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LIGHTS FOR LIBERTY

[BY REV. ASHLEY BAIR]

Jesus spent most of his time on earth traveling by foot. His ministry included encounters with people he met along the road. Jesus healed the sick, taught the disciples, ate with outcasts, played with children, and offered peace to those whom he met on the journey. After a while, people started walking with Jesus and walking to find Jesus - a minister who traveled by foot.

When he was near the sea of Galilee, a large group of people had walked and gathered to be near him. When his disciples saw the size of the crowd, they went to Jesus and said, "This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into villages and buy food for themselves" (Matthew 14:15). Jesus told the disciples, "Some of them have come from far away" (Mark 8:3). And he instructed the disciples not to send the crowd away, but to take what they had and feed them. At the end of the meal, everyone was satisfied.

I think often about how Jesus was a walking healer. He didn't choose to stay inside or to travel to places of



importance. He traveled along the dirt path; the path that so many are being forced to take. And he stayed there with those he met and offered them what he could.

Today, there are crowds that have walked and journeyed to gather for peace and hope and freedom. Yet, when they arrive to their destination, it seems more likely for them to be turned away or detained.

One of the places where this is happening is right on our own United States border with Mexico.

Once families and individuals cross the border, they are placed in detention. The conditions are so

WORSHIP

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4

Associate Pastor Rev. Lou Bender will be preaching from Psalm 98 in a sermon titled *Rivers Clap Their Hands*. Praising God is so compelling as to be part of nature. Yet we do not always feel like praising God. What happens at the intersection of grief and praise, and how can we help bridge the gap we often sense? This Sunday we will also receive communion.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

Pastoral Associate Maureen Smith will preach "Where Your Treasure Is" based on Luke 12: 32-40. We are called to reflect on where our hearts are and what is most

important to us. If we say our greatest treasure is our faith in God, we have to answer one more question. Who is this God that we treasure? What does our God stand for? This will lead us to consider some deep theological questions as well as some of the issues of the day.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

Rev. Ashley Bair will preach and our Third Sunday lunch will be served.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 25

Rev. Colby will preach on "The Shame of Hypocrisy" based upon Luke 13:10-17 and the healing work of Jesus and how this healing brought controversy and conflict.

Education for Adults 9:30 a.m.

Worship at 10:30 a.m.

Coffee & Fellowship 11:30 a.m.

LOOKING AHEAD TO SEPTEMBER!

Members of the Staff, Session, and various committees are working hard to prepare for the launch of a new program year beginning in September.

The September newsletter will be filled with details, but a few highlights exciting highlights to look forward to include:

- **A confirmation class** – Katie Morris and our pastors will lead a class to explore questions of faith and have hands-on opportunities to experience the church in action

- **More educational opportunities** for people of all ages during the 9:30 a.m. hour on Sundays
- **A gathering time** on Sunday mornings at 9:15 a.m. for people to mingle prior to starting choir rehearsals and classes
- Our new **Festival Sunday** on September 8, with children being presented with Bibles and new classes beginning and choir resuming and after worship, a service fair that

provides windows into ways to get involved in the life and ministry of this church

- More opportunities for education, mission and service.
- Two intergenerational fun nights: **a game night** in November (open to people of all ages and Project Home families) and **a talent show** in late February. Start practicing your talents now!

It is going to be a great year of programming and activities!

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Last summer Central began a partnership with VocalPoint's recent beneficiary organization, Twin Cities R!se (or TCR) by becoming an internship partner.

TCR provides comprehensive employment counseling and personal empowerment through coaching, counseling, skills-development and internships. Participants undergo an 8-week career training program, followed by internships that give participants the opportunity to add stability and credibility to their resumes while demonstrating a strong work ethic to prospective employers. In cooperation with various organizations, TCR places eligible participants in real work environments for up to 20 weeks. In addition to completing duties assigned at their various work sites, all enrolled participants also meet as a class for one hour each week.



Sexton Pat Cook

TWIN CITIES R!SE

Since partnering with TCR, Central has had the opportunity to take on three custodial interns: Rick Dahl, Pat Cook (who, at the end of his internship, was hired as Central's current Sexton), and most recently, Lavar Jones who is soon completing his internship and moving on to other employment.

Having a custodian on-staff plus a custodial intern has allowed us to take on many more maintenance projects and repairs, which previously were hired out. From plumbing and electrical repairs, to painting projects and general cleaning, our interns have helped improve Central's building over the past year in many ways. The internship also gives them valuable job experience, builds their resume while they continue to search for full-time employment, and adds to their list of professional references.

It's been a privilege to work with each of the three intern that have come through TCR, and we look forward to continuing our partnership into the future.



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LIGHTS FOR LIBERTY [CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

abhorrent that lawmakers and journalists who have been able to visit are calling the centers “concentration camps.” Children wear clothes caked with dirt and are caring for infants. Women in cells find their only access to water in a toilet. The overcrowding forces people to sleep on concrete.¹ Access to basic nutrition and hygiene is denied.

It is difficult to know what to do to help in a time such as this, especially when it still feels far away from us. We live in Minnesota, the camps are in Texas and Arizona. On July 12, people gathered across the U.S. and world in vigil at detention camps to

protest the inhumane conditions that asylum seekers face. And to show that even though we only hear about the conditions on the border, asylum seekers are being held in detention in every state in the U.S.

Folks from Central held vigil at 12 locations in Minnesota including with neighbors at Fort Snelling, where Immigration Court cases are heard, Ramsey County Adult Detention Center and with our neighbors in Elk River, where the Sherburne County Jail serves as the largest Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) detention center in the state. This detention center has 120 beds and holds over 300

people, with at least 25% held without a criminal charge. There is a current proposal to expand this site to 500 beds with a 10 year contract.

Let our participation in Lights for Liberty and our frustration at the system serve as a catalyst. May we continue to listen and learn how best to use what we have to help others in the most meaningful and impactful way. Our neighbors are terrified for their lives. Some of them have come from far away. What would our God, who also traveled by foot, do?

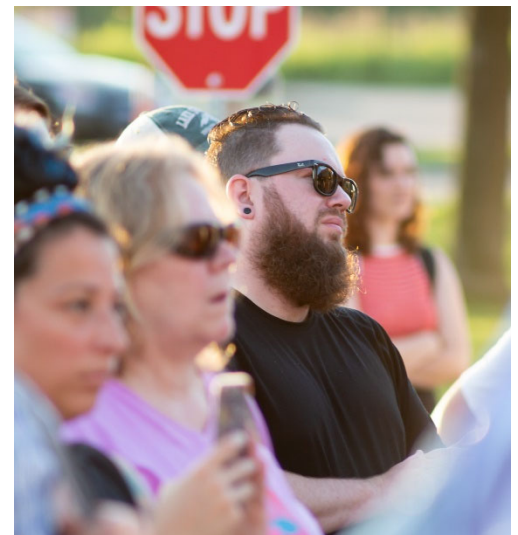
¹ <https://www.patheos.com/blogs/daylightatheism/2019/06/dystopia-journal-30-concentration-camps>



Central Choir member Jess Garner listens as one man speaks of his previous confinement by ICE at the Sherburne County Jail.

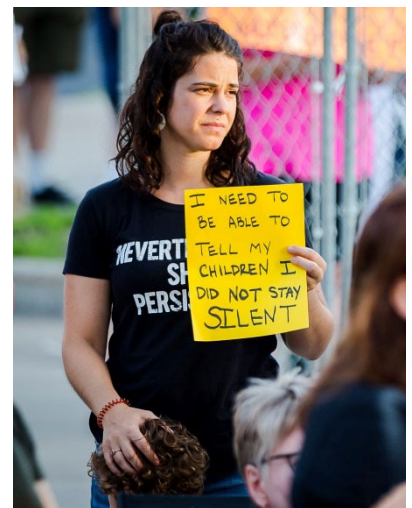


Attorney Robinson Briand spoke of legal challenges faced by those detained.





Members from Central participated in the nationwide Lights for Liberty: A Vigil to End Human Concentration Camps with neighbors and community leaders at the Ramsey County Adult Detention Center, Fort Snelling and Sherburne County Jail.



REV. COLBY'S INVOCATION AT THE PROMOTION OF BRIGADIER GENERAL HORVATH

Rev. Colby was honored to participate in a ceremony on July 9 which marked Stefanie Horvath promotion from Colonel to Minnesota National Guard Brigadier General. Quite a bit of publicity surrounded this ceremony, as Horvath is the Guard's first openly lesbian General. As a thirty-year veteran of the armed forces, she lived and served during a remarkable period of change from a long "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy to a new era in which diversity is more celebrated and appreciated.

Horvath and her family have worshipped at Central occasionally. With her permission, Rev. Colby once preached a sermon telling her story of having to return to duty abroad following the birth of twin daughters, unable to even talk about her family without risk of exposure.

The ceremony began with Rev. Colby's invocation as shown below.

Let me invite you to join me in prayer. We pause now in this promotion ceremony, Holy God, to give thanks and ask for your blessing.

We give thanks and ask your continued blessing upon Stefanie Horvath. We gather here not just because of her career and accomplishments, but to celebrate the many ways she has touched our lives with wisdom and courage and loyal support.

Today we give thanks for and ask for your blessing upon:

Stephanie; and her wife Christy and their daughters Jona and Zoe and Stef's whole family;

for those who nurtured gifts for leadership and service: leaders and bosses and professors and peers and staff;

for those she served alongside;

for all who serve, especially those who are far from home and are in harm's way;

and for the families who provide support.

On this occasion, we give thanks for a reminder that leadership has many faces, that leaders with different backgrounds and styles and personalities are needed and shall be valued and affirmed.

Give strength and wisdom to Stefanie, and to all who are

gathered here today, that we might discover and use our gifts for the common good.

Amen.



Horvath had the general's star pinned on her uniform by her mother and her wife Christy Starks.

Horvath was presented with a General's flag, shown here with her twin daughters, born during her Iraq deployment.



ENJOY FALL AT THE CENTRAL FAMILY RETREAT

This fun getaway focused on families with children provides space for making deeper connections: with each other, with nature, and with God.

We will have ample free time for families to relax together, share meals together, and some scheduled activities for kids on Saturday. Sunday morning our free time will conclude with a worship service in the chapel.

Koinonia has many options for activities, including a lake with canoes, a labyrinth, walking trails, campfires and more.

DATES

October 4 - 6, 2019.

DESTINATION

Koinona Retreat Center
South Haven, MN 55382
www.koinoniareretreatcenter.com

We stay in the retreat house lodge and coordinate rooming based on the families attending. Some rooms share a bath, some have private, and we all share a common space.

COST

Housing for two nights, three meals on Saturday and two on Sunday is \$115 per adult and \$60 per child (ages 5-16). Children under 5 are free. Scholarships are available for those in need of financial help. Registration fees are due October 4.

MEALS

Meals are buffet style with plenty of options. Those able to arrive in time for dinner on Friday evening are invited to Barb Westman's home just down the shoreline from Koinonia. The cost for that dinner is \$10 per adult, kids are free.

REGISTRATION

Registration is due by September 14 with fees due by arrival at Koinonia on October 4th. Scholarships are available. Simply contact Katie Morris at katiem@cpcstpaul.org to learn more and to make arrangements.

More information will be shared in the September newsletter, as well as updated as available on our website at www.centralforgood.org/retreat.



2019 FAMILY RETREAT REGISTRATION

To register, fill out and return this page to the office or worship offertory plate.

RSVP BY SEPTEMBER 15 (REGISTRATION FEES DUE OCTOBER 4)

Parent(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Child: _____

Child: _____

Child: _____

Child: _____

Are you also attending Friday night dinner?

YES NO

Food allergies/dietary requests:

MUSIC MINISTRY MOVES INTO A NEW ERA!

[BY JENNIFER ANDERSON,
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY]

I'm so very, very excited about the fall! If you find meaning in making music with others, consider joining us in one (or more!) of the musical ensembles here at Central. You will be welcomed into the musical community with open arms! (And a folder just for you!)

If you have interest or questions about the following opportunities, please contact Jennifer Anderson, Director of Music Ministry at jennifera@cpcstpaul.org.

THE CENTRAL CHOIR

Who: Adults

What: An SATB Choir that sings in worship nearly every week, September – May. While reading music isn't required, this choir moves quickly, learns a lot of repertoire, and throughout the year sings some

challenging music (and also sings some more accessible music as well.)

When: Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

We sing most Sundays, and usually gather at 9:30 a.m. for warm-ups and rehearsal.

STICKS AND STEEL 1

Who: Children grades 3 – 5

What: This is the entry-level group for our Percussion Ensemble. We will learn how to play various percussion instruments and hand chimes, and play in worship occasionally throughout the year.

When: We will have two dates in which we share in worship and additional dates preparing for them.

- Sticks & Steel 1 - Rehearse Jan. 12 and 19 after church.
- Rehearse Jan. 26 before

church, then play in worship.

- Sticks & Steel 1 AND 2 - Rehearse May 31 and June 7 after church, June 14 before church, then play in worship.

STICKS AND STEEL 2

Who: Jr. and Sr. High Youth

What: This is the advanced Youth Percussion Ensemble. We will play more difficult music, while exploring the unique sounds of the marimba, glockenspiel, chimes, bells, drums, and auxiliary percussion.

When: We will have three dates in which we share in worship and additional dates preparing for them.

- Sticks and Steel 2 - Rehearse Nov. 3 and 10 after church, Nov. 17 before church, then play in that day's worship.
- Sticks and Steel 2 - Rehearse Feb. 23 and March 1 after church,





March 8 before church, then play in worship.

- Sticks & Steel 1 AND 2 - Rehearse May 31 and June 7 after church, June 14 before church, then play in worship.

CENTRAL CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Who: Open to adult and youth (grade 8 and up) instrumentalists (traditional band and orchestra instruments) who have played their instrument for at least 3 years.

What: We play chamber music for orchestral and band instruments.

When: We rehearse after worship for 30 minutes and play in worship about once per month. Our first rehearsal is Sept. 22 at 11:45 a.m.

In order to have music ready for you, please contact Jennifer Anderson several days in advance of when you plan to join us.

OTHER SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

VocalPoint Sunday (for Central Choir and auditioned VocalPoint singers) is scheduled for October 13, with a program and lunch to follow. Come and learn about our 2020 beneficiary organization!

This year's **Cabaret** will be *The Sound of Music*, scheduled for performance after church on October 27. Do not miss this fun, semi-staged production featuring our children, choir, and chamber "pit" orchestra!

Our children will be rehearsing for this during the month of October (on Sunday mornings for all the children, and for the older kids that have larger roles: Wednesday evenings Oct. 9 and 16 at 6:30 p.m., and Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 7:15 p.m.)

Lessons and Carols, a musical and seasonal highlight here at Central, is December 22 during worship. Singers interested in joining the choir for this special occasion should plan to rehearse with us on Wednesdays, Dec. 4, 11, and 18 at 7:15 p.m. Please RSVP your intent to sing with us by sending an email to jennifera@cpcstpaul.org by Nov. 24.

Spring Large Work, a world-premiere by composer Linda Kachelmeier on March 29. Singers interested in joining the choir for this special occasion should plan to rehearse with us on Wednesdays, starting Feb. 19 at 7:15 p.m.

Justice Choir Sunday is where EVERYONE is part of the choir! On April 26 all are welcome to gather before worship to learn the songs and then be our musical leaders in the service.

WOMEN OF CENTRAL NEWS

NETWORKING GROUP

We may have had to make a quick change to our location, but that did not stop us from enjoying our evening at Public Kitchen off Mears Park with a good size group. Our next outing is on Wednesday, August 7th at Parlour.

Please RSVP if you can attend. You may reserve your spot on our website at www.centralforgood.org/women, on our Facebook page where events are posted, or by contacting Sue Hoffman via email to syhoffman123@comcast.net.

Save the date for these upcoming events:



Wed., August 7
Parlour
 267 West 7th Street
 St. Paul, MN



Wed., Sept 12
Dark Horse
 250 East 7th Street,
 St. Paul, MN



Thurs, Oct 10
Pajarito
 605 7th Street West
 St. Paul, MN



Tues, Nov. 12
Birch's Lowertown
 289 5th St East
 St Paul, MN

You can meet at church at 5:15 p.m. to walk or car pool to the restaurant, or meet us directly at the restaurant at 5:30 p.m.

Come join the fun!

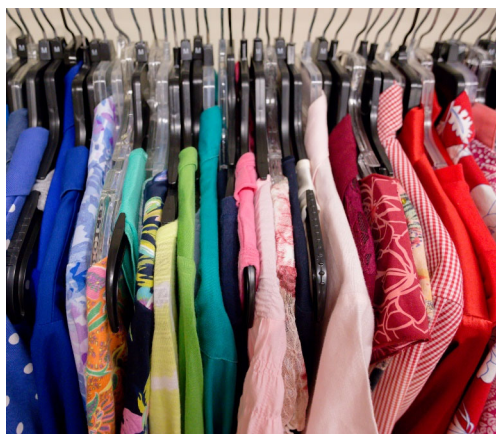


KNITTING GROUP

All are welcome to join the knitting group when we meet again after worship on August 25.

We can teach you how to knit and make small prayer squares! We meet in the Oval Room after gathering in the Friendship Room for a quick cup of coffee.

If you have questions please email or call Maggie Gordon at anytime at margaretagordon@gmail.com or (651) 470-8636.



MARTHA'S CLOSET SALE

Help us clear the clothing racks to make room for winter donations! Great bargains are to be had at Martha's upcoming summer clothing sale on **Thursday, August 22 from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.!**

Martha's Closet is a free clothing closet at Central, serving women in the Twin Cities metro area who are seeking employment or those who are newly employed, those leaving abusive situations, those newly released from prison, recent immigrants, or those who could not otherwise afford career clothing.

We hope that this service encourages and assists women in making the large and sometimes challenging leap to self-sufficiency.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ARTIST RECEPTION

Gregory Wilkins, the artist whose work is now on exhibit in the Friendship Room, is looking forward to meeting members of the congregation after worship on August 11 to talk about his work.

Greg is associate director of student activities at Minnesota State University Mankato and loves his job. On his own time he creates his art and pursues his passion for social justice. He has traveled widely and worked with indigenous communities in several parts of the world. Some of his commitments that are reflected in the exhibit are gender equality, clean water, and cross-cultural connections. (Be sure to ask him about his appearance in the Broadway production of *The Music Man* when he was a child.)



AUGUST HIATUS

August brings summer breaks and travel plans for many. With that in mind, there will be no meeting this month for the Personnel Committee, Session, Book Group or Dorcas Circle. Dorcas Circle will resume in September with the new study materials looking at the Ten Commandments.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Erika Kelly-Kennedy 8/1
 Emily Ross 8/2
 Scott Schlittenhart 8/2
 Joseph Ehling 8/5
 Roger Zopfi 8/5
 Kendall Peterson 8/6
 Scott Klaehn 8/7
 Jeffrey Olson 8/8
 Deanne Pratt 8/8
 Joey Engeswick 8/9
 Rowan Klaehn 8/9
 Richard Binger 8/10
 Rebecca Lee 8/10
 Russell Lundeen 8/10
 Sara Moe 8/10
 Kate Pearce 8/10
 Mary Miller 8/13

Andrew Lonergan 8/16
 Constance Smith 8/16
 Stan Turner 8/18
 Taylor Runkel 8/23
 Ryan Weyandt 8/24
 Jacqueline Vosecky 8/26
 Thomas Klaehn 8/29
 Jack Toikka 8/29
 Jeff Jones 8/30

If we missed your name, please send us a note to office@cpstpaul.org so that we can correct our records.

CENTRAL TEAM

(651) 224-4728

PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Dr. David Colby, Pastor
dcolby@cpstpaul.org, ext. 102
 Rev. Ashley Bair, Associate Pastor
ashleyb@cpstpaul.org, ext. 104
 Maureen Smith, Pastoral Associate
mcsmith@tc.umn.edu
 Parish Associates: Rev. Casey Wells,
 Rev. Doug Throckmorton, Rev. Lou Bender

ADMINISTRATION

Anna Sanchez, Church Administrator
office@cpstpaul.org, ext. 100
 Christie Rachele, Communications
cpc@christierachele.com
 Matt Ehling, Treasurer
 William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus
 Mary Lange, Evening Receptionist
 Patrick Cook, Sexton, ext. 116

MUSIC

Jennifer Anderson,
 Director of Music Ministry
jennifera@cpstpaul.org, ext. 103
 Music Staff: Shanta Hejmadi,
 Abbie Betinis, Adam Van der Sluis,
 Steve Swanson, David Winkworth

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Katie Morris, Children & Youth
 Ministry Coordinator
katiem@cpstpaul.org, ext. 109
 Natalie Pence, Nursery Care Provider
 Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher

FOOD INITIATIVE

Barb Westman, Chef & Manager
Barb.westman@gmail.com
 Sue LeClaire, Sous Chef
 Peter Evarts, Dishwasher

MARTHA'S CLOSET

Sandy White, Director
wjands7@aol.com, ext. 112



CENTRAL

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CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*

Central is pleased to welcome exhibiting textile portrait artist Gregory Wilkins to our Friendship Room with an opportunity to meet the artist on August 11 at an artist's reception after worship.

