



CENTRAL

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A CARING, INQUIRING, INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

March 2021 Vol 21, No 3

MARCH

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

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

Sunday, March 7
Lord's Supper ~ Online Worship

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



11 Ed Degner
17 John Larson
20 Sharry Lachman
20 Don Piper



6 Mel & Linda Anderson
17 Wesley & Sharry Lachman



This time last year due to flu season and a new virus we had begun to hear about, we were giving instructions on how to pass the peace without touching, hanging up signs about hand washing, and wondering if we needed to purchase more containers of hand sanitizer for the church building. By March 15th we were sheltering at home and streaming our first online worship service using my iPhone

hooked up to Facebook live (only part of the video was sideways!). We quickly acquired church accounts on Vimeo and Zoom. We all settled in for what we thought might be a few weeks or maybe a couple of months of stay-at-home living so we could do our part to flatten the curve. You do not need me to tell you it's been a wild twelve months.

Wild places - the wilderness- that is a part of the story of our faith. In the Bible, time spent in the wilderness was a time of testing, a time of learning to listen to and depend upon God, a time for learning about what it meant to belong to God. The season of Lent is set up to last for forty days (plus Sundays) to give the church an opportunity to prepare for the Easter season. The length of the season reminds us of the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness and the forty years Israel did. We are now well into Lent 2021. Many have said it feels like we never ended Lent 2020, as though the time just stretched on and on. I have to wonder if we have ever understood this metaphor of wilderness as a people the way we do after the past year.

Wilderness in scripture is a liminal space. A space in between. An unsettled space. The thing about Lent is, we know the boundaries. We know where it's going. We know it will lead us to Easter. In the Bible, the people didn't know it for sure at the time, but the wilderness wandering and testing led to the promised land, and to the good news of the in-breaking of God's kingdom. That is a word of hope for us as we get weary of our current wilderness reality. It is helpful to remember that the wilderness has lessons for us, if we have ears to hear and eyes to see, and, though it might feel like it, that the wilderness is not forever. While we journey here, let us be reminded that even in the wilderness no one is alone. We are not alone. We can hold onto the hope that is promised on the other side of this time. The God of Israel and of Jesus is faithful to those who still wander through the wilderness. I pray as we make this Lenten journey, you will be reminded that no wilderness experience, no matter how long it lasts, can separate us from the Love that created us - the Love that claims us again, and again and again.



With relentless hope, Jennifer

NEW WINDOWS INSTALLED AT CENTRAL

By Steve Stermer,
Properties Committee



Thanks to a 10k Presbytery grant, 10k from the Central Memorial Fund, and the balance from the Properties budget, Central was able to replace the remaining original steel-framed single-pane windows with triple-pane energy efficient windows.



Mark and Company of Eugene completed the installation during the week of March 15th. The next time you are by the church check them out.

PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGIATE MINISTRIES AND THE K14 BUILDING

The Session at its February 15 meeting had a thoughtful discussion of the plight of PCM and the campus ministry program. Ultimately the Session voted to ask PCM to begin to work in cooperation with the other owner partners and the asset manager of K1414 LLC to sell the K1414 building. It is anticipated that sale will generate enough money to enable PCM and Central to pay off the synod loan and, hopefully, leave some money to establish an endowment in support of campus ministry. The motion passed unanimously.

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE THANKS YOU!



The Operating Budget thanks all 32 people who have made their per capita payment. This really helps! Thank you! It is never too late to send a check for \$36.50, with "per capita" in the memo line, to the church office.

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 Edmonsond
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
Peter Carlson	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, April 19, 2021.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

By Nancy Richter

You Shall Be Called Repairers of the Breach
—Isaiah 58

This special offering occurs during Lent - this year February 17, Ash Wednesday, through April 4, Easter Sunday - and is usually dedicated on Palm Sunday. You'll find information about this special offering included in the Lenten bags you received a couple of weeks ago along with an envelope for your offering. **OGHS** helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through three life-saving programs ---



1. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (Restorers of Streets to Live In),
2. Presbyterian Hunger Program, (Share Your Bread with the Hungry),
3. Self-development of People, (Loose the Bonds of Injustice.)

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is living into the **Matthew 25 Invitation** by:

*supporting the *eradication of poverty* through grants to vulnerable populations for COVID-19 and other natural and human-caused disasters.

*working to *end systemic racism* through centering black, indigenous and communities of color and refugees in our grant-making.

*promoting *congregational vitality* through the development of commuter volunteers, spiritual and emotional care for pastors during the pandemic and grants to help congregations respond in their own communities.

For the church to be the Church it must be in relationship to those in need – an understanding that can readily be drawn from Matthew 25. Through gifts to the Special Offerings, we support ministries of compassion, justice, hunger, Christian formation, education, peacemaking and global witness. Join other congregations in making an impact on the world.

Let's be the church, together.

And remember, if we all give a little, it adds up to a lot. We thank you for your continued generosity.



HOLY WEEK HELPERS NEEDED

As we enter the season of Lent, we have many resources to share with the congregation in the packets you have received and with the Prayer Wall that is currently set up in the Chapel. Please feel free to drop by any morning between 8:00 and 11:00 to write a prayer and weave it into the wall.

We also need helpers to prepare for Holy Week. The Fellowship Hall will be set up with Stations of the Cross, and we would love some assistance to get them all located around the edge of the hall. The Labyrinth will be available in the middle and the Stations around the perimeter.

If you are interested in helping, please contact Sheryl at centralpresbyterianeugene@gmail.com, or Bev Day (541-686-0648 or day4ducks@gmail.com). We will do the set up on Thursday, March 25th, from 10:00 until we finish. But it shouldn't take long with many helpers.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF CENTRAL

The Board of Presbyterian Women of Central met in January to decide on several distributions.

We discussed what was available from Second Mile Giving through the Circles, and decided on the following:

1. The Quarterly Payment to PW of the Presbytery and Synod in both January and April will be \$200 each.
2. A \$200 Donation to ALS of Oregon, in honor of Kathy Koelling's Birthday Wish – in memory of her late husband, Jim Koelling. Kathy was deeply touched and honored and thanks everyone for this remembrance.



by,
Jane Holmes, Moderator of PW
Nancy Richter, Miriam Circle
Joan Doering, PW Treasurer, retired

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."



March & April Coin Offering

During the selection process for recipients of the monthly Coin Offering, the Ministry of Christian Discipleship decided to choose agencies from 6 categories: Racial Justice, the Unhoused

Population, Youth and Families, Immigrants, Food Security and Creation Care.

Our March/April Coin Offering will be donated to the McKenzie River Trust as we focus on Creation Care. The main goals of the organization are:

- Preserving the quality of drinking water
- Protecting special lands from harmful development
- Restoring critical habitat for endangered species
- Planting thousands of trees that clean the air we breathe
- Securing land and water for fish, wildlife, plants, and people!

In addition to these efforts, the McKenzie River Valley is also in the process of recovering from the devastation of the Holiday Farm Fire last summer, which will be a long-term effort.

Thank you for your continued support of our Coin Offering. If you choose to donate by check, please indicate "coin offering" in the memo.



A big thank you to members and friends of Central for all your generous donations to our Drive by Food Drive on February 7th. We were able to deliver two carloads of food and kitchen supplies to the St Vincent DePaul Family Shelter Annex.

The kitchen manager was so appreciative of all the contributions that included a big box of spices, bags of sugar and flour, snacks for the children and real silverware! We filled her pantry with foil, ziplock bags and plastic wrap. We also collected over \$400 in cash donations, which will allow her to purchase a much-needed juicer.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH FISH

Merle Bottge

FISH continues to receive many calls for propane during our wintry weather at a cost of \$3,000 during January and February.

Your donations to FISH – either through the church or directly to FISH by mailing a check to FISH, P.O. Box 2412, Eugene, OR 97402, is much appreciated.

Interestingly, the number of requests for help with food or prescriptions is much diminished.



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.

zoom

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8503396012?pwd=RXlWUE1UWXcWVFkxDUzR0JyeHJ5UT09>

Meeting ID: *** ** *

Passcode: *****

MARCH LECTIONARY

Third Sunday in Lent—March 7

Exodus 20:1–17

Psalm 19

1 Corinthians 1:18–25

John 2:13–22

Fourth Sunday in Lent—March 14

Numbers 21:4–9

Psalm 107:1–3, 17–22

Ephesians 2:1–10

John 3:14–21

Fifth Sunday in Lent—March 21

Jeremiah 31:31–34

Psalm 51:1–12 or Psalm 119:9–16

Hebrews 5:5–10

John 12:20–33

Passion/Palm Sunday—March 28

Liturgy of the Palms

Mark 11:1–11 or John 12:12–16

Psalm 118:1–2, 19–29

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4–9a Psalm 31:9–16

Philippians 2:5–11

Mark 14:1–15:47 or Mark 15:1–39 (40–47)

Monday of Holy Week—March 29

Isaiah 42:1–9

Psalm 36:5–11

Hebrews 9:11–15

John 12:1–11

Tuesday of Holy Week—March 30

Isaiah 49:1–7

Psalm 71:1–14

1 Corinthians 1:18–31

John 12:20–36

Wednesday of Holy Week—March 31

Isaiah 50:4–9a

Psalm 70:1–5

Hebrews 12:1–3

John 13:21–32

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 centralpresbyterianene@gmail.com. Please do not hesitate to let us know if we can help you with anything.



MICHAEL JAMES TO RETIRE FROM CPC

Michael James, Central's maintenance custodian will be leaving us to move to Oklahoma. He would like to be able to say goodbye to everyone, but due to Covid-19 we are unable to have a party for him. Michael has had a long relationship with Central that goes back to his childhood. His parents, David and June, were Central members and friends for many years.

The Personnel Committee asked Michael for some background information so an article could be written about him. What Michael provided is a wonderful history of his time here and does not need to be rewritten. We will be collecting cards and contributions for a cash gift to give him; if you would like to give him a card or a contribution please send it to the Church office, attn. Sheryl. Cards need to be received by March 22. The Personnel Committee is hoping to have a Zoom farewell party for Michael. More information on the date and time will be emailed to the congregation in March.



Michael and Marleny recently at the Oregon Coast

I was born in Eugene as my parents finished their GI Bill educations at the U of O in 1950. They met at Westminster House and my mother, June, sang in the choir at the old church building on 10th Ave. Then we all headed to Bonanza, OR to live until I was 5. When we returned as a family of 5, we lived at the corner of 14th & Hilyard about a block from Central. My sisters and I attended Central Sunday school and youth group through high school. In fact, I was nominated to be on session when I was 16 years old when Rev. Norm Pott was our pastor. That included an inspiring and eye-opening trip to General Assembly with Rev. Jack Ewing as delegates of Cascade Presbytery in 1968.

Later, while studying at the U of O, I worked as the evening host and did some yardwork for a few years. I also lived across E 15th Ave. at the time. After graduation in 1978 with a M.S. in Geology. I started a trip to South America to see if I still remembered the Spanish I studied in high school and college before settling down in my profession. A several month's long journey turned into a 20-year adventure of exploration, discovery and growth as I fell in love with crazy Columbia and my wife and her family. Marleny is also a geologist so we met at work and study related activities. We eventually had 2 daughters, Ingara and Catherine while living in Medellin and Pereira. We returned to the US in 1999. We did begin our church life at Central, but eventually found Iglesia de Cristo Mahanaim, where we have been since that time.

I began working at Central as the maintenance person in 2007, replacing colorful Charlie Hirsch. I continued until 2011 when gold prices skyrocketed and friends in Columbia pleaded that I should come back to work in one of the many exploration projects. That barely lasted a year. At that time, a fellow member of the Hispanic church, Jose Tobon applied and took over my job until he decided to join a cousin in Santa Barbara, CA area in his plumbing start up.

In 2016, I happily returned to Central at that time to my old position which keeps me active but doesn't wear me out too much most days. It's varied work as we keep the well-built old building functioning, take care of the yards, parking lots and playground.

I've learned to take care of the steam boiler heating system with the back-up of Harvey Price Co. and other repair technicians. I do basic electrical and lighting repairs, take care of simple plumbing needs, floor maintenance and waxing, care for the sprinkler system and all lawn care, maintain drains and pump systems, especially those in the vault on the corner of 15th & Ferry St. The job also involves trips around the church to pick up trash in relation to homeless neighbors who sometimes sleep under our roofs. Yesterday, a guy who has lived on the streets for many years, thanked me because when I found his phone earlier in 2020, I was able to get it back to him.

Then there's Travis who slept on the Patterson St. side of the building for many years, always decked out in U of O Duck regalia that he finds in the trash cans. He shares stories every now and then. Joe knows others that converse with him too. We try to be a friendly face with our student and non-student neighbors.

So, after March, my wife and I have decided to move back to Oklahoma City where our younger daughter and her husband lives. She graduated from OSU with a chemical engineering degree. They only have pets, 4 dogs at this time but our being closer to them may make it easier to decide to start their family. Also, the route to Columbia to visit our daughter Ingara, who finished her medical school there and is in a pediatric specialty, and the rest of Marleny's family, is shorter. One of the few disadvantages of Oregon for us, is the distance to Medellin.

As you can imagine, for me leaving Central is difficult too. It's been the most peaceful and interesting "job" I've ever had and is especially nice now in my golden years.

Since Marleny retired this year from the Bethel School District, it is better that I completely retire too. I will miss everyone and especially the folks I work with frequently like, Sheryl, Arlene, Steve S., Bob B., Joe, John S., Gerry K., Jordan, and Jennifer.



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Mission Statement

Central Presbyterian Church is

A caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith.