

An abstract painting with a complex, layered texture. The color palette is dominated by deep blues, earthy golds, and rich browns, with some lighter, almost white, areas. The brushstrokes are visible and expressive, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall effect is that of a textured, organic surface, possibly representing a rock face or a natural formation.

WELCOME TO CENTRAL

Crawling Off the Altar

AUGUST 27, 2023



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 LeVuo Juhnke.**

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 air-conditioned nursery on the upper level, playing and learning together. (The nursery is staffed from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Memorial Day to Labor Day.) Changing tables are available in our restrooms with diapering supplies available in the nursery.

LICENSE

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

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.

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.

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.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Central Presbyterian Church occupies the sacred land of the Dakota people. Broken treaties led directly to the availability of this sacred space which we presume to possess today. Strategies for implementing these treaties resulted in broken trust with the Dakota people, as well as systematic loss of life and land. 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.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

As we gather in this space to worship, let us listen for God's still, small 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*

PRELUDE

Alex Woods, piano

"On Bended Knees" (from *From the Southland* by Hary T. Burleigh)

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lou Bender

✦ CALL TO WORSHIP - Adapted from Psalm 107

Doug Fink

One: We will offer God a sacrifice of thanksgiving.

All: **We will call upon the name of the Lord!**

One: In the presence of God's people, we will make our vows.

All: **We will come into the courts of the house of the Lord. Praise the Lord!**

OPENING PRAYER

Lord of all good gifts, you have made us that we might be as gifts for one another and for the world. Help us in this hour to receive the gifts of a renewed self that we might bless the whole world with the blessing that comes only from you. Amen.

✦ OPENING HYMN

"A Grateful Heart"

Hymn #652

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

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

All: **God, we confess before you and in the presence of one another that we have sinned. You have set for us a path of self-sacrificial love and opened for us the way of life. Yet we choose to hold for ourselves what is meant to be given. In your mercy, forgive us, help us let go, and show us the path that leads to abundant life. Amen.**

(silent prayer)

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.**

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Jennifer Anderson

Following this time, we offer several options for our children. All are welcome to stay in worship (where there are age-specific activity bags in the back of the sanctuary). Children through age 6 are welcome in the upper level nursery.

SCRIPTURE READING - Romans 12:1-8

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - Crawling Off the Altar

Rev. Lou Bender

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who is in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. 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

Abbie Betinis, solo; Alex Woods, piano; Lucy Hiestand, percussion

"This Body is Holy" (by R. Colligan)

✦ DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Hymn #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✦ 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 .

✦ CLOSING HYMN

"Take My Life"

Hymn #697

✦ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Alex Woods, piano

"Come, Christians, Join to Sing" (arr. Robert D. Vandall)

WELCOME TO CENTRAL

Whether you are sharing worship with us in our historic sanctuary or joining via live-stream video, we hope you feel the vitality of our people, our programs, and our focus on the present. If you are looking for a place to put your beliefs 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. Welcome to Central Presbyterian Church!

Pastor Chris Vacation Leave

Pastor Chris will be away on leave from August 21 - September 2. Please contact the church office to be connected for any pastoral care needs.

September Newsletter Now Available

September kicks-off a busy time at Central as we return to the program year and introduce a few new ministries. Don't miss out! Pickup the latest newsletter by the church entrances or download it on our website at www.centralforgood.org/newsletter.

Music Opportunities This Fall

The new program year will soon be upon us! If you enjoy music and want to explore opportunities to sing or play instruments as part of our music ministry, consider:

- **CENTRAL CHOIR:** An adult choir that sings in worship most weeks, September-May with rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.
- **BELL ENSEMBLE:** An ensemble for adults and high school youth with music-reading experience. Explore sounds and timbres and play an interesting bell repertoire. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

- **CHAMBER ENSEMBLE:** Open to adult and youth instrumentalists (grade 8 and up) who have played for at least three years. Rehearses on Sundays after worship when needed.
- **STICKS & STEEL PERCUSSION:** Open to elementary age children to discover hand chimes, bells, marimba, hand drums, and other percussion during Sunday Connection time.

If you want to learn more about music ensemble opportunities, or other areas of our music ministry, reach out to Jennifer Anderson, Director of Music & Youth Ministry at jennifera@centralforgood.org or (651) 227-4728 ext. 103.

The Gift of a New Bible

Do you have a child in Kindergarten or 3rd grade? Or, perhaps an older child who might have missed receiving their Bible due to Covid or being new to Central?

If so, we would like to present them with a Bible during worship on Festival Sunday, September 10. Please contact Jennifer Anderson at jennifera@centralforgood.org right away to confirm we have your child's name (and correct spelling) on our list!

Repair in Sanctuary

Work has begun to repair the crack in the plaster arch above the chancel & choir loft. The work being done by American Masonry Restoration (the same historic-building contractor that has done much of the exterior work) should take 10 days to finish the repair. Please excuse our mess as we have this necessary repair accomplished!

Seeking Volunteers to Serve

The next volunteer opportunity at the St. Paul Opportunity Center is Saturday, September 9 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We are looking for 8-10 volunteers to serve lunch and help with various meal prep. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old. (Those under 18 must be supervised by an adult.) Volunteers should wear appropriate closed toed footwear.

If interested in volunteering, go to www.centralforgood.org/volunteer. The link will take you to the Catholic Charities website to register and learn more.

Sign Up for News Updates

Want to learn more about church news and events? Sign up for our weekly eConnect email or monthly newsletter on our website at www.centralforgood.org/newsletter or reach out to the office.

We also encourage you to follow our Facebook page to see event announcements, photographs from recent church activities and the weekly Wednesday Lunch menu. To find it, go to www.facebook.com/centralforgood.

festival SUNDAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

STUDY & PREP 9:30 AM

Adult Bible Study explores the worship scripture and our musicians rehearse.

WORSHIP 10:30 AM

The worship sermon explores Psalm 122, children's ministry is offered, and we welcome back the Central Choir.

FESTIVAL FUN 11:30 AM

Journey upstairs and visit the town of Galilee, fish in the Sea of Galilee, and enjoy figs and honey near the Mount of Beatitudes. Come delight in fun activities and games for all ages!

CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*





We are a Congregation for All Ages

As we prepare for our 2023-2024 program year, we have some unique opportunities to be a warm, welcoming, and affirming place for our young people.

Take a look at the following options and consider if there are ways that you would like to be part of our ministry to children and youth.

FESTIVAL SUNDAY VOLUNTEER

Can you help upstairs on Festival Sunday, following worship, by providing an adult presence? Perhaps you can lead a game of dreidel or share snacks of hummus and pita in our Galilean town? Maybe you can make a craft with the kids, or just make sure everyone knows where the activities are?

Time Commitment: Sunday, September 10 following worship.

SUNDAY CONNECTION VOLUNTEER

Are you available on an occasional Sunday to help Laura Walls lead our kids through the Bible story? No preparation is needed, and you can choose which dates work best for you.

Time Commitment: Occasional Sundays, during worship following the time for children.

NURSERY VOLUNTEER

If you are available on occasional Sundays to hold babies, play with toddlers, and make believe with preschoolers, we need you! No preparation is needed, and you choose which dates work best for you.

Time Commitment: Before, during and after worship shifts.

PRAYER PARTNERS

New this year, if you are an adult who is willing to write some notes of encouragement and to pray for our young people, consider becoming a "Prayer Partner" to one of our kids. This is a way to connect to a young person in our congregation. But we need enough volunteers so that no child is left out.

Time Commitment: A willingness to pray for a child, and to touch base with them in person at church, and/or through occasional notes (through Jennifer Anderson).

To learn more about these opportunities or to volunteer, please connect with:

Jennifer Anderson
Director of Music & Youth Ministry
jennifera@centralforgood.org
(651) 224-4728 ext 103

This Week at Central

SUNDAY 08/27

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
11:45 a.m. Knitting Group
7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting

TUESDAY 08/29

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY 08/30

- 11:45 a.m. Wednesday Community Lunch

SUNDAY 09/03

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting

IN WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen will preach *Stories You Missed: The Jubilee* with scripture reading of Leviticus 25:1-12. .

CENTRAL TEAM

(651) 224-4728

PASTOR

Rev. Christopher Chatelaine-Samsen
chriscs@centralforgood.org, ext. 102

ADMINISTRATION

Anna Sanchez, Church Administrator
office@centralforgood.org, ext. 100

Christie Rachele,
Director of Communications
& Publications, ext. 105
christier@centralforgood.org

Laura Nichols-Endres, Treasurer
William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus
Mary Lange, Receptionist

Custodians: Lavar Jones, Peter Evarts

MINISTRIES

Jennifer Anderson,
Director of Music & Youth Ministry
jennifera@centralforgood.org, ext. 103

Laura Walls,
Sunday Connection Coordinator
lauraw@centralforgood.org

Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher

Maria Stokes, Nursery Care Giver

Music Staff
Shanta Hejmadi, Abbie Betinis,
Adam Van der Sluis, Eric Bartlett,
Alexander Woods, Dr. Melanie Ohnstad

Maureen Smith, Bible Study Leader
maureens@centralforgood.org

Barb Westman, Community Lunch
Chef & Kitchen Manager