

September 2025

Central

A caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith

Sundays in September

Worship

10:00am~Sanctuary

Fellowship

11:15am~Parlor

Mondays in September

Bible Study

11:30am~Parlor

Badminton Group

6:30pm~Fellowship Hall

Thursday, September 4

Ministry of Christian Discipleship

9:00am~Zoom

Monday, September 8

Personnel

9:30am ~ Zoom

Tuesday, September 9

Church Properties

11:00am~Zoom

Thursday, September 11

Worship & Common Life

10:30am~Zoom

Sunday, September 14

Meet Your Deacon Sunday

11:15am~Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 15

Central Articles Due

Session

5:30pm~Zoom

Wednesday, September 18

CPC Choir Rehearsal

6:45pm~Sanctuary

Tuesday, September 23

Prayer Shawl Ministry

1:00pm~Parlor

Sunday, September 28

Deacons

11:15am~Chapel

From the Pastor's Pen...



"There is a time in late September when the leaves are still green,
and the days are still warm,
but somehow you know that it is all about to end
as if summer was holding its breath,
and when it let it out again, it would be autumn." - Sharyn McCrumb

For many of us, September is the "back to school" month. That was true for me most of my life into adulthood. To be honest, I still have to resist the urge to purchase a few new pens or pencils and maybe a notebook this time of year. Many of my friends have been posting first day of school pictures or sharing stories of settling young adults into dorm rooms and apartments. We all know that the neighborhood around the church will soon be filling up with college students returning for the fall term at the university. And the church building will soon be ringing with voices of students and teachers at Bridgeway.

Whether or not you or someone you love is beginning classes soon, September is definitely a time for transitions: a threshold between seasons when we have the privilege to enjoy the last few days and weeks of the summer, even as the autumn begins to come our way by longer evenings, cooler mornings, and turning leaves. September invites us to slow down and savor the beauty of both seasons before the busyness that seems to take over as winter holidays loom closer. Perhaps for you that looks like making time to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee outside before the rains return, or going for a walk with a friend in the September sunlight, or pausing to notice the beauty and abundance this time of year holds.

This month in worship, we will once again be celebrating the Season of Creation. This year's theme for this ecumenical observance is "Peace With Creation." As a congregation, we will take time to ponder what it is we can do as stewards of this planet to help make that peace possible. I pray we will answer September's invitation to pause and breathe deeply - to appreciate both the summer and the autumn, So that in our own ways we will go back to school and be open to learning new ways to live and love and make peace - both with one another and with creation.

With relentless hope,
Jennifer



Presbyterian Women News

Jane Holmes
PW Moderator

It's almost fall and time to start up the Circles at Central!

Both Circles use the Horizon's Bible Study, and this year's study is *Finding Resilience, Joy and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by Rashell D. Hunter.

The Miriam Circle will meet Tuesday, September 2 at 9:30am; Contact Nancy Richter at (541) 337-0167. The Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, September 3 at 11:30am. Bring a sack lunch. Tea will be provided. Contact Jane Holmes at (541) 933-3324.

Both Circles meet monthly. All women are invited to participate in one or both Circles.



MEET YOUR DEACONS SUNDAY SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

At Central, all members/friends.

Central are assigned to a flock with a specific person as their deacon. This is just one of the ways we help fulfill Central's mission of being a caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith. Central's Board of deacons is comprised of ordained people who serve our congregation. Meet Your Deacon Sunday is designed to give your deacon a chance to get to know you better and vice versa.

On September 14, a rolling bulletin board containing a photo of each deacon and their flock number will be in the Narthex. Plan to stay after worship for the fellowship and a chance to meet your deacon.

Quentin Holmes & Laurie Inglis
Deacon Co- Moderators

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF & ELECTED LEADERS

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

SESSION

Bev Day	Nancy Richter
Rick Larson	Pam Sheridan
Barbara Cookson	Jean Tesche
Kathleen Beisse	Nani Cagney

DEACONS

Mary Breiter	Quentin Holmes
Karen Dyste	Patty MacAfee
Laurie Inglis	Wendy Unsain
Lu-Nita Hawkins	Laura Mason
Jane Holmes	Rick Ohlson
Susan Bloom	Janet Edmonson

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

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



"Autumn is a second
spring when every leaf is a
flower." ~ Albert Camus





RECYCLING UPDATES

Thanks to a CPC member, we now have a place to recycle or donate old prescription

bottles and small over-the-counter medicine bottles.

The bottles **MUST** have the labels and glue **REMOVED, BE CLEAN** and **HAVE LIDS ON**. The bottles will be sent to Ohio and then shipped to *Doctors Without Borders*. If you want to read more about the program, you can Google Matthew 25 Ministries in Ohio. Thanks to everyone for all your support in our recycling program.



**September/October
Coin Offering
Willamette Resources
and Educational Network**
Nancy Richter

WREN (Willamette Resources and Educational Network) is a non profit organization whose mission is to educate and promote land stewardship through programs and partnerships with the emphasis on the application of scientific research in the management of critical habitats. WREN has a particular focus on how they conserve and recover federally-listed species and sensitive animal and plant species on public lands.

WREN is located in the West Eugene Wetlands which is home to protected species on over 3,000 acres of increasingly rare wetlands and oak uplands.

WREN also provides opportunities for community members to engage in educational programs for the youth, families, and adult life learners. The school-based programs are designed to complement existing school curricula by incorporating Oregon's science standards by teaching science in the context of land stewardship.

The September/ October coin offering recipient, WREN is especially timely as we will soon begin our Season of Earth Care. The Ministry of Mission and Christian Discipleship thanks you for your generous support of the Coin Offering Ministry.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

Nancy Richter

Our Peace and Global Witness Special Offering promotes the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and across the world. Our gifts to the Peace and Global Witness offering help our neighbors in need- those who live next door, down the street, and across the globe.

25% of the offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.

25% of this offering goes to our presbytery to join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region.

50% of this offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

This year, we will dedicate this special offering on October 5, 2025. The Ministry of Mission and Christian Discipleship has recommended to Central Presbyterian Church's Session that our 25% of the Peace and Global Witness Special Offering go to support NAACP.

With the Session's unanimous approval, we will be supporting NAACP to continue their mission in advocacy, education, and assistance for individuals of our local community, especially, during these current difficult times we are living in. Our neighbors need us. Please give what you can to the Peace and Global Witness Special Offering. "When we all give a little, it adds up to a lot."



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

The Eugene-Springfield NAACP has been chosen to receive the local portion (25%) of this year's Peace & Global Witness offering. We've

asked the NAACP President to come to Central on Sunday, September 28, to talk with us about their work and priorities.

The NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) was founded in 1909 by a group of Black and white social justice activists and is the oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States. The NAACP's initiatives are rooted in the understanding that equality, justice, and freedom are fundamental rights for everyone, yet they remain elusive for many, especially for the Black community.

The Eugene-Springfield NAACP's work includes legal redress support for community members experiencing racially motivated bias and hate incidents; conducting hate and bias awareness training for community members; and advocating for change when racism and bias occur in public settings. A recent example of public advocacy is the NAACP's demand for the resignation of the Lane Community College (LCC) board president after an independent investigation confirmed his racialized bullying of the LCC President, a Black woman. Our local NAACP also conducts the annual MLK Jr. March & Celebration in January; provides mentorship for youth as part of the national NAACP's ACT-SO program; and is developing a healthcare careers exploration and training program for juniors and seniors in high school.

The NAACP collaborates with other local Black-led and Black-serving community organizations and with many other Lane County organizations that serve and support people in our community who are marginalized. Please give generously to support this work, which promotes a more equitable, just, and compassionate community for all people.



St. Francis and The Leper
franciscansisters.org.uk

Accept Even This

Wesley Lachman

There is a deep instruction that appears again and again in various forms at every turn on the spiritual path. It is this: we are to receive whatever occurs as a gift from God, without exception. This instruction must be repeated because there are so

many horrible things happening in our day. "How can this be from the mighty and merciful one?" we say.

And yet, if God is all-powerful, then he must be at least be permitting these terrible things to happen. As it is said, "Reality wins." St. Francis is the classic example of this. Francis abhorred lepers, yet he finally came to embrace them.

Jesus demonstrated this kind of acceptance. He sat at the table with tax collectors and sinners. He was kind to the mentally ill. He did not question that even his cross was from God, as he asked, "Why have you forsaken me?" Here are three ways we can come at this.

Fr. Thomas Keating (1923-2018), a Trappist monk, was one of the originators of the Centering Prayer movement. He taught this welcoming prayer, which begins:

Welcome, welcome, welcome.

I welcome everything that comes to me today,

Because I know it's for my healing.

I welcome all thoughts, feelings, emotions,

persons, situations and conditions.

I let go of my desire for power and control.

Fr. Keating taught that we are to accept whatever comes our way and to invite God to be there as a part of the encounter. We can learn to desire God's presence in every area of our lives, even with what we reject or avoid. We accept it all and invite God to be present with us. We can learn to just say "welcome."

Jeannie Zandi is the Spiritual Director of *Living as Love*. Her way of welcoming is to give a little kiss to each new thing that appears. This kiss expresses our welcome; its absence would show our rejection.

Tom Kurzka is the teacher at *Fall into Now Meditation*. He teaches that we should just be with whatever comes up. Not to attempt to know all about it, not to try to do anything about it at first—but just to be with it. Response and action may come later. For now, just to be.

This welcome, this kiss, this being does not imply that we will do nothing about this new thing. It is simply to first accept it completely as an act of God. We meet God in this new reality. The new watch for God to show us how we need to change in response to the new situation created by the new thing.



Sept 12

Randy & Peggy Lilyengren



Sept 1

Nancy Richter

Sept 8

Jane Rimmerman

Sept 9

Louise deKluyver

Sept 16

Susan Bloom
Edamend Freda

Sept 26

Rev. Jennifer Martin
Mel Anderson

Sept 28

Jackie Onstad

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