



Central

A caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith

Sundays in January

Worship

10:00am ~Sanctuary

Fellowship Hour

11:15am~Parlor

Mondays in January

Bible Study

11:30am~ Parlor

Badminton

6:30pm~Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, January 7

Miriam Circle

9:30am~Parlor

Thursday, January 9

Ministry of Christian Discipleship

9:00am~Zoom

Worship & Common Life

11:00am~Zoom

Martha Circle

11:30am~Parlor

Sunday, January 12

Second Sunday Potluck

11:15am~Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, January 14

Personnel

9:30am~CPC Library

Church Properties

11:00am~Zoom

Wednesday, January 15

Fiber Artist

1:00pm~Parlor

Monday January 20

Office Closed: MLK DAY

Central Articles Due

Session

5:30pm~Zoom

Sunday, January 26

Deacons

11:15am~

Tuesday, January 28

Prayer Shawl Ministry

1:30pm~Parlor



*But the darkness embraces everything:
shapes and shadows, creatures and me,
people, nations — just as they are.*

*It lets me imagine a great presence stirring beside me.
I believe in the night.*

- Rainer Maria Rilke, from Book of Hours

Jane Kenyon penned a poem called *Taking Down the Tree* in which she describes the darkness of the winter season and the cautious, memory-filled task of putting away holiday decorations. The last phrase of the poem reads, "By suppertime, all that remains is the scent of balsam fir. If it's darkness we're having, let it be extravagant."

Too often we are afraid of dwelling for a bit in the extravagant darkness this season offers. Yes, the solstice is behind us and light is returning every day, second by second. But while we may look forward to that (especially on a foggy and rainy day) it is good for us to remember that God is also with us in the dark. In Psalm 139:11-12 the psalmist says to God, "If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me,' even the darkness is not dark to You; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to You."

I am obviously writing this in the midst of Christmastide. Most of the world has a one day and done relationship with this holiday - in fact a friend of mine has already spotted a display of chocolate Easter eggs at her local grocery store! But our liturgical calendar gives us twelve long days to ponder and celebrate the incarnation. This holy season is followed by Epiphany and the Sundays after, when we contemplate the literal meaning of the word epiphany, as in manifestation. The beginning of the calendar year is the time we in the church are pondering the ways Christ manifests the presence of God in the world - whether we are thinking about images of light or following stars in the night. Stories of the Divine revealing the Holy here in our midst pervade the Sundays between the twelfth day of Christmas right up to the beginning of Lent.

This month we will be reveling in these seasons as we have two more Sundays in our *Words for the Beginning* series, pick up our star words for the year, and move into the season after Epiphany. I pray these opportunities for worship, along with educational and service offerings, will be a tangible reminder that even in the extravagant darkness of January, we have nothing to fear. Rather, we have reason to hope - for God is with us. Always.

With hope,
Jennifer



Thank you to all who purchased wreaths made by Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas, a group of farm worker women in the Woodburn area.

This project is coordinated by CALC, who is also the recipient of our November/December Coin Offering. The wreath sales for our area exceeded all previous years. Collectively, we sold 521 Wreaths, Central members purchased 35 wreaths.

When the sale numbers were reported to Rebeca Velasquez at Mujeres Luchadoras Progresistas, speculating that our sales were high because people have a heart for immigrants in this political moment, here is what she responded (translation by CALC coordinator).

"Thank you, we need it because we are with fear, since the elections we feel defeated in spirit. Blessings for all who have helped us." Learn more about this group of women farm workers at <https://www.mujeresluchadoras.com/>. Donations are accepted year round.



Central Presbyterian Church Staff

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

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	

CPC OFFICE IS CLOSED ON MONDAY, JANUARY 20th 2025 FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY



*"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."
 ~ Martin Luther King*



Christmas Wreaths Ring Returns

Please drop off your wired wreath ring in the Narthex.



SECOND SUNDAY POTLUCKS

The Fellowship Team is pleased to so many have been enjoying the Second Sunday potlucks.

Save the date: January 12, 2025, following worship. We will provide the entree and beverages, and

encourage the congregation to bring bread, a side dish or dessert to share. Thank you Charlie, for washing all the dishes!

Bathroom Kit Shopping List

Buy whatever you like on this list, in whatever quantity. We will combine all items Feb 5. New items, please, or very gently used.

- Bath towels, lightweight (6/kit)
- Wastebasket
- Toilet paper (6 rolls/kit)
- Shower curtain & rings
- Bathmat
- Laundry basket
- Toilet plunger

Put the items in the box in the narthex labeled "Refugee Bathroom Kits"

Help Welcome Refugees in Lane County

Catholic Community Services' Refugee and Immigrant Services Program (RISP) welcomes refugees to Lane County and helps them get integrated into the community.

When refugees arrive, most

bring only what they can carry. RISP staff and the Refugee Resettlement Coalition volunteers welcome them by providing several types of Welcome Kits. Many of these Kits are made by faith communities and community organizations.

The Ministry of Christian Discipleship invites you to help gather the items needed to make Bathroom Kits for incoming refugees. We plan to collect items during January and assemble the kits on February 5, the first Sunday in February. Our goal is to make 20 bathroom Kits. Items needed for the Bathroom Kits are listed in the previous column. Please buy new items, or bring very gently used items. Buy as many items on the list as you like -- your items will be combined with items brought by others. We'll assemble the Kits on Sunday, February 5. Put your items in the box in the Narthex labeled "Refugee Bathroom Kits."

Please note that we've set a rather quick turnaround for this project. We'd like to assemble the Kits on February 5. So please go shopping soon! Questions about this project? Send an email to Susan Schroeder, sschroeder1818@gmail.com



CENTRAL'S 2024 CHRISTMAS PROJECT: A Final Report

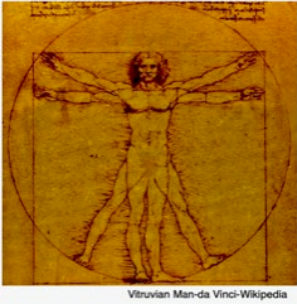
The Christmas Project is one of the ways that Central fulfills its mission of being a Caring Community of

Believers. The Deacons organize this project. However, the heart of the Christmas Project comes from you, the members and friends of Central. It is always a bold "Adventure in Faith."

This year, Central worked alongside two other Presbyterian churches and a third organization to help a total of 68 families in need from Rainbow Village. Central was responsible for 20 families.

In addition, Central provided \$25 gift card for each of the 79 remaining adults at Rainbow Village.

Thanks be to God!
Quentin Holmes & Karol Buxton,
Deacon Co-Moderators



Split or Whole

Wesley Lachman

*Whole people see and create
wholeness wherever they go.
Split people see and create
splits in everything and
everybody.*

Richard Rohr, [Falling Upward](#)

The above quote is a profound spiritual teaching. It says that if you see yourself as whole, you will see and create wholeness wherever you go. And your world becomes whole. On the other hand, if you see yourself as split into likes and dislikes and so on, you will see your world as split up into this and that.

This idea is disturbingly familiar to me. For I can go through an entire day without seeing much of anything as whole. Everything seems wrong, split, and opposite to my wishes: politicians, wars, cruelty, suffering, and superficiality. Wherever I look I am dissatisfied with this part or that part. It's all split up in one way or another.

Richard Rohr, the well-known Franciscan, suggests that the solution is not to run around trying to fix things so they seem whole to our eyes. Rather, he suggests that if we realize that we are whole we will be able to see the wholeness of the world.

To illustrate let us borrow a phrase from Paul's writings concerning our oneness as the body of Christ. *The body does not consist of one member but of many . . . There are many members yet one body.* We have no difficulty with this. Our hands, eyes, and feet are each a part of our human bodies, although we can easily differentiate one from the other. They make up a single body. The world's problems and pieces behave

similarly. They are all one body, although we may differentiate the parts.

This world is God's world. As has been said, the world is perfect just as it is, and it could stand a little improvement. But our desire to improve this or that are themselves part of the world's perfect wholeness!



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.)

Or, 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

JANUARY Anniversaries

Geoff & Marci Gordon

Jan 4



Jan 3rd

Carolyn Keener
Laura Mason

Jan 6th

Bob Bottge
Jenya Lindstrom

Jan 8th

Linda Zimmerman

Jan 14th

Margaret Prentice

Jan 15th

Randy Kolb
Kathy Raines

Jan 16th

Dana Boonstra

Jan 18th

Jacquie Litchfield

Jan 19th

Arlene Hudgins

Jan 21st

Marian Smith

Jan 23rd

Helen Martz
Kendra Taylor
Julie Schultz

Jan 27th

Kathy Koelling

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Mission Statement

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a caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith.

