

February 2025

Vol 25 No 02

# Central

*A caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith*

## Sundays in February

Worship

10:00am~Sanctuary

Fellowship Hour

11:15am~Parlor

## Mondays in February

Bible Study

11:30am~Parlor

Badminton

6:30pm~Fellowship Hall

## Thursdays in February

Book Group

3:00pm~Parlor

Bell Choir

6:00pm~Sanctuary

CPC Choir Rehearsal

6:45pm~Sanctuary

## Tuesday, February 4

Miriam Circle

9:30am~Parlor

## Wednesday, February 5

Martha Circle

11:30am~Parlor

## Thursday, February 6

Ministry of Christian Discipleship

9:00am~Zoom

Book Group Discussion

3:00pm~Parlor

## Monday, February 10

Nominating Committee Meeting

2:30pm~Parlor

## Tuesday, February 11

Personnel Committee

9:30am~Zoom

Properties

11:00am~Zoom

## Thursday, February 13

Worship & Common Life

10:30am~Zoom

## Monday, February 17

President's Day~ Office Closed

**Central Articles Due**

Session

5:30pm~Zoom

## Wednesday, February 19

Fiber Artist

1:00pm~Parlor

## Sunday, February 23

Deacons

11:15am~Sanctuary

## Tuesday, February 27

Prayer Shawl Ministry

1:30pm~Parlor

## The Pastor's Pen

*The Eternal One has told you, o mortal, what is good,  
And what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8*

*"Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief.  
Do justly, now. Love mercy, now. Walk humbly, now.  
You are not obligated to complete the work,  
but neither are you free to abandon it."  
- paraphrase of the writing of Talmudic scholar Rabbi Tarfon  
in the Pirkei Avot 2:16*

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed,  
citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.  
- Margaret Mead*

It has been hard for me to focus long enough to write this article. As the month of January unfolded, it got more overwhelming each day. Between news of wildfires and ice storms, continued violence and war, and the grief of learning about the death of several people I love and admire, followed by what seems to be the rapid dismantling of services and support our government has provided to the most vulnerable in our midst and around the world. . .I admit there was a part of me that simply wanted to turn off the news, hide under the covers and pretend it this year had not yet begun.

Of course, numbing out or pretending all is well only isolates one, and feeds the feelings of fear and despair that are being trafficked with glee in our larger culture. So instead of hiding I found myself trying to reflect and respond in a way that would be both more healthy and more faithful. I was reminded of the wisdom of Franciscan priest Father Richard Rohr who in his writing on Jesus and the Empire, encourages the faithful to try and recover, the "Jesus Experience" by living

simply, working for social justice, ignoring unjust systems and building up a better system by living out Christ's teaching to his disciples.

So if we are called to help build up a better system, to help co-create the kingdom of God in our world here and now, the question I keep returning to is, "What is mine to do?" The scripture from Micah above and the writings of Rabbi Tarfon about it from the Talmud, both offer wisdom on this question. The grief, pain, and suffering in the world can overwhelm us. So it helps to remember that no single one of us has been given the assignment of fixing or changing it all. However, we are called to do what is ours to do. That starts with turning off the constant barrage of news once in awhile, and spending some time reading scripture and the writings of wise teachers, praying and meditating so we can discern where it is we are called to speak and give and act. Then we can go out into the world, and treat those we encounter with loving kindness and mercy. We can find people who are called to the same concerns that trouble our hearts, so we might work and pray and speak out together. Working together isn't a quick fix, but as Margaret Mead reminds us, it is what brings about change bit by bit.

And we must also make time for rest and for joy - both of which we are called to in our scriptures and both of which are acts of resistance in times such as these. Times of rest and times of joy, making space for beauty and music, art and poetry, these things renew our spirits so we have the energy, imagination, and hope to continue doing what is ours to do.

Friends, I cannot even begin to predict what tomorrow holds, much less this month or this year. But I do know whatever comes we will face it together, as did the saints before us, trusting the Spirit is here in our midst leading us to a time filled with more justice and joy.

With defiant hope,  
Jennifer

## CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Martin  
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 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



*Our Office will be closed on  
Monday February 17, 2025  
In observance of Presidents Day  
and will re-open on Tuesday,  
February 18, 2025.*

### **In Memoriam**

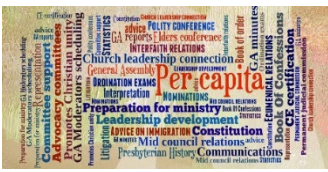


**Carolyn J. Keener**

**Member of Central since 1961**

**January 3, 1935- January 21, 2025**

Forever thankful for her steadfast devotion to Central, its congregation, and to the larger community.



## Your per capita payment helps Central's operating budget.

Each year Presbyterian churches are asked to provide a "per capita" payment to help pay administrative costs of the levels of our Church above our own congregation. Our per capita payment helps support the Presbytery of the Cascades, the Synod of the Pacific, and our denomination, the national church. It is called "per capita" because the amount is based on the number of active members. For 2025, Central's per capita payment is \$50.00 per member.

Central's operating budget has a line item for the per capita payment, and we make our payment early in the year. But each member can help us with this budget expense by paying their per capita amount.



## "The Borderland: The Line Within" February 2

You're invited to attend a community screening of the film "The Borderland: The Line Within" at the Arthouse (former Bijou Theater) on Sunday, February 2 at 4:00 pm. This is a fundraiser for OCAN, the Oregon Community Asylum Network, to aid their work

supporting asylum seekers in Lane County.

Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$12 at the door. To purchase tickets in advance, go to this website: <https://www.eugenearthouse.com/chec-kout/showing/ocan-presentsborderland/1417792/>

About the film: The United States border is not just a geographic location. The border is everywhere. This film not only exposes the profitable business of immigration and its human cost, but weaves together the stories of immigrant heroines and heroes resisting and showing a way forward, intent on building a movement in the shadow of the border industrial complex, recognizing the human rights of all.

## Surviving Together



**A presentation by Robert D. Clark Lecturer Patty Krawec**  
**4:00 pm, Tuesday, February 4**  
**Knight Library Browsing Room at the UO**

As a part of the University of Oregon's Re-Imagine series, the community is invited to this presentation. Author and speaker Patty Krawec, an Anishinaabe/Ukrainian writer and speaker belonging to the Lac Seul First Nation in Treaty 3 territory Canada, is a founding director of the Nii'kinaaganaa (we are all related) Foundation which challenges settlers to pay rent for living on Indigenous land and disburses those funds to Indigenous people, meeting immediate survival needs as well as supporting the organizing and community building needed to address the structural issues that create those needs. In addressing the question, "How do we survive?" some of the areas she will discuss include : We survive by becoming kin. By remembering what it means to be related not only to each other but to the worlds around us. Revisiting our traditional stories, whatever those traditions may be, and re-imagining them in our contemporary world, can help us find new ways to see each other and forge the solidarities we need to survive.

This presentation is free and open to the public, and will be live-streamed and recorded. However, registration is necessary to attend. For more information and to register visit this site: <https://calendar.uoregon.edu/event/clark-lecture-patty-krawec>



## BOOK GROUP RESUMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6TH 3:00 pm Thursdays in the Parlor

The group has chosen the book *Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of*

*America* by Heather Cox Richardson. One reviewer has said: "Richardson reminds us that democracy requires constant vigilance and participation from all of us, showing how we, as a nation, can take the lessons of the past to secure a more just and equitable future." We will begin discussions on this book the first Thursday in February. Bookmarks with the reading schedule



are available in the church office. All are welcome so come join in the conversation!



### Protecting Immigrant Rights Forum February 7

Church Women United is hosting a Protecting Immigrant Rights forum on Friday, February 7, at 10:00 am at St. John the Divine Episcopal

Church, 2537 Game Farm Road in Springfield. Leading the forum is Benjamin Ficklin, an Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice (IMIrJ) coordinator. To learn more about this Portland-based organization, go to this website: <https://www.imirj.org>

Some of us from Central would like to attend this forum. We could meet at Central and carpool in one or two cars instead of each of us driving separately. If that appeals to you, let Susan Schroeder at [sschroeder1818@gmail.com](mailto:sschroeder1818@gmail.com). Thanks!



### POTLUCK & PRESENTATION Sunday, February 9th Following Worship in the Fellowship Hall

At our second Sunday potluck this month, we will have the opportunity to hear from Marisa Rubino and Cady Wills from Lawn Be Gone Sustainable Landscape Solutions. Many of you are aware that a little over a year ago we were given a generous donation help fund more earth-friendly options for the church landscaping. It was determined that a good starting place would be the large lawn area east of the Fellowship Hall at the corner of Patterson and 15th.

After much discussion, we invited some local companies to help us. Lawn Be Gone was the most responsive and several members of our congregation participated in an adult education time last month as they presented examples of more sustainable options. At that time, the East Lawn group decided to retain their services to help us reimagine that part of our grounds. They have made a proposal, which will be posted for

all to peruse. We are so grateful that Marisa and Cady will be able to join us at the potluck to answer questions and offer information about the plan. Hope you can be there!



### Valentines for Church World Service Nancy Richter

As many of you may remember, our congregation usually sells Valentines on Sundays in February for supporting the Church World Services (CWS) Blanket Program. This year on February 2 and February 9, we are once again selling Valentine cards. Many from the congregation and others have drawn, cut, and pasted, or colored beautiful Valentines, some with messages, to sell for \$5.00 each before and after worship services. Cost of a blanket is \$10.00. The sale of two cards will buy one blanket.

The Church World Services blankets are used to support communities and people affected by natural disasters, conflicts, or wherever possible to provide warmth and comfort as people are coping with being displaced from their homes, communities, and their loved ones. As a reminder that they are loved. Let your response be one of love for our neighbors at home and around the world in their time of need. Thank you!



### ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING Sunday, March 2nd Following Worship in the Sanctuary

Plan now to stay after worship on the first Sunday in March for our annual church meeting. We will hear from the various ministry teams and committees of the church highlighting the outreach and ministry done in 2024, vote on Rev. Martin's terms of call, and elect members to the nominating committee. There will be a printed annual report for 2024 available two weeks prior to the meeting so you will have plenty of time to read it before our meeting. This is the rare meeting that leaves one feeling joyful as we pause to look back together at the many blessings and opportunities we were able to take part in over the past year, we hope you can be there!



**Presbyterian Women  
of Central  
Jane Holmes &  
Nancy Richter**

The Miriam and Martha Circles of Central have recently disbursed funds to several local projects, to the Birthday Offering, and to the Thank Offering.

Because we no longer send quarterly amounts to the Presbytery, (PW of the Cascades no longer exists). We had more funds to do this:

1. The Suraya Ibrahim Family, to help with the cost of food, electricity, etc. **\$500.00**
2. Birthday Offering – we had \$350, added \$150 **\$500.00**
3. Thank Offering – we had \$150, added \$400 **\$500.00**
4. FISH – Propane Program **\$500.00**
5. Women's Center, The Eugene Mission's Life Change Program **\$1,200.00**

Total disbursements **\$3,200.00**

We are grateful to be able to help those in need at this time.



**Mud and Mercy  
Wesley Lachman**

How do you think God can be utterly merciful and yet permit horrible things to happen?"

asked Ronnie.

"Does anybody really know the answer to that one?" asks Elizabeth. Some of the greatest teachers say that the *problem of pain* simply can't be answered. Ow! A bee just stung me. I must have disturbed him when I stretched my leg out on the grass. Ow, it really hurts."

"I'll get some mud from the lake," said Ronnie, "that should help. It'll even draw some of the poison out." Ronnie runs down to the lake, finds a clear spot and brings back a handful of mud.

"Are you sure about this?" asks Elizabeth.

"You bet, we used to do this all summer long when I was a kid. Here, helps every time. What were you focused on before I brought the mud?"

"The pain," admits Elizabeth.

"What are you focused on now?"

"Why, the coolness of the mud."

"So we must ask," said Ronnie, "Is mud how God is merciful here?"



**January & February  
Coin Offering  
Nightingale Hosted Shelters  
Nancy Richter**

The Ministry of Christian Discipleship is happy to announce that our January & February coin offerings of 2025 are Nightingale. This non-profit organization has been in existence since 2017. Since then 240 NHS residents have moved out of NHS and found adequate housing. Residents are given YMCA membership and bus passes, and through a partnership with the local Dari Mart, use the kitty-corner Dari Mart as a pantry.

As part of Eugene's Rest Stop Program, NHS provides huts, port-a-potties, garbage, and recycling at its camp. The goal is to offer people a transitional place to be and recover from the trauma of the streets as they work their way to more traditional housing.

The management philosophy is self-governance and a focus on skill building. This provides residents of NHS with autonomy, responsibility, and dignity. Oversight is provided by the two managers, the Site council, and the Steering committee.

Nathan Showers and Tracy Joscelyn are the two camp managers, and have lived experience and relevant skills in social services, advocating for vulnerable populations, counseling, and mediation. Nathan has been a chef at Best Western Kitchen; Nathan holds a Culinary Arts degree. Tracy, has worked for Food for Lane County's Dining Room.

The Site Council consists of the two camp managers, and the residents of the camp. The council addresses the challenges that arise at camp.

The Sterring Committee consists of seven board members and the two camp managers. This committee raises funds, takes care of the legal and administrative matters, and is available for problem solving, support, and mediation. For more information on Nightingale Hosted Shelters, you can visit their website at <http://www.nightingaleshelters.org>

MCD wants to thank the congregation for your continued generous support of the coin offering program.



Rich Litchfield

Sharon Piper

February 11<sup>th</sup>  
Janet Elliott  
Dorothy Kays

February 12<sup>th</sup>  
Barbara Cookson

February 14<sup>th</sup>  
Mary Brieter

February 17<sup>th</sup>  
Nancy Carlton

February 19<sup>th</sup>  
Laurie Inglis

February 24<sup>th</sup>  
Steve Kanaga  
Marilyn Watson

February 27<sup>th</sup>  
Margie James



Michael and Dana Boonstra

Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>



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](mailto:centralpresbyterianchurch@gmail.com)



February 1<sup>st</sup>  
Ed Willson

February 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Ruth Koenig

February 7<sup>th</sup>

February 9<sup>th</sup>

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**Website: [www.centraleugene.church](http://www.centraleugene.church)**



**Mission Statement**

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