



October

Sunday, October 2

World Communion Sunday
Peace & Global Witness Offering
11:00am Adult Education ~Fellowship Hall

Monday, October 3

9:00am Central Walkers ~Central
11:00am Bible Study ~Zoom
3:30pm Endowment Meeting ~ Zoom
6:30pm Badminton Group~Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 4

9:30am Staff Meeting ~Pastor's Office
9:30am Miriam Circle ~ Room 121A

Wednesday, October 5

11:30am Martha Circle ~ Room 121 A

Thursday, October 6

9:00am MCD ~ Zoom

Tuesday, October 11

11:00am Properties ~ Zoom
1:30pm Personnel~ Zoom

Thursday, October 13

2:30pm Worship & Common Life ~Zoom

Monday, October 17

Central Articles Due

9:00am Central Walkers ~ Central
11:00am Bible Study ~Zoom
4:30pm Finance ~ Zoom
5:30pm Session ~Zoom
6:30pm Badminton Group~ Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, October 25

1:30pm Prayer Shawl Ministry ~ Room 121A

Thursday, October 27

5:30pm Deacons~ Zoom

Sunday, October 30

Reformation Sunday
All Saint's Day



Put aside all bitterness, losing your temper, anger, shouting, and slander, along with every other evil.

Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ.

- Ephesians 4:31-32

Recently I needed to renew my driver's license and upgrade to Real ID. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is known across the country as a place with long lines and wait times, brusque customer service, and as a producer of pretty unflattering photographs. When people hear you have an appointment at the DMV, the response is one filled with sympathy bordering on condolences!

So, I made my appointment . . .and I thought I had prepared. I arrived early, took a water bottle and a book, and went in with a mindset that no matter how long it took, I would be able to cross this task off my 'to do' list. Imagine my delight when I found a separate line for those with appointments that went so quickly I didn't even have time to check my phone before the person behind the plexi-glass was greeting me and asking for my name. Then I realized that for the real ID upgrade I needed to have brought more than my waiting room survival supplies. I needed further ID and several pieces of mail to prove where I live. My heart sank. The appointment I had waited more than a month for would be for naught because I had failed to read the fine print in the reminder.

But this was not the case. The woman at the counter assured me that if I could return that same day, I would be able to use the quick line again, and she gave me a pass that allowed it. So I raced home, gathered my documentation, and returned to the DMV. As I stood in line again, feeling less relaxed now and quite chagrined, I had the chance to look around and notice that each person, at each window, was being treated with the same gentle demeanor and respect.

One woman who was having trouble hearing was being shown the screen of a computer so she could make out the questions she needed to answer. A gentleman, who had clearly never worked the signature portion of a card reader before, was being assisted by a kind employee with the process of signing with a stylus.

The compassion of the staff created an atmosphere that was the opposite of the DMV lobby reputation. There were people chatting and laughing together, offering compliments to strangers. There was one person with several young kids in one corner, and the people around her were smiling at the kids rather than being grumpy about the increased activity and volume in their part of the waiting room. People were helping their neighbors find the right forms and lines.

When it was my turn at the counter again, another person helped me. Despite some issues with her computer, I was in and photographed and done in less than twenty minutes. As we were waiting for her computer to do its thing, she apologized for its slowness. I told her I didn't mind especially since I was the one slowing things down because I had to go back and forth to get my ducks in a row. She said, "Honey, we just all need to treat each other with kindness and we'll make it through."

There it was, just where I least expected to find it, grace at the DMV. So many reminders not to be quick to judge. My picture wasn't even that bad! We are entering a season when the world gets busier - school is in full swing, calendars in town and at the church are filling up, and soon we'll be in the midst of the holiday season. There is also the ongoing need to navigate our way forward in difficult times, in church and in the world. As we all try to help one another make it through, day by day, let's give thanks for those who set the tone with genuine care. And may we, too, be people who lead with kindness and compassion. May we surprise those we encounter with grace.

Pastor Jennifer Martin



CPC East Lawn Update

Last month we had a meeting to gather ideas about the goals for and best use of our east lawn, at the corner of 15th and

Patterson. Many people came and shared their thoughts regarding how this space could best be used in ways that will serve the church and neighborhood without increasing overall maintenance needs or ongoing costs. We also discussed a variety of ideas that could make the space more environmentally responsible. The group decided to form a task force to take these ideas and research their possibilities, costs, impacts, etc.

The task force has representatives from the properties and administration team and several session members. Once this research is complete, the task force will bring a proposal for session to consider before any action is taken. Please keep them in your prayers as they help us find responsible ways to use this space to serve the church and our neighbors.



Earth Care Congregation Audit

A meeting was held last month regarding the possibility of CPC formally applying for Earth Care Congregation (ECC) status in the PCUSA. There were

many people in the congregation who found it an intriguing possibility. The first step in this process is to conduct an ECC Congregational Audit, assessing our existing efforts in care for creation in the areas of Worship, Education, Facilities, and Outreach. A team was formed to work on the audit, with the goal of completing it before the end of the calendar year. Whether or not we pursue ECC status, this tool will help us have a clear view of what we are already doing as a church and perhaps help us be intentional in goal setting for the future. A big thanks to those

who are helping gather information for the ECC Audit!



CENTRAL

By Steve Stermer

**Central Remodel
Update: October 2022**

At the first of October we are approximately halfway through the Central Presbyterian Remodel Project.

At this point demolition has been completed except for the women's bathroom area. The north entry cement sidewalk and cover are in. The entry area and office are wired, and sheetrock is going up. The HVAC systems for heating and cooling are in the parlor and community room and new flooring is in the narthex. Asbestos wall board was found in the women's restroom, and abatement began September 19. Then work in that area will begin.

Architect Quince Sterry and his associate Sarah Homister are on top of things as the remodel progresses, and Essex Construction with Project Superintendent Wayne Wheeler have been upfront and wonderful to work with. The remodel is progressing nicely and, avoiding any supply chain issues, we should meet our completion date of December 17, 2022. CPC Remodel team members are: Alice Schroeder, Bob Bottge, Nancy Richter, John Sheridan, Steve Stermer, and Rev. Jennifer Martin.



wheelfront.com

**His Tesla
is Gone!
Wesley
Lachman
As Connie
turned**

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Martin
Director of Music: Kendra Taylor
Organist: Dan Rinnan
AV Technician: Sunny Waldorf

Office Manager: Monique Jones
Financial Secretary: Arlene Hudgins
Maintenance Custodian: Jose Tobon

SESSION

Bev Day Kirsten Kelso
Nancy Richter Rick Larson
Susan Schroeder Pam Sheridan
Alice Schroeder

DEACONS

Susan Bloom Karen Dyste
Quentin Holmes Carolyn Keener
Gerry Keener Patty MacAfee
Louise deKluyver Jacquie Litchfield
Karol Buxton Yvonne Young

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

Rick Larson Quentin Holmes
Peter Carlson Jane Rimerman
Jean Tesche Steve Stermer
Jim Whitmore

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Susan Bloom Barbara Cookson
Helen Martz Nancy Richter

**NewsLetter
DEADLine**

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



and sat back against his chest, Craig completely forgot about his new automobile. At that very moment, his white Tesla disappeared from the world as we know it. It was nowhere. No one on the block was looking at it or remembering it. Certainly no one was driving it. There were 7,973,413,043 people on earth that evening, and not a single one was seeing Craig's Tesla or thinking about it, not even Craig.

So, where was it?

It had completely vanished from the known world. But when Craig came up for air ten minutes later, he remembered his Tesla again, and it reentered his world. He peeked out the window, it was there. *Say*, he said to himself, *that's what the teacher in my zoom class said to watch for: Everything comes and goes except for one thing. Huh? The rest of the world disappeared just now while I was kissing Connie, not only my car. So maybe everything really does disappear, but what is always here?*

Connie poked him in the ribs, "Hey, where you off to? I'm still here, remember?" Craig gave her a little squeeze and tried to explain. Failing to do so, he substituted a fond caress, and Connie snuggled in closer again.

They watched a favorite video. Then Craig gave her a final smooch and headed out for his apartment. He had to arise at 6:30AM to be on time for work, looking sharp. He had driven for about 10 minutes while admiring the good looks and ergonomic placement of the Tesla's controls and readouts. Suddenly he realized that his body was gone. *Holy cow!* He felt his hands and some muscles in his forearms, but the rest had vanished. Right now he could feel his body, it was back where it belonged. *Weird. So everything comes and goes except for one thing. But what could that one thing possibly be?*

The question got under Craig's skin. It wouldn't go away. What could the answer be? He arrived home and hit the sack totally baffled. His sleep was fitful. His alarm clock went off, but was only successful in arousing him into a barely conscious state.

But in the next moment he woke up. He became fully alert. He could see and feel and hear and so on. But nothing was appearing: no sights, no sounds, nothing. His view widened, wide as the sky, all around him. Still nothing. *So maybe this is the one thing*, he thought, *this spacious emptiness. Sure, how could I see or hear anything at all unless this endless stage was open here to receive it. It's always here when I am here. Awe was spreading all through him. It made him shiver, but he relaxed into it. Hey, he wondered, is this me in God, or is it God in me?*



**Adult Education-
Sunday following
Worship
Pam Sheridan**

On Sunday, October 9, we will continue to learn about our neighbors along the

Mexico Border. Kathy and Dave Raines will share their experience as they traveled with 13 other Oregonians on a United Methodist Volunteers in Mission trip in March 2020. Unlike most UMMVIM trips, this was not service-oriented, but all educational, to learn about issues at the Arizona/Mexico border. The schedule was planned by a United Methodist-affiliated nonprofit in Tucson that engages in advocacy and educational work as well as providing legal services to asylum-seekers.

Their trip included visiting a shelter in Tucson that provides short-term hospitality for those seeking asylum, observing court proceedings for those caught attempting to cross the border, meeting with two Border Patrol agents, and visiting a water station in the desert.

They also spent one day in Nogales, Sonora and visited three helping programs, including a shelter that provides housing for up to three nights for migrants going north or coming back south. We are excited that they will be sharing their stories and experiences from this trip. Please join us Sunday, October 9, in the Fellowship Hall, following worship.



**Coin Offering
Pam Sheridan**

Thank you for your generosity this year! These are our current amounts for our coin offerings and special offerings. Remember,

when we all give a little, it adds up to a lot!

Coin Offerings

January /February - Student Food Pantry \$461

March/ April - Ophelia's Place \$474

May/June - Hope and Safety Alliance \$400

July/August - Friends of Trees \$437

Special Offerings

Church World Services - \$465

One Great Hour of Sharing - \$3170

Pentecost offering (local) - Hosea Youth Services \$786

(Presbytery) \$1180

Hunderupt Funds - \$250 - Sponsor for Welcoming Our Neighbors Fundraiser, November 2022 (Refugee and Immigrant Services Program)



**Fellowship Time
Julianne Stermer**

Beginning Sunday, October 2, the Fellowship Hall will be open for

socializing after worship service. Since there is a limited pool of kitchen volunteers, we will start by serving coffee, tea, and ice water. Many of us have been looking forward to renewing old acquaintances and meeting some of the newer folk. If you are available to help set up before church (around 9:30) or cleanup after fellowship (for about 45 minutes) please contact Julianne Stermer. We'd like to have about 5-6 regular kitchen volunteers to help with fellowship, memorials, and other social gatherings.



**CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
COMPLETE
Bev Day**

Our *ICE CREAM SOCIAL*, on September 7th, signaled the completion of the capital campaign for the remodeling of our entrance and

improved bathrooms. Thanks to everyone who has helped us with their financial support. We still have pledges due, and some will be sent after the first of the year. Our pledged total is \$160,000 – not the \$250,000 we had hoped for. So please pray that any contingencies that arise (like asbestos in the women's bathroom) can be met within the amount raised.

Of course, we will continue to accept gifts and would urge members and friends to consider year-end gifts to the building remodel. Every little bit helps. Thank you all for your support of Central Presbyterian Church and this wonderful remodel project.



**OUR ENDOWMENT in
Action**

Jane Rimerman

The Endowment Fund Committee has taken the step of moving the fund from a

commercial brokerage to the New Covenant Trust Company, a solely-owned subsidiary of the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation. The trust company offers competitive returns and socially responsible investing. Their research provides investments in companies having the environmental, social, and governance criteria that are our core concerns. Therefore, our endowed gifts continually care for the earth and its people.

Within Central, Endowment Fund earnings support one fifth of the operating budget, offering more than what yearly stewardship provides. In addition to enriching our programs, the earnings

allow us to fund committee-generated grant requests for special needs in the church and community.

Endowed gifts, given in the past and gifts that we give now, put our values to work in the world. Members and friends who desire to support Central Presbyterian Church programs and its financial well-being can make an endowment of any size at any time. Let's remind ourselves to give thanks for the many ways we benefit from those gifts, which currently have a value of over two million dollars.

See the links and people listed below to learn more about our connections.
New Covenant Trust Company
<https://newcovenanttrust.com> PC(USA) is a member, along with 300 faith communities, asset managers, unions, pensions, and a NGOs of the Presbyterian Foundation
<https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org>



World Communion Sunday

World Communion Sunday Nancy Richter

October 2
We celebrate that Christ's

peace extends throughout all Creation. We celebrate we are all together at the table, in God's house. We remember that we offered what we need to continue the work of building the household of God with other peacemakers at home and around the world. The Peace and Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by speaking to systems of injustices in our own communities and around the world. Together we are building God's household of peace where everyone is welcome so that we can all find compassion, peace, and justice.

- 25% of this special offering will stay with our congregation for our own ministries of peacemaking and reconciliation.
- 25% of this special offering will go to joining with other congregations in our presbytery area to support peacemaking in our region.
- 50% of this special offering supports programs and ministries working for peace and justice around our nation and the world.

Central Presbyterian Church 's 25% will be supporting La Casa de Paso, a shelter in Tijuana, Mexico, run by Sharon Franklin of Eugene and her husband. Pam Sheridan and Nancy Richter recently met with Sharon to learn more about this shelter that supports those crossing the border, especially mothers and children, in need of a place to stay while they are awaiting processing. We thank you for your continued support of the Presbyterian special offerings. Remember, "If we all give a little, it adds up to lot".



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Congregational Meeting Next Sunday, October 9 after worship

To elect a deacon to fill a vacancy. All

Central members are urged to attend. The Nominating Committee is nominating Jackie Onstad to fill the vacancy for a term ending June 2023.



Chuck & Barbara Cookson

Lance Deal & Nancy Deal- W

Central Presbyterian Church
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Eugene, OR 97401



I wish every day was Saturday and every month was October.

Charmaine J. Forde

Mission Statement

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