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**THANK YOU  
AND FAREWELL**

**FROM REV. DAVID COLBY**

I began my ministry at Central on February 1, 2005 as a designated pastor for what was called a four year "live or die" best last chance for Central. I believed at the time that with God's grace and a lot of luck and hard work it might be possible and furthermore, I could imagine that if we succeeded together, new challenges would keep me engaged for eight or ten or even twelve years. It has been such a deep privilege to be the pastor at Central for these sixteen years. It is pretty cool that for such a "live or die" beginning to conclude my time with the second longest pastorate in Central's long history.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to be part of this congregation. I am thankful for what we accomplished together, the steps we took, the mission in which we engaged. I am thankful also for your generosity in overlooking my faults and forgiving my mistakes. We didn't get everything exactly right all the time, but I think we did the best we could to be bold and wise and faithful.

As I have been preparing to leave



Central, I have been remembering key moments from the past and savoring memories. I have been looking at pictures, including one of a young guy standing on the front steps of the church facing Cedar Street for an article in a local newspaper about "the new pastor," to family pictures in the sanctuary with our kids growing taller every Easter and Christmas. I have been remembering Christmas pageants and mission trips and guest speakers

[ CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 ]

# UPCOMING WORSHIP

## Sunday, January 10

REV. LOU BENDER

Rev. Lou Bender will preach on baptism and will preside over the ordination and installation of newly elected elders and deacons.

## Sunday, January 17

DR. ERNEST LLOYD

Leading into Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Ernest Lloyd will speak on Dr. Martin Luther King's sermon *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*. Ernest's sermons on this Sunday were an annual tradition at Dayton Avenue Presbyterian, and he continued this tradition last year at Central.

At 11:30 a.m. join us on Zoom for Coffee Time. (See right.)

## Sunday, January 24

REVS. CASEY WELLS AND DOUG THROCKMORTON

Casey Wells and Doug Throckmorton will join in preaching and story telling on the third chapter of the Book of Jonah.

## Sunday, January 30

REV. JOHN SEVERSON

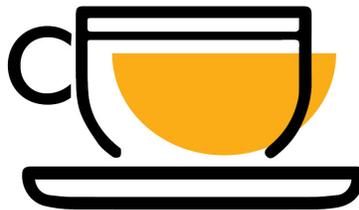
The Rev. John Severson was interim pastor at Central for three years before Rev. David Colby came. He and his wife Lynne recently moved to the Twin Cities and returned to Central. This past year, Lynne became a member of Central. As clergy, John is a member of Presbytery, not any congregation.

### New to Central?

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

[office@centralforgood.org](mailto:office@centralforgood.org)

# COFFEE TIME



Join us on Zoom for a casual coffee time and conversation with others from Central on **Sunday, January 17 at 11:30 a.m.** Kiera Faye will lead and you will have opportunity to talk with many in break-out groups.

JOIN VIA SMARTPHONE, COMPUTER OR TABLET:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82541611955>

OR VIA PHONE CALL IN: (312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 825 4161 1955#

If you have questions about this event, speak with Kiera Faye, Chair of the New Members or reach out to the office at [office@centralforgood.org](mailto:office@centralforgood.org) or call (651) 224-4728.

# CENTRAL STAFF

(651) 224-4728

## PASTORAL CARE

Central's Session is currently seeking a Transitional Pastor.

If a pastoral care emergency arises, please contact our Deacons at [deacons@centralforgood.org](mailto:deacons@centralforgood.org) or contact the office at the number above.

## ADMINISTRATION

Anna Sanchez, Church Administrator  
[office@centralforgood.org](mailto:office@centralforgood.org), ext. 100  
 Christie Rachele, Communications  
[christier@centralforgood.org](mailto:christier@centralforgood.org), ext. 105  
 (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](mailto: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](mailto:katiem@centralforgood.org), ext. 109  
 Natalie Pence, Nursery Care Provider  
 Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher

## FOOD INITIATIVE

Barb Westman, Chef & Manager  
[Barb.westman@gmail.com](mailto:Barb.westman@gmail.com)  
 Sue LeClaire, Sous Chef  
 Peter Evarts, Dishwasher

## MARTHA'S CLOSET

Sandy White, Director  
[martha@centralforgood.org](mailto:martha@centralforgood.org), ext. 112



## TRANSITIONAL PASTOR SEARCH

[ BY MEL LEACH, CHAIR OF PERSONNEL COMMITTEE ]

Central has begun work to call a Transitional Pastor (new term for Interim Pastor) to serve after Rev. Colby's departure.

As with many other jobs, this includes preparing a job posting, receiving applications, conducting interviews and reference checks, and then making a job offer. However, for a pastor the first and last steps must be coordinated with the Presbytery and coincide with a scheduled monthly meeting. Transitional Pastors offer to the congregation and staff the routine functions of: worship leadership and preaching, pastoral care, work with

the session to provide for the life and ministry of the congregation, administrative work including supervision of other staff persons, and staff support for programs and committees of the congregation. In addition, a Transitional Pastor leads a congregation during the transition time, helping the congregation prepare to welcome the leadership of a new installed pastor. Transitional Pastors understand the dynamics of a congregation in transition, including feelings of grief, loss, and, sometimes, relief or anger.

We expect to have a Transitional Pastor in place in February or March and will keep the congregation and staff apprised.

## THANK YOU AND FAREWELL [ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 ]

and construction projects and stewardship campaigns and . . . I could go on and on reminiscing. And I have appreciated hearing some of your memories that you have shared with me through phone calls and email messages and cards. I am so grateful for what we have experienced together.

But I have also been thinking about the future for Central. The ability to build on that desire to be in the city for good, the opportunity to grow from a stable financial base, and to utilize a really talented pool of volunteers and leaders will help this congregation enter a new era. I am confident that Central will continue to grow and change and be faithful to God in a new time.

Our Presbyterian tradition provides a good roadmap for how congregations and pastors can thrive during times of transition. Part of what is needed is for real farewells and healthy boundaries when a pastor departs. I pledge to follow the "separation ethics" of the presbytery and support the ministries of a transitional pastor and subsequent installed pastors. This means that after January 3 I will no longer be your pastor. I will not be involved in any way with the selection process of the transitional pastor or the next installed pastor. I will not engage in criticism of those who follow me; nor will I participate in pastoral activities without the prior invitation or request of the

current pastor.

Goodbyes can be difficult. But change can be good for a congregation; I would argue that change is essential for a congregation to remain faithful to the God who keeps calling us to new adventures and new forms of ministry. That was true during the time I was your pastor and that will continue to be true for the future.

Let me end by once again saying thank you. What a privilege and an honor it has been to serve as the pastor of Central. I am grateful to you and grateful to God for the ministry that we have shared.

With gratitude and love,  
David Colby

# CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

[ BY KATIE MORRIS ]

## Christmas Pageant

What an incredible year for our first “virtual” Christmas Pageant! Thanks so much to all of the children, youth, and families involved in leadership to share this special story with Central. They memorized lines, created costumes, made set pieces and props (including the darling sheep shown at right), became cinematographers... truly above and beyond! Huge thanks of course to Christie Rachelle and Kiera Faye for doing all of the editing and work to bring the videos into one pageant for us all to enjoy. If you haven't yet had a chance to watch it, this is one you won't want to miss! Simply go to our website at [www.centralforgood.org/stream](http://www.centralforgood.org/stream) and



at the bottom of the page you will find a link to it under December 20, 2020 worship.

## Dreams for 2021

As we move into the new year, what

hopes and dreams do you have? For the world? For your community? For your family? Take some time to consider your hopes as you doodle on the enclosed free coloring page from Illustrated Ministry.

# THANK YOU ELDERS AND DEACONS

[ BY REV. DAVID COLBY ]

In January, new elders and deacons will be ordained and/or installed for service on the Session and Board of Deacons.

We are grateful to those who will be serving in elected leadership at Central! Future newsletters will highlight the work of the 2021 Session and Deacons.

In this newsletter, we want to recognize and thank those whose terms on the Session and Deacons have ended.

## Elders

**Kati Berg** chaired the Children and

Youth committee, and helped connect Central to issues impacting neighborhood residents.

**Rich Binger** moved to another state during the pandemic, but continued to serve as chair of the Finance and Stewardship Committee through the end of 2020.

**Alex Bollman** has been involved in so many leadership roles during multiple terms on Session, including recent responsibilities as a member of the Nominating and Children and Youth committees.

**Stu Siebell** served 2020 as the chair of the Personnel and Nominating Committees, always generous with

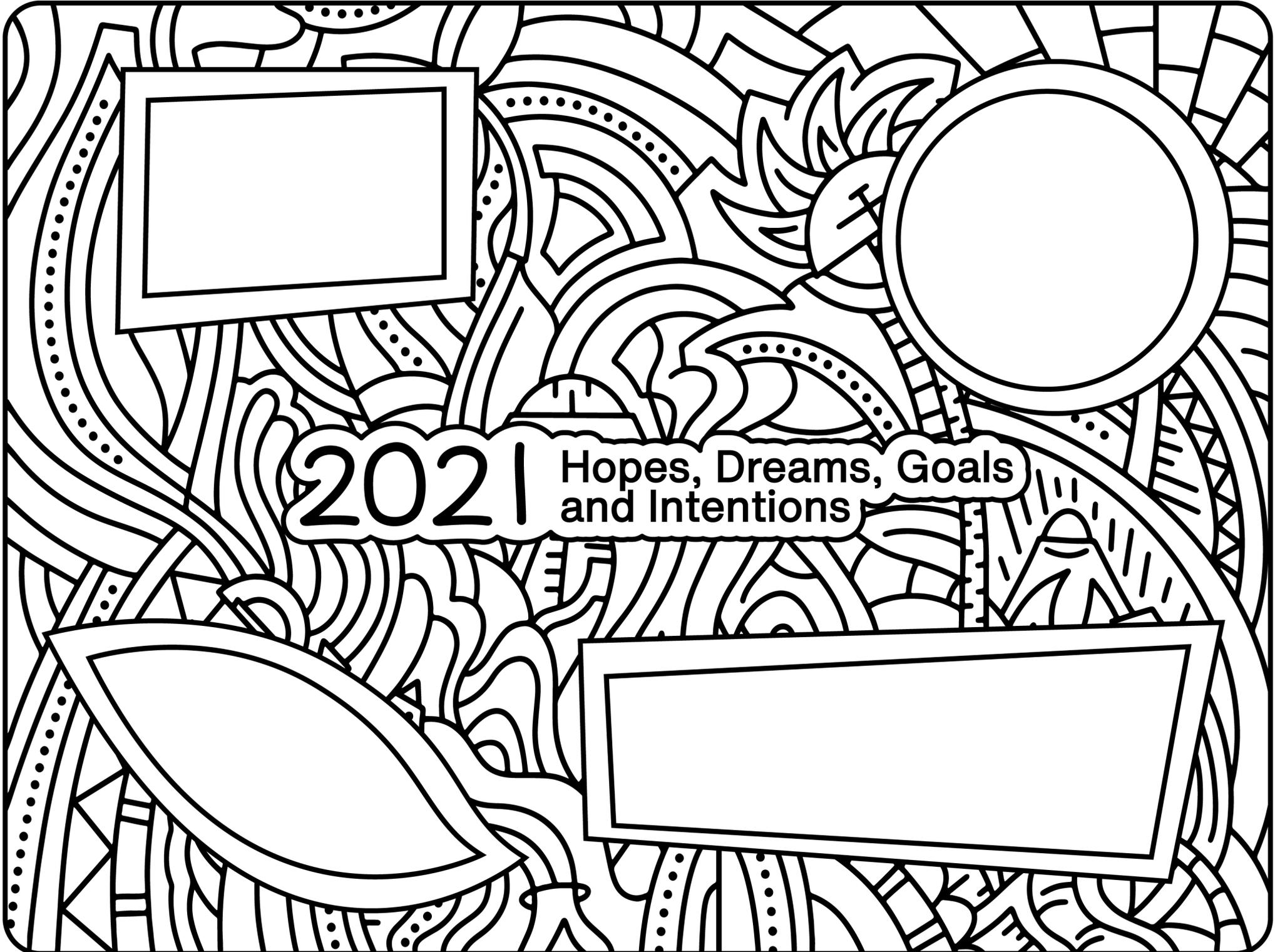
his time.

## Deacons

**Linda Berglund** has been a force for creative innovations in how the deacons connect to people during the pandemic, including leadership on the Connection Circles initiative.

**Susan Seymour** has served many terms as a deacon at Central. She is kind, wise, and stays connected to so many people.

To those listed above and those who are serving currently into 2021, we thank you for your continued leadership, service, time and commitment to Central.



2021 | Hopes, Dreams, Goals  
and Intentions



## JOIN A CIRCLE IN 2021!

The Deacons of Central are pleased to continue their connection circle Zoom events as avenue for people to meet online and check in with each other into 2021. These casual online circles offer a means for our community to gather and connect through guided conversations with people of all ages and backgrounds. If you have not yet been a part of one, we invite you to stop by for one or as many as you like!

Connection Circles run every Thursday from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. The following information is the same for all Connection Circles.

### How to Participate

VIA VIDEO ON SMARTPHONE, COMPUTER OR TABLET, GO TO:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87229900980>

OR VIA PHONE CALL IN:  
 (312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 872 2990 0980#

### Have Questions?

If you have questions about small groups, how to get connected, or how to reach the planning team, email [office@centralforgood.org](mailto:office@centralforgood.org) or call (651) 224-4728 ext. 100.



Beacon's Leadership Team here at Central would like to invite you to come to Central's Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative meeting on January 11 from 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

This will be a time for you to meet Elizabeth Tannen (St. Paul congregational organizer) and to

ask her questions you might have about Beacon's housing initiatives and how Central can collaborate with Beacon.

To participate in this event, go to [www.zoom.us/join](http://www.zoom.us/join) and enter:

MEETING ID: 983 3087 4801  
 PASSWORD: 637618

## 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.



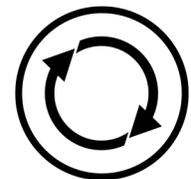
### Donate Online

[www.centralforgood.org/give](http://www.centralforgood.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

# VOCALPOINT NEWS

[ BY JENNIFER ANDERSON ]

While this isn't quite the 10th season we envisioned, we're still going to celebrate! Join us for a unique season of learning, remembering, and even a little (virtual) singing.

Typically, VocalPoint is a chorus, and our participants are SINGERS! But this year, we are welcoming anyone who wants to celebrate and learn with us! VocalPoint has reduced our fees, but we recognize this is a tough time for a lot of us, so we provided a few different payment amount options. If one of these doesn't work for you, we have 10 scholarships available to celebrate our 10th anniversary. To request a scholarship, send an email to [jennifera@vocalpointchorus.org](mailto:jennifera@vocalpointchorus.org).

To learn more, go to the website at [www.vocalpointchorus.org](http://www.vocalpointchorus.org).

## January 10

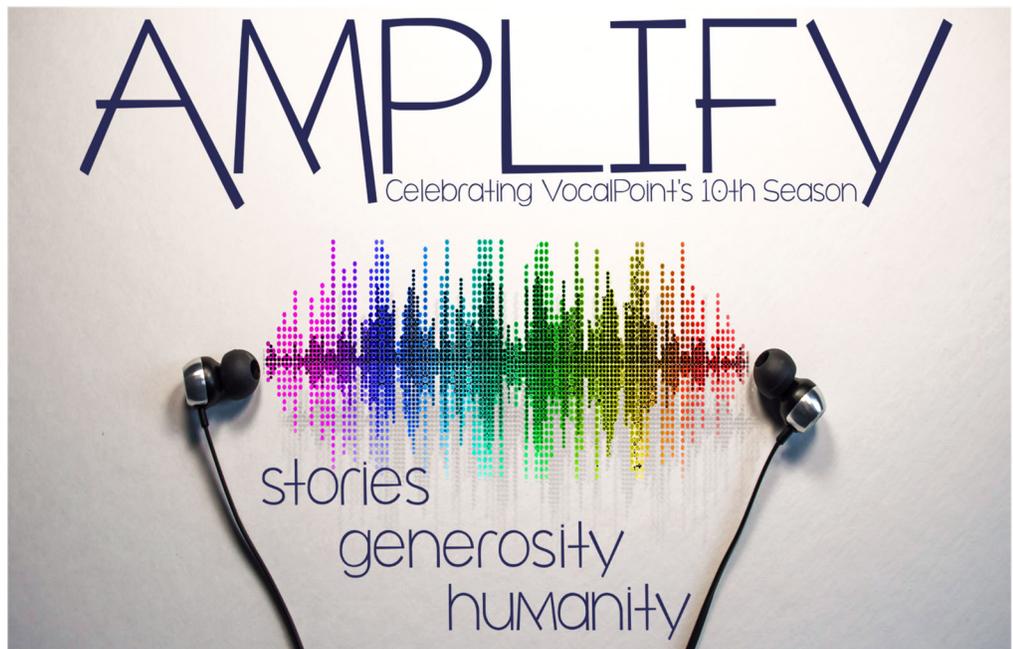
1:00 – 2:30 P.M. ON ZOOM

Join us to hear from some of our favorite headliners from our past seasons! We'll welcome back Maria Jette, Peter Mayer, Jearlyn Steele, Sara Thomsen, Jamie Laurie of the Flobots, and Gary Hines of Sounds of Blackness as they catch us up on what they've been up to since we last saw them!

## January 17

1:00 – 2:30 P.M. ON ZOOM

Leaders of choral music from around the country will join us for a panel discussion. We will be inspired and challenged by them as they share the work they are doing, how they see



the choral field changing and where they still see areas for improvement as we address issues of racism in choral music. Panel Guests: Ms. Alysia Lee, Dr. Arianne Abela, Dr. Eugene Rogers.

## January 24

1:00 – 2:00 P.M. ON ZOOM

Join us for a conversation with Dr. Emilie Amrein of the Choral Commons. Choral Commons aims to provide a space for choirs and conductors to envision innovative and equity-centered practice and to confront racism, poverty, ableism, LGBTQ discrimination, displacement, and much more. We will participate in an interactive webinar led by Dr. Amrein as we explore ways that VocalPoint can thrive into the future as our best self.

## January 31

1:00 - 3:00 P.M. BIRTHDAY PARTY

Join us between 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the MPR Parking lot for warm drinks, a hot fire, birthday treats, and a few photo opps. (All while staying safe.) We'll have a Birthday Gift Wish List, but the gifts won't be for us! Stay tuned for more details on that!

## February 7

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. on Zoom

Virtual Choir Debut and Video Watch Party from past concerts! Information on the Virtual Choir can be found on VocalPoint's website at [www.vocalpointchorus.org/virtual-choir](http://www.vocalpointchorus.org/virtual-choir).

And, just as in past years, we'll announce how much we collected during our Jan. 31 party!

Register for the full series of special events at [www.vocalpointchorus.org](http://www.vocalpointchorus.org).

## Announcements

### ENVELOPES

2021 Contribution envelopes are here! If you forgot to sign up to receive a box, or haven't received yours in the mail by mid-January, but would like one, please contact Anna in the church office.

### WOMEN'S NETWORKING GROUP

Please join the Women of Central on Zoom as they gather for a time of informal sharing on Wednesday, January 13 from 5:00 - 6:15 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#

To be added to the mailing list for future Women of Central events and to have the Zoom link sent to you,

### THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Mitten Tree! We collected so many items for the Neighborhood House (and items were delivered on December 14). There were kids boots and jackets, snow pants, hats, mittens and gloves, as well as many items for adults.

In total, over 175 items were donated. The generosity of this community is amazing! Thank you so very much!



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

Susan Seymour .....	1/1
Linda Berglund .....	1/4
John Lee .....	1/4
Darlene Larson .....	1/6
Eliana Klaehn .....	1/7
Florence Zopfi .....	1/8
Sally Siebell .....	1/12
Ane Sofi Varanasi .....	1/14
Peter Varanasi .....	1/15
Eric Severson .....	1/16
Stewart Siebell .....	1/19
Richard Peterson .....	1/21
Bonnie Zopfi .....	1/22
William French .....	1/23
Gabriel Lawson .....	1/23
Wendy Peterson .....	1/23
Melinda Kovach .....	1/24
Wendy Flinner .....	1/25
Andrew Hisey .....	1/26
Amanda Amarteifio .....	1/29
Pat Kivela .....	1/30
Jim Kovach .....	1/30
Robert Singh .....	1/30
Annalee Wolf .....	1/30

If we missed you, please send us a note to [office@centralforgood.org](mailto: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**

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Giving Tree. Your generosity has made the holiday season much brighter for 15 children and 3 adults from two families in Ramsey County.

Thank you to those who donated to the Winter Gear drive. In addition to the Women of Central's Mitten Tree, Central also donated over 100 winter gear items to the Indian Works Program of Inter faith Action.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*

