

## The Pastors' Pen

"If we don't change, we don't grow. If we don't grow, we aren't really living."  
- Gail Sheehy, *Passages: Predictable Crises of Adult Life*

It is the Lord who goes before you.  
God will be with you; the Holy One will not fail you or forsake you.  
Do not fear or be dismayed. - Deuteronomy 31:8

June is a month of transition. A time of change. In our part of the world it is when we say a final farewell to spring and welcome the warmth of the summertime as the sunlit days seem to stretch far into the evening while we enjoy the abundance of all that grows in our valley. For some it means travel, for others tending a garden, and for some a slower pace enjoying the long days summertime brings.

In worship this month, we will be focusing on change and transition in a different way as we dive more deeply into the series that kicked off the last Sunday in May, "*You Were Strangers: Refugees, Immigrants, & People on the Move in Scripture*". Hopefully this series will be an opportunity for us to contemplate the issues people in these changing circumstances, both in scripture and today, regularly face - displacement, welcome or lack thereof, fear or hospitality - as well as considering how these stories both comfort and challenge us, and, ultimately, how they remind us of the ways God continues to faithfully meet each person wherever we are.

Another kind of person 'on the move' and experiencing big changes are those who will be graduating and moving on from their studies here in Eugene. Three of our choral scholars, Vetiver, Ellie, and Zoë, will all be graduating along with our childcare worker Maren. We will have an opportunity to say farewell to all of them this month. What a joy it is has been to have each of them share their gifts!

Change can be hard, even those changes we hope are good ones like the coming of the summer, moving to a place with more opportunities, or the excitement of graduation. When facing a big change I try to hold onto the comforting truth that we face nothing alone - no matter how unfamiliar it might be. I try to remember the promise Moses gave to Joshua that wherever we are going, God is already there - both in the place we are headed *and* right there with us. Again and again, our scriptures remind us not to fear, or be discouraged, for the God of love is present with us each step of the way, our whole life through. May that truth help us step across the threshold of the changes this month holds.

With hope,  
Pastor Jennifer

### Mondays in June

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

### Tuesday, June 2

Miriam Circle  
9:30am~Parlor

### Wednesday, June 3

Martha Circle  
11:30am~Parlor

### Thursday, June 4

Ministry of Christian Discipleship  
9:00am~Zoom  
CPC Choir Rehearsal  
6:45pm~Sanctuary

### Tuesday, June 9

Personnel  
9:30am~Zoom  
Church Properties  
11:00am~Zoom  
Presbyterian Women Tea  
2:00pm~Parlor

### Thursday, June 11

Worship & Common Life  
9:30am~Zoom

### Monday, June 15

Central Articles Due  
Session  
5:30pm~Zoom

### Friday, June 19

Office Closed in Observance of  
Juneteenth

### Sunday, June 21

Deacons Meeting  
11:15am~Chapel

### Tuesday June 23

Prayer Shawl Ministry  
1:00pm~Willamette Oaks



### POSTCARDS WRITING PARTY

We'll provide everything you need—postcards, stamps, pens, and all the information. You bring your beautiful handwriting and a heart ready to make a difference. Together, we'll be

sending friendly reminders to voters in close races from coast to coast. It's simple, meaningful work and even more fun when we do it together!

Upcoming dates: **June 10, June 24, July 8 & July 22**

Time: **1:30 PM.** Place: **Community Room**

Reserve a seat by adding your name to the sign-up sheet!

**\*Reminder:** The lot on 14<sup>th</sup> & Patterson is NOT available on weekdays. Please park in unmarked spots in the alley or on the street. Thanks!



### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you enjoy the flowers which are provided in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, please consider helping to continue this joyful practice. For many years, our staff have provided and coordinated a sign-up sheet where parishioners have volunteered to bring

flowers to share. There has always been the option to order arrangements from a florist or bring them from home. There has been a recent, significant increase in the cost and delivery of arrangements from the florist, and the worship team needs help in exploring other options for the future.

Are you passionate about flowers and/or gardens? Please consider volunteering to help explore this issue. You must have an idea or two to share as we plan for a future with flowers in worship! See Julianne, Bev or Susan S. for more information.

### Central Presbyterian Church Staff & Elected Leaders

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

### SESSION

Charlie Wade Nancy Richter  
Rick Larson Nani Cageny  
Barbara Cookson Jean Tesche  
Pam Sheridan Kathleen Beisse  
Scott Pratt

### DEACONS

Karen Dyste Wendy Unsain  
Mary Breiter Laura Mason  
Lu-Nita Hawkins Quentin Holmes  
Janet Edmondson Susan Bloom  
Linda Anderson Patty MacAfee  
Rick Ohlson

### ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

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

In observance of the Juneteenth holiday, the church's office will be closed on **Friday, June 19. We will reopen on Monday, June 22.**





## New Name for the Virtual Mission Trip Team

The Virtual Mission Trip Team was formed by the Ministry of Christian Discipleship in 2023 to learn about immigration issues at the southern U.S. border.

Because the group didn't plan to take a mission trip to the border or elsewhere, it seemed appropriate to add "virtual" to the team's name.

The Virtual Mission Trip team spent time learning about the issues and needs of immigrants in Tijuana through a relationship with Sharon Franklin, who with her husband Javier Hernandez operated a shelter called La Casa de Paso. The team heard from Sharon when she was in town; hosted a fundraiser for La Casa; and made hygiene kits for immigrants staying at La Casa.

In response to the current federal administration's campaign to detain and deport immigrants, the Virtual Mission Trip team pivoted to local activities and advocacy for immigration justice. The team hosted an immigrant advocacy "pop-up" event at our church, which included Mimi Nolledo's photo-essay display of local immigrants and writing thank-you notes to recognize people for their positive, hopeful acts for immigrant justice. The team has also learned about local protest efforts, such as Singing for our Lives, the Rapid Response Team, and Legal Observers.

**To align more closely with the focus on local immigration advocacy, the group has changed their name to Social Justice Advocates.** The group meets on the first Sundays of the month after worship. This meeting is open to anyone and everyone; please attend if you're interested!

On June 7, the Social Justice Advocates will welcome Geraldine Moreno, who will describe the work of OCAN, the Oregon Community Asylum Network. OCAN has been operating in Lane County for a number of years to help support local asylum seekers through assistance with locating housing, food, employment, healthcare, transportation, and legal services. **Please plan to attend on June 7.**



## You're Invited: World Refugee Day Saturday, June 20

Every year on June 20, communities around the world celebrate World Refugee Day, to honor and recognize the resilient, courageous, and inspiring people who have rebuilt their lives in new places. This

year's event takes place at the First United Methodist Church, 1376 Olive Street, Eugene, 12-4:00 pm. It's a free, family-friendly celebration open to immigrants and allies alike. Whether you are deeply connected to this work or simply curious and want to learn more, there is a place for you here. Bring your family, your friends, and your neighbors. Food will be available for purchase. Central has provided funds to help sponsor World Refugee Day for several years.

### Want to Volunteer for World Refugee Day?

If you would like to pitch in on the day of the event, your help will be appreciated! There are many ways to get involved, including setup, supporting children's activities, helping Spanish or Dari speaking guests navigate the event, greeting attendees, and more. Volunteer tasks include:

- Set up beginning around 9:00 am
- Greeting and welcoming guests as they arrive
- Parking Lot and Food Area Monitoring
- Kids Activities and Supervision
- Dari/Farsi Interpretation
- Spanish Interpretation
- Audio-visual and Technical Support
- Runners: Behind the scenes support that keeps everything moving.
- Other Activities — We have additional activities that could use support.
- Cleanup approximately 3:30-6:00 pm

Want to volunteer, or have questions about volunteering? Please reach out to Catholic Community Services Refugee & Immigrant Services Program (RISP) Volunteer Coordinator Elene Gleason at [egleason@cscslc.org](mailto:egleason@cscslc.org) or at 541-953-0930.



**Eugene PRIDE  
Celebration  
Interfaith  
Hospitality  
Volunteers  
Needed**  
The Eugene  
PRIDE

celebration is Saturday, June 27 at the Lane Events Center. People from local faith communities are invited to participate in the Interfaith Hospitality Area, a safe and welcoming space for attendees to enjoy food and drink during the event.

While there will be food vendors on site, many members of the LGBTQIA+ community do not have the funds to purchase a meal. The Interfaith Hospitality Area will offer free sandwiches, snacks, cookies, and beverages.

Volunteers are needed to:

- Set up and decorate the Hospitality Area on Friday, June 26
- Staff the space on the day of the event, June 27
- Make sandwiches on Saturday morning, June 27
- Provide with home-baked cookies, bottled water, coolers with ice, and other refreshments.

Here is the link to sign up to help in person on Friday or Saturday:

<https://www.eventeny.com/events/volunteer/application/?id=13188>

[Here is the link to sign up to donate items that we need, including coolers, water, and cookies:](#)

<https://signup.com/go/xaxxgja>

For more information and to participate, please contact one of these people:

Lana Johnson ([Lana\\_R\\_Johnson@hotmail.com](mailto:Lana_R_Johnson@hotmail.com) or 541-912-2748)

Katharine Hunt ([keehunt@gmail.com](mailto:keehunt@gmail.com) or 541-214-8455)

Naphtali Renshaw ([interfaith@eugenepride.org](mailto:interfaith@eugenepride.org))



**SAVE THE DATE  
WEDNESDAY JULY 23**

The annual Central Summer Picnic will be on Wednesday, July 23, from 5-7:00 pm. Food will be served in the Community Room, and we will eat and socialize at tables

in the courtyard. A brat and "dogs" potluck will be served (a vegetarian entrée will also be offered). Please bring a side dish. Buns. Condiments, table service, beverages, and ice cream will be provided. 'See you there! For more information, contact Julianne Stermer.



**Dave and the  
Buddy-God  
Wesley Lachman**

For as long as he can remember Dave has had a

Buddy-God. He doesn't call it a buddy, of course, just God, but it is a buddy for sure. It helps him in whatever he is doing. He is a dependable buddy in his pocket at all times.

At first glance, there would seem to be nothing wrong with this. Dave seems to be depending upon God in his daily life. He decides to repair the screen door so he asks his Buddy-God for help.

He has to deal with a difficult relative, and he asks his Buddy-God for help. Even if he wants to improve his croquet game out on the lawn, he asks his Buddy-God for help. This sounds like faith, but there is something vital missing from this picture.

Dave's story is not the story of dependence upon God. It is the story of a young man trying to use God for his own agenda. Nowhere in this story is God in charge. God is only there as the Buddy-God in order to help Dave get what he wants, irrespective of God's will. The will of God doesn't even enter the picture anywhere. If you want to have God in your pocket, so to speak, to help you get what you want, you are far, far from a life of faith.

To give him some credit, Dave began to recognize this. One Saturday morning, he was despondent because he could not make arrangements to attend a party Saturday night. As he began to speak to his Buddy-God, he realized that there might be a difference between his desire to be at this party and the will of God. The very idea stunned him. He sat down to contemplate it. Had he been using God as if he were his buddy to help him just get what he wanted? Had he ever allowed his God to be the Lord of heaven and earth rather than just a helping hand?

He began to see it clearly. Here was his little ego giving messages as to what he wanted in the world, and here was the Buddy-God who was here to help the ego get what he wanted. If he had wanted truly to have God in his pocket, he realized that rather he needed to be in the pocket of God, carried to where God wanted him to go.

This was a revolution in Dave's spiritual life. Every morning he didn't wake up wanting one thing and avoiding that one. He learned to stop and ask "Which way is God moving this morning? Which way is God drawing me, pulling me, wanting me to go?" Some days it was obvious: a promise, a duty, a community need. Other days it took some patience to see a direction. And how about us, dear reader, how about us?

He was learning that God was not in his pocket, but he needed to be in God's pocket.

public support is of some help, but young children have additional needs necessary to build a strong foundation for healthy growth and to reach their full potential.

A diaper bank collects, stores, and distributes free material necessities to homeless shelters, food pantries, family service agencies, and faith-based organizations, among others. Some are direct service organizations as well.

It costs up to \$95-110 per month to diaper one child; for some families, it is an extreme cost, especially if there are multiple children in "diaper need". (This is information from the National Diaper Bank Network.)

Funds donated to LC Diaper Bank enable the direct purchase of diapers through innovative cost-saving programs. This year, we are also sponsoring a diaper drive to be held at Central Presbyterian Church during May and June. This is to honor Mother's Day and Father's Day. We will have a collection box at the church during the drive. Households experiencing diaper need are on average 50 diapers short each month. More than a quarter of families in diaper need rely on diaper banks to help fill in the gap. The LC Diaper Bank uses unused disposable diapers – open or sealed packages are accepted. Clean and good, used or new cloth diapers are also accepted. Sealed packages of wipes only, please.

There is a wonderful website for LC Diaper Bank at: [lcdiaperbank.org](http://lcdiaperbank.org) or contact them at 541-221-0824.

The Mission and Christian Discipleship Ministry thanks you for your continued generosity to the Coin Offering Program, and we are always thankful for your suggestions of community non-profit organizations as recipients of the Coin Offerings.



### **May/June Coin Offering Nancy Richter**

The Ministry of Mission and Christian Discipleship is happy to announce that our Coin Offering recipient for May and June 2026 is

the Lane County Diaper Bank. This non-profit organization began in June 2019 and is focused on improving our community through programs that solve previously unnoticed problems, including disposable baby diapers and wipes. Together, we can help end diaper need in our community. Children in low-income families are at greatest risk of suffering the effects of "diaper need" because many families simply cannot afford diapers. Current



**Art, Faith, & Community  
Fall Sacred Arts @ The  
Grünewald Guild  
October 18-24, 2026**

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 Grünewald 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. She is signed up to attend on October 18-24 and would love for you to join in the fun. For more information about the art classes offered that week check out their website at <https://www.grunewaldguild.com/>. And 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 and we can begin to plan the adventure together!



**29 John & Nonie Koelling**



**You're Invited!**  
**Central Presbyterian Church presents:  
The Scholar's Songbook  
Sunday, June 14 at 6:30pm**

Enjoy an evening of vocal performances spanning a variety of musical styles, featuring our 2025-2026 Choral Scholars. The concert is a great chance to see this years' scholars perform one last time before some go on to the next chapter in their lives, post-graduation. The concert is free and open to all—don't miss this special night of music!



- 3 Martha Shaebanyan-Bady**
- 9 Joe Olney**
- 10 James Brown**
- 19 Michael Boonstra**
- 20 Quentin Holmes**
- 23 Lu-Nita Hawkins**
- 29 Karen Dyste**
- 30 Cyndee Childs**

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
555 E. 15<sup>th</sup> AVENUE  
EUGENE, OR 97401



**Mission Statement**

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