



Wednesday, December 1

Martha Circle
11:30am ~Parlor

Thursday, December 2
Ministry of Christian Discipleship

9:00am~ Zoom
Advent Tea
2:00pm ~CPC
3:30PM~Zoom

Tuesday, December 7

Miriam Circle
9:30am ~ Zoom

Tuesday, December 14

Church Properties
11:00am~Zoom

Worship & Common Life
12:00pm~Zoom

Monday December 20

Finance
4;30pm~Zoom

Session
5:30pm ~Zoom

Friday, December 24



Saturday, December 25



SUNDAY SERVICES

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>



In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a

wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good.

- Genesis 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word was with God in the beginning. Everything came into being through the Word, and without the Word nothing came into being. What came into being through the Word was life, and the life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness doesn't extinguish the light.

- John 1: 1-5

And suddenly you know: It's time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings.

Meister Eckhart

There is nothing so secular that it cannot be sacred, and that is one of the deepest messages of the incarnation.

Madeleine L'Engle

There are still a few golden autumn leaves clinging to the branches out my window as I sit down to write. The leaves aren't yet ready to let go. They don't want to say their goodbye, which will make way for new buds and seeds to say hello in the spring. Endings and beginnings have that relationship. We must let go of one thing to

make room for something new to grow. Both can be a little frightening, especially if you are ending or beginning on your own.

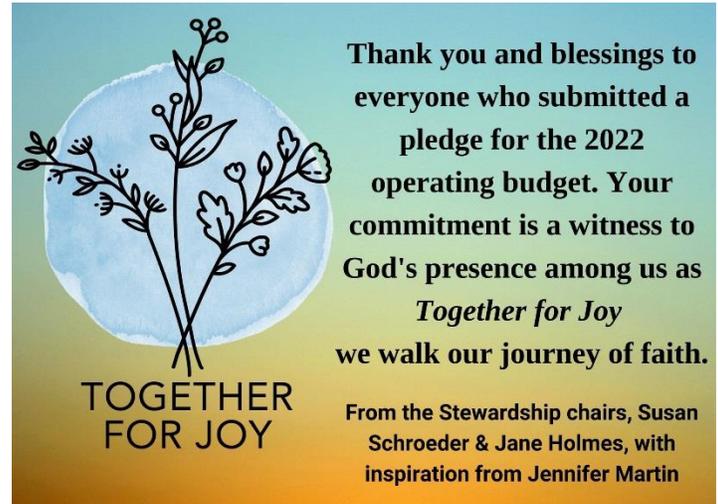
The world around us won't start the calendar again for a month yet, but the church year began on November 28th this year as we marked the first, Sunday in the season of Advent. Unlike January first when folks tend to make resolutions and plans for the coming year, our preparations for the coming of Christmas mean our *new year* is marked by a season of active, expectant, waiting. Our beginning time is a season of inward, quiet, listening and preparing our hearts so that there might be room for the Christ to take up residence there. I'm not sure we like waiting any more than we like endings or beginnings, especially in a time when we have all had to live with so much uncertainty for so very long.

This year we will be looking at the theme *Close to Home* during the Advent season. We will acknowledge that home isn't a destination or a building. Rather, it is where life happens- all of it - every single day. Through worship, take-home journals, adult education time, and mid-week opportunities, we will be pondering together the miracle of the season - the incarnation - and how the reality might hit *close to home* for each one of us. We will think about the wondrous truth that the Divine chooses to make a home in our midst right here - in our everyday messy lives - to make sure we are never truly alone. Not when we are waiting. Or when we are saying good bye and hello. Not ever.

This season we will make time to remember that God is all around us - and that all of creation is sacred ground if we only have the eyes to see it. Hopefully we will be a little braver about waiting, and endings, and beginnings - remembering we are never, ever alone. As we journey through these uncertain times together, may we have the courage to let go of that which we need to release, may we trust the magic of beginnings, and may we go forward toward Christmastide trusting the faithfulness of the One

who dwells intimately with each and every one of us.

Pastor Jennifer Martin



As of November 22, we have received 59 pledges for a total of \$190,600 toward the 2022 operating budget. The current draft version of the 2022 budget includes \$198,000 in the pledges line item. You can see how close we are to meeting our goal! Thank you!

If you have not yet pledged and would like to, there is still plenty of time. Simply send an email to our financial secretary, Arlene Hudgins, ahudgins1958@gmail.com. Or write a note and mail it to the church, with Financial Secretary or Pledge on the envelope (to maintain your privacy).



Are you the next Student Intern at the Koinonia Center? Do you know who that might be?

We're looking for someone who can support Presbyterian campus ministry at the UO. Check out the details and application

at koinoniacenter.org/interns or share your wisdom with Steve Stermer or Ed Willson.



**Update on the CPC Remodel Project
Steve Stermer**

Asbestos - As Essex and sub-contractors will be working near the stream lines in the tunnel (under the Parlor) and in the basement, there was a request to have the steam pipe wrapping tested for asbestos. Lodge Environmental did asbestos testing for Central two years ago. Lodge completed the testing once again, reporting the smaller steam pipes with the blue wrapping do have asbestos and are labeled as such. The larger 6” steam pipes are not wrapped with asbestos, and the ceiling insulation is Styrofoam. The report has been forwarded to Architect Q, and Essex Construction.

Oil Tank- The oil tank in Lafferty Court seemed to be in the way. Contractors were concerned about the condition of the tank and its horizontal stability as footings for the covered entry canopy would be located right next to the tank. Removal work began on Monday November 22, and the tank was gone by Thanksgiving.

Project Superintendent – Essex Construction has named Kurtis Nelson as CPC’s Project Superintendent. Remodel Construction is anticipated to begin after Easter (April 17) in 2022.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

*Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Martin
Director of Music: Cole Blume
Organist: Dan Rinnan
Sound Technician: Alex Pratt
Office Manager: Monique Jones
Financial Secretary: Arlene Hudgins*

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

<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Jordan Ryder	Susan Bloom
Laurie Inglis	Karen Dyste
Quentin Holmes	Quentin Holmes
	Carolyn Keener

<u>Class of 2024</u>	Gerry Keener
Nancy Carlson	Patty MacAfee
Louise deKluyver	
Jacquie Litchfield	
Yvonne Young	

*Co-Chairs: Quentin Holmes & Laurie Inglis
Treasurer: Patty MacAfee*

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 January Central Newsletter are due on Monday, December 20th, 2021



Coin Offering



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

January-/February

Burrito Brigade \$540.50

March/April

McKenzie River Trust \$995.00

May/June

The Hub \$ 558.00

St.Vincent DePaul & Willamette Family Inc

July/ August

Chifin Native Youth Center \$555.00

These organizations appreciate our support!

Coin Offering Recipients for 2022

The Ministry of Christian Discipleship will be selecting 6 local nonprofits to receive our Coin Offering for 2022. The committee is asking for recommendations from the congregation. If you would like to suggest an agency to be one of our recipients, you can either email the church office, fill out a card in the pew, or contact one of the committee members- Nancy Richter, Barbara Cookson, Jane Holmes or Pam Sheridan.

Our goal is to support nonprofits in the following categories:

- Racial Justice
- Food Security
- Creation Care
- Youth and Families
- Homelessness
- Immigrants/Refugees

Our 2020 Coin Offering supported the following groups-

- Catholic Community Services/Motel Vouchers
- Sexual Assault Services
- Oregon Community Asylum Network
- CAHOOTS
- Days for Girls
- Bags of Love



The Christmas Joy Offering shares our love with the leaders of our Church ---- past, present, and future. 50% of our gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical needs. Stability in retirement can be a weight lifted, and one that allow retirees to live with emotional and financial flexibility. 50% of your gifts also make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. We may not always realize how many lives we, as Presbyterians, can affect just by our support. It's a simple fact when we give students a scholarship, especially those students who are really in need, it's the best thing that could happen to them. It changes their lives.



The Ministry of Mission and Christian Education has designated Peace Village/Square One as the recipients of the Christmas Eve Offering. This is one of the ways we, as Presbyterians at Central Presbyterian

Church, can support Peace Village/Square One ministries. Peace Village is currently in the formation phase for the property of Peace

Presbyterian Church on River Road. This offering will help support a plan for housing through the building of Tiny Houses there to benefit those in need of stable housing. We are hoping to work with congregation members of Peace Presbyterian Church as they move forward with their efforts to meet a need to support those looking for stability in their lives, which begins with a stable place to live.

Please give generously...for when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot! Thank you.



**A small story
A 911 Call to God**

Wesley Lachman

"I called 911 and God answered," announced four-year-old Timmy to his family in the living room. "That's crazy," said big brother Tommy. "That's preposterous," said father Terry from his big chair. "C'mon Timmy, you're making that up." said sister Toni from the couch. Tammy, his mother, from the doorway, gently asked, "What makes you think it was God, Timmy? And why were you calling 911 anyway?" There was a pregnant pause.

"I know it was God 'cause he had a great big voice but I couldn't see him, just like in the video we saw last night," said Timmy with some finality. "So did you like God?" asked Tammy. "I did, I sure did," said Timmy. "He talked to me just like I was a real person on the telephone. I just love it when that happens."



CENTRAL'S CHRISTMAS PROJECT

"So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

(Corinthians 13:16)

The Christmas Project is one of the ways that Central fulfills its mission of being a caring community of believers. This tradition was begun over 44 years ago by Al Bray and Burt Eaton and continued ever since under a series of able leaders such as Bob Bottge and Norma Bales.

This year, Central's Christmas Project will help some 20 families from Rainbow Village Apartments. Three other Presbyterian churches and a fourth organization will be working in lock-step alongside us to help a total of about 60 families.

This year, each Rainbow Village family will receive:

- **A Christmas Stocking**
- **Instead of a Food Box, A WINCO Gift Card** (amount varying depending on the size of the family)
- **Instead of Christmas gifts for each of their children;** a Visa gift card valued at \$ 25 for each person, both children and adults.

Our plan is to ask people to donate to the Deacons Fund. Then, in mid-December, monies from the Deacon's Fund will be used to purchase gift cards, and a small group of Deacons will assemble things for delivery over to Rainbow Village.

Quentin Holmes and Laurie Inglis
Deacon Co-Chairs



Fellowship Needs Cookies

Our supply of cookies is dangerously low.



Free Little
Pantry

The Free Little Pantry is in desperate need of donations. The pantry has about 1-2 weeks left of food.

Items Needed

Canned Soups/Stews/Chili
Cup of Noodles
Mac and Cheese
Jams & Jellies
Peanut Butter: Creamy
Cereal
Puddings
Fruit & Applesauce Cups
Protein Bars
Canned Vegetables
Potted Meats
Crackers
Snack items



Jennifer Martin & Kirsten Kelso Dec. 21



Shirley Irsfeld	Dec. 1
Barbara Cowan	Dec. 2
Janet Edmondson	Dec. 11
Margaret Knudsen	Dec. 11
Joan Doering	Dec. 12
Shirley Griffith	Dec. 14
Alison Kelly	Dec. 14
Wesley Lachman	Dec. 18
Monique Jones	Dec. 23
Del Hawkins	Dec. 25
Patty MacAfee	Dec. 25
Colin Inglis	Dec. 27
Wendy Unsain	Dec. 30



ADVENT TEA

Thursdays - December 2, 9, 16, 23

2:00pm @ CPC

3:30 pm

(on Zoom)

Come take a break from the busy-ness of the holiday season as we make time for reflection and sharing together in this time of preparation. Whether you choose to come in person to the church or join the

online group via zoom, plan to breathe deeply as we listen, laugh, pause, and pray together.

ADVENT ADULT EDUCATION

Sundays - December 5, 12, 19

11:00 am - Zoom

11:15 am - Chapel

Have questions about the art on our Sunday bulletins and found in our Advent journal? Want to hear what others see? Following our time of worship together in Advent, we will make time to pause and consider these images more deeply. Whether you join in the conversation in person or online, there will be time for looking more closely, sharing observations with others, and engaging in a time of contemplative reflection as we look and listen together.

LONGEST SERVICE NIGHT

Sunday, December 19

4:00 pm, Chapel

Advent and Christmas can be a painful time for anyone experiencing grief, loss, or hardship. It may be the first holiday season without loved ones who have recently died; it may be a time that has always been difficult. All of us are grieving as we continue to make our way through the ongoing pandemic. Our spirits can sink, as days grow shorter. Typically holiday festivities, merry carol singing, decorating, gathering with family and purchasing gifts, emphasize joy and cheer, leaving little room for pain and grief.

Yet, pain and grief are a normal part of the human experience. We need the space and time to acknowledge our sadness and concern. We need to know we are not alone. Recognizing this can be a hard season for many, Central Presbyterian Church hosts a Longest Night Service for those who need the space to be honest about what hurts, and also to be reminded that the incarnate God stands with us in our pain. Maybe you need to hear this word. Maybe you have family, friends, or neighbors you could invite. Maybe you just want to stand in solidarity with those you know who are in a dark part of their lives. Whatever your reason, you are welcome.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT CENTRAL

Intergenerational Service - 5:30pm, Chapel

This short service is designed to be meaningful and accessible for the youngest among us, as well as the young at heart. All are welcome!

Candles, Carols, & Bells – 7:30pm, Sanctuary

This traditional service rings in this holy day with liturgy, song, and celebration. Bring a bell if you are able! We will also be live-streaming this service via Vimeo if you would like to join in virtually. All are welcome!

Candlelight Labyrinth – Fellowship Hall Between services & following later service

A contemplative opportunity for those who welcome a quieter, reflective observance. Come, walk the labyrinth, pray, and enjoy the music and scriptures that will be a part of this experience. You will have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of communion if you wish. All are welcome!

DECEMBER 26TH AT HOME & ZOOM

10 AM - Sunday, December 26th on Zoom

In the midst of a busy weekend of celebrating, you are encouraged to carve out some time on this second day of Christmas to pause and reflect. While we will not be having an in-person service at the church that day, we will supply you with liturgy so that you can observe worship on your own or with your family at home. If you wish to join in with others for a more communal worship experience, you can sign on to zoom where this same liturgy will be led by members of the CPC community.

LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE

January 2, 10:00 am - CPC Sanctuary

Worship on the ninth day of Christmas will be a continuation of our celebration of the Incarnation! Come take part in story and song as together we tell the good news - Christ is born! Hallelujah!



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Website: www.centraleugene.church



Mission Statement

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

