

September 2023

Central

A caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith

Monday September 4

Office Closed
Labor Day

Tuesday, September 5

Staff Meeting
9:30am~Front Office
Miriam Circle
9:30am~Parlor

Wednesday, September 6

Properties
11:00am~Zoom
Martha Circle
11:30am~Parlor

Thursday, September 7

Ministry of Christian Discipleship
1:30pm~Zoom

Friday, September 8

Cooking Class: Spanish Tapas
10am-1pm(ish)

Monday, September 11

Bible Study
11:30am~Parlor
Finance Committee
3:00pm~Zoom

Tuesday, September 12

Personnel
1:30pm ~ Zoom

Thursday, September 14

Worship & Common Life
2:30pm~Zoom
La Casa de Paso Fundraiser
5:00pm~Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 18

Central Articles Due
Session
5:30pm~Zoom
Badminton
6:30pm~Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 26

Prayer Shawl Ministry
1:3pm~Parlor

Thursday, September 28

Deacons
5:30pm~Zoom



Though the calendar year, begins in January and the church year begins with the season of Advent, there is something about September that feels like a beginning. As we transition from summer to fall, teachers and students return to classes, and there is a spirit of change in the air. Even though I haven't been a formal student for quite some time, I still feel the excitement of this time of year, the anticipation of learning new things, meeting new friends, and discovering more about the world around us and ourselves.

Of course, that invitation to continue learning is there for us whether or not we are purchasing new notebooks or choosing a desk in a classroom. Each day we have opportunities to learn more about the world and ourselves - and as followers of Jesus we are encouraged to listen and learn more about our neighbors and our neighborhood that we might better serve and appreciate both.

This September at Central, there are lots of things beginning or beginning again. Our children will begin Sunday school, everyone will have the chance to meet their new deacon, we will be welcoming an international peacemaker to learn more about her work in El Salvador, there is a fundraiser for the La Casa de Paso border ministry, we are kicking off the season of creation, the Presbyterian Women's Circles will resume with a new Bible study, and we will be having a church potluck for the first time since 2020!

And that is just the beginning of much more to come! So, whether or not you are embarking on a new school year personally, there are lots of opportunities for learning and fellowship together as we move through this month together. I look forward to seeing you all as we grow together.

~Rev. Jennifer Martin

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

*Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Martin
Director of Music: Kendra Taylor
Organist: Barry Anderson
Pianists: Michelle Sulaiman & Ga-In Choi
AV Technician: Sunny Waldorf*

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

SESSION

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

DEACONS

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

CLERK OF SESSION

Merle Bottge

TREASURER

Del Hawkins



SEASON OF CREATION in WORSHIP

For the month of September and into October, we will be again

celebrating the Season of Creation in our Sunday morning worship services. This is an opportunity for us to be intentional about renewing relationship with our creator and all of creation. During this season, we join our hearts and voices with sisters and brothers in the ecumenical family in a time of prayer and renewed commitment to action on behalf of our common home. We will have special liturgy and music in our services to celebrate different aspects of creation. As we focus on the created world, you are encouraged to give prayerful thought to ways you may be called to commit to care for creation in new ways.

September 3 - Wilderness Sunday

September 10 - Sky Sunday

September 17 - River Sunday

A TASTE OF A RETURN TO THE TABLE



MAKE-UP DATE:
Spanish Tapas -
Friday, September
8th, 10am - 1pm
(ish)
(Sign up by 9/5)

Join Pastor Jennifer as she shares a bit from her recent sabbatical, *A Return to the Table*, by offering a taste of the cooking classes she experienced. You'll help prepare several dishes and then we will enjoy them together around the table. Most of the dishes, we prepare will be vegetarian, but not vegan. Those who came in August enjoyed cooking and eating, as well as time spent visiting and



"Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower." ~ Albert Camus



laughing together. If you want to join in the fun, please sign up through the church office by the date indicated so that we can purchase enough ingredients for all.

Meet your DEACONS

MEET YOUR
DEACON
SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER
10TH

Quentin Holmes

At Central, each member/friend of Central is assigned to a flock with a specific person as their Deacon. This is just one of the ways we help fulfill Central's mission of being a Caring and Inclusive Community of Believers. Central's Board of Deacons is comprised of ordained people who serve for a three-year term. Each June, some Deacons retire and new Deacons come onboard. Meet Your Deacon Sunday is designed to give your Deacon a chance to get to know you better and vice-versa. On Sunday, September 10th, a board containing a photo of each Deacon and their flock number will be located near the entry to Fellowship Hall. A directory listing members/friends and their flock number will also be there. Come and meet & chat with your Deacon!



Sunday School Resumes September 10th

Kids from kindergarten through 6th grade who choose to come to in-person worship this fall

will have the opportunity to head to Sunday school most weeks following the time with children. As has been our practice in the past, we will not have Sunday school the first Sunday of the month so everyone can stay in worship to receive communion. But every

other week, there will be a teacher ready to share Bible stories and a time of learning together with any youngsters who join us for worship. Hope to see you soon!



Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday
September
10th

Students in
Eugene &

Springfield area schools will be heading back to the classroom the first week of September. As you gather school supplies and prepare for the new year, don't forget to **bring your backpack to church** on Sunday, September 10th, when we'll have a special blessing for students. We want all of our students to start the year knowing they are being held in prayer by their church family!

La Casa de Paso Fundraiser

Thursday, Sept 14 5-7 pm

at Central in Fellowship Hall

Join us for a simple Mexican-style meal and hear from Sharon Franklin, who operates La Casa de Paso in Tijuana with her husband Javier Hernandez. She will talk about their support of asylum-seeking women & children.

Reserve your \$10 ticket by emailing your name & number of people attending to lacasasignup@gmail.com. Pay for your ticket when you arrive. Tickets also available at the door.

This is a fundraiser; please bring your checkbook.

Can't attend and want to donate? Central members & friends can receive a tax donation receipt by donating through our church. Write your check to Central Presbyterian Church with "La Casa de Paso" in the memo line.

We are all connected. Help us widen the circle of support for La Casa de Paso. Invite your friends!





Meet our International Peacemaker!
Visiting Cottage Grove and Eugene
September 21-26

Central is co-hosting a PC(USA) International Peacemaker September 21-26 with our church and First Presbyterian Cottage Grove. Milagro Mejia from El Salvador will spend a few days first in Cottage Grove, followed by a few days in Eugene. She will be accompanied by Joseph Russ, who will be her interpreter. She will preach at Central on September 24. The folks at First Pres Cottage Grove can join the worship service by livestream or at our church.

A planning team is working out details of their visit – the where and when of Milagro and Joseph's visit in addition to being with us for Sunday worship. Jo Anne Arnold has graciously offered spare bedrooms in her home while they're in Eugene – thank you so much, Jo Anne! **If you'd like to be part of a small group that joins Milagro and Joseph for lunch or dinner on Saturday, Sunday, or Monday, September 23-25, please send an email to Jean Tesche, jtesche@aol.com.**

Watch your email for updates about times and places to meet Milagro and Joseph.



About Milagro Mejia:

María del Milagro Mejía de Flores, an ordained deaconess, is 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 advocates for justice, having worked for 24 years with the government, serving the judicial branch. She also worked 12 years in the women's entrepreneurship program through Alfalit, the church's development center. Among other programs, Alfalit supports low-income women by providing seed capital, skill development and entrepreneurship training. Women develop skills for cosmetology, manufacturing, industrial machine use, and small poultry and pig farm management.

In the ecumenical sphere, Milagro strengthens and trains groups at the national and international level through forums, workshops, seminars, retreats and meetings. In the search for peace during the Salvadoran civil war, she worked on the peace proposal. After the signing of the peace agreements, she worked in communities and the local churches to strengthen their organization. Milagro is married to Pastor Santiago Alfredo Flores Amaya and has three children.





About Joseph Russ:
Joseph Russ is Coordinator for Migration Issues, Advocacy, and Mission in the Northern Triangle of Central America and has a passion for intercultural human rights work. He is based in El Salvador,

where he supports the ministries of the Reformed Calvinist Church of El Salvador and their education and development agency, Alfalit.

Together, they work to strengthen a network of partners working on migration issues in the Northern Triangle of Central America and allies in the United States. Based on the experiences of migrants and local partners, U.S. individuals, congregations, presbyteries and mid councils can join them in solidarity and advocate for policies that support migrants and prevent forced migration.

He is a candidate for a master's degree in Latin American Theology from the Universidad Centroamericana José Simeón in San Salvador, doing research on migration theology from the perspective of returned migrants. For the past five years, he has lived in El Salvador, where he has interpreted for international visitors, worked in human rights education through Cristosal, and helped found the Santa Marta Anglican Center to provide shelter and support to unhoused LGBTQ+ youth and young adults. In his free time, he likes to dance, hang out with his cats, and play Dungeons & Dragons.



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

**Cascades
Presbyterian Women
In-Person Fall
Gathering**

Saturday, September
30, 2023
10 am – 2:30 pm

*Bringing Out the Best
in Each Other As iron*

sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another: Proverbs 27:17

John Knox Presbyterian Church 452
Cummings Lane N, Keizer, OR 97307

Workshops: Sharing ideas, strategies and practices that work

- How to Do PW: Facilitator: Rebecca Jewel, Secretary, PWP Cascades
 - How to Do Community Gardening Facilitator Mary Jo Emmett, John Knox Community Garden Coordinator
 - How to Do a Food Pantry: Facilitators: Jane Holmes and Connie Brenner. PWP CT members
- Gathering Time: 9:30 am Program will begin at 10 am. This is an in-person gathering. There will be no virtual option.



World Communion Sunday

**One World
Communion**
Sunday,
October 1

We celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all

creation. We celebrate that we are all together at the table in God's house. We remember that we are 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 injustice 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 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 is still deciding on what organization to help this year. Stay tuned, and it will be announced in the October newsletter.

We thank you for your continued support of the Presbyterian special offerings. Remember, "If we all give a little, it adds up to a lot."



September/October Coin Offering

Coin Offering will be dedicated to **15th Night**.

15th Night is a youth informed community movement to end

youth homelessness by connecting existing resources and finding innovative ways to keep kids in school and off the streets. Youth who are "new" to our streets are more likely to become chronically homeless if we do not intervene within 15 nights.

"I came home to a locked door and didn't know what to do." Said one local high school student.

15th Night offers assistance to homeless youth through: R.A.N Advocates (Rapid Access Network), trained representatives from schools and public safety that triage calls from youth.

Partner agencies with existing community resources aligned to maximize positive impact on our vulnerable youth. RAN communication technology mobilizes 15th Night advocates to address the immediate needs of our area youth who contact the 15th Night hotline.

In 2021, 568 Eugene/Springfield students experienced homelessness. About 50% of these students will not graduate high school. For every \$1 spent on youth intervention dealing with homelessness, the community saves \$4.12 according to a New Avenues for Youth Study.

(Portland OR 2010) In 2022, 15th Night community responders fulfilled the needs of 282 alerts with such things as shoes, food, bikes, and even a birthday cake.

The vision of 15th Night is that no local area student will drop out of school due to homelessness. Residents of Eugene and Springfield know how to intervene on behalf of a youth who has ran away or is experiencing homelessness. That all area youth know how to get help and find safe alternatives to the street.

"People don't understand that sometimes being homeless is an easier problem to have than being at home." Stated a local high school student.

We thank you for your generous support of the Coin Offering Ministry.



The Student Pantry Nancy Richter

It's September, that time of the year to think about "Back to School." Time to think about those with food insecurities

concerns. Central Presbyterian Church has been supporting the Student Food Pantry since January 2022. One does not need to be a U.O. student to benefit from this wonderful community program.

They assist Lane Community College students and any Lane County students, either single or with families. The student only needs to provide a student I.D. and bring a shopping bag.

While the Student Food Pantry does receive assistance from Food for Lane County and some help from the Eugene Mission, they are very appreciative of any assistance.

The Ministry of Christian Discipleship (MCD) appreciates the support of our congregation in assisting those with food insecurities. In speaking with Connie Browning, who oversees the program, we have learned quite a lot about those students in need of food and nutritional support just so that they can stay in school and succeed in their academic ventures. It's difficult to study or pass exams when you are hungry and

not sure where or when your next meal will come from.

Connie welcomes anyone to tour on Wednesdays from 10:00am-12:30pm during stocking time or on Wednesdays or Thursdays from 4-6pm when food is being distributed to students.

We also would like to especially thank Pam Towne for her quiet, diligent support of the Student Food Pantry by organizing our pantry located off Room 121. Pam oversees our pantry and delivers the needed items to the Student Food Pantry. A very heartfelt thank you, Pam.

The Student Food Pantry is located at Grace Lutheran Church on 18th and Hilyard around the back of the church. We truly thank you for your continued support of our mission projects.

Remember "If we all give a little, it adds up to be a lot."

Shopping List Items Needed

Proteins

Canned beans

(Pintos, Navy, Red & Black)

Canned meats

(Chicken, Salmon, Beef, & Tuna)

Canned soups

(Chili, Stews and other soups)

Canned vegetables

(green beans, peas, carrots, corn, stewed tomatoes, diced tomatoes & tomato sauces)

Pasta

(curly noodles, penne, elbow & spaghetti)

Rice

Canned fruits and fruit juices

Condiments, Salsas & Seasonings

Oatmeal (no instant)

Dry Cereals

Teas & Coffee

Protein bars

Cooking oils

Dog & Cat food

Personal care items

(body washes, soap, shampoo, conditioner, toilet paper, feminine products, shaving items Kleenex, napkins etc.)

Laundry soaps



News from the Winnemem Wintu Tribe

Chinook salmon, sacred to the Winnemem Wintu, became extinct after creation of Shasta Dam. After

many years of struggle, praying, singing, dancing, an historic occasion occurred on May 1st. Enjoy The NOAA comments below.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries and the Winnemem Wintu Tribe have signed agreements to restore Chinook salmon to the mountains north of Redding, California. The agreements support a joint effort to return Chinook salmon to their original spawning areas in cold mountain rivers now blocked by Shasta Reservoir in northern California. The goal is ecological and cultural restoration which will one day renew fishing opportunities for the tribe that depended on the once-plentiful salmon for food and much more

"By working together to share our knowledge and expertise, we can expand and accelerate our efforts to restore and recover Chinook salmon," said Cathy Marcinkevage, Assistant Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region. "This species is in crisis, and I am confident that we can together drive solutions that will truly make a difference."

The Tribe signed a co-management agreement with CDFW and a co-stewardship agreement with NOAA Fisheries, reflecting the way the two agencies describe accords with tribes. This three-way collaboration is an historic achievement that advances our common goals.

Many thanks to Central Pres folk who have expressed loving support for the tribe.

Tribal Chief Caleen Sisk has always appreciated our interest and care!



**Presbyterian Women
News**
**Jane Holmes, PW
Moderator**

A planned Tea celebrating the Birthday Offering's 100 years had to be

cancelled in June due to Covid-19. Women were asked to donate to the celebration through their Circles or at the Church. We had a great response, and Central will send in \$405.00 to support two causes that all PWs across the country will support:

Farmington, Maine – McCleary House for homeless individuals;

Laras Puerto Rico Presbyterian Church Center, and their need for a water purification system that the community relies on. Thank you all for being so generous as it will make a difference to many.

Central's Circles will start up in September. The Miriam Circle will meet Tuesday, September 6th at 9:30am; Contact Nancy Richter at (541) 337-0167. The Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, September 7th at 11:30am. Bring a sack lunch, Contact Jane Holmes at (541) 933-3324.

Both Circles will use Horizons Bible Study *Celebrating Sabbath* written by Carol Bechtel. Seventeen study books have been ordered for those who indicated they needed one. If interested in joining us, let Jane Holmes know.

Books have come in and are located in the office on the long table. Next to them is a sign-up sheet and envelope to place the \$11.00 for the price of the book.



**Amazing
Aphorisms**
Wesley Lachman

Aphorisms are so stunning. They can pack a whole round of teachings into a single phrase. I offer these four in hopes that one or more may capture you.

Thoughts are imaginary.

~ Joel Morwood

I was in the library of my meditation group and was asking Joel questions about thoughts. At first he would say only that thought was a very complicated subject. Then he said: "Thoughts are imaginary." I was astonished. So all these thoughts about myself and others were imaginary. That's how they come and go so quickly. They have no real existence.

The world is inside you.

~ Tom Kurzka

Although we assume that we are "in here" and the world is "out there," contemplatives suggest the opposite. They assert that what you call "my world" at any given moment is an imaginary montage. Only the immediate environment is real for you, and even your grasp of that is a mental creation. Contemplatives teach that the empty spaciousness in which everything takes place is who we truly are.

**Thought can organize the world so well
that you are no longer able to see it.**

~ Anthony de Mello

Our worlds are well organized. We know how to get to the grocery, how to use Google, and where our brown shoes are. This organized world, however, exists only in your mind. The real world sometimes arrives differently: the market is closed, Google fails us, or you can't find those shoes. If you stick with the world as it is organized in your head, you may miss the real one.

**If you cannot find (God) in the here and now,
where do you think you will find him?**

~ Buddhist saying

No one has ever gone even one inch into the past, and nobody has gone into the future. Past and future can be experienced only here and now as imaginary mental videos. So whatever your age, whatever the time of day or night, wherever you are, you are always in the here and now. The rest is fantasy, sometimes helpful, often distracting from what is here and now. God is found here.



Sept 1
Nancy Richter

Sept 8
Jane Rimmerman

Sept 9
Louise deKluyver

Sept 16
Susan Bloom
Edamend Freda

Sept 25
Rev. Jennifer Martin

Sept 26
Mel Anderson

Sept 28
Jackie Onstad



The Endowment Fund Committee

is seeking applications for grants to provide funding of mission and / or church related projects. The committee has \$2,500 available for this cycle.

Applications may be picked up from the church's office and need to be returned to the office by November 1. Successful applicants will be notified of the amount approved by the committee following its meeting scheduled for November 14.

Out Of Office!

I'm getting MARRIED!!



Hello Central,

I'm getting married (yay) Saturday, September 23rd. I look forward to connecting with you all upon my return Monday,

October 2nd. Thank you everyone for the well wishes, love and support.

Many Blessings,
Monique Jones ~ soon to be Rodriguez



Sept 12
Randy & Peggy Lilyengren

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.