



Central Today

March 2017

www.cpcstpaul.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30 AM

In late 2015, the Session received a letter from a church member asking what we were going to do about the global refugee crisis. We formed a Refugee Task Force to learn about the global situation, explore what other churches were doing, and think about how we could and should respond with faith.

We began to learn, sharing news articles that provided background on why there is a refugee crisis right now, and the specific and global dynamics that have created the crisis. We have wanted to learn from refugees who came to America and to Minnesota particularly. We screened a movie showing the experience of teenage boys from Sudan who had been forced to grow up way too fast when they were way too young, and their experience in coming to America. We hosted Minnesota author Kao Kalia Yang, who read from her new book about her father, *The Song Poet*.

Our learnings have informed our prayers and our music, with special anthems and hymns and even the children's 2016 Christmas pageant. The congregation took part in a denominational effort—inviting church members to pose for a group picture under a banner that read, "We Choose Welcome." And this Christmas season we had a banner out front that reminded us that Jesus and his family were also refugees (see page 3).

We were preparing to do what many good churches have done for decades: work with a great organization doing refugee resettlement to be assigned a family we could co-sponsor, providing hospitality and support. Months ago, we were told that there was a long wait list of co-sponsoring organizations, so probably it would be February 2017.

Issues around refugees and immigrants became polarizing political issues with the new administration. And our work to do what good churches have been doing for a long time drew media interest and found us exploring a hot-button political story from a very different angle. Our preparations were suddenly put on hold with a presidential executive order banning travel that put a halt to refugee resettlement, and then, just as suddenly, court orders were given that had the effect of us getting a green light to once again prepare to welcome a family.

We have some exciting late-breaking news: it looks like we have been assigned a refugee family and that this family will arrive on March 9! See page 3 for a story from the Refugee Task Force about the family and how you can be involved.

Grateful to be part of a community that puts our faith into action,

David Colby

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Worship

**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

ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

On Ash Wednesday, we begin the season of Lent. We will have two services in the sanctuary. 12:30 and 7:30pm.

In the evening, all are invited to begin this season with a simple supper of soup and bread available at 6:45, and then join together in worship. David Winkworth will sing.

Sunday, March 5

We will share communion. Rev. Colby will preach, the choir will sing and we will hear from Melody Ward, the refugee program specialist at the Minnesota Council of Churches.

Sunday, March 12

During this season of Lent, we will hear some marvelous Psalms. Today we come to Psalm 121, "I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come?" Rev. Colby will preach and the choir will sing.

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of Central Presbyterian Church will be held **on Sunday, March 12 in the sanctuary immediately following worship.** The annual meeting may consider such business as electing officers, hearing reports of the session along with plans for the coming year, hearing reports from the board of deacons and other organizations of the church, and transacting other business as appropriate. It shall review the adequacy of the compensation of the pastor upon report of the prior review by session. The Session will bring recommendations for amendments to the bylaws of the congregation and corporation.

Sunday, March 19

Psalm 95 begins, "O come, let us sing to the Lord!" Church is one of the few places where we can sing together. Following worship, our Third Sunday Lunch.

Sunday, March 26

The 23rd Psalm has some of the most familiar and comforting words, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want . . ." Rev. Colby will preach and our children will be the choir this morning, singing 2 anthems. Shanta Hejmadi will provide leadership on the congregational hymns.

Sunday, April 2

The Central Choir presents Mozart's Requiem on April 2, with professional soloists and chamber orchestra, offering the beautiful words from the Requiem mass on the 5th Sunday of Lent. There will be a special children's activity during worship.



Welcoming a Refugee Family

After months of learning, prayer and conversations, Central decided to co-sponsor a refugee family through the Minnesota Council of Churches Refugee Resettlement Program. The goal of this program is to welcome persecuted persons from around the world into lives of freedom, hope, and opportunity in Minnesota.

What does it mean to be a co-sponsor?

Refugee co-sponsorship gives congregations and community groups the opportunity to welcome a refugee family to Minnesota. Co-sponsors assist new refugee families for their first four months in the US and help them on the path to self-sufficiency through a supportive partnership with MCC Refugee Services. By offering support to refugees, congregations live out God's call to welcome the stranger, and help transform a refugee's new country into a new home.

What do we know about the family we have been assigned?

On February 22, we were assigned a family from Afghanistan. This family knows only one other family here and that family has lived here less than 3 years. They are not a close connection, so community support is needed for them. The family is comprised of Dad, Mom (both 33), and 3 children (2 girls, ages 5 & 1; 1 boy, age 3). Dad was both an interpreter and a Construction Engineer with a Bachelor's of Science (not sure from where). Mom graduated from high school; they speak English, which is a great bonus. Dad also speaks Pashto, Dari, and Urdu.

When will the family arrive? On March 9!

We are a congregation that chooses Welcome. Doing so often requires us to put our faith in God; faith that we will find the skills, insights, and resources to do the work that needs to be done. Please keep reading to find out how you can help!

Welcoming a Refugee Family, continued.

How can I help?

Sharing time and talents

We will have lots to prepare, and will continue to need broad support from the congregation. There are lots of different ways to provide hospitality and support. A good number of congregation members filled out forms February 12 to indicate their availability and areas of expertise. If you would like to fill out the form online, go to tinyurl.com/centralrefugees.

Some of the things that will be helpful:

- Providing rides to medical appointments
- Gathering clothing, housewares and furniture for the family
- Organizing social events to welcome the family

Donating money

As we prepare to welcome a refugee family in partnership with the Minnesota Council of Churches, there are many unknowns. One thing we do know is that we want to be able to help this family in ways that may require money from time to time. For example, we will need a few hundred dollars initially to access the services of a non-profit that helps to outfit a new home with furniture and housewares.

If you would like to contribute to a designated fund to support these efforts, please make checks payable to Central Presbyterian Church and make sure to write in the memo line "refugee family." Checks can be left in the offering plate or mailed to the church office. The fund will be at the discretion of the Coordinated Mission Committee for the express purpose of supporting a new refugee family.

We also welcome Target gift cards for household purchases, and watch future bulletins and announcement for more specific needs.

How can I learn more and get involved?

Many people heard Melody Ward, the Refugee Program Specialist with Volunteer and Outreach at Minnesota Council of Churches, when she spoke at Central in January when there was great uncertainty due to the just-announced travel ban. Melody will be back at Central on Sunday, March 5 to speak in worship, and after worship she will provide an orientation to people who wish to volunteer.

What else can I do?

Please pray for our family as they prepare to depart and travel to Minnesota. That is often an emotionally difficult and physically grueling experience. Traveling with young children is often difficult—imagine the complexities they may encounter!

Children and Youth at Central

Welcome April Greibrok!

We are delighted that April Joy Greibrok has expanded her role at Central. For years, April provided loving care to the youngest ones in our midst as our Nursery Care Provider. She then moved up to teaching the Preschool Class. And on February 21, she began as our Children and Youth Ministries Coordinator and Publications and Communications Director. **(April's last name is pronounced Gray - brook)**

YOXO Toys and a conversation for parents with founder Jeff Freeland Nelson.

Sunday, March 19

After the Third Sunday Lunch Built on the principles of simplicity and imagination, and named for the three shapes used in each set of toys (Y, X and O) YOXO pieces are made of recycled wood pulp, encourage kids to be creative and have fun. YOXO is now a nationally recognized, eco-friendly brand. But it all started with an idea and a leap of faith.

Prior to founding YOXO, Jeff worked with Minnesota Public Radio. In fact, he and Rev. Colby worked closely together in countless meetings related to the planning and implementation of the Green Line plan.

Kids will get a chance to play with YOXO toys, while Jeff will talk about what it was like for him to take a risk to pursue an idea and the creative concepts behind the toys.

(This description of YOXO is adapted from an article by Katie Hicks for the December 2015 Saint Paul magazine.)

Summer Planning

Vacation Bible School! July 24-28. This is big and exciting news. We are so grateful to the youth and adult chaperones from St. Stephen Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth, Texas, who will be traveling to St. Paul, staying at Central, and putting on this Vacation Bible School. We are aiming it at ages 3 through 5th grade. We will be working on details, but for now—parents, we hope that you will save this week and plan to have your child(ren) attend.

Summer Camps at Clearwater Forest: Where you can worship by the lake, hang out on high ropes, play in and on the lake, try new games, dance to energizers, build relationships with others, and more, all the while learning more about yourself and God! Registration is being accepted for youth entering 3rd grade all the way through those currently finishing their senior year, plus our ever popular Grands Camp. Scholarship funds are available, both through Central and through Clearwater, so please don't let financial need get in the way of attending Camp this summer. Register at www.clearwaterforest.org or call 218-678-2325 for more information.

VocalPoint Concerts Raise over \$24,000!

A sincere thank you to the entire congregation of Central Presbyterian Church for your involvement with and support of the 6th season of VocalPoint! We raised the most ever this year – over \$24,300!! Central members sang in the choir, volunteered in many important ways, attended the concerts and donated generously! A special thanks to the Worship, Music and Arts Committee and the Coordinated Mission Committee for your encouragement, and to the staff for various ways that they pitched in to help.

Our concerts made a difference! Read this heartfelt thank-you from Patrick Kindler, Executive Director of One Heartland:



Tears of joy, tears from memories, and tears for hope.

This past weekend magic happened when 75 talented, committed, and beautiful people worked for 6 weeks to tell a story of hope and perseverance. During a time of much emotion for many Americans, these individuals came together to use their talents to make a difference. It was such a pleasure to hear and feel their messages of kindness, hope, acceptance, celebration, and love. Their music brought tears to my eyes, not because I was sad but because their voices were beautiful, their message timely, and their commitment to making a difference inspiring.

From the One Heartland community I want to say THANK YOU to VocalPoint and everyone who took a few hours this weekend to come, listen, and support One Heartland and VocalPoint Chorus in their efforts to make the world a better place.

This weekend VocalPoint raised more than \$24,000 that will go towards adding a second week of Camp Northstar, a One Heartland program for youth living in transitional housing. Not only is that money going to change the lives of the young people who need it most, but the songs and messages from this weekend's concerts will live on forever in our hearts and around our campfires.

Let's make a campfire.....



Homeless Day on the Hill

March 14, 2017

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. State Capitol

Central Presbyterian Church is honored to again host the Minnesota Coalition of the Homeless' annual "Homeless Day on the Hill" on March 14th. People from all over the state will meet here in the morning to organize and receive advocacy training, then march up to the State Capitol to meet with local legislators.

The mission of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless is to generate policies, community support and local resources for housing and services to end homelessness in Minnesota. They believe everyone deserves a safe, decent, affordable place to call home and that homelessness is preventable.

The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless exists to ensure that community supports are in place to prevent and address the root causes of homelessness. We achieve our mission and vision through advocacy, technical assistance, and building public awareness. The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless is uniquely positioned as the hub of a statewide network of 150 homeless service providers and other concerned individuals and organizations across Minnesota. The Coalition has been the voice for people experiencing homelessness and for service providers in state and federal policy decision-making since 1984.

Registration for Homeless Day on the Hill is free but required!

For more information or to register, go to <http://www.mnhomelesscoalition.org/advocate/>

To sign up to volunteer as a host at Central, go to our "Volunteer!" page at www.cpcstpaul.org/volunteer/ or contact Anna in the church office.

Women of Central

"If These Aprons Could Talk" brunch and style show – April 8, 2017

Join us for lunch and the Finale performance of "If These Aprons Could Talk" on April 8.

The style show includes a short history, music and commentary about American aprons from 1900 to the present. Aprons have been worn for many reasons and many occasions through the years. Come with us down memory lane to hear their stories...if they could talk! Sense the creativity, the attitudes, the feelings, and the history they help us remember. They are real memory "shakers!"

The original program was given at Central in 2006 for the Women's Christmas Brunch. When people heard



what was being planned, the aprons started coming (with stories) and so the program hap-

pened. After the Christmas Brunch program, the aprons style show took on a life of its own. In 2008, 2009, 2013, and 2014 Virgie Bundy, Kathy Barker, Jan Engeswick, Gina Juffer and Mary Miller took the program to Community and Senior Centers in the area.



Please mark your calendars now for **Saturday, April 8th**! We will also bring donations for Martha's Closet at this event, so clean out your closets and get your spring items ready! Remember that Martha's Closet takes donations of more than clothing. New underwear (panties) is their favorite donation! Shoes, purses, scarves, jewelry, belts, hats, coats/jackets, stockings (new), toiletries (unused) are all welcome!

Prayer Shawl Ministry – 4th Sunday Knitting Group

The 4th Sunday knitting and crocheting group meets on the 4th Sunday of each month (except November and December) and everyone who wants to knit and/or crochet is welcome! We meet from 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM in the upstairs lounge, or, if that room is in use, we will meet in the Friendship Room in the sofa and lounge chair area. Donations of yarn, needles, patterns are always welcome too! There are knitting and crocheting materials available for people who want to participate in the ministry. Contact Sally Mortenson or Sue Hoffman with any questions.



Women's Networking Group

We have launched the Women's Networking Group! This monthly event is open to ALL women!

The Women's Networking Group meets monthly, at a restaurant close to Central, from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. This is a "come when you can and leave when you must" event. We will have child care available and a simple meal for kids, available at church, starting at 5:15 PM.

So, here is the lineup for April and May:

April 12 – Rival House

May 10 - Barrio

If you want to walk to the restaurants with others, be at Central by 5:20 PM. We can walk over as a group, using skyways. Or meet us at the restaurant, either way is great!

To help us plan our table size, please contact Anna Sanchez to make a reservation for each event by the Monday before the event. Please know that if you don't make a reservation, you are still welcome! We are just trying to get an idea of group size to reserve a table or area for our group.

Please contact Sue Hoffman (syhoffman123@comcast.net or 612-998-6389) with ideas, questions and comments.

Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area

Invite you to our Spring Gathering

'Caring for Yourself and Caring for Others'

"And what does the Lord require of you?" —Mic. 6:8

Saturday, April 22, 2017

9:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Registration, coffee and fellowship start at 9:00 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church

6201 Osgood Ave. N., Stillwater, MN

Keynote Speaker:

Carolyn Klaver, RN, is a Community Dementia Care Specialist from Lyngblomsten, a provider of healthcare, housing and services for older adults in the Twin Cities area. She will speak on a Healthy Brain and highlight the Gathering, a program which provides five hours of respite for caregivers and a day of stimulating activities for the person they care for who is experiencing early to mid-stage memory loss. The Offering will go to the Alzheimer's Foundation.



Easter Flowers

ORDER FORM

Due by Monday, April 10.

To donate flowers in memory or honor of a loved one, please fill out the information, attach your payment to Central (checks payable to Central), and return it to the office (or in the offering plate). Flowers will be used to decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Following the service, our Deacons will deliver them to Central's home-bound members.

Type of Flower	Price	Quantity	Total Amount Due
Azaleas	\$14.00		
8" Lily	\$16.00		
Mums	\$9.00		
Hydrangeas	\$14.00		
Calla Lilies	\$14.00		

Your Name _____

Phone/Email _____

In honor of:

In memory of:

Happy Birthday!

Caitlyn Welch	3/2	Sally Mortenson	3/14
Barb Westman	3/3	Alexis Linner	3/15
William Zopfi	3/3	Larry Larson	3/17
Cheryl Williamson	3/4	Cora Jones	3/18
Bradley Peterson	3/5	Jeffery Linner	3/18
Soren Johnson	3/7	Gloriana Wolf	3/18
Andrei Kelly-Kennedy	3/8	Abe Smith	3/19
Amy Adams	3/9	Paula Cooley	3/21
David Fisher	3/9	Grace Toikka	3/22
Marilyn Gjerde	3/9	Derek Peterson	3/25
Laura Henry	3/10	Mary Rose Lee	3/26
Linda Clay	3/14	Annie Siebell	3/28
Stephanie Geisler	3/14	April Greibrok	3/29

New Member Class

Following worship on **Sunday, April 30**, Rev. Colby and folks from the New Members and Volunteers Committee will hold a conversation for people interested in learning more about Central and getting more involved. You can come to the class with your mind open to whether membership might be right for you. We will begin with lunch, share and learn about others, take a tour, ask questions and explore the role of faith in our lives. Hope you will join us! To plan for enough lunch, please RSVP to carlkwillis@gmail.com.

Martha's Closet is having a sale of winter clothing **Thursday, March 16** from 11am -2 pm. Help us clear the racks to make room for spring donations. Great bargains are to be had - Prices range from \$1 to \$7.

Dorcas Circle will meet March 2 at 11:30 am in the Friendship room. Bring your own lunch; coffee will be provided.

Book Group will meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays: March 14 and 28 at 10:30 in the Friendship Room.

The **St. Paul Open Speaker Meeting** (of Alcoholic Anonymous) meets every Sunday night at 7 pm in the basement of Central Presbyterian Church. "Open" means that anyone and any age may attend, even non-alcoholics. There is never a waiting list to attend meetings; there is always an empty chair for someone in need.

Thank you to Doug Throckmorton, Casey Wells, and Jim O'Neill for work on various projects throughout the building – your help is much appreciated!

Thank you to Jackie Klaehn for cleaning and pressing the kids' red choir robes!



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

STAY IN TOUCH!



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OFFICE HOURS ARE

MONDAY-FRIDAY

9:30 AM-2 PM

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 Gabe Talley, ext.116 Sexton/Custodian
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 Sue LeClaire, ext. 114 Sous Chef
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