

CONNECT CENTRAL

Finding Strength in Unexpected Ways

BY REV. CAROL REED, TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

In England, you may come across a “wavy” brick fence. Apart from being more aesthetically pleasing, I have read that a wavy fence uses less bricks than a straight one. A straight fence is not sturdy enough to stand strong unless it is the thickness of at least two layers of bricks. Straight brick fences are often reinforced as well with posts to support them. However, a wavy one-brick fence stands fine on its own due to the arch support provided by its wavy shape. Plus, there is an added benefit of how interesting it looks!

This idea of the strength of a wavy fence is not only interesting, it feels like a metaphor for life. We all know things get complicated and we can feel like the pathway ahead seems uncertain. Things happen unexpectedly, someone gets sick or loses a job, a relationship changes or ends, someone moves away, expectations are unmet, we find ourselves in a place we had not

expected. Yet there is strength where we might not expect it, especially when we remind ourselves we do not handle these challenges alone.

We come to church for all kinds of reasons: to worship God, to be grounded in faith, to be with people who are also trying to live as disciples of Jesus Christ. It is good to remind ourselves that we are not alone when life takes unexpected turns, when we are unable to anticipate the future. Another reason we come to church is to be reminded we are loved and cared for by God, and when we get off course, to find our pathway leading back to God.

We know there will be changes ahead at Central. The PNC is moving forward on their search for a permanent pastor. The children and youth programs have had a new infusion of energy and creativity and look forward to a year



of growth and fun. There are new musicians leading with Jennifer and the choirs in worship. A mission program of the church for many years, Martha’s Closet, is being redesigned to meet the current needs of the community.

Change is always coming at us, but we can be like that wavy fence and be grounded and strong knowing the Spirit of God is walking with us, giving us the strength for whatever is ahead. Blessings to all in this new program year!

OCTOBER 2022

Meet and welcome our newest members to Central!



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New to Central?

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

office@centralforgood.org

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

(651) 224-4728, x 100

Upcoming Worship

Sunday Schedule

- 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study
- 10:30 AM Worship Service
- 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

Worship services are streamed live each Sunday on our website at: www.centralforgood.org/stream

Sunday, October 2

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

This is our first SPARK Sunday as we welcome our children (grades 1 – 5) to help lead worship! Rev. Carol Reed will preach “Faith Like a Mustard Seed” with scripture readings from Psalm 37:1-9 and Luke 17:5-10. This Communion Sunday, we recognize that amidst our differences, we are united with Christians when we gather at the Lord’s table. The Central Choir sings and Barb Brooks is on piano/organ.

On this day will also receive the Peace and Global Witness special offering.

Sunday, October 9

Rev. Carol Reed will preach “Praising God Together” with scripture readings from Psalm 111 and Luke 17:11-19. Our Artist-in-Residence Rod Kelly Hines returns with the Central Choir and Steve Swanson on piano.

Sunday, October 16

This day worship will share a focus on Indigenous people with a sermon called “Holding Fast with God” by Rev. Lou Bender. Scripture readings will be from Psalm 121 and II Timothy 3:14-17. The Handbell Ensemble plays for the first time this program year, and Melanie Ohnstad returns on the organ bench. Finance and Stewardship will share a Moment for Mission on giving.

Sunday, October 23

VOCALPOINT KICK-OFF

Members of the VocalPoint Chorus join the Central Choir for a special morning of music as we learn more about this year’s beneficiary and contributing artists.

Sunday, October 30

ALL SAINT’S DAY

On this day we remember and honor those we have lost as a community and as church members in the past year. Rev. Carol Reed will preach “Resting Secure in God’s Grace” with scripture readings from Psalm 32:1-2, 6-7, 11 and Luke 19:1-10. Central Choir sings, the Chamber Ensemble plays along with Barb Brooks on organ/piano.

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

Community Sing with Rod Kelly Hines of Cantus!

FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & YOUTH MINISTRY

Come and join other choral musicians as we all 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 Presbyterian Church on Sunday, October 9.

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

Pre-registration is requested.

To do so, go to Central's website at: www.centralforgood.org/sing

For directions and parking, go to www.centralforgood.org/directions. Masks are recommended.

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 in their 2017-18 season.

JENNIFER ANDERSON,
CONDUCTOR

Jennifer leads the thriving music program at Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul 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, she served on the board of the Twin Cities American Guild of Organists, and remains a member of the Program Committee. 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.

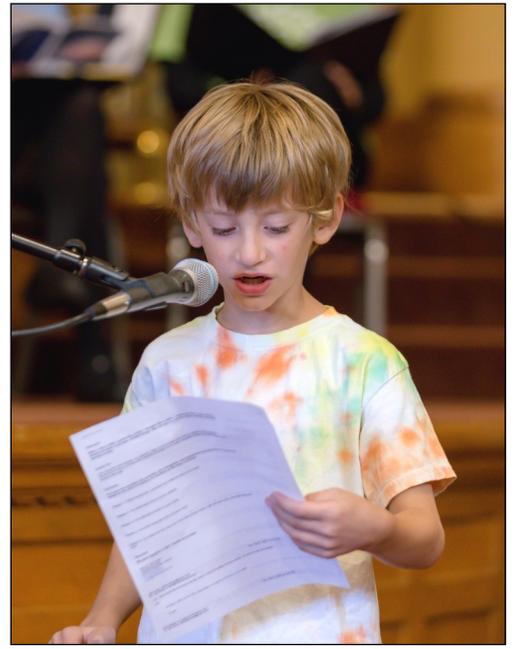
Volunteers Welcome

Not a singer, but want to help out? We could use some people to help with hospitality and registration! Please speak with Jennifer Anderson at jennifera@centralforgood.org or call (651) 224-4728 ext. 103.

Festival Sunday Leads Off a Bold New Program Year!

FROM CHRISTIE RACHELLE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS





Welcome New Members!

FROM CHRISTIE RACHELLE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

On September 18, attendees in worship were delighted to welcome the following new members to the Central Presbyterian Church congregation.

- Jason Anderson
- Peter Evarts
- Ruthie Fink
- Peggy Hanson
- Nicole Johnson
- Faith Latimer
- Melody Reimer
- Henry Riehm

As we move through the coming weeks and months, we hope you will help us make them feel welcome and engage them in Central's community of volunteerism, fellowship, and event activities.

Are you interested in becoming a member? Speak with Rev. Carol Reed to learn about our next Inquirers' Class for New Members.

Jason Alexander & Nicky Johnson

Jason Anderson and Nicky Johnson are recent transplants to St. Paul. Nicky is from Pittsburgh, PA and Jason is from Duluth, MN. They met and fell in love at Carleton College in Northfield, MN. Soon after graduating in 2012, Nicky and Jason moved to Austin, TX where they ate barbecue and tacos and became deeply involved in the young adult group at First Presbyterian Church of Austin. Jason continues to



work as a technology consultant for True North Consulting Group. Nicky went back to school to get her masters in nursing at the University of Texas. She now works as a charge nurse in the transitional care unit at Martin Luther Care Center.

They enjoy playing with their dog, Pecos, camping, and watching movies. To add celebration to this time, Jason and Nicky are expecting their first child this November!

Peter Evarts

Peter Evarts first came to Central through its special events and work with Barb Westman. He was later hired as our dishwasher for the Wednesday Community and Third Sunday Lunches and subsequently hired as a custodian. His academic background includes a major and master's degree in biology, but he has spent most of his working life in

information technology and computers. He is a 'jack of all trades' with too many careers to mention. On any given Sunday you will see him in every single corner of the church helping to ensure all who enter are having an effortless positive experience.

Peggy Hanson

Peggy Hanson grew up in the Chicago suburbs. She moved to the Twin Cities to attend the University of Minnesota - both undergraduate and law school. She has lived in rural southeast Minnesota for about 32 years and is happy to return to Saint Paul. Peggy has practiced law, worked as a lobbyist for local governments, owned and operated a small bed-and-breakfast and served as a guardian ad litem.

Peggy's interests are food and cooking, music, politics, and reading.

She has two sons and three grandchildren. Peggy and her husband are regular volunteers at the Opportunity Center kitchen with St. Paul Catholic Charities.

Faith Latimer

Faith Latimer first came to Central with a group from Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church when it was preparing to close. Faith has lived in Saint Paul all of her life and works just down the street from Central. She has greatly enjoyed the VocalPoint benefit concerts and the fellowship of Central's Bible study group. Faith is grateful to be a part of the Central community.

Ruthie Fink

Ruthie Fink was born and raised in Saint Paul, having attended Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church until its closure in 2018. She majored in sociology at Grinnell College and spent her next working years at Macalester College, first in the Educational Research Office and then as Director of Student Financial Aid. In 1983 she decided to change course and opened a retail dancewear store on Grand Avenue in Saint Paul called Grand Jete. There she remained until this past December when she sold the business.

Ruthie is passionate about dance, particularly classical ballet. Having danced and performed since the age of 7, she continues to take ballet

classes! She also enjoys singing, playing the piano, reading, and time with friends. With her husband Doug, she has two daughters and five grandsons.

Ruthie fully participated in the life of Dayton Avenue Church and is looking forward to doing the same at Central. She states, "I have found Central to be warm, welcoming, and truly dedicated to working towards inclusivity and the well-being of those in our community, and beyond."

Melody Reimer

Melody Reimer grew up in Le Sueur, and was baptized and confirmed at the Presbyterian church there. She is a graduate from the University of Jamestown, a Presbyterian college in North Dakota, and received her law degree from the University of South Dakota.

Melody is a lawyer and recently started a new job as a complex claims analyst attorney with Epiq, based in Beaverton, Oregon. (She

works from home.) She has a black cat named Salem and her favorite holiday is Halloween.

Reflecting on her time towards becoming a member, Melody states, "I love Central and am happy to be a member." She sings with the Central Choir, serves as a videographer for our live-stream services and steps up to the pulpit to serve as a worship liturgist.

Henry Riehm

Henry Riehm first came to Central after an invitation to share in our Wednesday Community Lunch. Born in Melrose, MN, Henry moved to Saint Paul to attend high school before heading off to Moorhead University on a basketball scholarship. Graduating with a degree in physical education, Henry taught physical education for a number of years in Elk River as well as coached basketball there. He attended graduate school at St. Cloud University and did substitute teaching around the metro area.

Henry has lived at Central Towers for 14 years before moving this year to Delwood Gardens in Saint Paul. He volunteers in their library and enjoys being active there. He has two sons and two daughters, as well as 14 grandchildren! His interests are basketball, baseball, and softball. He has enjoyed Bible Study at Central, as well as Maureen Smith's leadership and the overall group participation.



Preparing for New Ministry!

BY JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & YOUTH MINISTRY

This past month we welcomed many people upstairs to the upper level of the church building for our Festival Open House celebrating our newly redesigned spaces and expansion of our Children & Youth Ministry.

With the help of many volunteers, spaces we cleared and cleaned, walls were painted, and spaces redecorated and refreshed for our new programs serving children and youth from birth to graduation. We are grateful to the following who shared their time to help prepare these spaces:

- Art Anderson
- Leslie Bartlett
- Megan Beese
- Phyllis Brashler
- Jessica Clifton
- Peter Evarts
- Craig Foss
- Jess Garner
- Lucy Hiestand
- Sue Hoffman
- Lavar Jones
- Erika Kelly-Kennedy
- Jackie Klaehn
- Mary Lange
- Mel Leach
- Sydney Linderman
- Rev. Carol Reed
- Anna Sanchez
- Gayle Smith
- Vinai Vinlander
- Laura Varanasi

Our sincere apologies if your name was missed! Please let Jennifer Anderson know so we can thank you.





Update on Martha's Closet

BY REV. CAROL REED, TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

A Period of Change

Thanks to those who helped with summer transition plans and to those working on the plans for the next stage of a clothing closet at Central! Over the summer there was a well-attended sale which brought in revenue and helped clear some of the inventory. Afterwards, additional clothing was donated to the Salvation Army and the Epilepsy

Foundation. Remaining warm clothing, that we know will be requested once the temperatures drop, are being stored at Central in a lower-level space.

Honor celebration

Sandy White served as the director of Martha's Closet for many years but was ready to retire. Pat Kivela, who regularly assisted Sandy, was also ready to pass the responsibility

to someone else. We will have a celebration honoring this long term faithful service later this fall.

Looking to the Future

There is a group of people who have served in Martha's Closet in the past who are exploring the future of a clothing closet at Central. If you are interested in participating in the research and decision making around this important issue, please speak to Pastor Carol Reed at carolr@centralforgood.org or Chris Smith, chair of Central's Coordinated Mission Committee.

A Walk Through Our Christian Education Spaces

FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & YOUTH MINISTRY



NURSERY

One of the most beautiful rooms in the church, this space is specifically designed for our babies and toddlers. There are toys and blankets, blocks, and baby dolls. There is a changing area and a bathroom sized just right for the newly potty-trained. This room is filled with light from windows that overlook Downtown and is full of love from the staff and volunteers that care for the children.



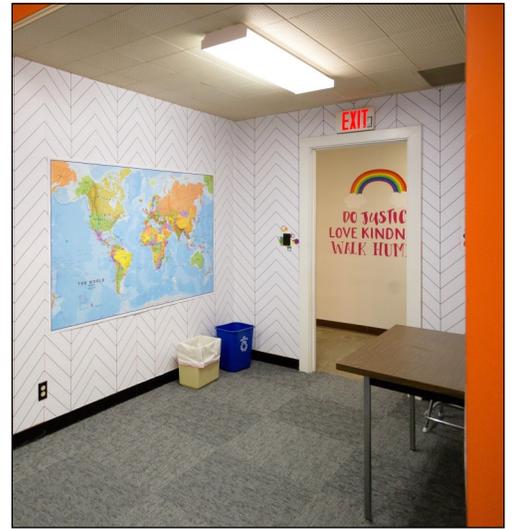
PRESCHOOL ROOM

This space is connected to the nursery, so the toys and play spaces are shared with all of our youngest Centralites. It also has a little “play house” that is becoming a favorite space to play, and small tables with chairs for art projects and games.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OFFICE

This space is just for the adult staff and volunteers. A work space - complete with coffee maker for those early Sunday mornings – to gather supplies, prepare projects, and check in. We have lockers in the hallway to keep our personal belongings safe and secure, as well as a computer and printer for any last minute lesson plan needs.



ORANGE ROOM

One of two classrooms for our elementary age kids, this space has a stage for quick skits and silly improv, a piano, and kid-size table and chairs. Continued use shows there are lots of good ways to utilize this room!



AGAPE ROOM

“Agape” is unconditional love... the love of God for us, and the love that we are asked to give back to God and to our neighbors. It is a selfless love talked about in the Bible many times. This is our second room for elementary kids, and you will know you are in the Agape Room by all the hearts that remind us to share love with everyone we meet!



YOUTH ROOM

This space is all about hanging out and being together! It’s a space with couches and comfy chairs, cool lighting, and lots of treats. This room is used for our Middle School “Life Boats” and High School “Compass” gatherings, plus special youth activities throughout the year. Stop on by for some fresh popcorn and a cup of hot cocoa.

Education Spaces CONTINUED...

GALILEE ROOM

This room is big with tall ceilings – perfect to play with the parachute, play a game of badminton, or do a big circle game with lots of children! The walls have murals of things we might see in Galilee: A boat on the sea of Galilee (complete with net and fish); a hill that Jesus may have climbed to teach the Sermon on the Mount, or perhaps when the boy shared his fish and bread; sheep in the pasture who are being tended by a shepherd; an olive tree (perhaps in the Garden of Gethsemane?); a cave that could be an empty tomb on Easter morning; a well filled with water; and a street with houses and even the Galilee Market, complete with a camel taking a nap under a palm tree. Come and visit Galilee with us!



COME EXPLORE CENTRAL'S GROWING CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY!



**CORNERSTONES
OF FAITH**
BIRTH THRU GRADUATION



SPARK
GRADES 1 - 5



**SUNDAY
CONNECTION**
ELEMENTARY



LIFE BOATS
MIDDLE SCHOOL



COMPASS
HIGH SCHOOL

Children & Youth Ministry

BY JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & YOUTH MINISTRY

FOR CHILDREN AGE 0 - 5

EACH SUNDAY: Nursery care is available from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Meaningful enrichment activities will be offered to help our youngest explore and learn.

FOR CHILDREN GRADES 1 - 5

OCTOBER 2: Our first SPARK Sunday! Elementary kids meet with Jennifer and Laura at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary to prepare for their part in worship.

OCTOBER 9, 16, 23, 30: After worship's Time for Children, elementary age children are invited upstairs for Sunday Connection. Led by Laura Walls, Jennifer Anderson, and volunteers, the children will hear the Bible Stories and engage with them in

new ways - perhaps through skits, projects, art, or songs.

OCTOBER 30: We will have a SPARK meet up after church (from 11:30 - noon) to prepare for leading worship the next Sunday.

FOR YOUTH GRADES 6 - 12

EACH SUNDAY: Youth are invited to be "Shepherds" on Sunday mornings. (Talk with Jennifer to receive an interest form.)

OCTOBER 2 & 16: Life Boats Middle School Fellowship meets from 11:30 - 12:30 p.m.

OCTOBER 2 & 16: Confirmation Class for Senior High students at 5:45 p.m., then on to Compass Senior High Youth Fellowship at 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Search Update

BY AL ZDRAZIL, CHAIR OF THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Central's Pastor Nominating Committee is making good progress in finding a new called pastor for our congregation. After reviewing the applicants, we have scheduled brief virtual interviews with five candidates. We have already completed a 30-minute interview with three of those people and have two more scheduled very soon.

We do continue to receive resumes as people learn about our search. There are two new resumes which our committee will be reviewing, however, we do not yet know if we will schedule them for an interview.

The team is working well together and we will share further progress as it is available.

4 WAYS TO GIVE

Starting in September, we are excited to offer new ways to give online, including text giving! Go to www.centralforgood.org/give



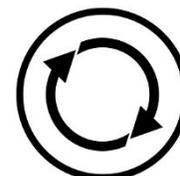
Donate Online

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

Announcements

TO SHARE FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS, SIMPLY EMAIL CHRISTIER@CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG.

Take a Tour of Central

FROM REV. CAROL REED

Do you suspect there are corners of Central’s church building you have never seen? Fluryanne Leach, a member of our Facilities Management committee (and our project manager for the renovation projects currently underway) is giving a tour during fellowship time on Sunday, October 2. To participate, meet her in the Friendship Room that day at 11:45 a.m. for a tour of the church and explanation of the history of Central Presbyterian Church. This is a great opportunity to break out your cell phone and grab a few fun and interesting photographs!

Women’s Networking Group Outing

FROM SUE HOFFMAN

It was a perfect night to gather on September 12 at Red River Kitchen at City House. Beautiful weather with a great view of the river, lovely food, and conversation!

In October, we are going to enjoy one more evening on a patio before fall. Save the date to join us on Tuesday, October 4 at 5:30 p.m. for our next event at Patrick McGovern’s (225 7th St. West - St. Paul, MN). You can meet us at McGovern’s or walk over from Central’s parking lot – we will depart at 5:15 p.m.. There is also street and lot parking in the area.

Please RSVP by October 1 to let us know if you plan to attend via email to women@centralforgood.org. Let us know if you plan to meet at Central or at the restaurant.

Please watch eConnect and our WNG emails to stay informed about the latest plans. You can join the email list by reaching out to women@centralforgood.org.

Happy Birthday!

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

- John Patton 10/3
- 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
- Allynne Burg 10/26
- Crystal Green..... 10/26
- Megan Beese 10/27

- James O'Neill 10/27
- Christopher Ross 10/27
- Cheri Townsend 10/27
- Kiera Voelker 10/27
- Joel Fisher 10/28
- Isabelle Schlittenhart..... 10/28
- Josephine McCarten..... 10/29
- Marcia Robert 10/30
- Dean Soderbeck 10/30

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

Thank You!

FROM ANNA SANCHEZ, CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Thank you to the All-Church Cleaning crew who helped beautify our building and prepare our spaces for Festival Sunday, including John & Lynne Severson, Mel Leach, Craig Foss, Vinai Vinlander, Kelly Smith, Casey Wells, John, and Mila. Also thank you to Barb & Tom Westman for baking us fresh cinnamon rolls to start the day right and to the Facilities Management Committee for organizing the day.





PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION
OCTOBER 2, 2022

Our gifts to the
Peace & Global Witness Offering
draw Presbyterians together
as active peacemakers,
to address systems of injustice
in our own communities
and across the world.



Special Peace Offering on October 2

BY REV. CAROL REED, TRANSITIONAL PASTOR

On October 2, Central will share in World Communion Sunday and worship will feature an invitation for us to participate in a special offering with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A).

The Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. This special offering is about empowering congregations and individuals to become peacemakers themselves. The offering funds ministries of peace, reconciliation, and advocacy for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

Because the Peace & Global Witness Offering is a shared offering, we are able, as a single congregation, to participate in this larger work that we would not be able to do on our own. Twenty-five percent of the offering will stay with our own congregation to help with peacemaking efforts; last

year it was earmarked to help with refugee resettlement work in Minnesota. Part of the offering goes to support the Presbytery's work on peacemaking and anti-racism, and 50% will be used at the national level for ministries of peacemaking and global witness. Remember - peace is active, not passive.

Peace is doing, not waiting.

Because contributions are divided between local, regional, and national efforts, gifts are most helpful if you put cash or a check in the offering plate. (Mark pew envelope clearly with *Peace and Global Witness*). You give online at www.centralforgood.org/give and note 'Special offering' in note field. Mailed checks are also welcome.

If you would like to donate directly to the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. or learn more about the offering, go to <https://specialofferings.pcusa.org/offering/peace-global-witness>.

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Steve Swanson, Barbara Brooks,
Dr. Melanie Ohnstad, Rod Kelly Hines

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

Building Maintenance

Lavar Jones, Custodian
Peter Evarts, Custodian

Thank You Donors!

Thanks to the generosity of the Central community, we were able to pack over 60 hygiene kits and over 100 snack packs! These are being well received by our neighbors as we offer these small gifts during Wednesday lunches, Sunday morning worship and fellowship time, and throughout the week during office hours. Thank you for sharing and stay tuned for our next collection and packing day!



CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*



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