



CENTRAL

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A CARING, INQUIRING, INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

February 2021 Vol 21, No 2

Tuesday, February 2
@ 9:30am
Miriam Circle on Zoom

Wednesday, February 3
@ 11:30am
Martha Circle on Zoom

Sunday, February 7
Lord's Supper ~ Online Worship

CPC drive thru event
1:00pm to 3:00pm

Sunday, February 14
@10:00am
Annual Congregational Meeting

Sundays @ 10:00am
Facebook Live
Prayers of the People

Sundays @ 10:30am
Adult Education via Zoom

Wednesdays @ 2:00 & 3:30
Book Group on Zoom



President's Day
Monday February 15
Central office closed



This month begins with what is, in my opinion, one of our weirder holidays: Groundhog Day. I don't know who decided that a rodent can predict the weather . . . but it did inspire a fun movie in the 1990s. In the film, weatherman Phil Connors, played by Bill Murray, is forced to relive the same day again and again and again and again until he learns some lessons: lessons about the value of relationships, and kindness, and gratitude.

As this year unfolds, we can't help but think back to last year at this time when we were just starting to hear reports about a new virus and wondering if it was smart to keep passing the peace in church. We gathered in person to receive ashes on our foreheads as we began our Lenten journey together, not knowing that before the season was over we would be entering into a new way of being: one perhaps just as disorienting as Phil Connors did when he discovered it was Groundhog Day again, and again, and AGAIN!!!

And just like Phil, we have sometimes felt stuck. We aren't repeating the same day, but we are caught up in a time that seems to be operating differently. We know some things are moving forward, and we can certainly see how things are different, but we also had hoped the changes between then and now would be more pronounced. We wanted to be done with masks. We wanted a trip to the grocery store to feel safe. We wanted to go out to eat or to the movies with our friends. We wanted to be able to see a play or the symphony. We wanted to be gathering and singing together. But, instead, here we are again. And again. And again.

Again & Again: A Lenten Refrain is the theme for our Lenten journey this year. As we start Lent again, we will be considering in worship and with our at home materials, what it might look like to approach life with a both/and perspective rather than approaching life with the more dualistic mindset of either/or. We'll consider what it is to refrain from some things - as we fast, pray, and give. Or maybe you want to ponder how refrain can also mean the words and notes in a song - repeated again and again and again. Maybe if we pause to think and pray about where we are this season, we can see things from a different perspective. Maybe we can come out of Lent a little kinder, a little more gentle with ourselves and others. Maybe we will find new reasons for gratitude. Perhaps, not unlike the poor guy in *Groundhog Day*, the again and again and again of it all has something to teach us as well.



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

*Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Martin
Organist: Dan Rinnan
Director of Music: Cole Blume
Sound Technician: Alex Pratt
Office Manager: Sheryl Peterson
Financial Secretary: Arlene Hudgins
Maintenance Custodian: Michael James
Building Host: Joe Olney*

SESSION

Class of 2021	Class of 2022
Kathleen Beisse	Barbara Cookson
Scott Pratt	Jane Holmes
Alice Schroeder	Susan Schroeder

Class of 2023
Bev Day
Nancy Richter
Pam Sheridan

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

DEACONS

Co-moderators: Quentin Holmes & Laurie Inglis

Class of 2021	
Louise deKluyver	Janet Edmondson
Laurie Inglis	Jackie Onstad
Marian Smith	Julianne Stermer

Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Jordan Ryder	Susan Bloom
	Karen Dyste
	Quentin Holmes
	Dorothy Smith

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

Chair:	Kathleen Beisse
Marci Gordon	Pat Hocken
Patty MacAfee	Jane Rimerman
Steve Stermer	Jim Whitmore

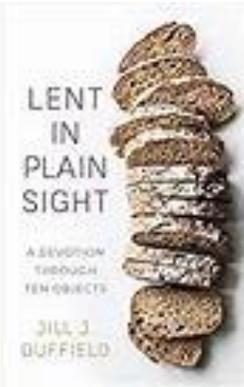
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: Jane Holmes, Moderator



Central articles are due the third Monday of each month. Articles for the March Central Newsletter are due on Monday, February 15, 2021.



JOIN A CPC BOOK GROUP FOR LENT!
Wednesdays @ 2:00 or 3:30 via Zoom
Beginning February 17th



This Lenten season we'll be reading the devotional book *Lent in Plain Sight* by Jill J. Duffield. This book reminds us that God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. It is through the mundane that we hear God's quiet voice.

In this devotion for the season of Lent, Jill J. Duffield draws readers' attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem: dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones. In each object, readers will find meaning in the biblical account of Jesus' final days. Each week, readers encounter a new object to consider through Scripture, prayer, and reflection. From Ash Wednesday to Easter, *Lent in Plain Sight* reminds Christians to open ourselves to the kingdom of God.

If you'd like to order a copy of the book from the church, they will be \$12.50 and must be ordered by February 8th. To order, email the church office at centralpresbyterianeugene@gmail.com. If you wish to join and the cost of the book is a barrier, do let Pastor Jennifer know.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION
SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14, 2021
10:00am on Zoom

Watch for the 2020 Annual Report in your email or request a copy from the church office. Look for an invitation to join the Zoom meeting.

During the virtual meeting the members of Central Presbyterian Church will have the opportunity to

Elect members of the Endowment Committee
Approve the terms of call for the pastor for 2021

Hear the good news stories of 2020 and
Share your questions, comments and concerns.

SEE YOU ON-LINE ON VALENTINE'S DAY

CPC DRIVE BY EVENT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7 1:00PM TO 3:00PM



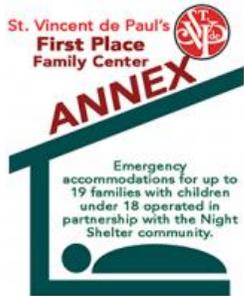
Please join us for our next drive-by event at Central in the alley on February 7th!

We will be distributing Lent packages with materials for your Lenten season.

There will also be an opportunity to purchase Valentines to support Church World Service. Valentines will be \$5 each and will go towards the purchase of Church World Service blankets.



We will be doing a food/supplies drive-by for the St Vincent DePaul Family Shelter Annex Kitchen.



While they receive food from Food for Lane County, there is also a need for the following items: foil, zip-lock bags, plastic wrap, flour, sugar, cereal, granola bars, ranch dressing, and silverware (not plastic), snacks for children including crackers and single serving fruit (not applesauce). Cash donations will help them purchase kitchen supplies and equipment.

Hope to see you in the alley on February 7th from 1-3pm.

PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGIATE MINISTRIES AND THE K14 BUILDING

Jennifer Martin

At its January meeting, the Session heard a distressing report from Presbyterian Collegiate Ministries, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Central Presbyterian Church. This is the entity that manages funds related to CPC's share in the student housing facility known as K14. PCM's board members represent both the church and The Koinonia Center, and its purpose is to support Presbyterian outreach to college students in our community. They reported that **at least for the year 2021, PCM does not expect enough revenue to meet either the debt obligations to the Synod of the Pacific or to Central Presbyterian's endowment loans. Needless to say, there will be no**

revenue to support the campus ministry program of the K-Center.

You should know that no decisions have been made at this point. It is also helpful to have some background regarding the K14 building. Around 2008, after exploring ways that Central Presbyterian might support the ministries of the Koinonia Center and CPC, the congregation approved a plan to encumber Central's property in order to obtain a pre-construction loan from the Synod. That loan, obtained in 2009, was to build student housing on 15th and Patterson, as well as the 14th and Kincaid site. But due to many roadblocks, including an upheaval in the financial world and city zoning changes, CPC and the K-Center were unable to build that project.

Instead, a new project was embarked upon. With the permission of the presbytery, the land at 14th and Kincaid was leased to a developer to finance and build the current student housing facility, K14.

Central Presbyterian Church, through PCM, obtained a 31% share in the K14 building. The bulk of this share is due to the value of The Koinonia Center land lease, augmented by loans from CPC's endowment. The building was completed in 2014. Until 2019, the K14 building generated enough revenue to pay CPC's debts incurred during the previous unrealized project. Revenue generated from the project was also able to help support campus ministry through donations to the Koinonia Center.

In 2019, the construction loan was converted to permanent financing. The new, increased mortgage payments reduced the revenue we received from the project. You may remember we raised funds to lower the principal on the Synod loan at that time in order to try to ensure continued revenue for servicing debt as well supporting campus ministry.

Last year, due to Covid-19, revenues were decreased again. PCM asked for and received deferments on all the loans last year, in the hope that 2021 would bring better days. Now, due to market uncertainty, a slightly decreased occupancy rate in the building because of COVID-19, a lack of foreign students, and the mushrooming of new student housing around the campus, we have been told by the asset manager that 2021 will be no better than 2020.

The PCM board and the Session are exploring all options in this time of economic distress. We appreciate your prayers as we discern the most faithful way forward in these challenging times.

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."



January/February Coin Offering Burrito Brigade

If you read the recent article about **Burrito Brigade** receiving a grant for the Waste to Taste Food Rescue program in *The Register Guard* December 13, 2020, then you were introduced to the

January/February recipients of the Coin Offering mission program at Central Presbyterian Church. **Burrito Brigade** is new to the Coin Offering mission program, but they are not new to the growing community of those serving hungry people in the Springfield/Eugene area.

Founded by Jennifer Denson in 2014, **Burrito Brigade** has provided thousands of nutritious vegan meals to people of Eugene and Springfield and has since expanded to Portland, Oregon. **Burrito Brigade** is a solution to the rigged food distribution system where unhoused, undocumented, unemployed, poor people bear the heaviest burden, according to their website.

In Eugene/Springfield **Burrito Brigade** makes over 800 burritos every weekend. And as their website states: "If you can chop like a karate kid, process like Oscar Meyer, enjoy stirring the pot, or got mad rolling skills, they have a job for you!" Every Saturday from 1:00 – 2:00pm **Burrito Brigade** is serving at Food for Lane County, 700 Bailey Hill Rd, Eugene, and on Sunday they are serving from 12:30 - 2:00pm. Check their site for location.

Burrito Brigade also offers Little Free Pantries in several locations throughout Springfield and Eugene. If you have extra canned goods or non-perishables, please feel free to help stock these Little Free Pantries. Please check their website: burritobrigade.org for more information, and we thank you for your continued generosity in support of the Coin Offering mission.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH FISH

Merle Bottge



FISH continues to receive many calls for propane plus requests for food and for prescription help. Central's contributions of many bags and boxes of food plus \$2,300 in donations during the past year are much appreciated by those who are cold, hungry and sick in our community. Thank you.

RECYCLING CONTINUES

Barbara Cookson

Thanks to all who continue to recycle at Central. We are now able to take #1 plastic. It must be cleaned and cannot have the lids on the containers, but labels can stay on. No clamshell type of food containers will be accepted. We will not be able to accept material from anyone exposed to COVID -19.



Check with Barbara for more information or, perhaps, to volunteer help next time. Barbara would like people to put their name and phone number on the bags of plastic that will be brought to Central. Please save the usual items.



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|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Ed Willson |
| 3 | Ruth Koenig |
| 7 | Rich Litchfield |
| 11 | Janet Elliot |
| 12 | Barbara Cookson |
| 14 | Mary Breiter |
| 17 | Nancy Carlton |
| 19 | Laurie Inglis |
| 24 | Steve Kanaga |
| 24 | Marilyn Watson |
| 27 | Margie James |

2020 UNRESTRICTED FUND GRANT AWARDS

Kathleen Beisse



This spring the Endowment Fund Committee had some unrestricted money to offer as grants. We solicited proposals in March and made the awards at our April meeting. The grant funds were awarded as follows:

- Payment to Central for services of the bookkeeper
- Grant to the K-Center to cover added program and food costs for 2020 program year.
- Grant to Chavez Elementary for headphones for kindergarten students and repair of cords and headsets used by the first-grade classes. Funds will be distributed when school restarts.
- Grant to Personnel to cover registration and travel expenses to send the office manager, Sheryl, to a training session on the CDM (Church Database Management) system in Ohio. Funds remain in the budget until the session is rescheduled.

The committee had additional funds to support a small round of grant requests in the fall. We solicited proposals in October, and the fall grants were awarded at the end of November. These funds went to:

- Support of the mural project for the Patterson Street side of the church building
- Money to FISH so they can supply propane to those in need.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT OUR ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION HAS CHANGED AT CPC!

BELOW IS THE CURRENT ACCURATE INFORMATION, PLEASE USE THIS INSTEAD OF THE OLD ZOOM MEETING INFORMATION

FOR MEMBER USE

CHURCH REMODEL UPDATE

Steve Stermer



The Central Remodel Committee was back together on January 15th via a Zoom meeting, replying to questions presented earlier in the week by Architect Quince Sterry. We answered questions relating to finishes and materials used in the remodel, more specifically in the bathrooms and church entrances. The new North Entrance to the church will be a covered walkway from the alley parking lot through Lafferty Courtyard into the expanded entry area of what is now the library and office. The library is being moved upstairs. The expanded entry will contain the elevator and a set of doors leading directly into the parlor and allow for easy access directly into the narthex and sanctuary. These improvements will make access to the church more welcoming for all.

In spite of some slowups related to the COVID-19 virus and having to meet via Zoom rather than in person the project continues to move forward at a steady pace. Next steps for the project are for Quince to continue with drawings and plans, have a final review with the committee, put the project out to contractors for bids, and submit plans to the city for the permitting process.

Thank you for keeping the remodel project and committee in your thoughts and prayers. We will continue with updates as the project progresses.

Committee members are Alice Schroeder, Bob Bottge, John Sheridan, Nancy Richter, Steve Stermer, and Rev. Jennifer Martin.



18 Dana & Michael Boonstra

DRIVE-BY 90TH BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR MARGARET PRENTICE

Quentin Holmes

What do you do when a beloved Older Adult in your church turns 90, and the Governor of your state has declared your county at “Extreme Risk” for COVID-19? Gatherings beyond your personal small bubble are NOT allowed because the daily number of new cases of COVID-19 keeps shattering records. Answer, you get creative!

Margaret Prentice is one of the dear older adults in our congregation. In addition to having served multiple times as a deacon, helping to start our Prayer Shawl Ministry, preparing and arranging the elements for Communion on Sundays, Margaret has a deep and abiding passion for serving the older saints in our church. Also, Margaret loves to walk outdoors with a small number of friends from church.

To celebrate Margaret’s 90th birthday, Patty MacAfee and others who enjoy walking with Margaret, decided to hold a drive-by birthday party. Birthday party invitations were sent out electronically, and people were asked to R.S.V.P. Thinking this would be an ordinary gathering, several people responded with messages like, “*Gee, I would really love to come, but I can’t take the risk of getting exposed to COVID-19.*” Others –who may or may not have understood that the birthday party would be a drive-by event– responded in the affirmative.

In a more normal era this birthday party would have involved real plates from Scotland, Irish linen napkins, and a homemade cake, with longtime friends talking and fellowshiping over English tea.

Thus, it was that on a bright, sunny afternoon (highly unusual for Oregon at this time of the year), between 1:00 – 3:00pm, some 23 cars drove by Patty MacAfee’s garage in the South Hills of Eugene, Oregon. There they found a small group, socially distanced, standing in the driveway. Attendees were asked to roll down their car window and say “Hi” to Margaret. Each person in the car was given a plate of delicious, home-made carrot cake to take along home. No, it was definitely not the same as a regular birthday party. However, the warmth and love we all feel for our friend Margaret – God’s love – and the joy that Margaret has brought into the lives of others during her 90 years, and counting, was all that really mattered.



FEBRUARY LECTIONARY

Sunday, February 7

Isaiah 40:21–31

Psalms 147:1–11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16–23

Mark 1:29–39

Transfiguration of the Lord—February 14

2 Kings 2:1–12

Psalms 50:1–6

2 Corinthians 4:3–6

Mark 9:2–9

Ash Wednesday—February 17

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 or Isa. 58:1–12

Psalms 51:1–17

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21

First Sunday in Lent—February 21

Genesis 9:8–17

Psalms 25:1–10

1 Peter 3:18–22

Mark 1:9–15

Second Sunday in Lent—February 28

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

Psalms 22:23–31

Romans 4:13–25

Mark 8:31–38

Central's operating budget will thank you when you pay your . . .



The per capita amount for 2021 is \$36.50

Per capita is the annual per-member apportionment that helps pay the expenses of Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. These levels are what makes us a "connectional church," a body of people who discern and live out God's call locally, regionally, and nationally.

Central's operating budget has a line item for the per capita payment. You can help with this budget expense by paying your capita of \$36.50. If you have pre-printed envelopes, you can use the special per capita envelope. **Or simply write a check, noting "per capita" on the memo line.**

Thank you!

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN OFFICE

The Church Office is not open for regular hours during the pandemic. However, we are still working on the business of the church. Our goal is to meet the needs of the people of the church. Sheryl Peterson, Office Manager, is currently working from home, and **Arlene Hudgins, our Bookkeeper, is working part-time at the office and is available from 8:30 – 11:00.** You can call or come into the office during that time. Sheryl can be contacted through the church email centralpresbyterianeugene@gmail.com. Please do not hesitate to let us know if we can help you with anything.



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Mission Statement

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

