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CONTINUING THE SEARCH FOR A PERMANENT PASTOR

[BY REV. CAROL REED]

As I write this, I have been at Central Presbyterian Church for all of two weeks. I feel a bit like I have been drinking from a fire hose, there is so much to learn!

I have now met a number of Central folks on Zoom and even met a few in person, but look forward to meeting more of you in the weeks and months ahead. I am still learning how the church office operates. (Please note that it is now best to use my Central email at carolr@centralforgood.org.)

I am still learning who needs what from me and when. I bring skills and interests with me that will no doubt be different from what you are accustomed to, but I hope our time together will help us all grow and stretch in new ways. My thanks to everyone who has sent me emails and helped me learn my way around the church. I look forward to the day when we can finally meet in person!

It has been a long time since Central Church has searched for a new pastor. Here are some questions that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

UPCOMING WORSHIP

We are live! While we may not yet be able to gather in person, we are now able to share in a live worship experience. Every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. visit Central's website at www.centralforgood.org/stream to watch worship live, as it happens.

Right now the only people who will be in the sanctuary are the handful of worship leaders and camera operators. We will be keeping our distance and wearing masks when not speaking for everyone's safety. Central does not yet have plans to invite worshippers in the sanctuary, but we look forward to that day!

Want to be more engaged and comment on worship as it happens? Simply head over to our YouTube channel and sign in with a Google account. Once you have, you can comment with others on the videos. If you have questions about live stream access or how to leave comments, email Christie Rachele at christier@centralforgood.org.

Thursday, April 1 MAUNDY THURSDAY

Join us for a recorded contemplative service led by Rev. Carol Reed, which will include a dialogue as we might have heard it as the disciples gathered together on that day so many years ago. Jennifer Anderson will play music and we will celebrate the sacrament of communion.

Friday, April 2 GOOD FRIDAY

We invite you to take a brief moment in your day to reflect on the meaning

of Good Friday. Available online, Rev. Carol Reed will offer a brief meditation and Jennifer Anderson will play some quiet music on this holy, sacred day.

Sunday, April 4 EASTER SUNDAY

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Rev. Carol Reed will lead a festive worship this morning to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will hear uplifting music from our Central musicians with music from the Handbell Ensemble, solos by Shanta Hejmadi and Adam Van der Sluis, and a piano/organ duet by Steve Swanson and Jennifer Anderson.

Sunday, April 11

Rev. Carol Reed will preach and Jennifer Anderson will play music.

Sunday, April 18

Music will be provided by Shanta Hejmadi and Adam Van der Sluis, soloists; Steve Swanson, piano and Jennifer Anderson, organ.

Sunday, April 25

Rev. Carol Reed will preach with music provided by Shanta Hejmadi and Adam Van der Sluis as soloists and Jennifer Anderson on organ.

WATCH WORSHIP LIVE AT
[www.centralforgood.org/
stream](http://www.centralforgood.org/stream)

CENTRAL STAFF

(651) 224-4728

PASTORAL CARE

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Sue LeClaire, Sous Chef

Peter Evarts, Dishwasher

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martha@centralforgood.org, ext. 112

TAKE ANTI-RACISM ACTIONS

A 21-Day Challenge

FROM LOU BENDER,
TASK FORCE CONVENER

I started thinking about it in mid-January. My friend went to an anti-racism seminar online and shared the idea. A 21-day anti-racism practice, with a bite-sized portion of information or narrative practitioner about one aspect of racism and how to fight it. The idea is to listen, watch, or read something every day that provides opportunity for reflection and action.

Sounds like a good idea for Lent, I thought. Some people were beginning in January to honor Dr. King. Others were beginning in February for Black History Month. Still others named Juneteenth as their start date. I would begin on Ash Wednesday, I decided. Ash Wednesday came and went. As I write, the trial for the former police officer charged in the death of George Floyd is beginning. On the theory that the best time to begin is now, I'm trying again.

Maybe you want to join me.

The idea began with a pair of educator/writer/researchers, Eddie Moore, Jr. and Debby Irving. Dr. Moore's website summarizes the plan this way: "For 21 days, do one action to further your understanding of power, privilege, supremacy, oppression, and equity." According to a quick search on the internet, groups from the YWCA to the Bar Association have taken up the challenge.

Local groups from all over the country are engaged: churches, public policy coalitions, the United Way, universities, libraries, religious orders and judicatories, theater companies, and Blue Cross Blue Shield, each in their own little corner of the world. Google says the challenge is mentioned on millions of websites, but I'll leave you with only two:

- www.eddiemoorejr.com/21daychallenge
- www.debbyirving.com/21daychallenges/

I plan to keep these sites open on my computer for the next 21 days. They say that's long enough to build a new habit, and actively battling racism is a habit I want to build. If you decide to participate, too, let me know how it's going. I'm on Facebook, and the church office has my email. I'd love to hear from you! In the meantime, read on. Leon Oman has been on an Anti-Racism Pilgrimage with the Twin Cities Area

Presbytery since September, and he has a bite-sized portion of his learning to share.

Enbridge Line 3 Pipeline

FROM LEON OMAN,
FOUNDING TASK FORCE MEMBER

The Enbridge Line 3 pipeline has been in the news for a very long time. It is a replacement pipeline, but larger (more volume), and cuts a new corridor across northern Minnesota – carrying tar sands crude, one of the dirtiest fuels on earth. Enbridge's route crosses territories where Anishinaabe people retain the right to hunt, fish, gather medicines, and harvest wild rice.

The exercise of these rights could be permanently damaged by the construction - or worse, an oil spill. While the pipeline project has caused some division in the Indian community (the Fond du Lac band reached a settlement with Enbridge), the other tribes in Minnesota have officially opposed it in one form or



CONTINUING THE SEARCH [CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

you might be asking.

When will we start the process of searching for a new pastor?

The quick answer, it has already started with the arrival of a transitional pastor. There needed to be some time for a new pastor to acquainted and learn about the congregation, to assess needs and determine how to move forward in the search process.

What is the difference between an interim pastor and a transitional pastor?

For years the Presbyterian Church USA used the term interim. The Twin Cities Area Presbytery began using the term transitional because it seems to indicate that ministry still happens during this time, alongside the tasks of searching for a new permanent pastor. But either term is appropriate.

What is the difference between a called pastor and a transitional pastor?

Both are pastors who lead the church, preach and administer the sacraments, provide pastoral care, serve as moderator of the Session and head of staff, work with committees and organizations in the church, all the task of any pastor in a church. The difference is that a *called* pastor has been voted on by the congregation while a *transitional* pastor comes to the church with the specific added purpose of serving the church during the transition towards finding a new pastor.

Who does the search process for a new pastor?

There are preliminary steps that will happen with the congregation as a whole – as the church looks back and looks forward, envisioning its future. The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area will have a liaison assigned to Central to help through the entire process. The transitional pastor will also help get the process started. In other words, Central Church will not be left to do this on their own!

At some point there will be a Pastor Nominating Committee elected of Central Church members, and the liaison from the Presbytery will be help the process of writing a detailed job description, finding interested applicants, and doing interviews.

How long is the transitional pastor at Central?

Generally, it is a year to year and a half process. Not all churches are the same of course; some work faster and some take longer.

Can a transitional pastor stay to become the called pastor?

No; in Presbyterian Churches, a transitional pastor is always there only for the transitional period.

Have a question that has not been addressed here?

Don't be afraid to ask! Feel free to drop your questions to Rev. Carol Reed at carolr@centralforgood.org or call (651) 224-4728 ext. 102.

ANTI-RACISM

[FROM PAGE 3]

another. As one could guess, it has also been vigorously fought by many environmental groups.

For a deeper understanding of the issues, especially from racial justice and environmental justice perspectives, I encourage you to visit www.stopline3.org/issues.

After a long delay, construction has started. But continued opposition to Line 3 was recently energized by an early executive action of President Joe Biden, which halted construction of Keystone XL, another huge pipeline. It has also been revealed that Enbridge has fallen far short of its workforce goal of 50% Minnesota residents, most recent labor statistics are that only 33% are Minnesotans (who only performed 28% of hours worked).

Advocacy on the pipeline issue has been a valued action option for many church members in our Presbytery on an Anti-Racism Spiritual Pilgrimage (several from Central). A January 31st full-page letter in the Star Tribune signed by 345 community and faith leaders includes our Synod of Lakes and Prairies Executive, Elona Street-Stewart.

To view the letter and take action yourself, such as signing a petition to President Biden, go to www.stopline3.org/take-action.



Central CONNECTION CIRCLES

Join Others Weekly!

Looking for a fun, guided conversation with others from Central? The Deacons are continuing their connection circles as avenue for people to meet online and check in with each other. These casual Zoom events offer a means for our community to gather and connect with people of all ages and backgrounds.

Connection Circles run every Thursday from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

The following information is the same for all Connection Circles.

VIA VIDEO ON SMARTPHONE, COMPUTER OR TABLET:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87229900980>

OR VIA PHONE CALL IN:

(312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 872 2990 0980#

See you in the circle!



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WATCH VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE
youtube.com (search for Central)



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VOLUNTEER TO HELP
centralforgood.org/volunteer

COFFEE TIME



Save the Date

After watching our live worship on Sunday mornings, head over to Zoom for a casual coffee time with others from Central. Coffee Time is offered on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. with the same Zoom link for all.

Join us on Easter Sunday!

VIA VIDEO ON SMARTPHONE, COMPUTER OR TABLET:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82541611955>

VIA PHONE CALL IN:

(312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 825 4161 1955#

Kiera Faye will leads us each week, with opportunities and fun conversation starters to share in break-out groups. This is a fun way to connect with others you don't often get to see, or talk more with those you do!

CENTERED IN ADVOCACY

The following article is reprinted with permission from the Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative. To learn more about Beacon, go to www.beaconinterfaith.org.

[BY DYLAN NOVACEK, BEACON CONTENT SPECIALIST]

“What absolutely gorgeous stained glass windows,” Maggie Gordon exclaimed to her daughter as she looked upon Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul. Mesmerized by the lights and colors, Maggie stepped in the congregation with hopes of finding others who valued faith-based social justice.

Maggie knows in her very heart just how important housing is. As she first joined the congregation at Central, she was welcomed with open arms and radical hospitality, values that are embedded in our interfaith collaborative here at Beacon. As a congregation growing in their advocacy, those at Central are asking themselves: “how do we become better advocates for home?”



Central member Maggie Gordon



“The congregants at Central don’t remain in the past,” Maggie reflected. “We’re looking at the bigger picture and growing our team of leaders.”

Growing up during the Vietnam war and the 1960’s Civil Rights movement, Maggie vividly remembers where she was when she heard the news that Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated.

“I was twenty years old, attending Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota. So many of us were incredibly passionate about the Civil Rights movement. I’ve always cared about the world around me. I’ve always wanted and tried to be a good advocate, even before I knew that word.”

There is a shared history of working for racial justice and equity at Central. Many of the congregants have had similar experiences to Maggie’s. With a desire to grow as activists, the congregants at Central

are able to elevate their work through being a member of our Beacon collaborative.

“We all do this together,” Maggie exclaimed. “Beacon has brought us into a bigger community working towards change. Central has a long history of responding to the needs of the world around us. Under the leadership of our former pastor Dave Colby, Central continues to widen our outreach. That work is made easier thanks to support of our congregational organizer Elizabeth Tannen.”

“Everyone I’ve met at Central has expressed such heart, such humility, and such commitment to both ongoing learning and ongoing action to make our world better,” Elizabeth said. “There’s so much uncertainty, so many daunting issues when it comes to tackling our housing crisis – but one thing we know for sure is that we won’t make change without building power and bringing more people into our movement.”

Being met with support and excitement, Central is excited to build their power as they continue on the early stages of their Beacon journey.

"We've got a great team that is working to get other's involved," Maggie added. "We have leaders like Barb Swanson who has worked on a lot of different task forces here at Central. We also have longtime congregation leaders supporting us. We all have different strengths and love working together."

Through building relationships, reading about the issues together, and taking advantage of training opportunities, congregations like Central are learning how to build power. For Maggie, a standout moment in this advocacy work occurred at the Power Tools workshop.

"Suddenly so many parts of my life fit together," she cheered. "There are ways I can step into a role that I was thinking about for a long time. After Central joined the collaborative, we started learning as much as we could, hoping it would be a good fit in terms of advocacy. Beacon has become just that for me."

Growing in her advocacy, Maggie is happy to have people like Barb, and her organizer Elizabeth, by her side as they encourage each other in this work. Knowing they are in a diverse neighborhood and wanting to serve the world around them, Central believes in the vision that all people have a home.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has placed a bright light on the horrors

of institutional inequities, purposely built right into our country's laws and policies. I see their consequences piling up around us," Maggie asserted. "I've felt an urgent, moral obligation and faith based imperative to act in the nitty gritty public arena."

With a firm understanding that we need a big, bold solution to solve our housing crisis, congregations like Central are proud to advocate for our Bring It Home, MN campaign, which would provide rent subsidies to all Minnesotans who need them.

Through inviting others to show up for home at events like Rent Is Due: Day of Action, Central is helping build our collaborative and pushing our shared mission forward.

"Building leadership teams allows faith communities to deeply expand our reach and impact," Elizabeth added. "It's really exciting to see this

team take shape at Central! There is a particular commitment to anti-racist learning and taking action."

"It's an exciting time at Central," Maggie expressed. "I am just as delighted that Beacon offers opportunities to continue to grow in our response to the Gospel."

For Maggie, this work speaks to her deepest values as a person of faith, and as an advocate. Through engaging in this work with our collaborative, we're growing in our leadership and building power to see that all our neighbors are in a place of stability.

"Our congregation does such a good job pulling people out once they float down the river. People want to know what's up the river, and why people are floating down at all," Maggie reflected. "Work from your heart. There are things that need to be done. Very concrete things."

(To see what... go to page 10!)



Justice Choir performing in the sanctuary at Central,



THERE IS SOMETHING INFINITELY HEALING IN THE REPEATED REFRAINS OF NATURE — THE ASSURANCE THAT DAWN COMES AFTER NIGHT, AND SPRING AFTER WINTER.

-RACHEL CARSON



Keystone Offers FREE Grocery Delivery Services

For many people, getting groceries and essentials can be challenging, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Keystone Community Services has launched a new FREE grocery delivery program to increase food access for low-income seniors and adults with disabilities.

Food is sourced from the Keystone food shelves, and those who qualify can receive monthly food deliveries. To qualify, participants must be over

the age of 60 or adults with disabilities in low-income households of three or fewer individuals within our program services area.

For more specifics about qualifications and information on how to sign up for deliveries, please visit our website at www.keystoneservices.org/seniors/grocery-delivery or call 651-645-0349 for information.



Easter Flowers for Live Stream Worship

In past years, Central members and friends have purchased flowers to fill our sanctuary with color and joy on Easter Sunday. This year the Easter service will be live streamed from our website and we are welcoming special donations to help decorate the pulpit, communion table, and other areas in the sanctuary with lilies and colorful hydrangeas.

Following the service, our deacons will deliver the flowers to Central's home-bound members.

To order flowers for this service, please send a check to the church office or donate online at www.centralforgood.org/give with the note "flowers." Checks should be made payable to Central Presbyterian Church.

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

[BY KATIE MORRIS]

Citywide Cleanup

Join us on Saturday, April 24th from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. for an opportunity to serve the St. Paul community with the annual citywide cleanup! If you would like to join us, RSVP to katiem@centralforgood.org, and we'll share more information as soon as we have it!

Camp & College Scholarships

We know this summer may still hold much uncertainty, but if your family is planning to attend any summer camp activities, remember that we have scholarship opportunities! Thanks to funds given to Central, youth scholarships are available for camp or college from the Nella Jury - Edna Larson Fund. Requests up to \$300 will be considered, with final awards depending on the applications received.

If interested, please submit a one page letter by May 28th. The letter should outline your connection to Central and how you plan to use the

scholarship funds. The letter should be sent to Central, to the attention of the Children & Youth committee or emailed to Katie Morris at katiem@centralforgood.org.

Calling All Graduates

We want to celebrate all those graduating from high school, college, and apprenticeship programs! Please call or email Katie Morris, katiem@centralforgood.org to let us know about any graduates no later than May 12th. Include information on where they are graduating from and what is next.

We look forward to celebrating this group for making it through these last few years of school that looked so different from what they imagined.

Chopped Cooking Challenge

At the end of February, families gathered on Zoom to participate in a cooking challenge with a mystery ingredient – see some of their creations in the photo below!

4 WAYS TO GIVE

While we are unable to pass the collection plate in our online worship, we invite you to give through several other ways.



Donate Online

www.centralforgood.org/give



Mail a Check

500 Cedar St, St. Paul, MN 55101



Recurring Transfer

Set up an automatic bank transfer



Deliver In-Person

Contact the office to arrange a day/time for drop off.

QUESTIONS?

Call (651) 224-4728 ext. 100



MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

Porch Sessions are Back!

I would love to invite you onto my porch for us to (safely!) make music together!

If you sing or play an instrument, send me an email and let's set up a time now that the weather is warming up! We can make a recording and then use that recording in our livestreamed worship service.

It is always such a joy to make music together!

Jennifer Anderson,
Director of Music Ministry
jennifera@centralforgood.org



Music Mosaic Event

As Earth Day approaches, we present a celebration of BIRDSONG on Wednesday, April 21 at 7:15 p.m.! Our own bird expert, Shanta Hejmadi, will teach us a few things about how to listen for birds, why birds sing, and how to tell a few common bird songs from birds in our backyard!

Join us on Zoom! All are welcome!

VIA VIDEO ON SMARTPHONE, COMPUTER OR TABLET:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89250890162>

VIA PHONE CALL IN:

(312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 892 5089 0162 #

Want the Zoom link emailed to you? Drop and email to Jennifer Anderson at jennifera@centralforgood.org and she will send it.

OPPORTUNITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

Did you enjoy the article by the Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative on page 6? Now is the time to work for the greatest needs. You and your congregation can join Beacon in their mission to pass Bring It Home, MN. (Lift up our voices and values to make sure that our lawmakers place housing solutions at the center of the conversation in the 2021 legislative session.)

To learn more, visit their website and take the pledge at:
www.beaconinterfaith.org/get-involved/take-action



Women's Networking Group

We had a great conversation in March! It is so heartwarming to connect with the women in our community!

Please join us in April for our Networking Group on Monday, April 12 at 5:00 p.m. This group is a great way to informally connect with women in our congregation. We meet from 5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. monthly via Zoom.

VIA COMPUTER / SMARTPHONE:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86260244088pwd=cFRFZ0N1STRQcjNIY2NvUTErRFB5dz09>

VIA PHONE CALL IN:
 (312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 862 6024 4088 #
 Passcode is 817873

To be added to mailing list, email women@centralforgood.org and receive the Zoom link in your inbox.



Happy Birthday!

Join us in wishing a another joyous *Happy Birthday* to all who are celebrating birthdays this month.

Per Greibrok.....	4/1
Samantha Johnson	4/7
Peter Fisher	4/8
Deborah Rioux.....	4/8
Benjamin Amarteifio.....	4/9
Pam Larson	4/11
Walker Bergman.....	4/12
Dede Amagli	4/13
Charles Barklind	4/13
Fluryanne Leach.....	4/15
Isabella Varanasi	4/15
Jon Engeswick.....	4/19
Mel Leach.....	4/19
Jennifer Anderson	4/20
Katelyn Morris.....	4/21
James Benike.....	4/22
Andrew Kovach.....	4/22
Edmond Williamson	4/23
John Sanchez Sandberg	4/26
Mila Sanchez Sandberg.....	4/30

If we missed you, please send us a note to office@centralforgood.org so that we can correct our records and share birthday wishes with you, too!

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATE

[BY ANNA SANCHEZ]

It has been over a year since Central's Session canceled in-person worship services and events indefinitely because of Covid-19. Now in mid-March of 2021, people in our community are starting to get vaccinated, the daily infection and hospitalization rates continue on a downward trend, and we are all very much looking forward to gathering together again. The committees and staff members and Session of Central are beginning to plan for worship and events in-person at church and are always keeping peoples' health and safety at the center of any "re-opening" discussions.

During the many months since last March, we have implemented many new things to help protect people who use our building. There are touch-free dispensers for hand sanitizer, paper towels, and hand-soap. There are masks readily available for anyone who needs one, and cleaning caddies placed strategically in rooms to make

sanitizing tables and door handles easier. Staff and contractors sign into a visitor log and conduct a daily self-screening. The Facilities Management and Risk Assessment committee has investigated (and continues to consider) several options for improving air quality and circulation, including air purifiers and an extensive new air-duct system.

Our leaders' decisions will continue to be guided by the expertise of Central's Covid-19 Task Force, and at the time of this writing, we have not set a date for worshipping again together in the sanctuary. We know some are ready and excited to return, to attend meetings, gather for lunch on Wednesdays, and sing together in the sanctuary. Others are wary and anxious about the thought of being in a worship service with other people. Whatever the case, we will continue to be here for you, "in the city for good," whether that be live streamed online or meeting you in person.



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THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who donated to support the Keystone Rice Street food shelf drive in February. Central's Coordinated Mission is excited to share that 387 pounds of food, personal and household products were donated, along with over \$2,000 in financial contributions were donated that the food shelf can use to make purchases to help those in need.

CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*