



# CONNECT CENTRAL

## *Thank You for the Many Helping Hands at Central*

FROM REV. CHRIS CHATELAINE-SAMSEN

As we begin a new calendar year and close out a busy season in the life of Central, I'm reminded of my gratitude for this congregation and the work you all do!

As has been said many times, church is people, and the people of Central are creative, thoughtful, caring, and go above and beyond. Here's a quick highlight of areas of ministry for which I am grateful.

### Elders, Deacons & Officers

Thank you to all the officers of Central, including Treasurer Laura Nichols-Endres and Clerk of Session Sally Mortenson, and a special word of thanks to the officers who are completing their terms: Elder Craig Foss, Elder Jackie Klaehn, and Deacon Laura Williams.

### Central's Staff

Thank you for everything that goes on in front of and behind the scenes!



To Sextons Peter and Lavar for caring for our building, Chef Barb for keeping our whole community fed, Mary for staffing our office, and Christie for keeping us informed and presenting the ministry of Central so beautifully. To section leaders Abbie, Shanta, Eric, and Adam for leading the choir, nursery staff Megan, Maria, and Jess for caring for our littlest ones, Sunday Connection's Laura for guiding our children as they learn, and pianist Alex for his beautiful music and

leading us in song. To Anna for coordinating our facility work, keeping our finances on track, and more, and Jennifer for stewarding the work of music, arts, children, and youth ministry, helping us to connect powerfully to God and one another.

### Volunteers

Each week, you make it all happen. If I named every single person, it would be this whole newsletter. You

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**JANUARY 2024**

Have you pledged your giving for the New Year?



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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

JOIN US FOR OUR NEW SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES!

## 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)

### THIS MONTH IN WORSHIP

As we begin a new year, I'm reminded that the winter season can be a hard one as the sun retreats, the merriment of the holidays diminishes, and the wait until spring seems so long.

During the weeks between the new year and Lent, we'll be exploring the idea of a mid-winter Sabbath - not simply a rest to prepare for what's to come, but an opportunity to leave things undone so we might see what God is already doing.

- Pastor Chris

## Sunday, January 7

### COMMUNION SUNDAY

We celebrate Epiphany with the receiving of star words, sharing something to focus on in our faith walk in the coming year.

Paul Damico-Carper joins us again to lead worship with the Central Choir singing.

## Sunday, January 14

Join us in worship this day as we remember the life and ministry of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his continued call towards Jesus' beloved community. We will install new elders and deacons and Paul Gulsvig leads the Central Choir while Jennifer is away with our youth at Clearwater for Snow Camp.

## Sunday, January 21

Tonia Hughes Kendrick returns to sing, along with the Central Choir and pianist Alex Woods.

After worship, we invite all to stay for Third Sunday Lunch. A donation of \$10 per adult is requested. However, all who are hungry are invited to eat, regardless of the ability to donate. A vegetarian option is available.

## Sunday, January 28

We welcome back soloist Clara Osowski, mezzo soprano, along with the Central Choir and pianist Alex Woods.

# Faith Formation - Economic Rights

BY REV. CHRIS CHATELAINE-SAMSEN

The idea of economic rights is foreign to many Americans, but the idea of rights to housing, food, employment, and other economic needs are an important part of the global landscape since the Second World War. In an age of increasing economic insecurity for people on the margins, this conversation is as important as ever.

Yet the Bible was written thousands of years ago in largely agrarian economies, so what could it say about a modern economy in the wake of thinkers like Adam Smith, John Maynard Keynes, and John Nash? Does the Bible have anything meaningful to say about an idea as seemingly new as economic rights.

Join us on January 7 in the upstairs

meeting room at 11:30 a.m. for a discussion encompassing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, ancient Hebrew law, and implications for policy in the modern world for the ability of people to have basic economic security.

## ENJOYING THE SERIES?

Save the date to join us for these upcoming faith formation classes:

- February 4: Anti-Racism
- March 3: Gender Equality
- April 7: Climate Change
- May 5: Queer Identity

All discussions take place after worship at 11:30 a.m. in the upstairs lounge. No need to RSVP!

## Thank You

[ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 ]

lead Bible study, write pageants, lead youth group, serve lunch, advocate at the Capitol, sing and play instruments, decorate and do setup, paint and do maintenance, usher, and so much more. Know that your gifts of time and care are treasured here.

As we enter 2024, your commitment gives me energy and inspiration and we continue to follow God with our heads, hearts, and hands. Thank you for sustaining the work of Central that is so deeply needed, proclaiming God's love and justice to a world deeply in need of those very things.

God's Peace,  
Chris

## An Anti-Racism Perspective

FROM REV. LOU BENDER, CONVENER OF ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE

Acquiring and maintaining wealth becomes a racial issue when inheritance is interrupted - through unlawful seizure of lands, loss of property during refugee resettlement, disparity in compensation for land involved in eminent domain, or other circumstances that cause families of color to move.

Save the date for Sunday, January 28 at 11:45 a.m. to hear about

potential remedies as Rev. Lou Bender, Leon Oman, and other Anti-Racism Task Force members share information and lead discussion about reparations. Included will be review of a legislative proposal in Minnesota to create a large Indian Recovery Fund through a small fee when land is bought and sold (deed tax) - something for which Central members will soon be

able to advocate. If time permits, we will also do some brainstorming of other economic justice actions we can be involved in, as inspired by Pastor Chris's Adult Faith Formation talk earlier in the month.

The January 28 discussion will be held in the meeting lounge upstairs with a Zoom hybrid option available. Stay tuned to the eConnect for further details.

# Children & Youth News

FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & YOUTH MINISTRY

## In Sunday Connection

What would happen if we got to just hang out with Jesus? What would we do? What would we learn?

The stories in the Bible about Jesus and his friends are AMAZING! Those in grades K-5 will learn about them in Sunday Connection with Laura each Sunday into February!

## Snow Camp

**JANUARY 12-14**

This month we are heading to Clearwater Forest for Snow Camp with our 6th-12th graders! Thanks to generous memorial funds, we have

money available to help off-set the costs. At this time we are not yet sure what the final costs will be per student (as it will depend on attendance and transportation costs) but hopefully \$25-\$50 per student, for the entire weekend retreat.

Learn more about the camp at [www.clearwaterforest.org/retreats](http://www.clearwaterforest.org/retreats).

This is going to be really great opportunity for kids to have a retreat experience, get to be at Clearwater together, and get to know other groups in the Presbytery, building some good connections there as well.



## Children & Youth Calendar

### JANUARY 7

#### EPIPHANY & STAR WORDS

- 9:30 Nursery care available
- 10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection following a Time for Children.

We will not have Lifeboats or Compass today in light of the upcoming trip for Snow Camp.

### JANUARY 12 - 14

#### YOUTH AT SNOW CAMP

Please hold the youth and the leaders in your prayers as we head up to Clearwater Forest for an incredible weekend together!

### JANUARY 14

- 9:30 Nursery care available
- 10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection following a Time for Children.

### JANUARY 21

- 9:30 Nursery care available
- 10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection following a Time for Children.
- 11:30 Lunch and Lifeboats Middle School Fellowship
- 6:30 Compass Senior High Fellowship

### January 28

- 9:30 Nursery care available
- 10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection following a Time for Children.

#### WANT TO LEARN MORE?

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](mailto:jennifera@centralforgood.org)



# Worshipping Together with Nine Lessons & Carols

TO SEE MORE AND DOWNLOAD PHOTOGRAPHS, GO TO [WWW.CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG/PHOTOS](http://WWW.CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG/PHOTOS)





# News from the Women of Central

FROM SUE HOFFMAN, WITH PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN SEVERSON

## Deck the Halls!

Thank you to everyone who attended the Deck the Halls Brunch! We enjoyed food and conversation before getting busy decorating the church for Christmas. A special thank you to the women who helped make the brunch a success by setting tables in the dining room, preparing food, serving food, and cleaning up. Thank you!!

## Mitten Tree

This year's Mitten Tree collected 90 items for donation to the Hobbs Center for Families, as well as 15 items that were donated to Central's Closet. A huge thank you to those who knitted, crocheted, or purchased items to donate. These donations make a big difference for people in need of warm winter gear!

## Women's Networking Group

On Thursday, January 4, we will be returning to Celeste Hotel for our monthly gathering. Celeste is great – just across Cedar Street from our church.

You can park at Central and join us at 5:30 p.m. for food and conversation. Please RSVP to [women@centralforgood.org](mailto:women@centralforgood.org) if you plan to attend so that we can make a reservation for our group.





# Continuing the Work of Central Closet

FROM VIRGIE BUNDY, MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

For 24 years people of Central and many individuals and organizations around the Twin Cities contributed women's clothing to Martha's Closet. Under the leadership of Cheryl McDermott and then Sandy White, the clothing helped women entering or re-entering the workforce.

In 2022, Martha's Closet was officially closed so that its space upstairs could be repurposed for children and youth educational programs. It was not yet decided what should happen next as there were clothes to disperse, racks, hangers, and shelving to re-purpose.

By fall it became apparent that people attending the Community Wednesday Lunch were in need of warmer clothing. It seemed logical to make Martha's Closet left-over warm clothing available to them. A lower level space was assigned to store rolling racks and tables, and after a clean-out of space in the dining room, a workable space for clothing distribution was created.

Volunteers were recruited and the new name "Central's Closet" was chosen. Though we didn't heavily publicize this new focus, we invited church members to contribute new or slightly used items to the supply. In December 2022, Central's Closet opened during our lunch hours.

We are grateful to our volunteers who assisted in this transformation, including Rev. Carol Reed, Chris and Kelly Smith, Heidi Jernstedt, Sydney

Linderman, Elaine Oman, Peter Everts, Virgie Bundy, Roger Grussing, Lynne Severson, Jennifer Anderson, Anna Sanchez, Maggie Gordon and many others.

Volunteers sorted and hung up useable donated items. On Wednesday and third Sundays they roll the racks of clothing up from the basement storage room to the dining room corner and help customers find what they need. Sydney Linderman, Gayle Smith, Lynne Severson, and Heidi Jernstedt have put in lots of volunteer hours for which we are so grateful. Others that have answered the call for help have been Al and Florette Hujanen, Lynda Petrie, Maggie Gordon, Joan Kelly, Jane Lonergan, and Roger Grussing.

A new year is before us. We hope one or two of you will feel called to serve this important mission during Wednesday or Third Sunday lunches. The time commitment is 11:00 to 1:00 on Wednesdays or 11:30 to 1:00 on the third Sunday of the month. The responsibilities are to set up the corner of the dining room with clothing racks rolled up from the storage room, greet and assist clients, then return racks and bins to the storage room.

Will you accept this challenge and help Central Church be *in the city for good* with Central Closet's ministry? If so, reach out Anna Sanchez in the office to learn more.

## stay CONNECTED



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VOLUNTEER TO HELP  
[centralforgood.org/volunteer](https://centralforgood.org/volunteer)



CALL WITH QUESTIONS  
(651) 224-4728

# Announcements

SUBMIT YOUR CHURCH NEWS TO CHRISTIER@CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG BY THE 10TH OF EACH MONTH.

## Undecorating Central

It was beautiful while it lasted, but soon we will need help to take down the holiday greenery and pack away the Christmas decorations. If you are able to help, please contact Anna Sanchez in the church office.

## Offering Envelopes Ready for Pickup

If you ordered a box of 2024 Central offering envelopes, they are now available for pick-up in the Friendship Room. Please contact the office if you would like to have your box of envelopes mailed, or if you have not yet ordered, but would still like to receive a box of pre-dated offering envelopes.

## Happy Birthday!

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

- Mary Lange..... 1/2
- John Lee ..... 1/4
- Darlene Larson..... 1/6
- Eliana Klæhn..... 1/7
- Florence Zopfi..... 1/8
- Ane Sofi Varanasi ..... 1/14
- Peter Varanasi ..... 1/15
- Eric Severson..... 1/16
- Rick 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
- Jim Kovach ..... 1/30
- Annalee Wolf ..... 1/30

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!

## Thank You Departing Elders and Deacons

On January 14, 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.

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

- Craig Foss, Session
- Jackie Klæhn, Session
- Laura Williams, Deacon

To those listed above and those who are serving currently into 2024, we thank you for your leadership, service, time and commitment to our congregation.

## Anti-Racism Discussion

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resettlement, disparity in compensation for land involved in eminent domain, or other circumstances that cause families of color to move.

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## Looking for Photographs?

Go to [www.centralforgood.org/](http://www.centralforgood.org/) photos to enjoy and download high resolution photographs from recent holiday activities, including Deck the Halls, Children's Pageant, and Lessons and Carols.

Be sure to check back from time to time as more photos are added throughout the year!



## Exciting News From Beacon

The Beacon Team is thrilled to announce that Gladstone Crossing has received \$14.7 million from the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency! Gladstone Crossing is a planned 40-unit affordable supportive housing development in Maplewood. The intended resident population is young families exiting

homelessness (those where the primary parent is under age 24). Thanks to Central Presbyterian Church and other Beacon congregations, Gladstone had a successful land acquisition this past July, and this funding is a huge step forward in Gladstone's development.



## A Call for Helping Hands

Volunteers are needed at the St. Paul Opportunity Center on Saturday, January 13 from 11am -1pm to serve lunch and help with meal prep.

We will need 8-10 volunteers at least 14 years old, with all required to wear closed toed shoes. Those under 18 must be supervised by an adult.

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

To sign up, go to our website at [www.centralforgood.org/volunteer](http://www.centralforgood.org/volunteer) to find the Catholic Charities link for registration.

## CENTRAL STAFF DIRECTORY

(651) 224-4728

### Pastor

Chris Chatelaine-Samsen, ext. 102  
[chriscs@centralforgood.org](mailto:chriscs@centralforgood.org)

### Church Administrator

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

### Director of Music & Youth Ministry

Jennifer Anderson, ext 103  
[jennifera@centralforgood.org](mailto:jennifera@centralforgood.org)

### Children & Youth Staff

Laura Walls, Sunday  
 Connection Coordinator  
[lauraw@centralforgood.org](mailto: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](mailto: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**



## Save the Date

Check out our January worship schedule (page 2) when we will welcome back soloists Tonia Hughes Kendrick and Clara Osowski, and instrumentalist Paul Damico-Carper!

CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*