

CONNECT CENTRAL

Welcome Central's New Pastor, Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen!

FROM THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is pleased to introduce Rev. Christopher Chatelaine-Samsen, who we are recommending to be Central's new pastor.

The PNC considered many qualified candidates in our process of discerning who would be the best choice to lead Central into our future. Throughout our efforts we kept the excellent information provided to us in the Ministry Study as the benchmark with which to evaluate candidates. We feel that Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen has the skills and attributes to be a great fit for us and we hope you will agree with us.

Congregational Meeting to be Held Feb 26

Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen has been invited to preach in worship on Sunday, February 26. This day will offer you the opportunity to meet him and hear his preaching style. Immediately after worship, there will



be a special congregational meeting called by Session. During this time, a vote of the congregation will be held to approve his proposed contract and accept him as Central Presbyterian Church's called pastor. During this time the decision to disband the Pastor Nominating Committee will also be made.

Assuming the vote will pass to accept him, the new pastor will be installed at a later date and begin his permanent placement at Central on April 1.

And now, we invite you to learn more about and hear directly from Rev. Christopher Chatelaine-Samsen.

Greetings!

It is my honor to be nominated by Central Presbyterian Church's PNC as your next pastor! I know this has been a long journey of discernment and discovery, and you're in my prayers during this next season of transition.

I am a recent Minnesota transplant, having grown up in the New York City suburbs. After high school I attended Wesleyan University where I studied both economics and music, and not for one day in my life have I made a dollar off either of those majors! Although I didn't plan on professional ministry, I found a job doing youth ministry out of college and haven't looked back. A few years later I attended Princeton Theological Seminary, where aside from getting

FEBRUARY 2023

Share in this month's VocalPoint concerts!



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New to Central?

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

office@centralforgood.org

Or, call and ask about our next Inquirer's Class for prospective new members.

(651) 224-4728 ext. 100

Upcoming Worship

Sunday Schedule

- 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study
- 10:30 AM Worship Service & Children's Education
- 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

Nursery care is available upstairs from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. on most worship Sundays this month.

Worship services are streamed live each Sunday on our website at: www.centralforgood.org/stream

Sunday, February 5

Our Bridge Pastors Rev. Anne Fisher and Rev. Gregg Dana will preach for the first time. Barb Brooks will play piano and organ.

Sunday, February 12

COMMUNION SUNDAY

Central Choir will sing with Steve Swanson playing piano. Rev. Anne Fisher and Rev. Gregg Dana will preach.

Sunday, February 19

We welcome the return of Artist-in-Residence Rod Kelly Hines, Central Choir sings, and Steve Swanson plays piano. Rev. Anne Fisher and Rev. Gregg Dana will preach.

Wednesday, February 22

ASH WEDNESDAY

We will enter the season of Lent with a 7:00 p.m. worship service with

Rev. Anne Fisher and Rev. Gregg Dana. The Handbell Ensemble will ring and Jennifer Anderson will play piano.

Saturday, February 26

Central's called pastor nominee Rev. Christopher Chatelaine-Samsen will preach. Central Choir will sing and the Ars Nova Brass Quintet will play.

After worship, a congregational meeting will be held. A vote will be held to approve his proposed contract and accept him as Central Presbyterian Church's pastor.

This meeting will be held in-person in the sanctuary at 11:45 a.m.

Sermon Details Coming Soon!

In this time of transition, Central is working with multiple pastors in a short time, including our Bridge Pastors and Nominated Pastor.

Accordingly, we do not yet have a lot of detail on upcoming worship themes and scriptures for February.

However, stay tuned to our eConnect weekly email, Facebook page, and bulletins to learn what lies ahead for the following week's service.

Welcome Bridge Pastors!

BY CHRISTIE RACHELLE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

As outlined in our cover article, we will not welcome our new pastor to called ministry until April. In the meantime, Central will be in the hands of two bridge pastors to serve our worship and care needs until that time.

Following you will find a biography of the husband and wife team who will step into that role - Rev. Anne Fisher and Rev. Gregg Dana. Their first Sunday preaching at Central will be February 5 and they will serve until the called pastor is installed.

A Word from the Pastors

We are delighted to serve as Bridge Pastors at Central Presbyterian Church until the arrival of your new pastor, probably around April 1st. We are a retired Presbyterian clergy-couple who live in St. Anthony Park.

Anne specialized in being a transitional pastor, serving 20+ congregations, including large urban churches and small rural churches. Gregg served as associate pastor of two large congregations before he got a master's degree in counseling and undertook a career in psychotherapy and family therapy. He maintained his role as a pastor by serving as parish associate at a church near their home in Gurnee, IL. We moved to the Twin Cities in 2016 for Anne to be the transitional pastor at Plymouth Presbyterian Church. She served Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Bloomington from 2019-2021.



We are both preacher's kids, and three of our siblings and our daughter-in-law are clergy. We have four children: Robert (a department manager in a software company in Reston, VA), William (his team is responsible for the computer portal at the U of M), Liz (a freelance non-fiction copy-editor in Berlin, Germany), and Christina (a podcast producer for NASA in Washington DC). We have six grandchildren: Caroline 20, Mel 17, James 15, Henry 15, Charlotte 12, and Hugo 1. Anne's mother Ruth, nearing 100 years old, lives in memory care in Maplewood, so we visit her daily.

In addition to our church and Presbytery activities, we volunteer at our senior living cooperative. Anne works on the hospitality and library

committees, and Gregg is a member of the cooperative living and energy committees.

Healthy living, working out, going for walks, and eating well are important to us. We enjoy reading books and participating in the conversations of book clubs. We enjoy traveling, especially to the Fisher family cottage in Fryeburg, Maine, and to visit our daughter and her family in Berlin. Using sustainable energy, recycling, composting, and driving a Volkswagen ID4 electric car are expressions of our seriousness about doing what we can about climate change.

If you have questions or wish to reach Rev. Anne or Rev. Gregg once they arrive at Central, email pastor@centralforgood.org.

Welcome Central's New Pastor, Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen! CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a degree I also met my wife, Katie, an ELCA pastor.

We moved to Washington, DC after graduation and connected to the thriving faith and justice community in DC that continued our faith and vocational journeys. I served as an associate pastor in the Georgetown neighborhood as well as mentored students at Wesley Theological Seminary in the midst of their own vocational journeys.

While we lived in DC, our daughter Junia was born. A few years later, my wife received a call to serve a congregation in Winona, MN, so we headed across the country to begin

work there. During this time, I served two congregations - one ELCA and one Moravian. Although we loved the bluff country around the Mississippi River, we both felt called back to more urban settings and moved to the Twin Cities this past year. Since then I've been serving as a transitional pastor.

I'm honored and excited by the call to Central. Central has been a steadfast presence in Minnesota's capital for generations pointing to God's faithfulness and call to love and serve. You innovate while standing on a long tradition of worship, education, arts, and

service. I look forward to the times we will eat together at St Paul's "best kept restaurant secret," be lifted up by the power of amazing music, speak up alongside those advocating for justice, learn with disciples of all ages, and more.

My hope is to be a faithful steward of the ministry of Central while we continue to look to the future into which God is calling us. My prayer is that, with God's help, we will continue to be a presence "in the city for good," ensuring that good work for generations to come.

Thank you, and God's peace,
Chris

Thank You to the Pastor Nominating Committee

After many months you have come to the place you were charged with achieving - a pastor nomination.

We know there have been many hours of prayer, study, and thoughtful discussion taking place during the search for a new pastor. We know that you have all been working hard to listen to and follow God's leading, working in-person and through Zoom to keep progress moving forward.

To serve on the committee has asked you each to put aside your own interests in order to spiritually discern what is best and what is

God's calling for the Central.

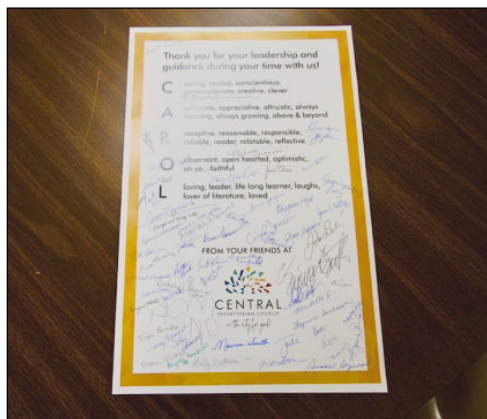
While your distance meeting has not yet offered the opportunity to gather a photo of this amazing group, at this time we do want to recognize those who have served on the PNC:

- Gifty Amarteifio
- Sue Hoffman
- Jackie Klaehn
- John Lee
- Todd Mikish
- Lynda Petrie
- Josh Voelker
- Al Zdrazil

We are blessed by your service!



Central Says Goodbye to Rev. Carol Reed



A Closing Word from Pastor Carol

My thanks go out to everyone who made my farewell reception at Central such a delightful day.

Thank you to Jennifer Anderson for the special version of the worship closing hymn, and for directing the youth in a wonderful send-off on "Just what does Pastor Carol do all day, and what are we going to do now that she is leaving?" (I loved that it was a teachable moment: the answer to the question being that everyone now needs to read the Bible, pray, and serve!)

Thanks to Barb Westman and her kitchen crew for the amazing lunch – all vegetarian in my honor. If you missed it, ask someone about those

cheesy mushroom grits. Thank you to Lynne Severson and her crew for the table centerpieces, including the lovely fabric pieces and the thread that will certainly get used at my sewing machine.

Thank you to Sally Mortenson for thinking of a gift certificate to a quilt store that I am eager to visit. Finally, thank you to Central Presbyterian Church and to so many of you for the blessings I received over the nearly two years that I have served alongside you.

I will miss you, while praying that the year ahead with the arrival of a new pastor, is a year of joyful new beginnings.



Martha's Closet is now the Central Closet!

With the pandemic totally changing the landscape of the world of work, Central has responded to the changing clothing needs of our community. Martha's Closet has now been reimagined as the Central Closet and is operating out of the lower level. Through donations, we will now provide seasonally appropriate clothing to both men and women in need.

Donations Needed

At this time, we are only accepting the following outerwear donations (for both men and women):

- Warm Jackets
- Scarves

- Mittens and Gloves
- Winter Hats
- Socks
- Warm Outdoor Footwear

Donations can be dropped off during Wednesday Community Lunch to the lower level dining room. Please note that we are NOT accepting sweaters, pants, or other clothing items at this time.

Hours Open

The Central Closet is open each Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (A referral from a social service agency is no longer required.) Those in need can grab

much needed winter wear in the back corner of the dining room, then stay for a warm meal during our Wednesday Community Lunch. The Central closet will also be open upon request before and after Sunday Worship.

Volunteers Needed

To help organize donations and serve our clients, we are looking for volunteers to help cover our service hours. To sign up, contact Sydney Linderman, Virgie Bundy, or the church office.

Thank you for your support of this valuable mission.

Statement of Land Acknowledgement Now Session Approved

FROM REV. LOU BENDER (CONVENER OF THE ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE)

Central Presbyterian Church occupies the sacred land of the Dakota people.

This land embodies Dakota history, nurtures Dakota spirit, and for a long era sustained Dakota life. The Dakota people were harmed by the United States government through unjust and broken treaties. The government pursued strategies that cheated Dakota people and led to their dislocation and death.

Government policies also led to genocide and destruction of the land for which the Dakota people are such faithful stewards. This harm includes the aftermath of the Treaties of Traverse des Sioux and Mendota, both signed in 1851, which led directly to the availability of this sacred space which we presume to possess today. These treaties between the United States government and various Dakota bands, signed in 1851, made the land available when the congregation, formed in 1853, was looking for property.

Central Presbyterian Church acknowledges that we reap the inherited benefits of evil down to this day. We who seek to be “in the city for good” cannot undo the past, no matter how much good we do. Our faith demands confession and atonement to set right the consequences of evil. Our faith demands action toward justice on behalf of the Dakota people, the Anishinaabe, the Winnebago, and others who have been hurt for our



advantage. Our faith demands love as a way of life, perceiving the image of the Christ in both those who harm us, and those whom we harm.

In response to the demands of faith, by action of the Session on January 17, 2023, Central Presbyterian Church declares the following commitments. The church:

- Commits to a policy of candid and thorough examination of history that recognizes the obligation to acknowledge even the parts of stories which are difficult to hear and would be easier to ignore.
- Takes a confessional stance about the evils of colonization (murder, genocide, broken trust, etc.) from which we and our

ancestors and descendants all benefit.

- Pays respect to Dakota elders past and present, and to all their descendants, with thanks for all they contribute to our mutual well-being, particularly their care for the land.
- Urges our members to develop lasting, respectful relationships that support Native American communities and nations.
- Calls for continued action for the benefit of people of Native American descent through sweat equity, financial contribution, advocacy for public policy, and prayerful reflection on continuing actions.
- Reviews this commitment at least annually for the purpose of assessing congregational faithfulness to its commitments.

The Anti-Racism Task Force started talking about land recognition in June 2021. We now keep this truth in our minds and hearts as we move forward in worship and service as a faith community.

If you have questions regarding this Land Acknowledgment Statement or the work of the Central's Anti-Racism Task Force, please speak with a member of the Anti-Racism Task Force or reach out to the church office to be connected with the appropriate person.

A Time to Reflect on VocalPoint

FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF VOCALPOINT

**For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven:**

**a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.**

[ECCLESIASTES 3: 1- 8]

This Ecclesiastes text speaks to these seasons of our lives and, as many of you know, our upcoming VocalPoint concerts on February 4 and 5 supporting Urban Roots will be my last one as the artistic director of VocalPoint. We have had quite a season together. To say that the last 12 (plus 7) years have been immensely fulfilling and rewarding is a significant understatement.

When a small group of us started this work as Global Harmony 19 years ago, none of us had any idea what was to come: beautiful friendships, incredible guest artists, powerful messages, music that changed our lives, and experiences that shaped who we are. While it's hard for me to

imagine a life without this work, I do believe that this particular endeavor is coming to an end for me.

The Right Partner, The Right Time

As I reflect on this time, I think Urban Roots was the perfect organization to partner with for a final season. If anything exemplifies the necessity of change, it's a garden. The seed becomes a seedling; the blossom becomes the fruit; the fruit becomes a meal. The garden is tended, the food is prepared, the harvest is shared.

Much like the work of a gardener, part of our work together as VocalPoint has been caring for

something that really wasn't ours in the first place. We embraced the mission of great non-profits in our community, then listened closely to the stories of people who needed to be heard as well as the visions of leaders and modern day prophets who speak the truth. Then, we were the caretakers of your generosity as you've contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars throughout the years.

We tended, we grew, and we shared. And like a good meal, we've been filled.

Growing VocalPoint

When I came on staff here at Central in 2010, I had been directing Global Harmony. I knew then that I wanted to continue that work but it would need to adapt to this new setting. Session blessed the idea, and we became VocalPoint.

In our 12 years together, we have told important stories that are true, sometimes difficult, but always consequential. Central has been an amazing place to hold these concerts and we, as Central, have been blessed by the people who have shared their many talents here.

I am truly grateful for all the ways that this community has supported our efforts as we have come together each January and February to create something new - to listen profoundly to our neighbors, to hear songs within those stories, to provide a

space for others to be amazingly generous, and to grow together in our humanity.

We have also learned to do hard things - more so in the last few years that's for sure - and together, we can walk through this time, too. While this chapter is coming to an end, there is much to celebrate.

The Final Concerts

This month we will host an amazing concert weekend supporting Urban Roots. Our choir is 81 voices strong, and I can't wait for you to meet our headliner MaMuse, a duo of amazingly talented, strong women who have dedicated their music and mission to telling important stories. I'm hoping we have the biggest audience ever and raise more money than ever before! (Though last year's \$40,000+ collection is a very high bar to meet!)

For everything, there is a season; a purpose under heaven. Our purpose now is to tell another amazing story, perhaps at a really, really, really long table, with room for everyone to sit and eat. It's time to laugh and it's probably time to cry; it's time to plant and it's time to reap, and then, when the dishes are cleared and the guests have gone home, it might be time to rest.

I'm immensely proud of the work we've done together and I'm truly grateful for one more season to tell you all that one more time. I'm so looking forward to our concerts and I hope that you'll be able to attend. Let's tell another amazing story together.

Share with me this special final concert on February 4 or 5!



VOCALPOINT 2023

FOR EVERYTHING, A SEASON

MUSIC TO THRIVE BY



CELEBRATING THE WORK OF URBAN ROOTS AND
FEATURING MAMUSE!

February 4 at 4:00 pm

February 5 at 4:00 pm

Both concerts also streamed

Central Presbyterian Church

500 Cedar Street

*A free-will donation will also be collected at the concerts;
100% supports Urban Roots.*

Tickets and more information at vocalpointchorus.org

News from the Women of Central

FROM SUE HOFFMAN

Women's Networking Group

We had a great time at Celeste last month! We celebrated Rev. Carol Reed's birthday and her time with us as it was preparing to come to an end. Thank you to everyone who participated!

This month we will not meet, due to travel of your host. Our next gathering will be on Thursday, March 9 at Celeste St. Paul Hotel + Bar. We will meet at Celeste at 5:30 p.m. Simply park at Central and walk across the street to join us. We will request the Boardroom for our gathering. Please RSVP to women@centralforgood.org by March 6 to let us know if you plan to join us.

Not on our mailing list? Email women@centralforgood.org to be added to the list for announcements and event updates.



Share Your Keys for Housing Change

FROM BARB SWANSON, BEACON LEADERSHIP TEAM

Project-Based Vouchers

If someone is homeless in a metro suburb, the chance of ever living in deeply affordable housing is practically nil. ('Deeply affordable' refers to housing aimed at serving those who make 30% or less of the Twin Cities median income.)

To build multiple-unit, low-income housing, a contractor must have a project-based voucher for each separate living unit to be built. The project-based voucher stays with the unit, guaranteeing its low-income status over time for eligible applicants.

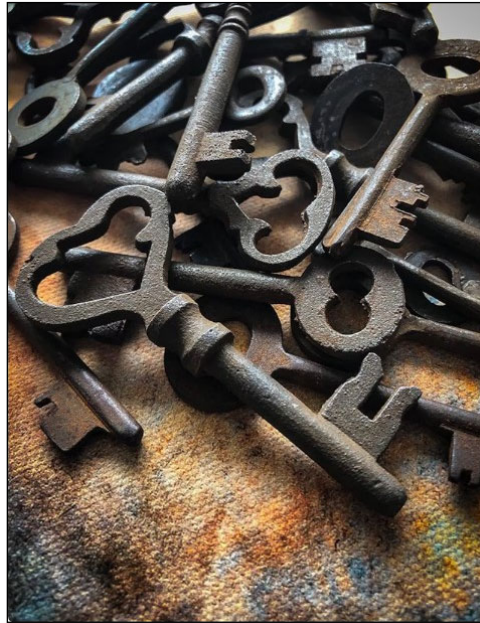
The Quandry

The Metropolitan Council receives project-based vouchers from the federal government and is responsible for distributing them to developers like Beacon who build low-income housing in the metro-area suburbs. Then why does the Metropolitan Council keep them locked up?

Unfortunately, the Met Council has never developed a policy for distributing these vouchers, especially for deeply affordable housing - so there's no commitment for allocating them. Thus, deeply affordable housing has not been built in the suburbs for the last two years.

Keys for Change

Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative is focusing on



correcting this situation because it prevents a clear solution to homelessness. It's time to unlock housing equity in the suburbs, and Beacon has a plan!

Beginning Sunday, February 5, please bring any and all old keys you don't need to the Friendship Room after worship. A Central Beacon member will be there with a big box to fill. Then, later this winter we will hold a Key Collection Workshop at Central. There we will share in a time to write messages to Met Council members on key tags attached to the keys we've collected.

Central's Beacon team members encourage everyone to participate in this campaign to show we believe everyone deserves a home and to help "unlock" project-based vouchers for deeply affordable housing in the metro suburbs.

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www.centralforgood.org



VOLUNTEER TO HELP
centralforgood.org/volunteer



CALL ANYTIME WITH QUESTIONS
(651) 224-4728

Explore Ways to Serve and Connect in Our Committees

FROM CHRISTIE RACHELLE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

At the January Session meeting, our newly elected elders began their 2023 term and new committee assignments were proposed and accepted.

As these committees continue their work with the guidance of new and returning leaders, we invite you to explore the work of each committee and consider if there is an area where you would like to be more involved or have ideas to share.

WORSHIP, MUSIC, AND ARTS

Chair: Kiera Faye
Assigned: Wendy Flinger

This committee oversees big-picture worship and arts planning and coordinates those who serve worship, including liturgists and communion preparers. Other aspects of their work include facilitating our rotating artist exhibitions and receptions.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Chair: Deb Fonkert

This committee oversees the many programs and ministries offered by Central children and youth, including nursery care, fellowship and learning events, and family outings.

WELCOME & FELLOWSHIP

Chair: Lynne Severson
Assigned: Sally Mortenson

This committee is focused on the hospitality areas of Central, engaging with visitors, hosting new member inquirers' classes, and

helping new members get more involved. This committee is charged with recruiting and training people for ongoing hospitality needs in the church including ushering, coffee preparers, pew organizers, and more.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs: Jackie Klaehn
& Phyllis Brashler

This committee is responsible for ensuring effective staffing for the church and overseeing the annual evaluation process for each staff member. They are currently working on better definition of staff roles and responsibilities. Some aspects of the work of this committee are highly confidential.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair: Wendy Flinger
Assigned: John Lee

This is a committee, not of the Session, but of the entire congregation. It is charged with discerning whom God is preparing to serve as elders and deacons.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

Chair: Ernest Lloyd
Assigned: Phyllis Brashler
& John Lee

This committee encourages generous and faithful stewardship and analyzes and recommends the strategic use of financial resources. With the treasurer, this committee

interprets income, expenses and financial realities and priorities to Session and the congregation.

COORDINATED MISSION

Chair: Virgie Bundy
Assigned: Marcia Robert

Central serves many mission and community outreach areas through the use of our building, our dollars, and our volunteer time. The job of this committee is to coordinate, supervise, and execute our mission or community serving efforts, ensuring we are as effective and efficient as possible.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT & RISK ASSESSMENT

Co-Chairs: Fluryanne Leach
& Craig Foss
Assigned: John Patton

Working with the Church Administrator, this committee addresses building maintenance, repair, and preservation needs, grounds maintenance, and general safety issues.

Get Involved!

There are non-Session members serving on every committee in the church, with more work to be done and a need for more volunteers. Consider how you too might serve.

If there is a committee on which you would like to serve or connect with others at Central, simply reach out to the chair or the church office.

Children & Youth News

FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & YOUTH MINISTRY

The children and youth of Central have been involved in some special projects this month, including a thank you to Pastor Carol and a special collaborative poster for worship for Martin Luther King, Jr.

Exciting News!

I'm happy to report that Central received a small grant (\$1,000) to use for a senior high / confirmation mission project this summer. The theme is *When Did We See You?* based on Matthew 25. Details have yet to be worked out, but I'm excited to plan a meaningful, engaging, and fun experience for our high schoolers!



Children & Youth Calendar

FEBRUARY 5

- 9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.
- 10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection following a Time for Children.
- 11:30 Life Boats Middle School Fellowship until 12:30.
- No Confirmation Class or Compass Fellowship due to VocalPoint Concerts.

FEBRUARY 12

- 9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.

- 10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection following a Time for Children.

FEBRUARY 19

- 9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.
- 10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection following a Time for Children.
- 11:30 Life Boats Middle School Fellowship until 12:30.
- 5:45 Confirmation Class
- 6:30 Compass Senior High Fellowship until 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 26

- 9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.
- 10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection following a Time for Children.
- 11:30 Spark! meet up to prepare for the next Sunday. Will be done at noon.

If you have questions about upcoming events or ways to engage your child in ministry, contact Jennifer Anderson at (651) 224-4728 x103 or email jennifera@centralforgood.org.

Announcements

Share Your Committee News & Activities

Do you wish the congregation knew more about the work of your committee or other important events in the community? Share it in the newsletter or in our weekly eConnect email! There is always an open call for all news. For the newsletter, submit your news by the 10th of the month prior. For the weekly email, send your notes by Wednesday for the Thursday edition. All submissions can be emailed to christier@centralforgood.org.

Happy Birthday!

This month we share in wishing a joyous *Happy Birthday* to all who are celebrating birthdays.

- Laura Varanasi..... 2/4
- Veronica Amarteifio..... 2/5
- Ryan Kimani..... 2/9
- Melissa Varanasi 2/9
- George Lonergan..... 2/10
- Ned Taylor..... 2/13
- Christopher Amarteifio..... 2/14
- Laura Williams 2/15
- Ian Berg..... 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 a note to office@centralforgood.org so we can update our records and share birthday wishes with you, too!



Collage by the children and youth of Central for Martin Luther King, Jr. day.

Per Capita Giving

The annual per capita payment of each congregation supports the wider church at the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly levels of the PC(USA). In 2023, that amount is \$37.50. When making your contribution towards the per capita payment, please be sure to write "Per Capita" in the memo field and return to the offering plate in worship or the church office.

Welcome New Members

On January 15, Central received two new members to the congregation - George Joyce and Juniper Beath. Please join us in welcoming them to the Central congregation and help engage them in the church events and connect with others in our faith community. Watching the church grow is always exciting, especially as we see how it changes with each new member.



Dance Coming to Worship

FROM RUTHIE FINK (WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS COMMITTEE)

As we move through the New Year, Central church members can look forward to a new addition to our Sunday worship experience - dancers participating in our morning service on February 26!

Churches have found that this kind of spiritual movement can be a very meaningful part of the service and we hope you will join us when dancers from CREO Arts & Dance Conservatory will be sharing their dance ministry with us.

About CREO

The word CREO originates from Latin meaning "I think, I create, I believe". Directed by owner Christa Anderson, CREO Arts & Dance Conservatory is located in Minnetonka. They provide dancers, ages 3-19, opportunity to explore ballet, jazz, contemporary, acro, tap, hip-hop, and more.

At the heart of CREO is the fusion of Christian faith and movement. They teach dancers to improvise in the

spirit, explore their faith through Biblical understanding and deductive reasoning, and express the message of the Gospel through performance.

"Because we were created by God in excellence, we encourage our artists to create their work in excellence."

The CREO DanceVERVE: Twin Cities is a non-denominational, Christ focused, youth performance company which uses dance performance for worship, prayer, and evangelism. VERVE refers to a special ability and lively spirit animating artistic composition or performance. Dancers grades 7-12 perform a wide variety of styles from classical ballet to hip-hop.

Save the Date

Don't miss out on this new worship experience. Save the date to join us in the sanctuary for worship on Sunday, February 26 at 10:30 a.m.

CENTRAL STAFF DIRECTORY

(651) 224-4728

Bridge Pastors

Rev. Anne Fisher & Rev. Gregg Dana
ext. 102, pastor@centralforgood.org

Church Administrator

Anna Sanchez, ext. 100
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Administration

Matt Ehling, Treasurer
William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus
Mary Lange, Receptionist

Director of Communications

Christie Rachelle, (952) 564-4472
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Director of Music & Youth Ministry

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Children & Youth Ministry

Laura Walls, Sunday
Connection Coordinator
lauraw@centralforgood.org
Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher
Maria Stokes, Nursery Care Giver

Music Ministry

Shanta Hejmadi, Abbie Betinis,
Adam Van der Sluis, Eric Bartlett,
Steve Swanson, Barbara Brooks,
Dr. Melanie Ohnstad, Rod Kelly Hines

Adult Education

Maureen Smith, Bible Study Leader

Food Ministry

Barb Westman, Chef & Food Manager
barb.westman@gmail.com

Building Maintenance

Lavar Jones, Custodian
Peter Evarts, Custodian



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Rally for Housing at the Capitol

Central's Beacon team headed to the State Capitol last month to advocate for affordable housing, calling on legislators to 'Start with Home' as they shape state budgets and priorities!

Connect with Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative and learn how you can help support this important effort and encourage your state leaders to take action!



CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*