

CONNECT CENTRAL

Baptismal Waters at Flood Stage

FROM REV. CHATELAINE-SAMSEN

It was my great joy on one of my first Sundays here, among many things, to be part of the baptism of baby Jyri.

If you were in worship that morning, you'll remember that the children in worship put cups of water in the baptismal font as we prepared for the baptism. It was a wonderful reminder that the sacrament of baptism is something we do as a community of all ages.

What you may not have noticed is that the font nearly overflowed with the amount of water that the children poured in. Like, right at the top. Nobody trip or bump into it. When Jennifer and I planned on this, what we hadn't planned for was how many children would be there that Sunday. As each came forward to pour their cup of water in, my first reaction was to be nervous.

What if it really does overflow? And then my nerves were replaced with



joy. The hardest problem we had at that moment was that there were too many children in worship to celebrate this baptism. That we had

to share this moment for more time than we'd planned. That the waters of baptism might actually overflow.

I can't think of a better image for Central right now.

The waters of baptism – the sign and seal of God's love – overflowing. We saw it together on Youth Sunday, and then with our Spark! kids the following week. We hear it week after week in the powerful music both from up front and from the congregation. Shared meals in the dining room. Celebrations of years of faithful ministry, and planning for years of ministry yet to come.

You have sustained this congregation into a season of new and growing abundance. It doesn't mean there won't still be challenges to live into, but it does mean that this is a time for celebration and anticipation, with God leading us on.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3]

JUNE 2023

Welcome to summer!



In This Issue

Baptismal Waters at Flood Stage 1
 Upcoming Worship 2
 Quilted Gifts of Baptism Remembrances 4
 Welcome to Our New Pianist, Alexander Woods! 5
 Emergency Preparedness 5
 An Offering of Letters for Bread for the World..... 6
 Managing the Summer Heat at Central..... 7
 Women of Central News 8
 Sexual Misconduct Policy 9
 Seeking Donations for Families.... 9
 Beacon Team Celebrates Win for Bring It Home, Minnesota!.... 10
 Children & Youth News 11
 An Amazing First Youth Sunday! 12
 Announcements 14
 Help Unlock Metro Affordable Housing! 15
 Staff Directory 15
 In the City for Good 16

New to Central?

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

office@centralforgood.org

Or, call and ask about our next Inquirer's Class for prospective new members.

(651) 224-4728 ext. 100

Upcoming Worship

JOIN US 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

The Bible contains multitudes. History, poetry, prophecy, storytelling, and more. Although the stories are beautiful and compelling, it's often hard to see the "red thread" that connects it all.

Over the course of eight weeks this summer, we'll tell the story of God's love from some of the first pages of the Scripture to the very last. In these eight stories, we'll find the stories that anchor the people of Israel and the followers of Jesus – stories that interrelate, looking forward and backward to God's hand through history.

If you've ever wondered how the sixty-six books of the Bible all fit together, this sermon series is for you.

Sunday, June 4

COMMUNION SUNDAY

Rev. Chatelaine-Samesen will preach *God's Promise* with scripture reading from Genesis 12:1-9. Our new pianist, Alex Woods, joins us on the piano bench and Abbie Betinis and Eric Bartlett offer a vocal duet.

We will also take time to honor and thank our teachers and Children's Education volunteers.

Sunday, June 11

GRADUATION SUNDAY

In a sermon titled *Finding Freedom* Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen will preach from Exodus 3:1-12.

This day we will also recognize all of our high school, college, and trade school graduates. We will also welcome Rod Kelly Hines as he sings for us in his final Sunday as Artist-in-Residence. Thank you, Rod, for all of your beautiful music this year!

Sunday, June 18

We continue our summer series with sermon titled *A New Home* from Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen and a scripture reading from Joshua 1:1-9. Alex Woods plays piano.

Sunday, June 25

Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen preaches *Exile* with a scripture reading from Psalm 127:1-6. Alex Woods plays piano with Eric Bartlett as soloist.



Baptismal Waters at Flood Stage CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Quilted Gifts of Baptism Remembrances

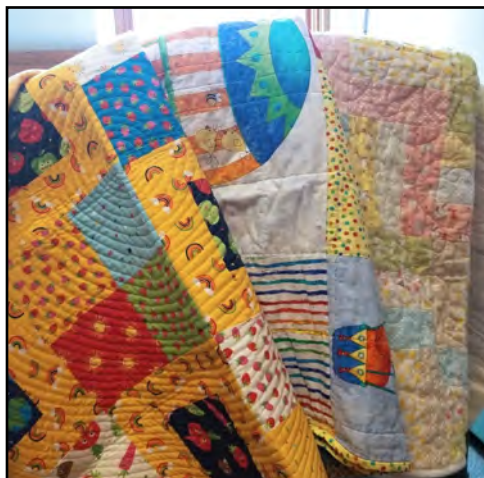
BY JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & YOUTH MINISTRY

We have begun a new tradition here at Central – creating beautiful quilts for our children being baptized. On their special day, it is a gift to show our youngest ones extravagant love created by artists here in our faith family.

Many thanks to our quilt creators Marie Prottegeier Smith, Sally Mortenson, Sue Severiano, Karen

Lawrence, Wendy Flinner, and Jackie Klaehn for donating hours of love in the form of these precious quilts.

If you are a quilter and would like to contribute, please speak with Jennifer Anderson, Director of Music and Youth Ministries via email to jennifera@centralforgood.org or call (651) 224-4728 ext. 103.



Welcome to Our New Pianist, Alexander Woods!

Alexander Woods is a pianist and music teacher living in the Twin Cities. A versatile and collaborative musician, his passions include art song, instrumental & chamber works, choral music, contemporary piano repertoire, and a variety of jazz and popular styles. He strives to maintain an innovative perspective in his performances, seeking out new and old works from diverse genres and composers.

Alex holds positions at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Borromeo Music Festival, and St. Mary of the Lake Catholic Church, and has performed in Switzerland, Italy, and throughout the United States. As a freelance accompanist and vocal coach in the Twin Cities, he has



worked at the University of Minnesota, Gustavus Adolphus College, and for several competitions, churches, and choral ensembles. Alex is also an active

keyboardist in the Twin Cities pop music scene, having performed and recorded with bands in many genres.

Alex completed his master's degree in Collaborative Piano at the University of Minnesota, earning the Rydell Fellowship in Accompanying & Coaching. He also holds bachelor's degrees in Music and Religious Studies from Pomona College, where he received the McCord Memorial Grant to fund summer music study at several festivals. His teachers include Timothy Lovelace, Lydia Artymiw, Genevieve Lee, and Ming Tsu.

Learn more on his website at www.alexanderwoodspiano.com and join us in greeting Alex on his first Sunday with us, June 4!

Emergency Preparedness at Central

FROM THE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND RISK ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Over the past months and years, the Session and Facilities Management and Risk Assessment Committee (FMRA) have been updating plans to prepare for emergencies and other unplanned events. Our highest priority is keeping everybody within our walls safe and maintaining preparedness for when something goes wrong.

In the coming weeks and months, watch for the following:

- Website updates with new policies and procedures around emergency preparedness, child safety, and more. To review, go to www.centralforgood.org/policies.
- Signage, such as emergency exit drawings, will be updated throughout the building.
- Trainings are taking place with staff and volunteers to

ensure clear procedures in the case of an emergency (such as a tornado, fire, or medical emergency).

- A safety drill will be scheduled for after worship on a Sunday to test run new procedures.

Lines of communication are always open. If you have concerns you don't see being met, please reach out to a member of Session or Pastor Chris.

An Offering of Letters for Bread for the World

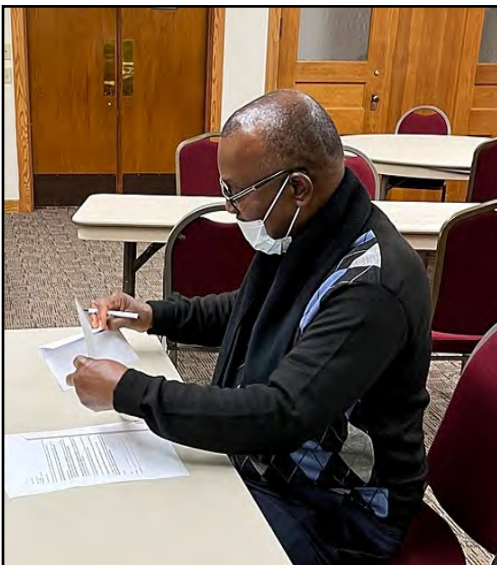
BY LEON OMAN ON BEHALF OF THE HUNGER INITIATIVE TASK FORCE

The Friendship Room was buzzing after worship on April 23 as the Hunger Initiative Task Force held its second annual Offering of Letters. This year's effort, in partnership with the Christian advocacy organization, Bread for the World, focused on the renewal of the federal Farm Bill. The correspondence with elected officials continues with 117 letters and emails being sent so far, mostly going to Senators Klobuchar and Smith, and to Representative Betty McCollum. Representatives Craig, Omar, and Emmer were also contacted by Centralites who live in their districts.

The overall goal of this year's push is to support legislation that builds a healthy, equitable, and sustainable food system. Specific policies highlighted included increasing access to fresh fruits and vegetables through SNAP (formerly known as food stamps); eliminating barriers to SNAP for marginalized populations, e.g. former drug

offenders and indigenous communities; increasing support for Black farmers; keeping food out of landfills through recovery efforts and addressing threats to food security, like extreme weather; and supporting funding for international food aid programs.

Thank you, Central! The Hunger Task Force will keep you informed in the coming months about progress on this legislation - as well as further opportunities to impact hunger, both in this country and abroad.



Managing the Summer Heat at Central

BY ANNA SANCHEZ, CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Minnesota summers are glorious, with sunny skies and warm air brightening our moods and our beautiful sanctuary at Central. But the heat can sometimes make our worship space uncomfortable, even unsafe, for those sensitive to extreme temperatures.

Planning Ahead

During the late summer months in past years, when temperatures would reach the 90's, we occasionally made the decision to move Sunday worship to the air-conditioned Friendship Room for everyone's safety and comfort. While worshipping in the Friendship Room provided unique opportunities for people to sit closer together, the room itself restricted our capacity and music capability, so the preference was to worship as often as possible in the sanctuary.

This summer, with live-streaming capabilities in place, we have decided not to move services. On hot, humid days, we will still worship in our beautiful sanctuary to accommodate our live-stream videography and music needs. Those who wish can join us online from the comfort of their homes!

Our Complex Building

This summertime heat issue is somewhat, relatively new: before the energy-crisis of the 1970's, Central had a natural ventilation system that kept air moving and the sanctuary less hot. Large wooden ventilation

shafts ran through the upper level of the building (alongside the old chapel), bringing cooler outside air into the sanctuary under the dome. Many of the stained-glass windows could open, allowing air movement. Vents in the cupola could be opened (or shut in winter) to allow hot air to escape. But with the need to conserve energy, and the remodeling of the old chapel, the ventilation shafts on the upper level were removed; the windows in the sanctuary were bolted shut and covered with acrylic panes on the outside for insulation and protection. The cupola vents are still functional, and can be open and shut as the seasons change. But with no fresh air intake, the sanctuary can sometimes feel like an oven.

The Facilities Management and Risk Assessment Committee has investigated the possibility of air-conditioning the sanctuary, but it is cost prohibitive at this time, with other more pressing building

restoration needs taking priority.

What You Can Expect

We have several tools to keep everyone more comfortable through the summer months. In addition to hand-held fans for people to use, we position two large fans to move air effectively, and have several smaller, quiet oscillating fans that can stay on during worship. The nursery and preschool room on the upper level are air-conditioned, so our children can stay cool. The air-conditioned Friendship Room is a welcome respite to enjoy fellowship after worship.

If at anytime you have concerns about the heat or need assistance while in worship at Central, we encourage you to speak with an usher. And of course, our services are live-streamed each week, which will allow members and friends to join us remotely from home and stay safe and cool during the hottest Sundays!



Women of Central News

FROM SUE HOFFMAN

We had a great time at The Lost Fox! We found the Fox across the street from the Depot. It was great to support this small business in Lowertown.

June Gathering

On Monday, June 5, we are having a special potluck event to talk about our plans for the future. Sally Mortenson and Casey Wells will host us at Kellogg Square Apartments (111 Kellogg Blvd East, Saint Paul). We will gather in the community room at 5:30 p.m. This room is great for visiting and we will make the most of it! Indoors there is a full kitchen, tables, and chairs, as well as sofas and chairs for visiting with one another. Outdoors there is a great patio with a grill and seating areas.

For this potluck, the Women of Central will provide burgers, hot dogs, and veggie burgers for grilling. We will also provide buns (including gluten free), condiments and plates, silverware, and napkins. If you can join us, please bring a side dish to share. This could be a salad, dessert, appetizer, chips, or whatever you like. Please also bring your own beverage.

We will have some conversation during the evening about what you think it important for us to do as the Women of Central. The last time we held this type of discussion was in 2016, so it is time for us to plan for our future. You don't need to do anything to prepare other than to come and share your thoughts and ideas.

We ask that everyone RSVP to women@centralforgood.org by Thursday, June 1 to let us know if you can join us. We will send parking and access information on June 3 to those who plan to attend.

Not on our mailing list? Email women@centralforgood.org to be added to the list.

Save the Date for July

In July, we will plan to return to Barrio (235 6th Street, St. Paul) on Monday, July 10. Please RSVP by Thursday, July 6 to let us know if you can join us via email to women@centralforgood.org.

We hope to see you there!



Thank You, Sandy White!

Last month we honored Sandy White for her significant contributions to our Central community.

Sandy began volunteering with Martha's Closet in 1999, and in late 2001 became its director. She led Martha's Closet with grace, kindness, and care for over 20 years. With Martha's Closet now transitioned to the Central Closet and serving a broader need, we gave thanks to Sandy for her service as our clothing mission starts a new chapter at Central.

Sexual Misconduct Policy

FROM MEL LEACH ON BEHALF OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Central's Personnel Committee has been reviewing its policies and the result is an updated the policy on sexual misconduct.

The term *sexual misconduct* covers harassment and assault, as well as inappropriate use of church technology.

We all expect Central to be a safe place. Eliminating sexual misconduct is one essential element of that.

Appropriate response by Central's leadership is also essential to any concerns of sexual misconduct expressed by anyone within the scope of church activities.

If you are a victim of sexual misconduct or if you become aware of it happening to another, you should promptly report this to Pastor Chris or any serving elder. Your concern will be taken seriously and investigated promptly and as discreetly as possible.

To review this policy and the process to report concerns, visit our website at www.centralforgood.org/policies.

There you will also find other policies relating to child protection, photography and media use, and more.

Seeking Donations for Families

FROM THE COORDINATED MISSION COMMITTEE

Central's Coordinated Mission Committee is once again hosting a diaper drive to support the families of Interfaith Action's Project Home.

Diapers are a necessary yet expensive item for families with babies and toddlers. For those who face financial strain, diapers are not an eligible item for food stamps or other government programs.

If you are interested in donating diapers and/or wipes, please bring donations to the Friendship Room on Sundays June 4, 11, or 18

where a box will be available for collection. There is a need for all sizes, especially those that fit larger toddlers (size 5-7).

If you have questions, feel free to contact the church office. Thank you!



stay CONNECTED



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VOLUNTEER TO HELP
centralforgood.org/volunteer



CALL ANYTIME WITH QUESTIONS
(651) 224-4728

Beacon Team Celebrates a Win for Bring It Home, Minnesota!

FROM CHRISTIE RACHELLE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

Central member Maureen Smith said it best, "Advocacy in action, and a win for people who need help getting housing."

Thanks to the support and advocacy efforts of Beacon member churches, the Minnesota Senate and House has approved ongoing funding for the first-ever general rental assistance vouchers program in the state: Bring It Home, Minnesota!

So what does this historic win mean?

- \$65 to 73 million in yearly funding for rental assistance vouchers between 2024 - 2027.
- 5.5 thousand additional rental assistance vouchers available between 2024 - 2027.

So, for the lowest earning households in Minnesota, vouchers ensure they won't pay over 30% monthly income on rent.

Let's make sure every Minnesota family that needs a voucher receives a voucher! Follow *Bring It Home, Minnesota* on Facebook or visit www.beaconinterfaith.org to learn more about Beacon and affordable housing initiatives underway and as well as ways you can help continue the fight.

Thank you to the members of Central's Beacon Leadership Team for your presence and ongoing efforts to support housing justice for all throughout our community.



Children & Youth News

FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & YOUTH MINISTRY

Boy, do we have a fun and exciting summer ahead for our children and youth! Pick up or download our summer children's newsletter at www.centralforgood.org/children and get all the details for everything on the calendar from now through the end of summer so you can save the dates!

We hope you will join us for these events coming in June:

Game-A-Palooza

Let us gather to celebrate a great year together and welcome new Lifeboaters in a fun way!

Those entering grades 6 - 8 are invited to join us June 4 from 11:30 - 12:30 p.m. in the church Youth Room for games and activities.

Mini-Camp

Come enjoy all the fun of summer camp but without all the bugs!

Open to those entering grades 1-8, Central's mini-camp will offer a fun, engaging time with hands-on activities on select Sundays through the summer in the Galilee Room.

So mark your calendars for the worship hour (after a Time for Children to the end of worship service) on:

- June 4
- July 9
- July 23
- August 6
- August 20

No need to pre-register!

Graduation and a Game!

On Sunday, June 11 we will celebrate graduating students at Central including graduates Andrei and Annabelle! Then, our Lifeboat and Compass youth will spend the afternoon enjoying a game with the St. Paul Saints at CHS Field!

There are a limited number of tickets, so please RSVP online at: www.centralforgood.org/youth by June 1. You will need to bring \$10 plus any money you want for snacks the day of the event.

We will meet at the church at 1:00 p.m. and take the light rail over to the stadium. We will be back at the church around 5:00 p.m.

Children & Youth Calendar

JUNE 4

9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.

10:30 Worship with Mini-Camp for Grades 1-8 following a Time for Children.

11:30 Game-a-Palooza with Lifeboats (grades 6-8)

JUNE 11

9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.

10:30 Graduation Sunday in Worship, recognizing Andrei and Annabelle.

1:00 Lifeboats & Compass Groups attend a St. Paul Saints Game at CHS Field

JUNE 18

9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.

10:30 Worship in the sanctuary with a Time for Children.

JUNE 25

9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.

10:30 Worship in the sanctuary with a Time for Children.

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

Jennifer Anderson
(651) 224-4728 x103
jennifera@centralforgood.org.

An Amazing First Youth Sunday!

THANK YOU TO THE MANY VOLUNTEERS AND PARTICIPANTS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS MEMORABLE SERVICE.





Announcements

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

In Memoriam

Central Presbyterian Church member Paula Cooley passed away on February 9, 2023. A Celebration of the Resurrection for Paula was held at St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church in St. Paul on March 30th. A video of the service is available at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nd6egxtlmro

Happy Birthday!

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

Virginia Juffer.....	6/3
Rebecca Thein.....	6/3
Doug Throckmorton	6/5
Vinai Vinlander.....	6/6
Anna Sanchez	6/7
Nickalos Sanders.....	6/12
Beth Jagger.....	6/13
Carolyn Hess	6/14
Lynda Petrie	6/15
Catherine McCarten	6/17
John Lee	6/18
Linda Morgan	6/19
Richard Barker	6/20
Betty Obermeier	6/20
Doris Johnson	6/22
Sandra White	6/26
Louise French.....	6/30

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!

Staff Summer Vacations

This summer, members of our staff will be out of the office for personal vacation time. To help you plan for ongoing discussions or activities, please be aware of the following dates of absence:

- Church Administrator Anna Sanchez will be out June 2 to 9.
- Director of Music & Youth Ministry Jennifer Anderson will be gone June 15 to July 8.
- Director of Communications Christie Rachelle will be out June 26 to July 4.
- Pastor Chris Chatelaine-Samsen will be out August 6 to 22.

If you have questions or needs to be addressed during this time, we invite you to email the church office at office@centralforgood.org or speak with another member of staff.

Do You Have News to Share?

Is your church committee working on something you want to share with the congregation? Perhaps you know of a community event of interest or captured a great photograph of Central activities you want to share?

Submit your news to our monthly newsletter Connect Central by the 10th of the month via email to christier@centralforgood.org.

Per Capita Giving

Central Church is part of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This connection helps with our mission and ministry, providing access to worship and officer training resources. But, this costs money.

Local congregations pay a pre-determined assessment, divided between the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. This year Central will be paying \$37.50 per confirmed member in per capita. The church budget has a line item to cover this. However, it would be a significant help if church members were to pay their own per capita amount.

How can you make a donation for per capita?

1. You can send a check in the mail with 'per capita' noted in the nemo field.
2. If you have a monthly contribution automatically withdrawn, you can email the office and ask to have a one-time withdrawal to pay per capita.
3. Make an online gift by going to www.centralforgood.org/give and click *Special Offerings* (or make a note that it is for per capita on the form).

If you have any questions about the per capita giving, contact Anna at office@centralforgood.org or call (651) 224-4728 ext.100.



Help Unlock Metro Affordable Housing!

FROM LEON OMAN ON BEHALF OF BEACON LEADERSHIP TEAM

Remember the keys being collected in the Friendship Room earlier this year? Well, it is now time to get them ready for ACTION! Join us for a hands-on activity and powerful way to address homelessness. It's time to unlock housing equity!

Save the Dates

Central's Beacon members invite you to join them in the Dining Room after worship on June 11 in writing messages to the members of the Metropolitan Council and attaching them to the keys we collected. This event will run from about 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and include light snacks and refreshments. You are welcome to stay as long as you like or leave when you must.

The Beacon congregational organizer for Central, Justin Lewandowski, will share information about the need for deeply affordable housing, especially in the suburbs, and the importance of the Met Council making project-based rent vouchers more accessible to

developers. After this short talk, we'll work together on tagging our keys to get them ready for delivery. Children are welcome too!

Everyone's tagged keys will then be combined with those from other Beacon congregations and presented to the Metropolitan Council by the Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative. This will happen on Wednesday, June 14 after a press conference on the front steps of Central and a short march over to the Met Council offices. It will be a dramatic way to publicly work to change policy. Stay tuned for further details.

Guess the Number of Keys!

On June 4, we will have the donated keys on display in the Friendship Room. Come guess the number and enter our contest!

A \$25 gift card to Keys Café and Bakery will be presented on June 11 to the one with the closest guess!

CENTRAL STAFF DIRECTORY

(651) 224-4728

Pastor

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

Church Administrator

Anna Sanchez, ext. 100
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

Director of Music & Youth Ministry

Jennifer Anderson, ext 103
jennifera@centralforgood.org

Children & Youth Ministry

Laura Walls, Sunday
Connection Coordinator
lauraw@centralforgood.org
Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher
Maria Stokes, Nursery Care Giver

Music Ministry

Shanta Hejmadi, Abbie Betinis,
Adam Van der Sluis, Eric Bartlett,
Alexander Woods, 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

Building Maintenance

Lavar Jones, Custodian
Peter Evarts, Custodian



CENTRAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

500 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Join Us for Lunch!

A chef-catered community lunch is served each Wednesday from 11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Open to everyone in the community, it a wonderful way to connect and enjoy a delicious meal.

There is a suggested donation of \$10. But all who are hungry are invited to eat, regardless of their ability to give.

Love the breads? There are extra loaves for sale for only \$5 - but get there early, they go fast!

CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*

