

CONNECT CENTRAL

For All the Saints

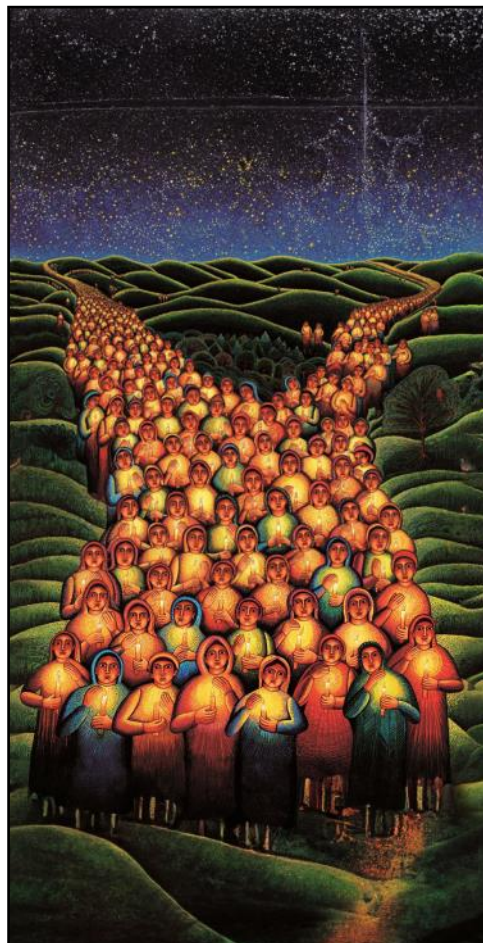
FROM REV. CHRIS CHATELAINE-SAMSEN

Friends of Central,

In 1997, Fred Rogers accepted an Emmy Award for Lifetime Achievement. In his acceptance speech, famously recounted by Tom Junod article in Esquire the following year, Mr. Rogers had these words to say: "All of us have special ones who have loved us into being. Would you just take, along with me, ten seconds to think of the people who have helped you become who you are. Those who have cared about you and wanted what was best for you in life. Ten seconds of silence. I'll watch the time."

The camera panned as daytime celebrities moved from awkward laughter to tears, confronted with the simple and incredible power of those relationships which Christians call the cloud of witness – those through whom we have come to the present.

On November 5th, we will remember at Central those witnesses – those



*Festival of Lights (adapted)
by John August Swanson*

saints – who have died in the past year. People who have been our friends, family, guides, mentors, confidants, companions, and more. Those who have "loved us into being." We will do this for the same reason Mr. Rogers asked us those years ago. We are who we are through other people, and by remembering them and honoring their memories, we honor God who created and loved both them and us, making us for fellowship with one another.

If there are those who you are remembering as part of the extended family of Central, please let us know by November 1. It will be our honor to share their name in worship, folded into the great cloud of witness to which we all belong.

We'll watch the time.

God's Peace,
Pastor Chris

NOVEMBER 2023

Have you submitted your stewardship pledge?



In This Issue

For All the Saints	1
Upcoming Worship	2
Anti-Racism Task Force	
Offerings This Program Year.....	3
Deck the Halls.....	4
Women of Central News	5
Christmas Poinsettia Form	5
Children and Youth News.....	7
Central's Landscape Improvement Project	8
A Call for Food Shelf Donations...	9
Stay Connected	9
Announcements	10
Stewardship Pledge Form	10
Adult Faith Formation.....	11
Our Updated Library.....	11
Staff Directory	11
In the City for Good	12

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

Upcoming Worship

JOIN US IN-PERSON OR ONLINE FOR WORSHIP.

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, November 5

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

Pastor Chris preaches on Deuteronomy 6:1-9 as we share the Lord's Supper, celebrate our children and youth on a SPARK! Sunday, and bear witness to the cloud of saints who have gone on before this All Saints' Day.

Dr. Melanie Ohnstad, organist, joins us this day along with our Central Choir.

Sunday, November 12

Pastor Chris preaches on Luke 4:16-30 as we close the stewardship season and focus on the work of Mission and Justice. Artist-in-Residence Paul Damico-Carper returns and Central Choir sings.

Sunday, November 19

Tonia Hughes Kendrick is back and joins the Central Choir and Alex Woods for uplifting, soul-filling music!

After worship, join us for the brief annual meeting at which we'll elect new officers for three year terms on Session and the Board of Elders.

Sunday, November 26

Advent begins as we again await the coming of Jesus into our midst! Mezzo Soprano Clara Osowski is accompanied by Alex Woods on piano as we begin our Advent journey.

Come sing with us!

LESSONS & CAROLS SINGERS WANTED

Join the choir for our beautiful and much loved Lessons and Carols worship service in December!

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, November 15 at 7:15 p.m., and continue on December 6 and 13. The worship service is Sunday, December 17.

Please let Director of Music & Youth Ministry Jennifer Anderson know if you are interested in joining us so that we can order the right amount of music and save you a place.

Anti-Racism Task Force Offerings This Program Year

FROM REV. LOU BENDER, CONVENER

The Anti-Racism Task Force is joining Pastor Chris this year to support and expand his Faith Formation First Sunday classes. We will do this in two ways: we will provide Zoom access to his classes on first Sundays. Then, later in the month, beginning in November we will invite you to an event highlighting the intersection between his main topic and anti-racism work. Each month will be a little different in timing and venue, depending on the topic. Activities range from a one-time book discussion to a six-week Lenten study, and from a movement toward legislation to a field trip to a Mosque.

Members and friends who want to join one or more classes by Zoom should email the main office at office@centralforgood.org for the link or watch the weekly eConnect. To participate in an extension activity, watch for sign-up information in the newsletter or bulletin, or just show up when applicable!

November: Health Care

There will be a book discussion November 16, 7:00 on Zoom. The One Book One Minnesota read for this year is *In the Night of Memory*, by Native American author and professor Linda LeGarde Grover. The novel begins with Loretta's surrender of her young daughters Azure and Rain to the court system before Loretta becomes another in a long line of missing Native women.

At first glance, the book might not seem to be about health care at all. Maternal health, alcoholism, and generational and personal trauma are all health issues, however, and they all show up in the pages of this text. The book can be difficult to get right now, so please let Anna Sanchez know right away if you would like her to get one for you. The cost is \$15.

Read the book, then join Avis Tilden and other members of the ARTF for a discussion on Zoom on Thursday, November 16 at 7 p.m. Reserve a spot (and ensure that you get the link!) by emailing the office.

December: Criminal Justice

Join in an ARTF Conversation with Downtown Neighbors, December 17, 11:45 a.m. in the dining room, in-person only.

In a world where relationships tend to be transactions rather than human interactions and worth is judged by possession of resources and expertise rather than simple human value, it's no mystery that both church and community resort to prejudice and injustice. During Advent, ARTF is inviting young adult guests (mostly African American) from the downtown area to talk with us about their experiences. We will ask them how they experience law enforcement, where they experience general prejudice in the

neighborhood, and how they see the church in light of their experiences. We hope that learning will eventually turn to partnership and improvement.

Join Beverly Bodom, other ARTF members, and special guests for lunch and conversation on December 17 following worship if you want to listen in!

January: Economic Rights

We will gather Sunday January 22, 11:45 in the upstairs Meeting Lounge. A Zoom hybrid option will be provided.

Acquiring and maintaining wealth becomes a racial issue when inheritance is interrupted, through unlawful seizure of lands, loss of property during refugee resettlement, disparity in compensation for land involved in eminent domain, or other circumstances that cause families of color to move.

Hear about one remedy for one such disruption as Leon Oman and other ARTF members share and discuss information about a movement to offer reparation to Indigenous Peoples in Minnesota through a small fee when land is bought and sold.

There are plans outlined for the remaining monthly topics outlined with the Adult Faith Formation series. Stay tuned to future newsletters for those details!



SAVE THE DATE

Deck the Halls

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

This is a fun annual tradition for all ages, offering an opportunity to get to know others in our congregation and enjoy creating together a holiday setting at Central!

BRUNCH & CONVERSATION

Join us in the dining room at 10:00 am for a delicious brunch, sponsored by the Women of Central and prepared by our amazing volunteers. There is a suggested donation of \$5 per adult to cover food costs and there is no cost for children to attend. We will also collect handmade and purchased mittens, hats, and scarves for this year's Mitten Tree donation to a local organization serving those in need.

DECORATING FUN

Beginning at 11:00 a.m., we need many volunteers to hang greenery outside as well as garlands and bows on the balcony railing, place poinsettias and hang swags in the sanctuary, set up trees and crèche in the Friendship Room and the lower entry, and decorate the sanctuary tree. (To volunteer, sign up at www.centralforgood.org/volunteer.)

WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US!

PLEASE NOTE: NO PAGEANT REHEARSAL

In a change this year, we will not be holding pageant rehearsal this day. Instead, children will have their dress rehearsal on the following Saturday, December 9 at 9:30 a.m. (See page 7 for details).

Women of Central News

FROM SUE HOFFMAN

Women's Networking Group

On Tuesday, November 14 we are heading to the Loon Café, 426 St. Peter St., St. Paul. The Loon Café is just a few blocks from Central. Join us at Central at 5:15 to walk to the Loon or meet us there at 5:30. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to women@centralforgood.org by September 27 so we can make a reservation.

Thank Offering

On Sunday, November 19 we will have an opportunity to learn more about the Presbyterian Women's Thank Offering. This offering focuses on financial assistance to mission

projects locally and around the world. We help fund programs that provide health care support, safe housing, recovery from disaster and more. Over 40% of the projects are related to health ministries.

Presbyterian Women USA manage the offering so that 100% of your donations go directly to the projects. Funds donated in 2023 will support projects in 2024. Through your generosity, seven projects received grants in 2023. These projects range from providing support for people experiencing homelessness following natural disaster, resources to grow food to help address food insecurity, providing access to mental health needs of LGBTQIA+ youth and building a health center

in rural Zambia for women to improve maternal health.

There are several ways you can donate to the Thank Offering. You may donate to the Thank Offering by check (payable to Women of Central) or online. We will have baskets to collect donations during the November 19 Third Sunday Lunch. Additionally, checks may be sent to the Church Office, 500 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55101. Finally, to donate online please visit centralforgood.org and Select Give, then choose Thank Offering - Women of Central in the Special Offering section of the page.

Thank you, in advance, for your support of the Thank Offering.

Christmas Greenery & Poinsettias

FROM ANNA SANCHEZ, CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Orders due December 13.

We are continuing our annual tradition of decorating the church with beautiful greenery and poinsettias. To donate to the decorating fund (perhaps in memory or honor of a loved one), please complete the adjacent form and return with payment to the office or to the Sunday offering plate.

Christmas decorations will start to take their place around the church during our Deck the Halls event on December 2. To have your memorial listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin, please submit donation forms by Sunday, December 13. (Checks should be made payable to Central Presbyterian Church).



PLANT	PRICE EACH	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Small Poinsettia	\$11.00		
Large Poinsettia	\$20.00		
Evergreen Swag	\$21.00		
Evergreen Wreath	\$25.00		

TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Your Name: _____

Phone / Email: _____

In honor or memory of:

Children and Youth News

FROM JENNIFER ANDERSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & YOUTH MINISTRY

Check Out a Book!

Next time you're in the upstairs hallway, check out one of the books on display. Read it, enjoy it, and bring it back, and then choose another fun read!

Thank You

Thanks to the Klaehn Family for hosting recently a fun evening of games, food, and getting to know new friends!



Christmas Pageant

CALLING ALL CHILDREN & YOUTH

Join us for this year's Christmas Pageant!

- Rehearsals will be held on November 12, 19 and December 3 during worship. (Parts will be assigned at the first rehearsal.)
- Dress rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 9 from 9:30 - 11:15 a.m.
- Pageant is shared in worship on December 1. Invite your friends and family for a morning of great storytelling.

Parent help also needed for assistance with props and costumes. Reach out to Jennifer Anderson if you can be part of the team!



Children & Youth Calendar

NOVEMBER 5

9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.

10:30 All Saints Sunday
Worship with Grades 1 and older participating for SPARK! Sunday.

11:30 Life Boats Middle School Fellowship until 12:30.

6:30 Compass Senior High Fellowship.

NOVEMBER 12

9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.

10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection after a Time for Children. On this day we will begin Christmas pageant rehearsal and assign parts!

NOVEMBER 19

9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.

10:30 Worship with Sunday Connection, including pageant rehearsal.

11:30 Life Boats Middle School Fellowship until 12:30.

6:30 Compass Senior High Fellowship.

NOVEMBER 26

9:30 Nursery care available until 11:30.

10:30 Worship. There will be no Sunday Connection this day. Children are invited to stay in worship.

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

Central's Landscape Improvement Project

FROM SUE HOFFMAN

Because many of us enter the church from the parking lot, we don't often see the front landscape. But our passersby in the neighborhood see the front façade, and the grounds were needing some TLC.

So a small team has been working to improve this area: we developed a plan to remove old shrubs and plant the southwest area with native perennials that are drought tolerant. Thanks to Mark Flinner and Scott Klaehn for removing dead shrubs and stumps and to Mark, Aiden, Jane Lonergan and others for clearing weeds from the area.

Recently we divided day lilies from the northwest garden and relocated them to the southwest. And, we transplanted the ajuga, that was planted and tended for many years

by Avis Tilden, Laura Henry, and Casey Wells, to surround the transplanted lilies. We also planted grasses, joe pye weed, allium, iris, echinacea and rudbeckia from our home gardens. Then, the plantings were surrounded by mulch from a local compost site. Thank you to all who have participated thus far. We need help as we go through the fall and into the spring to be sure our plants get enough water, and in the spring with adding more plants to the area.

It was heartwarming to hear the many comments from passersby as we worked on a cool and windy day. They were happy to see the grounds being tended, further evidence to our neighbors that Central is *in the city for good!*





A Call for Food Shelf Donations

FROM THE HUNGER INITIATIVE TASK FORCE

Central’s Hunger Initiative Task Force and Mission & Justice Committee are sponsoring a donation drive on November 12 to benefit the Keystone food shelf on Rice Street. This will be the same Sunday when our worship will include a spotlight on the work of Mission and Justice, and in the fellowship time after - what a great opportunity to put your FAITH into ACTION!

How can you donate?

MAKE A FINANCIAL DONATION

Financial contributions enable to buy food in bulk, a “bigger bang for the buck.” You make a financial gift via check made out to Keystone Community Services, with ‘Rice Street’ noted on the memo field of your check. Use the Special Offering envelopes in your pew and place your donations in the offering plate,

or return to the office.

DONATE NEEDED FOOD ITEMS.

High priority staples right now are rice, pasta, cereal, and peanut butter. Canned items with pop-top lids that do not require a can opener are always amazing, like soups, fruits, veggies, tomato sauce, etc. Also very popular are quick ready-to-eat foods like granola bars and shelf-stable microwave meals. Please check first that items are not out-of-date. There will be blue barrels or boxes near the Dining Room as well as the Friendship Room.

Donate by November 12

Please bring donations to church on Sunday, November 12. Any questions, contact Leon Oman through the church office.

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

Announcements

TO SUBMIT FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS, PLEASE EMAIL CHRISTIER@CENTRALFORGOOD.ORG.

Happy Birthday!

As we move into the month of Thanksgiving, we take a moment first to wish a Happy Birthday to all who will be celebrating.

- Avis Tilden 11/3
- Nancy MacDonald 11/4
- Amy Linner..... 11/8
- Del Case..... 11/12
- Jackie Klaehn..... 11/19
- Leon Oman 11/20
- Deb Fonkert 11/21
- Lisa Kelly..... 11/25

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.

Offering Envelopes

Would you like to get a box of weekly offering envelopes to use for your financial contributions to Central? Central distributes (upon request) a boxed set of giving envelopes that are dated for each Sunday of the year, including several special offerings. Did you get a box of envelopes this year, but do not use them? We will happily take you off the list to save paper and printing costs.

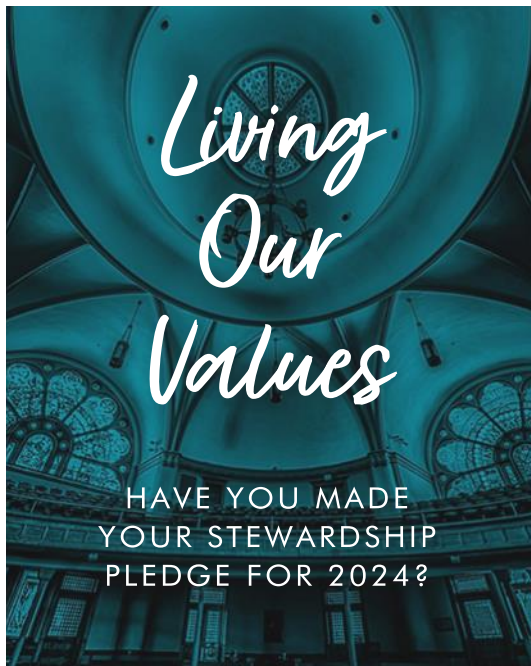
Please contact the church office at office@centralforgood.org or call (651) 224-4728 to order a box or cancel your order for next year. If you received a box this year, and want to continue again, you do not need to do anything.

Election Day

We are in the city for good. On election day (November 7), Central becomes a neighborhood polling place, and visitors stream in and through our building to vote. It is a great way to use our facility to strengthen connections and civic participation. Thank you to the election officials and volunteers – and if you are here to vote, hope you will say hello!

Office Closed

In recognition of the Thanksgiving holiday, the Central office will be closed Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24.



YES, I WANT TO GIVE!

- Please provide me a box of weekly offering envelopes.
- I want to pay monthly by direct bank transfer.
(Set up online at www.centralforgood.org/give)
- Please call me about donating stock or other investments.
- I want to make a donation by credit card or text message.
(See how at www.centralforgood.org/give)
- I would like to make a special year-end gift of \$___.

My 2024 pledge is \$ _____ / week, month, year (circle one)

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Thank you for your financial gift!

Adult Faith Formation

NOVEMBER TOPIC: HEALTH CARE

Health care is a critical issue for human rights. This is true for issues that dominate contemporary political discourse - take access to gender-affirming care - as well as broader issues like who gets access to health care, and how health care contributes to a thriving life.

As readers of the Bible, we believe, or at least suspect, that God has something to say to us about a good and thriving life for all through the words of Scripture. And yet it's difficult to know how to be in conversation about modern issues with a document written in the

ancient near east with vastly different assumptions and access to basic knowledge (the germ theory of disease wasn't widely accepted until just over 150 years ago!).

On November 5 at 11:45 a.m., we'll have some of that conversation. We'll identify the ways in which access to health care is part of a thriving life, how we can be responsible readers of the Bible as we look for God's intentions for the good of all, and how we might act in the world in response to that intersection. Join us, bring an open mind, and bring your questions.

Check Out Our Updated Library!

FROM LOU BENDER

Have you noticed that our church library in the Friendship Room has had a little spiff-up? The books are now arranged into categories like Bible (study resources, lectionary resources), Worship (hymnals, prayers, liturgies, worship education), World Religion, Christian History (church history, historical spirituality, Presbyterianism), Multicultural Experiences and Theologies (indigenous, Black, Asian, feminist, LGBTQ+), Parent Resources, Children's Books, General Reading (fiction, non-fiction, spiritual & not), Leadership. Still to come: some labels to lead readers in the direction of what they might be interested in

reading, and some color coding to aid us all in keeping the sections organized and together.

There are no plans for circulation policies, catalog ordering, or a strict check-in/check-out procedure. See a book you are interested in? Simply pick it up, enjoy, and return it when you are done!

Thanks to the volunteers who sorted, dusted, and rearranged our books to make them more accessible to the congregation: Casey Wells, Lou Bender, and Jiahong Bender put in a full day of work, and John Severson and Maureen Smith showed up at exactly the right times!

CENTRAL STAFF DIRECTORY

(651) 224-4728

Pastor

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chriscs@centralforgood.org

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office@centralforgood.org

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William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus
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Paul Damico-Carper, Shanta Hejmadi,
Tonia Hughes Kendrick,
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Adam Van der Sluis, Alex Woods

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Maureen Smith, Bible Study Leader

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Lavar Jones, Custodian
Peter Evarts, Custodian



CENTRAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

500 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Volunteer Opportunity

Volunteers are needed at Catholic Charities' St. Paul Opportunity Center on Saturday, November 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Volunteers will serve lunch and help with meal prep. All must be at least 14 years old, and wear closed toe shoes. (Those under 18 must be supervised by an adult.)

If you are interested in volunteering, visit Central's website for the link at www.centralforgood.org/volunteer.

