



# CONNECT CENTRAL

## *Central is You!*

FROM REV. CHRIS CHATELAINE-SAMSEN

Friends of Central,

Budgets are how we put our values into practice. At least one of the ways. As we enter a new program year, I'm reminded that your generous giving makes possible the ways in which we speak and live God's love inside these walls and beyond our doors. Faith formation, worship and the arts, mission and justice, and more – all of these things require resources of time, energy, and money, and we are blessed to steward those resources that you generously give for good.

On October 8 and beyond, we're going to have an opportunity to talk about our church's finances together – a look "under the hood." We'll talk about where our finances come from, how we allocate them, and how we envision the future in both the language of values and that of dollars and cents. After a shorter time of worship on the 8th, we'll gather in the sanctuary and you'll hear from



me, members of the congregation, and one another. Bring your curiosities and your questions as we talk about what we hope for in the coming year, and the resources we need to maintain the vibrant and transformative ministry of Central.

So many of us have been taught not to talk about money. Maybe it's impolite or just plain uncomfortable. And yet we all know that working on our household budgets are how we put the things we care most about

into practice. It's no different here. Our deepest values are around receiving and proclaiming God's love, being formed into Jesus' faithful disciples, and being sent out by the Spirit to put God's love into action in the world.

So let's get together and talk about how to keep making that happen. And thank you – God is doing big things in this place.

God's Peace,  
Pastor Chris



## OCTOBER 2023

Time to Reflect Upon Stewardship & Giving



**CENTRAL**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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### 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

JOIN US IN-PERSON OR ONLINE FOR 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.

Worship services are streamed live each Sunday on our website at: [www.centralforgood.org/stream](http://www.centralforgood.org/stream)

## Sunday, October 1

### WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Executive Presbyterian Rev. Dr. Libby Shannon preaches as we celebrate God's global church on World Communion Sunday.

Central Choir sings with Alex Woods on piano and we welcome artist-in-residence Clara Osowski.

## Sunday, October 8

Join us for worship with a reflection on Acts 8:26-40 and a conversation about stewardship and our next year's budget. The Handbell Ensemble rings, Central Choir sings, and Alex Woods plays piano.

## Sunday, October 15

Pastor Chris preaches on Acts 8:26-40 as we highlight the ministry of hospitality at Central. Music includes the Central Choir with Paul Damico-Carper, song leader and guitarist. The CREO Dance Ensemble returns. This day we will also enjoy Third Sunday Lunch.

## Sunday, October 22

Pastor Chris preaches on 1 Kings 8:22-24, 27-30 and we focus on the role our building plays in the life of the congregation. Central Choir sings, the Chamber Ensemble plays and Melanie Ohnstad plays the organ.

After worship, there will be an Inquirer's Class for those interested in becoming members of Central Presbyterian Church.

## Sunday, October 29

Pastor Chris preaches on 2 Chronicles 5:2, 11-14 as we celebrate music and the arts in worship. Music includes the Central Choir with Tonia Hughes Kendrick and Alex Woods, piano.

At 6:30 p.m. return for Central's all-church, all-ages talent show!

*Do you play?*

## CHAMBER ENSEMBLE RETURNS

Do you play a musical instrument? If so, talk with Jennifer Anderson about participating in our Chamber Ensemble!

*Rehearsals begin October 8 after worship.*

# Community Event Against Gun Violence

FROM MISSION & JUSTICE COMMITTEE

## Mark Your Calendar

On Saturday, October 14, Central will be hosting an event of Lament and Hope in the face of the epidemic of gun violence in our community and beyond.

We're inviting members of Central and partners across the community to stand together as we honor the work of those who stand for non-violence and reform, and lament the grievous injury that gun violence does to those – all humans – made in God's sacred image.

During the time we gather – from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. – we'll have an opportunity to memorialize our neighbors lost to gun violence over the past few years, hear testimony from members of the community, and reflect on how our common faith urges us towards a more just and peaceful future. Included will be an outdoor temporary memorial, presence from community partners, and a striking visual representation of the work we are called to – blacksmiths transforming the disassembled pieces of firearms into garden tools, a reminder of the

Biblical call to transform our tools of violence into tools of life.

## We Need Your Help

Volunteers are needed to greet, set up, and be a hospitable presence for all who gather. If you'd like to volunteer or receive more information, email the Central office, speak with Virgie Bundy, or sign up in the Friendship Room on Sundays.

Central is In the City for Good. Help take one more step towards that good.

# Adult Faith Formation: October Talk on Gun Violence

FROM CHRISTIE RACHELLE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Does the Bible still matter? Does it make a case for social justice? If so, how do we read it in a way that helps us understand God's intentions for the world?

Join us October 1 at 11:45 a.m. for the first meeting of the new Adult Faith Formation group. The October topic will speak on Gun Violence. This is one of eight issues Pastor Chris will be exploring this year, including what the Bible does (and does not) say about it, and how to read the Bible holistically to help us navigate some of the most consequential issues of our time.

FAITH FORMATION  
1ST SUNDAY @ 11:45 AM

OCTOBER 1 Gun Violence

NOVEMBER 5 Health Care

DECEMBER 3 Criminal Justice

JANUARY 7 Economic Rights

FEBRUARY 4 Anti-Racism

MARCH 3 Gender Equality

APRIL 7 Climate Change

MAY 5 Queer Identity

# Festival Sunday Welcomes an Exciting New Year!

ENJOY MORE PHOTOGRAPHS AT [WWW.CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG/PHOTOS](http://WWW.CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG/PHOTOS)

Many, many thanks to all who helped to create a wonderful Festival Sunday!

- Jackie Klaehn
- Marie Smith
- Laura Walls
- Casey Wells
- Windy Flinner
- Jessica Clifton
- Maria Stokes
- Deb Fonkert
- Phyllis Brashler
- Erika Kelly Kennedy
- Stephanie Stockton
- Leslie Bartlett
- Jess Garner
- Megan Beese
- Lucy Hiestand
- Christie Rachelle
- Anna Sanchez

Be it preparing costumes, serving food, setting up spaces, capturing photography, and, of course, leading all the many games and fun, thank you to you all!





# Congratulations to the 2023 Confirmation Class!

On September 17, we celebrated the confirmation of three young people at Central. We are proud and delighted we were able to celebrate them in their faith journey.



L to R: Ian Berg, Isaac Fisher, Natalie Klaehn

## Children & Youth Calendar

### OCTOBER 1

- 9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.
- 10:30 Worship with Grades 1 and older participating.
- 11:30 Life Boats Middle School Fellowship until 12:30.
- 6:30 Compass Senior High Fellowship.

### OCTOBER 8

- 9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.
- 10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection for grades 1-5 after a Time for Children.

### OCTOBER 15

- 9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.
- 10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection for those in grades 1-5.
- 11:30 Life Boats Middle School Fellowship until 12:30.
- 6:30 Compass Senior High Fellowship.

### OCTOBER 22

- 9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.
- 10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection for those in grades 1-5.

### OCTOBER 29

- 9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.
- 10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection for grades 1-5.
- 6:30 All-Church, All-Ages Talent Show!

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

# Reflections from the Anti-Racism Task Force

FROM LOU BENDER, CONVENER

The Central Presbyterian Anti-Racism Task Force is back! The group retreated for a few months to take another thorough and reflective look at its work, to plot a sustainable future, and to develop some recommendations for moving forward. Effective anti-racism effort involves breaking down old systems and replacing them with new ones. It involves getting to the roots of problems that appear on the surface. It involves speaking truth to power in a world that over-values white, upper class, educated males with expertise. It involves both self-awareness and action at a governance level. CPC members and friends already knew all of these things, of course, and so did we – in our heads!

## Where to Begin?

The reality of actually doing the work, however, leaves our task force acutely aware of the enormity of racism. A housing task force can focus on learning about and addressing housing issues. A hunger task force can focus on learning about and addressing hunger issues. These major projects are essential to moving toward justice. In the face of overlapping priorities, they can also provide a central focus. But an Anti-Racism task force? Dealing with the effects of white supremacy and remaking the world into an image a little closer to God's intent? How on earth can anyone organize that goal into manageable tasks?

ARTF's three years together as a task force have taught us very clearly that a small group of dedicated people can make a huge difference within ourselves in every area of anti-racism. We are not the same people we were when we began this work together. And maybe that's the point. Maybe taking on the monumental task of addressing racism will require every willing person, working together and in every corner of the world they occupy, to have a deep and far-reaching effect. There are not enough seats in the meeting room for everyone who is needed to get the work done!

## Steering a Course

The Anti-Racism Task Force is going to keep working out our own faith commitments to becoming anti-racist – our own understanding of racism and the ways we participate in it, our own awareness of the pervasive and intersectional nature of racism, our own commitments to countering racism with love and justice. We will keep each other accountable. We need, after all, to practice what we are going to preach!

Then, we are going to provide leadership for a cooperative effort with others in the congregation who see a need for robust and deeply intentional adult spiritual formation. We have an ulterior motive! We want that the adult spiritual

formation in which Central engages to have an anti-racist lens. ARTF commits to using the next three years to lead the congregation in planning and implementing a unified, active program that will prepare adults in our congregation and community to address issues of injustice within and beyond ourselves by:

- developing solid Biblical knowledge and the ability to articulate biblical principles in considering current issues;
- developing skills for meeting disagreement and resistance calmly, articulately, and respectfully;
- prioritizing becoming everyday allies of the vulnerable in our community;
- embracing vulnerability in ourselves, while supporting each other in working toward God's peace, love, and justice.

The shift is both slight and significant. We will continue to work against racism and for justice. We will also work to support members and friends of Central church in building cultures and practices of anti-racism.

## How You Can Help

As the adventure emerges, pray for us. Share your ideas. Voice your support. Let us know where you observe racism in your corner of the world, and how you were prepared (or unprepared) to address it!

# Central is You!

FROM REV. CHRIS CHATELAINE-SAMSEN

## Supporting Worship

Every day of the week, and especially Sundays, we rely on one another to minister through worship, education, fellowship, and more. Following are a few ways we need you.

To volunteer, sign up online at [www.centralforgood.org/volunteer](http://www.centralforgood.org/volunteer) or reach out to the office.

### PRAY

Support our children and youth by writing notes of encouragement, pray for them, and connecting in church.

### ASSIST IN WORSHIP

Serve during worship as a liturgist - leading prayers, reading scripture, and speaking from the pulpit (no prior public speaking experience necessary!).

### SERVE FELLOWSHIP

Prepare coffee and refreshments for the Fellowship Hour before church and serve after worship.

### NURSERY CARE

Care and play with our youngest members of the Central community in the nursery during worship or other upcoming events.

### USHER AND GREET

Welcome guests to worship, distribute bulletins, help with wayfinding, and receive the offering.

### SUPPORT OUR LIVE STREAM

Help as a camera operator and editor for our worship video broadcast. Don't worry, training is provided!

## Serving Our Community

We also reach into our community in service, witnessing to God's generous love-without-walls. Here are ways you can join alongside:

### HELP PREPARE LUNCH

Each Wednesday, volunteers work alongside Chef Barb Westman to prepare and serve a catered meal for guests from the surrounding community. Central Closet also distributes clothing at no cost to our guests in need.

### SERVE HOUSING NEEDS

Along with our other service and justice projects, our Beacon Interfaith Housing team works to advocate and provide housing for low-income people around the metro area.

### WORK FOR ANTI-RACISM

Our Anti-Racism Task Force resources the congregation and our community to advocate for justice and do the hard work of turning away from systemic racism.

## Sharing Music

If you have a musical itch, consider joining one of our many music ensembles. Learn something new or share your talents with others in worship or other events.

### CENTRAL CHOIR

This SATB adult choir sings in worship weekly from September – May. While reading music isn't required, this choir moves quickly,

learns a lot of repertoire, and throughout the year sings some challenging music. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m.

### HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

This is an ensemble for adults and high school youth with music-reading experience. This group experiments with sounds and timbres, playing an interesting bell repertoire. Rehearsals are Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m.

### CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

Open to adults and youth (grade 8 and up) who have played traditional band/orchestra instruments for at least three years. We rehearse on Sundays as necessary at 11:45 a.m. for about 30 minutes and play in worship every-other-month or so. First rehearsal is October 15.

### CABARET

This year Central will again create a fun, semi-staged musical production featuring our children, choir, and chamber ensemble! This intergenerational event welcomes singers, musicians, and support 'backstage' in production design. Show announcement coming soon!

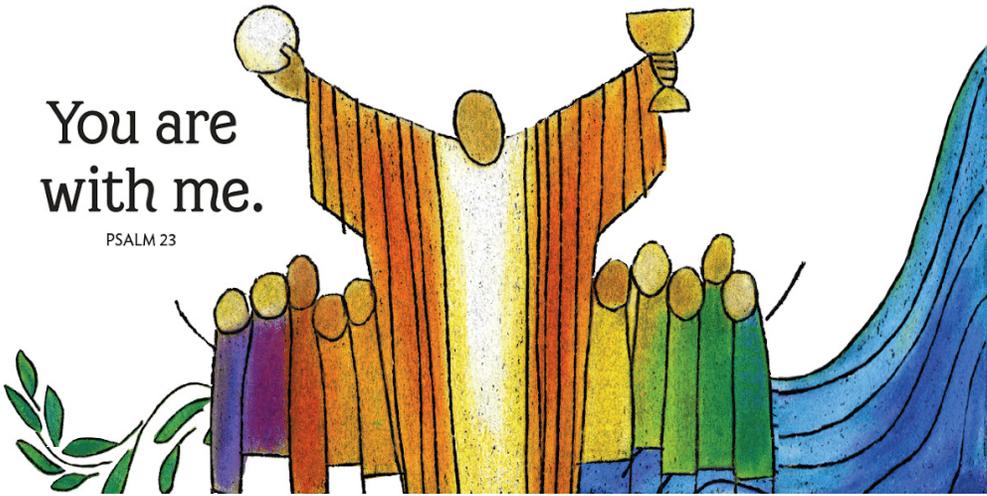
### YOUTH PERCUSSION ENSEMBLES

At various times, children and youth are invited to share in percussion ensembles, with an emphasis on discovering unique sounds.

Learn more about our music ministry at [www.centralforgood.org/music](http://www.centralforgood.org/music) or drop an email to Jennifer Anderson at [jennifera@centralforgood.org](mailto:jennifera@centralforgood.org).

You are  
with me.

PSALM 23



## Special Peace Offering on October 1

VISIT [WWW.PCUSA.ORG/PEACE-GLOBAL](http://WWW.PCUSA.ORG/PEACE-GLOBAL) TO LEARN MORE.

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday. Central will share in this, celebrating our oneness in Christ with our brothers and sisters around the world.

Worship on this day will also feature an invitation for us to participate in a special offering with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering help our neighbors in need - those who live next door, down the street, and across the globe. It enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world, empowering congregations and individuals to become peacemakers themselves.

**25%** of this offering stays with our own congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

**25%** of this offering goes to our mid-council to join with other

congregations to support peacemaking work in our region.

**50%** of this offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

### 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](http://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>.

Thank you for your participation in the Peace & Global Witness Offering. If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

stay  
CONNECTED



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VOLUNTEER TO HELP  
[centralforgood.org/volunteer](http://centralforgood.org/volunteer)



CALL ANYTIME WITH QUESTIONS  
(651) 224-4728

# Announcements

TO SUBMIT FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS, PLEASE EMAIL [CHRISTIER@CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG](mailto:CHRISTIER@CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG).

## Class for Inquiring New Members

Have you been considering making Central Presbyterian Church your church home? Or, perhaps you wish to become more engaged with the Central community.

On October 22 at 11:30 a.m. we will be holding a class for inquiring new members. This class is for people:

- who want to get more involved at Central.
- who want to meet other people who are part of the Central community.
- who want to learn more about the mission of Central as well as its past, present, and future.
- who want to reflect on their faith journey.
- who may be or are ready to join Central as a member.

Even for the life-long Presbyterian, participation in this class is a chance to connect with others who are new, get to know the pastor, and learn about the many opportunities for fellowship and service that are unique to this congregation.

We begin with lunch, share, and learn about others, take a tour, ask questions and explore the role of faith in our lives.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Central, we invite you to speak with or email Pastor Chris at [chriscs@centralforgood.org](mailto:chriscs@centralforgood.org) to sign up for this class.

## Happy Birthday!

This month we wish Happy Birthday to all who will be celebrating.

John Patton .....	10/3
Cody Erwin .....	10/4
Maria Johnson .....	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
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
Jyri Anderson .....	10/29
Josephine McCarten.....	10/29
Marcia Robert .....	10/30
Dean Soderbeck .....	10/30

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.



On October 15, Central will again welcome dancers from CREO Arts & Dance Conservatory to worship. Last Spring, older dancers from the VERVE Dance Company joined us. This time, it will be younger dancers sharing their dance ministry. At the heart of CREO is the fusion of Christian faith and movement. The conservatory teaches dancers to improvise in the spirit, explore their faith through Biblical understanding and deductive reasoning, and express the message of Gospel through performance. They will be dancing to the music *Draw the Circle Wide*.

# All-Church Talent Show

FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & YOUTH MINISTRY

## Come One, Come All!

Do you juggle? Perhaps you love to dance? Can you play a tune on the guitar? Tell a joke or two?

Come and share a talent - or cheer on others who are - at our All-Church, All-Ages Talent Show on Sunday, October 29 at 6:30 p.m.

A little nervous about doing something on your own? Find a few church friends to join you! It's more fun when more people are

involved! (If we have more acts than we have space for, preference will be given to the acts that have more people involved.)

## Sign Up to Participate

If you are interested in performing in the show, please fill out the form below and put in Jennifer Anderson's mailbox in the office. (You can also scan or send the answers via email to [jennifera@centralforgood.org](mailto:jennifera@centralforgood.org).)



### TALENT SHOW SIGN UP FORM OCTOBER 29 | 6:30 P.M.

Name of Act: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of all people involved: \_\_\_\_\_

What will you be performing? \_\_\_\_\_

How long is your act? \_\_\_\_\_

If it's longer than 5 minutes, you'll need to trim it down.

Do you need special equipment? (e.g. Music stand, piano, microphone)

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you need someone to accompany you?  YES  NO

(If yes, please attach the music to this form.)

**Deadline to sign up is October 22, 2023.**

#### HAVE QUESTIONS?

Jennifer Anderson, Director of Music & Youth Ministry  
(651) 224-4728 ext. 103 | [jennifera@centralforgood.org](mailto:jennifera@centralforgood.org)

## CENTRAL STAFF DIRECTORY

(651) 224-4728

### Pastor

Chris Chatelaine-Samsen, ext. 102  
[chriscs@centralforgood.org](mailto:chriscs@centralforgood.org)

### Church Administrator

Anna Sanchez, ext. 100  
[office@centralforgood.org](mailto:office@centralforgood.org)

### Administration

Laura Nichols-Endres, Treasurer  
William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus  
Mary Lange, Receptionist

### Director of Communications

Christie Rachelle, (952) 564-4472  
[christier@centralforgood.org](mailto:christier@centralforgood.org)

### Director of Music & Youth Ministry

Jennifer Anderson, ext 103  
[jennifera@centralforgood.org](mailto:jennifera@centralforgood.org)

### Children & Youth Staff

Laura Walls, Sunday  
Connection Coordinator  
[lauraw@centralforgood.org](mailto:lauraw@centralforgood.org)  
Child Care Staff: Megan Beese,  
Jess Garner, Maria Stokes

### Music Leadership

Eric Bartlett, Abbie Betinis,  
Paul Damico-Carper, Shanta  
Hejmadi, Tonia Hughes Kendrick,  
Melanie Ohnstad, Clara Osowski,  
Adam Van der Sluis, Alex Woods

### Adult Education

Maureen Smith, Bible Study Leader

### Food Ministry

Barb Westman, Chef & Food Manager  
[barb.westman@gmail.com](mailto:barb.westman@gmail.com)

### Building Maintenance

Lavar Jones, Custodian  
Peter Evarts, Custodian



# CENTRAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

500 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



*Peace*  
IS DOING, NOT WAITING

SEPTEMBER 3 - OCTOBER 1, 2023



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

## Special Offering

Together we promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice.

On October 1, Central will collect the Peace & Global Witness offering, which is used to address systems of conflict and injustice here at home and around the world. To learn more, see page 7.