



# CONNECT CENTRAL

## *Embracing the Heart of Central in the Year to Come*

FROM REV. CHRIS CHATELAINE-SAMSEN

Since joining you in April, it has been a pleasure getting to know this wonderful congregation in the heart of Saint Paul. This community has a passion for God's love and justice, a joyful worship presence, robust faith formation, and a heart to serve this city.

As we return to the fall, I'm reminded of the beloved, familiar parts of Central's life together:

- Diverse music that connects us to each other and to God, and musicians who really know their stuff.
- A vibrant and growing youth and children's ministry program that takes both faith and fun seriously.
- Wednesday lunches that connect us with our community.
- And, all of the other things – lively Bible study, service to our city, and more – that make Central who we are.



**CENTRAL**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*in the city for good!*

You will also notice some new things as we move into the coming year, including:

- **A new adult faith formation class** each month that will engage the pressing issues of our time – the climate crisis, racial injustice, and more – with the Bible.
- **A greater presence in worship for our young people** as they continue to lead us in worship and faith.

- **A renewed focus on justice issues** that put our faith into practice.

At the heart of it all, beyond the events and the programs, we gather because we believe that God is in our community and doing something among us to bless this place we call home. We gather for worship, study, fellowship, and service to open our hearts and minds to God at work in the city and in the world.

I'm looking forward to Festival Sunday on September 10 as we celebrate a new year with our choir, festivities for all ages, and a look ahead to the year. It will be great to see you there!

In the meantime, don't forget to check out Central's website at [www.centraforgood.org](http://www.centraforgood.org) and sign up for our weekly eConnect email to stay informed of upcoming events!

God's Peace, Pastor Chris



**SEPTEMBER 2023**

Time to kick-off an exciting  
new year!



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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 AS WE WELCOME A NEW YEAR OF MINISTRY!

## 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, September 10

### FESTIVAL SUNDAY

Join us as we kick off an exciting and inspiring new year with a message from Psalm 122 titled "Pilgrimage Home" with Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen at the pulpit and Melanie Ohnstad on organ. We welcome back the Central Choir and our annual tradition of gifting new Bibles to children in Kindergarten and 3rd grade.

Come upstairs and visit the town of Galilee, fish in the Sea of Galilee, and enjoy figs and honey near the Mount of Beatitudes! We will delight in fun activities for all ages, including give-a-ways, balloon animals, temporary tattoos, bingo, popcorn, and more!

## Sunday, September 17

Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen preaches "Overtones" with a scripture reading from Revelation 2:1-5. Central Choir sings and Alex Woods plays piano. This day we will also share Third Sunday Lunch.

## Sunday, September 24

### INSTALLATION SUNDAY

Our morning worship service will be an exciting celebration as we install the Rev. Christopher Chatelaine-Samsen as our Pastor. Central Choir sings and Alex Woods plays piano. A reception will follow.

*Save the date!*

## SERVICE OF INSTALLATION

Join us for the installation service for Reverend Chris Chatelaine-Samsen to be received as the new Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 AT 10:30 A.M.

Reception to follow.

## Sunday, September 3

### COMMUNION SUNDAY

Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen will preach "Stories You Missed: The Jubilee" with scripture reading of Leviticus 25:1-12. Adam Van der Sluis, tenor, will sing and Alex Woods will play piano.

# festival SUNDAY

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

## BIBLE STUDY / MUSIC PREP 9:30 AM

Adults are invited to study the morning's scripture, as Maureen Smith leads our Adult Bible Study. Central Choir and the morning's musicians rehearse for worship.

## WORSHIP 10:30 AM

Worship explores Psalm 122 with a sermon "Pilgrimage Home" from Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen. Children in kindergarten and third grade receive new Bibles and we welcome back the Central Choir!

## FESTIVAL FUN 11:30 AM

Journey upstairs and visit the town of Galilee, fish in the Sea of Galilee, and enjoy figs and honey near the Mount of Beatitudes. Come delight in fun activities and games for all ages!

CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*



# Children & Youth News

FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & YOUTH MINISTRY

## Festival Sunday, September 10

### DURING WORSHIP

Our Kindergartners and 3rd Graders will receive Bibles and we will begin Sunday Connection (our Sunday School program for Grades 1 – 5 following worship's Time for Children). Nursery is available for ages 0 – 6 from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

### FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Join us for a Galilee Festival on the Upper Level of Central, including fun activities for all ages, give-a-ways, balloon animals, temporary tattoos, bingo, popcorn and other treats!

Come and visit the town of Galilee where Jesus lived and taught. You will receive some coins to buy items at the market and play games. Come fish in the Sea of Galilee and eat some figs and honey near the Mount of Beatitudes.

## The Gift of a New Bible

Do you have a Kindergartner or 3rd Grader? Or, perhaps an older child who might have missed receiving their Bible due to Covid or being new to Central?

If so, we will be presenting Bibles to them during worship on September 10.

Please contact Jennifer right away to confirm we have your child's name (and correct spelling) on our list!

## Sundays at Central BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 10

Children of all ages are always warmly welcomed in worship. We also offer other ways to learn and grow in age-specific settings.

### FOR CHILDREN AGE 0 – 6

Our beautiful nursery is staffed by professional caregivers, and full of fun toys and good friends! Childcare is available from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. each Sunday.

### FOR CHILDREN GRADES 1 - 5

The Bible is full of fascinating people, engaging stories, and important lessons. Our elementary-age children will explore how God works through people – long ago and still today!

Children begin in worship to sing and pray together. After the Time for Children, they are invited upstairs for engaging lessons for more in-depth learning and fun.

On the first Sunday of the month (Sundays typically with Communion) children help lead worship and stay throughout the service.

### FOR YOUTH GRADES 6 - 12

We know that teenagers have important questions about God, life, and themselves. Our compassionate and engaging adults offer safe spaces for big feelings and bigger questions. All while having a lot of fun.

- Lifeboats for Middle Schoolers (grades 6 - 8) on the 1st and 3rd Sundays from 11:30 - 12:30.
- Compass Senior High Youth Fellowship (grades 9 - 12) on the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 6:30 pm.

## Sunday Connection

We have lots of people that we look up to in our lives: our parents, teachers, older siblings or cousins, and hopefully some adults at church!

Another great place to find people to look up to (and learn from) is in the Bible. There are amazing stories of ordinary people who listen to God and try to follow what God is telling them to do. They don't always do it perfectly; they aren't always the most likely people to be called a hero, but we can learn a lot from them.

This fall, elementary aged children in our Sunday Connection ministry will be learning about Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and Miriam....

Come along to a time long ago and find some new heroes!

## Game Night and Campfire!

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

Wear your play clothes and bring your favorite game to share with others!

Who: All Children and Youth and their people. (It is a family event, so



kids make sure to bring your adults!)

What: All sorts of fun games and activities, plus food of course! We'll have games for all ages and offer activities both indoors and outside.

When: Saturday, September 30  
5:00 - 8:00 pm. We will eat at 5:30.

Where: The Klaehn Family Home  
(You will receive the address when you RSVP.)

Bring: A side dish to go with dinner, games if you like, and chairs for the campfire. To RSVP, email Jennifer at [jennifera@centralforgood.org](mailto:jennifera@centralforgood.org).



# Central to Host Community Event Against Gun Violence

BY VIRGIE BUNDY, MISSION AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE CHAIR

For 10 years the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church has called for congregations to take action on the problem of gun violence. The Mission Agency, the Peace Fellowship and the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly have urged Presbyteries and local churches to speak and act.

## A Period of Research

Central's Mission and Justice Committee began thinking about what we should do. Members researched allied organizations and Presbyterian programs. They gathered information about possibilities of effective action, ecumenical, interfaith and community partners.

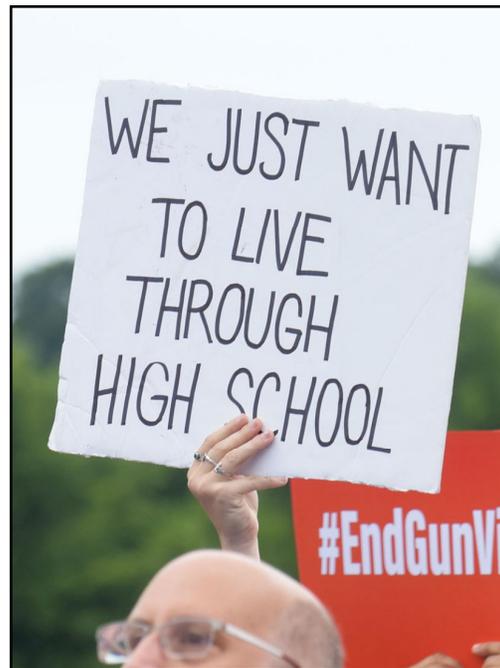
Pastor Chris introduced us to "Heeding God's Call for Non-Violence", a public display of shirts memorializing people who died from gun violence. Mary Miller found "Guns Into Garden Tools" endorsed

by Presbyterian Peace Fellowship and contacted the University of Minnesota Gun Violence Clinic. Leon Oman researched Protect Minnesota which is involved in legislative issues, gathering helpful information about those issues and learning about their Interfaith Alliance Arm. He also reported on Friends for a Non-Violent World and their walk for peace and justice. Virgie Bundy began gathering names of organizations working on anti-gun violence. The MN Council of Churches staff became involved.

## Moving Into Action

The committee felt the urgency for action and was pleased to discover that we would not stand alone. It became obvious to the committee that Central's role, given our location and history, was to host a public event.

And so, Session has endorsed a



community-wide event called "Make A Difference Day" to be held on Saturday, October 14.

The day will include a program with a variety of speakers, as well as an information / action fair which will provide concrete ways in which individuals, churches, and community groups can make a difference. As attendees leave, two blacksmiths will be converting guns into garden tools.

## Mark Your Calendars

This is an event you won't want to miss, so save the date to join us on Saturday, October 14. Registration is at 10:00 a.m. with the program to begin at 10:30 a.m.

More details to come, including a call for hospitality volunteers!



# Music Ensembles to Begin Soon!

BY JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & YOUTH MINISTRY

Music ensemble rehearsals will begin soon and we invite you to participate!

## The Central Choir

REHEARSES WEDNESDAYS AT 7:15 PM BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 6

An SATB adult choir that sings in worship nearly every week, 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, often highlighting the work of local composers! We also care for each other and laugh often.

## Bell Ensemble

REHEARSES WEDNESDAYS AT 6 PM BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 20

This is an ensemble for adults and high school youth with music-reading experience. This group will experiment with sounds and timbres and play interesting bell repertoire. Come and experiment with us!

## Chamber Ensemble

REHEARSES SUNDAYS AT 11:45 AM BEGINNING OCTOBER 15

Open to adults and youth (grade 8 and up) who have played traditional band/orchestra instruments for at least three years. We rehearse occasionally after worship for about 30 minutes and play in worship every -other-month or so. This ensemble plays periodically throughout the year with rehearsals on occasional Sundays as needed.



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(651) 224-4728

# Meet Central's Artists-in-Residence

FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & YOUTH MINISTRY

## Clara Osowski

Clara, who sings "from inside the music with unaffected purity and sincerity" (UK Telegraph), is a mezzo-soprano, an active soloist, and chamber musician hailed for her "rich and radiant voice" (UrbanDial Milwaukee).

She was a Metropolitan Opera National Council Upper-Midwest Regional Finalist, the winner of several competitions including Bel Canto Chorus Regional Artists Competition of Milwaukee, the Houston Saengerbund Competition, several time runner-up in The Schubert Club Bruce P. Carlson Scholarship Competition, and third place in the Madison Handel Aria Competition. Recognized for her excellence in Minnesota, Clara was a recipient of the prestigious 2018-2019 McKnight Artist Fellowships for Musicians administered by MacPhail Center for Music.

In addition to performing, Clara serves as the Artistic Director of Source Song Festival, a week-long art-song festival in Minneapolis, Minnesota. This festival strives to create and perform new art-songs, and cultivate an educational environment for students of song, including composers, vocalists, and collaborative pianists. In addition to her solo work, she participates in a number of ensembles, including Lumina Women's Ensemble, Lorelei Ensemble, and Seraphic Fire.

diverse, what she calls "unusual" collaborations, has catapulted her career. Fusing her rich gospel background with the folk singing of Larry Long or the world-class trumpeting of Charles Lazarus with the Minnesota Orchestra or with a Flamenco at The Lab Theater defies categorization and is a further testament of her genre-bending talent.

With five CD recordings under her belt and a new project slated for 2023, Tonia is an unstoppable musical force challenging audiences from churches to theaters to concert halls to stretch beyond perceived musical limitations and embrace the beauty of coming together: one heart at a time, one note at a time.

## Tonia Hughes Kendrick

Tonia Hughes Kendrick is notably among Minnesota's most gifted artists, acclaimed for her transparent delivery that leaves audiences with a poignant electricity. Being ever willing to take on a challenge, and having an openness to engage in culturally

## Paul Damico-Carper

Paul is a church musician, worship leader, tech director, composer, and multi-instrumentalist. He recently



PAUL DAMICO-CARPER



TONIA HUGHES KENDRICK



MELANIE OHNSTAD



CLARA OSOWSKI

served as Assistant Director of Music and Worship Production at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, St. Paul, MN, where he developed a worship production ministry in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. With his wife Elizabeth, he directed and led a daily livestream devotional ministry for the first year of the pandemic on Facebook called the Community Video Hymn Sing. In 2020, he received the Brugh Emerging Leader Award from the Institute of Liturgical Studies (Valparaiso University). He serves on the editorial board of *CrossAccent* (the journal of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians) and has been a core member of the worship band at

ELCA Churchwide assemblies for the last decade.

Paul holds degrees in music (B.A. '04, Valparaiso University) and theology (M.A.T.S. '11, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago) and was shaped by life in community at Holden Village. He loves spending time with his family, cooking, playing fiddle with friends, and walking the family's dogs along the banks of the Mississippi River.

### Melanie Ohnstad

Melanie has been a church musician since her graduation from St. Olaf College in 1974. She led the music ministries of St. Stephen

Lutheran, Wausau, WI, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Phoenix, AZ, and Westminster Presbyterian, Minneapolis. Melanie received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Minnesota, has served as Dean of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AGO, and has accompanied Minnesota choirs on three separate European tours.

Melanie was named Minister of Music Emerita at Westminster during her retirement celebrations and is now freelancing as an organist. She and her husband, Philip, are eager to spend more time with their families California and explore nature and cultures in the U.S. and abroad.

## Will You Volunteer?

Volunteers are needed this month at the St. Paul Opportunity Center on Saturday, September 9 from 11am -1pm.

8- 10 volunteers are needed to serve lunch and help with meal prep. You must be at least 14 years old and should wear appropriate closed toe shoes. (Those under 18 must be supervised by an adult.)

St. Paul Opportunity Center is part of Catholic Charities and is located at 422 Dorothy Day Place St. Paul, MN 55102.



### THANK YOU TO OUR JULY VOLUNTEER CREW!

If interested in volunteering, go to [www.centralforgood.org/volunteer](http://www.centralforgood.org/volunteer). The link will take you to the Catholic Charities website to register.

# Eight Issues That the Bible Does(n't) Talk About

( AND HOW WE CAN TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE )

Progressive churches often identify important passages from the Bible as bolstering our case for various types of advocacy. Jesus' compassion for the marginalized. The prophets' calls for justice. Acts of radical hospitality. These and more are cited as clear evidence that the Bible is "on our side."

But it's more complicated than that. Other Christians will also freely cite the Bible in support of sometimes antithetical positions that progressive Christians have. And even if that weren't the case, many of the issues that we care about the most – climate change, anti-racism, and more – are not issues that the Bible speaks to directly, having been written thousands of years before authors would have been aware of the pressing issues of our time.

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

## Join the Conversation

Save the date(s) for a new faith formation class series to be held on for the first Sunday of the month at 11:45 a.m. in the upstairs Meeting Lounge. We will explore with Pastor Chris one of the following issues, 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**

## Happy Birthday!

Join us in wishing a joyous Happy Birthday to all who will be celebrating birthdays this month.

Marjorie Elliott ..... 9/1  
Pat Snitker ..... 9/4  
Trygve Pearce ..... 9/5  
Linda Peterson ..... 9/7  
Terry Henry..... 9/12  
Gifty Amarteifio ..... 9/14  
Barbara Hein..... 9/15  
Simon Jones ..... 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 a note to [office@centralforgood.org](mailto:office@centralforgood.org) so we can update our records and share birthday wishes with you, too!

# Women of Central News

FROM SUE HOFFMAN

## Networking Group

We enjoyed Red River Kitchen on a picture-perfect night! Thank you to all who attended! We will not meet in September but will resume on Monday, October 2. Sakura is our next destination (located at 350 St. Peter St., St. Paul). Join us at Central at 5:15 p.m. to walk to together or meet us there at 5:30. Please RSVP by September 27 to [women@centralforgood.org](mailto:women@centralforgood.org) so we can make a reservation.



## Fall Gathering

The Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area will hold its annual Fall Gathering on Saturday, October 14 at Calvin Presbyterian Church in Long Lake (177 Glendale Dr, Long Lake, MN 55356).

If you plan to attend, please email [women@centralforgood.org](mailto:women@centralforgood.org) no later than September 25.



## CENTRAL STAFF DIRECTORY

(651) 224-4728

### Pastor

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

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### Administration

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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 Ministry

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[lauraw@centralforgood.org](mailto:lauraw@centralforgood.org)  
Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher  
Maria Stokes, Nursery Care Givers  
Jess Garner, Nursery Care Givers

### Music Ministry

Shanta Hejmadi, Abbie Betinis,  
Adam Van der Sluis, Eric Bartlett,  
Alex Woods, Dr. Melanie Ohnstad

### 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**



## We are a Congregation for All Ages

As we ready for the coming year, we have some unique opportunities for you to help Central create a warm, welcoming, and affirming place for our young people. At this time, we are in need of:

- Sunday Connection Volunteers
- Nursery Care Volunteers
- Prayer Partners

To learn more about these and other opportunities to serve, go to [www.centralforgood.org/volunteer](http://www.centralforgood.org/volunteer).