

CENTRAL

A CARING, INQUIRING, INCLUSIVE
COMMUNITY OF FAITH

Vol 23 No 8

August 2023

August

Thursday, August 3
Ministry of Christian Discipleship
9:00am ~ Zoom

Monday, August 7



Wednesday, August 9
Church Picnic
5:00pm~Patterson Lawn

Thursday, August 10
Worship & Common Life
2:30pm~ Zoom

Monday, August 14
Finance
4:30pm ~ Zoom

Monday, August 21
Bible Study
11:00am~Parlor
Session
5:30pm~Zoom
Badminton
6:30pm~Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, August 23
Artist's Way Class: Rock Painting
11:00am~CPC Upstairs

Thursday, August 24
Deacons
5:30pm~Zoom

A Prayer for Travel from Every Moment Holy: New Liturgies for Daily Life

*Prepare our hearts to revel in new exploration
of cities not our own, and of landscapes less familiar.
In our days away let us play together. Let us laugh together.
Let us be moved to speak such meaningful words
as ought to be spoken among family and friends.*

*Let us linger long at tables
and drink deeply of one another's company,
enjoying each for who they are
with the steady pressures of our ordinary days now lifted.*

Bless our journey and our arrival.

Bless our days spent away.

*And bless also our eventual passage home,
that we might return as those who have been revived,
with hopes resurrected, delight restored,
hearts readied again for forward movement into life,
strength renewed to shoulder once more
the meaningful labors assigned to us in this season.*

Amen.

Someone shared this prayer with me before we left for the sabbatical and it became my prayer for our time away. As we explored the theme of *A Return to the Table* we did indeed, "linger long at tables and drink deeply of one another's company". The joy of dining in restaurants, cafes, homes, and cooking classes with folks from all over meant we slowed down and had the opportunity to listen and learn a bit about one another - our likes and dislikes, our experiences and dreams, our joys and struggles. We laughed and sometimes cried.

The picture here is of one such meal in the home of a family in the village of Obaños, Spain. We were there during the mid-summer celebrations that commemorate John the Baptist in ways this Presbyterian who had come from Oregon would never have imagined! There was feasting, candy, toys, hats, fans, parades, music, giant puppets, a fire bull, and bingo. But my favorite part of the celebrations was the opportunity to chat with these folks around their table.

Even though my Spanish is meager at best, in that brief time we shared about: the love of a mother's home cooking, the challenges of a family member suffering memory loss, the difficulties of transitions in life, the value of traditions, the importance of working toward safety for those in abusive situations, and the joy of time with those we love. The scriptures about Christ being present where two or three are gathered, and being revealed in the breaking of bread seemed all too real on more than one occasion.

I'm grateful for this time away, and grateful to be back with the good folks of CPC. I'm also looking forward to sharing more stories (and recipes!) from around the table with you in the coming months. You can read in this newsletter about some of those opportunities. In the meantime, I hope you are able to rest and renew a bit this summer and hopefully glimpse the Holy as you break bread with others.

IN MEMORIAM



John Gregor, a member of Central since 1960, died July 13, 2023. John has served as an elder, a deacon, and a treasurer at Central.

Central Presbyterian Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Martin
 Children & Youth Services
 Coordinator : Rev. Maggie Lewis
 Director of Music: Kendra Taylor
 Organist: Barry Anderson
 Pianists: Michelle Sulaiman & Ga Choi
 AV Technician: Sunny Waldorf

Office Manager: Monique Jones
 Financial Secretary: Arlene Hudgins
 Building Host: Jose Tobon

SESSION

Bev Day	Kirsten Kelso
Rick Larson	Kathleen Beisse
Barbara Cookson	Alice Schroeder
Susan Schroeder	Jean Tesche

DEACONS

Mary Breiter	Karol Buxton
Lousie deKluyver	Karen Dyste
Gerry Keener	Carolyn Keener
Yvonne Young	Jacque Litchfield
Lu-Nita Hawkins	

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

Peter Carlson	Quentin Holmes
Rick Larson	Jean Tesche
Marian Smith	

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Helen Martz	Nancy Richter
Susan Schroeder	

"I want to be like a sunflower; so that even on the darkest days I will stand tall and find the sunlight."~ Unknown



Staff Safety Policy



For the safety of our staff, when an employee is alone in the building the office door will be locked. A sign will be posted, letting people know to ring the bell when the

door is locked. Thank you for your understanding and your help in keeping our staff safe.

SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES - Bumper Sticker Theology & Season of Creation

Have you ever seen a bumper sticker about God, heaven, faith or spirituality that has caused you to shake your head (or your fist?), sigh deeply, or maybe wonder if there is any truth to it? Pastor Jennifer will continue this series started July 30, as we look at whether some of these sayings are actually sound theology or if they just sound like theology.

July 30 - God won't give you more than you can handle

August 6 -God Helps Those Who Help Themselves

August 13 -Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin

August 20 - Too blessed to be stressed

Then, our celebration of the Season of Creation begins *August 27th* and will continue through September. We will begin with Forrest Sunday.



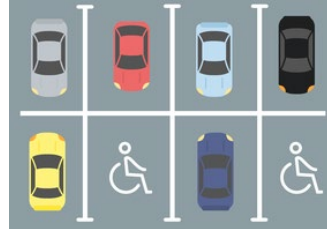
SUMMER FUN & FELLOWSHIP

SAVE THE DATE AUGUST 9

For Wednesday, August 9th from 5-7pm on the lawn next to our mural. Attendees will need to ring a salad or dessert, and the

church will provide brats, buns and condiments, beverages and utensils.

CPC PARKING LOT



August 11, 29, 30, 2023

Attention, Attention, Attention!

The parking lots at Central are going to be resurfaced and restriped in August. Dates are:

- ❖ Asphalt Friday, 8/11,
- ❖ Sealcoat/Crackfill, 8/29,
- ❖ Striping 8/30.

Both parking lots, the alley-way and north parking lot, will be inaccessible on these days. So, please plan your trips to Central wisely.

Street parking will be available, and with most students gone for summer break you should be able to park fairly close. Thank you for your cooperation as we work to complete this project.

50th ANNIVERSARY OF RAINBOW VILLAGE



Please join us for a Birthday Party to celebrate Rainbow Village's 50th year Anniversary!

WHEN: Saturday August 12th, 2023 at 12:00PM

WHERE: 1250 Rainbow Drive
Springfield, Oregon 97477

Fifty years ago, six (6) Presbyterian churches from our area joined together to

bring into being Rainbow Village – a low-cost housing facility in Springfield, Oregon. Today, 60 of Rainbow Village's 80 living units are Project-based Low-Cost units.

Members of Central who have served on Rainbow Village's Board of Directors over the years include: Emily Schue (1972 – 1999); Warren Schue (1992 – Until his death); Jo Anne Arnold (1976 – 1981); Jim Shaw; Al Bray; Ed Vaughn; Don Leslie (1989 – 2009); LuNita Hawkins (1985 – present); Howard Ruland (1996 – present); and Quentin Holmes (2009 – present).



Organ Class
August 13, 2023
Nancy Richter

Want to know more about our organ in the sanctuary? How does the organist get it to sound like a brass

section at Easter or Christmas Eve? What about the organ pipes? If you have these questions or others, or would simply like to hear our organist, Barry Anderson, play some organ music, we will feature an organ class on Sunday, August 13th after worship service. Grab a treat and / or something to drink in the parlor after worship and come join us in the sanctuary.

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, August 13th** following worship.



Update on International Peacemaker from El Salvador

Central is hosting a PC(USA) International Peacemaker in September, jointly between our church and First Presbyterian Cottage Grove. Milagro Mejia from El Salvador will spend several days in Lane County, September 21-26, splitting her time between Eugene and Cottage Grove. She will be accompanied by an interpreter. She will preach at Central on September 24. The folks at First Pres Cottage Grove can join us by livestream or at our church.

We look forward to Milagro's visit and hearing about her work and ministry in El Salvador. She is an ordained deaconess, a Salvadoran theologian, lawyer, and notary public. A member and founder of the Calvinist Reformed Church of El Salvador (IRCES), she has contributed to the church since its birth, organizing and legalizing the statutes of both the Church and the Juan Calvino Academy. The academy, which belongs to the church, provides formal education for children with limited resources due to lack of access to public schools.

Milagro has trained and supported low-income women through entrepreneurship programs: sewing programs, training women to handle industrial machines, and developing productive projects like small poultry and pig farms. She has worked with ecumenical groups at the national and international level to support forums, seminars, retreats in the search for peace during the armed conflict that her country experienced for 12 years. Together, these groups made a proposal for pacification and, after signing the peace agreements, worked in the communities to organize boards of directors to support development.

She is now retired from formal work with the state and is collaborating again with the church and its institutions in the management, execution, evaluation, and systematization of social projects, especially in the areas of peaceful coexistence, peace building, and conflict transformation with children, youth, and people in emergencies due to disasters.

In her presentations with us, Milagro will share about the work her church does today, give us some history of the church's contribution to the most vulnerable populations before and after the armed conflict, and describe the contemporary challenges of the Reformed and Presbyterian churches.

Virtual Mission Team Planning Fundraiser for



La Casa de Paso

This is a heads-up that the Virtual Mission Team is planning a fundraiser at our church for sometime in mid-September for La Casa de Paso. We haven't

chosen the date yet, but we'll keep you posted! Over the past several months, the Team has been learning about this temporary shelter in Tijuana, Mexico, and the respite and support they provide for women and children seeking to migrate to the U.S. We plan to invite the wider community to join us for a simple dinner, hear from Sharon Franklin of La Casa, and donate to support the work. Would you like to help us plan the fundraiser? We'll need help with publicity, planning the food, and

making some bulletin boards with some of Sharon's photos. Want to help? Contact Susan Schroeder, sschroeder1818@gmail.com [541-515-8575](tel:541-515-8575)

July/ August Coin Offering



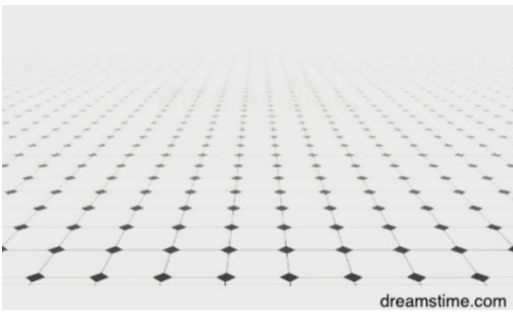
MECCA
Nancy
Richter

MATERIALS EXCHANGE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ARTS

Materials Exchange Center for Community Arts- MECCA. Reduce, Reuse, Reimagined, MECCA began in 1999. In 2001 they became a nonprofit ran by a Board of Directors with a executive director at the helm. In 2003, they began teaching classes to middle and high school students as part of the network of charter schools.

MECCA's mission is to divert materials from the waste stream and bring them into our community's creative endeavors. Their vision is to break down financial barriers to arts participation and work to conserve our natural resources. The values of MECCA are earth, creativity and community. This fits well with our being a Creation Care community here at Central Presbyterian Church.

The Ministry of Mission and Christian Discipleship (MCD) than you for your continued support of the coin offering and those agencies chosen to be recipients of this offering. We thank you for your generosity!



Another Crucifixion

Wesley
Lachman

In the middle of the night, Lance sat up, awakened again by the gentle fire burning in his chest. It was the desire to leave everything behind, find God's Holy Temple, and give himself completely to him. Now at last, he felt ready to do just that.

At dawn, he took his favorite staff, packed a rucksack with food, and set out toward the east, where the Temple was reputed to be. A cool breeze met him as he stepped onto the road.

He was born here in Wordland, so he was accustomed to seeing words printed everywhere and hearing them from the mouths of his contemporaries. But as he walked eastward for several days, the words gradually became less numerous. Finally, he stood at the edge of Wordland and looked down into a deep valley that the Worders called Silentland.

A crude stairway had been cut into the sheer face of the cliff. It took him an hour to reach the bottom. He smelled rich, dark soil. Bright yellow-green plants arced into the blue above. A narrow path led away from the cliff and hopefully toward the Temple.

In some places, the path was paved with sharp rocks. They shredded his sandals; he could barely continue. It felt as if someone had driven nails into his feet. he stopped in pain, everything was growing dim. *My Lord*, he shouted to himself, *Am I going blind?* he reached up and found fish-like scales growing over his eyes. Then, someone unseen was wrapping his bleeding feet in large, soothing cloths.

Now blind, he was frozen in place, afraid to move. Little steps sounded nearby. Something touched him in his darkness. He jerked away. But a little hand was reaching up to him, and he grasped it. A child began gently pulling him, leading him on. They walked on for hours in silence without encountering anyone.

Then the child paused, placed Lance's hand upon a smooth, cool floor three feet above the path, and indicated that he should climb up on it. Could this be the Temple of God? He heard a flutter of wings, and the child was gone.

He walked on for days on that floor, swinging his staff side to side as he had seen blind people do, but without food, companion, or rest. At night, no matter how he spread himself on the polished surface, he found nowhere to rest his head.

After no food and little water for three days he fell, exhausted and unable to go one step more. He cried out into the silence, "Oh God, why have you left me here alone? Can't you see I am broken and unable to go further? I have given up every possession and comfort for you. So go ahead and take the rest." Then, his remaining energy faded away, and he fell into a deep sleep.

It seemed that time had disappeared. Lance awoke to the sensation of the scales sliding off his eyes. he looked at the shiny floor. *No, what?* It had become wooden. He was in his bedroom at home. "No!" he moaned. "Have I never gone anywhere? Is all this just a dream?"

Then, he looked up at his room and was struck dumb. It had become beautiful. The objects were holding hands and dancing in unison, and he could see that he himself was dancing with them. Everything was inside him. It was all one. Everything around him

had become unaccountably part of himself. At his window, he saw his neighbors in their garden, but they were within him.

The separation between people had been overcome. There were no "other" people, for they were just as much in him as he himself was. When he looked down at his feet, they were still bleeding.



Don & Sharon Piper
August 11

John & Pat Hocken
August 26



6th
Kathleen Beisse
Nancy Carlson
Randy Lilyengren

7th
Alice Schroeder

12th
Jordan Ryder


17th
Richard Lin

20th
JoAnne Arnold
Gayle Cherry

21st
Lance Deal

28th
Frank Carlton

Have we missed your birthday or anniversary? Please email or call Monique so she can update this information. We don't want to miss anyone's special day.

A graphic with the words "HAPPY BIRTHDAY!" in colorful, bubbly letters. Above the text are several colorful balloons (pink, blue, yellow, red, green) and a blue cloud-like background.

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Mission Statement

Central Presbyterian Church is

a caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith.