



Central Today

July 2018

www.cpcstpaul.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 AM

"*Summertime and the living is easy.*" I love that song and the way Ella Fitzgerald could sing it. For me, it conjures up relaxation, and trust and, of course, as a fly-fisherman, I love the image of fish jumping. Summertime.

A lot of churches slow way down in the summer. People are fishing and at the cabin and taking vacation and kids are off to summer camps. But here at Central we are working hard and working to implement big plans and new ways to be in the city for good. The Session had a wide-ranging meeting in June that moved several big steps forward.

The Session approved an official request to ask the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry to open the new Designated Associate Pastor position. After several meetings of discussing what we are looking for in an Associate Pastor and what their portfolio might include, the Session approved a working draft of a Ministry Information Form that will be used to describe the position.

Having spent intentional time in 2018 articulating our values and goals, the Session received and approved a rebranding report that includes a new logo for the church that will both describe and help shape who we are as a church. Watch for information on that in the next two newsletters!

The Facilities Management and Risk Assessment Committee met with our historic architect and received a preliminary report on the condition of our building's exterior condition. The architecture firm will be helping us to develop priorities and a working budget on projects that will help maintain and improve the building.

The Session also spent quite a bit of time reflecting on two issues that are new to the Session. The first was a report of the Pedro Park Task Force. Members of Central have been actively concerned about the city's plans for parkland on the block bounded by Robert Street to the East and Minnesota Street to the West, and between 9th and 10th streets. This block currently contains the KCP Parking lot we use on Sundays, the Union Gospel Mission's Childcare Center, a Police Annex building and a pocket park that stands on the site of the former Pedro's Luggage store.

The second issue felt raw and immediate. The national news had been filled with stories of the U.S. government's new policy on separating children from parents at the borders of the country, including those families who were arriving as refugees seeking asylum. The Session commends the statement of the Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), that is included on page 4 of this newsletter.

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Worship

Worship in July will continue to focus on the theme of meals in the Bible. This theme pairs nicely with our focus on how we as a church can do more to help people who are hungry. Plans for July are taking shape, but we are also leaving a bit of room for flexibility as the Hunger Task Force continues to recommend organizations and approaches from which we should learn.

Highlights from June included two communion services and hearing Bonnie Alton, the owner of Great Harvest Bread Company, preach and a conversation with owner of Cook Saint Paul, Eddie Wu, about how food shapes our identity.

SUNDAY, JULY 1

Rev. Colby will preach on the story of manna in the wilderness, and how the Israelites learned to trust God that there will be enough. We will celebrate communion with music by pianist Steve Swanson.

SUNDAY, JULY 8

Rev. Colby will preach on a second passage in which people of faith learn about stretching out food so that there is enough. In a time when scarcity was assumed, the miracle in the feeding of the five thousand was that the crowd discovered an abundance of food. Organist Jay Engquist and soloist David Winkworth will provide music.

SUNDAY, JULY 15

Worship will feature a panel of participants from organizations doing great work on hunger and food scarcity. Pianist Steve Swanson and soloist David Winkworth will provide music.

SUNDAY, JULY 22

Welcome back, Jennifer Anderson! Join us in welcoming Jennifer back from her sabbatical during worship. Rev. Colby will preach and Ars Nova Brass Quintet returns to provide music.

SUNDAY, JULY 29

Maureen Smith will preach on "Peter's Vision," based on Acts 10: 9-21, in which Peter is given a vision telling him to kill and eat animals, reptiles, and birds he has been taught were unclean. This text has something to say to us not only about what food we eat but what people we invite to our table and welcome as guests.

**JOIN US FOR
WORSHIP!
SUNDAYS AT
10:30 AM**

**Sunday
Morning
Schedule**

**9:30 Education
For All Ages**

10:30 Worship

**11:30 Fellowship
& Coffee**

continued from cover . . .

In the opera *Porgy and Bess*, "Summertime" is sung several times, including as a lullaby to Clara's now-orphaned baby after both its parents died in a storm. With families being forcibly separated, I am now haunted by one stanza of the lyrics.

*One of these mornings,
you're gonna rise up singing*

*and you'll spread your wings
and you'll take to the sky*

*But 'til that morning,
there ain't nothin' can harm you*

With daddy and mammy standin' by.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days.

Thoughtfully,
- Rev. David Colby

Welcome, Guest Musicians!

JAYSON ENGQUIST will be performing as a guest organist on Sunday, July 8.



Jayson is an organist who has served churches on the East Coast and in the Midwest. He is the founder and President of the United Church of Christ Musicians' Association and is active in our local Twin Cities chapter of AGO. He was an instructor of organ at Yale University and has had extensive choral singing experience. He has had numerous anthems published, including 3 published by Selah: *The 23rd Psalm*, *Flower of Love*, and *O Gracious Light*. Engquist earned a Bachelor of Music degree from St. Olaf College and a Master of Music from Yale University School of Music. He was the recipient of many awards while at Yale and was the winner of the 1992 composition competition sponsored by The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, for the hymn tune *Weston New*.

STEVE SWANSON will be returning to play piano on Sunday, July 1 and 15.

Steve obtained his Master's degree in Collaborative Piano at the University of Minnesota, where he studied with Timothy Lovelace and Noriko Kawai. He also holds a Master's degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Wisconsin. Stephen held the positions of choral accompanist and private voice/piano instructor at Prior Lake High School and has accompanied the MN All-State Men's Choir as well as numerous festival choirs. He currently teaches private piano lessons at Mt. Olivet School of Music in Minneapolis and is a freelance musician around the metro.

DAVID WINKWORTH will be singing as a soloist on Sunday, July 8 and 15.



David is the baritone section leader in the choir at Central. David is a recent transplant from the East Coast, where he served as Communications Director for a large Congregational church. He spent many years working in the corporate relocation industry. He currently works as an employee of Minnesota's Department of Human Services as a representative at MNsure, the state health insurance exchange. He studied voice at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and graduated with a degree in English from Oberlin College.

David has raised puppies for Guiding Eyes for the Blind. He knows how to fold a mean fitted sheet.

ARS NOVA BRASS QUINTET will be returning to worship on Sunday, July 22.

The Ars Nova Brass Quintet was formed in 1980 when two of the original members, Dean Shea and Ehrich Koch, were attending St. John's University. Ars Nova means "new art" or "new technique," and is a phrase first used in 1322 to distinguish the new music of the Late Middle Ages (1310–1377). Ars Nova contrasted with the music of the immediately preceding age, known as Ars Antiqua. Ars Antiqua was monophonic, with simple rhythms and accompaniment; Ars Nova introduced independence of rhythm and harmony to each musical line, leading to the development of greater musical expressiveness and variety, an evolution analogous to the revolutionary introduction of perspective in painting.

Addressing the Separation of Families in Immigration Detention

June 20 was the World Refugee Day. In a world where violence forces thousands of families to flee for their lives each day, this annual observance serves as a reminder and a call to action. A few years ago, as the world became shocked by images of the Syrian refugee crisis, Central created a Refugee Task Force to explore how we might best get involved in relief efforts as a congregation. We prayed, sponsored films and speakers, and eventually became a host congregation for a refugee family from Afghanistan. Many members of Central continue to support the Ahmady family to this day.

The news this week has been filled with stories of how the American government is now enforcing a zero-tolerance policy for people who cross the borders, including those who come seeking asylum as political refugees. A new practice is the immediate separation of children from their parents for detention.

From the Roman Catholic Pope to the Mormon Church, denominations and religious groups have been speaking out against this practice. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has been meeting and the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly released a statement that Central's Session commends. The full text of Nelson's statement, dated June 16, 2018:

As Presbyterians gather for the meeting of our 223rd General Assembly, we are mindful of the many issues of justice, peace and compassion we face, both as citizens of the United States and members of the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

While we face issues of peace on the Korean peninsula, tragic injustice in the Middle East, and the specter of climate change in our nation and our world, there is nothing of more urgency than the tragedy that is unfolding at our borders, where children are ripped from

their parents and placed in holding cells, while their frantic parents scream in agony at the separation.

What has this nation become? How have we wandered so far from Jesus' kind admonition, "Let the little children come to me ... for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs"? How can this be happening in a nation in which so many claim the traditions of Christianity, Judaism and Islam and the critical importance of families to the fabric of our lives together?

Perhaps the most egregious aspect of this policy is the willingness of the highest legal official of our nation to suggest that if a mother has fled violence in her own country to save herself and her children but has not had a chance to make a proper petition for safety in the U.S., she should be taught a lesson by having her children taken from her. It is almost incomprehensible that these acts should be used as a warning to others who would come.

What makes matters worse is the audacity of quoting the Apostle Paul's admonition to believers in Romans 13:1 to obey the law (presumably whatever the law says), while ignoring the higher scriptural demand that "love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10).

The crisis of tens of thousands of desperate people coming to the United States for relief seems almost overwhelming. But as the officials of our government attempt to address the crisis, we cannot afford to tarnish the highest values of our nation. We must not punish desperate parents by tearing their children away from them, leaving the parents without access to the children or assurance of their welfare.

In the name of God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ: Stop!

In the faith we share,



Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Get Registered for the Fall Retreat for Central Families

What: Central’s fall retreat for families with children provides space for making deeper connections: with each other, with the surrounding landscape, with God. It is a time to relax and a time to play. Central staff will join families to help create a memorable weekend of s’more-making, games, hikes, and quiet puzzles by the window.

When: September 21-23, 2018

Where: Koinonia Retreat Center near Annandale, MN
Driving directions and further information will be sent to you upon registration.

Why: This is an opportunity to connect with other families in Central’s community. Children have built lasting friendships. Families reconnect within themselves and bond with families outside their own.

Nuts and Bolts: Housing for two nights, three meals on Saturday and two meals on Sunday is \$115 per adult and \$60 per child age 5-16. Children under five are free. Scholarships are available for families who need financial help to be able to attend. As a wonderful bonus, Barb Westman will be hosting dinner on Friday at 6:30 p.m. at her home—just down the shoreline from Koinonia. The cost for Friday’s dinner will be \$10 per adult; kids are free.

Registration fees are due September 21, 2018.

2018 FALL RETREAT FOR FAMILIES

(To register fill out and return lower portion of this page to the office)

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Child _____

Child _____

Child _____

Child _____

Also attending Friday night dinner? YES NO

Food allergies/dietary requests:

Central's Hunger Initiative Seeks Volunteers

Central's Hunger Initiative aims to learn more about the lack of access to healthy food in our downtown Saint Paul community, as well as explore how other organizations address the problem of hunger. This summer, we will offer several volunteer opportunities to learn from different organizations' experiences with and approaches to addressing hunger in the Twin Cities.

Our first volunteer opportunity was a food distribution at Gethsemane Lutheran Church on Monday, June 25.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church has called its North Minneapolis neighborhood home for the past 125 years. However, as old neighbors left and new ones arrived, the Camden neighborhood community changed. Gethsemane decided to join the change and reach out to the people within it.

After getting to know the new neighbors, Gethsemane teamed up with the neighborhood to tackle important issues facing their community, including losing homes, jobs and income, poverty, and drug / alcohol abuse. This effort is known as the Camden Promise, a 501C-3 nonprofit partnership between the Gethsemane Lutheran Church, NuWay Baptist Missionary Baptist Church, and Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, congregations that serve the Camden community.

The lack of access to healthy food in the Camden community makes the neighborhood historically one of the largest food deserts in the Twin Cities. This means not only is the neighborhood predominantly low income, but residents are often miles from a grocery store. This means they are reduced to costlier convenience stores for food that is often unhealthy and costly.

Through the work of a creative and community-based ministry, as well as a partnership with the

food bank Second Harvest, Gethsemane serves thousands of hungry people each month through several food programs.

With the help of Second Harvest, Gethsemane receives donations and is able to purchase bulk discounted food. On the first and third Saturdays of the month, the church offers a client-choice food shelf that allows clients the opportunity to choose what food they want based on a point-value system (as well as a free lunch). On the first and third Sundays of the month, the church provides breakfast and a bag of groceries to take home. Gethsemane also offers food distribution on Mondays and Fridays each week, as well as a free community meal on Wednesday nights. These events are staffed by volunteers who live in the community, revealing the intense local effort to prevent hunger.



As another urban church located in an area where people struggle to access healthy food, Central is excited to learn from the efforts of Gethsemane to address the important issue of hunger. This is why we chose this site for our first of several field trips under the Hunger Initiative.

On June 25, Hunger Initiative Intern Sarah Hoffman lead a team of 5 volunteers over to Gethsemane where they participated in its Monday food

distribution (which occurs three times a week, in addition to their food shelf, community meal and other events. Pastor Jeff explained that each day volunteers collect donated food from area grocery stores that might be otherwise discarded. It is then organized, allocated based on the number of participants that day and set up for distribution to neighborhood families where they are able to choose amongst the day's collection that which meets their needs.

In a given day, Gethsemane will see between 50-80 individuals at pickup. That equates to about 150-400 people as part of their immediate families at home. This day, the volunteers saw 43 individuals served, with 15 volunteers on hand to make it work. Pastor Jeff offered wonderful insight on how they were able to get the initiative off the ground and make it successful and responsive to neighborhood needs. Central's Hunger Initiative Task Force will be exploring that model, as well as future volunteer events, to create something that works for our own neighborhood community.



Join Us for Our Next Hunger Initiative Volunteer Opportunity!

Our next field trip and volunteer opportunity for the Hunger Initiative will be to The Higher Ground (formerly Dorothy Day Center).

The trip will be on Saturday, July 14 for a lunch meal volunteer experience. We will need 4 people to arrive early at Mary Hall (438 Dorothy Day Place, St. Paul, MN 55102) at 10:30 a.m. for meal preparation, and an additional 4-8 people to join them at 11:15 a.m. for meal serving. The meal serving will end at 1:00 p.m. There will also be an opportunity to hear from a Higher Ground employee on their organization.

After you have volunteered, we will invite you to share with us what you observed and experienced and how you see us applying that knowledge at Central for future food ministries.

If you would like to participate, please contact Sarah Hoffman at intern@cpstpaul.org.



Thank you to Sarah Hoffman, Avis Tilden, Margaret Gordon, Ned Taylor and Christie Rachelle for volunteering on behalf of Central's Hunger Initiative Task Force!

Puerto Rico Mission Trip

We are excited to begin planning for a mission trip to Puerto Rico this fall to work with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Puerto Rico was devastated by Hurricane Maria last September. It is estimated that thousands died from storm-related causes and the island continues to suffer from infrastructure problems including damage to roads and electrical grids.

Mission trips can be life-changing experiences for participants and for the sponsoring congregation. When viewed as humble learning experiences and not paternalistic do-gooding, participants can connect their faith to the situation other communities are facing, learn about themselves and other cultures, develop and deepen friendships within Central, and do some good. Mission trips can help foster partnerships, and put our faith or prayers into concrete actions.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has been involved in Puerto Rico since September, although the situation is still not stabilized. We will be putting details for this trip together as soon as PDA is ready for groups to sign up. So much is not yet known. But here is what we do know now:

- We will hope to work with and learn from Puerto Ricans who live in Minnesota, including people who have resettled here since Hurricane Maria.
- We will work with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and are planning to worship with and support a local Presbyterian Church there.
- We have some funding dedicated for this trip in order to make partial- or even full-scholarships available.

When the Session approved funding for this trip, the draft of the working budget assumed a group size of twelve people for seven days. Details will change and be refined as we learn about possible work projects and locations.

WORKING BUDGET DRAFT

Airfare to SJU (\$400 per person)	\$4,800
Transportation Rental (of two 8-passenger vans)	\$1,500
Lodging Assumptions—Rural (Sleep on church floor)	\$ 0
Meals (\$25 day x 12 people x 7 days)	\$2,100
Boost to Church Insurance	\$1,000
Donation to Host Church	\$4,000
Donation to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	\$4,000

TRIP TOTAL	\$17,400
Minus estimated participant contributions	\$9,600

COST TO CHURCH	\$8,000

We will be scheduling an informational meeting soon, both to share what we are learning about the trip and to find out who is interested in participating. So, stay tuned!



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS. HOPE

Upcoming Events

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee of Session will meet on Monday, July 9 at 10:30 a.m.

DORCAS CIRCLE

Dorcas Circle will be taking July and August off. We will resume Thursday, September 13.

BOOK GROUP

Book group will meet Tuesdays, July 10 and July 24 at 11:30 in the Friendship Room. The selection for July is *The Orchardist* by Amanda Coplin.



Gardening Update

We have made great progress working on the gardens. If you are interested in working on Central's gardens, we need you! There are garden beds along both sides of the main entrance, and a small sun garden near the MPR parking lot. We are also seeking a leader to coordinate a garden team that works on gardening tasks. Small job, big reward! If you are interested in either roles, please let Anna Sanchez know as soon as possible.



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Women of Central News

WOMEN'S NETWORKING DINNERS

We had a great time at Red River Kitchen! And, after dinner, we enjoyed the gorgeous summer evening on Marcia Robert's patio overlooking the Mississippi River! Thank you, Marcia, for welcoming us into your home!

Want to join the fun? Here are our upcoming events:



Thursday, July 12
Forepaugh's (downstairs)
276 South Exchange Street



Tuesday, August 7
Pottuck
Kate Pearce's Home

We will depart the church parking lot at 5:15 for the restaurant. You can also meet us at 5:30 at the restaurant. Come and join the fun! Please RSVP to the church office or to Sue Hoffman (612-998-6389 or syhoffman123@comcast.net), as it helps us get a count for a table reservation and if child care is needed.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF THE TWIN CITIES HYGIENE KITS—AUGUST 12

On August 12 after worship, we will assemble hygiene kits that will be given to the Presbyterian Women of the Twin Cities for disaster relief. These kits help people who are in need due to hurricanes, floods and other disasters. We will use some of our Women of Central mission funds to purchase supplies for the kits. This is one example of how annual pledges to Women of Central help us support mission efforts.

4TH SUNDAY KNITTING GROUP

As a reminder, we will not be meeting in July and August. The group will resume meeting in September.



Happy Birthday!

Reuben Amarteifio	7/4	Roger Zopfi	7/19
Mary Kay Vance	7/5	Alex Bollman.....	7/20
Jessica Soderbeck.....	7/6	Moses Kimani	7/21
LaVonne Ellingson.....	7/7	Solomon Fisher	7/22
Janet Engeswick.....	7/7	James Wheeler	7/22
Dennis Rich	7/12	Benjamin Beese	7/23
David Zopfi-Jordan.....	7/12	Keanan Dwyer	7/23
Roberta Nelson	7/13	Gerard Dwyer.....	7/24
Megan Jagger	7/14	Mawulouwoe Foli	7/24
Philip Sanders.....	7/14	Cynthia Howard.....	7/24
Machelle Carter	7/15	Carmen Binger.....	7/27
Cameron Linner.....	7/16	Bruce Beese.....	7/28
Dan Bartlett	7/17	Noah Bodner.....	7/28
Laura Nichols-Endres.....	7/17	Gorden Benike	7/29
Ella McCarten	7/18	LeVuo Juhnke	7/29
John McCarten.....	7/18	Natalie Kovach	7/30
David Hanscom.....	7/19		

If we erroneously missed your name, please send us a note so that we can correct our records: office@cpctstpaul.org

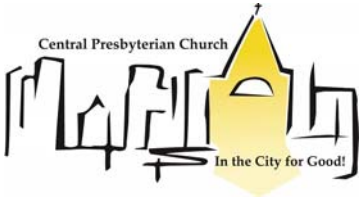
Welcome Back, Adam Van der Sluis!



Adam Van der Sluis is excited to return to Central Presbyterian as the tenor section leader. Adam is moving back to the Twin Cities after 6 years living in Boston, MA where he worked as an educator. Adam sang in a variety of Boston-area ensembles, most regularly with Chorus Pro Musica (a chorus that has twice received Grammy nominations) and the Tanglewood Festival Chorus (TFC). As a member of the TFC, Adam sang with the Boston Symphony in concerts performed in Symphony Hall and Carnegie Hall. Adam earned a B.A. at Macalester College and an M.Ed. at Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Thank you to everyone who generously contributed to our recent diaper drive! Thanks to your generous efforts, many packs, boxes and cases of diapers and wipes were collected. These donations were given to The Family Place in Saint Paul to be distributed to families in need. To learn more about this organization, go to www.famplace.org.





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