



Sunday, December 3
Julie Whitmore Service
2pm~Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 5
Miriam Circle
9:30am~Parlor

Wednesday, December 6
Martha Circle
11:30am~ Parlor

Thursday, December 7
Ministry of Christian Discipleship
9:00am~ Zoom

Monday, December 11
Finance
4:00pm~Zoom

Tuesday, December 12
Personnel
9:30am~Zoom
Church Properties
11:00am~Zoom

Thursday, December 14
Worship & Common Life
10:30am~Zoom

Monday December 18
Session
5:30pm~Zoom
Badminton Group
6:30pm~Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 20
Longest Night Service
4:00pm~Chapel

Sunday, December 24
Intergenerational Service
5:30pm~Chapel
Candles, Carols & Bells
7:30pm~Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 26
Prayer Shawl Ministry
1:30pm~Parlor



How does a
weary world
rejoice? An Advent series in
Luke's Gospel

This year the church season of Advent all takes place in the month of December. It is a season of waiting, of preparation, and of hope. The holiday favorite, *O Holy Night*, proclaims at Christmas there is "a thrill of hope" which inspires the weary world to rejoice. For some, it seems as though hope is hard to come by as we enter these last days of 2023. People around the globe are grieving for a variety of losses, there are wars and rumors of war, and most of us feel worn out from the onslaught of news about discord at every level of human relationships. It can be easy to wonder if our actions, our contributions, even our faith make a difference in such a world.

Our Advent and Christmas theme this year is "How Does a Weary World Rejoice?" Our worship team felt like it spoke to both our Advent hope and the difficult times in which we live. We will be seeking to find ways to rejoice as we make our way toward that holy night of Christmas. Our worship will center around this question, and there is a devotional booklet for you to use at home - in fact, this year it is also available as an e-reader. Contact the church office if you would like to receive a link to download this version for home use. During our adult education time we will be using resources from these devotionals to reflect together. We also have advent calendars for adults and children alike.

As you enter into this season of preparation, I share with you part of a poem by Sarah Speed in which she considers our Advent question. She writes:

*How does a weary world rejoice?
I would guess soul by soul
And day by day.
But if you ask me,
I bet most of it counts.*

The good news of this season is that *all* of it counts - all of you counts. So bring all of who you are to this Advent. There is space for both weariness and joy in the story of this season and in our journey of faith. I pray you will remain open to all God has in store for you this year.

Pastor Jennifer Martin



ADVENT WORKSHOP
December 3 after
worship
Fellowship Hall

The season of Advent begins the first Sunday of December! Mark your calendar now and plan on joining in as we start the journey toward Bethlehem. This will be a fun time together as a church family, with opportunities to create and gather materials to prepare your heart and home for the season leading up to Christmas. We will also be preparing a special gift from the heart for those moving into Peace Village soon. Everyone is welcome!



ADVENT ADULT ED
AFTER WORSHIP
December 10, 17, 24
11:15 am in the
Chapel

Bring your coffee or tea and plan to join in the listening, sharing, and conversation as together we consider the poetry and art from our Advent devotionals. Each Sunday, we will employ lectio divina and visio divina, ways of listening and looking more closely, seeking to discern the Spirit speaking to us through these works of written and visual art. All are welcome!



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE
Wednesday, December 20
4:30 pm, Chapel

For those who have experienced loss of any kind, the joy of the holiday season can often

feel elusive and out of reach. As a result, along with other churches around the world we have adopted the practice of having a Longest Night service during the Advent season. This service is designed to provide

space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the twinkle lights and holiday hustle and bustle. Our theme this year is "A Service for the Weary." Friends, this service is for you. Bring your grief. Bring your weariness. Bring your fatigue, and allow yourself a quiet space to reflect and draw near to God. We hope this time of worship can be a gift to you, providing a space of calm, quiet, and healing, that you may find peace in your journey.

CHRISTMAS EVE AT CENTRAL

We will have two services this Christmas Eve, as well as the opportunity for a contemplative labyrinth experience. Plan now to come celebrate this special night as we worship together.



Intergenerational Service
5:30pm, Chapel

This short service is designed to be meaningful and accessible for the youngest among us, as well as the

young at heart. All are welcome!



Candles, Carols, & Bells
7:30pm, Sanctuary

This traditional service rings in the celebration of the Incarnation with liturgy, song, and candlelight.

Bring a bell if you are able!

We will also be live-streaming this service via Vimeo if you would like to join in virtually. All are welcome!

Candlelight Labyrinth Fellowship Hall

Between services & Following
later service

A contemplative opportunity for those who welcome a quieter, reflective observance. Come, walk

the labyrinth, pray, and enjoy the music and scriptures that will be a part of this experience. All are welcome!



Help decorate our church for Christmas.

We are buying plants to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas.

You can help by making a donation in honor or memory of a loved one, to be noted in our Christmas Eve bulletin. Cost \$15.00 per plant. Deadline is Sunday, Dec 17.



Christmas Bonus Donations

It is the time of year when the Personnel Committee

asks for your help to contribute toward a Christmas bonus for members of Central's staff.

We are asking a little early this year as we would like to be able to distribute the bonus to staff in the mid-December paycheck. The dates for collecting the donations are, December 3, and December 10.

On these three Sundays someone from the Personnel Committee will be standing outside the office with the donation box.

If you are not able to donate in person. Then you can mail your donation to the Church: 555 E 15th Ave, Eugene OR 97401. If you write a check, please note in the memo line "Christmas Bonus."

We would like to receive all the donations by December 11.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Martin
Director of Music: Kendra Taylor
Pianist: Michelle Sulaiman
AV Technician: Sunny Waldorf
Office Manager: Monique Jones~Rodriguez
Financial Secretary: Arlene Hudgins
Maintenance/ Custodian: Jose Toban

SESSION

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

DEACONS

Karen Dyste	Carolyn Keener
Gerry Keener	Mary Breiter
Louise deKluyver	Jacquie Litchfield
Karol Buxton	Yvonne Young
Lu-Nita Hawkins	Jackie Onstad

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

Rick Larson	Quentin Holmes
Peter Carlson	Marian Smith
Jean Tesche	

OFFICE CLOSURES THIS MONTH



Monday, December 25
Monday, December 31

Your support will allow us to recognize our staff for all they do for the church throughout the year. Thanks for your support!

CENTRAL'S 2023 CHRISTMAS PROJECT



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

This year Central, along with two other Presbyterian churches and another non-profit organization, will be providing gifts for the families living in Rainbow Village Apartments, an affordable housing facility in Springfield.

You can help by donating to the Deacons Fund. A small team of Deacons will assemble the following items for twenty Rainbow Village families:

- a Christmas stocking
- A WINCO gift card for an amount that matches the size of the family, and
- A Visa gift card for an amount that matches the number of children in the family.

More details will be provided on Sunday, December 3rd.

In Christ,
Lu-Nita Hawkins and Karol Buxton
Deacon Co-Moderators.



Accepting the Unacceptable Wesley Lachman

When she finally faced the fact that her life wasn't going to be the way she wanted it, Jeannie fell apart. It

wasn't a workday, so she just sat around her apartment, staring at nothing in particular. Her Christmas tree seemed forlorn. She couldn't seem to motivate herself to do anything besides fixing a little food and going for a walk. If this depression were going to change, something would have to happen.

She had a call from her sister, Donna. Jeannie sketched a brief picture of her misery, without going into a lot of detail. Her sister responded surprisingly. She said that what Jeanne was experiencing was her life. All these things were supposed to be in her life right now. You could say they were from God. Donna suggested that Jeannie needed to accept and welcome all the parts of her life situation.

When she hung up, Jeannie wanted to reject this advice. How could these horrible feelings be accepted right now? But she decided to experiment a little. She saw that since she refused to look at and accept her troubles, they had become a big grey cloud, blotting out half of her life. But as she began to accept them as really being there, they transformed from a grey cloud to a handful of specific things. As they took their place in the rest of her life, they no longer blocked out so much, and Jeannie could see her life once again.

She realized that this broader view was her real-life experience, and this changed her perspective. The things she wanted to reject were actually just a small part of the great tapestry of her life. Now she could work on

her problems without being overwhelmed by them.

Christmas Joy Offering



And the Word became flesh and lived among us...~John 1:14

Thank you God, for connecting us. Thank you for neighbors, each with needs and gifts to share, and for our church, the whole church, together, and for Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Christmas Joy Offering is the 4th of the annual Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA) church wider seasonal offerings. When we give to the Christmas Joy Offering, we share our love with the leaders of our church- past, present and future.

50% of our gifts assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. **The other 50%** of our gifts make it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

At these Presbyterian schools and colleges, they teach that faith is to be lived out in the world. Because so many young people today see the church as a building walls to isolate and separate it is all about opening doors to the richness of God's creation. We appreciate the generosity of this congregation in the support of these Special Offerings: "For when we give a little, it adds up to a lot."



Christmas Eve Offering F.I.S.H.

F.I.S.H., Friends

In Service to Humanity, formed in Eugene's River Road district in February 1969 under the direction of Rev. Paul Henry, Pastor of Trinity United Methodist Church. In December 1970, there were 400 volunteers working in various capacities with the FISH organization. FISH serves those in need in the United States and around the world.

In 2018, FISH organization here in Eugene, Oregon provided 29,300 meals, 960 hygiene kits, helped fulfil 240 prescriptions, and filled about 7502 propane tanks.

Today, we have about 50 volunteers coming from over 15 churches and numerous individuals and other organizations. We provide assistance with food boxes, prescriptions and propane assistance. During COVID we scaled back to operating Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays split into two shifts with volunteers manning the phones, working in the kitchen putting together food boxes, or serving on the FISH board. Our hours of service are 10:30am~1:30pm. If you or someone you know could use any assistance from the FISH organization, please call **541-689-9750**.

In addition to the financial support from the Christmas Eve offering, we are providing a shopping list of needed food items with this article about FISH. We thank you for your generous support of the Presbyterian Special Christmas Joy offering and our church's own Christmas Eve offering. Blessings and Good Tidings of Joy during this Christmas Season.

F.I.S.H. Shopping List

Hormel Completes
Canned chili
Canned raviolis
Canned spaghetti & meatballs
Canned stews
Spam
Hot chocolate/ Cocoa packets
Dog/Cat food (canned or dry)
Breakfast bars
Canned fruit
Small canned ham
Coffee
Dry cereals

thank you



Thanks Artists Way for sprucing up our nursery. Come see it!



2nd

Barbara Cowan

11th

Janet Edmondson

Margaret Knudsen

14th

Shirley Griffith

Alison Kelly

18th

Wesley Lachman

Charlie Thomas

23rd

Monique Jones

25th

Del Hawkins

Patty MacAfee

27th

Wendy Unsain



21st

Kirsten Kelso & Jennifer Martin



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Mission Statement

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