

CONNECT CENTRAL

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FEBRUARY 2021

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CENTRAL
IN THE CITY FOR GOOD



THE SEASON OF LENT IN 2021 Praying the Psalms

Show me your ways, Lord,
teach me your paths. [Psalm 25]

Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock
and my redeemer. [Psalm 19]

Create in me a clean heart,
O God, and put a new and
right spirit within me. Do not cast
me away from your presence, and
do not take your holy spirit from
me. Restore to me the joy of your
salvation, and sustain in me a
willing spirit. [Psalm 51]

Thomas Merton wrote, "The Psalms
are not only the songs of prophets
inspired by God, they are the songs
of the whole Church, the very
expression of her deepest inner

life. The words and thoughts of the
Psalms spring not only from the
unsearchable depths of God, but
also from the inmost heart of the
Church, and there are no songs
which better express her soul, her
desires, her longing, her sorrows and
her joys."

As our own church finds itself in a
time of transition and introspection,
we can look to the Psalms as so
many have done for generations
before us. The beauty and the
rawness of the words might give
voice to what we are feeling right
now as well. We will welcome
several guest speakers in worship to
begin this Lenten series on the
Psalms, including two members of
Central's program staff.

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Sunday, February 7

REV. PHILLIP ROMINE

Phil will preach this week and will offer communion. Phil was a seminary intern at Central and was briefly on our staff during a transitional time. He is an ordained pastor and is now communications and youth director at Valley Community Presbyterian Church in Golden Valley.

Sunday, February 14

MEL LEACH

Preaching this week, Mel was recently elected to serve on the Session, is the new chair of the Personnel Committee, and is leading the search for a transitional pastor. He has preached at Central before, both in person in the sanctuary and on video during this Covid time, and his messages have always been well received.

Ash Wednesday, February 17

5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Begin 2021 Lenten holy weeks with an opportunity to come into the sanctuary, hear beautiful music, participate in imposition of ashes, and receive a blessing. This will not be a formal service, but a brief come and go event. COVID-19 masking and social distance requirements will be followed. Parking is available in the MPR lot with entrance at the lower level.

Sunday, February 21

JENNIFER ANDERSON

Our music director Jennifer Anderson will give the message and talk about VocalPoint on its tenth anniversary. The music at Central under Jennifer's leadership has been one of the strengths of our church, and we have been grateful for the creative ways she has found to offer music during this Covid time. Besides her gifts for music and leadership, she is an excellent speaker.

Sunday, February 28

KATIE MORRIS

Our Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator, Katie has a Master of Divinity and plans to build some interaction into her message. We have heard her wonderful children's messages, both in the church and on video, and look forward to hearing her first full sermon for us.

Update on the New Transitional Pastor

The session of Central is pleased to announce that Rev, Dr. Carol Reed has been selected to serve as Transitional Pastor beginning March 3, 2021. Rev. Reed is currently serving as Pastor at Calvin Presbyterian Church in Long Lake, Minnesota.

Opportunities to meet and greet Carol will be announced in the March newsletter and by email.

4 WAYS TO GIVE

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



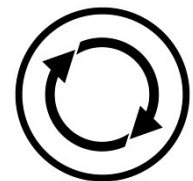
Donate Online

www.centalforgood.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

HOW DO YOU CONNECT?

In this time, how do you connect with Central or others in your community? Worship videos inspire and lead us, but do you take the opportunity to connect with the people of Central through the many Zoom events each month?

You need not RSVP or worry about the details. Simply come as you are and share your time. Join once or as you are able. No matter what your participation, we welcome you! Below are two great opportunities to casually connect. (Zoom links are also shared in the eConnect email.)

We hope to see you there!

Join Worship Online

[www.centralforgood.org/
stream](http://www.centralforgood.org/stream)

New to Central?

Drop us an email and say hello. We'd love to connect with you!

office@centralforgood.org



Every Thursday

Looking for a guided conversation? The Deacons of Central are pleased to continue 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, GO TO:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/87229900980](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87229900980)

OR VIA PHONE CALL IN:

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



1st & 3rd Sundays

After watching worship on Sunday mornings, head over to zoom and connect for a casual coffee time with others from Central. We may not have coffee and cookies waiting in the Friendship Room, but we can offer great casual conversations! Kiera Faye will lead and you will have opportunity to talk with many in break-out groups.

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.

**VIA VIDEO ON SMARTPHONE,
COMPUTER OR TABLET, GO TO:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/82541611955](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82541611955)

OR VIA PHONE CALL IN:

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

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

Connecting

We're continuing to connect in new (and not so new) ways! You can join the youth for a bake-a-long or game night, pop into Katie's office hours on Zoom, or join us for a spontaneous sledding adventure (depending on weather and safety restrictions). To keep up with the latest opportunities, sign up for the weekly Children and Youth emails by contacting Katie Morris, katiem@centralforgood.org.

Lent Begins!

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 17. The season of Lent, much like Advent, is one of waiting and preparation. This year, the contemplative and introspective nature of Lent might feel odd, as

we've been in a time of tumult and uncertainty for so long. Perhaps this time can give you an opportunity to try new spiritual practices together as a family. On Ash Wednesday, we are reminded of the close connection we have both to life and to death in God's creation – many churches have a tradition of burning the previous year's palm branches into ashes for use on Ash Wednesday. The Bollman family burned palms last May, as you can see in the photo. What are you feeling as we approach this Lenten season?

We'll be delivering Lenten goody bags in the first few weeks of Lent – much like with our summer and Advent bags, Katie will be in touch to find out if you have any preferences for delivery!



CAN YOU HELP?

Central's Coordination Mission Committee is sponsoring a donation drive at Central in February to benefit the Rice Street Food Shelf, part of Keystone Community Services. Even with donations over the holidays, they are experiencing great needs in the following areas:

- **Food related** - soup (especially high need currently), peanut butter, jelly, sugar, flour, cereal, rice, vegetable oil
- **Household** - dish soap, toilet paper, paper towels
- **Hygiene** - tampons, pads, toothpaste, toothbrushes,



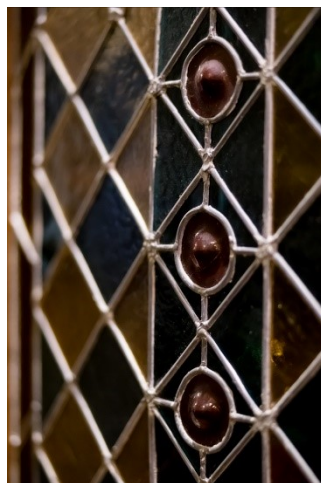
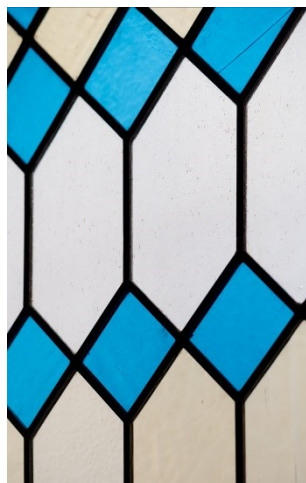
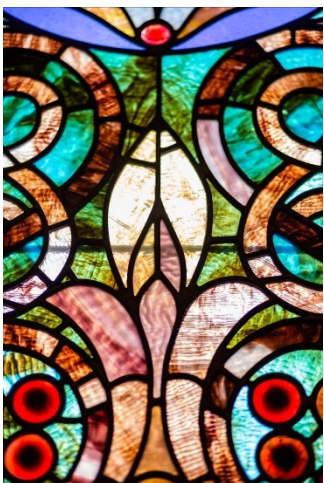
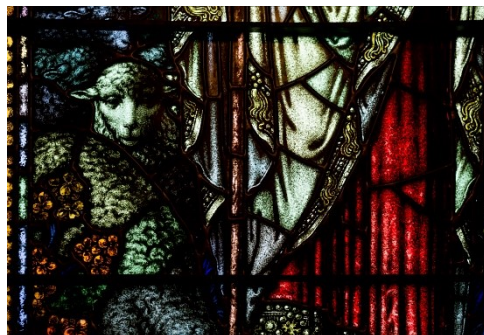
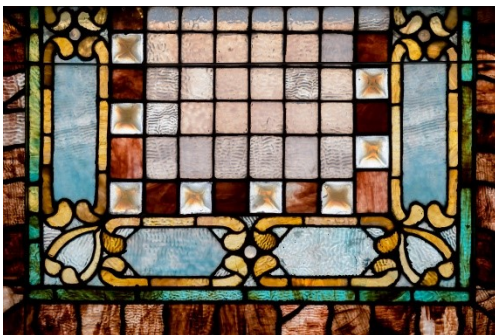
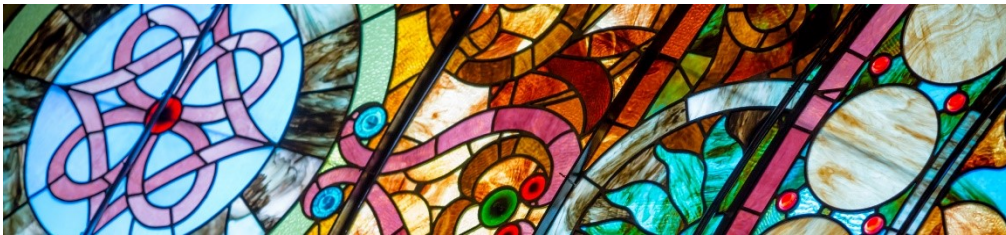
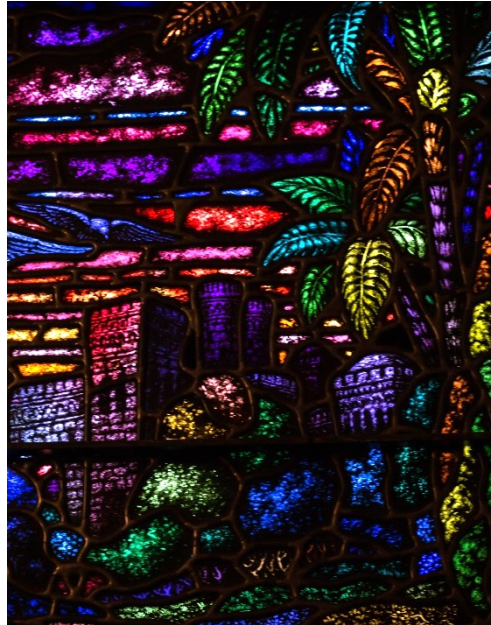
FOOD DRIVE

- shampoo, conditioner, bar soap
 - **Babies** - diapers, baby wipes
- Financial donations can also be made in the form of a check made out to *Keystone Community Services*. Please write "Rice Street" on the memo portion of your check.

A donation drop-off will be held on Sundays, February 21 and 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Central in the MPR parking lot. You can also drop donations off at church on Thursdays between 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. by February 25th. (Simply buzz to be let in and leave donations on the front table in the dining room.)

BEAUTIFUL STAINED GLASS

Take one step inside Central and you can't help but marvel at all the beautiful stained glass, delivering colorful glows of light over the course of each moment. While we continue to adapt to worship and distance in this time, it is sometimes hard missing not only the people of Central, but also the spaces of Central. If you find yourself seeking memories, head over to our photography hosting website at: <https://centralforgood.smugmug.com> Wander through albums of worship services, events, people, and spaces (and download your favorites)!



CENTRAL STAFF

(651) 224-4728

PASTORAL CARE

Central will soon welcome a new Transitional Pastor in March.

If a pastoral care emergency arises, please contact our Deacons at deacons@centralforgood.org or contact the office at the number above.

ADMINISTRATION

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

Christie Rachelle, Communications
(952) 564-4472

Matt Ehling, Treasurer
William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus
Mary Lange, Evening Receptionist
Lavar Jones, Sexton

MUSIC

Jennifer Anderson,
Director of Music Ministry
jennifera@centralforgood.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@centralforgood.org, ext. 109
Natalie Pence, Nursery Care Provider
Meghan 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
ext. 112

MUSIC NEWS



VOCALPOINT

February 7th
1:00 - 2:00 p.m. on Zoom

From the comfort of your living room, join us for a performance featuring music from our first nine seasons, plus the debut of our Virtual

Choir piece "Rise" from our 10th Season!

You do need to register so that we can send you the link. It is \$5 at www.vocalpointchorus.org/2021-registration. To waive this fee, contact Jennifer Anderson at jennifera@centralforgood.org.



MUSIC MOSAIC

Music Mosaics are a chance for everyone to learn about something new! Our music staff takes turns sharing about a fun topic each month for about an hour on Zoom. If you'd like to be notified about our next Music Mosaic, send me an email:

JenniferA@centralforgood.org



Can We Give You a Gift?

The music staff at Central is so grateful to continue to do our work, even in these difficult and strange times. We know that people are finding music to be especially comforting as we find ourselves anxious or lonely or afraid. We would love to give you a gift of music if that would be something you would value.

If you have a request of a favorite hymn that you would like played or sung for you, please send me an email at JenniferA@centralforgood.org.

We will make a recording of it as we are able, and send it to you. If it fits the liturgical theme, we may also use it in worship! But regardless, it will be a recording that you can listen to and be reminded that you are cared about by the Central community.

Announcements

WOMEN'S NETWORKING GROUP

We had wonderful conversation during our January gathering. Thank you to everyone who attended networking group! This group is a great way to informally connect with women of all ages in our congregation. We meet from 5:00 to 6:15 p.m. monthly via Zoom.

Our February gathering will be on Monday, February 22 at 5:00 p.m.

TO JOIN VIA SMARTPHONE, COMPUTER OR TABLET, GO TO:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89850192750>

OR VIA PHONE CALL IN: (312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 898 5019 2750#

Send an email to Sue Hoffman at women@centralforgood.org to be added to our mailing list and receive the Zoom link direct to your inbox.

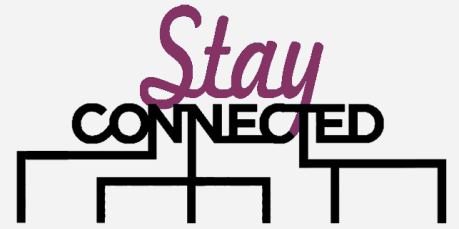
THROWBACK 2018



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

- Ingrid Bollman..... 2/3
- Marlena Haugen 2/3
- Laura Varanasi 2/4
- Veronica Amarteifio 2/5
- James Bergman..... 2/7
- Stephanie Getschmann 2/9
- Ryan Kimani 2/9
- Melissa Varanasi..... 2/9
- George Lonergan 2/10
- Margo Nicoll 2/10
- Victoria Pyan 2/11
- Ned Taylor 2/13
- Christopher Amarteifio 2/14
- Laura Williams..... 2/15
- Ian Berg 2/17
- Jon Juffer 2/17
- Eddie Sanders..... 2/18
- Barbara Swanson 2/19
- Ellie Schlittenhart 2/20
- Lynne Severson..... 2/23
- Nora Welch..... 2/24

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 as well!



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Thanks to all who helped VocalPoint celebrate its 10th Anniversary at the Central parking lot in January! All nine of the previous beneficiaries were supported by your donations and the total will be announced at the February 7th final VocalPoint session on Zoom. We will be sharing more from this season, including the debut of the VocalPoint Virtual Choir piece!



CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*