

CONNECT CENTRAL

Sojourn in the Season of Lent

FROM REV. CHRIS CHATELAINE-SAMSEN

Although it feels like we've just ticked over into the new year, we are already fast approaching the season of Lent.

Lent sometimes gets a bad reputation. Right at that time when the winter doldrums are getting us down the most, church comes along and reminds us all about all the things that aren't right, how bad and sorry we should feel, and so on and so forth. Hard to get excited for.

I don't think Lent has to be that way. I don't think Lent should be that way. Lent can even be joyful. The practices of Lent are rooted in the ideas of preparation, contemplation, and introspection. We quiet our hearts and minds, we sing and hear music that speak to the soul, and yes, we do some hard soul-searching, all because we are preparing for God's renewing and resurrecting life. The prophet Isaiah says "behold, I am doing a new thing! Do you not perceive it?" Lent is about attuning



our hearts and minds to perceive those things God is doing in the world and in our lives.

Further on you'll see more about what Lent will look like in worship. Won't you join us as we prepare ourselves for the joy of God's presence?

God's Peace,
Pastor Chris

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

FEBRUARY TOPIC:
ANTI-RACISM

In recent years, many churches, 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

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FEBRUARY 2024

Be humble in the glory of what is to come.



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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

JOIN US IN-PERSON OR ONLINE FOR 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.

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

Sunday, February 4

COMMUNION SUNDAY

We continue our "Mid-Winter Sabbath" series with reflections on the beginnings of Jesus' ministry.

Music will include the Central Choir, led by Wendy Flinner, and pianist Alex Woods.

Sunday, February 11

We conclude "Mid-Winter Sabbath" series with stories of Jesus breaking rules on the Sabbath in order to heal a hurting world.

Music will include Central Choir, led by Jane Ramseyer Miller, soloist Clara Osowski, and pianist Alex Woods.

Wednesday, February 14

ASH WEDNESDAY

Join us at 7:00 p.m. for Ash Wednesday worship service with music featuring Central Choir, led by Shekela Wanyama, and pianist Alex Woods.

WORSHIP IN THE SEASON OF LENT

Our Lenten sermon series will focus on *Strangers and Sojourners*. We will examine portraits of wandering, searching, hospitality, and home throughout the Bible, examining our call as a congregation to support those who search and offering radical hospitality in our lives and our community.

February 18 - March 26

Sunday, February 18

Music will include Central Choir, soloist Tonia Hughes Kendrick, and organist/pianist Kenny Vigne.

This day we will also enjoy Third Sunday Lunch, catered by Chef Barb Westman. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per adult. All who are hungry are invited to eat, regardless of ability to contribute.

Sunday, February 26

Pastor Chris preaches and music will include Central Choir, led by instrumentalist Paul Damico-Carper.

Explore Ways to Serve Central in Our Committees

FROM CHRISTIE RACHELLE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Thank you to the new and returning elders who make up Central's Session, including those who are serving as committee chairs in 2024.

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.

Mission & Justice

Chair: Susan Rostkoski

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. This committee oversees the work of the Anti-Racism Task Force, the Hunger Initiative, and the Beacon Leadership Team's work in the area of housing.

Welcome & Fellowship

Chair: Wendy Flinner

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.

Worship, Music & Arts

Chair: Kiera Faye

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.

Finance & Stewardship

Chair: Ernest Lloyd

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.

Children & Youth

Chair: Deb Fonkert

This committee oversees the many programs and ministries offered to Central's families, children and youth, including:

- Nursery Care
- Sunday Connection (K-5)
- Lifeboats (Grades 6-8)
- Compass (Grades 9-12)
- Confirmation Class

And, other family fellowship events.

Facilities Management & Risk Assessment

Co-Chairs: John Patton

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

Nominating

Chair: Wendy Flinner

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.

Personnel

Chair: Phyllis Brashler

This committee is responsible for ensuring effective staffing for the church and overseeing the annual evaluation process for each staff member. Some aspects of the work of this committee are highly confidential.

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.

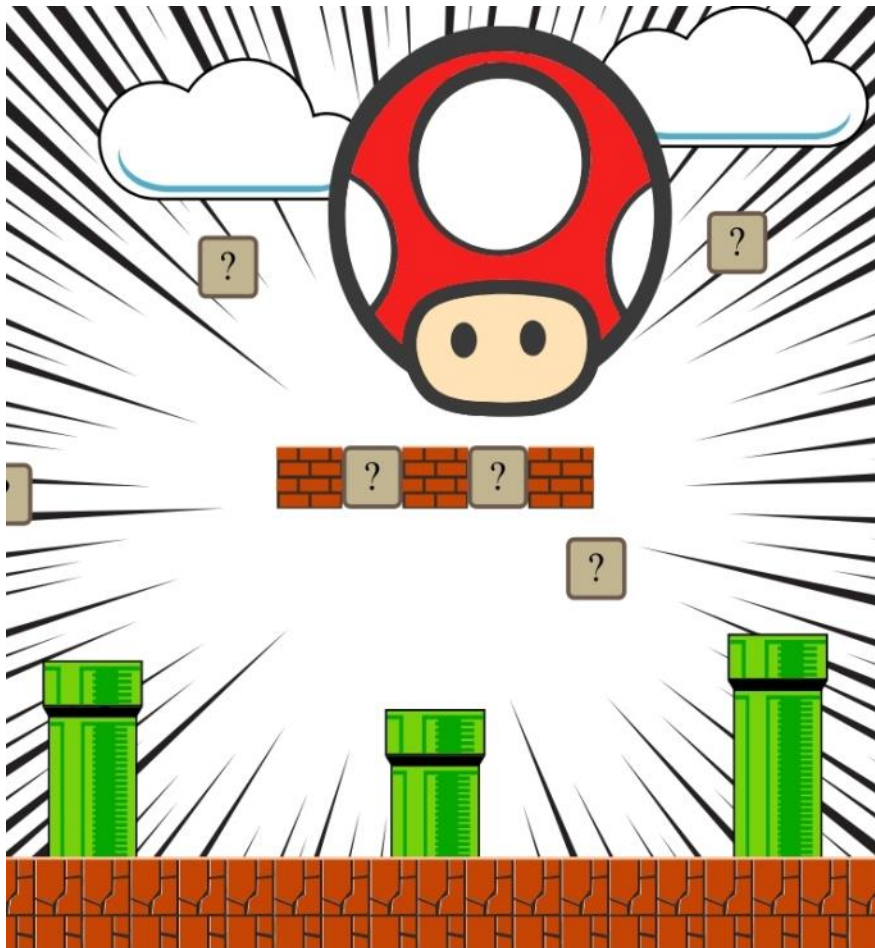
If there is a committee on which you would like to serve, simply reach out to the chair or the church office.

Adventures & Experiences from Youth Snow Camp!

TO SEE MORE PHOTOGRAPHS, GO TO WWW.CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG/PHOTOS







VIDEO GAMES & PIZZA PARTY AT KIERA'S!

**LIFEBOATS & COMPASS
GRADES 6 - 12**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4
11:30 - 2:00 PM**

**MEET AND RETURN TO
CHURCH - BRING \$5.**

Children & Youth Calendar

FEBRUARY 4

9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.

10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection after Time for Children (Grades K - 8) in Galilee Room.

11:30 Lifeboats and Compass Video Game & Pizza Party. Meet at church to walk together to Kiera's. Returning at 2:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 11

9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.

10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection following Time for Children (Grades K - 8).

FEBRUARY 18

9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.

10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection following a Time for Children (Grades K - 8).

11:30 Third Sunday Lunch, with Lifeboats and Compass Fellowship Groups meeting until 1:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 25

9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.

10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection following Time for Children (Grades K - 8).

If you have questions about upcoming events, opportunities to volunteer, or ways to engage your child in ministry, contact:

Jennifer Anderson
Director of Music & Youth Ministry
(651) 224-4728 x103
jennifera@centralforgood.org

Announcements

TO SUBMIT NEWS, PLEASE EMAIL CHRISTIER@CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG.

Happy Birthday!

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

- Marlena Haugen 2/3
- Laura Varanasi..... 2/4
- Veronica Amarteifio 2/5
- Beverly Bodom 2/6
- Melissa Varanasi 2/9
- Sydney Linderman 2/10
- Alexander Woods 2/12
- Christopher Amarteifio..... 2/14
- Laura Williams 2/15
- Eddie Sanders 2/18
- Barbara Swanson 2/19
- Lynne Severson..... 2/23

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!

Fellowship & 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
- Model Magic with air drying clay
- 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 Flinger. We are excited to share fun, fellowship and creativity during these days of winter!

Newsletter Changes

Over the next few editions, you may notice newsletter condensing in preparation for a new model of monthly and seasonal formats kicking off this summer. So, stay tuned for more content efficiency for busy family schedules, and more cultural content for those new to Central!

Adult Faith Formation

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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 4 at 11:30 a.m. in the meeting lounge for a Biblical view of racism and the resources available to affirm God's liberating and justice-seeking love for all people.

STAFF DIRECTORY

(651) 224-4728

Pastor

Chris Chatelaine-Samsen, ext. 102
chriscs@centralforgood.org

Church Administrator

Anna Sanchez, ext. 100
office@centralforgood.org

Administration

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

Director of Communications

Christie Rachele, (952) 564-4472
christier@centralforgood.org

Director of Music & Youth Ministry

Jennifer Anderson, ext 103
jennifera@centralforgood.org

Children & Youth Staff

Laura Walls, Sunday
Connection Coordinator
lauraw@centralforgood.org

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

Music Leadership

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

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



CENTRAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

500 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

WELCOME GUEST MUSICIANS!

While Jennifer takes time for rest and healing, Central is pleased to welcome several guest musicians in her stead. Join us in welcoming them to worship each week and learn more about them in our upcoming bulletins.



**TONIA HUGHES
KENDRICK**



**PAUL DAMICO
CARPER**



KENNETH VIGNE



KELA WANYAMA



JANE R MILLER



CLARA OSOWSKI