This month, our focus of appreciation turns towards those who work in the hospitals and rescue squad units. Throughout the Covid pandemic, they have struggled with the brunt of the health struggles and sorrows as they work hard to save lives. Many may not realize, however, that health care workers deal with other crisis situations as well. EMT and paramedic workers are usually the first ones who arrive to crisis situations whether they be drug overdoses, car accidents, shooting victims, and those who experience traumatic situations where someone had a stroke, a heart attack, or worse. They transport the injured to the hospitals where emergency room workers are the first ones to assess injuries, do initial x-rays and tests, and examine what they can do to provide comfort, hope and stability to those who are hurting.

Those who work in ICU/CCU have to deal with the most difficult of health situations where lives are literally hanging in the balance. Wearing face shields, masks, double gowned, with latex gloves, each health care worker risk their health with hopes of helping those who are struggling with theirs.

As we come to the end of 2021, it seems appropriate for us to express our appreciation for those whom God called to work in the field of health care. So what can we do? Our final mission project can focus on things that will affirm what the health care workers do for our communities.

- We can certainly make care baskets for them. (healthy snacks, fruits, fun food, etc)
- We can give out $20 gift cards that will bless them with a night out at a nice restaurant with family.
- We can write personal letters and leave them at the stations and hospital.
- I don’t know if their lounges have a Kuerag, but if they do, we can send them variety packs of coffee, teas, or hot chocolate.
- If we see them at a restaurant, thinking about paying for their meal and verbally affirm them for what they do.
- Most of all, let us pray for them. These are difficult days and even health care workers are struggling with personal stress and struggles. Pray for God to refresh them when they are weary, to remind them they are essential in God’s work, and to relay to them that they are not alone in these difficult days and that they have our support.

Blessings,
Jon
As we come to the end of 2021, we also come to busiest schedule for activities at the Center Presbyterian Church. Make make a note of the different activities that are listed and make plans to join us for these activities.

Beginning on the Sunday following Thanksgiving, we light **Advent candles** to prepare us for the birthday celebration of Christ Jesus. Each Sunday, an individual or family will read a meditation in relationship to the candle they light each Sunday. The first candle represents **HOPE**. The second candle represents **FAITH**. The third pink candle represents **JOY**. The fourth candle represents **PEACE**. And the Center White Candle represents the **LOVE** of God.

**Poinsettias** will be purchased for those who want to honor loved ones or celebrate the life of a loved one who has passed. The cost for each poinsettia is **$8** and forms will be placed in bulletins on **December 5**. Please fill forms out and place in offering plate after worship.

**Tickets** have been purchased to attend the Christmas movie from the Chosen. As of right now, we have two tickets left for the **December 5** showing at the Foothills Mall AMC Theater. The tickets are for **5:15pm**. The Pastor will be there with tickets at 5pm.

We invite you to go and be blessed to visit the Charles Hall Museum and enjoy the Live Nativity program presented by members of the **Poplar Bluff Baptist Church** on **December 5**. The program starts at **6pm** next to the museum.
On December 10 at 6pm, there will be a **fund raising auction** for **Shelter My Sheep Ministries**. It is being sponsored by HMMC (Homeless Management of Monroe County). Because of a generous donation, tickets are free to attend this event. Come and see the items and make a bid and try to win them. To know what items will be auctions you can go to the HMMC Facebook page. If you would like a ticket, please speak with the pastor.

The year’s Christmas Cantata is entitled **“Come Let Us Worship the King”** There will be two presentations on Saturday Night, December 11 @ 7pm and Sunday, December 12 @ 10am. We will be having guest singers and special music that guarantees hearts will be blessed. Joins us and bring a friend or neighbor for worship as we sing and celebrate the birthday of our Savior.

On the evening of **December 12 @ 7pm**, Center Church invites you to drive in, sit in your car and be blessed as we transform the cemetery into Bethlehem for a Live Nativity Show. See the kids lead the animals in and gather around the manger to remember Jesus’ birth.

**Let’s Go Caroling! Saturday, December 18 @ 5pm** seems to be the best time. You are invited to join us as we meet at the church and go out and sing carols to those in the church and community. We might be going to a nursing home or two this year, and be prepared. If we have a lot of singers, we might divide and conquer. And we will have the words to **O Holy Night** 😊.

On **December 19 @ 6pm**, there will be a **Christmas party** for all the kids and parents at the church. Get ready for a fun time when we gather in the Fellowship hall. I heard we might even be having a “special guest” that evening. See you then.
On December 23 at 9am, volunteers will be needed to help gather food and things for the annual Christmas Food Tub Ministry. This year, it looks like we will be shopping for 100 families. If you want to experience something amazing and witness how a little country church like Center makes a difference in the community, join us and see what God will do. After the food has been gathered, sorted and placed in totes, delivery people will be needed on Friday, December 24 @ 8am to transport the totes to the needy families. See you then.

December 26 @ 10am, we will have a special worship service which will focus on a Shepherd’s story of Christmas. So please plan to join us for worship.