



Central

Vol 22 No 4

A caring, inquiring, inclusive community

April 2022

Tuesday, April 5
Miriam Circle
9:30am~Parlor

Wednesday, April 6
Martha Circle
11:30am~ Parlor

Thursday, April 7
Ministry of Christian Discipleship
9:00am~Zoom

Tuesday, April 12
Church Properties
11:00am~Zoom
Personnel
1:30pm~Zoom

Maundy Thursday
Thursday, April 14
Worship & Common Life
2:30pm~Zoom

Good Friday
Friday, April 15
Tenebrae Service of Worship
7:00pm~Sanctuary



Sunday, April 17
Resurrection of Our Lord
Service of Worship
10:00am~Sanctuary
Easter Fun & Fellowship for All Ages
Fellowship Hall after worship

Monday, April 18
Finance
4:30pm~Zoom
Session
5:30pm~Zoom

Tuesday April 26
Prayer Shawl Ministry
1:30pm~Parlor

Thursday, April 28
Deacons
5:30pm~Zoom



**FROM OUR
PASTOR**

"The great gift of Easter is hope." - Basil Hume

*"Anticipatory hope is not enough anymore.
Participatory hope is the only kind that works now.
I want cleats, not ruby slippers."
- Barbara Brown Taylor, at Evolving Faith 2020*

This month we will again walk through the story that takes us from the triumphal entry, through betrayal and crucifixion, and on to the empty tomb. We will be reminded that we are an Easter people - a people who claim the promises of resurrection, of new life, of a kind of hope that defies explanation. In a world where we are all too aware of reasons for despair, how exactly do we live out that identity?

Since Ash Wednesday we have been exploring the theme "Full to the Brim". The abundance of God's love and grace has been promised over and over in the scriptures that have accompanied us on this Lenten journey. We have been reminded of the truth that each of us is a claimed, loved, protected, welcomed, and gifted child of God. We have tried to take in the knowledge that God's love and grace are freely offered to fill us up to the brim. I wonder, can we receive and believe that kind of love? Can we look in the mirror and see one deeply loved by the Divine Creator? I recently saw a clip of an interview in which the poet Maya Angelou is describing reading aloud the sentence, "God loves me." She says her mentor encouraged her to read that phrase again, and again, and again - until she could truly hear it; until she could believe it. In describing this experience, Angelou wells up with tears as she says, "It still humbles me, that this force - which made leaves and fleas and stars and rivers and you - loves me. . . . It's AMAZING! I can do anything and do it well. Any good thing, I can do it. That's why I am who I am. Yes, because God loves me. And I am amazed at it. And grateful for it." (Episode 416 of *Oprah's Super Soul Sunday*)

Can we be humbled and awed by the reality of God's love? Can we take in that truth and let it empower us to become people who not only have audacious hope for this world and all that is in it, but also be a people who act on that hope?

We have spent this season exploring what it means to have an expansive Lent. As we move through Holy Week and beyond, may we consider what it means to have an expansive life. One where we

aren't just hopeful spectators, but rather active players - willing to suit up and take part in acts of hope. This month we will once more make the bold statement that our God has defeated death. We will once again let the "Alleluias" ring out as we declare our allegiance to the One who is risen, the One who is the very author of hope. May we believe anew that each of us is called and equipped, and most of all loved enough, to participate in tangible acts of deep faith, surprising grace, amazing love, and revolutionary hope.



Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.
- Exodus 20:8

This might be the commandment we all break most regularly. As you know, Sabbath is the practice of observing one day a week as a time to rest, renew, and worship. In addition to encouraging us to work on our inward lives rather than the outward busyness the world values, keeping a Sabbath also reminds us that God is God and we are not. Because if we truly take a day off, we acknowledge that God can keep the world turning without us for at least that twenty-four hours - there are others God can equip to handle whatever might come up. It also helps us keep what we do in perspective. Usually we prioritize tasks over relationships, errands over prayer time. But a Sabbath reminds us that much of what we do can wait and will be enriched if we make time to focus on who we are and the One to whom we belong.

This is also why we encourage our church officers to take time off after serving. You may not know it, but in our church if one serves as a deacon or on the session, you may serve two consecutive terms, for a total of six years. But after that time is up, you must take at least one year of rest from active service. This allows our leaders to take a Sabbath from serving; to have time to rest and reconnect with other things that bring them joy. It also means we have the chance to invite others to use the gifts they have been given in service so that our leadership more fully reflects the people God has gathered at CPC.

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
Building Host: Jose Tobon

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

Class of 2022	Class of 2023
Jordan Ryder	Susan Bloom
Laurie Inglis	Karen Dyste
	Quentin Holmes
	Carolyn Keener
Class of 2024	Class of 2023
Nancy Carlson	Gerry Keener
Louise deKluyver	Patty Mac Afee
Jacquie Litchfield	
Yvonne Young	

Co-Chairs: Quentin Holmes & Laurie Inglis
Treasurer: Patty Mac Afee

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

Chair:	Rick Larson
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 May Central Newsletter are due on Monday, April 18, 2022



In a similar way, our presbytery requires that each minister receive a three month paid sabbatical after each six years of service. Since I began serving Central in December of 2015, it is now time for us to begin planning for a sabbatical. I will be away from mid April to mid July in 2023. In addition to physical rest, I am also looking forward to the mental and spiritual creative rejuvenation this time can provide. It is my prayer that the congregation will also have an opportunity to try some new things and hear from other voices. One thing is certain as we plan together, we will all be given the opportunity to trust fully that our God will guide us through this time.



BUILDING WELCOME

After many years of dreaming, this year CPC will finally begin a remodel project to make our building a more welcoming and inclusive space for all. This month and next there will be information sessions in person and on Zoom to update you on what to expect, answer your questions, and let you know how

you can play a part in making this dream a reality. So mark your calendar now for these important dates!

Information sessions:

- Sunday, April 24 (in person)- following worship
- Monday, April 25 (via Zoom) - 7pm
- Wednesday, May 11 (via Zoom) - 6:30 pm
- Sunday, May 15(in person)- following worship

Groundbreaking Celebration:

Pentecost Sunday, June 5th

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WEEKLY ONLINE LENTEN STUDY WITH OUR MISSION PARTNERS
Thursdays through April 14th
9:00 am & 12 noon
On the Revs Scott & Elmarie Parker's Zoom account

Join Mission Coworkers, the Revs. Scott and Elmarie Parker, along with Middle East (ME) Partners and PC(USA) colleagues from the Middle East/Europe area for a time of Lenten scripture reflection and prayer. Zoom sessions will include reflection on Lenten liturgical texts by a partner from the Middle East or colleague from the ME/Europe area, a time of conversation between Zoom participants, art/pictures from the region, and prayer.

While two forty-five minute sessions are offered each week to help accommodate schedules, the content will be the same. No registration required. Join for live conversation for any or all the sessions. Each session time has its own Zoom link, meeting id, and passcode. Watch your email for these details. Let the church office know if you don't receive them and are interested in participating.



Prayers of the People
Tuesdays 6:30 pm on Zoom

As we continue to adjust to new ways of being church during this pandemic, one of the challenges is finding an effective way to share prayer concerns and joys without revealing too much private information during our services since they are now posted on the Internet. There have been sporadic emails with prayer concerns, but not all are receiving our all church emails, and some find sharing concerns in this way to be cumbersome. We are working on securing a more effective email service, but also want to provide a way for us to pray together and for one another. To that end, Pastor Jennifer has started hosting a time of Prayers of the People on Tuesday nights using Zoom. The time begins with a shared Psalm reading. Then everyone is invited to share what they would like the group to hold in prayer. The sharing time is followed by a time of silent prayer, ending with the Lord's Prayer spoken aloud by all. We hope you will join in this time of community prayer. If you need the church Zoom log in information, contact the church office.



MAUNDY THURSDAY

Worship with Communion
Thursday, April 14
6:30pm on Zoom



GOOD FRIDAY

Tenebrae Service of Worship
Friday, April 15
Livestream/ In person
7:00pm



INTERGENERATIONAL EASTER CELEBRATION

If you come to worship in person, plan to stay afterwards on Resurrection Sunday for a time of fellowship, creativity, and

intergenerational fun! There will be refreshments, crafts, and other spring activities as we enjoy a time of rejoicing together celebrating our first Easter back in the building since 2019.



Welcome back to Eugene, Jean Tesche.

Jean spent her early childhood here in Eugene, while her father served as pastor of Fairmount Presbyterian Church. Later, she returned to Eugene to attend the University of Oregon. Now, after a career in many interesting places - be sure to ask about it - she has chosen to retire in Eugene and join Central Presbyterian. At the March Session meeting she was received into membership by reaffirmation of faith.



Calling all knitters!! The Prayer Shawl knitters meet on the fourth Tuesday of

the month at 1:30pm in the parlor. We'd love to have you join us for knitting and fellowship. Questions? Call Margaret Prentice at (541) 556-6596



- 8 Sally Baker
- 10 Cole Blume
- 18 T.J. Jensen
- 18 Pat Kolb
- 18 Susan Schroeder
- 19 Steve Stermer
- 23 Jane Holmes
- 26 Pat Hocken
- 30 John Koelling



- 1 Bill & Shirley Griffith
- 6 David & JuYoung Lim
- 23 Del & Lu-Nita Hawkins

What if these were the days when Jesus was living with us? What if this were the moment God chose to connect? Where would we find Jesus? Here, in our congregation? Look around. Or in our neighborhoods?

Perhaps Jesus would be among people classified as "essential" who might struggle to feed their own families, while ensuring food makes it to others' tables.

Perhaps Jesus would be working in a neighborhood, mostly ignored by governments and industry, except when there are resources to be exploited or removed.

Perhaps Jesus lives in any of the places, so impoverished in a world of plenty that help and hope seem like illusions. Or perhaps locked away, drowned out or disregarded so far from us that we never even know our Savior's name.

What if this is the time? What if this is the place? Our faith proclaims that God connects in each of those places and in each person bearing God's image. Our faith proclaims that God is among us and that Jesus can be found among those most precious to God, those neighbors experiencing hunger, oppression or lack, even now, even among us.

One Great Hour of Sharing connects us with people coming together to respond to the needs in their neighborhoods. It is the largest way Presbyterians connect with one another and unite with congregations in every corner of the Church and with partners all over the world. We connect in order to grow, together, while offering support that addresses shared needs in a particular context.

With God and with one another, we connect the story of Jesus who lived, healed, and preached among those who had the least during his earthly ministry, through ministries that seek healing and wholeness in our world today. One Great Hour of Sharing connects us to proclaim that Christ is here! God is with us! Jesus is among those who have the

least, those who hunger and thirst, those who are sick or alone, those seeking justice and righteousness with their neighbors and all who are in need. Christ is here and not here, alone. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

OPHELIA'S PLACE

EMPOWERMENT • EDUCATION • SUPPORT

March/April Coin Offering Nancy Richter

Our March/April Coin Offering is dedicated to Ophelia's Place. We have supported their efforts in the past but let me remind you about this community organization that supports girls in our community. Ophelia's Place is a prevention-based organization dedicated to helping girls make healthy life choices through empowerment, education, and support.

In 2005, founder Rosaria P, Hoaglund's vision was to provide intervention at an early point in a girl's life to give her an opportunity to develop supportive relationships and strengths that will lead to her long term well-being. Early interventions can help prevent tragic and costly outcomes such as domestic violence, low educational achievement, early pregnancy, or drug and alcohol abuse. With early intervention girls can develop strong self-esteem and self-worth, learn critical thinking skills to overcome challenging and stressful times, find their voices, and feel confident in who they are and who they hope to become. This can happen for girls involved in the many programs that operate through Ophelia's Place, such as:

- Activities and workshops
- After school programs
- Therapy
- WACY- Women's Advisory Council for Youth.
- Parent-daughter Girl Con – Annual celebration of fandoms, anime
- Video games, art, tech, and so much more.

We hope you will join us in supporting this fine organization in its continued quest to serve girls in need in our community. We continue to thank you for your generosity during these difficult times.



The Student Food Pantry Nancy Richter

One does not need to be a U of O student to benefit from this wonderful community

program. They assist Lane Community College students and any Lane County high school student, either single or with families. The student only needs to provide a student ID and bring a shopping bag. While The Student Pantry does receive assistance from Food for Lane County and some help from the Eugene Mission, it is very appreciative of any other assistance.

The Ministry of Mission and Christian Discipleship appreciates the support of our congregation in uplifting our Little Free Pantry. While this was helpful for over a year in assisting those on the streets with their food needs, it had also become a concern and cause for removal at the end of January. We hope those of you who loved shopping to support our Little Free Pantry will now change your focus to support The Student Food Pantry. In speaking with Connie Browning, who oversees this program, I learned quite a lot about those students in need of food and nutritional support just so that they can stay in school and succeed in their academic ventures. It's difficult to study or pass exams when you are hungry and not sure where or when your next meal will come from. Connie welcomes anyone for a tour on Wednesdays from 10-12:30 during stocking time or on Wednesdays or Thursday from 4-6pm when food is distributed to students.

The Student Pantry is located at Grace Lutheran on 18th and Hilyard around the back of the church. We truly thank you for your continued support of our mission projects. You have been very generous.

Shopping List Items:

Proteins: Canned beans (Pinto, Black, Red, Navy, etc.)

Canned meats: Chicken, Salmon, Beef (no tuna at this time)

Soups: Chili, Stews, etc.

Canned vegetables: anything but green beans, stewed tomatoes, diced tomatoes, tomato sauces

Pasta: Curly noodles, penne, (not spaghetti at this time)

Canned Fruits and fruit juices

Condiments, Salsa, Seasonings (no gravy or taco mixes)

Rice

Oatmeal (not instant)

Teas and Coffees

Protein bars

Cooking oils

Dog and cat food

Personal Care items: (body washes, soap, shampoo/conditioner, TP, Kleenex, napkins Laundry soaps)

Personal hygiene supplies: feminine, shaving items, etc.

Remember: "If we all give a little, it adds up to a lot"





A Fable
The Fall of Percival
Wesley Lachman

Once upon a time, a seeker decided to wake up to God once and for all. His name was Percival, and he was getting a little desperate. He was so tired of trying to stay awake through the alpha owl's morning lectures. He was usually exhausted after

spending all night flying after mice, voles, and snakes. Last week he fell off his branch, hit another branch, and landed upside down in a gorse bush. He was so embarrassed. The next morning he got his friend Oliver to sit next to him and wing him in the neck at the first sign of sleep.

He wanted to find the Beloved One. But as much as he tried to wake up, he failed, until something totally unexpected happened to him. It was an ordinary Saturday afternoon. He was settling down on a branch high in a lovely Scotch pine. Just after his eyes closed, as his body had barely touched the moist shores of sleep, a loud explosion shook the forest. Now Percival did not hear the blast . . . for he was not awake. He was not awakened by it . . . for he was not asleep. Somehow, being neither awake nor asleep, but caught in between, the explosion opened up a vast, bottomless abyss inside Percival. And he tumbled into it.

At first he tried to flap his wings, but they were becoming ephemeral. As he descended with increasing speed, everything disappeared: his ideas, his world, his self, his body, everything. Yet he continued to fall, but all that was left of him was this ever-widening space. It seemed as if he were going to keep falling forever. So he decided to relax and realized with a shock that there was nothing to relax. He was only this space.

When he had thus left everything he had known, something shifted. He was puzzled, then amazed as his body, his family, his world gradually reappeared within the vast open space that he had become. Everything was emerging as from a dark fog. Some things were the same, some different, but it was all

there. Percival never worried about sleep again. It just didn't make any difference any more. He had awakened once and for all to the world within, and in every single face he saw the Beloved!

Only then did he remember what the old striped owl had told him so many years ago. He had barely been able to reach the owl's roost high above the river. Percival stood next to him, half his height, and hooted timidly: "How can I live this life?" the old owl responded with his characteristic croak, "If you cling to your ordinary life, you will lose it. But if you let loose of that life, you will find the Beloved."



Friday April 22nd

Did you know that over 60 million plastic bottles end up in the landfills and incinerators every day?

That 91% percent of plastics doesn't get recycled. *National Geographic* reports that by 2050 (68years from now) approximately 12 billion metric tons of plastic will be sitting in landfills across the globe. For scale, that amount of plastic weighs approximately 35,000 times more than the whole Empire State Building (which weighs 365,000 tons).

Let's do our part, Central. How, you might ask? When grocery shopping, use reusable bags, Try to refrain from buying number 2 plastics and single use water bottles.

Local places to bring items

Mecca: all CLEAN- metal bottle caps, (soda, beer) yarn, sewing materials, candles(used okay), broken pottery, ribbons, corks, paper, old calendars, greeting cards, wall paper, carpet samples, tubes, old costume jewelry, tin boxes.

Next Step Recycling: electronics, including all computer equipment.

Central: plastics (**except # 1**), old Christmas lights, batteries, If you have any questions, feel free to call the office or Barbara Cookson.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesdays: Prayers for the People
6:30pm~Zoom

Wednesdays: Book Group
Vincent Van Gogh & the Beauty of Lent
2:00pm~Parlor
3:30pm~Zoom

Thursdays : Online Lenten Study
with our Mission Partners
9:00am- Session 1
12:00pm-Session 2
(Different Zoom links)



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