

# CONNECT CENTRAL

## *January to Bring a New Time of Transition*

BY REV. CAROL REED, TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

When I came to Central in March of 2021, I came without expectations for how long I would be serving as the Transitional Pastor. During the almost two years I have been with you, I have come to appreciate so much about Central and developed relationships I cherish.

However, the time has come for me to step back so a new pastor can now come to serve this church. As I write this, we are still awaiting details from the Pastor Nominating Committee about the arrival of their candidate to serve as the next called pastor. Knowing that the change was coming soon, I interviewed and have accepted a position as Transitional Pastor at Plymouth Presbyterian Church in Plymouth, MN.

I knew when I arrived at Central that it would be a temporary position, but that does not make it easier to now say goodbye. I am still awed stepping into this amazing historic building; it has been a joy to lead worship in a



May God bless you and keep you;  
May God's face shine upon you,  
and be gracious to you;  
May God's countenance be upon  
you, and give you peace.

BLESSING FROM NUMBERS 6:24-26

gorgeous sanctuary, to listen to beautiful music, and to watch children and youth finding a place in the church. I have enjoyed being in a church that serves its downtown neighborhood, that is diverse and vibrant.

The Personnel Committee in conversation with the Presbytery is working out what will happen in what I have come to think of as a 'gap time'. The Presbytery recommends churches employ what is called a 'bridge pastor' to provide ministry for the short term period between one pastor leaving and another arriving. We have already been in conversation with a clergy couple who are wonderful pastors and are available to serve after I leave Central in the gap time. To learn more about the progress of finding a permanent pastor for Central, turn to page 3 and read the latest update from the Pastor Nominating Committee.

My last day at Central will be Sunday, January 15. Know that I am thankful for Central and the time I have served with you. Central will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers as you move forward as a church into the new year and an exciting new time.

JANUARY 2023

Kick-off the New Year with Some Exciting News!



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## New to Central?

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

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

## Sunday, January 1

Start the New Year with God by joining us for an informal worship service. Jennifer Anderson will play piano. There is no children's programming or fellowship hour this day.

## Sunday, January 8

### COMMUNION SUNDAY

We celebrate Epiphany with the receiving of star words, sharing something to focus on in our faith walk in the New Year. Rev. Carol Reed will preach from scripture readings in Isaiah 60:1-6 and Matthew 2:1-12 with a sermon titled "Seeing God's Grace in Unexpected Ways". Central Choir will sing and Barbara Brooks will play piano.

## Sunday, January 15

For Martin Luther King, Jr Sunday, we welcome Dr. Ernest Lloyd to the pulpit to preach. Dr. Lloyd will be

using excerpts from Rev. King's sermon where he identified "The Three Dimensions of a Complete Life" followed by personal reflections.

Artist-in-Residence Rod Kell Hines returns, Central Choir sings, and Steve Swanson plays piano. Third Sunday Lunch will be served.

## Saturday, January 22

Guest preachers will lead worship. Central Choir sings and we welcome the return of Laura Betinis Healy and Anthony Healy sharing jazz piano and voice.

## Sunday, January 29

Guest preachers will lead worship. Chamber Ensemble plays and Central Choir sings.

## Farewell Reception for Rev. Carol Reed

God blessed us with the thoughtful guidance of Pastor Carol's ministry in a time of great transition as we returned to worship in-person and navigated the process to find a new pastor.

During the Third Sunday Lunch on Sunday, January 15, we welcome you to a farewell reception for Rev. Carol Reed. This is a time for us all to say thank you and bid her a fond farewell as she moves to her next church commitment.

# Exciting News from the Pastor Nominating Committee

BY SUE HOFFMAN, PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The PNC is pleased to announce that they have concluded their search for a new permanent Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church. You will hear more about the selected candidate soon. In the meantime, we want to share insight into the process used to arrive at this decision.

## Defining Our Criteria

The PNC began meeting in April. Their first big task was to create a Ministry Information Form (MIF) for Central. This MIF is used by the Presbyterian Church's search system called the Church Leadership Connection (CLC). The PNC used the Ministry Study, created by all of you through focus groups and congregational discussions documenting our vision, values, mission, and beliefs to create our MIF. After the MIF was approved by the Presbytery, it was posted to the Presbyterian Church Leadership Connection (CLC) site.

Pastors interested to consider a new call complete a Personal Information Form (PIF). The CLC runs a search to identify potential candidates whose

PIFs match key criteria in our MIF. This search generated about two dozen system matched candidates. Central also received about twenty self-referrals from pastors who reviewed our MIF and expressed interest in our pastor position.

## Reviewing Applicants

After reviewing the PIFs of candidates, Central's PNC determined which candidates to contact. Because some candidates were system matched and not direct applicants to our church, the PNC had to contact them to find out if Central's role was one that they would consider.

The PNC utilized on line recordings of sermons and worship leadership to help review candidates. It was very helpful to be able to "see" candidates preach and speak, in addition to reviewing their PIF information. And, just as the PNC was reviewing our candidates via technology, candidates were doing the same thing by watching our recorded services, reviewing our website to learn about our church.

Candidates were impressed by Central's web presence, and our Mission Study was a great tool to help people learn about us. The PNC was honored to be representing Central.

## Narrowing the Field

The PNC narrowed their initial set of candidates to six and scheduled first round interviews. Following the first round of interviews they discussed their evaluations of the candidates and identified four candidates to schedule for second round interviews. Throughout the interview process, the PNC utilized Zoom, which allowed them to see one another and to record the interviews, so that members of the PNC who could not attend would be able to review the recordings.

## A Choice Emerges

Finally, one candidate was identified that the PNC believe is the best match for us at Central. They met this candidate in person and gave them a

[ CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 ]

## WHERE ARE WE IN THE PASTOR SEARCH PROCESS?

|  |  |   |  |                                     |   |                                   |  |
|--|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| Congregation Discussions of History, Strengths & Goals | Write Ministry Study & Submit to Presbytery for Approval | Establish Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) | Complete Ministry Information Form (MIF) | Review Applicant Submissions (PIFs) | Candidates Visit Central, Meet with PNC & Session | Extend Call to Selected Candidate | Central Congregation Votes on Selected Candidate |
|  |  |   |  |                                     |   |                                   |  |

# We're Building a Barn!

FROM CHRISTIE RACHELLE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

December brought us yet another delightful pageant from our children's ministry and playwright Jeff Jones! Thank you to all who shared their time and talents in telling this fun interpretation of the Christmas story, as well as the parents and volunteers who supported Jennifer Anderson in pulling it all together.

To see and download photographs from past and current pageants, go to [www.centralforgood.org/photos](http://www.centralforgood.org/photos).





# Children & Youth Calendar

## FOR CHILDREN BIRTH TO 5 YEARS

SUNDAYS EACH WEEK

With the exception of January 1, nursery care is available each Sunday from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Meaningful enrichment activities will be offered to help our youngest explore and learn.

## FOR CHILDREN GRADES 1 TO 5

SUNDAYS EACH WEEK

With the exception of January 1, after the Time for Children, elementary age children will be invited upstairs for Sunday Connection. Led by Laura Walls, Jennifer Anderson, as well as Central volunteers, the children will hear the Bible Stories and engage with them in new ways - perhaps through skits, projects, art, or songs.

## FOR YOUTH GRADES 6 TO 12

JANUARY 15

- LifeBoats for Middle Schoolers 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. (Bring your lunch, or grab lunch in the dining room and then come up to the Youth Room)
- Confirmation Class and Compass will meet at 6:30 p.m. this evening for a time of fellowship.

# VocalPoint: For Everything, A Season

FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON, VOCALPOINT ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

This year's VocalPoint beneficiary is Urban Roots, an organization on the East Side of Saint Paul whose mission is to cultivate and empower youth through nature, healthy food, and community.

We invite you to celebrate the work of Urban Roots, as well as Jennifer Anderson's final season as Artistic Director of VocalPoint, as we sing music to thrive by!

## Featured Guests

Sharing in the music performance is this year's special guest MaMuse. Wholeheartedly fed by the folk and gospel traditions, MaMuse creates uplifting music to inspire the world into thriving. Interweaving brilliant and haunting harmony with lyrics born of honed emotional intelligence, MaMuse invokes a musical presence that inspires the opening of the heart. Playing a variety of acoustic instruments these two powerful women embody a love for all life. The synergy that is created through this musical connection is

palpable and truly moving to witness. (To learn more about this talented duo, go to [www.mamuse.org](http://www.mamuse.org).)

VocalPoint will also feature a new commission by Shruthi Rajaseker. Shruthi is an Indian-American composer and vocalist exploring identity, community, and joy. Chosen by The Guardian as a composer "who will enrich your life" in a list spanning centuries, Shruthi creates intersectional music that draws from her unique background in the Carnatic (South Indian classical) and Western classical idioms.

## Save the Date

The concerts will be held on:

- Saturday, February 4 at 4:00 p.m.
- Sunday, February 5 at 4:00 p.m.

Adult tickets are \$15 advance / \$20 at the door, students over age 5 are \$10 each.

## About the Beneficiary

Urban Roots has three main areas of focus, including:

### CONSERVATION

Conservation youth interns support and improve green spaces around the East Side, and participate in the restoration of local parks through removal of displaced plant species, native seed collection and installation of native plants. They teach hands-on skills through the installation and maintenance of rain and pollinator gardens in public and private spaces.

Youth also engage in citizen science projects, such as insect surveys, water sampling, and forest inventories. Parks they help to restore include Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Indian Mounds Park, Willowbrook Reserve, and Swede Hollow Park. Interns also helped establish and maintain the Harvest Park Native Seed Garden, located in Maplewood.

### MARKET GARDEN

Market Garden youth interns plant,



*Musical Guest MaMuse ([www.mamuse.org](http://www.mamuse.org))*



*Composer Shruthi Rajaseker ([www.shruthirajasekar.com](http://www.shruthirajasekar.com))*



maintain, and harvest small-scale crop production within their urban gardens. Urban Roots promotes entrepreneurship by teaching youth interns to manage gardens and crops for distribution to community supported agriculture (CSA) shares, Farmers Market, Roots for the Home Team, hunger relief efforts, youth families, restaurants and small-batch food preservation for seasonal sales. Program participants are also involved in creating sales and marketing materials for the Farmer's Market and other retail outlets.

### COOK FRESH

In the "farm-to-table" paradigm, Cook Fresh is the table to Market Garden's farm. Working with seasonal crops from local farms, including and especially Urban Roots' own, interns learn valuable skills in food preparation, safety, and planning.

- **NUTRITION:** Working with students from the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health, interns learn about nutrition principles that will last them a lifetime and, person by person, help us build a healthier community.

- **CAREER PREPARATION:** Cooking alongside chefs and other food professionals in the community, interns learn about different career paths available to them in hospitality, food policy, food media, and entrepreneurship, among other fields.
- **CULTURAL IMPORTANCE OF FOOD:** By examining their own culture's dishes, those of the other cultures in their community, and foods from around the world, Cook Fresh interns learn about the cultural importance of food and cooking. Working with community chefs, interns help to document the food stories of the world around them.

To learn more about Urban Roots, go to [www.urbanrootsmn.org](http://www.urbanrootsmn.org).



### Did You Know?

VOCALPOINT GIVES 100% OF PERFORMANCE-DRIVEN DONATIONS TO ITS BENEFICIARIES.

In eleven seasons, VocalPoint has raised over \$250,000 to support the work of Twin Cities non-profit organizations that include:

- Open Arms of Minnesota
- Avenues for Homeless Youth
- Neighborhood House
- Advocates for Human Rights
- Upstream Arts
- One Heartland
- Twin Cities RISE!
- Keystone's Express Bike Shop
- Lift Garage

WE NEED A GREAT TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS FROM CENTRAL TO HELP WITH THE CONCERTS. Volunteers needed include hospitality roles such as ushering, box office ticket sales, and reception. Shift times vary.

Lend a hand if you are able and sign-up on Central's website at [www.centralforgood.org/volunteer](http://www.centralforgood.org/volunteer).



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](http://vocalpointchorus.org)

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(651) 224-4728

# Anti-Racism Working Towards a Land Acknowledgement

FROM REV. LOU BENDER, CONVENER

In March, 2021, I traveled to Mankato to see a play that a friend was directing. They said the most interesting thing before the play started. A radio voice made the usual announcements about turning off your phone, of course, and then they said, "This university is built on Dakota land." They went on, but that's all I really heard. This place is built on Dakato land. I had no idea that statement ushered in the beginning of a whole new world.

## Exploring a Land Acknowledgement

The Anti-Racism Task Force started talking about land recognition in June of 2021. It was one project among many, and truthfully we thought we would probably write a statement by August, sponsor a museum visit in September to engage the congregation, maybe read a book, take a statement to session in October, publish in the November newsletter, celebrate, and be done with it by Advent. And God laughed, and said, "No, you don't get it yet!"

## Digging Into History

A little research established that the building at 500 Cedar Street is the second built for our use on the site, the first having been destroyed by fire. The lot is part of a huge parcel of land claimed by the U.S. Government by treaty in 1851. We shared our early spaces with the newly forming Minnesota

government, and they shared spaces with us.

As usual in discussing history, the real story was hidden behind the dates and names. That treaty in 1851 was established with terms undeniably favorable to the government. Payments were then captured to pay for government rations that were to go to the Dakota people.

By the time the Civil War came around, federal resources were diverted into other parts of the country, and the payments stopped. Without the payments, the government agent would not release the goods, and the Dakota people starved, even though the storehouse was full of food. And God sighed, and said, "Are you starting to get it?"

## Looking Inward

Our congregation was established in 1853, among the first institutions in Minnesota to claim a portion of the treaty land. We did some good things in the city as it grew. We continue to do good things now. I could name them all there, and no one would argue with the statements.

But the price for that good has been very heavy, both for the original inhabitants of the land, and for the settlers whose hearts could not comprehend the harm they were doing.

We are learning more,  
so we need to do better.

- MAYA ANGELOU

We need to tell the truth about history, even the parts that cast us or our ancestors in shame. We need to recover a keener sense of land stewardship, which we could have learned from the Dakota, had we been ready to listen. We need to make the inner journey that leads us to work for justice for our Indigenous relatives. And God nodded, and said, "Now you are starting to get it."

## Moving Forward

Out of a sense of profound gratitude, the Central Anti-Racism Task Force is ready to write a land recognition statement for Session's consideration. We are ready to set before the congregation and the community the resources we have used to learn and grow, in hopes that others may accompany us on the journey. We are ready to make an ongoing commitment to partnership with and on behalf of Minnesota's Indigenous peoples, even as we also embrace and work alongside other peoples who have come to be with us through other avenues. With gratitude to God for the way this journey of faith has changed our lives, we can hardly wait to hear what God tells us next!

Watch for the first major installment of our work to come forward, and join with us as we work toward liberty and justice for all.

# News from the Women of Central

FROM SUE HOFFMAN

## Women's Networking Group

Ring in the New Year by joining us on Thursday, January 12 when we will plan to return to Celeste Hotel at 5:30 p.m. You can park at church and simply walk across Cedar Street to Celeste. Please RSVP via email to [women@centralforgood.org](mailto:women@centralforgood.org) by January 10 to let us know if you can join us.

If you have never been to a networking group event, this is a wonderful opportunity to connect with other women of Central. It is a wonderful mix of ages, backgrounds, and interests. All women of Central are welcome, whether you are a long time member or a new visitor!

Not on our mailing list? Email [women@centralforgood.org](mailto:women@centralforgood.org) to be added to the list.

## Deck the Halls Brunch

Thank you to everyone for making the Deck the Halls brunch another great event! Thank you to chef Barb Westman for her amazing food and to the Women of Central for helping set up, prepare food, serve, and clean up!

Thank you to all who attended and shared in this annual tradition, as well as to those who donated to the Mitten Tree. We collected nearly 100 hats, mittens, and scarves for donation to Project Home.



# Update from Finance & Stewardship Committee

BY ANNA SANCHEZ, CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

December is always a busy month at churches, with pageants, brunches, decorating, concerts, and Advent worship services. It is also a very busy month for the Finance and Stewardship team as they prepare next year's budget and wrap up the past year's financial obligations. There are projects and missions both big and small, impactful and mundane.

## 2023 Stewardship: Growing in Faith

The stewardship theme *Growing in Faith* launched our congregation into planning for the exciting year ahead, with a goal to build a balanced budget. While a small part of the funding for the budget comes from earnings from Central's endowment, the bulk of it is from contributions from church and community members.

Your donations help maintain our historic building, offer cost-of-living wage increases for our staff, fund missions which provide clothing, food, and ministry to our neighbors, and offer a rich spiritual life through worship and community. To ensure that we can responsibly plan for the upcoming year, we ask that you pledge your support to Central.

Over the past month, we have received many generous pledges, and we are so grateful for the continued support. So far, over half of the people pledging have

increased their giving. In this time of economic uncertainty and rising inflation, we ask you to consider increasing your support of Central if you are able. Every dollar helps!

If you haven't yet pledged your financial support of Central or if you would like to increase the amount, you can turn in a pledge card in the Sunday offering plate (ask an usher for a card), drop it in the mail, or simply email your plan to [office@centralforgood.org](mailto:office@centralforgood.org).

## Per Capita Support of the PC(USA)

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 2022 the amount was \$36.50 per member. In 2023, the amount is increasing to \$37.50. When making your contribution, please be sure to write "Per Capita" in the memo field and indicate for which year you are donating.

## Year-end Gifts

For those of you who will read this newsletter digitally before the end of the year, it is not too late to make a special year-end gift!

You may do so in person, through the mail, or on our website at [www.centralforgood.org/give](http://www.centralforgood.org/give).

Due to staff availability and office

closure for the New Year Eve holiday, 2022 gifts being made in person via cash or check for tax deductible purposes should be received by Friday, December 30 at noon. Online donations may be made until midnight on December 31 at [www.centralforgood.org/give](http://www.centralforgood.org/give), with options that include giving via credit card or bank transfer.

## Exciting News from PNC

CONTINUED FROM 3

tour of the church. Later the PNC met with them for a shared meal and had time for deeper conversation. The PNC created a call for employment and presented it to the candidate.

This candidate has accepted our call and we are currently completing the formal activities that are required before we can make a formal announcement to the congregation.

We are very excited about the future for Central and for a new pastor to come on board with all of us.

We know this has seemed like a long process and the Pastor Nominating Committee would like to thank you for your support of the committee and for your patience with the process!

# Deck the Halls Brings a Festive Spirit to Central

FROM CHRISTIE RACHELLE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Thank you to the many volunteers who came out to help Deck the Halls on December 10, making our building festive and beautiful for Christmas. It was a very busy day with lots of moving parts. Thank you for your efforts and patience as we moved from one activity to another.

A giant thank you to Jackie Klaehn and Kelly Smith who coordinated the efforts, Mark Flinner who built a

mobile platform for our gorgeous tree, and our custodians Peter Evarts and Lavar Jones.

Thank you as well to Kelly Ishizuka, Madhu Kannapiran, and their daughters Sophie and Addison for coordinating our Giving Tree program and delivering all of the gifts donated to Ramsey County and Project Home.





# Beacon Sets Three Priorities for the New Year

FROM BARB SWANSON, BEACON LEADERSHIP TEAM

It's a New Year and Central's Beacon Leadership Team is formulating its Beacon action goals for 2023!

We will continue to learn and inform about Minnesota's housing crisis that results in individuals and families living outside. Imagine... living outside! (The temperature here in downtown St. Paul is 8 degrees as this article is being written.)

Central is a collaborative member of Beacon Interfaith Housing, the largest Minnesota non-profit affordable housing advocacy group made up of 100 faith congregations. We aren't asked to build affordable housing on our own (although years ago, Central did develop Central Towers, and Dayton Avenue Presbyterian developed Liberty Plaza). Instead, our faith values and voices are needed to convey an urgent commitment to house the homeless among us.

This is focused into three priority areas for the coming year.

## PRIORITY ONE

### Legislate Change

The MN State Legislature will soon begin its 2023 Session. Last year, even with a \$9 billion surplus, the senate was quiet about the housing crisis. This year, voters have elected leaders who are committed to housing justice in the Senate, House, and Governor's office. We are ready to be the peoples' voice in righting the systemic wrongs of housing



insecurity with bold new policies like *Bring It Home, Minnesota* that guarantees rental assistance for the poorest among us. What a powerful and desperately needed way "to love our neighbors as ourselves!" Soon we will be sharing ways to reach our state legislators (with its \$18 million surplus) about the need for everyone to have a home and the great cost to society when our neighbors are homeless or housing insecure.

Until then, we invite you to join us at the Housing Rally in the Capitol Rotunda on Wednesday, January 11 from 1:30-2:30 p.m. Help us speak out and rally for equitable and stable housing in Minnesota. For more legislative information, contact Margaret Celette or Barb Swanson!

## PRIORITY TWO

### Construct Homes

We are excited about Gladstone Crossing, Beacon's proposed deeply affordable housing development in Maplewood for young homeless families. Imagine a Project Home family learning they would be in their own home in this

new development! Gladstone will offer 40 high-quality, well-managed apartment homes for families who make less than \$30,000 a year.

A Gladstone Crossing Campaign Action Team of Beacon leaders across the east metro are meeting and developing relationships with Maplewood city leaders, staff and city commissions. This city and community relationship building is important and takes time. An official vote for approval of zoning change/land use by the mayor and council is anticipated for late spring of 2023.

If you're wondering what it takes to make Gladstone Crossing a reality and how you may take part, please contact Virgie Bundy or Roger Grussing.

## PRIORITY THREE

### Improve Access

This year, Beacon will tackle the greatest barrier for construction of needed, deeply-affordable homes: The lack of project vouchers. If you live in a suburb of the Twin City metro area, the Metropolitan Council holds a project voucher for each

individual housing unit planned for low-income people within its boundaries. Without the project vouchers, a developer can not build affordable housing.

A goal of Beacon this year is to work with the Met Council to free up, or “unlock” their project vouchers. In the coming months, we will be sharing more information on project vouchers, why they’re such a challenge, and why the lack of them for the suburbs is a racial equity issue.

## Old Keys Can Open New Doors!

Do you have old keys floating around in your junk drawers or mystery keys on your key rings? Donate old keys you have no use for to the church office!! Central’s Beacon Leadership Team is collecting them for the “Unlock the Met Council” drive to raise awareness with legislators and decision makers as to the need for deeply affordable housing outside the urban core.

## Get Involved

If you’re someone who wants to learn more about and help solve this complex and challenging housing scarcity issue, please see Leon Oman or Barbara Swanson. (All Beacon Leadership Team members may be contacted in person or by calling the church office.) Share your time and support as a committee member or event/special task advocate.



## Beacon Connects at the Convening

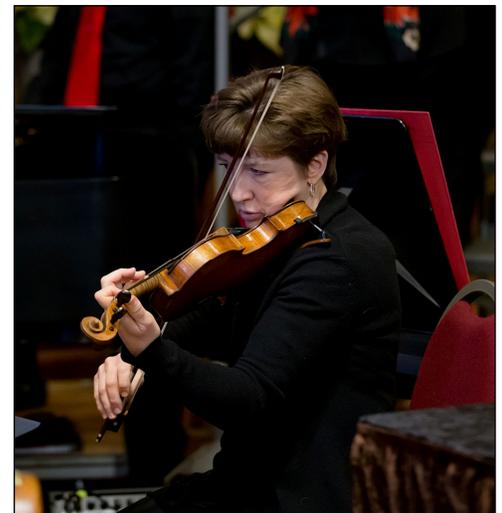
FROM CHRISTIE RACHELLE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

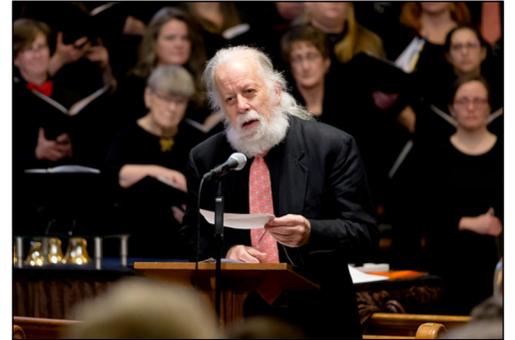
Central Presbyterian Church was well represented this past month at Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative’s Congregational Convening held at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church. Ten members from Central attended in person and nine more participated virtually to hear and be challenged

by Beacon’s new five-year strategic plan to “change the landscape of home.” A review of Beacon’s latest housing developments and the exciting plan for the 2023 legislative session was met with great enthusiasm and formulated our priorities for the coming year.

# *Celebrating Christmas with Nine Lessons & Carols*

FROM CHRISTIE RACHELLE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS





# Announcements

TO SUBMIT FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS, PLEASE EMAIL [CHRISTIER@CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG](mailto:CHRISTIER@CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG).

## Good News

Congratulations to Jason Anderson and Nicole Johnson on the birth of Jyri Johnson on October 29, 2022.

This past month we also witnessed the baptism of Jasmine Elise Vinlander in worship, born September 30, 2021 to Anne and Vinai Vinlander.

## A TubaChristmas Thank You

Thank you to Wendy and Mark Flinner, Peter Evarts, Lynne Severson, and Jennifer Anderson for making our 14th-Annual TubaChristmas a great success. \$2,836 in donations were received to support our Wednesday Community Lunch ministry.

## Volunteers Needed

FROM SHARON ZOPFI-JORDAN AND COORDINATED MISSION COMMITTEE

The next meal service volunteer opportunity at the St. Paul Opportunity Center is on Saturday January 14 from 11am -1pm. We are looking for 8-10 volunteers to serve lunch and help with various meal prep. Volunteers must be at least 14 years old. Volunteers under 18 must be supervised by an adult. Volunteers should wear appropriate closed toed footwear.

St Paul Opportunity Center is part of Catholic Charities and is located at 422 Dorothy Day Place in St. Paul.

If interested in volunteering, go to [www.centralforgood.org/volunteer](http://www.centralforgood.org/volunteer). The link will take you to the Catholic Charities website to register and answer questions regarding COVID vaccination status.

Save the date as well for our other opportunities in 2023, including March 11, May 13, July 8, September 9, and November 11.

## Happy Birthday!

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

|                         |      |
|-------------------------|------|
| Susan Seymour.....      | 1/1  |
| John Lee .....          | 1/4  |
| Darlene Larson .....    | 1/6  |
| Eliana Klaehn.....      | 1/7  |
| Florence Zopfi .....    | 1/8  |
| Sally Siebell.....      | 1/12 |
| Carol Reed.....         | 1/13 |
| 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 |
| Melinda Kovach .....    | 1/24 |
| Wendy Flinner .....     | 1/25 |
| Amanda Amarteifio ..... | 1/29 |
| Janelle Flinner.....    | 1/30 |
| Pat Kivela.....         | 1/30 |

If we missed you, please send a note to [office@centralforgood.org](mailto:office@centralforgood.org) so we can update our records and share birthday wishes with you, too!

## Thank You Departing Elders and Deacons

In January, our newly elected elders and deacons will be ordained and/or installed for service on Session and Board of Deacons. We are grateful to those who will be serving in leadership at Central!

Future newsletters will highlight the work of our Session leaders, as well as the new committee assignments.

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

- Cindy Jesson, Session
- Mel Leach, Session
- Todd Mikish, Deacon
- Leon Oman, Deacon
- Dennis Reimer, Session
- Chris Smith, Session
- Mark Vance, Deacon
- Vinai Vinlander, Session

To those listed above and those who are serving currently into 2023, we thank you for your leadership, service, time and commitment to our congregation.

## Offering Envelopes Ready for Pickup

If you ordered a box of 2023 Central offering envelopes, they are now available for pick-up in the Friendship Room. Please contact Anna Sanchez in the office if you would like to have your box of envelopes mailed, or if you have not



## Welcome Returning Guest Artists!

Save the date for January 22 when we welcome the return of jazz pianist Anthony Healy and vocalist Laura Betinis Healy in worship. Learn more about this talented duo at [www.centralforgood.org/healy](http://www.centralforgood.org/healy).

yet ordered, but would still like to receive a box of pre-dated offering envelopes.

## A Call for Helping Hands

As you lay resolutions and plans for the new year, we encourage you to consider volunteering in the service of worship Sundays. All roles are easy to fill and offer the opportunity to welcome others to Central and share hospitality with all.

- Worship Readers (Serve during worship as a liturgist - leading prayers, reading scripture, and speaking from the pulpit).
- Fellowship Prep (Prepare coffee and refreshments before church from 10 - 10:30 a.m.).

- Coffee Service (Serve refreshments during fellowship hour after worship).
- Worship Ushers (Welcome guests, distribute bulletins, and assist with receiving offering during our heavily attended services this month).
- Videographer (Help as a camera operator and editor for our live-stream broadcast video. No worries, training is provided!)

Help us maintain a vibrant and welcoming church culture and community. Sign up to volunteer at: [www.centralforgood.org/volunteer](http://www.centralforgood.org/volunteer).

## CENTRAL STAFF DIRECTORY

(651) 224-4728

### Transitional Pastor

Rev. Dr. Carol Reed, ext. 102  
[carolr@centralforgood.org](mailto:carolr@centralforgood.org)

### Church Administrator

Anna Sanchez, ext. 100  
[office@centralforgood.org](mailto:office@centralforgood.org)

### Administration

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

### Director of Communications

Christie Rachele, (952) 564-4472  
[christier@centralforgood.org](mailto:christier@centralforgood.org)

### Director of Music & Youth Ministry

Jennifer Anderson, ext 103  
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### Children & Youth Ministry

Laura Walls, Sunday  
Connection Coordinator  
[lauraw@centralforgood.org](mailto: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](mailto:barb.westman@gmail.com)

### Building Maintenance

Lavar Jones, Custodian  
Peter Evarts, Custodian



# CENTRAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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St. Paul, MN 55101

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## Thank You

Thank you to the many generous hearts of the Central community for your gifts and donations to our annual Mitten Tree and Giving Tree.

These donations will help to warm the bodies and spirits of those in Ramsey County and the Interfaith Action Project Home communities this winter season.



CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*