



Central

Vol 23 No 4

A caring, inquiring, inclusive community

April 2023

Tuesday, April 4
Miriam Circle
9:30am~Parlor

Wednesday, April 5
Martha Circle
11:30am~ Parlor
Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm~Sanctuary

Thursday, April 6
Ministry of Christian Discipleship
10:30am~Zoom
Book Group
2:00pm ~Zoom

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

Sunday, April 9
Intergenerational Easter Service
10:00am ~Sanctuary
Easter Fun & Activities
11:15am~Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, April 11
Personnel
9:30am~Zoom
Church Properties
11:00am~Zoom

Wednesday, April 12
Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm~Sanctuary

Thursday, April 13
Worship & Common Life
2:30pm~Zoom

Monday, April 17.
Central Articles Due
Finance
4:30pm~Zoom
Session
5:30pm~Zoom

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

Thursday, April 28
Deacons
5:30pm~Zoom



Love people - Cook them tasty food!

That quote is from a bumper sticker made by the Penzeys Spice Company. I discovered them at a time in my life when I lived forty-five minutes from the closest grocery store. This was long before

Amazon and other companies made it possible to have anything you wanted delivered to your door, so having access to good quality spices via the mail was a game changer for me. I have always loved to cook, and they gave me access to the ingredients I needed to try new and exotic (at least to me!) recipes. I also appreciated how they made the intentional connection between cooking and caring for one another.

As you know, this month I will begin a three-month sabbatical with the theme, "A Return to the Table: Reclaiming Connection after COVID." During the height of lockdown and quarantine, I experienced a surprising lack of interest in cooking. For me cooking had always been about connection and caring for others. During that time we couldn't dine with one another and we were, in many ways, quite disconnected. When I couldn't cook for anyone else or join others for a meal, I lost the excitement I had always felt around trying new recipes and "playing" in the kitchen. We chose the name for this sabbatical more than a year ago when "after COVID" still seemed possible. Now we know COVID isn't going away, but I do think we can find ways to reclaim connection. We already are in so many areas of our lives. After all, we have made progress in prevention and treatment and are finding all sorts of creative ways to re-connect or make new connections in this new reality. I am so grateful and excited to spend this time learning from people in other countries about their culture and cuisine, sitting around their tables sharing food and stories, and then bringing those tales and recipes back to share with our community.

You too will have opportunities to connect in new ways while I'm away. One way is an adult education offering coordinated by Susan Schroeder and Nancy Richter using the resource, *Meeting Jesus at the Table*. It is looking possible that CPC may be able to coordinate some meals with the young family who are staying at the Keener's home later this spring and into the summer. And, of course, we always have the opportunity to contribute to that which is on our neighbors' tables through our gifts to the student food pantry. Perhaps you can extend this theme by inviting a friend from church out for a meal or over to your table.

Of course Jesus connected with people around the table quite often. Many of the stories we will hear again during Holy Week early this month are

graduated from Loyola University, Los Angeles, with a Bachelor's degree in English and Theology. He studied orchestral conducting with Daniel Lewis at Cal State Fullerton, receiving a Master's in Conducting. Further studies continued with Fritz Zweig, Herbert Bloomsted, Bruno Maderna and Colin Davis at Tanglewood. Throughout the years, he has played the organ for several denominations including Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Catholic and Jewish congregations. Organ studies with Larry Robison, Owen Brady, Anthony Newman, Sophie-Veronique Cauchefer-Choplin and Robert Salisbury have provided a solid background in Organ. Barry was married to Susan Snelgrove for 25 years until her death in 2017. He enjoys swimming, walking, especially sailing and designing boats of all kinds, and raising English settlers (Duke and Miss Magic). Barry has lived in Eugene since 2018.

Ellis Sprick's Memorial Service



**Saturday, April 8
2:00pm**

Reception in the Fellowship Hall following service to greet family and friends.

seeds, enjoying snacks. We will be having a sendoff for our pastor as she embarks on a three month-long sabbatical. Come join in the fun on this most special day!



**Note about masking
With state law change**

Some folks have inquired about our policy for masking now that laws in Oregon are shifting, especially in healthcare facilities. Our session has opted to continue our practice of encouraging, though not requiring, that masks be worn for group gatherings. This continues what we have been practicing now for months in order to do what we can to care for our neighbors in a higher risk category for COVID and other respiratory illnesses. We will continue to have masks available for those who choose to wear them.



Earth Care Congregation Status

We are excited to announce that our application was approved and Central Presbyterian Church has been named an Earth Care Congregation. Our newly

formed Earth Care Team will be meeting throughout the year to help us be intentional in thinking about care of the planet as we plan the life, work, and worship of our church. Be on the lookout for opportunities to help in coming months as we work together to be good stewards.



GOOD FRIDAY

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

Easter
SUNDAY

Intergenerational Easter Fun

After worship, you are invited to join in a time of celebration, conversation and creativity in the Fellowship Hall following worship. There will be opportunities for making crafts, planting



Virtual Mission Trip meeting April 16

If you're interested in the Virtual Mission Trip to learn about immigration issues at the U.S.-Mexico border, join us after worship on Sunday, April 16 in the Chapel.

Sharon Franklin will be with us to explore relationship-building and learning opportunities around her work in Tijuana. She and her husband Javier operate La Casa de Paso in Tijuana, a home providing respite and short-term shelter for mothers and their children who come to Tijuana seeking to cross the U.S. border. We will discuss ways to learn about immigration issues at the southern border and their direct impact on the vulnerable people Sharon and Javier meet. We will also explore how we can be supportive instrumentally and spiritually. Sharon lives part-time in Eugene and part-time in Tijuana. You can check out the La Casa website here.

Would you like to read some background on U.S. immigration policies? First, a very high-level overview from Teresa Waggener, PC(USA) manager of legal services, office of immigrant services in the Office of the General Assembly: "U.S. immigration law started in 1790 with an act [the 1790 Naturalization Act] that only allowed free white people access to citizenship. If you were Asian or African, in indentured servitude, enslaved, or free and black, you were excluded. It takes an awful lot for an organization [our country] to make it past such a [restrictive] beginning. "And so we have the current U.S. immigration system, which has very long processing times, very high fees, and which can be extremely confusing for individuals. It's very easy to fall out of status [fall off the "list"]. But I serve this Church that believes God sends people out into the world to spread the gospel.

So how do you rectify these things? -- This system that makes it very hard to navigate, this call the church feels, and our desire to be faithful to that call?" (From PC (USA) video, "Staff attorney helps church navigate immigration issues") U.S. Immigration policy has changed multiple times over the years in response to global issues such as displacement of people due to war, civil unrest, and humanitarian needs like famine. At

the same time, pro-immigration and anti-immigration sentiments within our country have fluctuated up and down for particular reasons.



Transfer Magic

Date: April 19, 2023
 Time: 11:00am-1:00pm
 Where: Artist Way Studio
 (Central Presbyterian Church, Upstairs)

Contact Debbi Rothschild
 To reserve a space (954)
 240-8308 email:

donepacking@yahoo.com

Cost: \$15.00 (cash)

Maximum number: 10 people
 Materials Provided & No Experience Necessary

Meeting Jesus at the Table Adult Education Series beginning April 23



Nancy Richter and Susan Schroeder invite you to attend a 5-week adult education series, Meeting Jesus at the Table, Sundays after

worship in the Chapel, **April 23 through May 21**. The sessions will include scripture and discussions based on a book by the same title. You don't have to read the book to attend the group. We will also invite one or two guest speakers to talk about local food programs. Josie McCarthy from Food for Lane County will speak with us one Sunday.

Discussion topics include God's provision for our needs; hospitality and invitation; who is at the table and who is not; and stories we tell at the table, including the great story of our faith, the Lord's Supper.

The study was chosen to parallel the theme of Jennifer's sabbatical theme, "Return to the

Table: Reclaiming Connection after COVID." Around the table we are reminded of our vulnerability: that we need food to sustain our lives. We also need spiritual nourishment, and this can be found in fellowship and hospitality. When we share food with each other around the table, we extend ourselves both physically and spiritually.

Save the Date



**Anniversary Sunday
May 7, 2023**

We will celebrate Central's connection with the congregation, community, and country in worship at 10:00am &

Adult Education at 11:15am

Rev. Rob Hogan, *Ministry of Relations Officer, Presbyterian Foundation* with lead worship.
Jim Hitson, *Assistant Vice President, Financial & Investment Planning, New Covenant Trust Company* will lead Adult Education.



Nancy Richter

Providing Relief from Natural disasters, Food for the hungry, and Support for the poor and oppressed.

*You shall be called the Repairers of the Breach-
Isaiah 58*

During the season of Lent, we celebrate that God connects with us through Jesus's resurrection and connects us with those who have least. We follow Jesus's example; walking alongside the most vulnerable to partner in

repairing harms inflicted upon them. We traditionally promote this Special Offering during the Lenten season with dedication of this offering during Easter Sunday.

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together to work for a better world, advancing the cause of justice, resilience, and sustainability. We do this through three life-changing programs: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-development of People: loosing the bonds of injustice. Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with neighbors in need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

We thank you for your continued generosity and support of Presbyterian Special Offerings. Remember, if we all give a little, it adds up to a lot.



**Sleeping into
Easter
Wesley
Lachman**

When you go to bed, or have a little lie down as

the British say, you have a little Easter. We all do this. We lie down on the bed and we want to go to sleep. Then our mind starts to turn up thoughts about what we did during the day or what we plan to do tomorrow. We try to get rid of these thoughts, or at least ignore them and let them pass. And usually, they finally disappear, and we fall asleep.

So what does that tell us about Easter? Just this. Easter is all about our death and resurrection in Christ. In going to sleep, we "die" to everything that is, we let go of everything in our mind. Our entire world disappears. For if we don't let go of everything; if it does not disappear for us, then

we can't go to sleep. We remain caught in little whirlpools of thought about this or that.

Falling asleep is an excellent preparation for Easter. On Good Friday Jesus was crucified, he died to everything. He gave himself up on behalf of all. So as we give ourselves up in falling asleep, we have our own little death alongside the Master. Just as Jesus gave up his life and his world, so we also give up our lives and our worlds.

It is well worth mentioning at this point that without the crucifixion there can be no resurrection. We can only pretend to celebrate Easter if we have not first gone through dying to our life. To truly enter the door of Easter we drop all our supposed ideas and possessions on the doorstep. Only then can we be raised with Christ.

On Easter morning we wake up from our night's sleep. We wake into a fresh open moment. We lost our former life the night before and nothing has happened yet to take its place. It's bit of a shock. Where did the room come from all of a sudden, and the pillow, and the chair? Where have they been all night? Everything is crisp and open, even if we are aware of this for only a few moments. We are being resurrected after our death the night before. Of course, this kind of thing happens every morning as we awaken. But Jesus' resurrection gives us a unique opportunity to be aware of our own resurrection into a new life.

Will we leave our bed-tomb and arise? Will we leave our baggage from yesterday aside and forgo imagining troubles coming today? Will we enter the bright new Easter day as one risen from the dead into a brand new life?



ANNIVERSARIES

THIS MONTH

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



- 4 Zane Buxton
- 18 Pat Kolb
- 18 Susan Schroeder
- 19 Steve Stermer
- 23 Jane Holmes
- 26 Pat Hocken
- 30 John Koelling

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

555 E 15TH AVE

EUGENE OR 97401

Phone: (541) 345-8724

email: centralpresbyterianeugene@gmail.com

website: www.centraleugene.church



Mission Statement

Central Presbyterian Church is

A caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith.