

# Central

A caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith

**Tuesday November 1**

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

**Thursday, November 3**

Ministry of Christian Discipleship  
10:00am~ Zoom

**Sunday, November 6**

All Saint's Day

**Tuesday, November 8**

Church Properties  
11:00am~Zoom  
Personnel  
11:30am~ Zoom

**Wednesday, November 9**

Martha Circle  
11:30am ~Room 121A

**Thursday, November 10**

Worship & Common Life  
2:30pm~Zoom

**Monday, November 14**

Central Walkers  
9:00am~ Central  
Bible Study  
11:00am~ Zoom  
Endowment Committee  
3:30pm~Zoom

**Monday, November 21**

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

**Tuesday, November 22**

Prayer Shawl Ministry  
1:30pm~Room 121 A

**Thursday, November 24**

Thanksgiving  
Office Closed

**Sunday, November 27**

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent



My relationship with the Thanksgiving holiday has changed over the years. As a child it meant wearing a paper pilgrim hat and tracing my hand to make a turkey for hanging proudly on the refrigerator. There were long car rides to visit one side of the family or the other that included hanging out with my cousins watching the parade and eating at the kids table.

As I got older it meant learning to make some of the family recipes and spending time with aunts and uncles and grandmothers in the kitchen. In any case, it was at least a break from school or work. Eventually as I lived further away from family, it became a potluck with friends and a chance to learn about their family traditions. Almost always there were people present we weren't related to in any way. A friend or co-worker, or someone from my grandparents' church, a friend of a friend - anyone who needed a place at the table was welcome.

As I got older, I also came to understand that the myths we tell about how this holiday originated are just that - myths. And they have been pretty harmful, especially to indigenous people. Many hold a national day of mourning on the fourth Thursday in November. Grappling with this truth it is hard for me to reconcile how a holiday that had in my life always been about family, good food, and welcoming new people to the table, was also an effective bit of propaganda used to oppress, demean and exclude. As a country and a culture, we have so much work to do to repent, to repair relationships and to tell the truth about our history.

The good news is our faith teaches us that with true repentance healing is possible. We can tell the truth about the history of this country; the history of all people rather than only some. And we can each do our part to ensure a more just future for all. In the meantime, we don't have to completely do away with the idea of a harvest festival that includes overtones of abundance and gratitude. If we

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

DEACONS

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

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

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

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

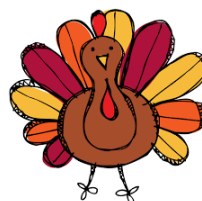
Susan Bloom  
Helen Martz  
Barbara Cookson  
Nancy Richter

**Office Closures for November**

**Friday November 11 ~ Veteran's Day**

**Wednesday, November 23 thru Friday  
November 25**

**Thanksgiving Day**



embrace gratitude as a spiritual practice, we have the opportunity to see the blessings all around us. When we practice gratitude, the Great Provider opens up our minds and our hearts until we move from a place of greed or entitlement to one of acceptance, appreciation and joy. It helps us to see that not only on a feast day, but every day, there is room at the table for everyone. We have only to share all that we've been given. We have many opportunities to express our gratitude to God and to one another this month and in the coming year. So however you choose to observe Thanksgiving, we can all commit to incorporating more ways to give thanks.



**Earth Care  
Congregational Audit  
UPDATE**

In September we had a meeting after church to discuss the possibility of becoming an official

PCUSA Earth Care Congregation. There was a lot of interest in pursuing this as a way to focus our efforts toward creation care. There is an application process that takes place each January-February, and in order to prepare for that our first step is to complete a congregational audit.

As we reported last month, a team has been formed to begin the work of assessing what it is we are doing (or aren't) regarding care for the planet in the areas of: Worship, Education, Facilities, and Outreach. Each area has several specific items the team will be assessing. We think this will be a great way for us to both recognize the efforts we are already engaged in, and to think creatively about what more we could be doing in our community.

As they progress in this work, you will be hearing from the audit team. Part of the information they need to gather has to do with practices, involvement, actions, and habits of congregation members. So be ready to participate in the conversation as it unfolds! We are excited to be more intentional about what we are doing to care for creation, to have the opportunity to reflect on new ways to practice good stewardship, and to learn from one another.



## Overflowing with Thanksgiving

**November 20,  
Dedication  
Sunday**

Our congregation has many reasons to be grateful! This fall your Stewardship Committee has chosen to focus on gratitude with the theme "Overflowing with Thanksgiving." This theme invites us to make time to recognize the many blessings in our lives and contemplate how we might share them with the larger community through the mission and ministry of our church. By the time you get this newsletter you may have already received a letter from Central's Stewardship Committee that includes a pledge card - if not, it is in the mail! You will also soon be hearing from some CPC members during worship. During our 'moments for stewardship' we hope to help everyone understand how our church budget works, what funds we have and how they are used.

As we think about all we have to be grateful for, you are invited to prayerfully consider making a financial pledge to the church for 2023. Pledges help the leadership plan the budget and programs for the coming year. Preparing your pledge card one way for you to reflect on how you want to express your gratitude.

As you consider what you feel called to pledge financially, also think about what it is you are grateful for this year. The Stewardship Committee encourages you to find a way to name that for which you are 'Overflowing with Thanksgiving' this year. Make a list, draw a picture, find images and make a collage, sculpt an image, share a photo, write a poem - however you want to express that gratitude.

We will dedicate our pledges on November 20th. There will be a harvest table at the front of the sanctuary. Plan bring your expression of gratitude and creative offerings up to the harvest table along with your pledge card, so we make it a table overflowing with our words and images of thanksgiving



## Membership News

Merle Bottge

- Welcome new member Margie Lininger. Margie has joined Central by letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Ashland, where she has lived for 60 years. Margie, a former school principal, has moved to Cascade Manor in Eugene to be closer to her children and grandchildren in Portland and Eugene.

- Lynn Kolb will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on November 10. In 2005 Lynn moved to Cascade Manor in Eugene from New Jersey, where she had been a junior high school teacher, to be closer to her son Randy and family. She soon joined Central and later served as a deacon for Central residents at Cascade Manor as part of Central's pastoral care team.

## Update on the CPC Remodel Project

Steve Stermer



The CPC remodel is progressing well:

- Entry canopy: The ceiling has been installed, still to do painting, staining and connecting downspouts to

drains.

A connecting sidewalk between the southern two canopy posts will be installed connecting the covered entry to the patio area.

- Inside entry, Office area & Parlor: Painting is completed and the ceiling lights are in. Next up is the install of office cabinets, counters and flooring. Ductless HVAC systems are in.
- Women's restroom: Walls are up and rough in plumbing is in. Next up is the

removal of the old flooring and installing sheetrock.

- Community room: Ductless HVAC systems are in.
- By mid-November it is anticipated; the entry, office area will be open for viewing on Sundays. Alley parking lot will be painted and restriped.

At this point the remodel is progressing on schedule with a completion date of December 17, 2022.

CPC remodel team: Alice Schroeder, Bob Bottge, Nancy Richter, John Sheridan, Steve Stermer and Rev. Jennifer Martin.



## UO Neighborhood Meeting at CPC

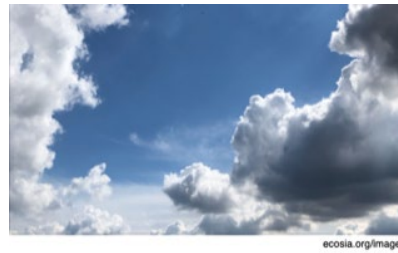
Steve Stermer

Wednesday afternoon September 21st Central's Fellowship Hall was the location for a neighborhood meeting hosted by the UO.

Participants were, the UO, Eugene Police, Campus Police, Eugene Mayor/office, and Community Members. Members gathered, Rev. Jennifer welcomed the group to CPC, assignments were given, and community members moved out into the neighborhoods greeting students and share community information with them. Volunteers returned to Fellowship Hall for pizza and to wrap up of the day's activities. The day was marked a success.



Pictures from the UO Neighborhood Meeting



## When Grace Cracked

Wesley Lachman

Grace's heart was indeed needy. She felt as if there was no heart inside, only emptiness. She had lost her boyfriend and her job, both in the same week, and to top it off, this morning her landlord slipped a note under her door, announcing that he was raising her rent by 50% next month. This left her with very little to hang onto. How she to live was, pay her rent, buy groceries.

Sure, her employer gave her two months severance pay, but that would soon be gone. What was she to do? She had "doer's block," she just couldn't imagine her next move. Grace felt so terrible, she even wondered what suicide would be like. She threw out that idea immediately. It would crush her family and make their own suicides more likely. Also, she didn't want to go out of life that way. No matter how bad she felt right now, she wanted to go on. She had heard stories of heaven where she would meet long-dead relatives, be reunited with friends who had "gone before." But she had her doubts .

She returned to her little living room, sat down in her easy chair with Smokey, her person cat, on her lap, absent-mindedly stroking his fur. And then it happened: her whole mind became absent, at least her ordinary mind did, clouded with her problems and people, texts and cooking. The clouds pulled back. Her mind was gone, empty. And there was nothing arriving to take its place. *Perhaps this was what Leonard*

Cohen has been trying to tell me, Grace thought. "There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in." I sure am cracked right now, she thought.

Then a flash of insight struck Grace. Everything is gone, but I'm still here. This empty, everything gone must be who I really am. I can think any thought, imagine any situation, go anywhere in this emptiness. I feel so amazing despite all that has happened. Grace sat still. Maybe if I just sit still, just be my own empty self, and quietly trust God, something will happen, something will come to me. (Trust me, dear reader, something did.)



**THANK OFFERING  
Presbyterian  
Women**  
Jane Holmes

Since 1888, Presbyterian Women have shown deep gratitude for God's Blessings by giving to

ministries and programs that lift up people and communities. Through their Thank Offering, PW's gather their funds together and provide meaningful support to programs that provide housing, health and nutrition education, life skills, job training, and so much more.

This year's PW Grant Recipients are:

1. Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity, for homes in need of repairs in marginalized communities: (\$30,000)

2. Westminster Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Ohio, for rebuilding affordable housing for tornado torn areas: (\$13,000)

3. Habitat for Humanity in Chattanooga, Tennessee, for home repairs for a community that is unable to keep up property. This grant will help with code violation issues, health & life risks in these homes. (\$20,000)

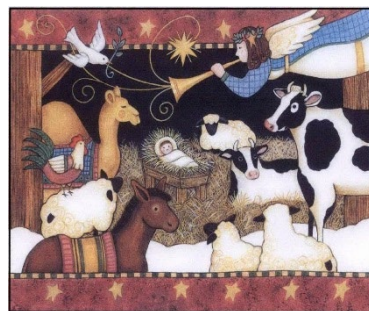
4. Interfaith Mission Ministry in Raleigh, North Carolina, to help women develop new tools for living after incarceration – finding home, jobs, etc: (\$50,000)

5. Presbyterian Homes for Children in Talladega, Alabama, for turning unused farm land into housing for 16 tiny houses. (\$50,000)

There are 6 more projects this year, one going to Lebanon for the enhancement of women with physical challenges in a rural environment. (\$49,600)

Please join many women across the country by sharing your blessings. Send a check to Central Presbyterian Church – memo line **"PW Thank Offering."**

**Central's Christmas Project**



*"So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."*  
(Corinthians 13:16)

Quentin Holmes & Laurie Inglis

This year, Central will be helping some 20 families from Rainbow Village Low-Cost Housing. Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Christmas Project has been streamlined. In place of Project teams, we are asking people to donate to the Deacon's Fund. A small team of Deacons will assemble the following items for each of our Rainbow Village Families:

- A Christmas Stocking;
- Instead of a Food Box, A WINCO Gift Card (for \$50, \$65, \$80, \$95, \$110, or \$125 depending on the size of the family);
- Instead of Christmas Gifts for each of their children, A Visa Gift Card (for \$25, \$50, \$75, or \$100 depending on the number of children under the age of 18 in the family;

More details will be provided in the weeks between now and Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

### Coin Offering Suggestions 2023

Pam Sheridan



The Ministry of Christian Discipleship is making plans for the 2023 Coin Offering. We would like suggestions from the congregation for possible organizations

to be recipients of this offering. We will be supporting local, nonprofit organizations with this offering. If you would like to suggest an agency, please email the church office or fill out a form on Sunday morning. Thank you for your suggestions!

### November and December Coin Offering

Nancy Richter



#NosJuntamosParaTi  
#WeTogetherForYou

Centro Latino Americano combined with Downtown Languages and Huerto

de la Familia in order to increase their capacity to serve Latino and immigrant families in the community. The three organizations have a long history of working together and have been united, impactful, and powerful. They are excited to transform the individual organizations into a broader, more complete service provider and community-building hub. Building Latinx, Immigrant Power Through Unity...

- Combining our strengths to provide many resources, families will be able to access all existing programs from the three organizations at locations in Eugene and Springfield.
- Empowering Latinx to have a voice on issues that impact their own lives

by launching a new Leadership Institute.

- Advocating at the local and state level to ensure the needs of Latinx are lifted up, given value, and inclusive.

### Huerto De La Familia

*(The Family Garden)*

We increase the health and economic security of Latinos in Lane County by providing opportunities and training in organic gardening and business creation to families. There are 7 gardens across Lane County to provide Latino families with personal plots of land. Families can grow healthy, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food.

### Downtown Languages

*(Educate, Empathy, Equity)*

Dedicated to increasing opportunities for immigrants and building respect and understanding across cultures by providing language, literacy, and other educational programs.

Fall classes for adults are on-line or in person:

Pilas Family Literacy Program in the Bethel school district at Fairfield Elementary  
Springfield at Two Rivers Elementary  
Cottage Grove – TBD

Once again, the Ministry of Mission and Christian Discipleship is grateful for your continued support of the Coin Offering Program. Remember, "If we all give a little, it adds up to alot". Thank you.



### All Saints Sunday, November 6

Julianne Stermer  
Each year on All Saints' Sunday we celebrate the ways we glimpse the love of God through the lives of

human beings. As Christians in the Reformed tradition, rather than only putting certain "saints" on pedestals as holy people set apart in the hereafter, we choose to praise God for the ordinary and sacred lives of the believers in this

and every age. One way we observe this is by giving thanks for those members and friends of our congregation who have died in the past year. This year we will be expressing our gratitude for the lives of Ali Jacobson, Bill Wolf, Jim Cherry, and Dick Doering.

We return to an in-person observance of All-Saints Sunday this year. During worship people will be invited to light a candle and say the name of a loved one who has died. Tables with candles will be placed at various locations in the Sanctuary. We invite people to bring mementoes of their loved one for a table in the Sanctuary. As usual, we will have a candle and a rose commemorating each person in our congregation who died this year. Dan will toll a bell when each name is read.

If you plan to join this service online and would like us to name a friend or family member, please get in touch with Pastor Jennifer before Friday, November 4th with the names of your loved ones.



2nd  
Karol Buxton

4th  
Linda Anderson

10th  
Merle Bottge  
Lynn Kolb

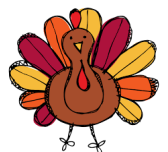
16th  
Rick Larson

27th  
Marci Gordon  
Kirsten Kelso



Gary & Janet Elliott

November 10



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Email: centralpresbyterianeugene@gmail.com  
Website: www.centraleugene.church



The last month of autumn, but the beginning of a new adventure. Time to take risks and do the unexpected. ~Unknown

**Mission Statement**

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