

February 2026

Vol 26 No 02

Central

A caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith

Sundays in February

Worship 10:00am~Sanctuary
Fellowship 11:15am~Parlor

Mondays in February

Bible Study 11:30am~Parlor
Badminton or Pickleball 6:30pm~Fellowship Hall

Thursdays in February

Book Group 3:00pm~Parlor
Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm ~ Sanctuary
Choir Rehearsal 6:45pm~Sanctuary

Sunday, February 1

Virtual Mission Trip Meeting
11:15am~Chapel

Tuesday, February 3

Miriam Circle
9:30am~Parlor

Wednesday, February 4

Martha Circle
11:30am~Parlor

Thursday, February 5

Ministry of Christian Discipleship
9:00am~Zoom

Sunday, February 8

Second Sunday Potluck
11:15am~Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, February 10

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

Thursday, February 12

Worship & Common Life
10:30am~Zoom

Monday, February 16

Session
5:30pm~Zoom

Sunday, February 15

Annual Congregational Meeting
11:15am~Sanctuary

Wednesday, February 18

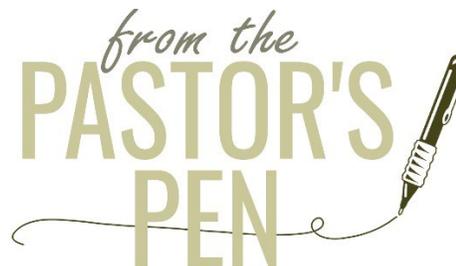
Ash Wednesday Service
4:30pm~Chapel

Sunday, February 22

Deacons
11:15am~Chapel

Tuesday, February 27

Prayer Shawl Ministry
1:00pm~Parlor



Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for the One who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching. - Hebrews 10:23-25

As I write this article, we are hearing every single day about challenges to both our country's constitution and the rule of Love, which is a core tenet of our faith, not to mention stories of violence and war around the globe. As hard as it is to hear of the violence being perpetrated in the name of keeping the peace in our country and around the world, I still find some encouragement from the good news that resides alongside the bad. Hope is lived out in the many, many, many stories of neighbors standing up for one another, caring for one another, feeding one another, speaking up for one another, loving one another.

Jesus said we are to love God and one another, and that when we care for the least of these we are in fact caring for Christ. As we all discern what is ours to do in these challenging times, I encourage you to remember we are never, ever alone. The Spirit is with us *always*, and we are called forward in faith *together*. That means no one person is responsible for fixing all that is broken in our world, and also that we each have a part to play.

This month in the church, we will begin the season of Lent, a time when we are called to pray, fast, and give. I hope you will take advantage of

opportunities we have to gather as a community of faith in small groups to learn, serve, and speak out together, as well as joining with everyone together in worship. I pray you will find strength and even joy that will help you know where and how your gifts might serve God's purposes in such a time as this. Our theme for Lent will be *Tell Me Something Good*, as we focus on grounding ourselves in the good news of Jesus, remembering we are children of God citizens of Christ's realm. I pray our observance of this season will root our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God, and that the teachings of Jesus will lead us forward in light and love. May Christ inspire us in the days ahead to take action in a hurting world desperate for some good news.

With persistent hope,

Pastor Jennifer



**BLANKET THE WORLD WITH LOVE
Valentines for Sale at Church
February 1 & 8**

Several creative folks at CPC have created and donated valentine cards for us to purchase in support of Church World Services (CWS). Valentines will be sold for \$5 each, and every dollar will be donated to the CWS Blanket Plus program.

This initiative provides warm blankets to those in need - from people recovering from a natural disaster, to refugee camps in countries near and far, to homeless ministries as close as Everett, WA. It costs ten dollars for each blanket, so for every two valentines sold a blanket is provided for a neighbor in need. The "plus" part of the blanket plus program reflects the reality that funds raised are also used for hygiene kits, cleanup buckets, school kits, disaster preparedness kits, and period packs - all of which go to help those experiencing a hard time to feel some tangible evidence of God's love. You can learn more about the CWS Blankets Plus program here: <https://cwsblankets.org/>.

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	Jean Tesche
Nani Cagney	Kathleen Beisse
Pam Sheridan	Barbara Cookson

DEACONS

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

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

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



Central articles are due the third Monday of each month. Articles for the March Central Newsletter are due on Monday, February 16, 2026



Our Office will be closed on Monday February 16, 2026 in observance of Presidents Day and will re-open on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.



Hate is too great a burden to bear. It injures the hater more than it injures the hated.

~ Coretta Scott King



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, February 15th,
CPC Sanctuary Following Worship

The annual meeting is a great time for us to pause and look at where we have been as we prepare to move forward together in faith. Plan to stay after worship as we lift up some highlights from the 2025 Annual Report, vote on our pastor's terms of call for the year, and consider a change to the CPC Statement of Purpose in our by-laws. The written annual report will be available in hard-copy format by February 8th, or you can request a pdf version via email from the church office after that date if you prefer.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

4:30 PM, February 18th

CPC Chapel

Our Lenten series, *Tell Me Something Good*: *Grounding Ourselves in the Good News*, begins with this



contemplative service. Lent was originally a season for new converts to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Christianity. This Lent we will explore: what are the core, foundational concepts of Jesus' life and ministry? What makes each of these good news? Can we trust that the good news is truly good, even when it challenges us? This Lent, our prayer is that the teachings of Jesus will lead us forward.

At this service, we will have the opportunity to embark on this Lenten journey together with prayer, music, and the imposition ashes. All are welcome.

Shrove Tuesday



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER
Tuesday, February 17

Call it **Shrove Tuesday**, **Fat Tuesday**, or **Mardi Gras**, and this year we also get to celebrate **Lunar New Year** - all on the same

day! We will have PANCAKES no matter what you call it.

Come join us for pancakes and accompaniments- and games (I recall a pancake relay in the past - will it happen again this year)? Come and see. February 17, 2026, in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m.

Hope to see you there! Beads and masks are optional, but wear them if you have them!

Lenten Devotional on Zoom

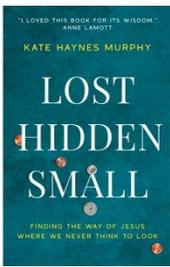
We're thinking about doing a weekly online visio divina – sacred, contemplative seeing – with artwork from the Lenten devotional materials.



We would meet for one hour. The day & time are to be determined. The sessions would begin the week of February 22.

If you'd like to participate, send an email to Susan Schroeder, sschroeder1818@gmail.com

This is online, on Zoom



BOOK GROUP during LENT
CPC Parlor, Thursdays at 3pm
Beginning February 19th

Join the CPC Book Group for Lent!
We will be reading *Lost, Hidden, Small: Finding the Way of Jesus Where We Never Think to Look* by

Kate Haynes Murphy. The book explores the truth that Jesus warned us not to expect his reign to resemble the empire. He knew it would be hard for us to recognize true faithfulness, and told stories to help us. In the tradition of clergy writers like Barbara Brown Taylor and Gregory Boyle, Pastor Kate Murphy excavates the wisdom of Jesus's parables. She tells stories of failures in the dominant church, of broken places within herself, and of an exploding watermelon that sends her over the edge. Through practices like shalom, kinship, surrender, failure, and humility, we find our lost selves in Christ, seek a God who hides, and see the glory of infinitesimal things.

If you would like to order a copy of the book through the church office, please sign up for the book **order by Friday, February 6th**. Books are \$20 each. Hope you can join the conversation!

BLACK THISTLE STREET AID KIT COLLECTION



Throughout Lenten Season

During Lent, we will be collecting items primarily to create emergency first aid kits for Black Thistle Street Aid to hand out to our neighbors in need. If you would like to participate, please bring any of the following items to the church and place in the box marked *Black Thistle* in the Narthex. We will be assembling the basic aid kits after Easter. THANK YOU!!!

ITEMS NEEDED:

- Band-Aids (a variety of sizes)
- Single-use antibiotic ointment packets
- Single-use alcohol wipes
- Individually wrapped gauze pads (non-stick kind)
- Non latex gloves
- Cotton balls
- Q-tips
- Individually wrapped cough drops

- Individually wrapped gauze sponges
- Small containers of saline (optional)
- Emergen-C - single-use pouches
- Individually wrapped tampons/pad
- Hand & toe warmers
- Hand sanitizer - small bottles
- Wool socks
- Pregnancy tests
- 4x4 gauze pads-wrapped
- Flashlights - very small



Tikkun Olam
Wesley Lachman

In the Jewish tradition, there is a name for caring for the world and for the

neighbor. It is Tikkun Olam, which translates as *repairing the world*. This term covers everything from acts of individual kindness to ways of caring for all people everywhere.

Tikkun Olam would not be such a remarkable saying, if it were not for its unique meaning, *repair the world*. In terms of the issues of the day, we usually see them as conflicts. We must fight the other side and beat them down so that we can have our ideas win. We try to destroy the opposition and win a victory. It is very like a war. How different this is from Tikkun Olam, which is more like working together to repair a car.

Repairing the world implies that the ingredients for a wholesome future are right at hand. There is a basic goodness to the creation that cannot be erased. And quite like our car, if the basics are good, it only needs repair. When we take our car to an auto shop, they don't take it all apart and start over. They leave everything that is working alone and repair the faulty parts.

If we turn to look at our politics, Republicans and Democrats constantly fight one another over legislation and for seats in Congress. And surely there must be a contest for each seat. But what if they were to operate out of Tikkun Olam and respect one another as they look for what is working and what needs repair. Could they not discuss the issues at hand in terms of how are we going to repair the world for the sake of all humanity?

What if we got together to do Tikkun Olam? What if just one of us at the table showed an honest interest in what the opposition thinks? It might just begin to transform the meeting from fighting the opposition into repairing the world.



**January & February Coin Offering
Equity Corps of Oregon
Nancy Richter
Equity Corps of Oregon (ECO) is**

the recipient of the January/February 2026 Coin Offering. This is a state program of "universal representation" for low income immigrants. Catholic Community Services is a referral resource.

While our state has long relied on the contributions of immigrant Oregonians to our local and state economics, state policies and programs have systematically excluded people based on their immigration status. Oregon Worker Relief (OWR) has been a lifeline for immigrant Oregonians through programs including Climate Change Fund, the Home Fund, Universal Representation, and more. OWR's community-led approach has helped over 93,000 immigrant Oregonians with emergency relief for farm workers who face dangerous working conditions from extreme heat and wildfires, rent assistance to keep families housed, and no-cost immigration legal services.

Universal legal representation helps keep Oregon families and communities whole by safeguarding against unjust deportation. Without this representation, immigrant Oregonians are more likely to be deported, regardless of the merits of their case. When this happens, our entire state suffers.

ECO provides funding through grants and contracts to build legal services and programs, support community navigation, and create community educational workshops and classes. For more information, please check out their website at <https://equitycorps.org>.

The Ministry of Mission and Christian Discipleship wants to thank our congregation for their

continued support of the Coin Offering Program and welcomes suggestions for future recipients of the Coin Offering.



February 1st
Ed Willson

February 3rd
Ruth Koenig

February 7th
Rich Litchfield

February 9th
Sharon Piper

February 11th
Janet Elliott
Dorothy Kays

February 12th
Barbara Cookson

February 14th
Mary Brieter

February 17th
Nancy Carlton

February 19th
Laurie Inglis

February 24th
Steve Kanaga
Marilyn Watson

February 27th
Margie James

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Mission Statement

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