

CONNECT CENTRAL

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OCTOBER 2021

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WHO'S HUNGRY?

WEDNESDAY AND THIRD SUNDAY LUNCHES RETURN TO CENTRAL IN OCTOBER!

[BY CHRISTIE RACHELLE]

An exciting part of the Central community is its dedication to fellowship and serving the hunger needs in the community. After a long absence, we are delighted to announce that our beloved lunch programs are returning!

Wednesday Community Lunches will open to the public on October 6 and include a takeout meal option. **Third Sunday Lunch** will welcome members and visitors after worship on October 17 (which is also the

day of our VocalPoint kick-off event). Both meal services offer a vegetarian option.

The delicious meals are created by chef Barb Westman, sous chef Sue LeClaire, and a team of volunteers for a suggested donation of \$8 per person. All who are hungry are invited to eat, no matter if their ability to pay.

To learn more about the week's menu and lunch service, go to www.centralforgood.org/lunch.



UPCOMING WORSHIP

**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:30AM
ONLINE & IN-PERSON**

Sunday, October 3

**WORLD COMMUNION
SUNDAY & JUSTICE CHOIR**

On this day we focus on peacemaking and justice-seeking, we will hear about 3 unique areas of work from our members: *"How Routing an Interstate Highway through South Minneapolis Disrupted an African-American Neighborhood,"* from Dr. Ernest Lloyd; the rent stabilization efforts of Beacon Interfaith Housing; and an update from Maureen Smith on the Ahmady Family (refugees from Afghanistan sponsored by Central in 2017). Come hear the good work that is happening at Central!

ALL are welcome to join us for Justice Choir! Vaccinated teens and adults will rehearse at 9:45 a.m. in the balcony. After worship, everyone (all ages and vaccination statuses) are invited to sing outside on the steps. No singing experience required, just a heart for music with a great message!

"Love is Love" t-shirts will be available on a first come first serve basis! (Adult and youth sizes.)

Sunday, October 10

PSALM 91:1-6, 14-16
MARK 10:17-31

Rev. Carol Reed will preach and the Handbell Ensemble and the Central Choir share music. On this day, fellowship time will return to the Friendship Room and we will have an

Artist Reception. (See page 11)

Sunday, October 17

VOCALPOINT KICKOFF

Come and learn about our 2022 beneficiary organization and our special guest artists.

Third Sunday Lunches return! After worship, head down to the dining room for a delicious catered meal prepared by Chef Barb Westman and her team of volunteers. The suggested donation is \$8 per person. All who are hungry are invited to eat and no one is turned away for inability to pay. There will be vegetarian options available.

Sunday, October 24

PSALM 34:1-8 | MARK 10:46-52

Rev. Carol Reed will preach "Blessing God at All Times". Chamber Ensemble and the Central Choir share music.

Sunday, October 31

ALL SAINTS' DAY

DEUTERONOMY 6:1-9
MARK 12:28-34

Rev. Carol Reed will preach "Loving God with Heart, Mind, and Soul" and we will remember those who have died in the past year by name in observance of All Saints' Day. The Central Choir sings special music as we honor and remember.

Loved ones are invited to bring pictures and objects of those who have died, which will be placed by the pulpit.

CENTRAL STAFF

(651) 224-4728

PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Dr. Carol Reed,
Transitional Pastor
carolr@centralforgood.org, ext. 102
Maureen Smith, Bible Study Leader

ADMINISTRATION

Anna Sanchez, Church Administrator
office@centralforgood.org, ext. 100

Christie Rachele,
Director of Communications
christier@centralforgood.org, ext. 105
(952) 564-4472

Matt Ehling, Treasurer
William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus
Mary Lange, Evening Receptionist

Lavar Jones, Sexton

MUSIC

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

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

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Currently Seeking to Fill Position of
Children & Youth Ministry Coordinator

Natalie Pence, Nursery Care Provider

Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher

FOOD INITIATIVE

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

Sue LeClaire, Sous Chef

Peter Evarts, Dishwasher

MARTHA'S CLOSET

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

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

[BY JENNIFER ANDERSON]



Welcome Laura Krider!

We welcome back Laura Krider as our Alto Section Leader while Abbie and Eric take a leave of absence. You may remember her filling in during Abbie's maternity leave.

Laura is an arts worker and singer who lives for making creative projects happen, serving as a connector, and nerding out on organizational culture. Her path started in music education and as it morphed into administration, she remains a constant advocate for all things access and education. At her day job (American Composers Forum, or ACF), Laura works to build organizational infrastructure so her fellow workers can do what they do best. She also oversees all ACF's youth programs and supports partnership projects as they arise.

Outside of ACF, Laura enjoys being an active freelancer in the choral and chamber music-making communities, listening to too many comedy and culture podcasts, cohabitating with her adopted pup Mo (yes, her home is now named

MoTown), and making meaningful connections with her friends and family. Say hi to Laura next time you see her!

Rehearsal Schedule

For those who participate:

- Central Choir rehearses Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- Handbell Ensemble rehearses Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Choir Room.
- Chamber Ensemble rehearses Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room.

Sticks & Steel will do some special events, like the Drumming on the Steps held in September, but will wait for our children to be vaccinated before holding indoor rehearsals.

Chamber Ensemble

Did you used to play an instrument? Even if it's been awhile, I would invite you to consider joining us in the Chamber Ensemble. You might be a little rusty, and that's ok! You'll be surprised how, with a little practice and stick-with-it-ness, you'll remember and re-learn. It's good for our brains to be challenged and it's good to try new things even when they're difficult. You won't find a more supportive and encouraging group! Talk with me if you think you might be interested; I'll want to know ahead of our first rehearsal (October 6 at 6:30 pm) so that I have music ready for you. I hope to see you!



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VOCALPOINT KICKS OFF 2022 CONCERTS

[BY JENNIFER ANDERSON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF VOCALPOINT]

VOCALPOINT SUNDAY OCTOBER 17 - 10:30 WORSHIP

Come and learn about our 2022 Beneficiary Organization and special Guest Artists! Members of VocalPoint will join our Central Choir up in the balcony as we safely sing together.

The 2022 Beneficiary: The Lift Garage

THE LIFT GARAGE VISION

As a thriving not-for-profit business, The Lift Garage offers quality, affordable auto repair for people who are on a path to a better future.

Everyone connected with The Lift Garage is committed to respect to one another, to quality in our work, and a living wage for our employees.

Our friendly and hospitable staff offer people excellent customer service. We stand behind our repairs and the skills of our staff.

Our well-kept garage and offices are furnished with the tools and equipment we need to do the job right.

As a locally owned business, we work hard to be a good neighbor. When we make decisions, we ask: What is best for the people involved? What is best for our community? What is best for the health of the planet?

We go the extra mile for customers. If a car repair is too big for us or a customer has another important need, we do our best to connect

people with helpful resources in our community.

Each day, the people of The Lift Garage feel thankful. We know that, together, we are repairing not just cars, but lives: restoring hope and opportunity by helping people get to school and to jobs as an important step toward a more promising and secure future.

The Headliner: Chastity Brown

Chastity Brown is a storyteller in the blues tradition. The Minnesota-via-Tennessee songwriter and musician tells stories populated by marginalized characters to stake her own space as a queer black woman and to speak to other experiences oftentimes ignored. The daughter of a black blues musician and white Irish mother who was raised in Tennessee, she's made a home in Minneapolis for more than a decade.

She was signed by Red House Records and released her acclaimed



album *Silhouette of Sirens* in 2017 which was chosen as a "First Listen" by NPR. She's gone on to tour internationally and supported the Indigo Girls, Jayhawks, and Micheal Kiwanuka among others. She's also toured as backing vocalist and opening band for Ani DiFranco on US, UK, and EU tours. In 2019, she was chosen to perform alongside the MN Orchestra directed by Osmo



Vanska, where she presented an evening of her original songs.

Visual Artist: Cadex Herrera

Originally from Belize, Cadex Herrera is a multi-disciplinary artist, bringing awareness to humanitarian, social and environmental injustices by championing culture, history, people of color, immigrants and marginalized peoples. He aims to create art that empowers the viewer as well as elevates the subjects and themes that he explores through his work.

You are probably familiar with Mr. Herrera's art, as he was one of the three muralists that created the iconic George Floyd Mural on Cup Foods.

Save the Date!

VocalPoint's 2022 Concerts benefitting The Lift Garage will be held at Central on:

- February 5, 2022 at 4 p.m.
- February 6, 2022 at 4 p.m.

For more information about VocalPoint, the audition process, and benefit concerts, visit their website at www.vocalpointchorus.org.

Stay up to date on announcements by following VocalPoint Chorus on Facebook!

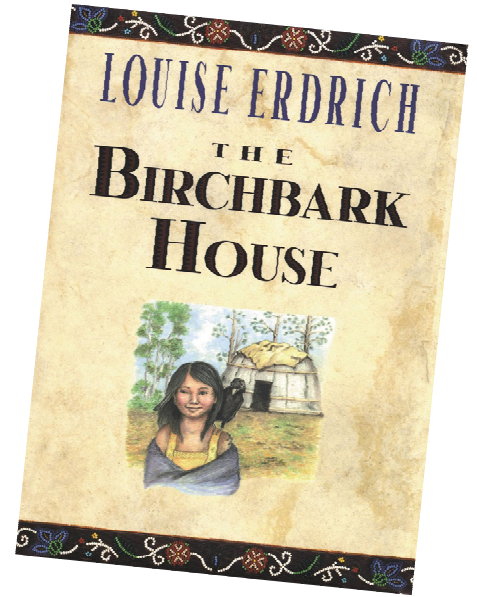


ANTI-RACISM READING

[BY REV. LOU BENDER, ARTF
CONVENER]

Did anyone else spend part of your childhood reading the *Little House* books by Laura Ingalls Wilder? One summer our family made a series of very interesting day trips and overnight excursions to nearby sites where the real Ingalls family story was lived. We loved the travels and the sites, but discovered that we were not nearly so enamored with the books as I was as a child. Part of the reason, I think, was their degrading depiction of Indians.

I longed for a counterpoint, a way to learn about the Indian children of the prairie. In a sixth grade English class at the school where I now teach, I found what I was looking for. Louise Erdrich, the award-winning Minnesota author of both German and Native American heritage, wrote the story of Omakayas, a young girl of the Ojibwe tribe on the shores of Lake Superior, and her family. The book I read was *The Birchbark House*, which I recently discovered was only the first in a series of nine volumes. (I can't wait to read the full series, which is still being written!) Targeted to middle school students, the book was very interesting to me as an adult reader, and would also make a great family read-aloud with younger children. As my sole caution, I would recommend that parents of the most sensitive children among us read ahead if you want to prepare for questions;



the topics are real-life and full of tender moments.

In choosing a book study for the fall, the Anti-Racist Task Force decided to set aside heavier subjects for a season, and just get to know the Ojibwe way of life. ARTF invites all interested members of the Central Presbyterian Community to join them in an all-church read of *The Birchbark Tree* by Louise Erdrich. The book is being reprinted, and will be available in mid-November. We will place a bulk order (\$8 a copy) and are glad to include you if you let the church office know by October 15 that you would like a book. You may also borrow from the library, of course, use Kindle or audiobook, or place your own order. We will have a few copies at the church to borrow, as well. Join us! We are going to have a great time, learn a lot, and all without being expected to show up at more meetings!

FESTIVAL SUNDAY BRINGS CENTRAL TOGETHER





WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

[BY REV. CAROL REED]

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”

II Corinthians 12:27

World Communion comes every October and is a time for us to remember that we are but a very small part in the body of Christ that stretches around the world.

Origin Story

The first celebration of what was once called Worldwide Communion, was at the Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1933. Rev. Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr was the pastor at Shadyside Church at that time and had served as moderator of the denomination’s General Assembly in 1930. His vision of traveling and meeting people across the Presbyterian Church grew out of that experience. He had a desire, first that his own congregation, and then for each congregation to feel the connection with others in the Body of Christ.

The country was in a difficult time, in the middle of the Great Depression. The idea of sharing communion with others started slowly at first. Over a series of years it began to grow from one congregation to another and gradually spread to other denominations.

In 1940 the National Council of Churches adopted Worldwide Communion in this country. As the world went to war in the 1940s, the desire to feel unity with other Christians continued to grow. For

those churches that celebrated it, World Communion came to represent how people of faith were working to find unity in the midst of a war that had spread across the globe.

A Unique Time

In 2021 we find ourselves in yet another difficult time in this country. This time we are united with others across the world in the fight to beat the pandemic and to rebuild after all the disruption it has caused. Churches everywhere are wondering what life will look like once we finally get beyond this unprecedented time.

As people of faith, we gather together in worship to praise God from whom all blessings flow. We gather to pray for help in the challenges we are facing in our time. We search together for how God is calling us to also look beyond ourselves and respond to the needs in our community and our world.

Join Us in Worship

On Sunday, October 3 we gather around the Lord’s Table, remembering that God’s love stretches beyond us and that we are not alone – God is ever with us and we have the support of other followers of Jesus Christ through the fellowship of the church. Please join us for in-person worship that day or from home as we celebrate the Lord’s Supper with Christians all around the world.

Prayer

As we gather at your table from all over the world, O God, we pray that all those who come to you in the name of Christ might be one in Spirit. Knead us together in one loaf. Free us from jealousy and selfish ambition; unite us in mission and service to those in need everywhere. May we sow righteousness and harvest peace, through the grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer taken from *Flames of the Spirit*



SUMMER REFRESHMENTS

[BY MARCIA ROBERTS]

For many years, people attending Central Presbyterian Church have enjoyed beverages and refreshments after church service in the Friendship Room. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, precautions were taken when we returned to gather for fellowship in July by serving refreshments outside in the alley between our church and the Church of Saint Louis.

Each week people volunteered to make and serve coffee and refreshments, transporting them to the new location. The patio area was always pleasant with a nice breeze blowing between the two buildings. People enjoyed being with each other outside in this unique setting and

often stayed at a table for a good while. It was a nice way to get to know each other better.

On October 10, we will return to fellowship time indoors and serve refreshments in the Friendship Room. Please continue to wear a mask when you are not eating or drinking.

As before, we continue to need volunteers to help with coffee preparation, as well as serving refreshments during this gathering time. If you can offer your service, please sign up at www.centralforgood.org/volunteer or speak with Anna Sanchez in the office by calling (651) 224-4728 or email her at office@centralforgood.org.

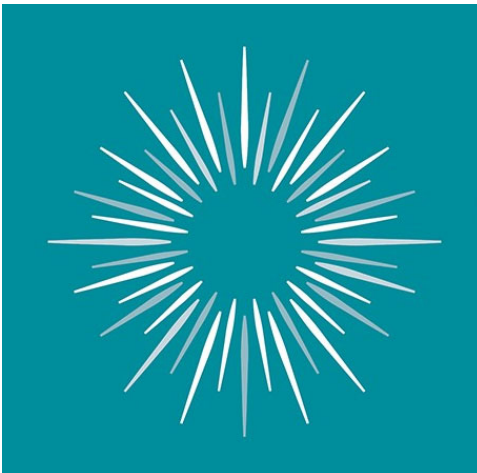
Deacon Circles Continue Into Fall

Want to connect with a smaller group of people and learn more about others in the Central community?

The Deacons' Connection Circle would love for you to join us! We meet every first and third Thursday of the month from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. on Zoom (So mark your calendars to join us October 7 and 21.)

Our topics change every time. Circles are open to all visitors and members at Central and reflect diverse ages and backgrounds.

The following information is the same for all Connection Circles.



VIA VIDEO ON SMARTPHONE, COMPUTER OR TABLET: Go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87229900980>

OR VIA PHONE CALL IN: (312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 872 2990 0980#

4 WAYS TO GIVE

While we are unable to pass the collection plate in our online worship, we invite you to give through several other ways.



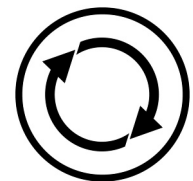
Donate Online

www.centralforgood.org/give



Mail a Check

500 Cedar St, St. Paul, MN 55101



Recurring Transfer

Set up an automatic bank transfer



Deliver In-Person

Contact the office to arrange a day/time for drop off.

QUESTIONS?

Call (651) 224-4728 ext. 100

ANTI-RACISM: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

[BY REV. LOU BENDER, ARTF
CONVENER]

A New Focus Area

Anyone who visited the Anti-Racism Task Force (ARTF) table on Festival Sunday probably guessed correctly the ARTF theme for the fall! Various called Native Americans, American Indians, Indigenous Peoples, First Nations, the original inhabitants of North America have captured news outlets many times over recent months. From commercialization of sacred lands to land recognition efforts, from headwater marches and teepees on the capitol lawn to sad remnants emerging from church boarding school missions, the reality of broken trust between white settlers and those who were here when the newcomers settled comes back full force in every day's news.

The ARTF has had lively discussions of many of these topics, and only touched the surface of all there is to learn and understand. They invited Rev. Phil Romine, Congregational Outreach Coordinator for Interfaith Action, to visit its last meeting to discuss the work of Saint Paul churches with the Indigenous community. The Department of Indian Work began during the 115 year life of the St. Paul Area Council of Churches, and carries over to the work of Interfaith Action, which began 6.5 years ago. The work was a response to an influx of native folks leaving reservations seeking new hope in the cities, opportunities that would not be fully realized.

Not knowing that the prospects

advertised were really designed for the white families supported by the urban infrastructure, arriving indigenous people found that jobs, food clothes, housing, and other necessities were not available for them. In a move to reclaim treaty land, a series of federal acts divided up tribal land among individual Indians. This opened the possibility for sale of this land to any person or organization. Many who had moved to urban centers no longer had tribal land to which to return. This bait-and-switch move, designed to nullify treaties after WWII, created an emergency that the Council of Churches attempted to fill.

All these years later, the Department of Indian Work offers a food shelf, clothing closet, summer school and after-school cultural enrichment for youth, and, partnering with the University of Minnesota, a health and diabetes prevention program. The state of Minnesota entrusted its COVID prevention outreach to the Native community to the Department of Indian Work during the pandemic. As Interfaith Action grows and changes, the DIW seeks to build out a full service Indian Center in or near the East Side of Saint Paul. The staff of the DIW is entirely Indian.

The Department of Indian Work offers church communities opportunities to volunteer and form long-term relationships with American Indian people, just as they provide Central Church opportunities to volunteer in finding solutions for homelessness through Project Home.

To explore these options, start with the program website at <https://interfaithaction.org/what-we-do/diw/>

Can You Help?

FOOD SHELF DRIVE

Central's Coordinated Mission Committee is sponsoring a donation drive in October to benefit the Rice Street Food Shelf, part of Keystone Community Services. High priority needs for donations right now are:

Personal Hygiene - bar soap, body wash, deodorant, feminine products (pads, tampons), disposable razors, shampoo and conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

Household Cleaning Supplies - all-purpose cleaners, dish soap, trash bags, cleaning/sanitizing.

If you'd like to donate baby products, diapers (Size 4/5/6) and baby wipes are most needed.

Basic food items always high in demand are peanut butter, jelly, rice, ramen, canned meats (tuna and spam), and mac & cheese.

Please bring donations to church on Sundays, October 24 or 31. You drop them off just outside the dining room near the staircase. Financial donations can also be made in by check made out to Keystone Community Services. Please write "Rice Street" on the memo portion of your check.

Thank you!

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Women’s Networking Group

We had a great time at Celeste St. Paul Hotel – even with the light rain!

In October we are returning to Zoom. Here are the details:

Date: Wednesday, October 6

Time: 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

To have the Zoom link sent to you, RSVP to women@centralforgood.org. We look forward to seeing you!

To be added to our mailing list for future events or for questions, please email women@centralforgood.org.

Update on the Search for a Children & Youth Ministry Coordinator

[FROM C & Y COMMITTEE]

The Children and Youth Committee, under the chair Phyllis Brashler and

with help from Jackie Klaehn and Erika Kelly-Kennedy, has been in the process of interviewing candidates to fill the Children and Youth Coordinator’s position. The position was advertised in many different places and we are blessed to have had interest expressed from some very strong candidates. The committee hopes to make a decision as quickly as possible and bring a new staff person on board, so we can continue to build the program for children and youth at Central Church. Meantime, we are thankful for your prayers as we seek the best person for this important position.

Artist’s Reception

A reception for the artist Bill Bukowski, whose paintings are now on exhibit, will be held October 10 in the Friendship Room immediately following worship. This will be a chance to look at Bill’s beautiful landscape paintings and talk with him about them.



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

- Sharon Knowlton 10/2
- John Patton 10/3
- Maria Johnson..... 10/4
- Rekita Ndumbe..... 10/4
- Cody Erwin..... 10/4
- James Olson 10/5
- Sandra Gryfinski..... 10/15
- Charity Willis 10/16
- Joanna Kimani 10/17
- Kelly Ishizuka 10/18
- Hannah Ross 10/19
- Christie Rachelle 10/22
- Tom Hein 10/24
- Erik Bollman 10/25
- Crystal Green 10/26
- Allynne Burg 10/26
- Christopher Ross..... 10/27
- James O’Neill..... 10/27
- Cheri Townsend..... 10/27
- Megan Beese..... 10/27
- Kiera Voelker 10/27
- Rachel Rich 10/28
- Isabelle Schlittenhart 10/28
- Josephine McCarten 10/29
- Dean Soderbeck 10/30
- Marcia Robert..... 10/30

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



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 **PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

OCTOBER 3, 2021



On October 3, Central will collect the
annual Peace & Global Witness Special
Offering, which is used to address systems
of conflict and injustice across the world.

CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*