

# CONNECT CENTRAL

## *Congregation Votes to Approve New Pastor!*

BY CHRISTIE RACHELLE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Rev. Christopher Chatelaine-Samsen said in his sermon, "We conduct perfectly ordinary work every day to make room for the extraordinary."

For over 150 years, Central has stood in service to the Greater Saint Paul community under the helm of many wonderful pastors. Each in their time led congregants, volunteers, leaders, and committees in perfectly ordinary work - serving the daily needs of faith ministry and ongoing needs of missions. So many years later, it is awe inspiring to realize how long this church has weathered time and change, therein reflecting something extraordinary.

### A Vote of Approval

On February 26, the Central congregation voted to step into a new chapter of that historic legacy, welcoming Rev. Christopher Chatelaine-Samsen as its next called pastor in a unanimous vote of approval. With 65 affirmative adult



member votes and 9 affirmative youth votes, the response was clear - the Pastor Nominating Committee had heard the voices of the congregation calling out their needs and desires and identified a candidate who would successfully fit the diverse needs of our church.

The congregation voted to not only accept Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen as our pastor, but also approved his terms of call. As he was informed of the voting tally before announcement to the congregation, he too was offered the opportunity to accept the call and did so with his daughter Junie by his side. It was indeed an exciting day in worship to see two years of searching coming to an end, inviting us to now return our focus to the daily work and intentional growth of the church.

### Starting Date

Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen, or *Chris* as he has invited us to call him, will begin working at Central on April 1 with Palm Sunday (April 2) marking his first regular worship service. There will be a period of adjustment and the business of stepping into new work at Central, so his formal installation will take place at a later

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

MARCH 2023

Lent brings a season of reflection and renewal.



## In This Issue

Congregation Votes to Approve New Pastor ..... 1  
 Upcoming Worship ..... 2  
 The Season of Lent Begins ..... 3  
 Looking for Photographs? ..... 3  
 Welcome Tenor Section Leader .... 6  
 Call to Congregational Meeting ... 6  
 Community Sing ..... 7  
 Thank You from VocalPoint..... 8  
 One Great Hour of Sharing ..... 12  
 Women’s Networking Group ..... 12  
 Easter Flower Order Form..... 13  
 Stay Connected ..... 13  
 Homeless Day on the Hill ..... 14  
 Donate to the March Food Drive 15  
 Children & Youth Ministry ..... 15  
 News from the Finance Committee..... 16  
 Beacon Rally at the Capitol ..... 17  
 Announcements ..... 18  
 Staff Directory ..... 19  
 In the City for Good ..... 20

## New to Central?

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

[office@centralforgood.org](mailto:office@centralforgood.org)

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

(651) 224-4728 ext. 100

# Upcoming Worship

## Sunday Schedule

- 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study
- 10:30 AM Worship Service & Children’s Education
- 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

Nursery care is available upstairs from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. on most worship Sundays this month.

Worship services are streamed live each Sunday on our website at:

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

## Sunday, March 5

### COMMUNION SUNDAY

Rev. Gregg Dana will preach “Born of Water and Spirit” with scripture readings from Psalm 121 and John 3:1-17. The Handbell Ensemble rings, Central Choir will sing, and we will receive a new member.

## Sunday, March 12

Rev. Anne Fisher will preach “Living Water” with scripture readings from Amos 5:18-24 and John 4:5-42. Central Choir sings and Melanie Ohnstad plays organ.

## Sunday, March 19

Rev. Gregg Dana will preach “Healed in the Pool” with scripture readings from Psalm 23 and John 9:1-41. Artist-in-Residence Rod Kelly Hines returns and Central Choir sings. After worship, we will hold the annual congregational meeting to receive the 2022 annual

report and hear Session reports.

This is also Third Sunday Lunch weekend, so after the meeting we invite you join us in the Dining Room for a catered lunch from Barb Westman and her team of amazing volunteers. There is a suggested donation of \$10 for adults, but all who are hungry are invited to eat, regardless of ability to donate.

## Sunday, March 26

Rev. Anne Fisher will preach “All Who Thirst” with scripture readings from Isaiah 55:1-3 and Revelations 21:1-4, 22:1-5. Central Choir sings.

**GIVE IN A NEW WAY:  
Try Giving Via Text Message!**



Simply text **givecentral** to 73256 on your smart phone, then follow the prompts to give your offering via credit card or bank account transfer.

You can give one time, or set up a recurring monthly gift.

Have questions?  
Reach out the church office during normal office hours.

# The Season of Lent Begins with Water and Spirit

BY REV. ANNE FISHER

Gregg and I are grateful to be journeying through this season of Lent with you, with a theme *Water and Spirit*.

It is our hope that focusing our attention on water and the Holy Spirit in this special season here at Central will deepen our faith and encourage our participation as every day we see the cross and the empty tomb approaching.

Water has power. It is life-giving. Life as we know it cannot continue without water. It can also be life-taking.

I grew up in Johnstown PA, where my dad was the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church. Johnstown is called "The Flood City" because of three major floods that devastated the downtown at the junction of Stony Creek and the Little Conemaugh River. The great flood of 1889 is the most famous. Andrew Mellon, Andrew Carnegie, and other Pittsburgh industrial barons had built the largest earthen dam known at that time to create a reservoir for their hunting and fishing lodge. Over years they neglected repairs of the dam. One day in May after heavy spring rains, the dam broke, releasing a wall of water into the unsuspecting heart of the city of Johnstown. The loss of life and devastation were tremendous.

Water is essential for life in our homes, for drinking, cooking, bathing, and cleaning. We are



accustomed to turning the tap and enjoying pure, clean, hot and cold water. But, the water flowing through our urban water systems can destroy life if it is not treated properly. The people of Flint, Michigan and Jackson, Mississippi found that their drinking water was poisoning them, especially their

children, because of decaying lead pipes. It seemed unimaginable that this could happen in our country, but it turned out to be one of the most heart-breaking recent manifestations of racism.

In John 4, we find the story of Jesus encountering a nameless Samaritan woman at the village well. He says to her, "Those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty. The water will become in them a spring gushing up to eternal life." When he met her, Jesus cut through injustice in her life from differences of gender, class, race, and social status. He does the same for us today.

The power of ordinary water can be positive or negative, but water as a sign of the Holy Spirit is all about blessing among people of faith, especially in the sacrament of baptism.

Through these next weeks of Lent, we will seek to discover the interplay of water and God's Spirit, to satisfy our thirst and cleanse us from sin.

## Looking for Photographs?

Want to revisit or share the experience of a recent worship service or event? Simply go to: [www.centralforgood.org/photos](http://www.centralforgood.org/photos). There you can download photos to share of recent church activities,

including VocalPoint, Christmas, and other church happenings.

Check back from time to time as more photographs are added regularly.

# Congregational Vote Approves New Pastor! CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

date to be announced.

Until Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen steps to the pulpit, our Bridge Pastors Rev. Anne Fisher and Rev. Gregg Dana will continue to lead worship each week and provide pastoral care as needed. Our Pastor Nominating Committee will also remain intact until the formal installation service, but at that time will be dismantled as approved by the congregational vote.

## Thank You, Central

At the congregational meeting we heard voices calling out words of thanks to our Pastor Nominating Committee and our staff for their hard work in navigating us through this time.

We also want to take this moment to thank YOU and all members of the Central community. Not only for

your patience as we adapted and navigated the pandemic, but also your help in clarifying the vision of who Central is and who we want to be as we move forward.

This unusual time has felt so extraordinary for many days, weeks, months, and years. It surely will be nice to get back to the 'perfectly ordinary work of every day'!





# Welcome Tenor Section Leader, Matthew Valverde

BY JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTORY OF MUSIC & YOUTH MINISTRY

While Adam and Leah Van der Sluis are enjoying the first weeks of the arrival of baby James, we are thrilled to welcome Matthew Valverde to our choir as Tenor Section Leader.

Matthew has been praised for his sensitive phrasing, “mellifluous” singing, and “handsome” tenor voice (Star Tribune, New York Classical Review). He was awarded a D.M.A. degree and an M.M. degree in vocal performance and literature from the Eastman School of Music (Rochester, NY) and holds degrees from Texas Christian University (Fort Worth, TX). Valverde is Associate Professor of Music at Adams State University in Alamosa, CO, where he also serves as Project Director for a U.S. Department of Education Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Title V Grant.

Matthew has performed solo recitals and has been featured in concerts and operas in New York, Virginia, Minnesota, Michigan, Colorado, Indiana, New Mexico, and Texas. He



made his Carnegie Hall debut in May 2014 and has been tenor soloist in performances including Handel’s *Messiah*, Haydn’s *The Creation*, Mendelssohn’s *Elijah*, Góljov’s *La Pasión Según San Marcos*, Mozart’s *Requiem*, and Britten’s *Serenade and War Requiem*. Orchestral credits include: Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra,

Minnesota Orchestra, Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, National Repertory Orchestra, Rochester Chamber Orchestra, Rochester Oratorio Society, Finger Lakes Choral Festival, and the San Luis Valley Symphony.

Matthew has appeared with the Rochester Lyric Opera, Finger Lakes Opera (Geneseo, NY), John Duffy Institute for New Opera at Virginia Arts Festival, Eastman Opera Theatre, and TCU Opera Studio; he sang in the première performances of *Tienda* (Moya/Vincent) in the Twin Cities. He has performed with the Internationale Bachakademie’s Festivalensemble Stuttgart (Helmuth Rilling), Vox Humana (David Childs), Voices Chamber Choir (William Weinert), Border CrossSing (Ahmed Anzaldúa), and is the tenor section leader of EXIGENCE Vocal Ensemble (Eugene Rogers). He can be heard as tenor soloist with Border CrossSing on their debut album *Un Milagro de Fe* (“A Miracle of Faith”) released on Bridge Records.

## Call to Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation of Central Presbyterian Church will be held in-person on Sunday, March 19 in the sanctuary immediately following worship.

The annual meeting may discuss

business such as electing officers, hearing reports of Session along with plans for the coming year, and receiving the annual report.

The annual report will soon be available for review. You can download it from Central’s website

at [www.centralforgood.org/annual-report](http://www.centralforgood.org/annual-report). Hard copies are available for pickup from the Central office or you may request that a copy be mailed to you by calling Church Administrator Anna Sanchez at (651) 224-4728 ext. 100.

# Community Sing with Rod Kelly Hines of Cantus!

FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & YOUTH MINISTRY

Come and join with other choral musicians as we learn music together that you can take back to your church or community choirs! Everyone who attends will receive free octavos to keep.

## The Details

This event will be held at Central on Sunday, March 26.

12:30 p.m. Registration and Refreshments  
1 - 2 p.m. Community Sing

There is no need to pre-register.

For directions and parking, go to [www.centralforgood.org/directions](http://www.centralforgood.org/directions).

## Meet the Clinicians

ROD KELLY HINES  
BARITONE WITH CANTUS

Rod Kelly Hines is a classically trained baritone and versatile artist who enjoys performing in a variety of genres. He feels most at home in choral ensembles, enjoying the spectrum of artistry that he is able to explore within a vast range of musical styles.

From 2018-2021 he was a member of the Brooklyn-based ensemble Choral Chameleon, under the direction of Vince Peterson. In 2019 he became an inaugural member of Exigence Vocal Ensemble, directed by Dr. Eugene Rogers.

He received a Master of Music in Voice Performance from Georgia



State University in Atlanta, GA, where he performed roles: Masetto in *Don Giovanni* (Mozart), Papageno in *Die Zauberflöte* (Mozart), and Peter in *Hansel & Gretel* (Humperdinck). He was also a featured soloist in the opera *Silent Night* by Kevin Puts, presented by The Atlanta Opera.

JENNIFER ANDERSON,  
CONDUCTOR

Jennifer leads the thriving music program at Central Presbyterian

Church and is the Founding Artistic Director of VocalPoint, an 80-voice auditioned choir that uses the power of people, art, and collaboration to tell the stories of organizations doing life-changing work.

In the larger musical community, Jennifer has served on the board of the Twin Cities American Guild of Organists. A contributor to the PC (USA) Mission Yearbook, Jennifer also co-chaired the Daily Worship Committee for the National PC(USA) convention held in Minneapolis. She has been a speaker at the Chorus America conference in Chicago, and also returned to Synod School at Buena Vista University as co-director of the choir.

## Volunteers Welcome

Not a singer, but want to help out? We could use some people to help with hospitality and registration!

To offer your time, speak with Jennifer by calling (651) 224-4728 ext. 103 or drop an email to [jennifera@centralforgood.org](mailto:jennifera@centralforgood.org).



# Thank You from VocalPoint

BY JENNIFER ANDERSON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF VOCALPOINT

After 12 years at Central, VocalPoint is coming to an end. The concerts in February were a wonderful success with \$34,466.06 raised!

I'd like to share the words that I offered at the concerts here with you – the Central community – because you have been such an integral part of our growing, nurturing, and thriving. Without this beautiful space, your gracious hospitality, and the volunteer hours from so many of you, we couldn't have done this work. Thank you for opening wide your doors to this project and inviting in so many people to experience our unique choir.

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When I was a teenager, my parents bought a small piece of land up in the north woods of Minnesota. It's on a modest little lake that you've probably never heard of, nestled next to Superior National Forest land.

The first spring, my parents purchased 500 little seedlings from the forest service – white pine, Norway pine and black spruce. Then they informed me that I would be joining them and my grandparents to plant these 6" delicate little seedlings all over the jungle of our land. It was a cold, wet spring day that we started our work. Clear a little spot of ground, dig a small hole, plant the seedling, and then, tie a small blaze orange ribbon around it to identify it and help us avoid stepping on it. We

did this 500 times.

This was not prime growing conditions, as you might imagine. Between the moose and the deer, the bitter cold, the lack of consistent watering, and the forest growth that prevents sunlight hitting the little trees, there was lots that might stand in the way of a successful future. And even then, they would grow slowly. Make no mistake, this was a labor of love and faith.

I can only imagine how charming I was that day as a 15 year old. I remember thinking *why bother?* These will take FOREVER to grow, even if they survive at all. Would I, much less my parents, even see the results of this work? But I can assure you, the lesson did sink in:

**Invest in what matters. Take the long view, and know that in order to have beautiful trees in the future, we must plant seeds today.**

I've gotten to listen to the staff at Urban Roots, and they know this truth. They are investing in what matters each time they hire a new youth intern and begin the training about food justice and conservation projects and how to nurture a tiny seed so that it grows and thrives. Sometimes it's about gardening. Always it's about people.

VocalPoint singers and I have had the opportunity to sit around the

huge dining table at the Urban Roots location on Payne Avenue on the East Side of Saint Paul and we've shared a meal together – served generously and abundantly and ending with the most amazing pistachio-cardamom cupcakes. Sometimes it's about eating. Always it's about sharing.

We've heard from the young people who are learning and being nurtured by Urban Roots in our videos today – they've told us about buckthorn and treasures in the form of root veggies, and working alongside chefs and getting outside of the city to enjoy this beautiful state. Sometimes it's about employment. Always it's about hope for something better.

I would like to think that starting 19 years ago we did a little investing of our own – in communities in Southeast Asia recovering from the devastating Tsunami, in a school that lives its mission of peace, in advocating for human rights, in celebrating all who call Minnesota home, and in resourcing a garage on Lake Street. And so much more.

As this season comes to a close for me and for this project that we've done together, people have been asking what has been the highlight of this work. It's been that I've been inspired over and over again. By the headliners who knock our socks off and each one, check off a bucket list item for me. By the non-profits who are doing the work day in and day out, without fanfare and with limited

resources. By the people who have trusted us with their stories – that we would tell them well, with respect and honesty. I've been inspired by your incredible generosity as you've invested in our work – over \$384,000 in total; over \$40,000 last year alone. Incredible. And I've been inspired by these singers who year after year have offered their time, talent, energy, and their dear friendship to me and to each other. Sometimes it's about a concert. Always it's about community.

At these concerts, we ask you to be generous - to plant some seeds with us even though we may not see the specific results. We may not eat a tomato from an Urban Roots garden (although if you visit a Farmers market in St. Paul this summer, you very well may). We may not cross paths with one of the youth interns hired by Urban Roots (although, if you're ever in the position to hire someone who isn't afraid of hard work, you would be lucky if one of those interns applied.)

But I can tell you that there are some beautiful, healthy evergreen trees up on a modest lake in Northern Minnesota that can tell us about labors of love and of faith.

And I can tell you that this conductor knows this truth as well.

And, I thank you.



# VocalPoint Benefits Urban Roots in Final Concerts

TO SEE MORE IMAGES FROM THIS OR PAST EVENTS, GO TO [WWW.CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG/PHOTOS](http://WWW.CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG/PHOTOS)







## One Great Hour of Sharing

FROM COORDINATED MISSION COMMITTEE

In a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

During Lent, we celebrate that God connects with us through Jesus' resurrection and connects us with those who have least. That is what the special offering *One Great Hour of Sharing* is all about.

The three programs it supports -

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry and support to the poor and oppressed

are the key areas of focus for One Great Hour of Sharing.

Central will collect this special offering on Palm Sunday (April 2). Donations can be made through the worship offering plate or online at [www.centralforgood.org/give](http://www.centralforgood.org/give) and click on *One Great Hour of Sharing* from the special offerings.

Want to learn more about One Great Hour of Sharing and how donations are put to use throughout the world, visit [www.pcusa.org/oghs](http://www.pcusa.org/oghs).

## Women's Networking Group

FROM SUE HOFFMAN, WOMEN OF CENTRAL FACILITATOR

Women's Networking events are open to all women of Central, offering a delightful mix of ages, backgrounds, and interests.

### March Event

Our next gathering will be on Thursday, March 9 at Celeste Hotel. We will meet at Celeste at 5:30 p.m. You can park at Central

and walk across the street to join us. We will again request the Board Room for our gathering. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by March 6.

### April Event

Next month we will go to Sawatdee (486 Robert Street North, St. Paul) on Monday, April 3. We will park at Central and walk as a group at

5:25 p.m. to the restaurant or you can meet us there at 5:30 p.m. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by March 31.

We hope you can join us for either or both events!

Want to join our mailing list for future news or RSVP? Email us at [women@centralforgood.org](mailto:women@centralforgood.org).



# EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

Orders are due by Monday, April 3.

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. To donate flowers in memory or honor of a loved one, please fill out the information, attach your payment (payable to Central), and return it to the office or place in the offering plate.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone / Email: \_\_\_\_\_

If you are purchasing in memorial of or in honor of someone, please complete the following:

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of:  
\_\_\_\_\_

PLANT	PRICE EACH	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Azaleas	\$19.00		
Large Lily	\$21.00		
Mums	\$11.00		
Hydrangeas	\$19.00		
Small Lily	\$10.00		
Gerber Daisy	\$ 5.00		

TOTAL DUE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks should be made payable to  
Central Presbyterian Church.



## stay CONNECTED



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CALL ANYTIME WITH QUESTIONS  
(651) 224-4728

# Share Your Passion to End Homelessness

BY CHRISTIE RACHELLE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

Each night, 20,000 Minnesotans experience homelessness, but we know that doesn't have to be our reality. Together, we can work to address homelessness, ensure safe shelter, and create homes across Minnesota.

Homeless Day on the Hill is a day of advocacy. A day when hundreds of Minnesotans gather to talk with their lawmakers about the need for more safe and affordable housing across the state.

We are again excited to welcome the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless into Central for Homeless Day on the Hill - to join together as advocates to meet with legislators, share our stories, and show our support for important housing legislative agenda. This is a family-friendly event and open to all who care about ending homelessness in Minnesota. Prior years have drawn over 800 attendees to Central and we are certain to see another important and productive day.

## IT TAKES AN ENTIRE COMMUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND WE NEED YOU!

Central members & friends are invited to be an event participant or volunteer as a building host. Registration is free but recommended for participants so that they may properly plan for legislator meetings.

To register as a participant, go to: [www.mnhomelesscoalition.org/getinvolved/doth](http://www.mnhomelesscoalition.org/getinvolved/doth).



**2023 HOMELESS DAY ON THE HILL** @MNHomelessCo #MCHDOH

Wednesday, March 8th, 8:00AM-3:00PM

Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless

The banner features three images: a large crowd of people, a person wearing a blue t-shirt with the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless logo, and a hand holding a sign that reads "Safe and dignified Shelter should be an option for everyone".

### EVENT DETAILS

When:  
Wednesday, March 8, 2023  
8 – 9:00 a.m. Registration  
9 -10:00 a.m. Advocacy Training  
10 – 3:00 p.m. Legislator Meetings

Where:  
Registration & Training  
Central Presbyterian Church  
500 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Advocacy Meetings  
Minnesota State Capitol  
75 Rev. Martin Luther King Drive  
St. Paul, MN 55101

To volunteer as a building host, speak with Anna Sanchez in the church office or email her at [office@centralforgood.org](mailto:office@centralforgood.org).

### SHELTER SAVES LIVES. HOUSING ENDS HOMELESSNESS.

The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless (MCH) is a nonprofit 501

(c)(3) public-policy and advocacy organization that works to ensure statewide housing stability and economic security.

The mission of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless is to end homelessness in Minnesota, through generating policies, community support and local resources for housing and services. It does so through advocacy inside the Capitol, outside the Capitol and in the media. With their partners, MCH has advocated for state funds to build over 9,000 units of affordable housing and cultivated over \$270M in legislative wins for housing stability across the state. For more information, check out the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless website at [www.mnhomelesscoalition.org](http://www.mnhomelesscoalition.org) or [www.facebook.com/mnhomelessco](http://www.facebook.com/mnhomelessco) or contact Eden Fauré at [eden@mnhomelesscoalition.org](mailto:eden@mnhomelesscoalition.org) or 651-645-7332.

# Donate to the March Food Drive

FROM LEON OMAN (HUNGER INITIATIVE TASK FORCE)

Hey, Central March is Minnesota FoodShare Month! The Hunger Initiative Task Force and our Coordinated Mission Committee are sponsoring a donation drive March 12 & 19 to benefit the Department of Indian Work (DIW) Food Shelf, a program of Interfaith Action (our partner in Project Home).

## To Make a Financial Gift

Place cash in a giving envelope or leave a check made out to Interfaith Action. Please write "Dept. of Indian Work" on the memo portion of your check or envelope. Financial contributions enable DIW to buy food in bulk, offering a "bigger bang for the buck." Financial gifts can be placed the offering plates.

## To Donate Food Items

High priority items right now are soups, side dishes, and cereals. Actual contributions of food create a larger variety of food on DIW's shelves. Please be sure to check first that items are not out-of-date.

Boxes will be placed for donations at Central's MPR entrance as well as near the Friendship Room.

If you have an Instacart account (or would like to create one), you can order food items and have them delivered directly to DIW. On your home page, click Donate Items/Support a Food Bank and then click on the Dept. of Indian Work.

If you donate through Instacart,

please let the church office know the total amount so they may track donations.

Please bring any financial or food

donations to church on Sundays, March 12 or 19. If you have any questions, please speak with Leon Oman or connect with him through the church office.

## Children & Youth Calendar

### MARCH 5

9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.

10:00 Spark! kids gather in Galilee to prepare for the morning.

10:30 Worship, led by Spark!

11:30 Life Boats Middle School Fellowship until 12:30.

5:45 Confirmation Class

6:30 Compass Senior High Fellowship.

### MARCH 12

9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.

10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection following a Time for Children.

### MARCH 19

9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.

10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection following a Time for Children.

11:30 Lunch and Life Boats Middle School Fellowship until 12:30.

5:45 Confirmation Class

6:30 Compass Senior High Fellowship until 7:30 p.m.

### MARCH 26

9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.

10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection following a Time for Children.

11:30 Spark! meet-up from 11:30—noon. Elementary kids will stay upstairs and prepare something special for worship on April 2, Palm Sunday.

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

# News From the Finance Committee

FROM THE FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE ON CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

## The Work Continues

As the weather warms, you will see restoration activity resuming full tilt outside on our historic building.

This work has been paid in part by the Minnesota Historical Society - thanks to the hard work and dedication of Fluryanne Leach who has persevered in obtaining several grants. This multi-year restoration includes three sides of our building still to be done.

These grants require matching funds from Central, which must come from outside annual budget. To better understand this, we encourage you to read the financial reports in our newly issued 2022 Annual Report.

## What Lies Ahead

In 2022, Session approved a 5-year plan to keep Central on a positive footing financially. This plan requires us to determine if and when a capital campaign should be undertaken to complete our building restoration.

To assist in this process, Central has engaged Partners for Sacred Places to conduct a feasibility study which will measure the viability of a capital campaign to fund the restoration work, including clarifying Central's fundraising potential and possible sources beyond the congregation.

The study will use individual interviews and independent research to analyze the current state of Central Presbyterian Church and its impact

on the life of greater Saint Paul, providing insight into how residents feel about the church and its work in the community. Interviews will include community partners, such as Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative and Interfaith Action of Greater St. Paul, members of the congregation, and those engaged with the missions and activities of Central. We hope you will participate in an interview if asked.

The resulting feasibility study report from Partners for Sacred Places will provide a roadmap for moving forward with a community-wide capital campaign.

## A Capital Campaign

In the coming weeks and months, we will share continued updates from our work with Partners for Sacred Places, including the scope of construction to be addressed by a

capital campaign, as well as the results of the feasibility study, and the strategies recommended to raise funds beyond membership giving.

We are not initiating a capital campaign at this time, but positioning ourselves to do so in the upcoming program year. We will continue to share information on this process as we are able and will answer questions as we are able along the way.

Central Presbyterian Church is so much more than an aging church structure needing renovation. It is a place from which God's work and missions take place.

Having stood for over a century, our building's care is a blessing for not only this time, but years to come as the legacy of this beautiful space continues to serve and our mission remains to be *in the city for good!*





# LOBBY DAY & RALLY AT THE CAPITOL

Monday March 20, 2023

Lobby Day begins at 9:00 a.m. | Rally begins at 1:30 p.m.



We have a remarkable opportunity to win Bring it Home, Minnesota and we need you there with us! Join us in the morning to lobby your representatives and raise your voice with us at the 1:30 p.m. rally to call for the passage of this transformational legislation.

**Register and find more info at  
[www.beaconinterfaith.org/events](http://www.beaconinterfaith.org/events)**

Contact the Central Presbyterian Church office if you need help with transportation.



# Announcement

SUBMIT YOUR COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY NEWS TO CHRISTIER@CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG.



## Exciting News from the Ahmady Family

FROM MAUREEN SMITH

Many of you will remember that five years ago our church sponsored a refugee family from Afghanistan, Taher and Awesta Ahmady and their children. Our congregation was blessed in doing it and members of our congregation have stayed in contact with them over the years as they navigated their new lives in Minnesota.

We are delighted to now share that on February 16th, Taher and Awesta Ahmady became U.S. citizens!

Taher and Awesta want to thank the people of Central who have supported their family these past five years. This is indeed a happy time!

## Volunteers Needed

FROM SHARON ZOPFI-JORDAN AND COORDINATED MISSION COMMITTEE

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

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

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

Save the date our other upcoming dates, including May 13, July 8, September 9, and November 11.

## Happy Birthday!

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

Laura Walls .....	3/1
Caitlyn Welch .....	3/2
Barb Westman .....	3/3
William Zopfi .....	3/3
Andrei Kelly-Kennedy .....	3/8
David Fisher .....	3/9
Marilyn Gjerde.....	3/9
Laura Henry.....	3/10
Farie Hogue.....	3/10
Jean Thein .....	3/12
Stephanie Geisler.....	3/14
Sally Mortenson .....	3/14
Alexis Linner .....	3/15
Lawrence Larson .....	3/17
Cora Jones .....	3/18
Jeffery Linner .....	3/18
Gloriana Wolf.....	3/18
Abe Smith.....	3/19
Paula Cooley .....	3/21
Mary Lou Gilstad.....	3/24
Derek Peterson.....	3/25
Mary Rose Lee .....	3/26

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

## Wednesday Community Lunch

Some days, it is so hard waiting for Wednesday to arrive when you see the delicious menus Chef Barb Westman and her team of volunteers will prepare for the community each week.

If you have not yet experienced the Wednesday Community Lunch, we invite you to do so this week! Offered every Wednesday from

11:45 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., lunch is open to everyone in the community. There is a suggested donation of \$10 per person. However, all who are hungry are invited to eat, regardless of their ability to pay.

If you get there early, you may also have the chance to purchase an extra loaf of bread to take home. (And trust me... you want it!) To see the menu each week, check our Facebook page or go to [www.centralforgood.org](http://www.centralforgood.org).



## Calling All Creatives

FROM KIERA FAYE, CHAIR OF THE WORSHIP, MUSIC & ARTS COMMITTEE

Are you creative or artistic? Looking to connect with other creative folks? Would you like to help brighten up the sanctuary?

Watch for upcoming news from the

Worship, Music, and Arts Committee to update and expand Central's collection of banners and sanctuary décor.

## Will You Help?

Each Sunday we rely on volunteers to assist in many areas of worship activities. As join us any Sunday, please consider volunteering in one of the following ways:

- Fellowship Prep (Make coffee and organize cookie plates.)
- Coffee Service (Serve during fellowship hour after worship.)
- Nursery Care (Play with and provide care for our youngest congregants in the nursery.)
- Worship Ushers (Welcome guests to worship, distribute bulletins, and assist with receiving offering.)
- Sanctuary Pew Patrol (Help our pews organized and stocked.)
- Worship Readers (Serve during worship as a liturgist - leading prayers, reading scripture, and speaking from the pulpit.)
- Videographer (Serve as camera operator and editor for our live-stream broadcast video. No worries, training is provided!)

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

## CENTRAL STAFF DIRECTORY

(651) 224-4728

### Bridge Pastors

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### Church Administrator

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William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus  
Mary Lange, Receptionist

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Laura Walls, Sunday  
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Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher  
Maria Stokes, Nursery Care Giver

### Music Ministry

Shanta Hejmadi, Abbie Betinis,  
Adam Van der Sluis, Eric Bartlett,  
Steve Swanson, Barbara Brooks,  
Dr. Melanie Ohnstad, Rod Kelly Hines

### Adult Education

Maureen Smith, Bible Study Leader

### Food Ministry

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### Building Maintenance

Lavar Jones, Custodian  
Peter Evarts, Custodian



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## Did You Know?

This legislative session has affordable housing in its Top 12 Priorities, thanks to SF11/HF11 bills which will offer transformative rental support to those struggling to afford basic housing in Minnesota.

Join us Sundays, March 5 & 12 after worship for a postcard campaign activity to encourage legislators to fund this important legislation and *Bring It Home, Minnesota!*



CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*