



Central Today

September 2017

www.cpcstpaul.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP

10:30 AM

During a June sermon I hinted at my love for the award-winning musical *Hamilton*. It was so much fun to have the youth choir from Tucson shouting back "rise up!" that morning!

One of my favorite moments is the song where the Schuyler sisters are introduced. The three sisters quote, "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal." Angelica, ever bold responds, "And when I meet Thomas Jefferson - I'm a compel him to include women in the sequel!"

That is the power of founding stories and founding principles. They get to work on our hearts and our imaginations. When we take their truths seriously, they can serve to critique and inspire us to renewed courage. To write ourselves into the story.

This fall we will be exploring one of the founding stories and themes of the Bible - the Exodus. "A movement of the people," to quote Bob Marley. And thus concludes my cultural references for this article. And yet a close read of these freedom stories in the Bible make us ask tough questions and pay close attention to issues of injustice today and compel us to reflect on how we can engage in God's work.

Here at Central, we believe that God still calls people to go on journeys of faith and God's spirit leads us ever onward in pursuit of more justice, more dignity, more freedom. These are the motivations that harnessed the prayers and volunteers of this community to co-sponsor a refugee family from Afghanistan. These goals will inform the work we do with VocalPoint this year. Our education – that learning the stories and themes of the Bible will help shape the character of children and adults alike.

September is a great time to get involved in this church, and to work with others for more freedom, more peace, more justice and kindness. So glad to have you reading these words - I hope to see you at Central soon.

-Rev. David Colby

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Upcoming Worship: September

JOIN US FOR
WORSHIP!
SUNDAYS AT
10:30 AM

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

9:30 ADULT BIBLE
STUDY

9:30 SUNDAY
SCHOOL
BEGINNING 9/10

10:30 WORSHIP

11:30
FELLOWSHIP,
COFFEE

Sunday, September 3.

The Rev. Gilo Agwa will preach, and we will hear two anthems sung by an Anuak choir.

My name is Gilo Agwa, I was born and raised in Gambella Ethiopia. My first job was with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus East Gambella Bethel Synod in different positions from 2000 to 2011. I am married and have five children who were reunited with me in 2014 after being apart for three years.

In October 2007, I was ordained as a pastor in the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, which is an affiliate to the Evangelical Church in America (ELCA) and the Presbyterian Church (USA).

After moving to the US while waiting for the asylum application to be approved, I decided to go to the seminary in order to learn and be ambassador of Christ wherever I go. I went to the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, where I finished the Master of Divinity in 2014 and also the Master of Art in Missional Christianity in 2015 and moved to Minnesota.

From 2013, until 2015 I have been under the supervision of the John Knox Presbytery and later on under the Twin Cities Area Presbytery as a process for the ordination. After going through the process I was ordained on May 27th 2017 as an ordained teaching elder by Twin Cities Area Presbytery.

Currently, I work as a part-time Chaplain for Good Samaritan Society, and Part-time pastor for Anuaks refugees in St. Paul area and surroundings. There are more than 3000 Anuak tribal people in Minnesota the

majority of which are in Twin Cities area. The Twin Cities Area Presbytery and St. Paul Area Synod are supporting this ministry as I serve as pastor and praying to be full time pastor in the future. This ministry is wholistic (spiritual and physical), helping Anuaks to love God and love their neighbor.

Sunday, September 10.

It is Rally Day at Central! The choir is back, and will be leading in worship from the very start of the service. Knowing that the Bible is a powerful tool, one that can shape our faith and imaginations, we will present Desmond Tutu's Bible Storybook to children in kindergarten. Rev. Colby will preach on the opening cries of the Exodus story.

The 9:30 education hour will mark the start of Sunday School for children in Preschool through 8th grade. We will be following the story of Moses through Exodus this fall.

After service there will be games for all ages.

Sunday, September 17

Meals featuring great healthy food and chances to connect with others are a highlight of life at Central. Plan to stay after worship for our monthly 3rd Sunday Lunch. During worship, the Exodus theme continues as we meet the unlikely soon-to-be-leader Moses. As we hear the founding story of God hearing the cries of the Hebrew slaves, our prayers will open our hearts to ways we can work with God for freedom. Rev. Colby will preach on Exodus 2. The Central Choir sings.

Sunday, September 24

God calls unlikely people to do brave and bold acts of justice. Today we hear about the call to Moses in the burning bush and of Moses attempts to bargain with God. The Rev. Jeff Japinga will preach.

The Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Japinga is the executive presbyter for the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area, elected to this position in May, 2017, for a five-year term, after serving two years as transitional executive presbyter. He previously was a member of the faculty and dean of the doctor of ministry program at McCormick Theological Seminary, a PCUSA seminary in Chicago, and before that served for two decades as a member of the national staff of the Reformed Church in America.

Away from the work of the Presbytery, you might find him in a kayak, or on a bike, or out on the deck with a good book.

Special Justice Choir music from the Justice Choir Songbook—all are welcome to join us (see announcement below).

**Sing For Justice!**

About nine months ago, local composer and friend of Central's, Abbie Betinis, began a project to collect songs—some familiar and many new—that spoke about our times. She had been attending rallies and marches and noticed the lack of singing; she wanted to change that, believing that music has an incredible power to transform and to unite. She began asking colleagues, friends, and composers around the country to contribute, and the *Justice Choir Songbook* has emerged. It is 43 songs that speak about peace, justice, and unity that we pray for and work towards here at Central.

The songs are catchy, easy to learn, and meaningful to sing. You don't need to be a "choir member" to sing them; in fact, that's the point: all of us need to raise our voices – on key, off key, good singer, new singer – to seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. Please consider joining us for this special opportunity to work with Abbie herself. All ages (kids are very welcome!) and all abilities are encouraged to join us! Bring a neighbor, invite a friend. Everyone who participates will receive a special "Love is Love" t-shirt (adult and kid sizes). Here are the details; ask if you have questions!

When: Rehearsal is Wednesday, September 20 at 7:15 (This is a chance to learn the music, but it's all very easy, so don't be intimidated by the idea of a rehearsal. The Central Choir will be there too to help and guide!)

Sing in worship on Sunday, Sept. 24 – Gather at 9:45 and sing at the 10:30 service.

Who: EVERYONE! All ages, all abilities!

Where: Gather in the sanctuary both for the rehearsal and the worship service. Free parking for both days in the MPR lot, or the World Trade Center Ramp (ask for a chaser from Jennifer).

Bring: Nothing! You will be receiving a "Love is Love" shirt to wear for the Sunday service.

Women of Central

Women's Networking Dinners – join the fun!!

September 12 – Black Sheep Coal Fired Pizza

October 10 – Herbie's on the Park

Meet at church at 5:15 pm to walk over to the restaurant, or meet us at the restaurant when it is convenient for you. Please contact Sue Hoffman if you will require child care, no later than 4 days before the event.



Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering

Interfaith Outreach: Understanding our Muslim Neighbors

presented by Sadia Tarannum (NW Islamic Center in Minneapolis)

Saturday, October 7, 2017 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm Church of the Apostles Presbyterian Church, Burnsville, MN

I encourage all women of Central to attend this event in October. The topic is very relevant for us, as recent co-sponsors of the Ahmady family and as citizens of our community. The program includes networking, education, discussion, lunch, a short business meeting and worship. Each of these gatherings that I have attended has been very well done, uplifting and informative. Registration forms will be available on the Women of Central bulletin board in September. Also, you can contact me, Sue Hoffman (syhoffman123@comcast.net or 612-998-6389) if you wish to register. Carpools can be arranged too!

Here is Ms. Tarannum's biography: A graduate of the U of MN, Sadia Tarannum is a Senior Project Manager and Business Insights Partner with a major retailer in the Twin Cities. She has been a proactive leader in the Muslim community of the Twin Cities for over 17 years and currently serves as the Interfaith Outreach and Community Building Director at the NW Islamic Community Center in Plymouth.

4th Sunday Knitting Group

Upcoming meetings are September 24 and October 22

The 4th Sunday knitting and crocheting group meets on the 4th Sunday of each month (except November and December) and everyone who wants to knit and/or crochet is welcome! We meet from 11:45 am – 12:45 pm, generally in the upstairs lounge. Watch the bulletin and newsletter for updates to meeting location while the lounge is under renovation.

In addition to prayer shawls, we are working on hats and mittens for the winter, which are donated to The Family Place.

Donations of yarn, needles, patterns are always welcome too! There are knitting and crocheting materials available for people who want to participate in the ministry. Contact Sally Mortenson or Sue Hoffman with any questions.

Children and Youth

Sunday School

September 10 we will kick off Sunday School for the 2017-2018 school year. Children of all ages will be following the story of Moses through Exodus. We will be using the *Growing in Grace and Gratitude* curriculum.

From the publisher: *Growing in Grace & Gratitude* is quarterly curriculum that will help transform the lives of children and those who love them, shaped by grace and gratitude. Each session shares a Bible story that reveals God's grace for us. Through fun, age-appropriate activities, prayer, and singing, children and their leaders will celebrate the meaning of this grace in their lives as they encounter a living God.

Sunday School classes are grouped by age.

- Children birth through age 3 are welcome in the nursery during both the education hour and during service.
- Children in Preschool and Kindergarten are invited to the preschool room for Sunday School and during service if they do not wish to remain in the sanctuary.
- Children in 1st-3rd grade are invited to the orange room for Sunday School. Children in the group are encouraged to remain in service after children's time, but are welcome in the preschool room after children's time.
- Children in 4th grade and above are invited to the Christian Education office for Sunday School.

New this year will be a children's bulletin geared towards younger elementary students. The bulletin will have a brief order of worship as well as activities around that day's theme.

Youth Group

Kids in middle school and above are encouraged to join in youth group activities this year. Activities include a Mystery Dinner this fall, pageant prop building, several opportunities for a day of service, and more.

Children's Choir

This year we are encouraging children that want to sing in service to come to choir practice at 10:05 Sunday mornings in the orange room. They are also encouraged to practice at home. To help with this, printed music will be sent home. Below are the dates we will be singing in service:

- October 15
- December 10, during the pageant
- February 4
- March 25, Palm Sunday
- April 22, with the adult choir for Earth Mass
- May 20, just children 3rd grade and older.

Community News & Events

Volunteer Opportunity

The Coordinated Mission Committee is excited to share an upcoming volunteer opportunity through Great River Greening on Saturday, October 7 from 9 am to 1 pm at Victoria Park. Victoria Park is located at 1455 Victoria Way West in St Paul.

Volunteers will hike through the park to a part of Crosby Farms Park on the river and plant trees to help build resilience and diversity of the floodplain forests. This is a family-friendly event and is open to all ages; children must be supervised. A light breakfast and free lunch will be provided.

Pre-registration is required through Great River Greening at <https://www.greatrivergreening.org/events/Victoria-park/>

Great River Greening is a non-profit organization, based in St. Paul, that inspires and leads local communities throughout Minnesota in restoring the land and water that enriches our lives. Please consider volunteering to help enhance the new park in St. Paul's West Seventh neighborhood.

Rally Day!

Sunday, September 10 join us after the 10:30 worship service for games and activities: bean bag toss, crab soccer, lawn dice, board games and more! This is a wonderful opportunity for members and visitors of all ages to meet new people. Assuming weather is good we will play on the grass outside the MPR door. Games will be set up in the dining room if the weather keeps us inside.



Music News!



Central Choir – Join us!

What we're working on this September:

Music for weekly worship

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat music for Cabaret on October 15!

Justice Choir music for September 24

Our first rehearsal this fall is Wednesday, September 6 at 7:15.

Please contact me if you have questions, or if you plan to join us (I'll save a folder for you!)

Jennifer Anderson, Director of Music



VocalPoint Corner

Announcing our 2018 Beneficiary Organization and Headliner!

Getting a job and keeping it is hard – but for some, the deck seems especially stacked against them. For those without a high school diploma, good jobs are nearly non-existent, and for those with a criminal record, even getting an interview is rare. Add to that generational poverty and racial disparities in our public school system and in our workplaces, and getting a good job for some feels like an unattainable dream.



VocalPoint is pleased to partner with Twin Cities R!SE this upcoming season. With a mission of transforming lives out of poverty through meaningful employment, TCR will be celebrating its 25th year working to empower adults, especially men of color, to achieve long term job success to support their families.

Twin Cities R!SE uses an innovative approach to their workforce training program, including: Personal Empowerment training, Career Coaches, 21st century life skills, and unique partnerships with employers. The typical TCR participant enters the program with an annual income of about \$4500. After completing the program, average income is over \$28,000, and 81% of the participants are still in their jobs after one year.

Other stats:

- 52% are African American
- 24% are Caucasian
- 15% identify as other or multi-racial
- 64% have a criminal history
- 64% have a history of chemical dependency
- 58% are male
- 64% are parents
- The average age is 36

Our culture values hard work and rewards those who can be self-sufficient. But for some, they just need an advocate to provide encouragement and to help navigate through some of the challenges in life.

One of the sayings at TCR is “I am loveable. I am important. I am valuable.” We can’t imagine a better group that proclaims that message more than Sounds of Blackness, and we are beyond excited that they will be headlining our concerts on February 10 and 11, 2018. Sounds of Blackness has performed for literally millions of people -- from the Olympics to the White House, and the Grammys, including in 1992 when they won a Grammy. In 2015 their piece “Royalty,” set in the Black Lives Matter movement, topped the charts at number 14, influencing a whole new generation to believe in themselves. And just last month, they could be heard performing at the National Convention of the NAACP in Baltimore, Maryland.

This truly will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience to sing with Sounds of Blackness as we support the worthy mission of Twin Cities R!SE. For those who would like to join us, auditions will be in late fall; we’ll post audition info on our Facebook page and our website. Rehearsals being in January. Our concerts are February 10 and 11; we look forward to seeing you all then.

Thank you!

Jennifer Anderson
Artistic Director, VocalPoint

P.S. Stay up-to-date by following VocalPoint on Facebook, or by signing up for the e-newsletter at www.vocalpointchorus.org.

Nurturing Leaders - the Nominating Committee Needs You

Like Moses and Aaron and Miriam (characters we will meet this fall in the Exodus stories) we believe that God is still calling and nurturing leaders for the community of faith. The Church Nominating Committee has begun its work to prayerfully consider people to serve as elders and deacons. Presbyterians elect **elders** to exercise leadership, government, and discipleship and **deacons** to minister to those in need. Our job is to discern those members of Central God is preparing for leadership.

While the Nominating Committee will conduct its discernment prayerfully, carefully, and confidentially, we have two requests of you at this time. First, we seek your prayers as we work. Second, we seek your ideas – your suggestions – of particular people you think might be good elders and deacons. *Self-nominations are encouraged!*

These roles require a love of Jesus and a strong faith that is open to new ideas and new frontiers. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world.

The Nominating Committee will be meeting in September and we would love to hear from you by then.

Sincerely, the 2017 Nominating Committee (Bruce Beese, John Lee, Lillian Sanders, Sue Hoffman, Melissa Varanasi and David Colby)

I would like to explore God’s call to serve as an elder / deacon (circle one or both)

I suggest _____ to be considered to serve as an elder / deacon (circle one or both) because:

Form can be emailed to office@cpctstpaul.org, mailed to the church office, or placed in the offering plate.

September Calendar

Book Group will meet Tuesdays, September 12 and 26 at 10:30 in the Friendship Room. A future read will be *Still Life* by Louise Penny. The book for September has not yet been picked.

Dorcas Circle will meet Thursday, September 14 at 11:30 in the Friendship room. Bring your own lunch. Coffee and dessert will be provided. We'll be looking at lesson one.

Office closed: The church office will be close September 4 in observance of Labor Day.



A few pictures from a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School!



Happy Birthday!

Marjorie Elliott	9/1	Simon Jones	9/15
Pat Snitker	9/4	Karen Hanscom	9/18
Trygve Pearce	9/5	Charles Gustafson	9/19
Linda Peterson	9/7	Elizabeth Suhfor	9/20
Grace Price	9/10	Craig Foss	9/21
Terry Henry	9/12	Thomas Fish	9/23
Gifty Amarteifio	9/14	Sean Kelly-Kennedy	9/23
David Winkworth	9/14	Jane Gulsvig	9/27
Carrie Eyler	9/15	Phyllis Brashler	9/29



*If we erroneously missed your name, please send us a note so that we can correct our records:
office@cpcstpaul.org*

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Central Presbyterian Church

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Thank You's!

THANK YOU to Jim O'Neill for the hours of work painting the lounge and remodeling the bathroom. It looks great!

THANK YOU to all the amazing and wonderful volunteers that helped make Vacation Bible School happen! Laura Williams, Kati Berg, Linda Johnson, Stefan Gherghelegiu, Sue Hoffman, and Avis Tilden helped with making and serving lunch. Cris Ross took our visitors on a Mississippi boat ride. The crew from Texas for all they did in planning and making happen this wonderful adventure.

THANK YOU to office volunteers Jane Gulsvig, Jan Engeswick, Laura Williams, and Gayle Smith for filling in during August!



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