

February 2024

Vol 24 No 02

Central

A caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith

Thursday, February 1
Ministry of Christian Discipleship
9:00am~Zoom

Tuesday, February 6
Miriam Circle
9:30am~Parlor

Wednesday, February 7
Martha Circle
11:30am~Parlor

Thursday, February 8
Worship & Common Life
10:30am~Zoom
Book Group Discussion
2:00pm~Parlor
Bell Choir
6:00pm~Chapel
CPC Choir Rehearsal
6:45pm~Sanctuary

Monday, February 12
Bible Study
11:30am~Parlor
Endowment Committee
3:30pm~Zoom
Badminton
6:30pm~Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, February 13
Personnel Committee
9:30am~Zoom
Properties
11:00am~Zoom

Wednesday, February 14
Ash Wednesday Service
4:30pm~Chapel

Monday, February 20
President's Day~ Office Closed

Central Articles Due
Finance
4:30pm~Zoom
Session
5:30pm~Zoom
Badminton
6:30pm~Fellowship Hall

Thursday, February 22
Deacons
4:00pm~Zoom

Tuesday, February 27
Prayer Shawl Ministry
1:30pm~Parlor



This year it seemed that the Christmas decorations were barely put away before hearts and flowers appeared in all the store aisles. The world seemed ready to turn toward Valentine's Day and a celebration of love. This year the church calendar and the secular one have an interesting overlap, in that Valentine's Day is also Ash Wednesday and the beginning of our Lenten season. Our theme for Lent this year, "Wandering Heart" might feel a bit connected to this holiday overlap. However, it is actually inspired by the lyrics to the traditional hymn, *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*, and a look at Lent through the lens of the life and faith of Peter.

Peter is a disciple who is a bit headstrong, passionate, and imperfect, yet it is this flawed person whom Jesus calls the rock. We will again be using resources from A Sanctified Art to guide us through this season. The artists and authors say about this series, "This Lent we're joining Peter in figuring out faith. We're not idolizing or vilifying him: instead we're hoping to wander alongside him, open to what we might learn about Jesus (and ourselves) by stepping in his shoes."

There will be devotionals, prayer cards, art, our Sunday worship together, opportunities for further group reflection during adult education hour after worship, and a midweek contemplative prayer time. I encourage you to

connect in whatever ways might be meaningful for you. I hope that journeying alongside Peter will be a way for each of us to deepen our own journey of discipleship this season. ~ Pastor Jennifer Martin



**CPC ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
IMMEDIATELY AFTER MORNING WORSHIP ON FEBRUARY 11, 2024
LIVE AND BY VIMEO. ALL CENTRAL MEMBERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND**

AGENDA

- BRIEF ORAL REPORTS ON 2023 FROM CENTRAL'S BOARDS AND COMMITTEES.
- APPROVAL OF THE PASTOR'S TERMS OF CALL FOR 2024.
- ELECTION OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS.
- AN OPPORTUNITY FOR MEMBERS TO SHARE THEIR QUESTIONS, THOUGHTS AND CONCERNS.

**COPIES OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023 SHOULD BE AVAILABLE ON PAPER OR VIA PDF BY SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4.



MINISTRY INTERN BETH PFEIFFER

We are excited to welcome Beth Pfeiffer, a member of First Congregational here in Eugene, into the life and worship of CPC for a few months as she serves as a ministerial intern. Beth will lead some of our programs and occasionally lead worship as well. Below is a brief

introduction from Beth. We look forward to learning and praying alongside Beth in this special season of her journey.

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Martin
Ministerial Intern: Beth Pfeiffer
Director of Music: Kendra Taylor
Organist: 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	Jean Tesche
Susan Schroeder	Kathleen Beisse
Alice Schroeder	Barbara Cookson

DEACONS

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

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

Rick Larson	Quentin Holmes
Peter Carlson	Marian Smith
Jean Tesche	



Central articles are due the third Monday of each month. Articles for the March Central Newsletter are due on Monday, February 19, 2024



Our Office will be closed on Monday February 19, 2024 In observance of Presidents Day and will re-open on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.



Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated.

~ Coretta Scott King

Beth writes: I am in my 3rd year at seminary and starting my last term! I have been studying at the Pacific School of Religion in Berkeley. The seminary follows the United Church of Christ minister's requirements, of which I am a member. COVID took education online and allowed me to attend. I began my journey focused on chaplaincy, but I feel I am being called to congregational ministry. I am excited to return to Central, see familiar faces, and get to know your community during the next six months. My family includes my spouse, Dave, who just retired this month, and our two daughters, Naomi (in college) and Neci (graduating high school this year). We also care for two cats and two chickens. I am looking forward to worshipping with you as I explore this calling.

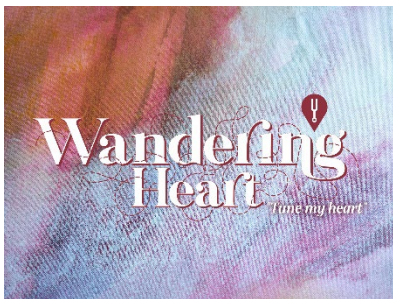


Book Group Planning Meeting

The Book Group Planning Meeting will be on **Thursday, February 8, at 2 pm**, in the church parlor.

Please bring your ideas for books you would like the group to read and discuss.

We will select a book and create a list for those who wish to order the book. We will also create a list of the books for the coming months. Our plan is to start the Book Group on **February 15th**. – Ministry Intern Beth Pfeiffer. If you have any questions, contact Beth at beth99pfeiffer@yahoo.com, and write Book Group in the subject line.



Ash Wednesday Service February 14, 2024 at 4:30 pm CPC Chapel

Our Lenten series, *A Wandering Heart*, begins with this

special service. We will have the opportunity to embark on this Lenten journey together with

prayer, music and the imposition of ashes. All are welcome.



Weekly Online Lenten Devotional Begins February 16

During Lent our congregation will engage with devotional materials from Sanctified Art, as we have in recent years. A devotional booklet and prayer cards will be available to accompany your Lenten journey. The theme this year is "Wandering Heart." The materials focus on the life and faith of Peter, one of Jesus' most famous disciples -- a person who is both steadfast and unsteady, a dear friend and a betrayer, a follower and a wanderer. In Peter, we often see ourselves. By following Peter's journey, we watch the story of Jesus unfold through the eyes of a very normal human trying to figure it all out—just like us.

You're invited to join an online group to explore the materials in the Lenten devotional booklet each Friday at 3:00 pm beginning on February 16. Zoom link found in the weekly "What's Happening" email. Susan Schroeder will facilitate, leading the group in Lectio Divina with scripture and/or poetry and Lectio Visio using the original artwork from the booklet. We pray this time will be enriching for you.



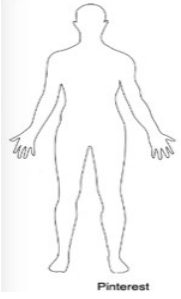
Calling All Fiber Artists!

Do you knit or crochet? Would you like to get together in the church parlor for a couple of hours with other knitters and crocheters and work on your current project? It will be a fun way to spend time with and get to know other church folks while also moving your project forward!

We've scheduled our first Fiber Arts meeting on **Wednesday, February 21, 1:00 pm**. You don't have to bring anything – just your knitting or crocheting. Join us if you can!

Questions? Call or email Susan Schroeder, 541-515-8575, sschroeder1818@gmail.com

Impossible Calling? Wesley Lachman



"The price of enhanced sensitivity is enhanced sensitivity," said Charles pensively. "What if every news release from Ukraine bowled you over? What if every illness that a friend had made you weep? Would you really want that kind of sensitivity?"

"Well," said Eloise, "That sounds pretty awful all right. I just mean being open and available to what is happening around me. It doesn't mean that I have to be floored by every pain I encounter. I just want to be able to recognize the pain and know it without breaking down."

Charles said, "That sounds pretty difficult, to actually carry the pain of another person without reacting to it with emotion or tears or something. If you don't have a reaction, are you really receiving and knowing that pain?"

"I don't know," said Eloise. "I guess what I am talking about is a broad openness to everything that is happening around me. I don't want to be numb to the world of people in pain. I want to know it, to perhaps do something about it. Perhaps what I am looking for is impossible. But somehow I feel called to be both vulnerable and steadfast."



NEW OPPORTUNITIES AT CENTRAL

Several new groups are starting up at Central. After many years of isolation and semi-isolation, the pleasure of each other's company is on everyone's minds.

There is a revival of the book group; now coordinated by the Mission and Christian Discipleship Team, second Sunday potlucks, a knitting group and now... a Daytrip Group.

Some of us love to get away for a day, see a museum or gallery, visit a sight of interest, or just go for a walk on the beach. It is always more fun with company, so come join us. We will have a conversation table at the February potluck to see who is interested and what places or activities bubble up to the surface. So, let us go! Let us get

out there and take some daytrips together. Ready?



Help Make Personal Care Kits for La Casa de Paso

During the month of February, the Virtual Mission Team invites you to bring items for "personal care kits" to send to La Casa de Paso, the emergency shelter for women and children we have been learning about and supporting. Sharon Franklin, who lives part-time in Eugene, and her husband Javier Hernandez provide respite for a night or two at La Casa de Paso and help the asylum seekers with paperwork, doctor appointments, and locating shelter while they wait 4 to 6 months to cross the border. Sharon and Javier like to be able to give the travelers a kit of personal care items to take with them.

Please bring whatever you can from the list below. All items should be new/unused. Put your items in the box in the narthex labeled "Personal Care Kits for La Casa de Paso." Our goal is to make 30 kits. We will use money in the mission budget to round up any items to 30.

If you are not able to go shopping and want to contribute, you can write a check to Central with *personal care kits* in the memo line. We will let you know when we plan to assemble the kits so you can join in the fun!

Please bring medium-sized items (not the very large and not "travel" size)

Toothbrushes -- individually wrapped

Toothpaste -- 3 or 4 ounce size

Children's toothbrushes

Deodorant

Hand lotion -- medium size, something a woman would like

Hand lotion -- medium size, something a man would like

Body wash -- medium size, 20 to 30 ounce

Shampoo -- medium size, 20 to 30 ounce

Comb

Tampons / pads for the women's kits

Hand sanitizer

***Very small bottle of perfume or something that smells good for the women's kits**

***Hair ties/scrunchies for the women's kits**

****The last two items are "fun, nice to have" items for the women's kits.**

January & February

Lane County
Diaper Bank
*Delivering Hope
One Diaper at a Time*



Coin Offering Lane County Diaper Bank Nancy Richter

The Ministry of Christian Discipleship is happy to announce that our for the

January & February offering of 2024 is Lane County Diaper Bank. This non-profit organization began in June 2019. Its focus is on improving our community through programs that solve previously unnoticed problems including disposable diapers and wipes. Together, we are ending diaper need in our community. Children in low-income families are at the greatest risk of suffering the effects of diaper need because many families simply cannot afford diapers. Current public support is of some help, but young children have additional needs necessary to build a foundation for healthy growth and to reach their full potential.

A diaper bank collects, stores, and distributes free material necessities to homeless shelters, food pantries, family service agencies, and faith based organizations, among others. Some are direct service organizations as well.

It costs up to \$80-\$100 per month to diaper one child. For some families it is an extreme cost, especially if there are multiple children in diaper need. (This information from national Diaper Bank Network.)

Funds donated to LC Diaper Bank enable the direct purchase of diapers through innovative cost saving programs. Diaper drives by individuals, communities, and businesses collect diapers to donate to local programs. Volunteers and employees repackage diapers and perform other essential duties.

Households experiencing diaper need are on average 50 diapers short each month. More than a quarter of families in diaper need rely on diaper

banks to help fill in the gap. The LC Diaper Bank uses unused disposable diapers. Open or sealed packages are accepted. Clean and good, used or new cloth diapers are also accepted. Sealed packages of wipes only, please.

There is a wonderful website for LC Diaper Bank at lcdiaperbank.org, or contact them at 541-221-0824. Ministry of Christian Discipleship thanks you for your continued support of the coin-offering program.



Did I overlook your birthday or anniversary this past year? (I can't believe I missed your birthday, because you're too special to ever forget.)

Are you new to Central and would love to have

your birthday & anniversaries added to our church calendar? Please contact Monique at (541) 345-2784 or email:

centralpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com



February 1st

Ed Willson

February 3rd

Ruth Koenig

February 7th

Rich Litchfield

February 9th

Sharon Piper

February 11th

Janet Elliott
Dorothy Kays

February 12th

Barbara Cookson

February 14th

Mary Brieter

February 17th

Nancy Carlton

February 19th

Laurie Inglis

February 24th

Steve Kanaga
Marilyn Watson

February 27th

Margie James

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Michael and Dana Boonstra Feb. 18th

Mission Statement

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

