

September 2026

Central

A caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith

from the
PASTOR

Sundays in September

Worship

10:00am~Sanctuary

Fellowship

11:15am~Parlor

Mondays in September

Bible Study

11:30am~Parlor

Badminton or Pickleball

6:30pm~Fellowship Hall

Tuesdays in September

Choir Rehearsals Starting September 15

Tuesday, September 1

Miriam Circle

9:30am~Parlor

Wednesday, September 2

Martha Circle

11:30am ~ Parlor

Thursday, September 3

Ministry of Christian Discipleship

9:00am~Zoom

Sunday, September 6

Social Justice Advocates Meeting

11:15am~Chapel

Tuesday, September 8

Personnel

9:30am~Zoom

Church Properties

11:00am~Zoom

Thursday, September 10

Worship & Common Life

10:30am~Zoom

Sunday, September 13

Blessings of the Backpacks

Meet Your Deacon Sunday

11:15am~Fellowship Hall

Monday, September 14

Session

5:30pm~Zoom

Tuesday, September 22

Prayer Shawl Ministry

1:00pm~Willamette Oaks

Sunday, September 27

Deacons

11:15am~Community Room

As we enter the season of creation and its focus on Living Water, I wanted to share with you this poem of praise for the oceans. It reads to me like a modern day psalm, crying out to the waters of our world, singing praise to and asking forgiveness from the One who spoke them into being. I pray we are all able to see glimpses of God in the wonders of the living water all around us.

~ Pastor Jennifer

**Praise for Oceania by Craig Santos Perez
for World Oceans Day**

praise your capacity for birth fluid currents and trenchant darkness
praise our briny beginning source of every breath

~

praise your capacity for renewal ascent into clouds and descent into rain
praise your underground aquifers, rivers and lakes, ice sheets and glaciers
praise your watersheds and hydrologic cycles

~

praise your capacity to endure
the violation of those who map you aqua nullius
who claim dominion over you
who pillage and divide your body into latitudes and longitudes
who scar your middle passages

~

praise your capacity to survive our trawling boats
breaching your open wounds and taking
from your collapsing depths

~

praise your capacity to dilute our heavy metals and greenhouse gases
sewage and radioactive waste pollutants and plastics

~

praise your capacity to bury our shipwrecks and ruined cities
praise your watery grave human reef of bones

~

praise your capacity to remember our library of drowned stories
museum of lost treasures your vast archive of desire

~

praise your tidalectics your migrant routes and submarine roots

~

praise your capacity to smother whales and fish and wash them ashore
to save them from our cruelty
to show us what we're no longer allowed to take
to starve us like your corals starved and bleached liquid lungs
choked of oxygen

~

praise your capacity to forgive
please forgive our territorial hands and acidic breath
please forgive our nuclear arms and naval bodies

please forgive our concrete dams and cabling veins
please forgive our deafening sonar and lustful tourisms
please forgive our invasive drilling and deep sea mining
please forgive our extractions and trespasses
~

praise your capacity for mercy
please let my grandpa catch just one more fish
please make it stop raining soon
please make it rain soon
please spare our fragile farms and fruit trees
please spare our low-lying islands and atolls
please spare our coastal villages and cities
please let us cross safely to a land without war
~

praise your capacity for healing
praise your cleansing rituals
praise your holy baptisms
~

please protect our daughter when she swims in your currents
~

praise your halcyon nests
praise your pacific stillness
praise your breathless calm
~

praise your capacity for hope
praise your rainbow warrior and peace boat
praise your hokule'a and sea shepherd
praise your arctic sunrise and freedom flotillas
praise your nuclear free and independent pacific movement
praise your marine stewardship councils and sustainable fisheries

praise your radical seafarers and native navigators
praise your sacred water walkers
praise your activist kayaks and traditional canoes
praise your ocean conservancies and surfrider foundations
praise your aquanauts and hydrolabs
praise your Ocean Cleanup and Google Oceans
praise your whale hunting and shark finning bans
praise your sanctuaries and no take zones
praise your pharmacopeia of new antibiotics
praise your #oceanoptimism and Ocean Elders
praise your wave and tidal energy
praise your blue humanities
~

praise your capacity for echolocation
praise our names for you

that translate into creation stories and song maps
tasi : kai : tai : moana nui : vasa : ahi : lik : wai tui : wonsolwara
~

praise your capacity for communion
praise our common heritage
praise our pathway and promise to each other
praise our most powerful metaphor
praise your vision of belonging
praise our endless saga
praise your blue planet one world ocean
praise our trans-oceanic
past present future flowing
through our blood

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF & ELECTED LEADERS

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

SESSION

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

DEACONS

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

ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

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



"September tries its best to
have us forget summer." —
Bernard Williams





UPCOMING MEMORIAL SERVICES

In recent weeks, two of our members completed their baptisms and moved into the

nearer presence of God. You are invited to mark your calendars as we plan to remember their lives and celebrate our hope in the resurrection. On **Friday, October 9th at 3:00 PM**, there will be a celebration of the life of Rich Litchfield. On **Saturday, October 10th at 2:00 PM**, there will be a celebration of the life of Howard Ruland.



The Personnel Committee

is preparing for Pastor Jennifer Martin's annual review. As part

of this process, input is welcomed from the congregation. If you would like to provide feedback to the committee, please contact one of the committee members listed below. You will find their email addresses in your church directory. We need your input on or before September 30, 2026. Thank you.

Personnel Committee members:

Kathleen Beisse
Nancy Richter
Alice Schroeder
Steve Stermer

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

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 *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other: Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians* by Rhonda

Mawhood Lee.

The Miriam Circle will meet Tuesday, September 1 at 9:30 am; Contact Nancy Richter at (541) 337-0167. The Martha Circle will meet on Wednesday, September 2 at 11:30 am. 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

SEPTEMBER 13

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

At Central, each member/friend of

Central is assigned to a flock with a specific person as their deacon. This is just one of the ways we help fulfill Central's mission to be a caring, inquiring, inclusive community of faith. Central's Board of Deacons is comprised of ordained people who serve a term of several years.

Each June, some deacons retire, and new deacons come on board. Meet Your Deacon Sunday is designed to give your deacon a chance to get to know you better and vice versa.

On Sunday, September 13, a board containing a photo of each deacon and their flock number will be located near the entry to Fellowship Hall. A directory listing members/friends and their flock number will also be there. Come for the fellowship, and meet & chat with your deacon!



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, September 13th

Students in Eugene & Springfield area schools will be heading back to the classroom the first week of September. As you gather school supplies and prepare for the new year, don't forget to **bring your backpack to church on Sunday, September 13th**, when we'll have a special blessing for students. We want all of our students to start the year knowing they are being held in prayer by their church family!

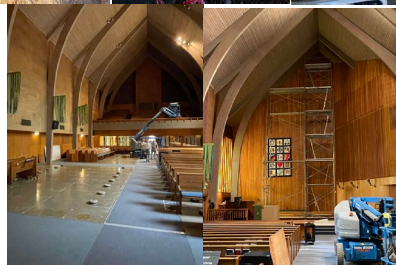




SUMMER CENTRAL PROPERTY PROJECTS

Several projects have taken place at Central this summer. We moved a few pews to install new LED lighting in the Sanctuary

and Narthex, repaired a damaged section of the Patterson Street sidewalk, and after an unanticipated break, we repaired the church's main water line. Thank you to everyone who helped with these projects. Photos of the projects are below.



SEASON OF CREATION



For several years now CPC has participated in the Season of Creation. This ecumenical observance began in 1989 with the first Orthodox Day of Prayer for Creation. Over the years that

day was extended into a month-long season by the World Council of Churches. It is now celebrated by many churches as an opportunity to be intentional about praying for creation. It is a time when we pause and consider how we can advocate for environmental action as people of faith. The suggested theme for this year's observance is *Immersion in Living Water* inspired by Ezekiel 47. In our worship together this month we will be considering water images from scripture and pondering our call to care for all of creation.



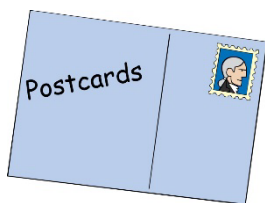
POTLUCK RETURNS SOON

Greetings from the Worship and Common Life team – Fellowship Division!

Our Second Sunday

Potlucks will start up again in October.

Save the date: October 11.



POSTCARDS TO VOTERS

Thank you to all our Postcards to Voters writers who have joined us on Wednesday afternoons to encourage voters to

get out and Vote! Since February we have written to over 1500 voters in Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, Texas, Arizona, Florida and Maine. Our goal is to encourage voters who are newly registered or usually do not vote in the midterms to use their voice and vote. With our eyes on the midterms in November, we have four more sessions to write.

Join us on Wednesday at 1:30 in the Community Room. We provide the postcards and stamps. **September 9, September 23, October 7 & October 21**

Contact Patty MacAfee or Pam Sheridan

In the meantime, consider serving on a potluck team for fall. There is a need for menu planners, shoppers, folks to set up and clean up, and a team for kitchen/dishwasher duty. Please contact Julianne Stermer for information and to get on the Potluck List. See the October Central for more detailed information about the first potluck of our program year.

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

SPACE FOR RENT!

Some of you may have noticed a sign advertising classroom and office space for rent at the corner of

15th and Patterson Streets. Now that Bridgeway House has moved to its new location, several spaces they had used are available for someone else. After a decade of use by the school, many rooms are in need of some attention. Our properties team has been busy working to line up people to help us update lighting, replace damaged floor and ceiling tiles, and make other needed repairs. We may even have an opportunity for some volunteers to do some painting this month or next - so watch for that announcement. In the meantime, we have contracted with a local commercial realtor to help us get the word out to those who might be able to make use of the space the church isn't using. A BIG thank you to all those who are working to get the space ready to welcome some new folks!

MISSIONS Offerings

MISSION UPDATES

We are grateful for the many ways we can support organizations in

our community and through our Special Offerings. Update on Mission Giving January - July

Coin Offering:

January/ February

Equity Corps of Oregon - Worker Relief - \$687.17

March/April

Trauma Healing Project- \$695.54

May/June

Lane County Diaper Bank- \$876.69

Special Offerings

Church World Service- Blankets plus Valentine Sale - \$695

One Great Hour of Sharing- \$2536

Endowment Funds

Lund Trust-

Church Women United Summer Fun Fund - \$900

Dorothy Stewart Trust

RISP- Catholic Social Services- \$1500

EF Grant Sponsorship for World Refugee Day- \$500

Thank you for your generosity!



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER COIN OFFERING

The Ministry of Mission and Christian Discipleship is pleased to announce that the recipient of our September/October Coin offering is **Beyond Toxics**. They have been defending communities and championing environmental justice throughout Oregon since 2000. Beyond Toxics works to ensure that voices are heard, the next generation of environmental leaders are empowered, and the polluters are held accountable while building community resilience. Beyond Toxics is part of a coalition effort to bring clean energy to the November ballot in Eugene.

Another program – Resilience Markets (locally grown produce) are back for the summer and fall of 2026 season after a successful 2025 season of growth. They started in 2024 with markets and expanded to 15 in 2025 with the support from Willamette Soil and Water Conservation district and Square One Villages. With support from volunteers, roughly 700lbs of fresh produce at each market was given away, totaling nearly 11,000lbs of produce to more than 700 Lane County residents! These markets run every second and fourth Saturday from July 13 – Oct 24 of 2026. They are hosted by Amicus Memorial Gardens at 255 Maxwell Rd in Eugene.

Beyond Toxics is also involved in Climate Justice, West Eugene Clean Energy Project, Fossil Free Eugene Coalition, Kalapuya Cultural Project, Environmental Justice, Wildfire and Air Quality, Pollinators Health and Food Security, just to name a few other programs and projects to protect and champion climate and environmental justice in Oregon communities.

MCD wishes to thank you all at Central Presbyterian Church for your continued support of the Coin Offering Program and your generosity. We are always seeking new non-profit agencies and organizations for future Coin offering recipients and reminders of ones we have featured in the past.



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



Sept 1
Nancy Richter

Sept 6
Louise deKluyver

Sept 8
Jane Rimmerman

Sept 16
Susan Bloom
Edamend Freda

Sept 26
Rev. Jennifer Martin
Mel Anderson

Sept 28
Jackie Onstad



Sept 12
Randy & Peggy Lilyengren

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Mission Statement

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