

CONNECT CENTRAL

Hospitality and the Journey Home

FROM REV. CHRIS CHATELAINE-SAMSEN

Perhaps you've heard the analogy of a journey to describe Lent. Metaphorically, we "walk" alongside Jesus from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday as he goes from his ministry, to the Upper Room, to the Cross, and then to new life again. In that journey of discipleship, many Christians come to find a deeper sense of knowing God and knowing self.

I am also reminded that so many in our world are on a more literal

journey, whether those migrating across borders for security and economic reason, to those displaced from their own homes by warfare and violence. According to the UN Refugee Agency, 110 million people around the world have been displaced in some way.

As the Church of Jesus Christ, we are called to be a place of radical hospitality for those who the Bible sometimes refers to as "strangers."

We are also called to a Biblical imagination of what the world could be as a place of hospitality for all, neighbor and stranger alike.

During Lent, join this journey that is both metaphorical and literal, as we study Biblical texts of alienation and hospitality, finding ourselves part of a long story that has always been leading to home for all.

God's Peace, Pastor Chris

HOLY WEEK

✝ *Schedule*

Share Sunday services in-person or live online at
www.centralforgood.org/stream

24
MAR

PALM SUNDAY
10:30 a.m. worship

28
MAR

MAUNDY THURSDAY
6:00 p.m. supper | 7:00 p.m. worship

29
MAR

GOOD FRIDAY
7:00 p.m. worship at First Presbyterian, S. St. Paul

31
MAR

EASTER SUNDAY
10:30 a.m. worship | 11:30 a.m. egg hunt

MARCH 2024

Be humble in the glory of what is to come.



Upcoming Worship

JOIN US IN-PERSON OR ONLINE FOR WORSHIP.

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New to Central?

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

office@centralforgood.org

Or, call and ask about our next Inquirer's Class for prospective new members.

(651) 224-4728 ext. 100

Sunday Schedule

- 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study
- 10:30 AM Worship Service & Children's Education
- 11:30 AM Fellowship Hour

Nursery care is available upstairs from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Worship services are streamed live each Sunday on our website at: www.centralforgood.org/stream

Sunday, March 3

COMMUNION SUNDAY

We continue our "Strangers and Sojourners" series with Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen preaching on strangers identifying God rightly. We will share in communion. Music will include Central Choir, led by Eric Bartlett, with returning soloist Clara Osowski and pianist Alex Woods.

Sunday, March 10

Rev. Lou Bender returns to the pulpit to preach. Music will include Central Choir, led by Jane Ramseyer Miller and pianist Alex Woods.

Sunday, March 17

We continue our "Strangers and Sojourners" series with Rev. Chatelaine-Samsen preaching on strangers keeping God's covenant. Music will include Central Choir with guest musicians soloist Tonia Hughes Kendrick and organist / pianist Joe Trucano.

WORSHIP IN LENT

Join us for our sermon series *Strangers and Sojourners*, in which we examine Biblical texts from the story of the Exodus to the growth of the early church.

Sunday, March 24

PALM SUNDAY

Join with the children and youth as we usher in Jesus cheering 'Hosanna!' with a palm parade and reflection on the poignancy of the week ahead.

Music will include Central Choir, led by Paul Damico-Carper, and songs with the Children and Youth of Central, led by Jessica Clifton and Lucy Heistand.

Thursday, March 28

MAUNDY THURSDAY

This Maundy Thursday we will welcome parishioners from First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul to join us at Central as we remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples.

We will share a light supper in the dining room at 6:00 p.m., then worship services in the sanctuary at

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3]



EASTER FLOWERS ORDER FORM

Orders are due by Monday, April 3.

Flowers will be used to decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Following the service, our Deacons will deliver them to Central's home-bound members. To donate flowers in memory or honor of a loved one, please fill out the information, attach your payment (payable to Central), and return it to the office or place in the offering plate.

Your Name: _____

Phone / Email: _____

If you are purchasing in memorial of or in honor of someone, please complete the following:

In honor of: _____

In memory of:

PLANT	PRICE EACH	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Azaleas	\$20.00		
Large Lily	\$22.00		
Mums	\$12.00		
Hydrangeas	\$20.00		
Small Lily	\$11.00		
Gerber Daisy	\$ 6.00		

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Checks should be made payable to
Central Presbyterian Church.



Upcoming Worship

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2]

7:00 p.m.

Music will include the Central Choir with soloist Linda Kachelmeier, pianist Alex Woods, and guest violinist Sonja Braaten Molloy. Please note that there will not be child care and the service will not be live streamed.

Friday, March 29

GOOD FRIDAY

On this day, we will head over to First Presbyterian Church of South St. Paul (535 20th Ave N, South St. Paul, MN 55075) to share in Good Friday Tenebrae worship service at 7:00 p.m. with Pastor Tom Watson. Music will feature First Presbyterian Church's Festival Choir and Acoustic Jam. This service will not be live streamed.

Sunday, March 31

EASTER SUNDAY

Join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus and the ministry of love which guides us.

Music will include Central Choir, premiering a special piece by composer Paul Winchester written for this special day. We will also welcome the Ars Nova Brass Quintet, Central's Handbell Ensemble, percussionist Lucy Hiestand, and pianist Alex Woods. After worship, we welcome all children to stay for our annual Easter Egg Hunt in the sanctuary!

Welcome Guest Musicians!

FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & YOUTH MINISTRY



Joe Trocano

On March 17, we welcome organist and pianist Joe Trocano to worship.

Joe serves as the Organist & Ensemble Director at Westminster Presbyterian Church and is the Artistic Director of Skål Chamber Collective. Prior to this, he was the Associate Producer of American Public Media's nationally broadcast Pipedreams program, and curator of Minnesota Public Radio's Pop Up Classical series.

As a performer, Joe has performed for multiple live radio appearances as soloist and collaborator, was a 2016-2017 MPR Class Notes Artist, and is an active performer, conductor, and teacher within the Twin Cities and internationally. Local

engagements have included appearances with the Schubert Club, Minnesota Public Radio, Park Square Theater, VocalPoint Chorus, Justice Choir, Minneapolis Fringe Festival, and Twin Cities American Guild of Organists.

Joe holds a Master's of Music Degree in Organ Performance & Literature from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY where he was the recipient of the James B. Cochran award for excellence in performance.



Sonja Braaten Molloy

On March 28, we will welcome violinist Sonja Braaten Molloy to Central in our Maundy Thursday worship service.

Sonja joined the second violin section of The Cleveland Orchestra

beginning with the 2000 Blossom Festival season. Prior to joining the Orchestra, she served as associate concertmaster of the Canton Symphony Orchestra. She earned bachelor and master of music degrees from the Cleveland Institute of Music (CIM), where she studied with Cleveland Orchestra concertmaster William Preucil, David Updegraff, and Linda Cerone. At CIM, Sonja was a recipient of the Jerome Gross Prize in Violin, was named Theodore Presser Scholar, and was co-recipient of the Bennett Levine Memorial Award in Chamber Music.

Sonja has participated in the Aspen Music Festival and the Sarasota Music Festival, and served as co-concertmaster of the National Repertory Orchestra in Colorado. She was a featured collaborator in the Austin Chamber Music Center's 2007-08 season and frequently performs in San Diego's Mainly Mozart festival as both a chamber and orchestral musician. Raised in Twin Cities, Minnesota, Sonja resides in Cleveland Heights.

And, more!

In the coming weeks, we will also welcome the return of soloists mezzo-soprano Clara Oswoski, composer Linda Kachelmeier, and gospel singer Tonia Hughes Kendrick, as well as the premier of new music by composer Paul Winchester for Easter Sunday!

Will You Step in to Help?

FROM CHRISTIE RACHELLE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Every day of the week, and more so on Sundays, we rely on one another to minister through worship, education, fellowship, and more.

As we prepare to enter Holy Week and welcome increasing numbers into our sanctuary for worship, as well as a variety of upcoming community events, following are a few ways in which we need YOU.

HOW TO VOLUNTEER

To sign up to serve in any these positions, sign up online at: www.centralforgood.org/volunteer

If you have questions, please contact Anna Sanchez in the office at office@centralforgood.org or call (651) 224-4728 ext. 100.

Usher and Greet

Welcome guests to worship, hand out bulletins, help with wayfinding, and assist with receiving the offering.

Nursery Care

Care and play with our youngest members of the Central community in the nursery during worship or other upcoming events.

Assist in Worship

Serve during worship as a liturgist - leading prayers, reading scripture, and speaking from the pulpit.

Serve Fellowship

Prepare coffee and refreshments for the fellowship hour before church

from 10 - 10:30 a.m., or serve after worship.

Support Our Live Stream

Help as a camera operator and editor for our worship video broadcast. Don't worry, training is provided!

Building Hosts

On March 20 we will welcome advocates from throughout the Twin Cities to participate in Homeless Day on the Hill at Central. Volunteer to be a building host by reaching out to Anna in the Central office.

OUR VISION AND VALUES

We put our faith into action by nurturing spiritual growth and reflecting the call of God to serve our neighbor.

We transform our communities by promoting social justice and engaging others in ministries that drive change.

We invite everyone to the table sharing fellowship, worship, meals, music, and works as one body.

WWW.CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG

stay CONNECTED



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
facebook.com/centralforgood



FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM
instagram.com/centralforgood



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



SUBSCRIBE TO NEWS EMAILS
www.centralforgood.org/newsletter



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.centralforgood.org



VOLUNTEER TO HELP
centralforgood.org/volunteer



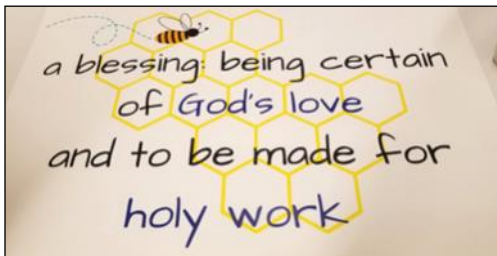
CALL ANYTIME WITH QUESTIONS
(651) 224-4728

Children & Youth Ministry News

FROM LAURA WALLS, SUNDAY CONNECTION COORDINATOR

Several Sundays ago, we talked about how the word “blessed” as shared in the Beatitudes, means being certain of God’s love and made for holy work. So “blessed are the poor in spirit” means that when you’re “down in the dumps” (one of the kids’ paraphrase) you are (and can still be) certain of God’s love and God’s purpose for you. You are made for holy work.

We generally think of “blessed” as abundance and things going well. But, in the Beatitudes, Jesus shares that we can be certain of God’s love and are doing holy work in the beautiful, often messy, hard times of life. For example, when we are down, grieving, longing for justice, showing mercy, or standing in the tense middle ground as peacemakers. In these hard experiences, we are blessed and can be certain of God’s love and made for this holy work.





Children & Youth Calendar

MARCH 3

- 9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.
- 10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection (Grades K - 8).
- 11:30 Youth Sunday preparation (Grades 6-12).

MARCH 10

- 9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.
- 10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection (Grades K - 8).

MARCH 17

- 9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.
- 10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection (Grades K - 8).

- 11:30 Third Sunday Lunch and Youth Sunday preparation (Grades 6-12)

MARCH 24 PALM SUNDAY

- 9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.
- 10:00 Kids gather to rehearse for Palm Sunday.
- 10:30 Worship with singing, drumming, and processing by our kids!
- 11:30 Youth (Grades 6-12) help fill Easter eggs.

MARCH 28 MAUNDY THURSDAY

- 7:00 Worship (meal precedes)
There is no nursery care.

MARCH 31 EASTER SUNDAY

- 9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.
- 10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection (Grades K - 8).
- 11:30 Easter Egg Hunt for kids through 5th Grade.

If you have questions about upcoming events, opportunities to volunteer, or ways to engage your child in ministry, contact:

Jennifer Anderson
Director of Music & Youth Ministry
(651) 224-4728 x103
jennifera@centralforgood.org

A Year of Housing Advocacy with Beacon

BY LEON OMAN, BEACOND LEADERSHIP TEAM

2023 marked a very busy year of housing advocacy for Central in its alliance with the Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative. While a brief overview was included in the annual report, it is helpful to see the details of a busy timeline in this publication as we head into the Homeless Day on the Hill event and other housing advocacy work over the coming year.

FEBRUARY 7

The House committee hearing for Bring It Home HF11* took place with 100 Beacon allies. This legislation sought to provide rental assistance for all low-income residents.

MARCH 5 & 7

Central conducted a postcard signing campaign thanking Minnesota House Speaker & Senate Majority Leader's support of HF11/SF11.

MARCH 7 & 28

Attendees received updates on the Gladstone Crossing housing development, including timelines for land use and funding work.

MARCH 20

Bring It Home, Minnesota day at the Capitol including rally and visits with legislators. Housing achieved a high target, \$1 billion for the two-year budget cycle. However, legislators allocated only the part of the surplus that is one-time dollars, meaning it is not projected to be there in the next budget cycle. While the \$1 billion budget is historic, we cannot create Bring it Home,

Minnesota rental assistance off of one-time dollars. Rental assistance needs ongoing resources to provide rental vouchers for as long as people need them and cannot be funded with this budget. The housing chairs are fighting to create a new metro sales tax to create dedicated funds for Bring it Home, Minnesota. The current proposal would be for a one-quarter-of-a-percent sales tax with all revenue going to support affordable housing, and 25% of the revenue dedicated to Bring it Home, Minnesota rent vouchers statewide. It's estimated this could bring in \$300 million a year, enough to start making a real difference.

But because of our campaign:

- The housing budget received its

historic increase and has more than doubled since we launched three years ago.

- The Chairs of the Housing committees see rental assistance as their top priority and are still fighting – and need our help!
- The lack of rental assistance is now a major issue the media is tracking and writing multiple stories on this year.

This session does not point to what we did wrong, but to all we are doing right. We just need to do it on a much larger scale. We have built tremendous power, so much that we believed we might win this year, but it wasn't enough. We need to build more power. Although this is frustrating news to hear, we're not giving up.

APRIL 4

Joined with the Anti-Racism Task Force in "Taking Heart Iftar" dinners, which brings Muslims and non-Muslims together for food and conversation.

MAY 10

The Housing Omnibus bill has passed both the House and Senate and awaits the Governor's signature to become law.

In the bill, we celebrate:

- We established the first step of Bring it Home, Minnesota, with all ongoing resources! It will



create nearly 5,500 new rent support vouchers using the funds from a new Metro Sales Tax and ongoing appropriations.

- \$200 million in capital dollars to build new affordable housing in the state.
- \$25 million for a new “strengthen supportive housing program” that will fill currently unfunded but necessary elements to supportive housing like front desk and security personnel.

Thanks to the support and advocacy efforts of Beacon member churches, the Minnesota Senate and House has approved ongoing funding for the first-ever general rental assistance vouchers program in the state:

Bring It Home, Minnesota!

- \$65 to 73 million in yearly funding for rental assistance vouchers between 2024 - 2027.
- 5.5 thousand additional rental assistance vouchers available between 2024 - 2027.

So, for the lowest earning households in Minnesota, vouchers ensure they won't pay over 30% monthly income on rent.

Unlocking the Metro project-based vouchers and our advocacy to the Met Council:

JUNE 11

Central's Beacon members invited Central members to the Dining Room



after worship on June 11 to write messages to the members of the Metropolitan Council and attach them to the keys we've collected. The Beacon congregational organizer for Central, Justin Lewandowski, shared information about the need for deeply affordable housing, especially in the suburbs, and the importance of the Met Council making project-based rent vouchers more accessible to developers.

Everyone's tagged keys were combined with those from other Beacon congregations and presented to the Metropolitan Council by the Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative.

JUNE 14

About 40 people marched from Central Presbyterian Church to the Met Council in downtown St. Paul to bring attention to the affordable housing crisis in the suburbs. More than 1,000 "Unlock the Met" keys were presented to the Council.

SEPTEMBER 18

Forty-nine Beacon members gathered at the Met Council, who

agreed to one substantial change. When they give project-based vouchers to developments, the developer can hold those vouchers for two years while the development is trying to secure funding. This is a great win, as before we lost vouchers after one year. Due to the limited funds for affordable housing compared to the demand, developments often get funded in their second year of applying for funding awards.

All Met Council members are excited about the new Bring it Home state vouchers and want to consider how to project base them. There is a significant opportunity to return when these vouchers are available. Because of our excellent work this year, we can get new project-based vouchers.

OCTOBER 16

Brainstormed ways to engage the church in the work of Beacon

NOVEMBER 12

Mission and Justice Sunday, which included BLT.

Homeless Day on the Hill Returns to Central

BY CHRISTIE RACHELLE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATION

Homeless Day on the Hill is a day of advocacy. Together, hundreds of Minnesotans gather and talk with their lawmakers about the need for more safe and affordable housing across the state.

We are excited welcome them to Central and to join together as advocates to meet with legislators, share our stories, and show our support for important housing legislative agenda. It is a family-friendly event and open to all who care about ending homelessness in Minnesota. Last year's event drew over 900 attendees, including Governor Walz and Lt. Governor Flanagan, and we are certain this year's event will be another important and productive day.

Central members & friends are welcome to be an event participant or volunteer as a building host. Registration is free but recommended for participants. Register at: <https://bit.ly/MCHDOTH24>
To volunteer for the event as a building host, speak with Anna Sanchez in the church office or email her at office@centralforgood.org.

EVENT DETAILS

When: Wednesday, March 20, 2024

8 – 9:00 a.m. Registration

9 -10:00 a.m. Advocacy Training

10 – 3:00 p.m. Legislator Meetings at the Capitol

Where:

Registration & Training
Central Presbyterian Church
500 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

Advocacy

Minnesota State Capitol
75 Rev. Martin Luther King Drive
St. Paul, MN 55101

Learn More:

www.facebook.com/mnhomelessco

The Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless (MCH) is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) public-policy and advocacy organization that works to ensure statewide housing stability and economic security.

The mission of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless is to end homelessness in Minnesota, through generating policies, community support and local resources for housing and services. It does so through advocacy inside the Capitol, outside the Capitol and in the media. With their partners, MCH has advocated for state funds to build over 13,000 units of affordable housing and cultivated over \$390M in legislative wins for housing stability across the state. For more information, check out the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless website at www.mnhomelesscoalition.org or www.facebook.com/mnhomelessco or contact them directly at info@mnhomelesscoalition.org or 651-645-7332.



Announcements

TO SUBMIT NEWS, PLEASE EMAIL CHRISTIER@CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG.

Happy Birthday!

Join us in sending a *Happy Birthday* to all who are celebrating this month.

Laura Walls.....	3/1
Barb Westman.....	3/3
Bill Zopfi	3/3
Andrei Kelly-Kennedy.....	3/8
Amy Adams.....	3/9
David Fisher.....	3/9
Marilyn Gjerde	3/9
Laura Henry	3/10
Stephanie Geisler	3/14
Sally Mortenson.....	3/14
Larry Larson	3/17
Mary Lou Gilstad	3/24
Derek Peterson	3/25
Mary Rose Lee.....	3/26
Annie Siebell	3/28

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

Free Parking at Central

Did you know that free parking is available Sundays in the MPR lot (off 9th Street), KCP lot (at intersection of 9th and Minnesota St), and the World Trade Center Parking Ramp (across Cedar Street)? If parking in the ramp, please see an usher for a voucher to pay your ramp fees.

If you are a regular worshipper at Center, we request that you park in the KCP or WTC ramp to keep our most adjacent and accessible lot (MPR) open for visitors.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

MARCH TOPIC: GENDER EQUALITY

In the story of the Christian church, it is only in very recent years that women have been included in the full life of the ministry of the church, much less people who don't identify within a gender binary. And even now, only a small fraction of the global church includes women in ministry.

And while the Bible is uneven on its view of women throughout Scripture, there are texts that affirm, especially through Jesus' ministry, a radical inclusion that

was deeply countercultural for its time.

On March 17 at 11:30, join us for a conversation on Gender and the Bible. What does the Bible have to say? How do we interpret some texts that exclude in light of others that include? And how do lessons from the long and continuing work of gender inclusion speak to the other barriers inside and outside the church that still need to come down?

STAFF DIRECTORY

(651) 224-4728

Pastor

Chris Chatelaine-Samsen, ext. 102
chriscs@centralforgood.org

Church Administrator

Anna Sanchez, ext. 100
office@centralforgood.org

Administration

Laura Nichols-Endres, Treasurer
William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus
Mary Lange, Receptionist

Director of Communications

Christie Rachele, (952) 564-4472
christier@centralforgood.org

Director of Music & Youth Ministry

Jennifer Anderson, ext 103
jennifera@centralforgood.org

Children & Youth Staff

Laura Walls, Sunday
Connection Coordinator
lauraw@centralforgood.org

Child Care Staff: Megan Beese,
Jess Garner, Maria Stokes

Music Leadership

Eric Bartlett, Abbie Betinis,
Paul Damico-Carper, Shanta
Hejmadi, Tonia Hughes Kendrick,
Melanie Ohnstad, Clara Osowski,
Adam Van der Sluis, Alex Woods

Adult Education

Maureen Smith, Bible Study Leader

Food Ministry

Barb Westman, Chef &
Food Manager
barb.westman@gmail.com

Building Maintenance

Lavar Jones, Custodian
Peter Evarts, Custodian



CENTRAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

500 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Will You Serve?

It is that time again when we ask for volunteers to help serve lunch with the St. Paul Opportunity Center on Saturday, March 9 from 11am-1pm. 8-10 volunteers are needed over the age of 16 (14 with adult supervision).

To sign up, go to:
www.centralforgood.org/volunteer