

Thank you, Primetimer volunteers!

Central recently honored the many volunteers that it takes to operate all the ministries and events here. In lieu of a dinner or other volunteer event, leadership opted to donate this money to help Helene flood recovery in Western NC. However, volunteers did receive a special gift - a 2025 Central Church planner! If you are a volunteer, please pick up your free copy by Nov. 24. If you're not a volunteer, you can purchase one for \$5.



Here's a special shout-out to our volunteers who help keep the Primetimer ministry running:

- Anita Almond
- Paula Baucom
- Jonah Bedros
- Joya Bedros
- Mariem Bedros
- Joan Bennett
- Barbara Bernier
- Steve Bernier
- Brenda Blanton
- John Blanton
- Andrienne Chandler
- Maria George
- Sherry Harris

- Pam Macaluso
- Larry Macaluso
- Melissa Magazine
- Dee McCreary
- Chris McSwain
- Elwyn McSwain
- Wivine Milamu
- Anna Moore
- Nannette Norton
- Tim Norton
- Kathy Pulakos
- Francis Ross
- Jesse Sneed
- Kathleen Sneed
- Laura Spickelmier
- Joan Stokes
- Carol Syfert
- Nanette Venditti
- Judy Wright

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PRIMETIME POST

November 2024



November Dinner Recap

God's love can come in a box!

Happy Thanksgiving, dear Primetimers!

Oh, how many things we have to be thankful for here in these United States! After hearing Izabella McMillon's impactful testimony of her life in Romania under the oppression of communism, we gained a deeper level of gratefulness to God for the USA, even with all of its faults.



Izabella and her brother were young when their parents were told they had to move from the country to the nearest city, and in which apartment they would live, and what jobs they would have, working 14 hours per day. The children were left to themselves to get to school, then home, with three parental instructions: eat lunch, do homework, behave.

Restricted to staying indoors, they loved to take turns reading the three small books they had. One day, they noticed a loose floorboard in their apartment, and when they raised it up, found a Bible. They took turns reading it to each other when their parents were at work. Through a friend at school, and with their parents' "permission," Izabella and her brother would secretly go to a weekly Bible study. It was a few blocks away, but they walked in pitch-black darkness, since the electricity was turned off every evening.

Young Isabella learned that God's Word is a true treasure. She asked their adult teacher to teach her to pray. At age 13, the first thing she prayed for was snow! Children were permitted to play outside during the snow, which she loved, and she couldn't wait for that prayer to be answered.

After waiting several weeks with no snow, Izabella was discouraged. But in God's goodness and perfect plan, for the very first time, a large truck entered their city. Many people, including Izabella, ran to see why it was there. It was an Operation Christmas Child delivery truck, bringing gifts and the gospel for children. With great anticipation, Izabella received her box and when she opened it, she was amazed to discover a snow globe!

God had answered her prayer! "God doesn't always answer our prayers in the way we want," said Izabella, "but He answers! Ordinary items become extraordinary in God's hands!" Only our Heavenly Father knew the life-changing impact of a snow globe upon this little girl halfway around the world. With her husband and two children, this sweet family now lives in Matthews, and Izabella now works for Operation Christmas Child!

Operation Christmas Child has delivered 220 million boxes since 1993. Its goal this year is 12 million boxes. Did you know that the gospel message booklet placed in each box is in the language of their destinations? Because the toys will fade away, but Jesus doesn't!

Being at Primetimers' with you is truly my happy place and I'm so thankful that God has put us all together in this very special way.

Blessings to each of you and yours!

Pam



Jesus, the Greatest Gift



*Thanks be to God for His
incredible gift!*

2 Corinthians 9:15

Christmas is very near! People are beginning to rush to buy that special gift for a loved one, or busy decorating their house. Perhaps they are cooking that special recipe, or making arrangements to attend programs and parties celebrating this wonderful time of the year.

As Christians, we should start preparing our heart for Jesus' birthday. Some call the busyness the Christmas "rush," but it is time for the Christmas "hush." We need to have a meaningful time to focus on the amazing miracle of Jesus becoming a baby and dwelling here on earth.

The shepherds in the field watching their flocks of sheep were the first to be invited by angels to see the Prince of Peace. The wise men traveled many miles as they followed the star. They brought gifts to acknowledge the King of Kings.

God had a purpose for Jesus. He came to die on a cross to save all who believe in Him, so

that they could have eternal life. It is hard for us to comprehend the sacrifice of Jesus taking our sins upon Himself because He never sinned.

He died so we could live forever with Him in heaven. It is remarkable that Jesus had a humble birth in the lowly town of Bethlehem, known as the "House of Bread." Jesus became our Bread of Life. God cares for us and gives us mercy and grace when we feel like we can't face our circumstances and hardships in life. God understands and sent Jesus to be a heart healer.

Jesus was the greatest gift of all.

*Dear Friend,
How has the gift of Jesus Christ changed your life? This Christmas, let Jesus put a song in your heart and give you the opportunity to share the gift of Jesus with others.*

*Blessings,
Sherry Harris*



Turn the Christmas "rush" into a Christmas "hush."

Christmas Criss-Cross

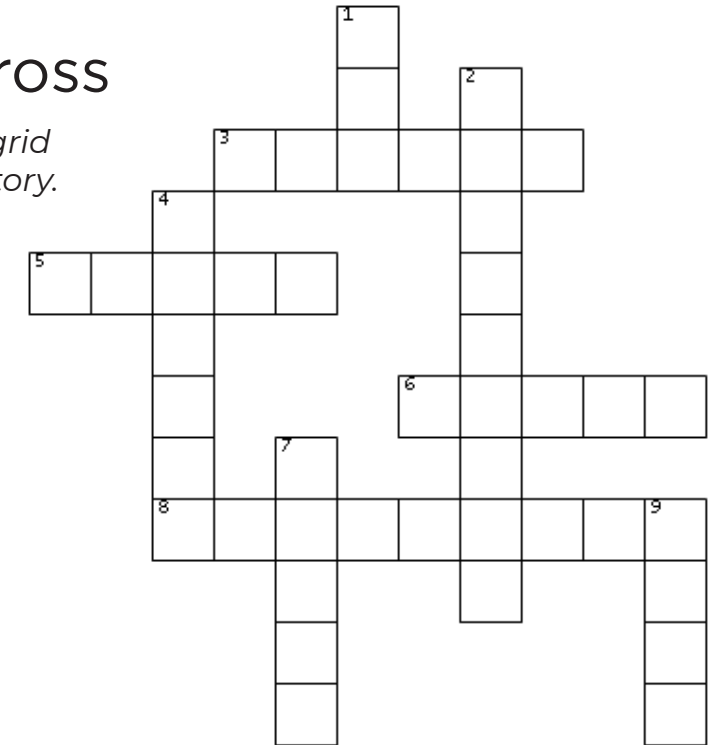
Use the clues below to fill in the grid with words from the Christmas Story.

ACROSS

- 3. Box for eating or sleeping
- 5. Three traveled from afar
- 6. Not-so-"great" Roman leader
- 8. They were sore afraid

DOWN

- 1. No vacancy there
- 2. Ground zero for Christmas
- 4. Were heard on high
- 7. The Reason for the Season
- 9. The Eastern compass



The holidays are coming to Central!

Widow Connection Christmas Brunch

Sat., Dec. 7 | 10am | Family Life Center | Tickets: \$10

Widows can enjoy a tasty Christmas brunch with a time of fellowship and celebration.

"The Birth of A King"

Sat., Dec. 14 | 2pm and 5pm | Charlotte Campus Sanctuary | Free

This annual musical event brings the songs that retell the Greatest Story Ever Told. The Central Choir and Orchestra performances will be earlier this year, at 2pm and 5pm. Doors open 30 minutes before the performance.

Christmas Eve Communion Services

Tues., Dec. 24 | 4pm and 5:30pm
Charlotte Campus Sanctuary

These annual services feature worship, communion, and a message from Pastor Livingston. Refreshments will be served between services outside the sanctuary, weather permitting.



Please pray for the following Primetimers who have been in the hospital recently:

Hazel Atkins, Dolores Wells, Walter Guinez