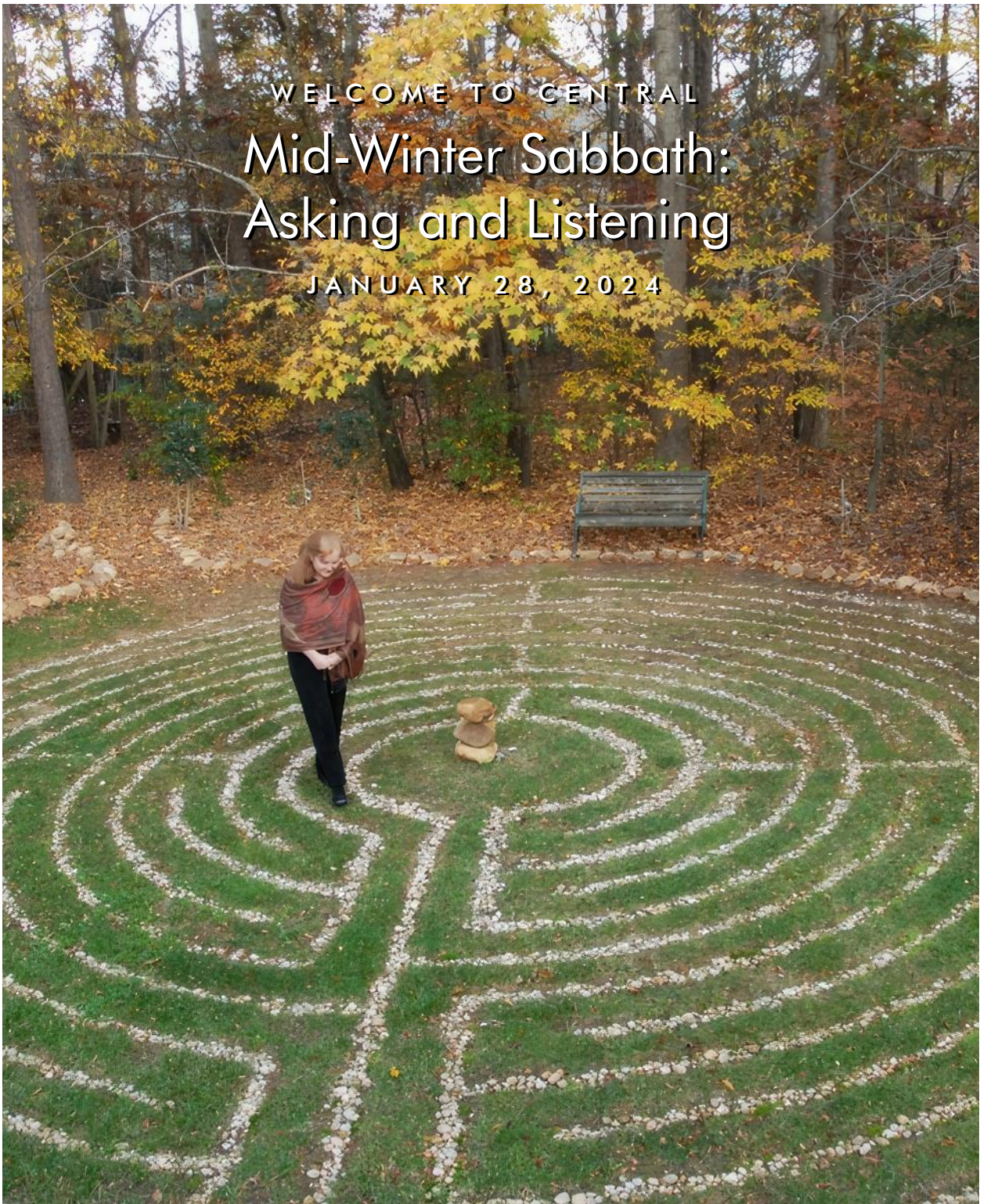


WELCOME TO CENTRAL
Mid-Winter Sabbath:
Asking and Listening

JANUARY 28, 2024





IN OUR PRAYERS

Central is a caring community of faith that includes members, friends, and visitors. We give thought to those who are rarely or currently not able to attend worship here. **Today, we keep in our prayers Carol Neske.**

CHILDREN

Children are a beloved part of our community and always welcome in the sanctuary with you. At the back of the room are activity bags and books for them to enjoy during their time in worship. Infants through age 6 are also invited to spend the worship hour in our nursery on the upper level, playing and learning together. Changing tables are available in our restrooms with diapering supplies available in the nursery.

FLOWERS

If you would like to bring flowers to place on the chancel for worship in recognition of a special moment or event, contact the office.

PHOTOGRAPHY & SOCIAL MEDIA

You are in a space where live stream videography and photography will occur. To review our photography and media use policy, go to www.centralforgood.org/photography.

LICENSE

The music in today's bulletin is reprinted with permission, OneLicense.net A-71257.

ACCESSIBILITY



Large print worship bulletins and hymns are available from the ushers or in back of the sanctuary.



The sanctuary is T-coil enabled for those with the hearing aid technology. Sound amplification devices are also available from ushers.



Reserved accessible parking and a wheelchair ramp are available in the MPR lot off 9th Street East. Accessible restrooms are in the hall by side sanctuary doors and on the lower level.

PARKING

Free parking is available Sundays in the MPR lot, KCP lot, and the World Trade Center Parking Ramp across Cedar Street. If parking in the ramp, see an usher for a voucher to pay your ramp fees.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Central Presbyterian Church occupies the sacred land of the Dakota people. Broken treaties and the systematic loss of life and land led directly to the availability of this sacred space which we presume to possess today. Our faith demands confession of the evils from which we benefit, action to support Indigenous peoples seeking justice, and lives guided by love. We keep this in our minds and hearts as we worship today. For the full statement of our commitment to action, visit our website at www.centralforgood.org/land.

Welcome to Central Presbyterian Church

Whether you are sharing worship with us in our historic sanctuary or watching online, we hope you feel the vitality of our people, our ministry and our focus on the present. If you are looking for a place to put your faith into action or for a community to provide support and inspiration, we are looking for you. Central is open and affirming of all people. If you are visiting today, we invite you to fill out a Connect card in the pews and drop it in the offering plate.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

As we gather in this space to worship, let us listen for God's voice by silencing our cell phones and using the music to bring us into a time of reflection and prayer.

✦ Please rise in body or in spirit

We Gather in God's Presence

PRELUDE

Clara Osowski, mezzo soprano, Alex Woods, piano
Feldeinsamkeit (music by Johannes Brahms, poem by Hermann Allmers)

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP - Adapted from Proverbs 1-2

Barbara Hein

One: Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice.

All: **At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks.**

One: God guards the paths of justice and preserves the way of the faithful ones.

All: **May we understand righteousness, justice, and equity for every good path.**

✦ OPENING PRAYER

Lord, you give us hearts to listen and discern. As we seek to follow you, bringing healing and justice to the world, help us to listen for your guidance. May our moments of rest and Sabbath be opportunities to shut out the noise of the world and hear you speaking into our lives. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

✦ HYMN

Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

Hymn #722

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen

One: The peace of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: In the sure hope of forgiveness, let us confess our sins to God.

All: **God, we live in a world always competing for our attention. The voices of many seek our hearts and minds for another dollar and another minute. Yet our hearts and minds belong to you. We confess that we have heard and**

responded to calls not worthy of our humanity. Call us back to you. Help us hear your voice calling through the noise. Help us follow and live attentive to your presence in each day, each hour, each moment.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: From the beginning of all things, God had in mind to create, redeem, and sustain all things for good. Therefore, with the confidence of the children of God, we proclaim:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

We Listen for God's Voice

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen

Please see announcements for details on today's ministry programs. If you are new to Central, please come with your child in order to meet our staff and provide emergency contact information.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF ELDERS

Elders: Johanna Gordon, Nicole Johnson, Susan Rostkoski

Deacon: Beverly Bodom

HYMN

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

Hymn #727, verses 1 & 2

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, you are speaking. Open our hearts and minds to hear your voice and follow your call. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING - 1 Kings 3:3-9

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

Sweet Radiant Mystery (by Catherine Dalton)

Central Choir

SCRIPTURE READING - Luke 2:41-52

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - Mid-Winter Sabbath: Asking and Listening

Rev. Chris Chatelaine-Samsen

We Respond to God's Gifts

✦ HYMN

Take My Life

Hymn #697, verses 1, 2, 5, 6

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER (Ecumenical)

Our Parent in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

CALL FOR OFFERING

You are invited to place offering gifts and completed pew cards in the plates as ushers pass them. You may also give online at www.centralforgood.org/give or submit to the office during normal office hours.

OFFERTORY

Central Choir; Clara Osowski, soloist

Still, Small Voice (by D. Nolan)

✦ SONG OF DEDICATION

Great God of every blessing, of faithful, loving care,
You are the fount of goodness, the daily bread we share.
How can we hope to thank you? Our praise is but a start:
Sincerely and completely I offer you my heart.

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, you are generous. As we return a portion of what you have given us, may it be used to proclaim your love in words and actions, here and everywhere. Amen.

We Are Sent Into God's World

✦ HYMN

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

Hymn #757

✦ CHARGE & BENECTION - Adapted from Jeremiah 29

One: We have gathered together in this sacred place to worship God, be formed as disciples of Jesus, and be empowered by the Holy Spirit. God is now sending us out to bless the world.

All: Therefore we will seek the good of the city where God has called us. We will pray for it, open our doors with compassion, serve our neighbors, and be attentive to God's presence; for in its good we will find our own.

One: God is out there.

All: Let us go forth!

POSTLUDE

Alex Woods, piano

Sweet Hour of Prayer (William B. Bradbury, arr. Mark Hayes)

Announcements

View our church calendar and share upcoming events at www.centralforgood.org/calendar.

Welcome Clara Osowski

Mezzo-soprano Clara Osowski is an active soloist and chamber musician throughout the United States and Europe and is recipient of the prestigious McKnight Artist Fellowship for Musicians administered by MacPhail Center for Music. Appearances include performance with the Milwaukee Symphony, Mid-Columbia Symphony, St. Paul Civic Orchestra, Tulsa Signature Symphony, Winona Symphony Orchestra, Winston Salem Symphony, Back Bay Chorale, and the Mobile Symphony Orchestra. Clara is a frequent collaborator of the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra, and with them she has performed Mahler's Symphony No. 2, and Dominick Argento's orchestral song cycles Casa Guidi and A few words about Chekhov. Clara also serves as the Artistic Director of Source Song Festival, a week-long art song festival in Minneapolis, Minnesota and participates in a number of ensembles, including Lumina Women's Ensemble and Seraphic Fire.

Economic Rights Discussion Continues with Anti-Racism Focus

Acquiring and maintaining wealth becomes a racial issue when inheritance is interrupted - through unlawful seizure of lands, loss of property during refugee resettlement, disparity in compensation for land involved in eminent domain, or other circumstances that cause families of color to move.

At 11:45 a.m. today, join others upstairs in the Meeting Lounge to hear about potential remedies as the Anti-Racism Task Force leads a discussion about reparations. The talk will include a review of a legislation proposed in Minnesota to create a large Indian Recovery Fund through a small fee when land is bought and sold (deed tax) - something for which Central members will soon be able to advocate. If time permits, we will also do some brainstorming of other economic justice actions we can be involved in, as inspired by Pastor Chris's earlier talk this month.

IN CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY TODAY

CHILDREN AGE BIRTH – 6: Our beautiful nursery is staffed by professional caregivers and full of fun toys and good friends. Childcare is available from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. today.

GRADES K – 8: Sunday Connection for K-8 follows the Time for Children upstairs in the Galilee Room. (Sign your child in at the back of the sanctuary before worship, then pick them up in the Galilee Room at 11:30 a.m.)

If you are new to Central, or have questions about ministry for those under 18, we invite you to reach out to Jennifer Anderson at jennifera@centralforgood.org.

Thank You Elders and Deacons

Today, our newly elected elders and deacons will be ordained and/or installed for service on Session and Board of Deacons. We are grateful to those who will be serving in leadership at Central. To those whose terms of service are coming to an end and those who will be serving through 2024, we thank you for your leadership, service, time and commitment to our congregation.

Fellowship and Creative Fun

Save the date for February Fun and Fellowship on Sunday February 11, after worship in the dining room. We want to bring some fun into mid-winter with a sandwich bar, coffee, and creativity!

Join us as we have people who will help you create and have fun, including:

- Bag Making - create a tote bag with donated materials and shared sewing machines.
- Balloon Fun.
- Paint a Rock
- Make Bracelets
- Create with Model Magic - using an air drying clay
- Explore Science on a Baking Sheet!

There may be more fun things to do! If you have a Craft or Hobby that you would like to share that day, please contact Wendy Flinner. We are excited to share fun, fellowship and creativity during these days of winter!

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

FEBRUARY 4 @ 11:30 AM

NEXT MONTH'S TOPIC: ANTI-RACISM

Particularly in these last years, many congregations, including Central, have heard God's call to Anti-Racism. White Americans have been confronted once again with a truth that has been raised by people of color for centuries - white supremacy has been both the *de jure* and *de facto* law of the land from our founding until today. If we believe in the inherent God-given dignity of all people, then racism in any form is not only abhorrent, but heretical to our faith.

The Bible has been used in antithetical ways, both in defense of the institutions of white supremacy, and as a testament of liberation for oppressed people. How do we, as modern interpreters of the Bible, read our sacred text responsibly, hearing both God's clarion call to liberation, and understanding the ways it has been used as a tool of oppression? Join us after worship on February 4th for a Biblical view of racism and the resources available to affirm God's liberating and justice-seeking love for all people.

This Week at Central

SUNDAY 01/28

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Board of Deacons
11:45 a.m. Knitting Group
11:45 a.m. Anti-Racism Task Force
Discussion on Economic Rights
(in Upstairs Meeting Lounge)
7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting

TUESDAY 01/29

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY 01/30

- 11:45 a.m. Wednesday Community Lunch
7:15 p.m. Central Choir Rehearsal

SUNDAY 02/04

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
11:30 a.m. Adult Faith Formation Class
11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Lifeboats & Compass Party
7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP

We continue our "Mid-Winter Sabbath" series with reflections on the beginnings of Jesus' ministry. Central Choir sings, led by Wendy Flinner with pianist Alex Woods.

The Central Team

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William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus
Mary Lange, Receptionist

Custodians: Lavar Jones, Peter Evarts

MINISTRIES

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Child Care Staff: Megan Beese,
Jess Garner, Maria Stokes

Laura Walls,
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Eric Bartlett, Abbie Betinis, Paul Damico-Carper,
Shanta Hejmadi, Tonia Hughes Kendrick,
Melanie Ohnstad, Clara Osowski,
Adam Van der Sluis, Alexander Woods

Maureen Smith, Bible Study Leader
maureens@centralforgood.org

Barb Westman, Community Lunch
Chef & Kitchen Manager