

February 2023

# Central

Vol 23 No 02

*A caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith*

**Wednesday, February 1**

Martha Circle  
11:30am~Zoom

**Thursday, February 2**  
Ministry of Christian Discipleship

10:00am ~Zoom  
Book Group  
2:00pm~ Zoom

**Tuesday, February 7**

Miriam Circle  
9:30am~Parlor

**Thursday, February 9**  
Worship & Common Life

2:30pm~Zoom

**Monday, February 13**

Bible Study  
11:00am~Zoom  
Endowment Meeting  
3:30pm~Zoom

**Tuesday, February 14**

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

**Sunday, February 19**  
Annual Congregational Meeting

10:45am~ Sanctuary

**Monday, February 20**  
President's Day~ Office Closed

**Central Articles Due**

Finance  
4:30pm~Zoom  
Session  
5:30pm~Zoom

**Tuesday, February 22**  
Ash Wednesday Service

4:00pm~Chapel

**Thursday, February 23**

Deacons  
5:30pm~Zoom

**Tuesday, February 28**  
Prayer Shawl Ministry

1:30pm~Parlor



**seeking:**  
honest questions  
for deeper faith

As you read through this newsletter and look to our calendar over the coming weeks, you will see that February 2023 marks a time of transition for our congregation. In many ways between the pandemic and the remodel, it feels as though we have been in liminal space for quite some time, and we are beginning to tentatively step over the threshold to see what is next. Several small groups are finding ways to return to our church now that construction is complete, and we are all learning how to use our newly remodeled spaces. The new Earth Care Team is beginning their work to help guide us in our efforts to be good stewards. We are saying farewell to our longtime organist Dan Rinnan at a farewell concert and retirement reception, along with welcoming new accompanists to our music team. There are ideas bubbling up about how we might focus our energy in the area of mission and outreach. Teams are thinking about how we might best use our outdoor space. And we will hold our annual congregational meeting to review 2022 and look forward to the coming year. As if that weren't enough, the season of Lent begins this month with Ash Wednesday, offering us a time of reflection and prayer.

This year our Lenten season theme will be 'seeking: honest questions for deeper faith'. This theme seems particularly apt for us

as we discern together where God is calling us next. Using resources from A Sanctified Art, we will be exploring a series of questions inspired by the scripture lessons of the season. These questions won't necessarily lead to answers, but the hope is they will offer us clarity and new perspectives as we journey toward resurrection day and. As the artists and writers of these resources say, "throughout the turbulence of the past few years, many of us are asking big questions about our lives and our faith. If you are returning to church, you are probably returning with more questions and a critical lens. ...Throughout this season, we hope you will continually ask yourself: what am I seeking? What is God seeking?"

As we move together into this season of exploring what is new, may we hold onto that identity of seekers. May we be open and curious, continuing to explore questions together. May we be willing to listen to one another and to God, so we might learn and grow together, and ultimately be drawn more fully into the life God hopes for us.

Pastor Jennifer Martin



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

### **CPC ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** **Sunday, February 19,** **CPC Sanctuary** **Following Worship**

What a year 2022 was for Central Presbyterian Church! Our annual meeting is a great time pause and look at where we have been as we prepare to move forward in faith. Plan to stay after worship as we lift up some highlights from the annual report and vote on our pastor's terms of call for the year. The written annual report will be available in hard copy or via email from the church office after Sunday, February 12.



### **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

***"Is this the fast that I choose?"***

**Wednesday, February 22 - 4:00p.m.**  
**CPC Chapel**

Our series of questions for Lent begins with, 'Is this the fast that I choose?' In this special service, we will have a chance to contemplate the beginning of this journey of Lent as we gather and pray together and receive the imposition of ashes.

### **BLANKET THE WORLD WITH LOVE**



**Valentines for Sale at Church February 5 & 12**

The Children & Youth of CPC, along with students at The Koinonia Center are creating valentine cards for us to

purchase in support of Church World Services (CWS) again this year. Valentines will be sold for \$5 each, and every dollar will be donated to the CWS Blanket Plus program. This initiative provides warm blankets to those in need - from people recovering from a natural disaster, to refugee camps in countries near and far, to homeless ministries as close as Everett, WA. It costs ten dollars for each blanket, so for every two valentines sold a blanket is provided for a neighbor in need. You can learn more about the program here: <https://cwsblankets.org/>

If you won't be attending church in person, but would like to purchase valentines, contact the church office to arrange a drive by pick up time.

## FAREWELL TO DAN RINNAN



On Sunday January 29th, we said farewell to our longtime organist, Dan Rinnan. Dan is retiring after serving CPC faithfully since October of 2002. He had planned to retire at the end of the 2022, but it has taken us a little bit longer to get the pieces in place for our music program, and Dan graciously agreed to play through January.

Dan is planning **“A Farewell Festival of Spirituals”** to take place **Sunday, February 19th at 4:00pm** here in our sanctuary. We will be hosting a retirement reception in Dan’s honor following the recital. Plan now to come take part in this time of music and celebration.

If you would like to drop off a card or donation to go toward Dan’s retirement gift, you may do so by leaving a card and/or donation in the basket in the narthex on this Sunday or the first Sundays in February. Cards, cash donations, or checks clearly marked for this purpose, may also be brought to the church office or mailed to **555 E 15th Ave, Eugene, OR 97401**. All gifts must be received by February 12th.



detroitnews.com

### **No Right? No Wrong? Wesley Lachman**

The aged monk sat motionless in the monastery garden, immersed in its colors and scents. All at once he heard a tapping, sandals tapping down the stone steps.

A young boy approached quietly and sat on a small flat stone at the old monk’s feet, waiting. Seeing it was Simon, he smiled, *12 years old, and he is beyond me.*

“Have you a bright question for me on this bright day?”

“Yes, grandfather, a thorny one: Is it true that ultimately there is no right and no wrong?”

The monk sat silently, then spoke, “Yes it is true that from the ultimate point of view there is no right and no wrong—Nevertheless right is right, and wrong is wrong!”

Simon sat quietly for some minutes. “But grandfather, how can there be ultimately no right or wrong?”

“It is because if we stand on the highest peak—even for a moment—we see that there are no divisions.

As some have said, ‘It is all God, every particle of the universe.’ And would you



## CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

*Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Martin*

*Director of Children & Youth Ministries:*

*Rev. Maggie Lewis*

*Director of Music: Kendra Taylor*

*Organist: Ga-In Choi & Michelle Sulaiman*

*AV Technician: Sunny Waldorf*

*Office Manager: Monique Jones*

*Financial Secretary: Arlene Hudgins*

*Maintenance/ Custodian: Jose Toban*

### SESSION

Bev Day

Kirsten Kelso

Rick Larson

Nancy Richter

Susan Schroeder

Pam Sheridan

Alice Schroeder

### DEACONS

Susan Bloom

Quentin Holmes

Karen Dyste

Carolyn Keener

Gerry Keener

Patty MacAfee

Louise deKluyver

Jacquie Litchfield

Yvonne Young

Karol Buxton

Jackie Onstad

### 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

dare divide the Holy One into pieces?"

"But then nothing can be right or wrong anymore? It is all the same?" said Simon. "This sounds like anarchy, not goodness."

"Ah Simon, be silent and contemplate. Have we not been placed here among ten thousand things to care for them?"

"Can you imagine how you would love your neighbor without being able to discern what is right and what is wrong for them?"

So then, we bow to the Ultimate One, to God, who accepts everything, and has compassion for everything.

And then we also must attend to that very same everything to deal with what is right and what is wrong."

Their talk drew them through the door of silence, where they rested timelessly until the sound of the dinner bell.

The boy reached forward in a bow, clasped the old monk's feet, and slowly walked to the garden steps.

(From Buddhist and Christian sources.)

## **The Christmas Project: The Final Report**

Quentin Holmes, Deacon Moderator



The Christmas Project is one of the ways that Central fulfills its mission of being a caring community of

believers. This tradition began over 46 years ago, and always is a bold Adventure in Faith.

*Newsletter*  
**DEADLINE**

*Central articles are due the third Monday of each month. Articles for the March Central Newsletter are due on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> 2023*



*Our Office will be closed on Monday February 20<sup>th</sup> 2023 In observance of Presidents Day and will re-open on Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> 2023.*



History has shown us that courage can be contagious and hope can take on a life of its own.

~ Michelle Obama

Central's Deacons do the organizing, but the heart of this project comes from you, the members and friends of Central. This year Central worked in lock-step with 3 other Presbyterian churches and a 4<sup>th</sup> organization to help 63 families from Rainbow Village Low-Cost Housing. Central helped 20 Families.

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 Walmart gift card for parents to use to buy Christmas presents for each child (or presents for a single adult living alone).

Several people at Central feel very strongly that not only single adults living alone, but also all of the adults at Rainbow Village should receive gift cards with which to purchase presents for themselves. So, we asked the Rainbow Village Board of Directors for permission for Central Presbyterian Church to provide an additional gift card for \$25 to all of the remaining adults this year. Permission was granted and, on behalf of the entire congregation, your deacons provided an additional \$25 Gift Card for each of the 82 remaining adults at Rainbow Village.

During worship on Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Jennifer Martin led the Congregation in a blessing of the Christmas project. On Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, the Christmas Stockings were taken over to the office at Rainbow Village, along with the additional gift cards for presents for the 82 remaining adults. 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."**

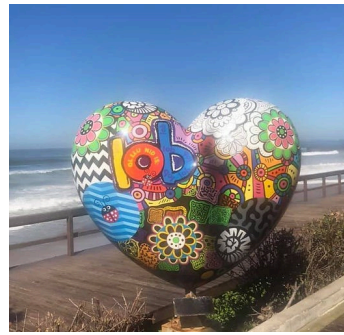
**Thanks be to God!**



## VIRTUAL MISSION TRIP

**Susan Schroeder**

Join our Virtual Mission Trip to Tijuana  
Learn about border issues and partner with people making a difference



The Christian Discipleship team invites you to visit Tijuana, Mexico with them – virtually! We're planning a virtual mission to learn about the immigration and asylum seeker situation on our southern border in Tijuana, just south of San Diego. We'll do this through a partnership with Sharon Franklin, who runs La Casa de Paso in Tijuana with her husband Javier.

Sharon lives part-time in Eugene and part-time in Tijuana. She and Javier have operated La Casa de Paso for 3 ½ years, a home providing respite and short-term shelter for mothers and their children who come to Tijuana seeking to cross the U.S. border. Our plan is to form a team of Central people who would commit to this virtual mission trip for 9 to 12 months.

If you're interested, please join us on **Sunday, February 19**, after worship in the Chapel to talk about this idea and plan how to proceed. Our initial thoughts are that the Virtual Mission Trip group would first spend some time learning about immigration system, the situation in Tijuana, resources available to asylum seekers and challenges they face. Then, as Sharon tells us about the families who stay at La Casa de Paso, we'd like to develop ways to support them, by praying for them and occasionally sending needed items such as hygiene kits or art supplies.

We've also suggested to Sharon that she might introduce us to others in Tijuana providing direct service to immigrants and asylum seekers.

How we partner with Sharon and others in Tijuana will depend on the energy, ideas, and imagination of the people who join the Trip. We'll connect with Sharon (and others) by email and possibly Zoom (internet in Tijuana is not reliable), and Sharon will send videos and photos. When Sharon is in Eugene, we'll arrange a real-life in-person meeting with her. The border situation is complicated, with policies and procedures changing almost daily. The people who come to the border seeking asylum have often fled violence and oppression in their home country. It can be easy for us to think it's too complex to understand, or that we can't do anything about it. But God is always working through us to raise up new possibilities and restore justice and equity even in – especially in – the places that are most broken and hurting.

Please join us as we explore new possibilities. Sharon writes an article about La Casa for the monthly Refugee Resettlement Coalition newsletter.

<https://rrclc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/Report-from-the-Tijuana-Border-Jan-2023.pdf>



Michael and Dana Boonstra Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>



**Sunday February 5,  
4:00-6:00 p.m.**

Middle & High School Youth Group Fun Game night & meet new youth pastor, Maggie (will continue to meet monthly on the first Sunday) Can't wait to see you there!



February 1<sup>st</sup>  
Ed Willson

February 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Ruth Koenig

February 7<sup>th</sup>  
Rich Litchfield

February 9<sup>th</sup>  
Sharon Piper

February 11<sup>th</sup>  
Janet Elliott  
Dorothy Kays

February 12<sup>th</sup>  
Barbara Cookson

February 14<sup>th</sup>  
Mary Brieter

February 17<sup>th</sup>  
Nancy Carlton

February 19<sup>th</sup>  
Laurie Inglis

February 24<sup>th</sup>  
Steve Kanaga  
Marilyn Watson

February 27<sup>th</sup>

Margie Jame

**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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**Mission Statement**

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

