

Central

A caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith

The Pastors' Pen

Thursdays in March

CPC Book Group
2:00pm~Parlor

Tuesday, March 5

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

Wednesday, March 6

Martha Circle
11:30am~Parlor
Cascara Duo Concert
7:00pm~Sanctuary

Thursday, March 7

Ministry of Christian Discipleship
9:00am~Zoom
Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:00pm~Chapel
CPC Choir Rehearsal
6:45pm~Sanctuary

Tuesday, March 12

Personnel
9:30am~Zoom
Properties
11:00am~Zoom

Thursday, March 14

Worship & Common Life
10:30am~Zoom

Monday, March 18

Session
5:30pm~Zoom

Wednesday, March 20

Fiber Artists
1:00pm~Parlor

Thursday, March 21

Bell Choir Rehearsal
6:00pm~Chapel
CPC Choir Rehearsal
6:45pm~Sanctuary

Wednesday, March 22

Deacons
4:00pm~Zoom

Tuesday, March 26

Prayer Shawl Ministry
1:30pm~Parlor

For Worship & Lenten Studies schedule, see next page

The rain clouds make for a gray view out my window, where the tree limbs are still barren. While I have seen some signs of spring in a few buds around town, along with the crocus and daffodils peeking out in my garden, the weather certainly testifies to the liturgical calendar this year. The quiet contemplative mood of Lent is aided by the rainy weather, encouraging me to pause and reflect. I wonder if the season affects you in the same way?

If it does, the good news is the month of March this year is filled with opportunities to experience the Lenten season in community at CPC. The in person contemplative prayer group on Wednesday mornings, the online Lenten devotional zoom group on Friday afternoon, and our weekly Sunday worship service are happening all month long. Some Sundays we will also have adult ed opportunities to explore our theme of "A Wandering Heart: Finding our Faith with Peter" with one another in the chapel after worship. There is a special evening service on Good Friday. In addition to these, there will be a special Way of Sorrows to help us experience Holy Week through the eyes of Peter. This interactive prayer station opportunity will be set up in our chapel for all of Holy Week, so you can plan to come experience it after worship on Palm Sunday, during church office hours the last week of March, or after our Good Friday Service on March 29th. And, if you have yet to get some, I encourage you to pick up a set of the lenten prayer cards for personal use as you navigate the four weeks remaining in the season.

As we journey together toward the joy of the resurrection on Easter Sunday, I am grateful for this time to share together. My prayer is that just as the rains make the flowers grow, this season of prayer and reflection will nourish our faith, yielding gifts God alone provides.

Pastor Jennifer Martin

Worship & Lenten Studies Calendar

Sundays in March

Worship
10:00am~Sanctuary

Wednesdays in March

Contemplative Lenten Prayer
10:30am~Parlor

Fridays in March

Lenten Devotional
3:00pm~Zoom

Friday, March 29

Good Friday Tenebrae Service
7:00pm~Sanctuary



Annual Meeting Notes

**Report from Central's
Annual Meeting
on February 11, 2024
Merle Bottge, Clerk of
Session**

Highlights from the various committee reports include:

- The Presbyterian Campus Ministry reported that a nonrefundable purchase offer has been made for the K14 Apartments with closing scheduled for April 1st.
- A composite report for Central's six funds shows that Central received more in income than it spent during 2023. Income came primarily from contributions (including a bequest), investment income, and rent. Expenditures were primarily for local program, the building remodel, and other capital expenditures. Mission contributions were 11% of local program expenses – a tithe.
- The Endowment Funds are now invested with New Covenant Trust Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of the PCUSA. Central's endowment funds are now invested in assets consistent with

Central Presbyterian Staff & Committees

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Martin
Ministry Intern: Beth Pfeiffer
Director of Music: Kendra Taylor
Office Manager: Monique Jones Rodriguez
Financial Secretary: Arlene Hudgins
Building Host: Jose Tobon
AV Technician: Sunny Waldorf
Pianist: Michelle Sulaiman

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
Lousie deKluyver	Jacquie Litchfield
Yvonne Young	Karol Buxton
Lu-Nita Hawkins	Jackie Onstad

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 April Central Newsletter are due on Monday, March 18, 2024.



"Despite the forecast, live like its spring."
~ Lilly Pulitzer

Presbyterian values surrounding environmental, social, and internal corporate governance policies. In 2023 the fund distributed 4.5% of its investment portfolio to support Central's budget.

□ With the remodel completed, the Properties committee concentrated on completing other capital projects to make Central a hospitable and safe space for the congregation and renters alike. The congregation elected Susan Schroeder, Louise deKluyver, and Julianne Stermer as members of the Nominating Committee. They join Nancy Richter and Helen Martz, who were elected in May.

The congregation also approved the terms of call for Pastor Jennifer Martin.



Nancy Richter

One Great Hour of Sharing is a special offering that has been collected for 75 years during Lent by Presbyterian churches. It includes three separate funds.

Presbyterian Hunger Program there is an African proverb that says, "When you pray, move your feet." For Presbyterian Hunger Program, this is very much our philosophy. We must combine prayer with action to accomplish our mission to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes. In 2022, the Presbyterian Hunger Program gave 90 grants, nearly 1.2 million dollars, impacting 22 countries, including the USA. Caring for Creation is a necessary to ending hunger and poverty, and the reverse is true. Pollution, extraction, and harm done to the environment worsen social and economic conditions for people who are hungry.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance this fund goes to work alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human caused disasters, and support of refugees. Matthew 25 continues to be a guiding force in the work of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance through the eradication of poverty through grants to vulnerable populations. It works to end systematic racism

addressing climate change, militarism and other form of oppression.

the Self-Development of People this third of the One Great Hour works with low income communities to overcome oppression and injustice. In 2022 it entered into partnership with many projects such as Metropolitan Tenants Organization, Chicago, Laundry Workers Center in New York City, Ciudad Neuva Community Outreach, El Paso, Struggle for Miami's Affordable and Sustainable Housing.

Thank you for supporting One Great Hour of Sharing. It responds directly to the needs God has called us to fulfill in Isaiah 58. One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports programs in over 100 countries including the USA. "If we all do a little, it all adds up to a lot."



CPC Book Group

CPC Book Group has chosen to read and discuss *Poverty, by America* written by Matthew Desmond. The Book group meets on Thursdays afternoons at 2:00pm in the parlor. Come

join us, we would love to hear your perspective.



Lenten Devotional

Weekly Online Lenten Devotional Fridays on Zoom

During Lent our congregation will engaging with devotional materials from Sanctified Art, as we have in recent years. A devotional booklet and prayer cards is 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. 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.



CASCARA DUO CONCERT
March 6, at 7 pm
CENTRAL SANCTUARY

In this concert, our pianist Michelle Sulaiman and Anthony Aguayo (Cascara Duo) will

perform some classics (Weber's *Grand Duo Concertant*, Op. 48 and Saint-Saëns's *Clarinet Sonata*, Op. 167) as well as new works from South American composers (Carrizo's *Impresiones Panameñas*, Nuñez's *Sepia*, and Zúñiga's *Nómadas*). We hope to see you there!



SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCKS

There was good attendance at the Second Sunday Potlucks held in January and February. The potluck lunch

has follows the service and takes place in the Fellowship Hall. Central provides the main dish, table service, and beverages. Participants bring a salad, bread/rolls, or a dessert.

The Worship and Common Life team is looking for ways to build community and connections (see the article from Bev Day in this newsletter.) The potlucks have been a great time to greet old and new friends, and get caught up on Central happenings. There is an on-going need for volunteers to help set up and clean up on potluck days, so please contact **Julianne (541-554-5593)** to volunteer. Spring potlucks will be: March 10, April 14 & May 12.



**CENTRAL
 EXCURSIONS/JAUNTS/DAY-
 TRIPS/OUTINGS GROUP**

As you can see, we need a name. Several people met at fellowship on Sunday, February 18, to help with formation of an

outings group and shared ideas for places to go together for day trips or overnights. The list was extensive and the interest was enthusiastic.

Here are a few of the suggestions:

Gardens: Tulip Fest, Schreiner's Iris Garden, Lebanon Japanese Gardens and more.

Museums: JSMA, Evergreen Air & Space, and more.

Tours: Albany Old Town walking tour and carousel, Philomath Studio Open house tour – so many great ideas and, we suspect, we are just getting started.

More ideas will generate as we begin.

So now it's time to put together a calendar. Join us to plan specific outings and help us organize our new group. **Meet with us on Wednesday, March 13 at 1:00pm at Laurelwood Pub for no host lunch. Please RSVP via call or text to 541-221-1578 by March 5**, so we can make a reservation. Don't forget to bring your calendars!



FIBER ARTISTS

The first Fiber Arts meeting in February was a great success.

Seven fiber artists had fun knitting, crocheting, mending and visiting. We have plans to meet again on March 20, from 1:00pm from 1:00-3:00pm in the parlor. Please join us if you can.



Save the Date!
April 13, 5:30-7:30 pm
Fundraiser to Support Ibrahimi
Family-Owned Business

Please plan to attend a fundraising dinner on Saturday, April 13, 5:30-7:30 pm in Fellowship Hall, to raise

money to support Nasrat and Suraya Ibrahimi and Suraya's brother Hamid in starting **Manti**, a family-owned food truck business in Eugene.

Our congregation (along with other community members) has provided some financial support for the Ibrahimi family – Nasrat, Suraya, and their two school-aged children -- who came to Eugene about a year ago from Afghanistan as asylum seekers. Both Nasrat and Suraya have recently received work permits and been able to start working. Their next goal toward financial independence is to start a family-owned food truck business. This fundraiser will help provide some additional funds to start the business.

Tickets are \$20 each, paid at the door. The Ibrahimi family and some of their friends will cook Afghan and other regional foods for us to enjoy. RSVP by sending an email with your name and the number of people attending with you to truckmanti@gmail.com. We are asking for RSVPs so we know how much food to prepare.

You will hear more about this fundraiser in the coming weeks. For now, put the Manti Food Truck Fundraiser on your calendar and plan to attend!



My Phantom Self
Wesley Lachman

When I was a mere lad, I used to read The Phantom comic strip in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Perhaps you remember him? He lived alone in a great jungle

and was expert in all its ways. The native people

regarded him with reverence, calling him "The Ghost Who Walks." For it seemed to them that he had lived in the jungle for centuries and always appeared when needed. But the role and costume of the Phantom had been handed down from father to son for many generations.

The other day I was reading *Death, the end of self-Improvement* by Joan Tollifson. She referred to our everyday self as a "phantom self." I was jolted. I had never heard the word "phantom" used that way before. What does Tollifson mean by the "phantom self?"

The word "phantom" refers to a figment of imagination, something that doesn't exist. The Phantom character in the comics doesn't exist. He is just a figment, some lines and colors arranged on a piece of paper. As I look at his picture, I do not doubt that he is fictional, but do I appreciate my similarity to him?

When my attention was captured by something else, the Phantom disappeared. The same is true for my phantom self today. For if I pick up a magazine or walk to where the eggs and toast are waiting, my phantom self has probably gone out of my mind, even the memory of him is gone. My phantom self no longer exists in my world. But how can someone that disappears be the true me? The real me must be someone who is right here, where I always am.

But who exactly is always, always here? Perhaps we could say that what is always here for the Phantom are the empty spaces of paper within the boxes of the comic strip. Without them, no Phantom can appear. And for me, I notice that the open space of my awareness is always here. Even if I try to ignore it, it is the empty transparent space in which every person, thing, and event shows up. Without the spacious clear field of my conscious self, not even my ordinary phantom self can appear, and there can be nothing in my world. Although my phantom self can disappear at any time, my true spacious self never goes away.



March/April Coin Offering
White Bird Clinic
Mental Health Services
Nancy Richter

Ministry of Christian Discipleship announces that the March/April coin offering is dedicated

to the White Bird Clinic, focusing on its mental health services. White Bird Clinic has been a collective environment organized to enable people to gain control of their social, emotional and physical well-being since 1970. They do this through direct service, education and community support. White Bird Clinic aims to provide compassionate, humanistic healthcare and supportive services to individuals in the community, ensuring that everyone receives the care they need.

White Bird Clinic provides ongoing, client centered counseling for low-income individuals and families via phone and video.

The Chrysalis Behavioral Health Outpatient Services address substance abuse and mental healthcare through individual and group counseling, drug education, DUI, and acupuncture treatment.

Ministry of Christian Discipleship wants to thank everyone for their continued support of our coin offering program. If you have recommendations for community non-profit organizations or agencies, you would like to be considered as a recipient of the coin offering, please let a Ministry of Christian Discipleship know.



UPDATE ON LAFFERTY COURTYARD

Many have noted that since the removal of a large oil tank from below the surface and other work done during the remodel, our Lafferty Memorial Courtyard needs some attention. Our properties and administration team reached out to the UO

Landscape Architecture department and was delighted to have our courtyard chosen as a class project this term. A small working group from CPC heard about 30 proposals from a class of landscape architecture students at the end of February. They

had MANY ideas for us. The team will now be distilling these ideas from the students into one cohesive plan. They will then make a recommendation to the properties team about how to best implement this renewal plan for the courtyard. In the coming months we will begin this update to the courtyard. Odds are there will be several opportunities for volunteers to help with this ongoing project. So be on the lookout in coming months for courtyard volunteer days. Many thanks to our properties team for this collaboration with our University neighbors.



March 8
Fred Beisse

March 11
Ed Degner

March 20
Sharry Lachman
Don Piper



March 6
Mel & Linda Anderson

March 17
Wesley & Sharry Lachman



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