

Vol 22 No 01



Tuesday, January 4
Miriam Circle
9:30am~Zoom

Wednesday, January 5
Martha Circle
11:30am~ Parlor

Thursday, January 6
Epiphany
Ministry of Christian Discipleship
9:00am~ Zoom

Tuesday, January 11
Church Properties
11:00am~Zoom
Worship & Common Life
12:00pm~Zoom

Wednesdays, Beginning January 12
Book Group Resumes
2:00pm~ Parlor
3:30pm~ Zoom

Sunday, January 16
Adult Education Resumes
11:15am~ Chapel
11:15am ~Zoom

Monday January 24
Finance
4:00pm~Zoom
Session & Deacons Joint Meeting
5:30pm~Zoom

Tuesday, January 25
Prayer Shawl Ministry
1:30pm~Parlor

Thursday, January 27
Deacons
5:30pm~Zoom

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>

All this will flow from the kind and compassionate mercy of our God.

*A new day is dawning:
the Sunrise from the heavens will
break through in our darkness,*

*And those who huddle in night,
those who sit in the shadow of death,
Will be able to rise and walk in the light,
guided in the pathway of peace.*

Luke 1:78-79, The Voice Translation

January is a time when lots of people make resolutions, or try to begin new habits. Although we are all weary of having to learn and try new things after the last two years, many are choosing alternatives to the usual new year's goals of organizing the home, losing weight, or becoming more disciplined about an exercise routine. One of my seminary friends shared in her family Christmas letter about a practice their family employed at the end of this year.

They began to go on family walks and runs in the evening, partly to exercise, but mostly to see the holiday lights their neighbors put up. They would start off in a different direction each night, and when they arrived at an intersection, whoever was in the lead would determine which direction had the most lights and then head that way. She offered up that perhaps this might be a good metaphor for all of us as we begin a new year - pause, look around, and follow where the light leads.

As we move into 2022, going from the Christmas season into Epiphany and beyond, this seems like a good idea for all of us to hold onto. We'll be celebrating the light of the star that led the Magi to the Light of Christ on January 9th by handing out

star words again this year. For several years now we have offered this opportunity for a word to help focus and guide each one of us as we seek to find glimpses of the holy throughout the year. Perhaps letting those stars guide us can be one way we pause, look for, and follow the light this year. Of course, we will also have many opportunities to worship, learn, and serve together in the coming year as well. These, too, are ways of noticing and following the light throughout the year. How else might you make time to pause? When might you be able to really take a look at what surrounds you? Where might the light be leading you this year if you are willing to try a new path?

Whatever the year brings, I give thanks that we will journey toward the light with one another, led by the One true Light who is Life and Love. May we have the courage and wisdom to follow wherever the Light leads.

Pastor Jennifer Martin



February Valentine Sale

Central has a long tradition of creating and selling

Valentines to

support Church World Service. Church World Service (CWS) is a cooperative ministry of 37 Christian denominations and communions providing sustainable self-help, development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance around the world. The CWS mission is to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice at the national and international level through collaboration with partners abroad and in the US. All young people are invited to join us on Sunday, January 23, after church to help create Valentines for the sale. We will provide all the supplies, you just need to bring your creative energy! Lunch will be provided. See you there!



Jan 3rd

Carolyn Keener
Laura Mason

Jan 6th

Bob Bottge
Debbie Larson

Jan 8th

Linda Zimmerman

Jan 14th

Margaret Prentice

Jan 15th

Randy Kolb
Kathy Raines

Jan 16th

Dana Boonstra

Jan 18th

Ross Patterson Kanaga
Jacquie Litchfield

Jan 19th

Arlene Hudgins

Jan 21st

Marian Smith

Jan 23rd

Helen Martz
Julie Whitmore

Jan 27th

John Gregor
Kathy Koelling

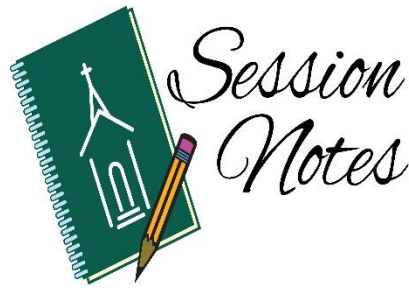


**Update on the CPC Remodel Project
Steve Stermer**

- By the time you read this, Central should have received bid estimates for each phase of the three-phase Central Remodel Project from Essex Construction, as bids were expected to be received on Friday Dec. 17th.
- **Oil Tank-** The oil tank ended up being much larger than the 17'6"x 6' 3" 4,000-gallon tank the blueprints showed. It was actually an 8,000-gallon tank extending into the parking lot, 24' 2" in length and 7' 6" in diameter. The tank also had a 12" blanket of concrete over the top of it to hold it in place when near empty and the ground water rose.

Of course, the tank leaked, and there was contaminated soil on both the north and south ends to remove along with fluid in the tank and ground water in the pit. As the pit ended up being 10' deep, it was filled to two feet below surface with a Controlled Density Fill (CDF) material and topped off with ¾" minus gravel. What was planned to be a three-day project prior to Thanksgiving extended into the week after Thanksgiving. Removing the tank was a much, much larger project than anticipated and far, far more expensive than originally thought.

The good news is Central is no longer sitting on a hazardous waste site and has solid ground for the proposed church entry in Lafferty Court.



Report from the December Session Meeting

Merle Bottge, Clerk of Session

Central Has a Balanced Budget for 2022:

With gratitude to all, the Session approved a balanced budget of \$430,000 for 2022.

Thanks go to

- those fifty who responded to the stewardship drive and pledged a total of \$194,000
- those who have provided Central with a variety of bequests and endowments: \$96,000
- Bridgeway House and others who rent space in our facility: \$105,000
- those who regularly contribute to offerings and programs during the year: \$35,000

The Session also thanks those who shepherded the budget-building and budget-keeping process: Del Hawkins, treasurer, Arlene Hudgins, financial secretary, and Jane Holmes and Susan Schroeder, stewardship team leaders.

The Cost of Removing an Oil Tank: The oil tank proved to be much larger and more complex to remove than was anticipated, and the bill was also much larger. The Session wrestled with the issue of how to pay for the unanticipated bill of \$58,000 and ultimately decided to use the Endowment Fund Unrestricted Grant of \$6,200 and the unrestricted Bergman Fund of \$50,000. In addition, Central has received a designated donation of \$5,000. These funds will be used replenish the Building Remodel Fund for the cost of removing the oil tank.



The Session, on the advice of Ministry of Christian Discipleship, has chosen the following local organizations to be recipients of the 2022 Coin Offering.

- Student Food Pantry**
(January/February)
- Ophelia's Place**
(March/April)
- Hope and Safety Alliance**
(Womenspace)
(May/ June)
- Friends of Trees**
(July/August)
- Cornerstone Affordable Housing**
(September/October)
- Centro Latino Americano**
(November/ December)

Thank you for your generous support of our Coin Offering.



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.



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
Maintenance/ Custodian: Jose Toban

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



Central articles are due the third Monday of each month. Articles for the February Central Newsletter are due on Monday, January 17th, 2022



Central's Office will be closed January 17th 2022 for Martin Luther King Day. We will be open the following day.



"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."~ Martin Luther King



We Presbyterians are One Body, One Spirit

Susan Schroeder and Jane Holmes, Stewardship Committee co-chairs

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ....we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as God chose.... there are many members, yet one body. (1 Corinthians 12: 12-20)

Each year Presbyterian churches are asked to provide a "per capita" payment to help pay the administrative of the costs of our Church above our own congregation. Central's per capital payment helps supports the Presbytery of the Cascades, the Synod of the Pacific, and the General Assembly (the denomination).

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 congregations in a pastor transition; engages in issues of justice such as immigration advocacy;

and supports ecumenical and inter-religious relationships.

It's called "per capita" because the amount is based on the number of active members. For 2022 Central's per capita payment is \$4,836 or \$39.00 per member (based on 124 members reported for 2020). Of this, \$24.82 goes to the Presbytery, \$5.20 goes to the Synod, and \$8.98 to 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 \$39.00. 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 2022, the operating budget will thank you!

AdulTED

Sundays Beginning January 16th, 11:15 am - CHAPEL & ZOOM

Come join in conversation with others as we explore life and faith each Sunday using TED talks as a jumping off point. No preparation is necessary, as we will watch the short video together and then engage with one another as we ponder a variety of topics at the intersection of "what we believe" and "how we live."



George Grier & Cindy Pappas Jan 2

Geoff & Marci Gordon Jan 4



A contemplative view
Instructions: How to
Build an Apple
Wesley Lachman

We can recognize an apple rather easily, in a fraction of a second in fact. But allow me to suggest, from a contemplative viewpoint, that we actually have to build that apple in our mind. If we consider it as if it were a video in ultra slow motion—about 3,000 times slower than real life—we can see the actual assembly process as if spread over a few minutes.

Suppose we start across the room looking at a little table with a lighted lamp on it. We see a circle of light and beneath it a colored something. Our mind, in milliseconds, compares the observed color with the colors stored in its memory, gets a match with “red.” It then judges the object as round by using the same process of matching it to similar shapes in its memory. This is all solely vision, using eyes and brain.

We approach the little table and pick up the object. We note the feel of weight as we move the object up and down in our hand. At the same time we note the feel of the skin: smooth and waxy. This is kinesthetic information, the tactile sensing of the object. Again our mind checks its memory for this kind of weight, this kind of touch. It finds a match with eatable fruit.

Now let’s pause. Notice that these tactile sensations are completely different from the sensations of seeing. They are even processed in different parts of the brain. You cannot tell anything about the color of something just by feeling it. So far we have two separate pieces of information: one sight and one touch. Only the mind remembers that they both came from this object.

The same thing happens with taste and smell and sound. Each gets processed separately and then combined with the others by the brain.

Starting our slow motion video again, we give our object a sniff and note a faint fruity smell. We are hungry and take a bite. Our ears are greeted with a snap! Our tongue registers a sweet tang as a liquid runs down our face. With all this sensory information—sight, touch, sound, smell, taste—we have an easy job deciding what this is. But notice that every sense is separate and distinct from the others.

Now this must be an apple. Our mind remembers all these five different sensations as coming from this selfsame object. And this makes the apple a product of our imagination. The mind uses its memory to bring them together into “apple.” Memory is imagination, here we re-image what has just happened. The mind re-imagines these memories and combines them to make one. The world occurs in our mind.

What does all this have to do with the spiritual? Just this: The world we each live in is imaginary. No wonder we have so many conflicts and divisions.



CENTRAL’S
CHRISTMAS
PROJECT
A Final Report

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

(Corinthians 13:16)

Quentin Holmes & Laurie Inglis,
Deacon Co-Moderators

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 43 years ago and has continued ever since under a series of able leaders. Each year it is a bold adventure in faith.

Central's Deacons do the organizing, but the heart of this project comes from you, the members and friends of Central.

Central worked alongside four other Presbyterian churches and a fifth organization to take care of 64 families at Rainbow Village. Central cared for twenty of the Families. This year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we had to be extremely innovative and flexible. Gift cards were used.

Each Family received a Christmas stocking containing:

- ❖ A Christmas Card;
- ❖ A WINCO gift card, matched to the size of their family, to purchase food
- ❖ A VISA Gift Card for parents to use to buy Christmas presents.

Truthfully speaking, the stream of contributions that have come in for the Christmas Project were far, far beyond our wildest expectation.

Consequently, Central provided an **ADDITIONAL \$25 VISA Gift Card for Presents for EACH** of the remaining for all adults.

During Worship on Sunday, December 12th, Pastor Jennifer Martin led us in a symbolic blessing of the Christmas Project. On Monday, December 13th, the Christmas stockings were taken to the office at Rainbow Village, along with the gift cards. Each colorful stocking was a tangible sign of God's love at work through Central.

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



PERSONNEL COMMITTEE *Updates*

The Personnel Committee would like to let the congregation know about recent changes with Central's employees. Jair Velasquez, who was hired to replace Michael James, recently left us for an opportunity to work a full time job with more growth potential.

We contacted Jose Tobon, a former employee, to see if he would be willing to come back and help us with the maintenance position. Jose agreed and is now filling the maintenance position as well as doing Sunday hosting duties.

We have been advertising for a building host and have interviewed a few people, but so far this position remains vacant. Currently, when a host is needed for special events, Properties committee members have been helping fill the position.



Wreath Ring Returns

Now that the Christmas season is over, you may separate the metal wreath ring from the wreaths you ordered from church and return the ring to the boxes; one inside the office and one placed inside the nursery door.



The Student Food Pantry is a ministry of the Episcopal Campus Ministry in Eugene and a partner agency with Food for Lane County. The Student Food Pantry is located at 710 East 17th (Grace Lutheran Church) and is open on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 4:00 to 6:00pm. The only requirements to use the Food Pantry are to bring student I.D. and a shopping bag. Students with families qualify for more food, and one does not have to be a U of O student to shop there. LLC and high school students from any high school in Lane County also qualify. The Panty gets fresh fruits and vegetables from Food for Lane County and food drives like the one Central did as a "drive by" during COVID lockdown in 2020. Our coin offering will be used to purchase items like peanut butter, pasta sauce, and other items that can complete a meal. I hope that Central will support our coin offering generously, because it's a shame to have any student in Lane County going hungry.

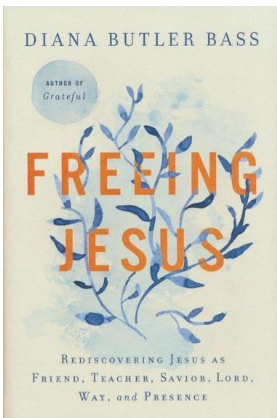
Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence by Diana Butler Bass

The award-winning author of *Grateful* goes beyond the culture wars to offer a refreshing take on the comprehensive, multi-faceted nature of Jesus, keeping his teachings relevant and alive in our daily lives.

How can you still be a Christian? This is the most common question Diana Butler Bass is asked today. It is a question that many believers ponder as they wrestle with disappointment and disillusionment in their church and its leadership. But while many Christians have left their churches, they cannot leave their faith behind.

In *Freeing Jesus*, Bass challenges the idea that Jesus can only be understood in static, one-dimensional ways and asks us to instead consider a life where Jesus grows with us and helps us through life's challenges in several capacities: as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way, and Presence. *Freeing Jesus* is an invitation to leave the religious wars behind and rediscover Jesus in all his many manifestations, to experience Jesus beyond the narrow confines we have built around him. It renews our hope in faith and worship at a time when we need it most.

The group will meet in person at 2 pm and on Zoom at 3:30pm each Wednesday. Plan to join the conversation.



CPC Wednesday Book group will resume in person and Zoom on Wednesday, January 12th.

We will be reading *Freeing Jesus: Rediscovering*



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Mission Statement

Central Presbyterian Church is

a caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith.

