



WELCOME TO CENTRAL

Angel-Wrestling

AUGUST 6, 2023



CENTRAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

IN OUR PRAYERS

Central is a caring community of faith that includes members, friends, and visitors. We give thought to those who are rarely or currently not able to attend worship here. **Today, we keep in our prayers Mawulouwoe Foli.**

CHILDREN

Children are a beloved part of our community and always welcome in the sanctuary with you. At the back of the room are activity bags and books for them to enjoy during their time in worship. Infants through age 6 are also invited to spend the worship hour in our air-conditioned nursery on the upper level, playing and learning together. (The nursery is staffed from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. Memorial Day to Labor Day.) Changing tables are available in our restrooms with diapering supplies available in the nursery.

LICENSE

The music in today's bulletin is reprinted with permission, OneLicense.net A-71257. On the cover: *Jacob and Angel of God* by Chris Torre.

FLOWERS

If you would like to bring flowers to place on the chancel for worship in recognition of a special moment or event, contact the office.

ACCESSIBILITY



Large print worship bulletins and hymns are available from the ushers or in back of the sanctuary.



The sanctuary is T-coil enabled for those with the hearing aid technology. Sound amplification devices are also available from ushers.



Reserved accessible parking and a wheelchair ramp are available in the MPR lot off 9th Street East. Accessible restrooms are in the hall by side sanctuary doors and on the lower level.

PARKING

Free parking is available Sundays in the MPR lot, KCP lot, and the World Trade Center Parking Ramp across Cedar Street. If parking in the ramp, see an usher for a voucher to pay your ramp fees.

PHOTOGRAPHY & SOCIAL MEDIA

You are in a space where live-stream videography and photography will occur. To review our photography and media use policy, go to www.centralforgood.org/photography.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Central Presbyterian Church occupies the sacred land of the Dakota people. Broken treaties led directly to the availability of this sacred space which we presume to possess today. Strategies for implementing these treaties resulted in broken trust with the Dakota people, as well as systematic loss of life and land. Our faith demands confession of the evils from which we benefit, action to support Indigenous peoples seeking justice, and lives guided by love. We keep this in our minds and hearts as we worship today. For the full statement of our commitment to action, visit our website at www.centralforgood.org/land.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

As we gather in this space to worship, let us listen for God's still, small voice by silencing our cell phones and using the music to bring us into a time of reflection and prayer.

† Please rise in body or in spirit

PRELUDE

"Someone to Watch Over Me" (by George Gershwin)

Alex Woods, piano

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Lou Bender

† CALL TO WORSHIP - From Psalm 67

Dr. Ernest Lloyd

One: May God be gracious to us and bless us, whose face shines upon us.

Many: May God's ways be known upon earth, and God's saving power among the nations.

One: Let the peoples praise you, O God - let all the peoples praise you.

Many: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations of the earth.

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, you are with us in times of peace and in times of hardship. You abide with us when all is well, and when all seems to be struggle. Open our hearts and minds not only in this hour, but at all hours, that we might know you as the one both with whom we strive, and with whom we rest. Amen.

† OPENING HYMN

"O Day of Rest and Gladness"

Hymn #393

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: In the sure hope of God's forgiveness, let us confess our sins to God.

All: God, we confess before you that we have sinned. We fight against you when you are searching for us. We create difficult ways when you lead us on life-giving paths. In your mercy, bless us with your persistent presence, forgive our errors, and lead us on those paths that bring us to the fullness of your goodness.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS

One: From the beginning of all things, God had in mind to create, redeem, and sustain all things for good. Therefore, with the confidence of the children of God, we proclaim:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

TIME FOR CHILDREN

Jennifer Anderson

At this time, children are welcome to stay in worship (where there are age-specific activity bags in the back of the sanctuary) or go upstairs to the Galilee Room for Mini-Camp (open to grades 1-8).

Children through age 6 are also welcome in the upper level nursery.

SCRIPTURE READING - Genesis 32:24-31

One: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON - Angel-Wrestling

Rev. Lou Bender

♦ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH - Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic* church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

*universal

CALL FOR OFFERING

You are invited to place offering gifts and completed pew cards in the plates as ushers pass them. You may also give online at www.centralforgood.org/give or submit to the office during normal office hours.

OFFERTORY

Abbie Betinis, soloist; Alex Woods, piano; Lucy Hiestand, set

"Calling All Angels" (by Train)

♦ DOXOLOGY

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Hymn #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

♦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, you are generous. As we return a portion of what you have given us, may it be used to proclaim your love in words and actions, here and everywhere. Amen.

COMMUNION - INVITATION TO THE TABLE

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise. . .

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

RECEIVING THE ELEMENTS

All are invited to come forward, extend your hand to receive bread and pick up a cup to drink. We use grape juice in biodegradable cups. There is also prepackaged juice and wafer available for those requesting gluten-free. If you wish to remain in your seats for communion, a server will bring communion to you there.

COMMUNION HYMN

"Come to the Table of Grace"

Hymn #507

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

♦ CLOSING HYMN

"All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly"

Hymn #509

♦ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Standin' in the Need of Prayer" (arr. Robert D. Vandall)

Alex Woods, piano

IN WORSHIP NEXT WEEK

Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen will preach Stories You Missed: Balaam's Donkey with scripture reading from Numbers 22:20-31. Eric Barlett will sing. We will also share in a drum circle for all ages! If you would like to participate, come at 10:00 a.m. to find a drum that you

WELCOME TO CENTRAL

Whether you are sharing worship with us in our historic sanctuary or joining via live-stream video, we hope you feel the vitality of our people, our programs, and our focus on the present. If you are looking for a place to put your beliefs into action or for a community to provide support and inspiration, we are looking for you. Central is open and affirming of all people. If you are visiting today, we invite you to fill out a Connect card in the pews and drop it in the offering plate. Welcome to Central Presbyterian Church!

Mini-Camp Returns Today

Are your children enjoying all the fun of Central's new Mini-Camps? Or perhaps you are just now learning of it. If so, Mini-Camp is today and returns again on August 20 for those entering grades 1-8.

Central's mini-camp offers a fun, engaging time with hands-on activities on select Sundays through the summer. After a Time for Children, simply head upstairs to the Galilee Room. Every camp is a different adventure of fun and learning that won't want to be missed!

Women's Networking Event

Join with the Women of Central as they head over to Red River Kitchen at City House (258 Mill Street, St. Paul) for their monthly gathering on Monday, August 7 at 5:30 p.m. This is a favorite location because of the casual atmosphere, good food and great views of the river.

The Women's Networking Event is open to all women of Central - members, visitors, and those of all ages. It offers a great way to meet and connect with others in our community.

Tie-Dye Photograph

To all who made beautiful tie-dye creations last week, we hope you brought or wore them today because we would like to take a picture of everyone's wonderful work! Immediately after worship, please come to the front of the sanctuary for a group photo.

Pastor Chris Study Leave

Pastor Chris will be away for a week of continuing education from August 4 - 11. Please contact the church office to be connected for any pastoral care needs.

Compass Youth Sailing Trip

Calling all youth entering grades 9-12 - Join with others as we head out on the Mississippi to soak up the sun and enjoy an afternoon of boating fun. On Saturday, August 12 at 2:00 p.m. everyone will meet at the Watergate Marina before heading out on the boat. There will be snacks to share, with a kitchen and bathroom on the boat. At 5:00 p.m. we will return back to the marina for your pickup. (This event is weather permitting, of course.)

RSVPs are due TODAY! To submit yours, go to www.centralforgood.org/youth. Questions can be directed to Jennifer Anderson.

Upcoming Repair in Sanctuary

In the next few weeks, work will begin to repair the crack in the plaster arch above the chancel & choir loft. American Masonry Restoration (the same historic-building contractor that has done much of the exterior work) has been contracted to begin August 14 and should take 10 days to finish the repair. However, preparations will begin soon to protect our space and our instruments from plaster dust. Please excuse our mess as we have this necessary repair accomplished!

Let's Head to the Zoo!

Build connections and spend a few hours with your church friends out in the community! Children and adults of all ages are invited to an excursion through Como Zoo on August 17. (Children will need to bring an adult.)

We will meet at the Bird Exhibit right inside Como Zoo at 1:00 p.m. We plan to stay about three hours; however, you can leave whenever it works best for you. Como Zoo is free, but there is a recommended donation of \$4/adults and \$2/kids.

If you plan to attend, please drop an email to jennifera@centralforgood.org so that we are sure to watch for you. Friends are also welcome!

Newsletter Contributions

Is your church committee working on exciting or important things you want to share? If so, email christier@centralforgood.org by the 10th of the month for the following month's edition of *Connect Central*. A new and busy program year is just around the corner!

All-Ages Drum Circle

Save the date to join with others of all ages for a drum circle in worship next Sunday, August 13. No drumming experience is necessary. We will teach you what you need to know! Simply plan to meet at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary to choose a drum and practice a few easy rhythms. You need not bring anything else (unless you have a hand drum you want to use, in which case, you are welcome to bring it!)

Childcare During Worship

Our beautiful nursery is staffed from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. during the summer through Labor Day. Children from birth through age 6 are invited to spend the morning in our air-conditioned nursery, playing and learning together.

Children are also welcome to remain with you in the sanctuary during worship. We offer activity bags and books at the back of the sanctuary for them to enjoy.

STAY CONNECTED!



www.centralforgood.org



facebook.com/centralforgood



instagram.com/centralforgood



www.centralforgood.org/newsletter



www.centralforgood.org/volunteer

This Week at Central

SUNDAY 08/06

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
 Mini-Camp for Grades 1-8
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting

MONDAY 08/07

- 5:30 p.m. Women's Networking Group

TUESDAY 08/08

- 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

WEDNESDAY 08/09

- 11:45 a.m. Wednesday Community Lunch

SATURDAY 08/12

- 2:00 p.m. Compass Youth Sailing Trip

SUNDAY 08/13

- 9:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study
10:30 a.m. Worship
11:30 a.m. Coffee & Fellowship
7:00 p.m. St. Paul AA Speaker Meeting

CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*

CENTRAL TEAM

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PASTOR

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Maria Stokes, Nursery Care Giver

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Alexander Woods, Barbara Brooks,
Dr. Melanie Ohnstad

Maureen Smith, Bible Study Leader
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Barb Westman, Community Lunch
Chef & Kitchen Manager