



CENTRAL

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
A CARING, INQUIRING, INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

May 2021 Vol 21, No 5

Sunday, May 2
@ 9:00am
Annual Congregational meeting
on Zoom



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

Tuesday, May 4
@ 9:30am
Miriam Circle in Parlor

Wednesday, May 5
@ 11:30am
Martha Circle in Parlor

Tuesday or Thursday
May 11 & 13
@ 6:30pm on Zoom
CPC Vision for the Future

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

Sundays @ 10:30am
Adult Education via Zoom

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



What's next?

That seems to be the question being asked most often all around us. As more people are vaccinated and new science on who should wear a mask and when are being discussed, we are also hearing news that our county will again be categorized as extreme risk. We are all trying to determine the best answers to questions like: What is allowed? What is wise? What are we called to do?

The month of May in the church takes us from the season of Eastertide to the celebration of Pentecost. Perhaps this year more than ever we can empathize with disciples locked inside a room trying to discern what exactly it was that the Divine was calling into being. Even after the Spirit of God descended upon them, there is no way that group of folks could have envisioned what the global church has become. But they did as Christ called them to do: - they waited for the Spirit and then let themselves be guided by Her - together - trying their best to love one another and spread the good news of hope and life as they told the story of Jesus to all who could hear.

Like our ancestors in the faith, we are also trying to discern where the Spirit is leading - on several fronts! You'll see in this newsletter that we are holding a few more conversations this month for those who couldn't come in April to begin discussions about the future of CPC. We are also continuing to work through our small groups and ministry teams to serve our congregation and larger community in ways that make sense as we continue to weather this pandemic. Our remodel task force is continuing the work needed so we can break ground on that project in the not too distant future. And our Covid Building Use task force has been faithfully monitoring the pandemic situation to guide us regarding a return to in-person worship.

Our hope right now is to be able to return to worship in our sanctuary for Pentecost Sunday, May 23 - which is certainly something for us all to look forward to with joy! I want to thank you all for the

many ways you have been willing to try new things. As we moved most of our activities online and did what we could to reach out to one another, I have been impressed with your flexibility, compassion, grace, and generosity. Those qualities will serve us well as we make this shift, too. We will have to bear in mind that while we will be able to meet in person, it will not be a return to the way things were. And not everyone will choose to return at the same time. In the coming weeks, you will be seeing lots of information about protocols that will need to be in place for us to ensure the safest worship environment possible for all those who do choose to attend. And we will continue to offer some of the service online as well.



We are still working out some of the details, and I am sure that will be true even as we begin to meet in person. We will all have to remember that none of us has ever had to manage re-opening after a pandemic before and be patient with one another as we learn what is needed. Let's not be shy in offering grace as we come together again.

I truly cannot thank you enough for all the ways you have continued to show up this year for one another and for our mission partners and neighbors. You are such an amazing community of faith! I can't wait to see you all soon!

With hope, Jennifer

**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
VISION FOR THE FUTURE
TUESDAY MAY 11 @ 6:30PM
THURSDAY MAY 13 @ 6:30PM**

Many of you mentioned that you wanted to take part in these conversations last month but weren't able to do so. Well, here's your chance! Join Pastor Jennifer as together we take the first steps in discerning the future for CPC. She'll be leading two more guided conversations as we gather input from anyone who chooses to participate. Each session will last about 90 minutes (maybe a little less, never more) depending on how many folks join in. Just sign on to one of the zoom meetings to be a part of this process.

Once we complete these meetings, the information from all the meetings held in April and May will be collated. Then we will hold the second phase meetings in June.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN OFFICE SET TO REOPEN

Our office manager, Sheryl Peterson, will return to the office to work regular hours beginning Monday, May 3. However, until the risk level is lowered again, the office will not be open to the general public unless you are attending a planned group function until the risk level is lowered again.

Sheryl will be available by phone or email if you have any church-related needs during office hours, Monday through Thursday between 8:30am and noon and again between 1:00pm and 4:00pm. If you have an immediate need other than those hours, please contact your deacon or Pastor Jennifer.



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: Jair Velasquez
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 Edmonsond**
Laurie Inglis **Jackie Onstad**
Marian Smith **Julianne Stermer**

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

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

Chair:	Kathleen Beisse
Marci Gordon	Pat Hocken
Peter Carlson	Jane Rimerman
Steve Stermer	Jim Whitmore

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN: Jane Holmes, Moderator

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

Central articles are due the third Monday of each month. Articles for the June Central Newsletter are due on Monday, May 17, 2021.



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."



May and June Coin Offering:

The Hub: It's All Right Here is a partnership between Willamette Family, Inc. and St. Vincent de Paul

of Lane County. The Hub is located in two modular clinics that were donated by Lane Community College and were moved to the Dawn to Dawn site on Hwy. 99N. Long recognized as primary barriers to housing, painful and/or chronic health conditions, mental illness and substance abuse will be addressed by Willamette Family staff and volunteers, making it easy to access and have follow-up treatment if needed. Patients who lack medical insurance can receive help enrolling in the Oregon Health Plan.

By addressing health concerns early before they turn into emergencies and making referrals in more concerning cases, The Hub will reduce patient volume at urgent-care clinics and hospital emergency rooms. The Hub is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. until noon. The major health issues to be addressed are alcohol and drug assessment and treatment, detox referral, help with Oregon Health Authority paperwork, mental health support and referrals, referrals for housing, food, dental and/or more specialized care. One of the goals is to have all beginning services in one location to make all types of health care easier to obtain. Please visit their website to learn more.

CENTRAL WALKERS

Pat Hocken



For several years a few members and friends of Central have met at the Church Monday mornings at 9:00 for an hour of moderate exercise and conversation. With the nicer spring weather in the air, we invite others to join us. No long term commitment required, just a weekly decision to participate. The walks from and back to the Church are very free form, and the destination is chosen that morning, sometimes based on local news. For example, in the past year we have checked out the new murals in downtown Eugene and the construction progress at Hayward Field. We have toured various neighborhoods and the UO campus to view seasonal flowers and plantings. We have visited the Masonic cemetery and walked on the riverfront bike paths.

Rain or shine or frost as long as two walkers are available, we have an outing. If you are interested, please contact one of the regulars (Merle Bottge, Kathleen Beisse, or Pat Hocken) or call the Church office to share your interest. We usually check-in with each other about availability Sunday afternoons.

MURAL PROGRESS

Bev Day

Good news – the Session has selected an image for our east wall mural. Our muralist, Kylie Nelson, has been very patient and has revised images multiple times to come up with just the right idea for our new mural. We will begin work this summer AND we will need lots and lots of helpers.

Stay tuned for more information about ways you can participate. Volunteer to paint, provide snacks, donate a bit of cash to the kitty, lead a cheer to keep the crew going. All will be welcome.



PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING

Nancy Richter

With our gifts to the Pentecost Special Offering, we join together to build God's house with our children, youth and young adults. The Pentecost Offering helps our youth begin life with a strong start- a solid foundation of faith formed in the years from childhood through young adulthood. But there are many of our youth in our communities who are

struggling with school, food insecurities, life on the streets, not knowing



where to turn next for help. 40% of the Pentecost Offering stays with this congregation to develop and/or support programs for young people in our own church and community. 25% supports Young Adult Volunteers (YAV), serving in communities around the world and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service. 25% supports the Ministries with Youth including the Presbyterian Youth Triennium. 10% is devoted to children at risk to improve education and provide safe havens.

Our congregation is joining the whole church in building for our future, in building individual lives of faith. Let's build God's house, together. Remember, if we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. We continue to thank you for your generosity.

15TH NIGHT

PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING

Nancy Richter

This year's Pentecost Special Offering local recipient is 15th Night, an organization/movement serving the needs of students, youth and young adults who are struggling to remain in school while navigating homelessness. This grass-roots movement began in 2015 and currently serves 482 of our Eugene-Springfield students who are facing homeless situations. Statistics show that a student who has been homeless for 15 days is more likely to remain homeless. Hence, the name of the movement: 15th Night. The organization is divided into Rapid Access Network (RAN) and Partner Agencies. There are roughly 60 Partner Agencies and community organizations that provide services and resources to maximize positive impact on our vulnerable Eugene-Springfield youth and young adults.



RAN provides communication technology developed to mobilize 15th Night Advocates to address the immediate needs of youth and young adults who have sought out someone they trust to help them navigate their homeless situation. A student may reach out to a teacher, counselor, a friend, or someone from a church who can then help them contact the 15th Night hotline for immediate assistance. (541-246-4046) There are also RAN Advocates, trained representatives from schools and public safety, that triage calls from youth and young adults seeking assistance.

Covid 19 has made it especially difficult to assist students in need of housing, food, and other basic needs. Our Pentecost Special Offering monies can be used to assist individual youth and young adults by helping them get basic needs. \$35 helps one student get basic resources, such as shoes, clothing, personal hygiene supplies, Safeway, Fred Meyer, or Winco gift cards. \$105 helps three students get these basic resources. \$1050 helps 30 students get basic resources. They assist students through age 21; the youngest child served has been 12. I urge you to contact their web site www.15thNight.org for more information about this youth informed movement to end homelessness. Remember, if we all give a little, it adds up to a lot. We thank you for your generosity.



- 3 Dan Rinnan
- 3 Julianne Stermer
- 6 Matt Dyste
- 12 Dawn Brown
- 12 Patty Jacobs
- 16 Mary Gent
- 18 Deborah Larson
- 19 Jim Whitmore
- 22 Dick Doering
- 25 Debi Bostwick
- 20 John Hocken

Happy Anniversary

- 1 Mary & Jim Gent
- 16 John & Kyung Gregor
- 26 Randy & Pat Kolb

A STORY: PHILLIP AND THE BEARDED LADY

Wesley Lachman



He longs to know how to get closer to the big love, i.e. the bearded lady in the Greatest Showman movie about the circus. Phillip is only 6, but he knows what he likes. She's really large and has an overflowing bosom. She's strong. She has wild black hair and beard and seems like a good person to Philip. Since his mother died two years

ago, this strange person is the first woman that Phillip has been attracted to as some kind of mother-figure. He doesn't know why, he hasn't even thought of that question. He just knows that he wants her to come for dinner, so he goes to ask his dad at his desk.

Dad looks up from some papers that say "I.R.S." at the top. He has a frown, so Phillip waits for dad to recover—he's already learned to give adults a little time to sort themselves out before he asks for something. Dad looks at Phillip, melts into a grin, and asks, "What's up Phil?" "Dad, remember the movie we saw about the circus?" "Sure I do," said dad. "Well, I really liked the bearded lady and I want you to invite her for dinner here at our house." "Eh, the fat, I mean the bearded, lady, here?" "Yeah, we could have hot dogs or something like that."

"Son, we don't exactly know the bearded lady, and she doesn't know us. I don't think . . . " "C'mon dad, you said I could have almost anything I wanted for my birthday, and this is it. My birthday is next Saturday." "Ok, I can't get that bearded lady, but I think I know one. Will you accept a local bearded lady?"

And so it was that dad talked to Shirley, one of his associates at the office, a young woman who was, let us say, large sized. She had seen the movie about P.T. Barnum, and said she'd dress up like the movie bearded lady. And she did and she came for dinner. And Phillip was delighted, he didn't seem to notice the difference. And Shirley took him up onto her ample lap and . . . she loved him.

MAY LECTIONARY

May 2

Acts 8:26–40
Psalm 22:25–31
1 John 4:7–21
John 15:1–8

May 9

Acts 10:44–48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1–6
John 15:9–17

May 13

Acts 1:1–11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15–23
Luke 24:44–53

May 16

Acts 1:15–17, 21–26
Psalm 1
1 John 5:9–13
John 17:6–19

May 23

Acts 2:1–21 or Ezekiel 37:1–14
Psalm 104:24–34, 35b
Romans 8:22–27 or Acts 2:1–21
John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15

May 30

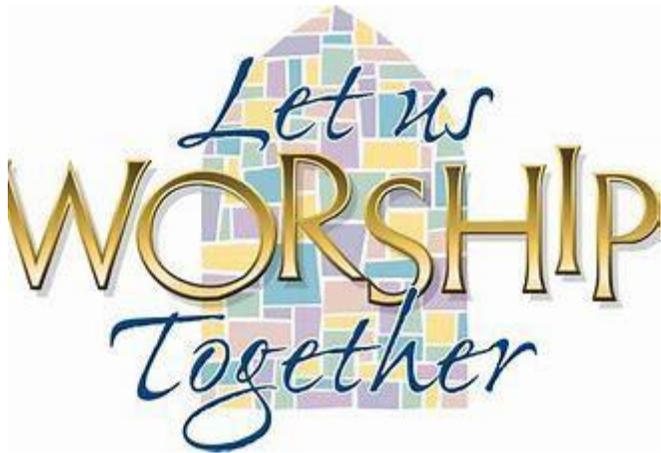
Isaiah 6:1–8
Psalm 29
Romans 8:12–17
John 3:1–17

WORSHIP SERVICE FLOWERS

Please call Sheryl during regular office hours. If you are interested in adding your name to the Sunday service flower calendar as we resume in-person services.



**RETURN TO IN-PERSON
WORSHIP
PENTACOST SUNDAY
MAY 23**



As you all know, it has now been more than a year since we have been able to gather in our sanctuary for worship. Although, we recognize the pandemic is ongoing, with many people now vaccinated, the Session has decided to aim for a return to in-person worship for Pentecost Sunday. We will still be providing resources for online worship as well, so that those who are not yet ready to resume in-person worship will also be able to participate.

This decision was informed by the work of our building use task group, who have done an excellent job throughout this crisis keeping tabs on the latest guidance from health professionals, state and local government, and our denomination.

Below you will see the protocols this team has developed which have been approved by the Session. As we begin this process, we will be making whatever changes are needed. Your patience and help as we do what is needed so that we can safely gather together is much appreciated! See you soon!

**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
COVID-19 PROTOCOLS
FOR WORSHIP ATTENDANCE**

The church has been in exile, or in the wilderness, according to whichever metaphor you have chosen for this COVID tide. There is much that we do not know,

and some that we are coming to learn. What we know as a spiritual truth is that God does not abandon God's people in wilderness places. God is not restricted to a building or geographical location. God is on the move; God travels with us as we learn and grow. God helps us learn what is essential and what is dispensable, as what we have known is cast aside and what is coming to be is slowly revealed.

As we resume in-person worship, some people in high-risk demographics are encouraged to not physically attend regular worship services. Vulnerable individuals and those waiting to receive a vaccine should be careful. We will continue to provide online versions of worship for those not prepared to rejoin us in the sanctuary.

In addition, anyone who is experiencing flu or cold-like symptoms such as fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle aches, or sore throat, etc. or has anyone in their household with these symptoms should not come to the church property.

The church will be sanitized before, during and after worship. As much as possible, inside doors will be kept open for improved ventilation. Restrooms will be available for two people at a time and will be sanitized as they are used.

Only one exterior entrance to the building will be open – the alley entrance. These doors will be open 15 minutes prior to the start of worship and will remain open for 10 minutes past the hour. There are directional arrows to provide safe distancing as you move through the building. Please observe these arrows and remain six feet apart from those not in your immediate bubble.

Masks are required and will be provided for those who need one.

Hand sanitizer is available at the entrance. Please sanitize your hands before proceeding.

There is also a sign in sheet. Read the protocol and sign the sheet, which is your acknowledgment of an agreement with the protocol. *You enter Central Presbyterian Church at your own risk without holding CPC responsible for any illness contracted after visiting the church property.*

Only aisle seating will be available in the sanctuary, and ushers will seat people from the front of the sanctuary to the rear. If someone has a preference for seating further back, it is advised they wait outside or at

a safe distance in the narthex until seating in their preferred area is available. Please enter through one of the four doors and do not cross over to another area of the sanctuary. Ushers will be present to assist you but will keep a social distance and will only greet you verbally. No handshakes or hugs. Select a row and sit **at the end of that row**. Balcony seating will also be available with the same requirement to sit only at the ends of the rows. Masks must remain in place throughout worship, and no singing will be allowed. Vocal scholars will provide music, which will be pre-recorded and played throughout worship.

Instead of a written order of worship (or bulletin), the service will proceed much as it has on Vimeo with projections of prayers and responses.

The offering will be collected before and after worship in the narthex. A basket for gifts will be placed in the middle of the space. No passing of the offering plates during worship will happen for the time being.

At the close of worship, ushers will release aisles, one at a time from the back. Follow the directional arrows to leave the building.

Initially, fellowship hall will be open for limited socializing after worship. No beverage or snacks will be served, and chairs will be spaced for social distancing. As vaccination rates improve and viral transmissions decrease, both to CDC recommended tolerances, the fellowship hall will return to beverage and snack service on a limited scale. Tables will be made available at that time.

In due time, we will be praying, singing, and laughing, breaking bread at church suppers and celebrating our life together with regularity. We have been equipped with all we need to see us through to that day. We will hold our plans loosely and wait. The church will persevere. Nothing on earth can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God.



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Mission Statement

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

