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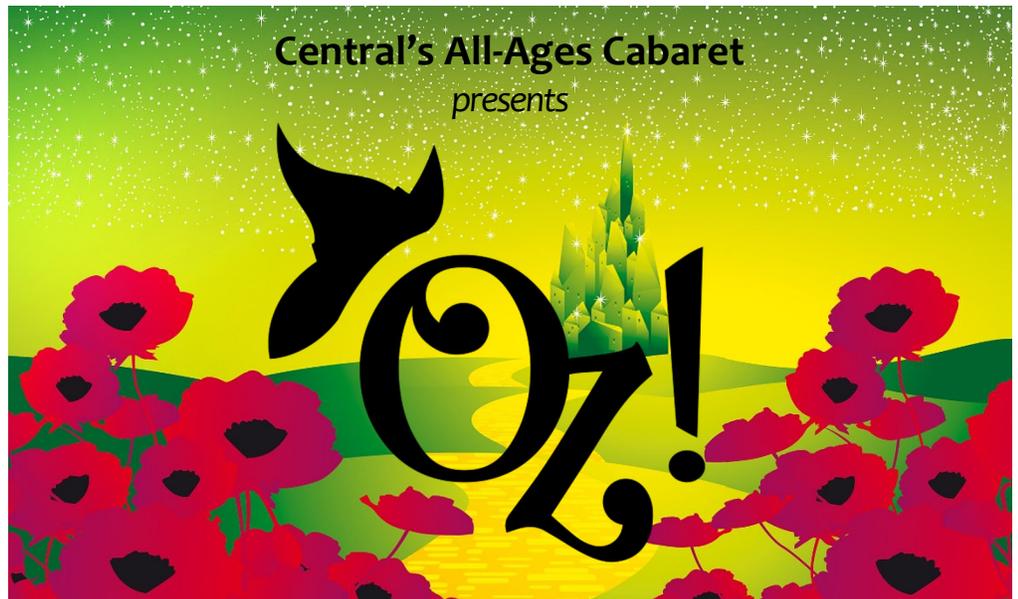
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CABARET RETURNS WITH OZ! SAVE THE DATE FOR MAY 22 AT NOON

[BY JENNIFER ANDERSON]

After wonderful productions in the past of *Mary Poppins* and *The Sound of Music*, we are delighted to welcome another fun cabaret performance at Central . . . OZ!

This year's all-ages cabaret features song favorites from *The Wizard of Oz*, *The Wiz*, and *Wicked*!

Cabaret will be presented on Sunday, May 22 at noon. No ticket is required, so spread the word - come one, come all and enjoy the show!

Rehearsals for our children's chorus of elementary and middle school students continue each Sunday morning as part of the Sunday Connection Time during worship on May 1, May 8, and May 15.

Rehearsals for high school students and adults continue each Wednesday evening at 7:15 p.m.

On Wednesday, May 18, there will be a special rehearsal at 7:15 p.m. for all who have solo parts, including children, youth, and adults. Everything then comes together on

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 9]

UPCOMING WORSHIP

**WORSHIP IN-PERSON
SUNDAYS AT 10:30 A.M.**

**SERVICES STREAMED LIVE
ONLINE ON OUR WEBSITE AT
www.centralforgood.org/stream**

Thank you to all who have stepped in to help with our video live-stream. If you would like to be trained on video services for future volunteering, please contact the office to be put in contact with head videographers Josh Voelker and/or Kiera Faye.

Sunday, May 1

PSALM 30:1-5, 11-12
ACTS 9: 1-20

On this communion Sunday, Rev. Carol Reed preaches "New Beginnings." Central Choir sings with Steve Swanson on piano. After worship, stay for the artist reception.

Sunday, May 8

ISAIAH 53:1-6
ACTS 9:36-43

Rev. Carol Reed preaches "The Spirit on the Move." Central Choir sings with special guest-conductor Paul Gulsvig. Patrick Henning plays the organ.

Sunday, May 15

This Sunday while Rev. Reed is away for a study leave, we welcome Rev. Phil Romine. First as a seminary intern and then as a member of our staff, Phil came to know and love many Central members and friends between 2014 to 2017. He currently serves as the Congregational Engagement Coordinator at Interfaith

Action, where he helps connect congregations to volunteer opportunities in St. Paul.

Central Choir sings with Patrick Henning on organ and the Handbell Ensemble plays. After worship, stay for Third Sunday Lunch and an update from Rev. Romine on the work of Interfaith Action.

Sunday, May 22 CABARET SUNDAY!

PSALM 67
ACTS 16:9-15

Rev. Carol Reed preaches "Lydia's Story." Enjoy a sneak peak of the Cabaret event "Oz!" during worship, then join us at noon and enjoy the full "Oz!" performance.

Sunday, May 29

PSALM 2
ACTS 16:16-34

Rev. Carol Reed preaches "Rejoicing in God" and Steve Swanson plays piano.

New to Central?

**Drop us an email
and say hello.**

office@centralforgood.org

**We would love
to connect with you!**

CENTRAL STAFF

(651) 224-4728

PASTOR

Rev. Dr. Carol Reed,
Transitional Pastor
carolr@centralforgood.org, ext. 102

ADMINISTRATION

Anna Sanchez, Church Administrator
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Matt Ehling, Treasurer
William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus

Mary Lange, Evening Receptionist

Lavar Jones & Peter Evarts, Custodians

PROGRAMS

Jennifer Anderson,
Director of Music & Youth Ministry
jennifera@centralforgood.org, ext. 103

Laura Walls, Sunday Connection
Coordinator, ext. 109
lauraw@centralforgood.org

Music Staff: Shanta Hejmadi, Abbie Betinis, Laura Krider, Adam Van der Sluis, Steve Swanson, David Winkworth, Patrick Henning

Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher

Maureen Smith, Bible Study Leader

COMMUNITY MEALS

Barb Westman, Chef & Manager
barb.westman@gmail.com

Sue LeClaire, Sous Chef

MARTHA'S CLOSET

Sandy White, Director
martha@centralforgood.org, ext. 112

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE BEGINS

[FROM REV. CAROL REED & AL ZDRAZIL, CHAIR OF THE PNC]

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has assembled and has begun its work to find a new permanent pastor for Central. Some in our congregation have inquired as to how the PNC was formed and requested insight into its composition.

Identifying Candidates

The congregation was invited for a number of months to attend informational meetings about the PNC to see if they might feel called to serve the church in this way. The Nominating Committee then began recruiting additional members -

making direct phone calls to people of all ages, including long-term members as well as newer members, people with children and those without children, people who came to Central from Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church and those who are legacy members of Central. While not everyone was able to serve in this way or at this time, we are grateful for those who stepped forward to do the work of the PNC in the months to come.

PNC is Formed

The following people were approved to the PNC in a vote at the annual meeting on March 27, 2022.

- Gifty Amarteifio
- Sue Hoffman
- Jackie Klaehn
- John Lee
- Todd Mikish
- Lynda Petrie
- Josh Voelker
- Al Zdrazil

We are thankful to you all for your willingness to serve on this important task.

PNC Gets to Work

Since its election in March, the PNC has met twice. Assignments have been issued (and accepted) and the committee is working diligently on next steps, specifically preparation of the Ministry Information Form. If at anytime you have questions about the pastor search process or the work of the PNC, speak with Rev. Reed.



FINANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

[FROM MATT EHLING, TREASURER]

Thanks to generous giving by members, Central's finances are in positive territory for the year-to-date. Central has also been capturing more of its per capita payment than in past years. This per capita amount is money that all Presbyterian churches owe to the

denomination. It is calculated based on church membership. When members cover Central's per capita allotment with dedicated gifts, it frees up money elsewhere in the church budget that can be used for worship, musical programming, and other key needs. This year the per capita fee is \$36.50 per member.

The Finance Committee would also like to thank members who have reliably contributed to the Zopfi Building Improvement Fund in recent months. Those contributions recently enabled the church to replace a kitchen freezer — a much needed upgrade as our Wednesday lunch program came back on line.

BRICK BY BRICK FUNDRAISER

[FROM BARB SWANSON]

As shown so well in the April newsletter, the restoration work on the front of our historic building has made a very notable difference in both its condition and appearance. Thanks to member Fluryanne Leach, we've been able to obtain Minnesota Historical Society Legacy grants to help with that restoration and the limestone foundation this year.

The Work Continues

We have three more sides of our building in need of restoration. The back (east) side is next. As you can imagine, costs increase each year and the building's condition worsens. We will continue to apply for grant funding, and providing matching funds is important for making our grant application more attractive.

To increase the matching fund amount needed for a grant to repair/replace the masonry on the back of



the building (east side), our immediate need and goal is to raise \$30,000 by July 14.

Love those bricks!

Bricks may not be high on your list of most beautiful church building features, but our bricks need a lot of love! Most of the bricks on the east side require replacing 100% of the repointing and a number of areas will need 50% of the them replaced.

Please show your love of bricks by donating \$50 or \$100 per brick!

If a brownstone suits your preference then consider donating \$500!

Please designate "Restoration" on your check, to help increase the grant match!

The Finance & Stewardship Committee thanks you for your generosity and your love for our historic building.

BEACON RALLIES ON THE HILL

Thanks to all who were able to join Beacon Housing Leadership for the rally at the Capitol for legislation to Bring It Home Minnesota! We had a nice turnout from Central members, including some virtual participants.

Your commitment to rent support is greatly appreciated!

What do we want? Bring It Home! When do we want it? NOW!



Roger's and Virgie's signs read: "everyone deserves a roof!"

A SIGN OF SPRING

[FROM REV. CAROL REED]

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.

– Isaiah 35:1-2

The weeks that follow Easter are called the Season of Easter in the church. It reminds us that Easter is not just a day. Actually, each Sunday morning is called a “Little Easter” – emphasizing that we are an Easter people who proclaim the message of the resurrection with our very lives.

Easter falls on the calendar differently every year, actually determined by the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox. The formula is not important but it means Easter can come some years in Minnesota when the snow is still very much on the ground and some years when springtime is in full bloom.

This year we have had many false starts to spring as winter just did not seem ready to let go. The weekend of Palm Sunday, I went out to the Landscape Arboretum in Chaska for a walk. It was still cold enough many nights so that the sap was still running in the maple trees that were still being tapped on the grounds. However, despite the cold temperatures, there was enough sunshine that the earliest spring flowers – the crocus and snowdrops – were showing off their spring colors.

Whatever the date, Easter always is a visual reminder of new life. My prayer is that during this Easter season you too will be able to feel

blessed by the world our God created.

God bless to us each sign of spring, each new green shoot, each lighter day, each warmer wind. God bless to us rebirth.

– by Kate McIlhagga
from *A Book of Blessings*



A POEM FOR EASTER

Like a blade of grass pushing up stubbornly through the sidewalk. or
Like the butterfly emerging from the tomb-like chrysalis.
But much more.

Like the seed after years of dormant death sending up sprout. or
Like the brown bulb breaking forth from brown earth into brilliant color.
But much more.

Like brilliant daybreak after stormy, darkened night. or
Like a rainbow mystically appearing amidst the rain.
But much more.

Like a patient making an unexpected, unpredicted turn for health. or
Like the pine cone opening to spread seed only after touched by fiery death.
But much more.

Like a beautiful vase emerging from a lump of clay in the potter's hands. or
Like a hidden spring burbling forth in the middle of a barren desert.
But much more.

Like the surprise of Spring's buds pushing aside Winter's snow. or
Like someone finally emerging from the fatality of addiction.
But much more.

So, it comes.
Nothing else like it.

No image adequate. No simile. No metaphor.
Unable to talk about it but inadequately.
We celebrate this great, real mystery that
Neither language nor imagination can encompass.
Easter!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

[FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON]

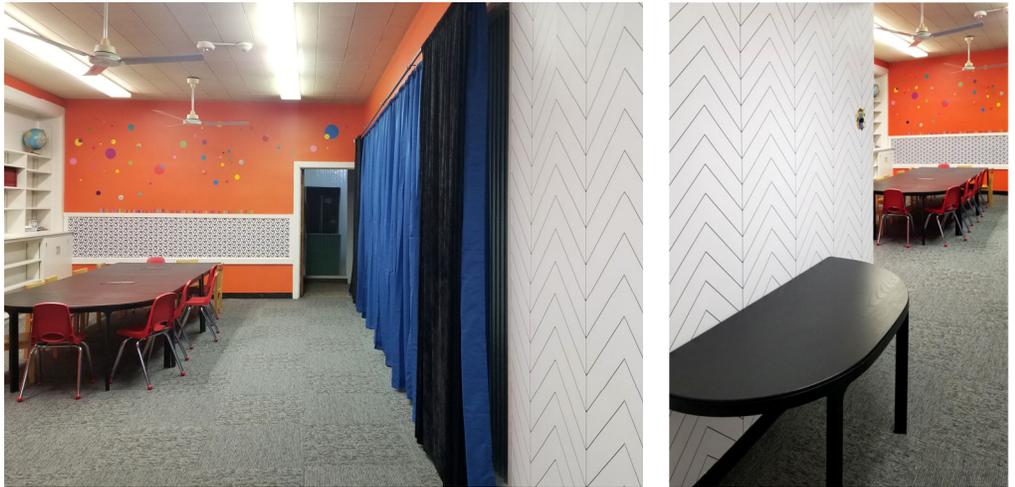
Exciting Changes Happening Upstairs

I'm so excited to share that we have a perked-up space for our mid/older Elementary kids to learn and grow together! What has been fondly known as the "Orange Room" has undertaken some changes to incorporate new patterns and wall designs. It has also received a new "stage" for acting out Bible stories and a game or two of charades just for fun. Now it is ready for 7-year-olds and older to join Laura on worship mornings for Sunday Connection.

A huge thanks to Jackie Klaehn (and Rowan and Lucy) for helping prepare the room, as well as to Jeremy Berg for the donation of the table, Jim O'Neill for various carpentry help, and to ALL who donated chairs to make this space comfortable and functional for our kids. (While one set of the new red chairs was delayed in shipping, we are eager to see them arrive soon!)

Opportunities for Children in Worship

Children and youth are a beloved part of our faith community! As such, all are welcome in the sanctuary during worship. There are worship bags with activities in the back of the sanctuary as well as children's Bibles in various pew racks. We also offer the following age-appropriate options for ministry and connection:



NURSERY CARE: (infant – age 6) from 9:15 – 11:45 a.m.

SUNDAY CONNECTION: following the Time for Children to 11:45 a.m.

- Nursery (infant – age 3) in the Nursery
- Ages 4 – 6 in the Preschool Room
- Ages 7 – up in the Orange Room

Following the Time for Children, Laura will take the children upstairs and make sure each child finds their classroom. If you are new to Central, please make sure that we have contact info for you (such as a cell phone number which we can text you on) in case we need to reach you during the service.

Following worship, please come upstairs and pick up your child. We are requiring masks for everyone (age 2+) in the education area.

Youth Ministry

Eleven of our youth led the Maundy Thursday Service in Holy Week this year. They prepared for six stations, all based on the Maundy Thursday "new commandment" to *love one another*. (See next page.) It was a beautiful service, and I'm so proud of our young people and so grateful to all who worshiped with us.

A special thank you is sent out to the amazing adults who are connecting to our youth in really wonderful ways though our regularly held youth group meetings: Deborah Fonkert,

Kiera Faye, and Jess Garner.

If there's a teen/preteen in your life who would like to join us, please extend an invitation! We meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.

Save the Date!

MAY 1

- LIFEBOATS (Grades 5 – 7)
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- COMPASS (Grades 8 – 12)
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

MAY 15

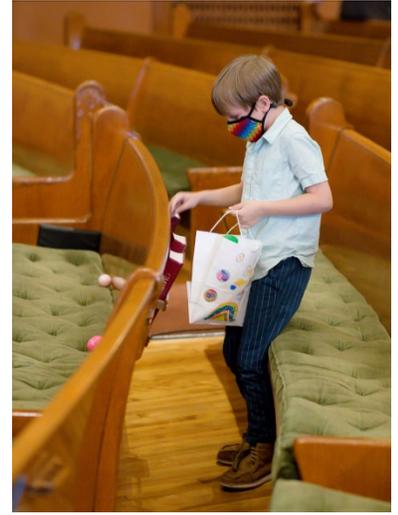
- LIFEBOATS (Grades 5 – 7)
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 pm
- COMPASS (Grades 8 – 12)
6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Have Questions?

Drop a note to Jennifer Anderson at jennifera@centralforgood.org or call (651) 224-4728 ext. 103.



REFLECTIONS FROM EASTER SUNDAY





CABARET RETURNS WITH "OZI!"
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

May 22 with the following schedule:

9:00 - 10:15 a.m.: Full cast rehearsal.

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.: Worship; plus Sunday Connection time upstairs.

11:30 - 11:50 a.m.: Snack break and time to get costumes on. Then, be backstage and ready for the show!

12:00 p.m.: "OZI!" (Show will be about 45 minutes or so...).

If you want to be part of this fun event as a singer, musician, or stage hand, please speak with Jennifer Anderson right away!

Want to share the experience from a seat in the audience? No ticket is required. Simply join us after worship on May 22 for the noon performance.

Thank you!

ARTIST RECEPTION

[FROM KIERA FAYE]

In April, the gallery in the Friendship Room began featuring abstract watercolor and collage works by Marie Panlener. We have scheduled the artist reception for Sunday, May 1 after worship where you can meet the artist and learn more about her creative work and process. We invite you to visit the exhibition and see Marie's watercolor paintings. You will delight in the luminous color that is full of movement. It complements the colors of the stained glass windows so beautifully!

"I started my professional art career in a corporate graphics department in print design, and moved into web design, then video production and editing. I retired and am now able to watercolor paint daily, right after I drink a cup of coffee and catch up with the funnies." states Marie Panlener. "The qualities of watercolor: movement, transparency, color, value, are so absorbing that all



other things retreat. There is a lot to learn and lots of choices to make. It took me five years to settle on the colors in my palette and now and then I still find a new color to try. Watercolor painting takes years of commitment, including lots of failure (just part of the process). But then again I might be a slow learner."

Stop by the Friendship Room the next time you are at Central and see Marie's works. Then join us May 1st for the artist's reception and learn more about the inspiration, process, and works direct from the artist. Enjoy more works from Marie at www.mariepanlener.com.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Study Leave for Rev. Reed

[FROM REV. CAROL REED]

Pastor Carol will be away on study leave the week of May 15-20, attending the Festival of Homiletics, a week of speakers and workshops for worship leaders and preachers from across the U.S. This year's theme is: *After the Storm: Preaching and Trauma.*

Women's Networking Group

[FROM SUE HOFFMAN]

The group had fun at Celeste Hotel this past month, even on a rainy evening!

We will return to Celeste again on Wednesday, May 25 at 5:30 p.m. You can park at Central and walk across Cedar Street to join us. The staff at Celeste is so happy to have us visit them. And, the staff at Celeste are regulars at Central's Wednesday Lunch!

Please RSVP by May 23 to if you plan to attend by simply emailing women@centralforgood.org.

Please watch eConnect and our WNG email notifications to stay informed about our latest plans. You can join the Women's Networking email list by sending a note to women@centralforgood.org.

Thank You Writers!

[FROM SHARON ZOPFI-JORDAN]

The Hunger Task Force would like to

thank everyone who wrote letters to Minnesota's Congressional members encouraging them to support the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act of 2021.

126 letters were sent after the April 3rd event, with the following counts:

- Senator Amy Klobuchar - 39
- Senator Angie Smith - 39
- Rep. Betty McCollum - 34
- Rep. Angie Craig - 4
- Rep. Ilhan Omar - 4

Central was one of the many congregations across the country participating in the Bread for the World letter writing campaign.

Central Seeks a Musician-in-Residence

[FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON]

In late 2021, Central received a grant to grow our music ministry with new artist-in-residency programs. Now, we are excited to begin that work by hiring a Musician-in-Residence for a 10-month residency. This position will run September 2022 - June 2023 and help us deepen and broaden our understanding of Black sacred musics through shared music making and engagement.

To learn more about this position, or to share the job description with someone you know who may be a great fit, simply go to:

www.centralforgood.org/employment



Join us in wishing a joyous *Happy Birthday* to all who are celebrating birthdays this month.

Cort Peterson	5/1
Richard Swanson	5/2
Elizabeth Brzoska	5/5
Paul Gulsvig	5/8
Charlene Fleck	5/10
Susan Hoffman	5/11
Marlyss Wolf	5/11
Dorothy Canfield	5/15
Jon Pearce	5/15
William Zopfi-Jordan	5/15
Mark Vance	5/19
Jessica Jones	5/21
Braylen Lawson	5/21
Kathie Pate	5/22
Josh Voelker	5/22
Richard Kinde	5/23
Christine McCarten	5/23
Gavia Endres	5/27
Catheryne Turner	5/28
Michele Patton	5/29
Sebastian Rich	5/29
Audrey Thompson Amarteifio	5/29

If we missed you, send a note to office@centralforgood.org so we can update our notes and share birthday wishes with you, too!



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CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*

Thank You Donors!

Thank you to all who have donated to One Great Hour of Sharing and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to provide humanitarian aid during the invasion of Ukraine. As of the date of this newsletter, Central has collected more than \$4988 in donations!

If you would still like to make a donation, you may do so directly by visiting the PDA website at <https://pda.pcusa.org>.