

CONNECT CENTRAL

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DECEMBER 2019

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SHARE CHRISTMAS AT CENTRAL!

It will be a busy month at Central and we invite you to share these special events with your family and friends.

Make or purchase mittens, gloves, hats, scarves.... And place on the Mitten Tree

Or, do some Christmas shopping for Fair Trade items that support our neighbors in other parts of the world. There is beautiful handcrafted jewelry, gifts for the home, and yummy foods from all over the globe.

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET

December 1, 8, 15 - After Worship
December 4, 11 - During Lunch

During the coffee and fellowship time following worship, as well as during Wednesday Lunch on December 4 and 11, Central's annual Alternative Gift Market will offer many ways to give and share this Christmas!

Donate to worthy causes, such as Heifer Project (buy a goat!), Martha's Closet, and VocalPoint

TUBACHRISTMAS

Sunday, Dec. 8 - 4:00 p.m.

Our annual tradition of hosting TubaChristmas continues as we welcome over 120 low-brass players

UPCOMING WORSHIP

S U N D A Y , D E C E M B E R 1

We begin the season of Advent by lighting candles and celebrating communion. Rev. Colby will preach about “putting on the armor of light” from Romans 13.

The Alternative Gift Market opens after church.

S U N D A Y , D E C E M B E R 8

John the Baptist comes flying into our vision on this second Sunday of Advent. With his voice hoarse from shouting and his hair flying around his face, he brings a message of expecting God’s disruption into the world as we have come to know it. Rev. Colby will preach and Central Choir sings in worship.

The Alternative Gift Market will be open after church. Join us then at 4:00 p.m. when we welcome the return of TubaChristmas to Central. Come enjoy the holiday sing-along with 120 low-brass instruments with a free-will donation. (To learn more about this unique music event, go to page 1.)

S U N D A Y , D E C E M B E R 15

Central has been blessed by unique and provocative Christmas pageants that connect the Christmas story to current events. Don’t just expect kids being cute – come expecting good news shared from a different angle. Central Choir and Bell Ensemble share in worship.

Catered Third Sunday Lunch follows; all are welcome! (Free-will donation).

Alternative Gift Market opens after church. Gifts and contributions to the Giving Tree are due Saturday, December 14th.

S U N D A Y , D E C E M B E R 22

Share in a worship service of Nine Lessons and Carols. This special service of music celebrating the advent of Christ is presented by the Central Choir, Chamber Ensemble, Handbell Ensemble, and guest instrumentalists.

T U E S D A Y D E C E M B E R 24

Worship with us for Christmas Eve at 4:00 p.m. with carols and a professional vocal quartet. Worship at 10:30 p.m. with candlelight, Central Choir, and organ. Musical prelude 15 minutes prior to worship.

S U N D A Y , D E C E M B E R 29

It is one of the most beautiful and peaceful worship services of the year. Come experience the season of Christmas, after the to-do lists have been completed and the presents have been opened. We will sing lots of carols, and offer prayers for our lives and for God’s world.



In light of the busy Christmas schedule at Central, there will be no Exchange gathering time in December. Join us again in January when it returns at its usual 9:15 a.m. time.

*The Exchange Returns in January
Education for All Ages 9:30 a.m.
Worship at 10:30 a.m.
Coffee & Fellowship 11:30 a.m.*

DECK THE HALLS AT CENTRAL

Come one, come all for Central's Deck the Halls celebration! On Saturday December 14, there will be activities for everyone! Read on for information about the schedule and activity options. See you there!

PAGEANT REHEARSAL

Children in the Christmas Pageant will gather in the sanctuary for a final dress rehearsal starting at 9:30 a.m. We would love 4 or 5 parent volunteers to help with costumes as well as help groups move to their places as we walk through the play.

BRUNCH

Please join us in the dining room at 9:45 a.m. for greetings and punch; then at 10:00 we will have a wonderful meal, prepared by our amazing chefs and sponsored by the Women of Central. Kids will join us after their rehearsal. At 10:30, we will all share in a carol sing with Wendy Flinner.

Brunch tickets will be available on Sundays, December 1 and 8 after worship and also at the door on December 14. Ticket prices are:

- Adults - \$5.00
- Children under 12 - FREE

Mitten Tree - During brunch, we will collect mittens, hats, scarves and socks for our annual sharing tree. In the past, these items have been given to The Family Place. We are currently in the process of determining the 2019 beneficiary.

DECORATING

Beginning at 11:15 a.m., we need lots of volunteers to hang greenery outside, garlands and bows on the balcony railing, poinsettias placed and swags hung in the sanctuary, trees and crèche set up in the Friendship Room and the lower entry, and of course decorating the tree.

To sign up as a volunteer, go to www.centralforgood.org/volunteer. This is a great way to get to know people in our congregation and to have fun creating the holiday setting at Central!

During decorating, we invite children to join Katie Morris upstairs where we will have materials to decorate the upper level of the church!

CHILD CARE

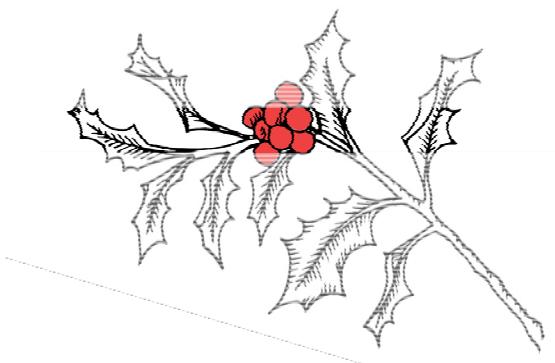
To those with young children who want to participate in the day's activities, daycare will be available in the nursery beginning at 9:30 a.m. and running until 1:30 p.m. when decorating concludes.

FOR MORE INFO

- BRUNCH AND MITTEN TREE
Sue Hoffman - 612-998-6389
syrunkel@comcast.net
- PAGEANT REHEARSAL
Katie Morris - 651-224-4728
katiem@cpcstpaul.org
- DECORATING
Laura Hutton - 651-245-4173
lehbach601@gmail.com



JOIN US FOR SOME
TINSEL-TIME FUN!



CABARET PRESENTS: THE SOUND OF MUSIC





C E L E B R A T E C H R I S T M A S A T C E N T R A L [CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

to our sanctuary. The concert features well-known Christmas Carols played in 4-part harmony by players of all levels. Free-will offering.

To Play in the Concert: If you play Tuba, Sousaphone, Euphonium or Baritone you are invited to play. All ages welcome. (Players age range from 10 to over 80.) There will be over 100 players. If you are interested in participating, please contact Carol at 612-788-3516 or cmj01a@msn.com.

THE GIVING TREE

Items Due Thursday, Dec. 14

This year, Central is sponsoring two families in need through the Ramsey County Department of Human Services. These families were chosen as they are going through a particularly rough time. The gifts need to be returned by December 14. They should be wrapped and labeled, and the receipt should be included in the packaging. To participate, people should pick up an ornament from the Christmas tree in the Friendship Room and then returned as soon as possible. We

have committed to two large families, so participation at any level is encouraged!

Cards of requested items can be picked up from the tree in the Friendship Room. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Ishizuka at ishiz001@umn.edu and have a Merry Christmas!

CHILDREN & YOUTH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, Dec. 15 - 10:30 a.m.

Pageant rehearsals have begun! Join us for our annual twist on the nativity story put on by the children and youth on December 15th during worship. This year's play was written by Jeff Jones, with editing and adaptation by some of Central's middle and high school youth. As we consider the season of Great Expectation, this year's play will help us to think about what we do with the news of Jesus' birth after Christmas day. How does the expectation and anticipation of Christmas day affect our ability to take the Christmas story with us past the Christmas season?

SCHUBERT CLUB CONCERT: SONGS OF THE SEASON

Thursday, Dec. 19 - 7:30 p.m.

Again this year, due to audience demand, Schubert Club is expanding to add a second performance at the historic Central Presbyterian Church. The concert is free and open to the public.

Named "the most imaginative classical holiday program" by the Star Tribune, and performed to overflow audiences for the past seven years, The Schubert Club's annual Songs for the Season program features winter songs and carols by more than a dozen Minnesota composers and songwriters. This year's program is curated by Central's Composer-in-Residence Abbie Betinis and features Peter Mayer and special guests, including Central Choir as a guest choir.

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, Dec. 22 - 10:30 a.m.

A special service of music celebrating the advent of Christ, presented by the Central Choir and several guest instrumentalists.

C O N N E C T I N G F A M I L Y D U R I N G A D V E N T

The season of Advent is upon us, and as we prepare for the Great Expectation of Jesus' birth, look for ways to reflect together as a family during this season! Advent is about waiting and preparing for Christmas and the coming of Jesus. This focus can be hard to

balance with other excitements of the season happening in schools and elsewhere in the community, but marking the time of Advent can be simple! Lighting an Advent wreath or reading the lectionary together once a week can be a great way to honor the season and

come together as a family.

Family Advent resources will be available at the church, in the weekly Children and Youth Connect emails, and on Saturday, December 14th during Deck the Halls event.

CHRISTMAS GREENERY & POINSETTIAS

Orders are due by Wednesday, December 18.

This December, we continue with a Central tradition to decorate the church with beautiful greenery and poinsettias. To donate to the decorating fund (perhaps in memory or honor of a loved one), complete the following and return with payment to the office or the offering plate. Christmas decorations will start to take their place around the church during our Deck the Halls event on December 14. To have your memorial listed in the Christmas bulletin, please submit donations by December 18.

Your Name: _____

Phone / Email: _____

If you are purchasing in honor or memory of someone, please list their name(s): _____

PLANT	PRICE EACH	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Small Poinsettia (5-7 blooms)	\$ 9.50		
Large Poinsettia (10-18 blooms)	\$18.00		
Evergreen Swag	\$16.00		
Evergreen Wreath	\$25.00		

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Checks should be made payable to Central Presbyterian Church.

Return orders to the Sunday worship offering plate or to the office.



HELP SESSION WITH 2020 BUDGET PLANNING AND SUBMIT YOUR STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE BY DECEMBER 10.

Pledges are also welcome after this date, but in having them by December 10 Session can more accurately lay financial plans for the coming year.

**Stay
CONNECTED**



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
facebook.com/centralforgood



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
instagram.com/centralforgood



WATCH VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE
[youtube.com \(search for Central\)](https://youtube.com/search?q=Central)



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
twitter.com/centralforgood
twitter.com/cpcmusic



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.centralforgood.org



SUBSCRIBE TO NEWS EMAILS
www.centralforgood.org/newsletter



VOLUNTEER TO HELP
centralforgood.org/volunteer

IF NOT ME, THEN WHO?

On Sunday, November 24th, Rich Binger shared an Opportunity for Involvement with those in attendance centered on our 'Time to Soar' stewardship campaign. Hearing his thoughtful words, it seemed fitting to share them here as well for others not in attendance as a great reminder of the many ways we can share our many gifts as a congregation.

[BY RICH BINGER]

Really a simple question, and one that is fairly easily passed by.

If I don't do "it", then someone else will step up and pitch in or take on the task. But let's pause for just a few minutes and think about this. If not me, then who.

Do I believe in the mission of Central?

The mission to be "*In the City for Good*" has many aspects. Food support, Project Home, mission trips, youth activities, artists receptions, VocalPoint, Martha's Closet, diaper Drive, and really, too many to list. (Think about your own mission passion effort here). I am personally connected to several of these activities and know that I benefit from all of them.

If I don't support and believe in the mission, then who?

Do I value the talent of our staff to lead in their respective lanes? Remarkable staff. Talented and caring individuals who come together to create the fabric that is the support and foundation for this community.

Do they have to step in or step up and take on all the things that need to get done. This is above and



beyond their already demanding roles. Who is ready to pitch in and help? If not me, then who?

Do I see the IMPACT in the communities we (Central), are choosing to be a part of?

I am sure I don't really know them all... I am aware of most... and I see some.

What I see is absolutely positive. These are big needs with big goals. Bigger than any one of us is able to accomplish on our own.

Where do my talents and interests fit with these activities?

The service fair several weeks ago was a great way to gain visibility into the diversity of activities at Central.

Some of these are big and loud and obvious - great for many people. Some of these are quieter, even a bit unassuming, but important nonetheless and great for others.

It takes all kinds of people and personalities to drive all of these

forward. Stop and think, where do I fit? Where can I have impact? What is my passion? What is a natural fit for me, or if the timing is right, what may challenge me and be a growth opportunity?

I can only answer this question "If not me, then who?"... for me. I cannot, and would not presume to answer for anyone else but me.

But what I can do, is to ask all of you to ask yourselves the question.

So, if not you, then who?

Who is stepping up to support the operational needs of this fantastic church.....no - scratch that. Who is stepping up to support the operational needs of this fantastic, vibrant, diverse, and beautiful community.

This takes our time, our energy, our talent, our ideas, our dollars, and most of all, our hearts. It is up to us to make Central soar. If we give of our hearts, the rest will follow.

If not me, then who?

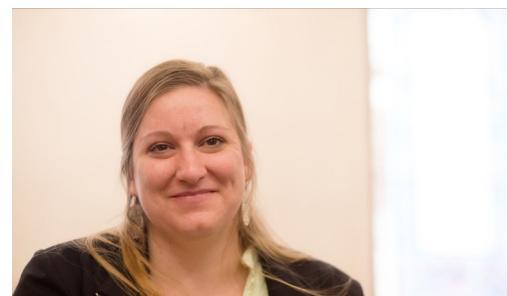
FROM THE EYES OF CHILDREN



This time of year, cameras are everywhere - taking family portraits, capturing special events and sparkling eyes. Our families change so fast, we race to capture every moment we can to remember.

This Christmas, hand your camera to your child and let them freely capture the things they want to remember. You will be amazed at the beautiful and curious things they see. They don't care if your hair isn't perfect, if you are covered in flour from baking or if the house is a mess. They just see you and the fun that lives in the heart of a child.

A special thank you shout out to Johnny and Eric for capturing these great faces and fun moments at Central!



SUPPORTING CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

My Stewardship Pledge for 2020 is \$ _____ per week / month / year. (circle one)

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Email: _____

WAYS TO GIVE:

- Please give me a box of weekly offering envelopes.
- I want to pay monthly by direct debit transfer.
(Download form at www.centralforgood.org/ACH-Form.pdf)
- Please call me about donating stock or other investments.
- I want to make donation by credit card through PayPal.
(To do so, go to www.centralforgood.org/give)
- I would like to make a special year-end gift of \$ _____.

Complete and return to Sunday worship offering plate or Central office by December 10th.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

On September 29, Central welcomed several new members to the congregation through transfer from the Dayton Area Presbyterian Church and re-affirmation of faith from one homebound member. Some have been already introduced to you in other publications for the recent elder elections. As our new members continue to make their home here, we invite you to learn more about them and engage them in the life, people and culture of Central when you see them.

The New Members & Volunteers Committee will be announcing the next new members class for those interested in becoming members in the near future. If you are interested in learning more about Central, the process of becoming a member or getting more involved as a volunteer or connected as a visitor, please contact New Members & Volunteer Committee Chair Alex Bollman at alexmbollman@msn.com at anytime. We also invite you to visit our website

at www.centralforgood.org to stay abreast of upcoming events and opportunities to connect as a volunteer.

LAURA HUTTON

Laura started her church life at the University Presbyterian Church in Tuscaloosa, Alabama and served as an elder there. She was an active member and served three terms as deacon at Dayton Avenue Presbyterian. Laura specifically chose to be a deacon while the church was ending as a faith community so she could support and comfort members during the transition time. She finds Central to be very friendly and welcoming, as well as sharing values in social justice and inclusivity which are important to her. Laura lives in the Battle Creek area of Saint Paul with her husband Terry and one-year-old Standard Schnauzer, Sadie. She is retired from the Minnesota Department of Health. Laura enjoys

walking her dog, theater, music and discussing different points of views with people. She has a strong interest in connecting with and caring for church members and is looking forward to serving as a deacon at Central Presbyterian Church.

CINDY JESSON

Cindy and her husband, Peter Knapp, were longtime members of Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, where they raised their four now-adult sons. Cindy served short stints as an Elder and Deacon, but focused most of her church work around children. She taught Sunday School classes ranging from pre-school to high school. And was known for her children's sermons.

Still an active clarinet player, Cindy realized in college that a love for music does not equate to professional talent—at least in her case. So she attended law school. Most recently, her career landed



Cindy within blocks of Central: currently as a Judge on the Minnesota Court of Appeals by the capital and, before that, as Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Services, a mere block away. She currently serves on the boards of Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul, Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, and Close Gaps by Five.

Cindy will be received as a new member in the near future.

PETER KNAPP

Peter and his wife, Cindy Jesson, were longtime members of Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church, where they raised four now-adult sons. Peter served as an Elder and then for many years, a Deacon. After teaching Sunday School to two-year olds for twenty years, Peter stepped well outside his comfort zone and joined the choir, where he attempted to learn to sing harmony. Peter has been a faculty member at Mitchell Hamline School of Law since the 1980's (though he's spent the last couple of years in administration). A native Nebraskan, he remains a loyal member of Cornhusker Nation, but is also a devoted Twins fan. He serves on the boards of a number of organizations, including Liberty Plaza Corporation (an affordable housing development), the Supreme Court's Legal Services Advisory Committee, and the Collaborative Community Law Initiative.

Peter will be received as a new member in the near future.



ELAINE OMAN

Elaine joins Central from Dayton Avenue Church where she was very active in the Clothing Center ministry and a member of Session. She finds the activities and ministries of Central much like those at Dayton Avenue and is happy to have found a home at Central. She especially has liked Sunday Bible study with Maureen and helping out with Wednesday lunch prep.

She enjoys reading (or being read to by audiobook) and recently discovered podcasts. She loves to take on new challenges with the latest being learning the art of stained glass and mosaic making. Beadwork has been a favorite activity for many years.

She lives in St. Paul with husband Leon. Son Jeff is in Minneapolis and daughter Kristin lives in Chicago. She is retired from 25 years of work in the WIC program in Washington County.

DEAN PEARSON

Dean is a 74-year-old retired Drug & Alcohol Counselor, having worked at Twin Town Treatment

Center for 36 years. He has been married to his wife, Betty for 46 years, and have two sons. Tony lives in NYC and is graphic designer, and Chris lives in St. Paul and works for Jimmy John's. They love traveling and have been to England, France, Israel, and Jordan. Dean has been involved in Boy Scouts as have his sons, and they enjoy camping as a family. As a Presbyterian Dean has served as an Elder and a Deacon. Dean comes to Central as a resident of Highland Chateau, where he is involved in the community life, and he looks forward to participating at Central to the best of his ability.

JUDY SCHUBERG

Judy has three sons and one daughter, nine grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren. Judy has served on the Session, as a deacon, sang in the senior choir for many years, and have helped with both youth choir and youth group activities. I also love to read and crochet.

LAUREL SEVERSON

Bio not yet available, but stay tuned in future newsletter.

WELCOME OUR NEW SEXTON!

We are happy to announce James Williams as Central's new custodian. He started in October, and comes to us with experience working in a church. James says of Central: "This is a beautiful place, and I look forward to using my gifts to keep the church clean and comfortable, and to becoming part of this community of faith."

James has a passion for writing – both poetry and inspirational literature – and that he loves working with a people. We hope you'll take a minute to say hello and welcome him!

For those of you who have not yet met him officially, we also want to offer a special note of gratitude for Lavar Jones. Lavar was our latest custodial intern through Central's partnership with Twin Cities R!SE. He has been an incredible support for Central as we sought to find a permanent sexton - taking on additional hours where needed to ensure Central building operations continued to run smoothly. Lavar is now done with his 10-week internship at Central. However, we will see him working with James as needed over this very busy holiday season!



James Williams (L) and Lavar Jones (R)

HANDBELL ENSEMBLE SHARES IN WORSHIP



We are continually blessed by the gift of music in worship and seeing new ensembles carve out unique sounds and personalities within our Sunday experience.

Thank you to the Handbell Ensemble (for sharing your talents and gifts with us!)



WOMEN OF CENTRAL NEWS

NETWORKING GROUP

We had a great time at Birch's Lowertown this past month! Excellent conversation and good food.

We will not meet in December. In January, we will begin the year with a potluck on January 7th, at the home of Sandy White. Watch for details soon.

KNITTING GROUP

Come join us on the 2nd Sunday of the month to knit and connect with one another. We meet in the Oval Room after gathering in the Friendship Room for a quick cup of coffee.



We have yarn, needles, help for beginning knitters and great conversation and companionship. We are working on scarves, prayer

pockets and prayer shawls. We encourage you, and especially beginning knitters, to make children's scarves. They are just an



Children & Youth
CHRISTMAS
Pageant

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
10:30 A.M. WORSHIP

come hear the news!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARTHA'S CLOSET

Martha's Closet will be closed Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

PLEDGE REQUEST

Help Session with 2020 budget planning and submit your stewardship pledge by December 10. Pledges are also welcome after this date, but in having them by December 10 Session can more accurately lay financial plans for the coming year.

DORCAS CIRCLE

We'll meet on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 11:30 a.m. Bring your own lunch and coffee will be provided. We'll be looking at lesson 3.

OFFICES CLOSED

In recognition of the Christmas Holiday, Central offices will be closed Christmas Eve afternoon (Tuesday, Dec. 24) and all day Christmas Day (Wednesday, Dec. 25). It will also be closed all day on January 1 for New Years.

CENTRAL TEAM

(651) 224-4728

PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Dr. David Colby, Pastor
dcolby@cpcstpaul.org, ext. 102
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@cpcstpaul.org, ext. 100

Christie Rachelle, Communications
cpc@christierachelle.com
(952) 564-4472

Matt Ehling, Treasurer
William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus

Mary Lange, Evening Receptionist
James Williams, Sexton

MUSIC

Jennifer Anderson,
Director of Music Ministry
jennifera@cpcstpaul.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@cpcstpaul.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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Isaac Fisher	12/1	Beth Gould.....	12/16
Benjamin Hanscom	12/1	Bonnie Joyce	12/16
Matt Ehling.....	12/3	Isabella Hanscom	12/18
Carl Peterson	12/3	Jeff Zeise.....	12/18
Andrea Lawson	12/6	Jennifer Toikka.....	12/19
Christopher Bremicker	12/7	Carl Willis	12/19
Thea Berg	12/8	Shaylynn Williams.....	12/20
Craig Muntifering	12/8	Virgie Bundy.....	12/21
Alfred Zdrasil	12/8	Maureen Smith.....	12/22
Sharon Zopfi-Jordan.....	12/8	Johann Toikka.....	12/24
Annabelle Endres	12/9	Lillian Sanders.....	12/25
Addison Kannapiran	12/9	Matt Jagger.....	12/28
Joan Kelly	12/10	Ben Jagger.....	12/28
Jane Lonergan	12/10		
Kathy Barker	12/11		
Tennyson Gould	12/11		
Aiden Flinner-Davis	12/12		
Allie Pyan	12/12		
Natalie Klaehn	12/13		
Richard Wheeler.....	12/14		
Micah Johnson	12/15		

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



CENTRAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

500 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

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CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*



On November 24 Central welcomed exhibiting artist Mark Cosimini for a reception to share about his current series 'Social Landscapes' and 'Altar Pieces'. If you did not get a chance to meet and talk with Mark, we invite you to watch a video about his exhibition at Central.

<https://youtu.be/c6tbdjfsaU>