

# CONNECT CENTRAL

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SEPTEMBER 2020

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## A DIFFERENT KIND OF SEPTEMBER

### Yet, Still a Church Together

This will be a September like no other in recent history. We are getting used to writing and reading statements like that ever since the Coronavirus pandemic became a reality for us in March. In years past, I have often written how much I enjoy the month of September, with all the activities that bring us back together in the church building. Well, this will be a different kind of September at church, just like it will be a different kind of September for students and teachers and families, and people who are used to traveling frequently.

But I am still really eager to watch and experience new ways of

connecting with you. New ways of being the church together. New ways of offering care and compassion and courage as together we try to discern how God is leading us in this specific time.

I hope that you will continue on to read this newsletter. Knowing as we do that we are in a time when some things may change, please also participate in worship online ([www.centralforgood.org/stream](http://www.centralforgood.org/stream)) and look for updates on our website and Facebook pages.

May God's peace be with us all,

Rev. David Colby

# UPCOMING WORSHIP

## Sunday, September 6

Derek Peterson and Laura Williams are active members of the Central community and national experts in community and adolescent resiliency. Used to traveling around the world to offer workshops and develop programs and policies, they have been spending this pandemic at a farm in North Dakota. They will lead worship on the theme of resilience, providing a phramework (the spelling is intentional here and you may learn why!) for how we can be faithful and creative.

## Sunday, September 13

Caring Together Sunday! It's not quite a "Rally Sunday" or "Festival Sunday" as we have known in recent years, but on this day we get to the heart of our faith and what it means to be church: being cared for and caring for others.

## Sundays, September 20 & 27

Plans for September 20 and 27 are still being developed at the time of the newsletter deadline.

As we plan worship during this time, we will be guided by some key goals:

- Keeping our community healthy and safe.
- Integrate the resources of our faith to speak into our current situation.
- Offering creative experiments while making sure our worship production process is efficient.

Join us

for

worship

online

at

[www.centralforgood.org/stream](http://www.centralforgood.org/stream)

**New to Central?  
Drop us an email and  
say hello. We'd love to  
connect with you!**

[office@  
centralforgood.org](mailto:office@centralforgood.org)

## CENTRAL STAFF

(651) 224-4728

### PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Dr. David Colby, Pastor  
davec@centralforgood.org, ext. 102

Maureen Smith, Pastoral Associate  
maureens@centralforgood.org

Parish Associates: Rev. Casey Wells,  
Rev. Doug Throckmorton,  
Rev. Lou Bender

### ADMINISTRATION

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office@centralforgood.org, ext. 100

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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

Katie Morris, Children & Youth  
Ministry Coordinator  
katiem@centralforgood.org, ext. 109

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



Join us for  
**Caring Together Sunday**  
as we share

# CENTRAL ON PARADE!

**Sunday, September 13**  
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Take a drive or walk through the MPR parking lot and experience a little of what makes our Central community wonderful! While you stay in your vehicle (or, if you are walking over, stay socially distanced), you will share in experiences for all ages.

**Backpack blessings and blessings  
for anyone returning to school**

**Prayer shawls and pocket shawls for those  
in need of comfort in these difficult times**

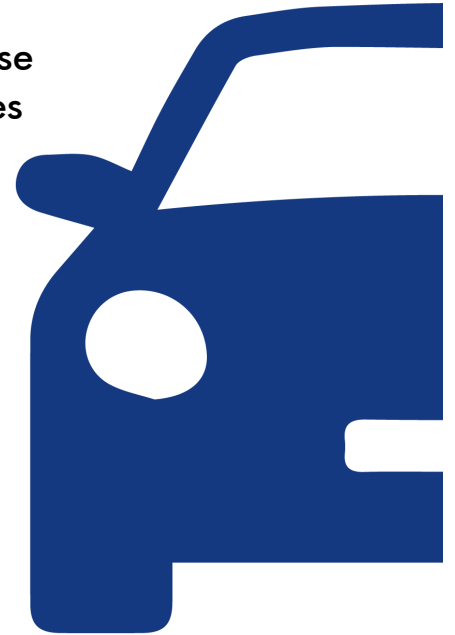
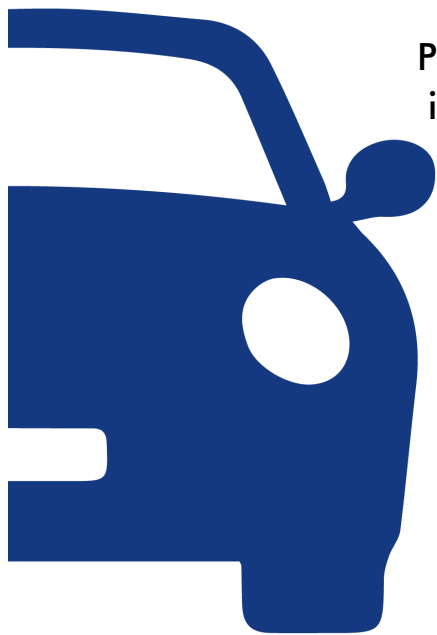
**A fun scavenger hunt for all ages**

**Live music by our  
talented Central musicians**

**A wall of prayers**

**Ice cream refreshments**

**Come over anytime during the hour  
for this open-house-style event.**



**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!**

# CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

## September Meeting

The Session has called for a Congregational Meeting to be held on **Sunday, September 20 at 11:30 a.m.** to act on recommendations to amend the congregational bylaws. This meeting will be a teleconference event using Zoom technology. All active members of the Central congregation are eligible to vote.

The Session recommends two changes to the bylaws of the congregation that will be acted upon at this meeting.

1. Congregational bylaw #2 states "there shall be an annual general meeting of the congregation in the church edifice at a time and date in the first quarter of the calendar year following a Sunday morning worship service."

- Session recommends deleting the words "in the church edifice".
- Bylaw #17 notes that "Rule 2 is subject to amendment with respect to date, hour and place of meeting only"

2. Congregational bylaw #12 states "There shall be twelve ruling elders divided into three equal classes . . ."

- Session recommends changing the word "twelve" to "fifteen"

For any congregational meeting, voting is limited to members of the congregation.

For this upcoming meeting, here are some basic things to know now (more details will be sent to members in advance).

## A Guide for Participants

For voting to work, each participating voter must connect to the virtual congregational meeting separately. **One connection = one vote.** Online connection using a computer or mobile device is preferred. If online participation is not possible, members may connect with a regular phone. You may also need the phone-only option if you do not have enough devices in your home for all members to connect online.

## Joining Via Computer, Tablet, or Smartphone

The recommended way to participate in this meeting is through an internet-connected computer or tablet with a microphone and speaker or a smartphone (iOS or Android) to ensure full functionality. Online participants should install the Zoom app and test their connection before attending the meeting.

## Joining Via Telephone

You will also have the option of joining the meeting using a telephone by dialing in with the meeting ID number and passcode. You will not be able to see the video, but you will be able to hear, speak and vote.

## Zoom Access Info

Watch your mailbox and email inbox for further details with the Zoom link, passcode and specific details about how to participate.

## November Meeting

The Session has also approved November 15 as the date for the congregational meeting to elect elders, deacons and members-at-large for the 2021 Nominating Committee. All active members of the Central congregation are eligible to vote and to be considered for office.

The location or method for has not yet been determined.

V I R T U A L

**COFFEE**

**TIME**



**CONNECT AND CATCH UP!**

After the September congregational meeting, stay on the Zoom call and share 'coffee time' and casual conversation with other members of Central.

Need to run after the meeting? No worries! This is simply a casual opportunity to connect with those you may not have seen in a while. More opportunities to come!



# CHECK IN WITH OUR MUSIC STAFF

[ BY JENNIFER ANDERSON ]

I mentioned this as the spring season was wrapping up, but I wanted to again reflect on what an amazing group of people we have on staff in music ministry at Central. Our section leaders and collaborative pianist have had to shift – as so many of us have – to a whole new way of leading and making music. Many of us are especially grieving that singing together seems to be more problematic and potentially dangerous with this pandemic. All of us – volunteer and staff alike – miss singing together so very much. We miss singing hymns with you, and being together during rehearsals and worship.

Fortunately, our team of staff musicians are incredibly flexible and have adapted to new ways in order to continue providing music leadership in these uncharted days of Covid. I thought it might be nice to hear from them. Please keep them, and all our musicians at Central, in your prayers.

## Eric Bartlett

BASS SECTION LEADER

I've been lucky enough to work 100% remotely these last seven months, and that has given me a lot of wonderful time with Abbie and Thessaly. We've also been doing coordinated two-week quarantines with Thessaly's three sets of grandparents, and working from their homes, which has led to more quality family time.



But, I really miss making music with my friends at Central, and really hope that there is some way to do that soon!

## Abbie Betinis

ALTO SECTION LEADER

If there's any silver lining for us in this pandemic, it's been spending time with 9-month old Thessaly's three sets of grandparents (after coordinated quarantines). The highlights were three separate "toe-dipping" ceremonies where we dunked her sweet feet into the lakes nearest and dearest to our family: Lake Esquagama (near Gilbert,



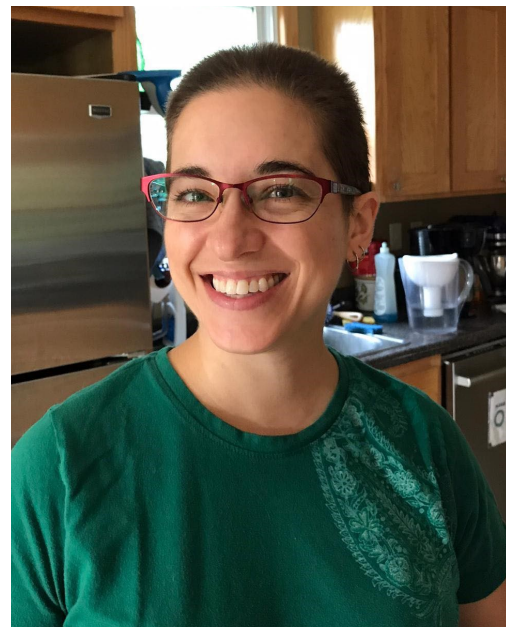
MN), Lake Superior (near Marquette, MI), and Rainy Lake (International Falls, MN)... complete with poetry, prayers, and singing.

We of course miss the organ and the choir, and can't wait to raise our voices together when all this isolation is over... we're getting sick of our own harmonies! Oh, and yogurt everywhere.

## Shanta Hejmadi

SOPRANO SECTION LEADER

All the COVID shutdowns meant that I was unable to take any of my research trips this summer, sadly. The silver lining is that since I'm home, I have been canning and brewing like crazy! My summer has included 21 gallons of wine brewing in my basement, and a lot of jam and pickles. I've been tending my garden and growing lots of cucumbers, tomatoes, basil, kale, and beans.



[ CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 ]

UPDATES FROM MUSIC STAFF [ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5 ]

And, I just wrapped up my VERY FIRST (virtual) scientific conference where I gave a talk in a paper session on my PhD research. I'm very excited to have structured music projects to do this fall, as I know I will need a break from the rigors of teaching multivariate statistics and morphometrics.

**Steve Swanson**

PIANIST

I spent the summer preparing and recording an album of Grieg art song, getting to know our two new guinea pigs, and deep-diving into the world of K-pop.



(Steve is holding Renly, while spouse Casey plays peek-a-boo with Loras!)

**David Winkworth**

BARITONE SECTION LEADER

Fall is absolutely my favorite portion of the year; it always has been. From

back-to-school and shopping for supplies, from the resumption of church year programming, through the vibrant autumn colors, the approaching nip in the air, and the triple-punch of holidays Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas: so many wonderful and happy memories. This summer has been so unusual given the pandemic; I have tried to use the extra spare time to reach out to friends old and new in a more intentional way; whether by email, phone, text, or Zoom. That has been a gift and a blessing.



In July, I began a series of medical appointments which resulted in a diagnosis of kidney cancer. While the prognosis is good, I will be undergoing some treatments and surgeries in the coming weeks and months. I do plan to continue participating fully in the life of my church family as much as possible. If you'd like to follow along on my

journey, you are welcome to do so at on the CaringBridge website at: [www.caringbridge.org/visit/davidawinkworth](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/davidawinkworth)

**Adam Van der Sluis**

TENOR SECTION LEADER

Leah and I got married! After a very small ceremony on the St. Croix River (officiated by Rev. Colby!), we spent two-and-a-half weeks in Maine, where Leah's mom has a beautiful place on the ocean, complete with a separate one-room cottage which was perfect for a self-quarantine after a cross-country drive. I swam in the ocean every day while Leah was on the paddle-board (Pooch Megan had to stay inside because of her doggy-instinct to rescue us whenever we were on the water) and generally had a relaxed and peaceful time. With all that, it is still good to be home! It's been overwhelming hearing from folks in the choir after the wedding. The cards and notes have been great!



## COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN AS RECOMMENDED BY CENTRAL'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE

**WE CARE ABOUT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY  
AND ALL WHO ENTER THE CHURCH BUILDING.**



### Continue Remotely

Staff and committees will continue to work and gather for meetings via Zoom when in-person dynamics are not essential.



### Gather Outdoors

When needed, take advantage of fall opportunities to gather in small (safely distanced) groups outside.



### Stay Home

If you or anyone in your home is sick or has any of the following symptoms, please stay home.

*Fever*

*Cough*

*Shortness of Breath*

*Headache*

*Chills*

*Muscle Aches*

*Sore Throat*

*Lost of Taste or Smell*



### Small Indoor Groups

Indoor meetings and activities of less than 10 people are allowed with the protocols identified on this page.



### Wear a Mask

Please wear a mask while you are in the building, as required by state mandate.



### Sanitize Your Hands

After entering, use one of several sanitizer stations now located throughout the building.



### Keep Distance

Please stay at least 6 feet away from others occupying the building.



### Have Questions?

Contact Central's Covid-19 Plan Administrator, Anna Sanchez, at [office@centralforgood.org](mailto:office@centralforgood.org) or (651) 224-4728, ext. 100.



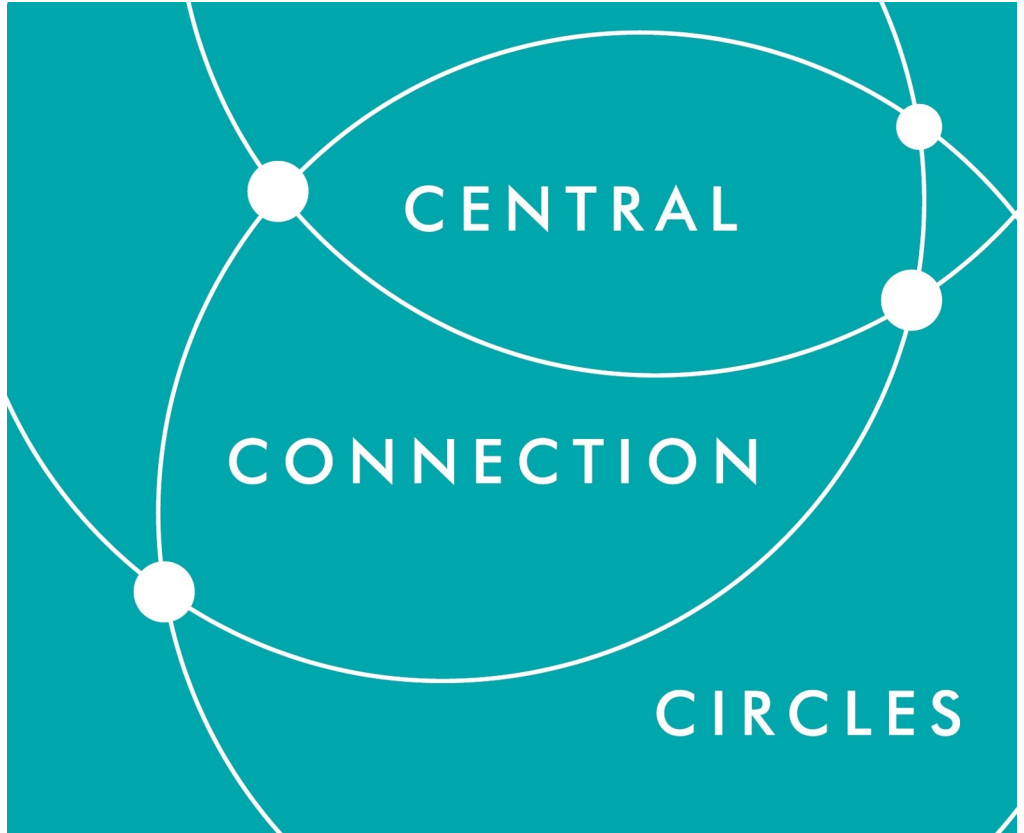
# THANK YOU DIAPER DRIVE DONORS!

Thank you to everyone who contributed donations of diapers and wipes to our recent Diaper Drive in support of Project Home families, as well as those who served as collection volunteers. As you can see, it was a grand success!

Thank you Rev. Colby and Mark Vance for delivering the lot to Project Home, pictured here with Project Home's Sara Liegle, her husband and son.







## CONNECT WITH OTHERS

Have you yet shared in Central's weekly Connection Circles? These Zoom events are hosted by Central's Deacons and offered as a means for our community to gather and connect through different guided conversations. People of all ages and backgrounds share personal stories, concerns, and offer support with others. If you have not yet been a part of one, we invite you to stop by for this wonderful, casual gathering.

Connection Circles run every Thursday until October 15 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Be a part of one or as many as you like!

### How to Participate

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#

### Have Questions?

If you have questions, are interested in special topics, or serving as a host, we invite you to speak a planning team member (Laura Williams, Laura Hutton, Linda Berglund, or Maureen Smith.)

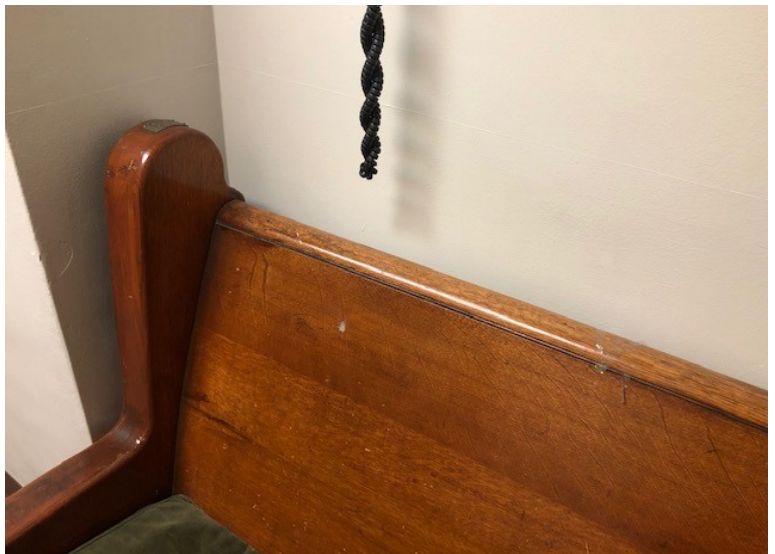
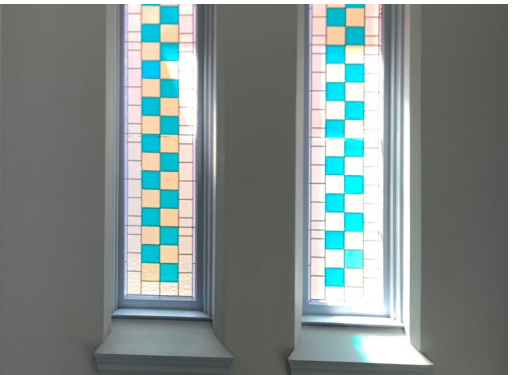
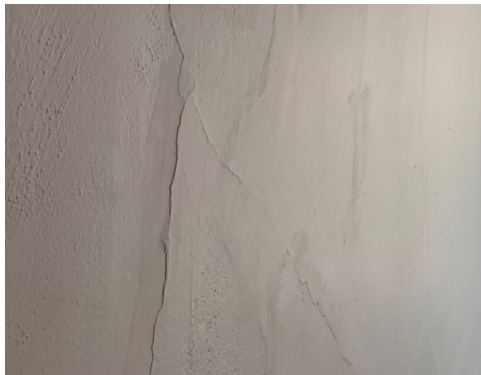
If you have questions about small groups, how to get connected, or how to reach the planning team, email [office@centralforgood.org](mailto:office@centralforgood.org) or call (651) 224-4728 ext. 100.



# WHERE, OH, WHERE IS THIS?

As we continue to gather in different ways online and away from the church, we know that the physical church building is not what makes our Central community.

However, it is nice to see that beloved familiar space every once in a while! Can you identify where in the church these photos were each taken?





## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Central's Session received the following new members on August 18 (and welcomed them in online worship on August 18).

- **Maggie Gordon**
- **Ronald Staff**
- **Lynne Severson** (Lynne's husband John served previously as an interim pastor at Central from 2001-2005).

Join us in welcoming them to Central as we introduce our recent additions in coming newsletters.



### Maggie Gordon

Maggie has been coming to Central Presbyterian since the first day she moved in across the street at Central Towers. "When I looked up after unloading my last box, my attention went to the gorgeous stained glass window across the street. It was Maundy Thursday and I was just in time for the service. I went into the church and have been there ever since!" During these three and a half years, Maggie has

become more and more involved at Central, working on task forces related to hunger and housing as well as leading the knitting group this past year.

Maggie has been a bead and multi-media artist for the last 30 years. She has two amazing daughters, Joanie and Kate.



### Ronald Stagg

Ronald came to Central with DAPC and has been attending services here at Central for the past year and a 1/2. Ronald injured his back several years ago so he has not worked since 2009 but has been volunteering at Saint Joseph's hospital for the last 2 years. (With the pandemic, Ronald has not been able to volunteer for the past several months.) Prior to that, Ronald volunteered at Benjamin E. Mays school in their reading program and was a youth counselor at a boy's group home here in Saint Paul prior to the volunteering.



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# BACK TO SCHOOL

## A Different Kind of Year

As we begin this school year, we know it's going to be quite different, and it's important to acknowledge that together. Are there things you're going to miss? Activities that won't be safe to do? Traditions that will look different? Taking time to acknowledge that grief and disappointment together as a family reminds us all that this is a strange time, and that it's okay to be confused or sad or disappointed. As a family, you might also like to talk about some new or different traditions you'd like to begin together.

We hope you'll join us on Caring Together Sunday, September 13th, for *Central on Parade!* (or whatever we decide to call it!) From 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Central staff and other church leaders will be in the MPR parking lot waiting for you to drive (or walk!) through to say hello, receive a blessing (with special goody

bags for those returning to school!), add your prayer to our prayer wall, and get a treat. This is a different year in so many ways, but we want you to know that we miss you all and care about you deeply, and we'd love to see your faces on the 13th. See page 3 for more details!

### Faith Formation and Fellowship Gatherings

As much as we can, we hope to take advantage of the good weather for some safe outdoor activities this fall, and our regular faith formation will take place on Zoom on Sundays. These faith formation Zoom gatherings will be flexible in content, with opportunities for grandparents or other far-away family members to join us, some time for reading stories from the bible and elsewhere and discussing together, checking in with one

another, and playing games. We hope to provide space for the children and youth to stay connected with their church friends and feel spiritually nourished. We know that online gatherings don't work well for everyone, and we understand! If you have ideas about how your child would like to stay connected, or how your family would like to be supported by church programming this year, contact Katie Morris at [katiem@centralforgood.org](mailto:katiem@centralforgood.org).

Sundays on Zoom, beginning on September 20:

- Middle and High School Youth with Katie
- Kindergarten and under with Megan
- 1st-5th grade with Katie

Check out the weekly Children and Youth email for details on times and Zoom meeting links!

### A Prayer for Back to School



At the start of the school year,  
we are beginning something new

New things can be exciting

New things can be scary

New things can be wonderful

New things can be confusing

God, you are always with us

You are with us when things are exciting,  
or scary, or wonderful, or confusing

You are with us every day

And all the time God, please help us to feel your presence  
with us on the first day of school, and every day, Amen

- by Traci Smith from *Prayers for Faithful Families*



## OUTDOOR FAMILY PICNIC [ SEPTEMBER 19 ]

It was so wonderful to see many of you for our picnic in August, and we want to take advantage of the beautiful weather while we can! Weather permitting, we hope you'll join us on Saturday, September 19, from 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at Mounds Park for a physically-distanced outdoor picnic! We want this gathering to be as safe and comfortable as possible for folks, so we will have some expectations in place for all families corresponding with guidance from Central's COVID Taskforce:

- BYO-Food! Each family can bring their own food, snacks, brunch, whatever you'd like.
- We'll stay physically distanced throughout the picnic, other than in family groupings (For example, families can set up their spot on the grass with food, blankets,

etc.), and masks should be used when physical distancing is not possible.

- We know that physical distancing is tough for kiddos, but in order to make this safe for everyone, families will be expected to remind little ones not to get too close to others.
- We'll have some options for physically-distanced games and activities, but feel free to bring your favorite park activities as well!

Depending on the number of folks interested, we may need to split into smaller groups, so please RSVP to Katie at [katiem@centralforgood.org](mailto:katiem@centralforgood.org) by Wednesday, September 16! This will allow us to communicate with you about meeting points and any last-minute weather decisions.



## MUSIC MINISTRY: PORCH SESSIONS

[ BY JENNIFER ANDERSON ]

While all the typical rehearsals have had to be postponed or highly adapted, we have found one way to make music together this summer: on my porch in South Minneapolis!

I open the windows, and turn on the ceiling fan, and then I go inside to play the piano. The porch is attached to the piano room and there is a large window between the rooms. So it allows for us to hear each other (pretty well!) and yet to keep the air exchanged to a

minimum. I've been so grateful to the following people for coming over for a "Porch Session"!

- Jess Garner, saxophone
- Deb Fonkert and Barb Fonkert, vocal duets
- Linda Kachelmeier, vocal soloist
- Jackie, Natalie, and Eliana Klaehn, vocal trio
- Clara Osowski, vocal soloist
- Tracy Gardiner, vocal soloist

Several folks have been able to have their own "Living Room

Sessions" to share with us:

- Mark and Wendy Flinner, piano and cello duet
- Amaya Colby-Clay, solo piano
- David Winkworth and Jayson Engquist, vocal and piano duets

You have, no doubt, been enjoying the results of these sessions on the weekly worship videos. And I am so incredibly grateful to all who have been contributing to our music ministry in this way and look forward to sharing future sessions!

# MUSIC MINISTRY: SEPTEMBER EVENTS

## Choir Fellowship

SEPTEMBER 9 AT 7:15 P.M.

On what would have been our first rehearsal of the fall, the choir is invited to a Zoom to share fellowship time to hear how our summers have been, to check in with each other, and to connect. A Zoom link will be sent to each choir member.

## Chamber Ensemble Rehearsal & Play

SEPTEMBER 13 AT 11:30 A.M.  
PARADE FROM NOON -1:00 P.M.

Polkas, marches, and other upbeat favorites to escort our Central on Parade visitors through the parking lot on Caring Together Sunday.

## Music Trivia!

SEPTEMBER 30 AT 7:15 – 8:15 P.M.

All sorts of trivia, for all sorts of folks! The whole church is invited to participate! This will be hosted by Jennifer and the music staff. Contact Jennifer or Anna for the Zoom log-in information or check the mid-week eConnect for that week.

# TWO REHEARSALS TOGETHER

On August 23, the Bells and Sticks and Steel gathered at the church on a very hot Sunday morning, and, with masks on and staying 6' apart, we rehearsed and made music together! What a joy!!! All of the musicians were tremendously patient as we had to navigate some new ways to rehearse, and we are looking forward to hearing their offerings in upcoming worship services.

A special thanks to Katie Morris for helping with Sticks and Steel, and to Kiera Faye and Josh Voelker for generously providing all the equipment – and most importantly, the expertise – for recording the sessions.







Join us in wishing a very *Happy Birthday* to all who are celebrating during the month of September.

- Marjorie Elliott..... 9/1
- Pat Snitker..... 9/4
- Trygve Pearce..... 9/5
- Linda Peterson..... 9/7
- Grace Price ..... 9/10
- Terry Henry ..... 9/12
- Gifty Amarteifio ..... 9/14
- David Winkworth..... 9/14
- Simon Jones..... 9/15
- Melina Suzuki..... 9/15
- Karen Hanscom..... 9/18
- Elizabeth Suhfor ..... 9/20
- Craig Foss..... 9/21
- Sean Kelly-Kennedy ..... 9/23
- Todd Mikish ..... 9/24
- Jane Gulsvig ..... 9/27
- Phyllis Brashler ..... 9/29
- Mark Flinner..... 9/29

If we missed you, please send us a note to [office@centralforgood.org](mailto:office@centralforgood.org) so that we can correct our records.



# 4 WAYS TO GIVE

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



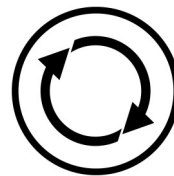
## Donate Online

[www.centralforgood.org/give](http://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

### THANK YOU

A whole lot of work goes on behind the scenes to make online worship possible and high quality! We are so grateful to Kiera Faye and Christie Rachelle who have done this week-in and week-out since March!

Thank you to the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area for a \$5,000 technology grant to enable the purchase of cameras and other equipment that will be used for livestreaming services and events from the sanctuary.

### OCTOBER FALL FAMILY DAY

The Children and Youth Committee is excited to be planning for a Fall Family Day in October! Unfortunately, our beloved Koinonia is closed to guests due to COVID-19, so we won't be able to go for our annual weekend retreat. But, save the date for October 3 or 4 when we will plan to gather safely outdoors for some activities and time together. Details to come!

### WOMEN OF CENTRAL NEWS

Save the date for our October Networking Group meeting on Mon., October 5 at 5:30 p.m.

Presbyterian Women of the Twin Cities Presbytery (PW-PTCA) Fall Gathering has been canceled. We hope to have a Spring 2021 gathering.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*



*In recent weeks, Central Presbyterian Church has been pleased to welcome ten new members to the congregation. As we continue to hear from visitors, it looks like we will add another new member class to our calendar in late November.*

*If you are interested in becoming a member or wish to learn more, we invite you to contact the office at [office@centralforgood.org](mailto:office@centralforgood.org).*

*We look forward to hearing from you!*