

CONNECT CENTRAL

WWW.CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG

DECEMBER 2020

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COLBY FARWELL SET FOR JANUARY 3

Please join us to share in a virtual Coffee Time on Sunday, January 3 at 11:30 a.m. to say farewell to Rev. David Colby and his family.

In late October, Rev. David Colby announced that he would be concluding his time as Central's pastor. In the letter that was sent to the congregation, he wrote:

"I started at Central on February 1, 2005. I thought way back then that if we could make it through that initial "live or die" period, there would be joys and fun ministry challenges that would be fulfilling and keep me challenged for eight or ten or even twelve years. And it has been a wonderful adventure all these years. But now it feels clear to me that it is time to make way for a new pastor to lead this wonderful church.

I am grateful for all that we have accomplished together, becoming a community of welcome and respect, in the city for good. This church is fun, strong, vibrant and faithful, and will continue to be so. The Session and Deacons and staff are full of faithful and talented people. They will continue to provide guidance and leadership and help this church continue to explore what it is to be faithful to the God who calls us to venture forth together.

I also want to express my gratitude to my family, to Laura who has supported this adventure every step



CENTRAL
IN THE CITY FOR GOOD

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 4]

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Advent and Christmas will be different this year. The surge in Covid-19 cases will ensure that we find new ways to listen and remember the Advent promises. If 2020 has taught us anything, it is to expect the unexpected, which is in itself a pretty good window into the Advent theme of God's surprising arrival into the human experience. Throughout Advent readings, we often hear angels begin a shocking message with the words, "Do not be afraid." And so our Advent themes for 2020 pick up on that angelic message. (These themes, and some materials we might share, are from Illustrated Children's Ministry)

In a time when long-standing traditions will need to pause for a year, can we listen in new ways for a message of hope, peace, joy and love? We think so, and look forward to joining together in a faithful adventure during this Advent and Christmas season.

Sunday, November 29

DO NOT BE AFRAID TO HOLD HOPE.

On this first Sunday of Advent, we will hear the story of an angel appearing to young Mary (Luke 1:26-45).

Sunday, December 6

DO NOT BE AFRAID TO BRING PEACE

On this second week of Advent, we will listen closely to "the Magnificat" (named for the first Latin word used in Mary's response) as

remembered in Luke 1:46-55. "My soul magnifies the Lord," Mary begins and her words are inspiring and offer illumination about God's work of bringing peace to the world.

Sunday, December 13

DO NOT BE AFRAID TO PRACTICE JOY

During this long pandemic, we have needed to find new ways to find and practice joy. Practicing joy can happen, indeed, it must, in even the most difficult of circumstances. On this third Sunday of Advent, we hear the angels news of "great joy for all the people" that they share with the shepherds (Luke 2:1-14).

Sunday, December 20

DO NOT BE AFRAID TO CHOOSE LOVE

This is a time for experimentation in new ways to connect, new ways to tell old stories about hope and light. Our worship service today is centered around a virtual Christmas pageant.

Christmas Eve, December 24

On Christmas Eve, all these themes and the threads from all the gospel stories come together. We hope that you and your loved ones are doing what you can to stay safe. At some point, carve out time for a special Christmas Eve service.

Sunday, December 27

On this first Sunday of Christmas, we will "welcome" guest preacher the Rev. Dr. Lis Valle-Ruiz, who is the assistant professor of homiletics (preaching) at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. Rev. Valle has served as Professor of Theology and Scripture at the Lux Summer Youth Institute in Monmouth College, IL, has provided worship and chaplaincy leadership in interdenominational gatherings, and possesses a background as both an actor and a lawyer.

Rev. Valle received a ThM in Homiletics from Princeton Theological Seminary and an MDiv from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She also holds a JD from the University of Puerto Rico. With a BA in Education with an emphasis in Theater, Valle has continued to combine her study of theology and passion for justice with her work as an actress and an artistic director.

Sunday, January 3

REV. COLBY'S FINAL SERMON AT CENTRAL

On this Sunday, we will hear the story of the magi (Matt. 2:1-12) as they follow a star to see where it leads them. Rev. Colby will preach from the sanctuary.

At 11:30 a.m., all are invited to a special virtual coffee hour to say farewell to Rev. Colby and his family. (See page 8 for the Coffee Time Zoom link.)

CELEBRATING MILESTONES



Jennifer Anderson

CELEBRATING TEN YEARS AT CENTRAL

Jennifer Anderson started at Central in November 2010 as the Interim Director of Music and Organist. Her gifts and abilities were evident very early on. Jennifer was quickly able to recruit people to sing in the choir and fostered a supportive community. She recruited wonderful paid section leaders who could add excellence and furthered that supportive environment. She has knowledge and appreciation for a wide range of music that is heard on Sunday mornings but also for special events like Cabaret and VocalPoint concerts. Thank you, Jennifer!

Anna Sanchez

CELEBRATING TEN YEARS AT CENTRAL

Anna Sanchez first came to Central

as our sous chef. The team of kitchen volunteers quickly enjoyed her personality as well as kitchen skills. In addition, Anna took on the evening receptionist role. When we needed a new Office Manager, Anna was an obvious choice and with the addition of tasks in accounting and building supervision, she now serves as the



full-time Church Administrator. Anna is friendly and caring and is often the first person people talk to or meet when they call the church or enter the church's doors during the week. Thank you, Anna!

.....

The Personnel Committee sent a card and gift to Jennifer and Anna on behalf of the congregation. Members of the Central community are invited to send messages of appreciation by email or card as well.

CENTRAL STAFF

(651) 224-4728

PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Dr. David Colby, Pastor
davec@centralforgood.org, ext. 102
 Maureen Smith, Pastoral Associate
maureens@centralforgood.org
 Parish Associates: Rev. Casey Wells,
 Rev. Doug Throckmorton,
 Rev. Lou Bender

ADMINISTRATION

Anna Sanchez, Church Administrator
office@centralforgood.org, ext. 100
 Christie Rachele, Communications
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Matt Ehling, Treasurer
 William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus
 Mary Lange, Evening Receptionist
 Lavar Jones, Sexton

MUSIC

Jennifer Anderson,
 Director of Music Ministry
jennifera@centralforgood.org, ext. 103
 Music Staff: Shanta Hejmadi,
 Abbie Betinis, Adam Van der Sluis,
 Steve Swanson, David Winkworth

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Katie Morris, Children & Youth
 Ministry Coordinator
katiem@centralforgood.org, ext. 109
 Natalie Pence, Nursery Care Provider
 Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher

FOOD INITIATIVE

Barb Westman, Chef & Manager
Barb.westman@gmail.com
 Sue LeClaire, Sous Chef
 Peter Evarts, Dishwasher

MARTHA'S CLOSET

Sandy White, Director
martha@centralforgood.org, ext. 112

COLBY FARWELL [CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

of the way, and to Amaya and Max who have grown up at Central. And we appreciate your many expressions of care and kindness throughout the years we have shared together."

Please join us for online worship that morning, as Rev. Colby preaches his final sermon at Central. Then, join others at 11:30 a.m. over Zoom in sharing stories, memories, and well wishes. (See page 8.) The link for the Zoom Coffee Hour will also be shared by email or can be received by calling the church office.

You are also welcome to send cards and letters to Dave and his family. You can send them to their home address or to Central.

Pastoral Transition

The Clerk of Session, Sally Mortenson, sent out a letter to the congregation that explained the first steps in a pastoral transition.

✓ The Session met with a representative from the presbytery to go through the transition process. (Oct 29)

✓ A congregational meeting was held to act on the request of Rev. Colby to dissolve the pastoral relationship. (Nov 15)

The Session will approve a job description for the transitional pastor and identify a search team.

The Presbytery will approve the job description and help to identify potential candidates.

Potential candidates will be interviewed.

The Session will contract with transitional pastor.

Guest preachers will provide leadership for at least two Sundays after Rev. Colby finishes on January 3.

The transitional pastor will help guide the congregation in the process that will lead to the creation of a ministry information form and Pastoral Nominating Committee.

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

[BY JENNIFER ANDERSON]

Typically, the month of December is one overflowing with musical opportunities at Central.

Of course, this isn't a typical year. But we can look forward to some special musical offerings during the on-line worship services, most notably music from our Bell ensemble! We were able to safely rehearse in November and will be sharing some of that music with the congregation during worship in December and January. Of course, our Section Leaders and pianist Steve are still hard at work as well, recording parts from home as they, too, work remotely.

Music Mosaic

The Music Mosaic offerings have been going very well, and we look forward to another one on December 16 reflecting the season. See page 4 for details!

VocalPoint

VocalPoint will be celebrating our 10th Season this year with a very unique offering. All will be invited to join with us to reflect on past seasons with special guest performances by some of our favorite headliners, to hear from some of the very best-of-the-best choral experts in the country about how they are changing the field for



the better, to participate in a virtual choir performance, and to gather for a live-stream event of past concerts. Watch for more information on how you can participate in the coming weeks.

Grateful to find ways to connect, even in these difficult days.

CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS

[BY KATIE MORRIS]

Congratulations to the Confirmation Class

We are so proud of the confirmation class of 2020 (shown at right), and glad we were able to celebrate them and those baptized in worship on November 22nd!

Christmas Pageant

Join us for the annual Christmas Pageant, which will premier at www.centralforgood.org/stream on December 20th!

The pageant will look a little different than in years past, but it will still have all the incredible pieces of the Christmas story that we look forward to each year.

We hope you will join us!

Staying Connected

We're going to take a break from our Sunday Faith Formation Zoom gatherings the next few weeks, partly because of other church events happening on Sundays, partly to regroup as we look towards the Advent season, and mostly to check in with you all!

What does your family need right now? Are you at capacity for anything outside of school? Are you interested in more mailed materials that your family can look at together away from screens? Let us know! You can call or email Katie Morris (katiem@centralforgood.org).

However you want to stay connected to this church community, we want you to know that you are loved, and we care about you.



ANNABELLE, grade 10



SOLOMON, grade 11



ZACH, grade 9



ANDREI, grade 10



AYRI, grade 9



As part of the confirmation service, Andrei and Annabelle were also baptized by Rev. David Colby, with safe distancing and appropriate safety measures taken by all as necessary in this unusual time.



2021 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

[BY REV. DAVID COLBY]

This fall we have been exploring the theme of people of faith enduring long and difficult times. We have heard from so many people that the worship and mission and ministry of this church is helpful as we endure this strange and difficult year of 2020.

Thank you to all those who have

made the mission and ministry of Central Presbyterian Church possible through gifts of time, and talent, and financial support. We are the church together!

And if you are in a time of difficulty, please reach out to the church. The Deacons, in particular, stand ready to provide support, including financial assistance made possible

through the Deacons Emergency Fund.

Thank you also to those who have submitted pledge cards indicating your willingness to support Central in the coming year. If you have not done so yet, please send in a pledge card or submit the information it contains to the church office.



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
in the city for good!

YES, I WANT TO HELP CENTRAL!

- Please provide me a box of weekly offering envelopes.
- I want to pay monthly by automatic direct bank transfer. (Download form at www.centralforgood.org/give)
- Please call me about donating stock or other investments.
- I want to make a donation by credit card or PayPal. (Go to www.centralforgood.org/give)
- I would like to make a special year-end gift of \$_____.

My Stewardship Pledge for 2021 is \$_____ / week, month, year (circle one).

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____

CONNECTION CIRCLES

Join the Deacons in their final few Connection Circles of 2020!

These casual online circles offer a means for our community to gather and connect through guided conversations with people of all ages and backgrounds. If you have not yet been a part of one, we invite you to stop by for one or as many as you like!

Connection Circles run every Thursday until December 17 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. The following information is the same for all Connection Circles.

How to Participate

VIA VIDEO ON SMARTPHONE, COMPUTER OR TABLET, GO TO:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87229900980>

OR VIA PHONE CALL IN:
(312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 872 2990 0980# Have Questions?

If you have questions about small groups, how to get connected, or how to reach the planning team, email office@centralforgood.org or call (651) 224-4728 ext. 100.



MUSIC MOSAIC EVENT

Cookies and Carols!

Join Jennifer and the music staff on Wednesday, December 16 from 7:15 - 8:15 p.m. for a time around the virtual fireplace. With a cup of hot cocoa in hand, hear the stories of favorite carols and share cookie recipes.

No preparation is needed; simply join us for a musical holiday treat. (But if you DO have a favorite Christmas cookie recipe you'd like to

tell us about, we'd love to hear it!)

VIA VIDEO ON SMARTPHONE, COMPUTER OR TABLET, GO TO:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89250890162>

OR VIA PHONE CALL IN:
(312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 892 5089 0162#

See you on Zoom!

4 WAYS TO GIVE

While we are unable to pass the collection plate in our online worship, we invite you to still give to Central through one of several other ways.



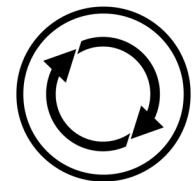
Donate Online

www.centralforgood.org/give



Mail a Check

500 Cedar St, St. Paul, MN 55101



Recurring Transfer

Set up an automatic bank transfer



Deliver In-Person

Contact the office to arrange a day/time for drop off.

QUESTIONS?

Call (651) 224-4728 ext. 100

NEW WAYS FOR OLD GIVING TRADITIONS

The holidays will be celebrated in a different way this year at Central due to COVID. The Giving Tree, Mitten Tree, and Alternative Gift Market will be different too.

Drive-up Event

On Sunday, December 13 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. the Coordinated Mission Committee, Women of Central, and Knitting Group will be holding a drive-up donation drop-off at the MPR parking lot for the Giving Tree and Mitten Tree.

Giving Tree

This year the tradition of the festive holiday tags on the Giving Tree continues, but in a slightly different way. We will collect gift cards of any denomination (Target, Wal-Mart, or Kohl's are preferred), and accept wrapped gifts that you can sign up for online. To sign up to purchase a gift, go to www.centralforgood.org/community to find the link for the sign-up list. For gift cards, please write the amount on the card or envelope; for wrapped gifts, please write the name and age of the person you shopped for on the gift or card.

Mitten Tree

Although we didn't have our festive holiday brunch this year, the Mitten Tree tradition will continue. The Women of Central, Knitting Group, and Coordinated Mission committees are partnering together to collect donations of winter gear for Neighborhood House and Interfaith



Action Department of Indian Programs. In addition to the typical donations of mittens, gloves, hats and scarves; new or gently used coats and other winter gear are also welcome. The items of greatest need are children's coats and boots.

Alternative Gift Market

We will not be having our annual Alternative Gift Market of handmade items, coffees, and delicious chocolates. However, donations can still be made to Martha's Closet and VocalPoint by sending a check to Central's office with the designee noted in the memo field.

For Heifer International, you can make a donations directly using their website: www.heifer.org.

Deadline for Donations

If you are unable to attend the event on December 13, you may drop off donations at the church office by December 15. We appreciate everyone's generosity and wish you a safe and happy holiday season.



Join others for a casual virtual Coffee Time on Sunday, December 6th and 20th at 11:30 a.m. on Zoom, as well as January 3rd as we say farewell to Rev. Colby. We will have break-out groups so you have an opportunity to talk with many!

JOIN VIDEO ON SMARTPHONE, COMPUTER OR TABLET, GO TO: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82541611955>

OR VIA PHONE CALL IN: (312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 825 4161 1955#

If you have questions about this event, speak with Kiera Faye, Chair of the New Members or reach out to the office at office@centralforgood.org or call (651) 224-4728.

SHOW US YOUR HOLIDAY HOME!

This year, we won't be joining together to decorate the sanctuary, or bringing garland and red ribbons to the steps of Central. As we revisit photos from last years' Deck the Halls event, it is easy to miss the faces and memories of those who share in this annual experience. However, the spirit of this time is still there, even as we must stay our distances.

So, share your holiday with us! How have you decorated your home for Christmas? Do you have a favorite ornament adorning your tree, or delight in a line of stockings on your fireplace? Have you begun holiday baking or hung up the sweet handmade artwork by your children? Perhaps you have an annual holiday family photo and greeting to share?

Share photos of your Christmas decorating or traditions with us on Facebook each Sunday in December. Visit Central's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/centralforgood and look for the day's post about Deck the Halls. Post comments with your photos and see them become a part of a future video feature. Not on Facebook? You can also email them to cpc@christierachelle.com.



WOMEN'S NETWORKING GROUP

Join the Women of Central for a time of informal sharing on Monday, December 14 from 5:00 p.m. - 6:15 p.m. This gathering will be on Zoom and we hope you can join us!

VIA VIDEO ON SMARTPHONE, COMPUTER OR TABLET, GO TO:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89850192750>

OR VIA PHONE CALL IN:

(312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 898 5019 2750#

To be added to the mailing list for future events, send an email to women@centralforgood.org.

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN

UPDATED AS RECOMMENDED BY CENTRAL'S COVID-19 TASK FORCE

WE CARE ABOUT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF OUR COMMUNITY AND ALL WHO ENTER THE CHURCH BUILDING.



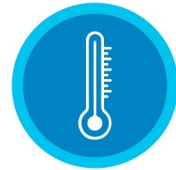
Continue Remotely

Staff and committees will continue to work and gather for meetings via Zoom when in-person dynamics are not essential.



Gather Outdoors

When needed, take advantage of fall opportunities to gather in small (safely distanced) groups outside.



Stay Home

If you or anyone in your home is sick or has any of the following symptoms, please stay home.

Fever

Cough

Shortness of Breath

Headache

Chills

Muscle Aches

Sore Throat

Lost of Taste or Smell



Small Indoor Groups

Indoor meetings and activities of less than 10 people are now allowed with the protocols identified on this page.



Wear a Mask

Please wear a mask while you are in the building, as required by state mandate.



Sanitize Your Hands

After entering, use one of several sanitizer stations now located throughout the building.



Keep Distance

Please stay at least 6 feet away from others occupying the building.



Have Questions?

Contact Central's Covid-19 Plan Administrator, Anna Sanchez, at office@centralforgood.org or (651) 224-4728, ext. 100.



Join us in wishing a very *Happy Birthday* to all who are celebrating over the coming month.

Isaac Fisher	12/1
Benjamin Hanscom	12/1
Matt Ehling.....	12/3
Carl Peterson	12/3
Andrea Lawson	12/6
Christopher Bremicker	12/7
Thea Berg	12/8
Craig Muntifering	12/8
Alfred Zdrazil	12/8
Sharon Zopfi-Jordan.....	12/8
Annabelle Endres	12/9
Addison Kannapiran.....	12/9
Joan Kelly	12/10
Jane Lonergan	12/10
Kathy Barker	12/11
Tennyson Gould	12/11
Aiden Flinger-Davis	12/12
Allie Pyan.....	12/12

Natalie Klaehn	12/13
Richard Wheeler	12/14
Micah Johnson	12/15
Bonnie Joyce	12/16
Isabella Hanscom	12/18
Jeff Zeise.....	12/18
Jennifer Toikka	12/19
Carl Willis	12/19
Shaylynn Williams.....	12/20
Virgie Bundy.....	12/21
Maureen Smith	12/22
Johann Toikka.....	12/24
Lillian Sanders.....	12/25
Matt Jagger.....	12/28
Ben Jagger.....	12/28

If we missed you, please send us a note to office@centralforgood.org so that we can correct our records and share birthday wishes with you as well!

New to Central?

**Drop us an email and say hello.
We would love to connect with you!**

office@centralforgood.org



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facebook.com/centralforgood



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
instagram.com/centralforgood



WATCH VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE
youtube.com (search for Central)



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER
twitter.com/centralforgood
twitter.com/cpcmusic



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*We may not yet
be in church for
worship, but as
you can see,
there was a lot
of work
underway to
preserve the
building for a
long future!*

CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*