



CENTRAL

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A CARING, INQUIRING, INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

January 2021 Vol 21, No 1

Sunday, January 3
Lord's Supper ~ Online Worship

Tuesday, January 5
@ 9:30am
Miriam Circle on Zoom

Wednesday, January 6
@ 11:30am
Martha Circle on Zoom

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



- 3 Carolyn Keener
- 3 Laura Mason
- 6 Bob Bottge
- 6 Debbie Larson
- 8 Linda Zimmerman
- 14 Margaret Prentice
- 15 Randy Kolb
- 16 Dana Boonstra
- 18 Emma Brown
- 18 Jacquie Litchfield
- 21 Bella Brown
- 21 Marian Smith
- 23 Helen Martz
- 23 Julie Whitmore
- 27 John Gregor
- 27 Kathy Koelling



By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. - Galatians 5:22-23

When you read this, we will have finally said farewell to the year 2020. What a year it has been! I recently saw a Tik Tok video of a comedian who found her list of resolutions for last year. They included:

- Make more money (she notes she has been unemployed since March)
- Travel more
- Lose weight
- Be more social
- Cry less

As you might imagine, she was laughing through tears as she reviewed the chasm between the reality of 2020 and what she had hoped for last year. While I'm not someone who usually writes down New Year's resolutions, I do take time to reflect over the year gone by. I think it is safe to say as we look back to 2020 that in spite of moments of gratitude and hope, all of us have some unmet expectations, a few disappointments, and a fair amount of grief to contend with from the year that just was.

One way our congregation has marked a new year in recent times has been with the choosing of a star word on Epiphany Sunday. These words help us have a touchstone as we seek to follow the light into the New Year: a reminder to keep looking for signs of God in our midst as the year unfolds. (This year we will be mailing them out - if you don't get one and would like to have one, just let the church office know.)

My star word for 2020 was fruitfulness: - a word defined as extremely productive or prolific. When I remember all the things I thought I would accomplish last year, and take into account the many days where it felt like the whole world was on hold, remember all the cancelled conferences and classes, the meetings that didn't happen . . . Well, it might seem that I failed to live up to that word's promise.



But if I measure the fruitfulness of 2020 based on the fruits of the Spirit that changes things. Even though there were a lot of disappointments and too much grief to measure this year, all of us learned again the value of loving

one another and of celebrating little joys as we focused on sustaining our relationships old and new. We had to show both ourselves and others a lot more patience and gentleness as each of us had to find new ways to connect, not to mention develop many more new skills that we might not have otherwise opted to learn. We noticed the ways people acted with kindness and generosity as we reached out to help in ways big and small. We saw that our self-control could not only spare someone's feelings but had the capacity to literally save someone's life. And all of this was undergirded by little steps of faith. Day by long, socially distanced day. So maybe 2020 was fruitful in spite of itself.

None of us know what 2021 holds, but I have many hopes for it. I hope and pray we will put the pandemic behind us bit by bit as people get immunized and continue to make choices to protect the most vulnerable. I pray we will take the lessons we have learned and use them to emerge from this experience as a more compassionate and just nation. I so look forward to the day we will again be able to hug our friends, visit our family members, and join together in one place for worship. I can't wait to sing and pray with all of you in the sanctuary.

I also don't yet know what my word will be for 2021, but I do know that I will carry the lessons of 2020 with me into it. And I know not one of us will go through this year alone. We have one another, and we have our God, Emmanuel! The whole point of the star words is to help us remember all year long to seek the One whose birth the star announced - and that is something we can do no matter what word we find printed on our stars.



RECYCLING CHRISTMAS WREATH RINGS



For those who purchased Christmas wreaths, please separate the foliage from the metal ring in the back and bring the ring back to the church. A box will be put next to the double doors under the blue awnings or next to the entry into the building in Lafferty Court - maybe both, after January first. The ladies in Woodburn would like the rings back because it saves them money.

Disassembling the wreaths is easy with a wire cutter such as a pair of pliers or a hand-size bull nipper.

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	Janet Edmonson
Louise deKluyver	Jackie Onstad
Laurie Inglis	Julianne Stermer
Marian Smith	

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

Newsletter
DEADLINE

Central articles are due the third Monday of each month. Articles for the February Central Newsletter are due on Monday, January 18, 2021.



“PER CAPITA” -- WHAT’S THAT?

Susan Schroeder, Stewardship
Committee co-chair



*Per Capita -
For Love of
Christ's Church*

Per capita is the amount apportioned to each church member to help pay the expenses of the various levels of our Church above the level of the

congregation – the Presbytery, the Synod, and the General Assembly. Per capita is the way we members help share costs of administrative, legislative, and judicial functions of the Presbyterian Church.

Per capita supports and promotes the ministries and missions of the wider church. For example, it helps the church engage with seminarians preparing for ministry; supports churches seeking a pastor; supports Korean-speaking churches; engages in issues of justice such as immigration advocacy; and supports ecumenical and inter-religious relationships.

For 2021, Central’s per capita payment is \$4,818, or \$36.50 per member (based on 132 members). Of the \$36.50 assessed per member, \$22.33 goes to Presbytery; \$5.22 to our regional Synod; and \$8.95 to the Office of General Assembly.

Central’s operating budget has a line item for the per capita payment. **But each member can help us with this budget expense by paying her or his apportionment of \$36.50.** This would be above and beyond your regular pledge (if you pledge). For those with pre-printed envelopes, simply use the per capita envelope. Others can mail a check to the church with “per capita” on the memo line.

By paying your own per capita apportionment, you free up money in the budget that can be used for local mission, building expenses, or other budget items. If you pay your per capita in 2021, the operating budget will thank you!



2 George Grier & Cindy Pappas
30 Richard & Joyce Lin

JANUARY LECTIONARY

Second Sunday of Christmas—January 3

Jeremiah 31:7–14
Psalm 147:12–20
Ephesians 1:3–14
John 1:(1–9) 10–18

Epiphany of the Lord—January 6

Isaiah 60:1–6
Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14
Ephesians 3:1–12
Matthew 2:1–12

Baptism of the Lord—January 10

Genesis 1:1–5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1–7
Mark 1:4–11

Sunday, January 17

1 Samuel 3:1–10 (11–20)
Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18
1 Corinthians 6:12–20
John 1:43–51

Sunday, January 24

Jonah 3:1–5, 10
Psalm 62:5–12
1 Corinthians 7:29–31
Mark 1:14–20

Sunday, January 31

Deuteronomy 18:15–20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1–13
Mark 1:21–28



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."

2020 was a year of generous giving! Thank you, Central members and friends for all your support! We have been able to make donations to the following local organizations through our weekly coin offering.

Catholic Community Services-
Cold Weather Motel Vouchers-
\$272

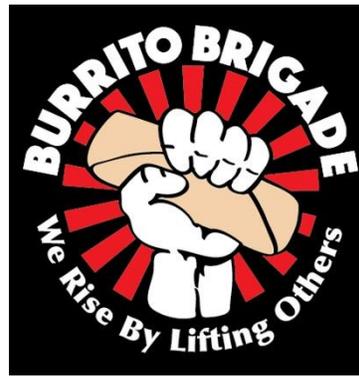
Sexual Assault Support Services- \$314
Oregon Community Asylum Network- \$605
CAHOOTS - \$700
Days for Girls- \$548
Bags of Love- Nov/Dec offering

The MCD has selected the following recipients for the 2021 Coin Offering:

- January/ February: Burrito Brigade
- March/April: Chifin Native Youth Center, Springfield Schools
- May/June: St. Vincent de Paul Hub (health and mental health services for the unhoused)
- July/August: McKenzie River Trust
- September/October: St. Vincent DePaul Family Shelter Annex
- November/ December: Refugee Resettlement Coalition

The 2020 Annual Report will contain details of all our gifts and offerings this year.

Thank you again for your generosity!



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.

CENTRAL STAFF CHRISTMAS BONUS



Central's staff gives a big thanks to the congregation of Central for your generous donations allowing us to have a Christmas bonus. We all really appreciate your care and support of us and are grateful for all of you!

FISH: 2020 HAS BEEN A DIFFERENT YEAR

Merle Bottge



FISH (Friends in Service to Humanity) was organized as a food bank in Eugene/Springfield in 1970.

A 100% volunteer organization, FISH now provides emergency food aid, propane tank refills and prescription drug assistance. Volunteers are available three hours a day, Monday through Friday, to respond to phone calls for help and to prepare food boxes for pick up. During 2020, 14 churches and 31 groups and individuals have donated more than \$28,000 to support FISH.

Food Assistance: FISH will provide a three-day supply of food and toiletries once a month. Some clients call monthly for assistance, but most call only occasionally. Interestingly, the demand for food is significantly less than in 2019, perhaps because so many other organizations are providing food assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic. River Road Parks and Recreation, Safeway, and 11 churches plus several individuals donate many bags and boxes of food for distribution through FISH. In addition, FISH has spent about \$12,000 for food and toiletries – about \$10,000 less than in 2019. Five years ago, FISH spent \$18,000 for food and toiletries.

Propane Tank Refills: FISH maintains an account with Fire for Life and sends clients there for five gallons of propane up to every other month. The requests for propane have more than doubled over the last five years and have cost \$11,000 in 2020 or \$1,500 more than in 2019.

Prescription Drug Assistance: FISH works primarily with Bi-Mart Pharmacy to provide one-time help with prescriptions. Since 2015 the need for prescription help has plummeted to \$2,000 in 2020 from \$10,000 in 2015. Perhaps this reflects improved medical insurance and volunteer services in the community.

Thank you, Central Presbyterian Church, for supporting FISH for 50 years with volunteers and donations.



RECYCLING CONTINUES

Barbara Cookson

You can now bring burnt out indoor and outdoor Christmas lights to the church for recycling! They can be dropped off at the church Mondays – Fridays, 8:00am to 11:00am.



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.

DECEMBER SESSION MEETING

Merle Bottge

In Memoriam

Leland Halberg

A long-time member of Central and its choir passed away November 22, 2020

Central's Budget for 2021

The Session approved a budget of \$435,000 for 2021 (\$15,000 less than the 2020 budget) with the knowledge that it may need to be modified later. It is hard to predict the future during a pandemic.

Fall Grants from Central's Endowment

The Endowment Committee granted \$2,000 to Worship and Common Life to fund a mural on the church's east wall and a \$1,000 grant to FISH in support of its programs.

Building Use during a Pandemic

Central's Building Use Task Force continues to monitor the situation, and the building remains closed for most uses. The Session agreed it will continue to rely on the Task Force to evaluate requests for building use and to bring recommendations to the Session when it deems it safe to reopen the building for worship and general use.

**CENTRAL'S CHRISTMAS
PROJECT: a final report**
Quentin Holmes and Laurie Inglis
Deacon Co-Moderators

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 42 years ago by Al Bray and Burt Eaton and has continued ever since under a series of able leaders. Each year it is a bold adventure in faith.

This year, Central's Christmas Project helped 14 families from Rainbow Village Low-Cost Housing. Three other Presbyterian churches and a 4th organization worked alongside us to help a total of 58 families. Each family received:
A Christmas card;
A WINCO gift card matched to the size of their family;
A VISA gift card for parents to use to buy Christmas gifts for each child; and
A Christmas stocking to hold the above items.



Rainbow Village Christmas Project has been amazing and quite overwhelming. A letter was sent out to volunteers who did not get placed on a project team thanking them for donating to the 2020 Christmas Project via the Deacon's Fund and saying their donation would go into a pool for gift cards. And, still, the postcards just kept coming in, and people kept offering to volunteer for the Christmas Project!

In desperation, on December 9th, Quentin formally asked the President of Rainbow Village's Board, *Would it be O.K. if Central Presbyterian Church provided a \$25 Gift Card for presents for the adults in EVERY Rainbow Village family? (Except for single adults living alone, who are already getting a \$25 gift card for a present.)* Permission to do so was granted. And so Central did.

During online Worship on Sunday, December 20th, Pastor Jennifer Martin led us in a symbolic blessing of the 2020 Christmas Project. On the morning of December 21st, 14 lovely Christmas stockings were taken over to the office at Rainbow Village, along with the additional gift cards for the adults in all 58 families.

Central Presbyterian Church is indeed, "Blessed to be a Blessing." Thanks be to God!

**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.*