



Sundays in December
Worship
10:00am~Sanctuary

Mondays in December
Bible Study
11:30am~Parlor
Badminton Group
6:00pm~Fellowship Hall

Thursdays, December 4, 11 & 18
Advent Bible Study
3:00pm~ Parlor

Tuesday, December 3
Miriam Circle
9:30am~Parlor

Wednesday, December 4
Martha Circle
11:30am~ Parlor
Advent Book Group
3:00pm~Parlor

Thursday, December 5
Ministry of Christian Discipleship
9:00am~ Zoom

Tuesday, December 10
Personnel
9:30am~Zoom

Thursday, December 12
Worship & Common Life
9:30am~Zoom

Monday December 16
Session
5:30pm~Zoom

Wednesday, December 18
Fiber Artist
1:00pm~Parlor

Sunday, December 22
Longest Night Service
4:30pm~Chapel

For Christmas Services see Page 3

WORDS FOR THE BEGINNING

"Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy."
- God via Moses

"Take, eat, drink, remember me."
- Jesus at the Last Supper

"Remember your baptism and be thankful"
- Liturgy from the reaffirmation of baptism

"Remember, pretty is as pretty does."
- my mother every morning before we left the house

Around 1980 a new product was invented that revolutionized the way many of us remember things. A man was frustrated that the bookmarks he placed in the hymnal during choir practice didn't stay in place for the Sunday service and a scientist colleague of his had developed an adhesive that stuck lightly to surfaces but wasn't strong enough to bond with anything. Their collaboration to solve this situation became what we now call the Post-it note. Those now ubiquitous papers that can be placed just about anywhere to help us remember just about anything. The fact that their parent company now sells over 50 billion post-its every year is one indication that we can all use a little help remembering.

The holidays are a time for remembering - remembering past celebrations, and traditions, remembering the stories and songs of the season, remembering the reason we celebrate. Our theme for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany this year is, "Words for the Beginning." It's all about words of wisdom we need to hear over and over again to remind us all what matters most as we begin a new church year. In this time of preparation and looking for light in a season of darkness, we hope to be reminded of the wisdom in our scriptures, the words of hope in our faith tradition, the words that remind us who we are and offer us deep joy and peace.

We are once again using the beautiful art and liturgy from A Sanctified Art, LLC, so you will have access to a lovely and thought provoking devotional for your home use during this time. And there will be lots of opportunities for us to gather for worship, study, service, fellowship and fun in the coming month. Check out all that is planned as you look through this month's newsletter. You may even want to put a few post-its in your calendar so you don't forget something special you wish to attend. I look forward to observing this Advent and Christmas season together with all of you as we remember what matters most, celebrating the gift of love Incarnate.

Pastor Jennifer Martin

AFTER WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

We have lots of opportunities this month to join together as we learn, play, eat, reflect, and create together!



Advent Workshop December 1 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. Everyone is welcome!



2nd Sunday Potluck December 8th after worship in the Fellowship Hall

Plan to stay after worship to join in table fellowship as we enjoy this time together. The church will provide a main dish, and

you are encouraged to contribute a side dish, salad, or dessert.



ADVENT ADULT ED: Lectio & Visio Divina after worship in the chapel December 15 & 22

This is your chance to explore the devotional materials from the 'Words for the Beginning' Advent series with others in the congregation. Together we will look at some of the poetry and artwork as we reflect further on this season of preparation. Hope you can join in the conversation!



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE God is With You Wednesday, December 22 4:30 pm, Chapel

For those who have experienced loss or grief 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. 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.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP @ CPC

This year our advent and Christmas worship services will center around the theme, "Words for the Beginning." As this new church year begins, Christ's birth ushers in new ways of living and loving, and we try to navigate our way in this world we turn to the stories in our scriptures for wise words to guide us. The focus each week will be filled with words we need to hear again and again to remind us who we are and who's we are.

December 1st, Advent 1: You Are a Blessing

Luke 1:26-38 & Isaiah 43:1-7

December 8th, Advent 2: We Can't Go Alone

Ruth 1 & Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

December 15th, Advent 3: Do the Good That is Yours to Do

Luke 3:7-16 & Isaiah 58: 9b-12

December 22th, Advent 4: Hope is Worth the Risk

CHRISTMAS EVE AT CENTRAL



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!



Sunday, December 29th, Lessons & Carols

Gather in the chapel for this celebration of the story of the season

filled with opportunities to sing together!

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	Nancy Richter
Rick Larson	Susan Schroeder
Barbara Cookson	Jean Tesche
Pam Sheridan	Kathleen Beisse

DEACONS

Karen Dyste	Wendy Unsain
Mary Breiter	Karol Buxton
Jackie Onstad	Lu-Nita Hawkins
Quentin Holmes	Laurie Inglis

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

Rick Larson	Quentin Holmes
Peter Carlson	Marian Smith
Jean Tesche	Scott Pratt
Marci Gordon	

OFFICE CLOSURES THIS MONTH



**Wednesday, December 25
Wednesday, January 1**



Christmas Bonus Donations

It is the time of year when the Personnel Committee asks for your help to contribute towards a Christmas bonus for members of Central 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 1 and December 8**. On these two Sundays someone from the personnel committee will be standing outside the office with the donation box.

If you are not in church or unable to donate then you can also 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.

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 2024 CHRISTMAS PROJECT



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

This year, Central will be helping some 20 families from Rainbow Village Low-Cost Housing. Central is working alongside two other Presbyterian churches and a third non-

profit organization. In place of project teams, we are asking people to donate to the Deacon's Fund. A small team of Deacons will assemble the following items for each of our 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 people in the family.

Additional details will be provided between now and Sunday, December 8, 2024.

Central's Christmas Project Stockings will get blessed during Worship on **Sunday, December 8**, and delivered over to the Rainbow Village Office on Monday morning, December 9.

In Christ,
Karol Buxton and Quentin Holmes
Deacon Moderator and Vice-Moderator



When Sandy Died Wesley Lachman

It was almost 11:00 a.m. when Wendy called. She never called this late.

"Sandy is dead," she said amidst a flurry of coughs and sobs.

"What happened?"

"Don't know, she was fine at dinner. But she's not breathing or anything now."

"Shall I come over?" He asked.

"Would you?"

"Sure, give me a few minutes."

By the time Timothy walked in and felt Sandy, Wendy had pulled herself together. But Timothy led her to the sofa and put his arm

around her anyway. This led to a fresh bout of tears from Wendy. Then she got up to sit in the recliner on the other side of the coffee table. "Sorry, I feel just so fragile right now."

So Wendy made some tea, and they talked on into the night about what a wonderful companion Sandy, the Golden Lab, had been. She was friendly and open with new dogs and people. She was watchful of strangers. She came when called—mostly—and she spent hours napping quietly in her bed.

Suddenly Wendy sat up: "I want to do some kind of memorial gathering for Sandy, just something simple and quiet. I can ask my Rev. Valrey about it. He's pretty Evangelical. You better ask your Rev. Benson across the valley as a backup. He's more liberal."

"Great idea, Wendy, Let's meet online tomorrow around noontime and report."

When they met at 1:00 the next day they had each contacted their clergymen but neither had managed to score a memorial for Sandy. Rev. Valrey was sorry to hear about Sandy. But he told Wendy that the principal reference to dogs in the Bible was to eat up the remains of enemy soldiers, and therefore he couldn't very well do a memorial for Sandy. However, he would pray for the family and friends in his pastoral prayer next Sunday.

Rev. Benson had welcomed Timothy into his office but frowned when he heard his request. "You see Timothy, I created quite a stir from the pulpit just a few weeks ago, before the election. If I have some kind of ceremony for a dog right now, even for Sandy, I'd never live it down."

They shared their disappointment, but then Wendy brightened up: "Y'know what, I'll ask my friend Sarah to host a gathering in her gorgeous back garden. She loved Sandy.

And I have already arranged for a local mortuary to keep Sandy incognito in their freezer so she'll be all fresh for the memorial."

So on the appointed day, as the guests filed respectfully into Sarah's back garden, they first encountered a large Metropol sheet cake. It said, "Goodbye Sandy, Goodbye old girl." They then noticed people gathering under the maple tree on the other side of the lawn. As they approached, they saw Sandy resting on a bed of flowers, all brushed up and beautiful, the glory of God.



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 wide 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



Nancy Richter

The 2024 Christmas Eve Special Offering is dedicated to the Hope and Safety Alliance. (Formerly known as Women Space) They have been providing hope and safety to survivors of domestic violence for over 45 years. Every year they serve thousands of survivors and their children from BIPOC, LBGTQIA+, men, and survivors with disabilities through Lane County. Domestic violence is everywhere and does not discriminate based on race, religion, economic position, and education or gender identity.

Hope and Safety Alliance offers educational programs and training workshops on identifying, knowing and understanding the impact of intimate partner abuse. They offer specialized training in the practice of trauma-informed care. They also collaborate with Lane County School Districts to provide the Healthy Relationships curriculum to middle and high school students.

Hope and Safety Alliance believes everyone has the right to live free from violence and fear of abuse.

Your generous support of the Presbyterian Christmas Eve Special offering is greatly appreciated. We wish you all Hope, Love, Joy and Peace during this Christmas Season.



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.***