



CENTRAL

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A CARING, INQUIRING, INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

August 2021, Vol 21, No 8



Wednesday, August 4
Fuller Center Bike Adventure
2:30pm @ Central

Thursday, August 5
Ministry of Christian Discipleship
9:00am ~ Zoom

Tuesday, August 10
Church Properties
11:00am ~ Zoom

Personnel
1:30pm ~ Zoom

Thursday, August 12
Worship & Common Life
2:30pm ~ Zoom

Monday, August 16
Finance
4:30pm ~ Zoom
Session
5:30pm ~ Zoom

Tuesday, August 24
Prayer Shawl Ministry
1:30pm ~ Parlor

Thursday, August 26
Deacons
5:00pm ~ Zoom

SUNDAY SERVICES

We have resumed weekly Sunday morning 10:00am worship services in the sanctuary. To join in live from home or view later, click this link:

<https://vimeo.com/centralpreseugene>

Word from Our Pastor



It is better to live with less and honor the Eternal than to have riches and carry the burdens that come with them.

- Proverbs 15:16 (Voice Translation)

Apparently the first week of August is “Simplify Your Life” week. The idea being that we all need to make time to let go of things that cause stress or anxiety - whether that clutter is of the physical or psychological variety. I read two articles just this week by some clergy colleagues lamenting the amount of time spent going through “stuff” at churches. They pointed out churches seem to collect more than their share of clutter, because no one wants to throw away someone else’s stuff, we often imagine we can use an item or supplies ‘sometime’ so we hold onto it in perpetuity, or because there are usually lots of closets, cabinets, and spots for various things to be stashed.

I am deeply grateful for members of our church who are willing to carefully go through items, whether a room is filled with photos, craft supplies, books, furniture or files; keep items of historical significance, catalogue books and tools we can actually use; and dispose of that which has outlived its purpose or can be better appreciated by someone else. To have people willing to sort the wheat from the chaff is a gift.

After all, many of us find it difficult to decide what it is we really need to hold onto, and when it is time to let go. Many people used their time at home during the last year and a half to go through long-ignored boxes and closets, and attics and drawers. Others had a clarity about how they wanted to spend their time on the other side of lock down, making plans for how they might de-clutter their calendar once we could begin making long term plans again. In one way or another those months gave us time to consider what mattered most, what it was we could let go of easily, and what we most wanted to cling to, especially when things got difficult.

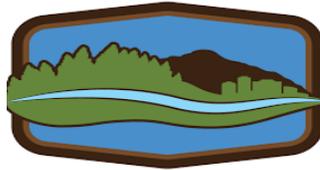
In a way, this is what we are doing as we continue our visioning conversations about where we feel called as a church. What is the Spirit encouraging us to release? What are we being called to hold onto? How might we simplify our life as a church in order to better care for one another, and serve our neighbors and our God? As we continue praying and listening together, I hope we find ways to simplify our mission in such a way as to leave plenty of space for the Spirit to blow in our midst, leading us forward, together.

**MINISTRY OF CHRISTIAN
DISCIPLESHIP**
Pam Sheridan

Matthew 25:35-36. "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."

The July/August Coin Offering is designated for the Springfield School District Chifin Native Youth Center as we continue to serve a variety of local community agencies with our weekly coin offering,

The Center is the hub of the Indian Education Program, serving as a gathering place that is warm and welcoming for the district's Native Youth. The Native Youth Center provides a central meeting location for the Indian Education students across the district to gather to study and learn, play recreational tribal games, make crafts, dance, drum, sing and cook. Native students will be able to develop their tribal identity while interacting with mentors, community leaders and other students.



Programs include academic support and tutoring, STEM programs, college preparation, Native Youth group, early literacy programming, Native drumming, crafting and other cultural events including the annual Pow Wow.

You can contribute to this offering by sharing your coins on Sunday morning or writing a check, noting that it is for the coin offering. Thank you!



Thank you for your continued generosity in Mission giving this year. We have been able to support 3 local nonprofits with our monthly coin offering.

January/February: Burrito Brigade \$ 540. 50
March/April: McKenzie River Trust \$995.00
May~ June: The Hub (St. Vincent DePaul & Willamette Family Inc.) \$558.00

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Martin
Organist: Dan Rinnan
Director of Music: Cole Blume
Sound Technician: Alex Pratt
Office Manager: Monique Jones
Financial Secretary: Arlene Hudgins
Maintenance Custodian: Jair Velasquez
Building Host: Joe Olney

SESSION

Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Barbara Cookson	Bev Day
Jane Holmes	Nancy Richter
Susan Schroeder	Pam Sheridan

Class of 2024
Kirsten Kelso
Rick Larson
Alice Schroeder

Moderator: Rev. Jennifer Martin
Clerk of Session: Merle Bottge
Treasurer: Del Hawkins
Nominating Committee Chair: Barbara Cookson

DEACONS

Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Jordan Ryder	Susan Bloom
Co-Chairs	Karen Dyste
Laurie Inglis	Quentin Holmes
Quentin Holmes	Carolyn Keener
	Gerry Keener
	Patty MacAfee

Class of 2024
Nancy Carlson
Louise deKluyver
Jacquie Litchfield
Yvonne Young

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

Chair:	Rick Larson
Peter Carlson	Jane Rimerman
Marci Gordon	Steve Stermer
Pat Hocken	Jim Whitmore

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: Jane Holmes, Moderator

**NewsLetter
DEADLINE**

Central articles are due the third Monday of each month. Articles for the September Central Newsletter are due on Monday, August 16, 2021





CENTRAL

Remodel Update By: Steve Stermer

The process of choosing a contractor and fine tuning the remodel project is in progress. A walk-through for general contractors took place at CPC on June 18th. In addition to our architect, Quince, and members of the church, there were people representing Essex Construction, McKenzie Construction, and Ordell Construction, along with several subcontractors. The purpose of the walk-through was to provide additional information to general contractors prior to bidding the project. Bids were due and received from Essex and Ordell on Friday June 25th. McKenzie Construction was unable to meet the deadline and withdrew from the project.

Once bids were received by our architect, they were sent to the committee for review. Since that time the Remodel Committee has met three times, twice with Quince, to review bid numbers as related to the scope of the project.

Essentially the bids are very close. Unfortunately, funds donated for the remodel project total a little less than half the amount needed to fully fund the project. Since Central does not currently have enough available to fully fund the remodel as it currently stands, the Remodel Committee decided to do the project in phases. The committee is currently working with the architect to, both schedule contractor interviews and break the project into the phases outlined below.

Phase I A Welcoming Space and Entry
North entry from the alleyway through the courtyard into the entry/office/elevator, into the opened-up hallway and Narthex.

Phase II Women’s and Men’s First Floor Restroom Remodel

Phase III The Community Room
Former childcare room, with an enlarged bathroom and a small kitchenette, can essentially be separated from the remainder of the building and made available to community groups.

One big question as we move forward is the old oil tank that was used to run Central’s heating system prior to switching to natural gas. The cover for the tank is located just inside the Lafferty Courtyard entrance gate under the hedge. Not knowing the size and condition of the tank is a big mystery. We plan to remove the lid and see if we can find some answers to these questions which will help define the scope and cost of this phase of the remodel.

It is also our hope that Phase I can be completed with available funds. However, it has been approximately four years since our fundraising efforts took place, and as we all know the cost of construction has risen significantly during this time. As we work with our selected contractor and break the project into phases, the committee will have a better idea of costs, for each phase. Once we have a better handle on the costs there will likely be an opportunity for the congregation to do some additional fundraising for the project.

The Remodel Committee and architect Quince are working hard and doing the best we can for the congregation. We thank you for your patience and your prayers.

Next Steps:

- Interview and select a contractor
- Determine costs for each construction phase
- Determine as best we can the size and condition of the old oil tank
- Submit plans to the city for building permits
- As appropriate do additional fundraising for the remodel
- Start construction

Committee members are Alice Schroeder, Bob Bottge, John Sheridan, Nancy Richter, Steve Stermer, and Rev. Jennifer Martin. Please feel free to ask any of us questions if you have them, and we ask that you continue to hold us and this process in your prayers.



Dear Central Members,

For almost 2 years I've been buffeted by whirlwinds, many overlapping: faux gout, knee replacement, finding a new home, house sale, organizing stuff, knee replacement, turning 80, moving, major neck surgery, Cascade Manor Care center, migraines, vertigo, all amid COVID!

BUT, along the entire journey, YOU were there: offering help, sending cards, bringing meals, providing rides, packing, moving - - AND SENDING **PRAYERS** - such a precious gift. So, for your care and kindness, much gratitude and thanks. Blessings to all of you in your journeyings.
With Love, Ruth Koenig



By Donna Snyder

Interested in being part of the Presbyterian Bell Choir ministry but can't read music or sing? No problem. In general, anyone aged 12 or over who can meet once a week in the evening for 60-90 minutes is welcome. Donna Snyder, bell choir director, will be offering free bell ringing lessons. All we ask is to commit to a few beginner lessons (those of you with some experience please keep reading). Beginners will have beginning lessons and then be joined by people with experience. Perhaps some ringers with experience might be able to help with this beginning program.

If you are interested, contact the Central Presbyterian Church office and leave your name and contact preference with Monique. Please note if you are a beginner or have experience. Communicate any questions or concerns so we can begin planning. Let us hear from you by August 16th so that the exact time and beginning date can be determined for mid-September. Presbyterian Music Ministries is excited with this new beginning.



By Susan Schroeder

The Refugee Resettlement Coalition (RRC) will soon welcome a Sudanese refugee. This man, who speaks some English, will receive extensive assistance from Catholic Community Services' Refugee and Immigrant Services Program. The RRC is seeking a host to provide him a room in their home. Please contact Roz Slovic, rslovic@uoregon.edu or 541-912-5228.

If you can't help now, but might in the future, please contact Roz to be included in a list of potential hosts.

The RRC is a coalition of individuals and organizations partnered with Catholic Community Services of Lane County (CCS). CCS manages the Refugee and Immigration Services program (RISP), through which it provides case-managed social services and referral and legal services and referral to refugees and immigrants. The RRC works with CCS to provide direction for RISP, recruit and train volunteers, and fundraise. Our church is a Community Partner with the Refugee Resettlement Coalition.

HAPPY
Anniversary

Don & Sharon Piper August 11
Jim & Gayle Cherry August 16
John & Pat Hocken August 26

Happy Birthday!

Kathleen Beisse August 6
Randy Lilyengren August 6
Jordan Ryder August 12
Richard Lin August 17
Jo Anne Arnold August 20

LECTIONARY FOR AUGUST

Sunday, August 1
2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a
Psalm 51:1-12
Ephesians 4:1-16
John 6: 24-35

Sunday, August 15
1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14
Psalms 111: 1-10
Ephesians 5: 15-20
John 6: 51-58

Sunday, August 8
2 Samuel 18:5-9, 31-33
Psalms 130:1-8
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:35, 41-51

Sunday, August 22
1 Kings 8: 1, 6, 10-11
22-30, 41-43
Psalms 84: 1-12
Ephesians 6: 10-20
John 6: 56-69

Sunday, August 29
Song of Solomon 2:8-13
Psalms 45: 1-2, 6-9
James 1: 17-27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23



By Susan Schroeder

Through our Mission budget, Central provides financial support to Elmarie and Scott Parker, the PC(USA) mission co-workers serving Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq. They have lived in Beirut since 2013. You can read more about the Parkers on the PC(USA) website and sign up to receive their letters.

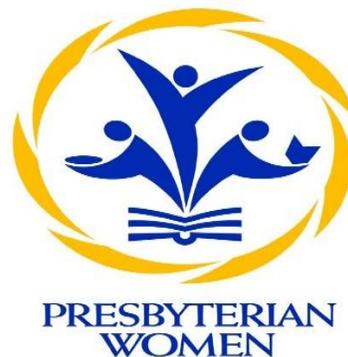
Syria has experienced armed conflict for 10 years. Much of the country's buildings and infrastructure are in ruins, including water and electricity supply. Nearly 600,000 people have been killed, and half the population of 22 million are internally displaced (fled their home due to the conflict) or are refugees (fled the country). Food insecurity is extremely high. The UN's World Food Program estimates that 1.3 million Syrians do not have sufficient food to survive, with another 1.8 million at risk.

Lebanon has been struggling with multiple issues: governmental dysfunction; the aftermath of the Beirut Port explosion, which destroyed a large part of the city; and the collapse of financial and banking systems. Prices are drastically inflated, and unemployment is estimated at 50% or more. It is very difficult for an average Lebanese to earn enough money to cover basic costs of living. Electricity is rationed by the government to 4 or 5 hours per day; the same is true in Syria.

In Syria and Lebanon, the Parkers work with church and nonprofit agencies dedicated to bringing hope and compassion to people in need and much-needed instrumental aid—food especially; cash to pay rent and to buy gas for cooking; and funds to rebuild homes. The PC(USA) partners with the Presbyterian Church in Syria and Lebanon – called the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL) – to assist with these relief efforts.

The Syria-Lebanon Partnership Network (SLPN) of the PC(USA) works closely with Elmarie and with NESSL. The SLPN is a coalition of Presbyterians from across the U.S. who covenant together to pray with and for the people of Syria and Lebanon in a time of war and uncertainty, to listen to concerns of the region, to advocate for policies that promote peace and reconciliation, and to help raise funds to support NESSL and other agencies' relief efforts.

Would you like to know more about the SLPN? You can visit their website. You can sign up for their newsletter, which is sent periodically. The SLPN is planning a virtual "annual gathering" in September (date to be determined), to focus on the situation in Lebanon. We'll send information to the congregation about how you can register for this meeting.



By Jane Holmes

Our Circles will start up again in September, using a Horizons Bible Study. This year's study is from Matthew and called *What My Grandmothers Taught Me* by Merryl Blair. She has taught Old Testament for 25 years at Stirling Theological College in Melbourne, Australia, and has represented Churches of Christ in Australia on ecumenical councils at state, national, and international levels. Cody Miller is the artist. See more of his art at www.codyvmiller.com

Miriam Circle meets the 1st Tuesday of each Month at 9:30AM. Nancy Richter (541) 337-0167 is the contact person for this Circle.

Martha Circle meets the 1st Wednesday of each month (except in September – 2nd Wednesday that month) at 11:30AM. Jane Holmes (541) 933-3324 is the contact person for more information.

Consider being a part of one these Circles with other women from Central for both fellowship and study.

SAVE THE DATE!

© Can Stock Photo

Jane Kirkpatrick, noted Oregon author, will lead a discussion and workshop at the Fall Gathering of Presbyterian Women at Vancouver 1st Presbyterian Church on Oct. 16th from 10AM-2:30PM. Plan ahead if you are interested and want to carpool. More details about this opportunity will be available in September.



By Julianne Stermer

Have you been thinking of serving Central in a new way? The Worship and Common Life (WCL) group is welcoming new members. The group meets monthly on the second Thursday of each month at 2:30 to plan and review our many worship experiences. These include not only Sunday services, but also other forms of worship which happen in the life of Central, such as music, art and coming together for a variety of Fellowship activities. Please consider joining us as we look forward to planning ways to support, encourage and welcome all in the life of Central. Contact Julianne, Bev, Susan S. or the office for more information.



By Steve Stermer

On Wednesday, August 4th Central will be hosting 15-25 participants from the Fuller Center Bicycle Adventure as they ride from Florida to Florence Oregon. Our journey supports The Fuller Center for Housing as we live out our faith in service to God and those in need of a simple, decent place to live.

The Fuller Center Mission Statement:

The Fuller Center for Housing is a 501©3 nonprofit organization that seeks to eradicate poverty housing by promoting partnerships with individuals and community groups to build and rehabilitate homes for people in need. Riders and two support vehicles will be arriving at various times through the afternoon of August 4th . They will be showering at the YMCA and using Fellowship Hall and possibly the Chapel to sleep and hallways to store their bicycles. CPC members will have an opportunity to share an evening meal with the group and an opportunity to learn more about the Fuller Center and their Mission to eradicate poverty housing.

Dinner/kitchen. We certainly have no problem cooking for ourselves, but there is nothing like a home-cooked meal. In the past this has traditionally been a time of eating together with the local members and one of the best parts of our trip.

2. Opportunity to share about our mission. It's not primarily a fundraising ask; we love to share about why we're riding and what difference you have made by hosting us.



By Nancy Richter

The Ministry of Mission and Christian Discipleship would like to thank you all for helping to make our Little Free Pantry program meet the needs of those experiencing food insecurities.

We have been up and running for a couple of months and being well received by those in need. We are currently using the cupboards by Room 121 as our storage for the Little Free Pantry program.

The Ministry of Mission and Christian Discipleship (MCD) and some staff members have been checking the Little Pantry and trying to keep up with the demand. The MCD team has taken inventory of some food items in need of being refilled. We must remember the needs of the people currently using our Little Pantry. These are people who do not have regular ways to cook a full meal or bake a cake. These are people who are on the go, can probably heat water, but are more likely to eat straight from the can or box. They do not always know where their next foods will come from or when the next time they will eat.

Items currently in need are:

- Canned meats; tuna, chicken, stews, chili, spaghetti-o's (pop top lids preferable)
- Pasta sauces and small packages of pasta
- Mac and cheese packages
- Canned veggies
- Canned fruits or fruit cups/fruit juice boxes
- Canned soups (pop top lids preferable)
- Cereals
- Peanut butter and jams and jellies
- Snack bars, such as fruit, cereal, or protein

These items may be dropped off at the church during normal work hours or brought to church on Sunday mornings. You, yourself, may also refill the Little Free Pantry any time. The MCD team thanks you for your continued generosity to our Mission programs.



Mission Statement
*Central Presbyterian Church is
a caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith.*

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
555 E 15TH AVE
EUGENE OR 97401
Phone: (541) 345-8724
Email: centralpresbyterianeugene@gmail.com
Website: www.centraleugene.church



