

CONNECT CENTRAL

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JANUARY 2022

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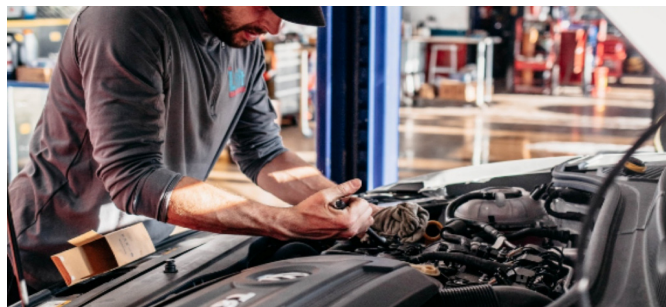
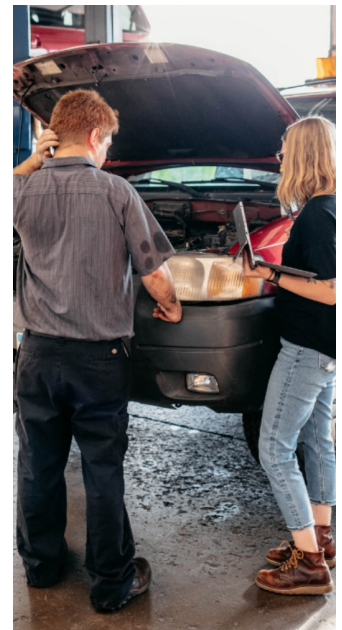
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DRIVEN BY DIGNITY

VOCALPOINT CONCERTS TO RAISE MONEY FOR LOCAL CAR REPAIR SHOP FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

[BY JENNIFER ANDERSON]

The beneficiary organization for VocalPoint’s 2022 season is **The Lift Garage**, a 501c3 nonprofit aimed at moving people out of poverty and homelessness by providing low-cost car repair, free pre-purchase car inspections, and honest advice that supports our community on the road to more secure lives. They are located on Lake Street just steps from the Third Precinct. After Lake Street burned in the 2020 protests, The Lift Garage redoubled their

commitment to the community, purchasing their building which they had previously rented and expanded in order to serve more people. Since opening their doors in 2013, they have saved car owners \$1.1 million!

The 2020 benefit concerts will be:
Saturday, February 5 at 4 p.m.
Sunday, February 6 at 4 p.m.

Tickets are \$15 in advance/\$20 at the door for adults. They are available online and after worship, beginning January 16.



[CONTINUED ON PAGE 6]

UPCOMING WORSHIP

WORSHIP AT CENTRAL SUNDAYS AT 10:30 A.M. IN-PERSON OR ONLINE WITH SERVICES STREAMED LIVE

January begins the season of Epiphany on the church calendar, a time where we are told to watch for how God is revealed to us. Sometimes we meet God in the extraordinary moments of life. More often than not we meet God in ordinary moments of life, perhaps a quiet walk on a snowy day or in the kindness of a stranger.

Join us in worship through the month of January as we explore where God's voice is speaking to us in the midst of our own lives.

Sunday, January 2

COMMUNION SUNDAY

ISAIAH 60:1-6
MATTHEW 2:1-12

This Epiphany Sunday we will share in communion and receive star words as Rev. Carol Reed preaches on meeting God at the beginning of the new year. The star words are a randomly chosen word for you to reflect on through the new year. Jennifer Anderson will play organ.

Sunday, January 9

LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

As we hear of the baptism of Jesus in our scripture reading, Rev. Carol Reed preaches on meeting God in baptism. The Central Choir will sing and we welcome the return of The OK Factor! (See page 3.)

Sunday, January 16

On the weekend of the Martin Luther King, Jr. national holiday we will reflect on how his leadership might speak into the issues of today. Dr. Ernest Lloyd will be leading in worship. Central Choir sings.

Sunday, January 23

PSALM 19
LUKE 4:14-21

Rev. Carol Reed will preach of meeting God in the gifts we each bring to the church. The Central Choir sings and we welcome special guests Anthony Healy and Laura Betinis Healy sharing jazz piano and vocals. (See page 3.)

Sunday, January 30

JEREMIAH 1:4-10
LUKE 4:21-30

Rev. Carol Reed will preach of meeting God in our call to discipleship. The Central Choir and Handbell Ensemble offer music in worship today.

New to Central?
**Drop us an email and
say hello. We'd love to
connect with you!**

**office@
centralforgood.org**

CENTRAL STAFF

(651) 224-4728

PASTORAL CARE

Rev. Dr. Carol Reed,
Transitional Pastor
carolr@centralforgood.org, ext. 102
Maureen Smith, Bible Study Leader

ADMINISTRATION

Anna Sanchez, Church Administrator
office@centralforgood.org, ext. 100

Christie Rachelle,
Director of Communications
christier@centralforgood.org, ext. 105
(952) 564-4472

Matt Ehling, Treasurer
William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus
Mary Lange, Evening Receptionist
Lavar Jones & Peter Evarts, Custodians

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

Laura Walls, Children & Youth Ministry
Coordinator, ext. 109
lauraw@centralforgood.org
Megan Beese, Preschool Teacher

FOOD INITIATIVE

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

MARTHA'S CLOSET

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

WELCOME GUEST MUSICIANS!

[BY JENNIFER ANDERSON]

This month we are delighted to welcome the return of several popular musicians to worship.

The OK Factor

Playful and unexpected, new-classical crossover duo The OK Factor writes and performs folk-inspired music influenced by multiple genres, with an artistry that reveals their classical training. Cellist Olivia Diercks and violinist Karla Colahan find great joy in defying expectations and delivering an experience outside of what audiences anticipate from a cello and violin combo.

Organic and genuine, their original compositions feel both comfortingly familiar and uniquely fresh, and have been described as "genre-bending" (Julie Amacher, MPR) and "pure magic" (Wausau Pilot & Review). The ease with which they write and perform and their passion

for educational outreach has caught the attention of the Minnesota music community in which they live and work, bringing them success on stages such as The Cedar Cultural Center, as frequent featured artists with Minnesota Public Radio, and as finalists for the McKnight Fellowships for Musicians in 2018.

Olivia and Karla invite audiences to explore music and cultivate a curiosity about its role in their lives.

Anthony Healy

As soon as pianist Anthony Healy was old enough to reach the keys, he has been drawn to and inspired by the power of the instrument. Frequently performing across the country, Anthony has a vast repertoire and is at ease in a variety of styles, including jazz, classical, blues, and pop. Born and raised in Westborough, Massachusetts, Anthony began playing songs by ear at age 4, starting with the theme

to the movie "Superman" (the greatest superhero of all time), and continuing on to works from all genres. Initially, Anthony played simply to entertain friends and family, but what started as a hobby soon developed into something more serious. By age 14, he was studying classical piano at The Boston Conservatory under Inna Muravnik. Anthony went on to earn a degree in music education with a piano performance focus, along with a minor in Italian studies, from Ithaca College. While pursuing his master's degree in jazz performance at Western Michigan University, Anthony studied with acclaimed pianist Jeremy Siskind, and also worked closely with the Music Education department. Anthony currently resides in White Bear Lake, Minnesota, teaching K-5 music at Afton-Lakeland Elementary in the Stillwater district, and maintaining his own private teaching studio.

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 7]



The OK Factor's Olivia Diercks and Karla Colahan



Anthony Healy and Laura Betinis Healy

DECK THE HALLS!





VOCALPOINT CONCERTS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

COVID-19 Safety Protocol and Precautions

PROOF OF VACCINATION

Health and safety are our top priorities. VocalPoint will follow best practices from the Arts Partnership (Minnesota Opera, the Ordway, the SPCO and Schubert Club) which requires proof of either full COVID-19 vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test result taken within 72 hours prior to attending the concert.

MASK REQUIREMENT

Masks are required in the venue. This follows the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s recommendation that everyone should wear a mask indoors regardless of vaccination status.

Tour The Lift Garage

Come and tour the beneficiary organization, The Lift Garage, Thursday, January 20 at 7:00 p.m. To attend, please RSVP by January 16 to Jennifer Anderson via email to jennifera@centralforgood.org.

Concerts to Feature Musician Chastity Brown

Chastity Brown is a storyteller in the blues tradition. The Minnesota-via-Tennessee songwriter and musician tells stories populated by marginalized characters to stake her own space as a queer black woman and to speak to other experiences oftentimes ignored.

The daughter of a black blues musician and white Irish mother who

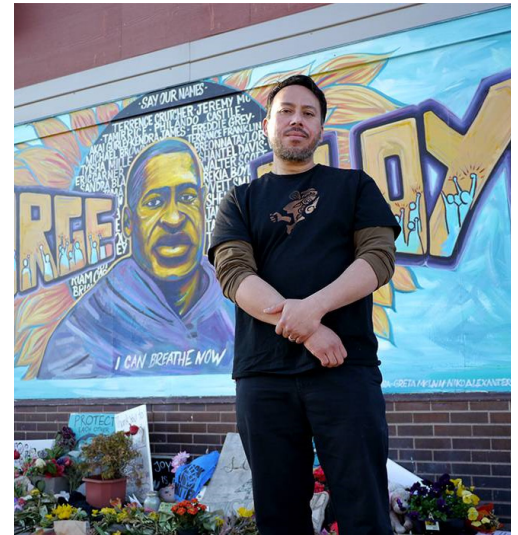


was raised in Tennessee, she’s made a home in Minneapolis for more than a decade. She was signed by Red House Records and released her acclaimed album *Silhouette of Sirens* in 2017 which was chosen as a “First Listen” by NPR. She’s gone on to tour internationally and supported the Indigo Girls, Jayhawks, and Micheal Kiwanuka among others.

Chastity has toured as backing vocalist and opening band for Ani DiFranco on US, UK, and EU tours. In 2019, she was chosen to perform alongside the MN Orchestra directed by Osmo Vanska, where she presented an evening of her original songs.

Featuring Visual Artist Cadex Herrera

You are probably familiar with Cadex Herrera’s work as he was the lead artist for the iconic George Floyd Mural on Cup Foods in South Minneapolis. VocalPoint has commissioned Cadex to create two large banners for our concerts. He



will also be exhibiting his work in our Friendship Room Art Gallery.

Cadex’s aspirations as an artist is that through his art he can bring awareness and dialogue to a small fraction of the many social injustices that are part of his reality.

Cadex believes social consciousness and art can be tools to exact positive change, as well as inspire to create and make a difference in our local as well as our global community.

Learn More

VocalPoint uses the power of people, art, and collaboration to tell the stories of organizations doing life-changing work. In ten seasons, VocalPoint has raised over \$200,000 for nine incredible organizations, shining a spotlight on important issues such as youth homelessness, the immigrant experience, and sex trafficking.

To learn more about VocalPoint and the upcoming concert series, go to www.vocalpointchorus.org.

EPIPHANY

[BY REV. CAROL REED]

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

- Matthew 2:7-12



Epiphany is from the Greek word for to show or to make manifest. An epiphany is sometimes spoken of as a sudden realization or awareness. When we celebrate Epiphany in the church, we recall the Magi who followed the star and came to worship Emmanuel – God with us. It reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the World and fulfills the longing in us to walk in the light of God.

The other thing though about

Epiphany is that the Magi expected to find God in the palace in Jerusalem, not in a little out of the way town of Bethlehem.

Epiphany falls on January 6 every year, twelve days after Christmas. We will celebrate it in worship on Sunday, January 2nd. Please join us in worship that day to receive communion and a star word – a randomly chosen word for you to reflect on through the new year.

GUEST MUSICIANS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Laura Betinis Healy

As an active vocal soloist, Laura Betinis Healy has been featured with the Oriana Consort, King's Chapel Choir, and Cappella Clausura, with whom she recorded 'The Complete Vespers of Cozzolani', and appeared as Anima ("the soul") in the staged

Hildegard von Bingen opera 'Ordo Virtutum'. Laura has premiered her sister Abbie Betinis's annual new Christmas carol on Minnesota Public Radio for the past 5 years so my have already heard her voice! In 2016, Laura appeared on the Minnesota Orchestra's 'Inside the Classics' program, and in 2019, she performed with the Detroit

Symphony Orchestra as a member of Audivi, and also served as soprano section leader for the Kalamazoo Bach Festival Chorus. A graduate of Ithaca College,

Laura now lives in White Bear Lake with her husband, Anthony, and their daughter, Odessa.

A NEED FOR GIVING

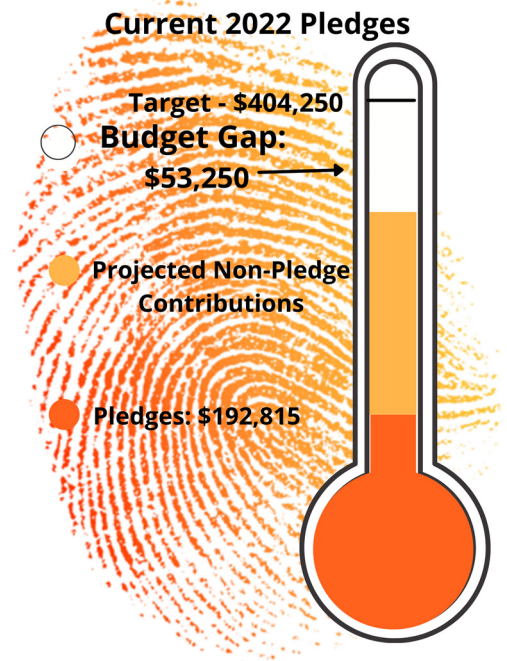
[FROM REV. CAROL REED]

Despite a challenging environment on many fronts, Central's finances have remained stable over the course of 2021, due to strong giving by congregants and sound fiscal management by staff.

Heading into 2022, Central faces rising costs due to inflation, as well as elevated budget needs as we fully re-open our programming. Central has received many generous pledges

in recent weeks, but still faces a projected deficit for 2022 as it budgets for full programming and staffing. Please think of Central in your year-end giving, and return your pledge cards if you have not done so already.

To those who have not given this year or regularly, we encourage you to make financial gifts to support Central's worship programs and the many ministries we serve within our community.



CHILDREN & YOUTH'S ANNUAL PAGEANT





ANNOUNCEMENTS

Women's Networking Group

[BY SUE HOFFMAN]

At this time of this article, we plan to return to Celeste St. Paul Hotel + Bar on Wednesday, January 5th at 5:30 p.m. You can park in the Central parking lot and walk across Cedar Street to meet us in the main floor lounge.

However, we are closely monitoring the COVID situation, and may shift to an online meeting format should the situation warrant a change in venue/approach. Please watch eConnect and our Women's Networking Group (WNG) email notifications to stay informed about the latest plans. You can join our WNG email list by sending a note to women@centralforgood.org.

Please RSVP via email by January 2 to let us know if you plan to attend at women@centralforgood.org.

New Member Inquirer's Class

[BY REV. CAROL REED]

Have you been considering making Central Presbyterian Church your church home? Or, perhaps you wish to become more engaged with the Central community. In the coming weeks we will be holding a new members' class and receiving people into membership in February.

If you are interested in learning more, please speak to Rev. Carol Reed or reach out to the Central office.

Deck the Halls Brunch

[BY SUE HOFFMAN]

Thank you to everyone who came to the Deck the Halls continental brunch. We braved the snow and enjoyed fellowship! We shifted our plans due to the winter storm, but enjoyed pastry treats, fruit, and yogurt to accompany our opportunity to visit with one another. Thank you to those who gave their time to prepare and serve breakfast for our decorating volunteers.

Volunteer Opportunity

[BY SHARON ZOPFI-JORDAN]

The Coordinated Mission Committee has scheduled dates for the 2022 volunteer events to serve the lunch at the St. Paul Opportunity Center / Higher Ground from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the following dates: January 8, March 12, May 14, July 9, September 10, and November 12.

St Paul Opportunity Center/is part of Catholic Charities and is located at 422 Dorothy Day Place, St. Paul.

If interested in volunteering, go to www.centralforgood.org/volunteer. A link will take you to the Catholic Charities website to register and answer questions regarding COVID vaccination status.

We are looking for 8-10 volunteers for each meal service date. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old and should wear appropriate closed toed footwear. Questions may be directed to Anna Sanchez in the Central office.

Permanent Pastor Search Process Update

[BY REV. CAROL REED]

The group at the Twin Cities Area Presbytery that was reviewing our Ministry Study has asked that we do some supplemental work before they approve our Ministry Study and give us the green light to vote on a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). That work has begun, but in the meantime, we want to encourage the congregation to prayerfully consider serving on the PNC. We had a good informational meeting earlier of interested people but we want to ensure we have diversity - of age, gender, race, length of membership at the church.

There will be two more informational meetings for those interested in learning more about serving on the PNC.

- Tues., January 4 at 7:00 p.m.
- Thurs., January 6 at 7:00 p.m.

These will be Zoom meetings. If you are interested, or if you have questions, please speak with Rev. Carol Reed and the Zoom link will be sent to you.

There will be a leadership retreat to do more work on the visioning process the church is also being asked to do. Following that there will be a gathering on a Sunday morning for the general congregation to have the opportunity to also have a voice.

Please watch Sunday bulletins and eConnect for date announcement and gathering details.

BLESSINGS FOR THIS NEW YEAR

[BY REV. CAROL REED]

We stand at the beginning of another new year. There is always something about January 1st that feels like a new beginning not just on the calendar, but figuratively. The last year was fraught with so much uncertainty, loss, and change. None of us knows what the year ahead brings, what joys and challenges await us, along with the all the time

that will be taken up by the day-to-day stuff of life.

May God travel with you on the way, whatever the year unfolds and brings. May you feel God's presence as a gift for the days to come.

God of new beginnings, help me make a difference in myself, so that with your help I may make

a difference in the world.

**A real difference:
in the world and in me,
at your pace, in your peace,
God of new beginnings.**

BY BRIAN WOODCOCK
WILD GOOSE PUBLICATIONS
IONA, SCOTLAND

THANK YOU DONORS

[BY CHRISTIE RACHELLE]

Thank you for everyone's generosity towards the annual Giving Tree in support of three Ramsey County families. A special thanks also to Kelly Ishizuka, Sophie and Addie for coordinating the program again this year.

We were pleased to hear from one of the Ramsey County workers who wanted to express how much families appreciate and need the gifts people have brought. She had this to say:

I have had several patients who've been in this program with their families. Just a couple of weeks ago I met with a man, living with schizophrenia and taking care of his two sons, both about 8, who when I asked how he felt about the coming holidays, said "relieved." I thought this was an unusual answer, so I asked why he's feeling relieved. He said, "Because I'm getting gifts for the kids and I don't have to worry about being able to afford a nice Christmas for them."



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Join us in wishing a joyous *Happy Birthday* to all who are celebrating birthdays this month.

- Susan Seymour..... 1/1
- John Lee 1/4
- Darlene Larson..... 1/6
- Eliana Klaehn 1/7
- Florence Zopfi 1/8
- Sally Siebell 1/12
- Carol Reed 1/13
- Ane Sofi Varanasi 1/14
- Peter Varanasi 1/15
- Eric Severson 1/16
- Stewart Siebell 1/19
- Richard Peterson 1/21
- Bonnie Zopfi..... 1/22
- William French 1/23
- Gabriel Lawson 1/23
- Wendy Peterson 1/23
- Melinda Kovach..... 1/24
- Wendy Flinger 1/25
- Amanda Amarteifio 1/29
- Pat Kivela 1/30
- Robert Singh..... 1/30
- Annalee Wolf 1/30

If we missed you, send a note to office@centralforgood.org so we can update our notes and share birthday wishes with you, too!



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Mitten Tree Donations

Thank you to everyone who donated winter hats, scarves, mittens, gloves, and socks this year's Mitten Tree. The items were delivered to the Neighborhood House to help people in need of warm items for the winter. There were so many, many beautiful handmade items along with purchased items, so the Mitten Tree was full to overflowing!



DONATED THIS YEAR
69 hats
19 pairs of gloves
9 scarves



CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*