have a ramp and stairs. The chapel is just to the left of the stairway. This is a brief service of hope and light in the midst of the darkness. Please join us.*



## *An Angel Tree Reminder*

We hope you Angel Tree elves are having fun shopping for your PCHAS youth and parents. Please bring your bag of unwrapped gifts to the cottage no later than Monday, December 11.

It is helpful to call Johnna to let her know you are coming. (972-937-2924)

Happy shopping!



## **Helping Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services**

PCHAS is still in need of **several volunteers to help on campus** in Waxahachie with **Sorting and Inventory days, 12/13 and 12/14**. Mostly, they need 2<sup>nd</sup> shift volunteers on both days, 1:00pm – 4:00pm. Below is the Sign Up Genius link for open time slots for that day.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C45ABAE29A0FBC52-46190866-angel>

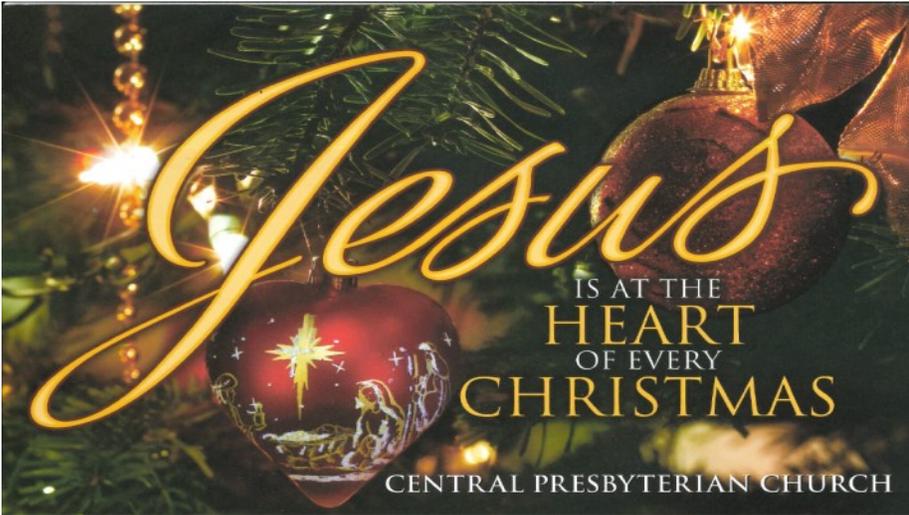
There is also another request: PCHAS had a leak in their storage area, most of their Christmas wrapping that they had collected to give to the families to wrap their children's gifts was destroyed. They are now looking to gather rolls of wrapping paper, tape, bows or gift bags to accommodate over 600 gifts. Any help would be greatly appreciated.



**Christmas with Dignity** is a program that was initiated years ago by Common Ground Ministries as a way for parents of students at CGM to purchase Christmas presents for their children at a reduced cost. Toys are collected in various locations throughout Waxahachie and are then assembled and priced at 1/3 of the original value.

Christmas with Dignity is **December 10th** this year and will be held in the Undercroft at CPC. A decorated box is now in our sanctuary ready to receive new, unwrapped toys. Currently there are only 3 toys in our box, which is usually full by the time the boxes are collected. This project and our Angel Tree Project are our only Christmas Mission projects this year. The last day to contribute toys is **December 8**. Toys purchased from the YOUNGIVEGOODS website will be delivered to CPC before December 8; however the deadline to order online has expired.

*Please direct any questions to the Mission/Congregational Care Ministry team.*



**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight  
Services  
5:00 pm  
11:00 pm**

**Waxahachie Caregiver  
Support Group**

Every second Tuesday of the month, from 6:30 –7:30 pm, there will be a Waxahachie Caregiver Support Group Meeting at Central Presbyterian Church. The group is led by Marie Gardner, and it focuses on those who are caregivers or ones affected by Alzheimer’s or dementia. Together you will:

- ◆ Exchange practical information on caregiving challenges & solutions
- ◆ Talk through issues and ways of coping
- ◆ Share feelings, needs and concerns
- ◆ Learn about community resources

This group will meet once a month, on the 2nd Tuesday. For more information, contact Marie Gardner at 214-450-3849.



**Lay reader or liturgist?**

Two terms that mean assisting in worship, reading the scripture, and leading other parts of the worship service on Sunday morning. We have a new year of worship opportunities with an opportunity for new leaders. Please contact Alex Galeti at 516-473-4748 (call or text)

or e-mail AlexGaleti@RaymondJames.com to learn more.

**Jesus is calling—you?**



**NOTICE  
FILMING IN PROGRESS**

To include those who are not able to worship in person, worship services may be filmed.

We have reserved the back third of the sanctuary as a no-film zone.

Please sit where you feel most comfortable.

Sign up for CPC updates and reminders by

e-mail by contacting: [cpcwaxnews@gmail.com](mailto:cpcwaxnews@gmail.com)

**FLOWER CALENDAR**



Please consider honoring or remembering a loved one or event, by providing flowers for the sanctuary.

There will be a new flower calendar on the wall for 2024. It will be by the north, ramp side entrance. Johnna will add the information to the bulletin and the entire congregation can enjoy the flowers on Sunday.

**Reminder**

Please have your Newsletter

contributions/submissions to both Nancy Post at [nposttx@gmail.com](mailto:nposttx@gmail.com) and Johnna Breedon at [cpcwax@gmail.com](mailto:cpcwax@gmail.com) by the 20th of each month.

No computer?

No problem.

Please just submit to the office.

Thank you!



402 N. College Street  
 P O Box 38  
 Waxahachie, TX 75168

Sunday School 9:45 am  
 Worship Service 11:00 am

Office hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm  
 Friday 9am-Noon

Phone: 972-937-2924

E-mail: Office: [cpcwax@gmail.com](mailto:cpcwax@gmail.com)

Pastor: [cpcpastorwax@gmail.com](mailto:cpcpastorwax@gmail.com)

Web: [www.waxcpc.org](http://www.waxcpc.org)

Follow CPCWAX on social media:



# December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:00-9:00 Bethlehem Revisited	2 6:00-9:00 Bethlehem Revisited
3 9:45 Andrews Class 11:00 am Worship in Sanctuary Congregational Meeting 6:00-9:00 Bethlehem	4 6:30 Jubilate Ringers	5	6 12:00 Prayers in Sanctuary 7:00 Chancel Choir	7	8 6:00-9:00 Bethlehem Revisited	9 6:00-9:00 Bethlehem Revisited Common Ground Christmas Store
10 9:45 Andrews Class 11:00 am Worship in Sanctuary 6:00-9:00 Bethlehem	11 6:30 Jubilate Ringers	12	13 12:00 Prayers in Sanctuary 7:00 Chancel Choir	14 10:00 PW WOMEN CIRCLE 6:30 Wax. Caregiver Support Group	15	16 Piano Recital 6pm Wedding Rehearsal
17 9:45 Andrews Class 11:00 am Worship in Sanctuary	18 6:30 Jubilate Ringers	19	20 12:00 Prayers in Sanctuary 7:00 Chancel Choir	21 6:00 pm Blue Christmas in Chapel	22	23
24 11:00 am Worship in Sanctuary <b>Christmas Eve Candlelight Services 5 pm &amp; 11pm</b>	25 <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b>	26	27	28	29	30
The outlook						