

# Central

Vol 26 No 4

A caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith

April 2026

Mondays in April  
Bible Study 11:30am ~Parlor  
Badminton & Pickleball  
6:30pm ~Fellowship Hall

Thursdays in April  
Book Group 3:00 pm ~Parlor  
Bell Choir Rehearsals 6:00pm~Sanctuary  
Choir Rehearsals 6:45pm~Sanctuary

Wednesday, April 1  
Martha Circle 11:30am Parlor

Thursday, April 2  
Ministry of Christian Discipleship  
9:00am ~Zoom

Tuesday, April 7  
Miriam Circle 9:30am~ Parlor

Wednesday, April 8  
Postcard Writing Party  
1:30pm~Community Room

Thursday, April 9  
Worship & Common Life 10:30am ~Zoom

Sunday, April 12  
Second Sunday Potluck ~Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, April 14  
Personnel 9:30am ~Zoom  
Church Properties 11:00am ~Zoom

Monday, April 20  
*Central Articles Due*  
Session 5:30pm Zoom

Tuesday, April 22  
Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:00pm Parlor

Saturday, April 25  
Ruth Koenig's Memorial Service  
2:00pm~Sanctuary

Sunday, April 26  
Deacons Meeting 11:15am~Chapel

Tuesday, April 28  
Prayer Shawl Ministry 1:00pm~Willamette Oaks

Holy Week Services on Page 3

## *Pastor's Pen*

Since our Lenten journey began back in February, we have been grounding ourselves in the good news of our faith as a way of looking for and working toward hope in a world that seems intent on telling us there is none. Even nature seems to be giving us a mixed message about what the future holds. Although the season of spring and new life technically began in March, and brought with it budding trees and spring bulbs flowering, we were also still experiencing some mornings with below-freezing temperatures. And though the sun was up longer, there were many long, very gray days.

Now we are in April. And this year, April begins with the Easter Triduum - three days that span from Good Friday to Easter Sunday, from desolation to consolation, from despair to hope, from death to life. A time when we remember the suffering of Christ on the cross, and consider the ways those who are made in the image of God still suffer today. A time when we hold in tension the grief we feel about the all-too-present suffering in the world around us, and the tangible hope offered to us by the One who chose to suffer alongside us. This year the month of April is the season of Eastertide. A season when we remember the ways the risen Christ kept the promise to meet the disciples where they were - in their everyday lives. A season when the disciples were figuring out what it meant to live as followers of the risen Christ.

In this season of challenges in our world, our nation, and our lives - in this season of Eastertide - we, too, would do well to keep our eyes open for signs of Christ in our midst. We, too, find ourselves asking what is ours to do? What is it we are called to do and be in this world? How might we best share the good news we know to be true? How might we be a part of building the kin-dom of our God? How can we best love God and neighbor? As we move forward in faith - as we

help one another catch glimpses of God in our midst and find ways to be messengers of the good news of God's love, the poet Mary Oliver has some good advice. May her words help us begin again the work of being Easter people.

With tenacious hope,  
Pastor Jennifer

### **Messenger by Mary Oliver**

*My work is loving the world.  
Here the sunflowers, there the hummingbird  
equal seekers of sweetness.  
Here the quickening yeast; there the blue plums.  
Here the clam deep in the speckled sand.*

*Are my boots old? Is my coat torn?  
Am I no longer young, and still half-perfect?  
Let me keep my mind on what matters,  
which is my work,  
which is mostly standing still  
and learning to be astonished.  
The phoebe, the delphinium.  
The sheep in the pasture, and the pasture.  
Which is mostly rejoicing,  
since all the ingredients are here,  
which is gratitude, to be given a mind and a heart  
and these body-clothes, a mouth  
with which to give shouts of joy  
to the moth and the wren,  
to the sleepy dug-up clam,  
telling them all, over and over,  
how it is that we live forever*



### **AID KIT ASSEMBLY Sunday, April 19 After Worship Community Room ALL AGES WELCOME!!!!**

Throughout the Lenten Season, we collected items for Black Thistle Street Aid kits, and our MCD team used mission funds to top off the kits with any needed items so we can make complete kits. Now we need to put the kits together! Plan to stay after worship on Sunday, April 19. We will form an assembly line in the community room to organize donations, assemble the kits, and get them ready for delivery. This is a great all-ages, hands-on way for us to work together, helping our neighbors in need.

## **Central Presbyterian Church Staff & Elected Leaders**

**Pastor:** Rev. Jennifer Martin  
**Director of Music:** Kendra Taylor  
**Office Manager:** Monique Jones Rodriguez  
**Financial Secretary:** Arlene Hudgins  
**Building Host:** Jose Tobon  
**AV Technician:** Sunny Waldorf  
**Accompanist:** Michelle Sulaiman

### **SESSION**

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

### **DEACONS**

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

### **ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE**

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

Central articles are due on the third Monday of each month. Articles for the May Central Newsletter are due on **Monday, April 20, 2026.**



# HOLY WEEK AT CPC



**7:00 pm, April 3  
Good Friday  
Tenebrae Service**

This service of worship between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday gives us the space to remember the violence of Jesus' state-sanctioned murder and the betrayals he experienced. It is an opportunity to sit with, protest, and grieve pain - our own pain and the pain of others. It is a chance to grieve a world that all too often continues to favor violence as a form of punitive *justice*. This is a service that includes scripture, contemplation, and music. It ends in darkness as we depart in silence, awaiting the joy of Easter morning. All are welcome.



**10:00 am,  
April 5  
Resurrection  
Sunday  
Worship**

Join in this celebration of Christ's resurrection as we join our voices together with our choir and several guest musicians, rejoicing together in the redeeming work of Love, which conquers even death! We will hear the story of that first Easter morning from Matthew 28:1-10. Plan to stay for fellowship and the Easter Egg Hunt for children following worship.



**March/April Coin Offering  
Trauma Healing Project**  
Nancy Richter

The Trauma Healing Project (THP) is dedicated to ensuring that everyone has access to trauma-informed and effective wellness services. Their vision is to develop a vibrant and connected community where anyone impacted by violence, abuse, or other trauma receives the support and attention they need to fully recover and reach their highest potential. They work with community members, professionals, and organizations to raise awareness and to identify, develop, support and promote many options for healing and for preventing trauma. The THP now offers two acupuncture clinics: full-body and ear acupuncture for stress and anxiety relief. Their Gentle and Restorative Yoga class is now in person and online, and Nia Moving to Heal is offered through Zoom.

For more information about the Trauma Healing Project or to register for a class, please click on their website, [info@healingattention.org](mailto:info@healingattention.org) or call them at 541-687-9447.

The Ministry of Mission and Christian Discipleship wants to thank you for your continued support of the Coin Offering program. We always love hearing about community non-profit organizations, so if you know of any, please seek out a member of this Ministry team (Susan Schroeder, Pam Sheridan, Jane Holmes, Nani Cagney, Barbara Cookson, or Nancy Richter). Remember, "When we all give a little, it adds up to lot." Your support of the March/April coin offering is greatly appreciated, and we welcome your suggestions of other non-profit organizations.

# MISSIONS Offerings

## Mission Giving Update January - February 2026

Coin Offering- *Equity Corps of Oregon - Worker Relief* - \$687.17  
Church World Service- *Blankets Plus Valentine Sale* - \$695  
Thank you for your generosity!



ONE GREAT  
HOUR OF SHARING

**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
**February 18- April 5, 2026**  
Nancy Richter

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of three Presbyterian Church (USA) special offerings. Our denomination, along with others, has been supporting this offering for more than 75 years. It is usually collected during Lent and supports three separate mission programs. We will receive it at CPC on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance receives 32% of the offerings, which are used to work alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters and to support refugees.

Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36% of the offerings, which are used to take action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and address the systemic cause of poverty so all may be fed.

Self-Development of People receives the remaining 32% of the offerings and uses them to invest in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty, and justice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports programs in over 100 countries, including the USA. "If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot."



**Art, Faith, & Community  
Fall Sacred Arts  
@ The Grunewald Guild**

Would you like to get away for some time to explore faith and

creativity in a beautiful setting? Pastor Jennifer and several members of the congregation have had the blessing of experiencing just that at The Grunewald Guild in Plain, Washington. The Guild organizes a variety of opportunities for week-long experiences that include art classes, morning and evening prayer, delicious meals, and the chance to get to know folks who have chosen to spend a week in community. There is also the opportunity to soak in the beauty of the ponderosa pines as you listen to the rushing water of the Wenatchee River.

Pastor Jennifer would love to organize a group from CPC to attend one of the Guild's Sacred Art weeks this fall. They are offering two separate weeks: October 18-24 and November 1-7. For more information about the classes offered those weeks (and the rest of their programs) check out their website at <https://www.grunewaldguild.com/>. If you have questions about the experience, don't hesitate to ask - Pastor Jennifer loves to talk about this thin place! If you are interested in going with a group from CPC this fall, let her know which week appeals to you. If we can organize a group to register **by May 1**, we can begin to plan our adventure together!



- 1 Bill & Shirley Griffith
- 6 David Lim & JuYoung Chung
- 23 Del & Lu-Nita Hawkins



## Our Imaginary Worlds

Wesley Lachman

Adam had just ducked into the local coffee shop when he saw Evelyn sitting by herself in a corner of the room. He went over and asked, "You ready for some company?"

"Sure," she said, "I'm just taking my coffee break. What's up?"

"Well, I wanted to ask you about the talk you gave at church last Sunday about the contemplative path. It seemed quite simple and yet complicated at the same time."

"Well, let me break it down for you. You're right, it is quite simple. We can start right here in the coffee shop. First, we might notice that there's light in here, it's not pitch black. And this light is lighting up certain surfaces, certain things for our viewing pleasure. But we can notice that we don't actually see the coffee cup. We see some surfaces that are colored white, but we don't see the back of the cup or the bottom of the cup. We have to use our imagination to fill out the other surfaces so we can say, *Yes, that is a three-dimensional object, it's my coffee cup!*"

"Well, that doesn't seem so revolutionary, Evelyn. Everybody knows you can't see the backside of a coffee cup."

"But the thing is, Adam, the whole world and the universe beyond, it's all imaginary for us. It has to be because we can't directly touch or see it all. We can feel or see some of the outward appearances of things right now, but we can't see the whole of anything without running around it to see the sides and back. And when we do see the back, we have lost the front and have to imagine that."

"But Evelyn, if this is true, then we're each living in our own imaginary world. We each have to build a world for ourselves. Where is China right now? Where is the roof of this dwelling? Each of us has to use our imagination to see them. I can understand this, but what difference does it make?"

"Okay, Adam, first notice how pervasive our imaginary worlds are. Everybody has one, from the humblest servant to the CEOs and heads of state. And they are all different. These worlds are obviously part of the divine creative plan. They are not to be ignored. They are to be respected as part of the creation, but it is just to remember that they are imaginary. So many misunderstandings, conflicts, and even wars arise because one side does not take the time to learn about the other side's world. And when we know another's world we can understand their views.

"We are each given a wondrous imagination with which to paint the colors and shapes of our worlds. We need to use this same imagination to see the worlds that others are living in and to incorporate them as part of our own world. For it is only when we place the other's world within our own that we truly understand them." And so this is one way to begin the contemplative path.



- 4 Zane Buxton
- 18 Susan Schroeder
- 19 Steve Stermer
- 23 Jane Holmes
- 26 Pat Hocken
- 30 John Koelling



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