

CONNECT CENTRAL

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OCTOBER 2020

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A NEW MARK IN CENTRAL'S HISTORY A Reflection from Rev. David Colby

I have found myself saying that some of the best moments in our religious history came about when the use of a new technology became available during a time of challenging circumstances. Back in the 1500s, the invention of the printing press and the continued threat of the plague helped Martin Luther and John Calvin and others participate in a Reformation movement that changed the church. I think that we may be living in a time that is enabling the church to connect with others and tell stories of faith in new ways during this

global pandemic. So we are worshipping online and groups are connecting over Zoom, and setting up times to meet safely face to face in backyards and parking lots. I think it is pretty exciting to see how rapidly we are changing and adapting to do ministry together during this time in which we find ourselves living.

By the time you will be reading this, assuming a quorum was present, Central Presbyterian Church will have experienced its first online

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 3]

UPCOMING WORSHIP

Throughout October we will continue to explore stories of faith from the Bible about how time is marked and remembered and celebrated. How difficult things are endured together. We will be looking at stories of long periods of epic struggles told in the Bible. Forty days and nights of rain and Noah and the ark and eventually a new beginning. Forty years of wandering in the wilderness, trying and trying to get to the Promised Land. Forty days of being taunted by a bully, only to have an unlikely leader step forward. Forty days and nights of wandering in the wilderness. There's a recurring number in those stories. 40. It's more than a scientific measurement and is used in the Bible to represent a long time. During this unusual time we find ourselves in, we will be looking at these stories and looking for wisdom and insight and using our faithful imaginations.

Sunday, October 4

We will join the band of Israelites wandering in the wilderness. Those first heady days after escaping slavery are long behind them, and the promised land is still a long, long ways away. In the midst of what would become a 40 year period of wandering in the wilderness, we will look at the story about hunger, and how God provided manna from heaven (Exodus 16:1-21). Food enough for that day. And it was received with gratitude. This is World Communion Sunday, and worship will feature an invitation for us to participate in communion as we are connected to global images. And we

will promote participation in the denomination's Peace and Global Witness special offering (page 6).

Sunday, October 11

We will continue to wander in the wilderness with the Israelites. So often on a long journey there is that day when people start getting cranky! We will look at Exodus 17:1-7 and imagine this journey taking place not just on a geographical map, but as a rollercoaster of emotions as well.

Sunday, October 18

As the Promised Land draws closer, a realization dawns that not everyone will make it there alive. A transition of leadership from Moses to Joshua will occur shortly, but we will look at Deuteronomy 34:1-9 and can almost imagine ourselves being present with Moses as he is allowed to look over into the Promised Land, even as he knows that he will not get to enter it.

Sunday, October 25

Continuing our examination into stories of long periods, we will jump to a story in the seventeenth chapter of 1 Samuel. And in this story we hear of a bully coming out every single day for forty days to taunt the Israelites. It becomes the story of David and Goliath, but we begin by imagining how to endure day after day of taunts and threats of violence. Amidst those taunts and threats, how do we endure and live faithfully?

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

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William Zopfi, Treasurer Emeritus

Mary Lange, Evening Receptionist

Lavar Jones, Sexton

MUSIC

Jennifer Anderson,
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Abbie Betinis, Adam Van der Sluis,
Steve Swanson, David Winkworth

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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

WOMEN OF CENTRAL NEWS

Networking Dinners

The Women of Central Networking Group continues to meet even in this unusual time. While we may not be able to do so over dinner at our favorite local restaurants, Zoom has afforded us the ability to support each other and stay connected!

Join us via Zoom when we meet again on October 5 at 5:00 p.m.

JOIN VIDEO ON SMARTPHONE, COMPUTER OR TABLET, GO TO:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81307509511>

OR VIA PHONE CALL IN:
(312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 813 0750 9511#

Not on our mailing list for future event announcements? Email women@centralforgood.org to be added to the list.

Knitting Group

Knitters of all ages are invited to share in a Zoom gathering on Monday, October 19 from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

This invitation is extended to all folks - men, women, teen, kids -

that like to knit or crochet or have an interest in learning more. We are excited to see what everyone has been doing and welcome you to share what knitting projects you have been working on during Covid-19.

JOIN VIDEO ON SMARTPHONE, COMPUTER OR TABLET, GO TO:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87417947758>

OR VIA PHONE CALL IN:
(312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 874 1794 7758#

See you soon!



MUSIC MOSAIC EVENTS

All are invited to a new Central Zoom series called Music Mosaic which will offer a fun array of music ministry events. Our next is called *Tower Bells and Change Ringing* on Wed, October 28 at 7:15 p.m. and is led by our own David Winkworth!

Come and learn about this old technique from 17th Century England. No musical knowledge is required; just come, learn something new, and feel free to invite a friend!

JOIN VIDEO ON SMARTPHONE, COMPUTER OR TABLET, GO TO:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87813335441>

OR VIA PHONE CALL IN:
(312) 626-6799, then enter Meeting ID: 878 1333 5441#

Questions? Contact Jennifer Anderson, Director of Music Ministry at jennifera@centralforgood.org.

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

congregational meeting in its nearly 170 year history. And we had the opportunity to experience it! I think that is pretty cool.

Like schools and other organizations, we too are trying to navigate how to be both prepared and scheduled but also spontaneous. We are trying to provide communications that are complete . . . and also timely.

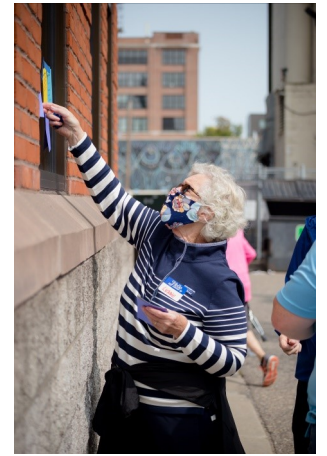
I hope that you will continue on to read this newsletter. Knowing as we do that we are in a time when some things may change, please also participate in worship online (www.centralforgood.org/stream) and look for updates on our website and Facebook pages.

May God's peace be with us all,

Dave Colby

CENTRAL ON PARADE

To all who joined us for September's Central on Parade, it was wonderful to see you! Special thanks to those who helped with our unique event - it was a well attended and wonderful celebration of our community! To those who offered hospitality, connections, music, pastoral care, games, goodies, to staff and volunteers alike, thank you! To see more photos from this day, go to www.centralforgood.org/photos.





A FISCAL THANK YOU!

Through the end of August (our most recent complete figures as this newsletter goes to print) our church expenses have been well-controlled, and we are so grateful that contributions are approximately on track from what we budgeted (way back to the pre-Covid era!).

There are still many unknowns about how this year will go financially, as we would ordinarily expect contributions to rise significantly in the months of October, November and December. So, if you are able to continue to support the mission and ministry of this church financially, we encourage you to

continue giving, or step into giving regularly, as you are able. There are many ways to give (as shown to the right) and this financial support allows us to continue our mission and ministry even through this unusual time.

If instead you find yourself in a position of an emergency need, our Deacons maintain an emergency fund that may be available to help you. To learn more or request assistance, simply reach out to the church office to ask questions and receive the necessary application form.



SPECIAL OFFERING

On October 4, Central will participate in World Communion Sunday and worship will feature an invitation for us to participate in a special offering with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A).

The Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. This special offering is about empowering congregations and

individuals to become peacemakers themselves.

The offering funds ministries of peace, reconciliation, and advocacy for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness.

To learn more and to donate, go to www.centralforgood.org/give and scroll down to special offerings.

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.



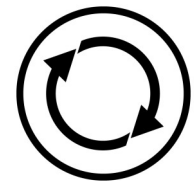
Donate Online

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 this program year!

We invite all our children and youth to join us for Faith Formation on Sundays! These faith formation Zoom gatherings will be flexible in content, with opportunities for grandparents

or other far-away family members to join us on occasion, some time for reading stories from the bible and elsewhere while discussing together, checking in with one another, and playing games.

Led by Katie Morris, Megan Beese, and other adults in the Central community, we hope to provide space for the children and youth to stay connected with their church friends and feel spiritually nourished. We know that online gatherings don't work well for everyone, and we understand! If you have ideas about how your child would like to stay connected, or how your family would like to be supported by church programming this year, let us know.

Our first gathering was September 20 and going forward we will have regular meeting times on Sundays according to the following schedule:

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Prek-5th grade

(Age groups will split after we gather and check in).

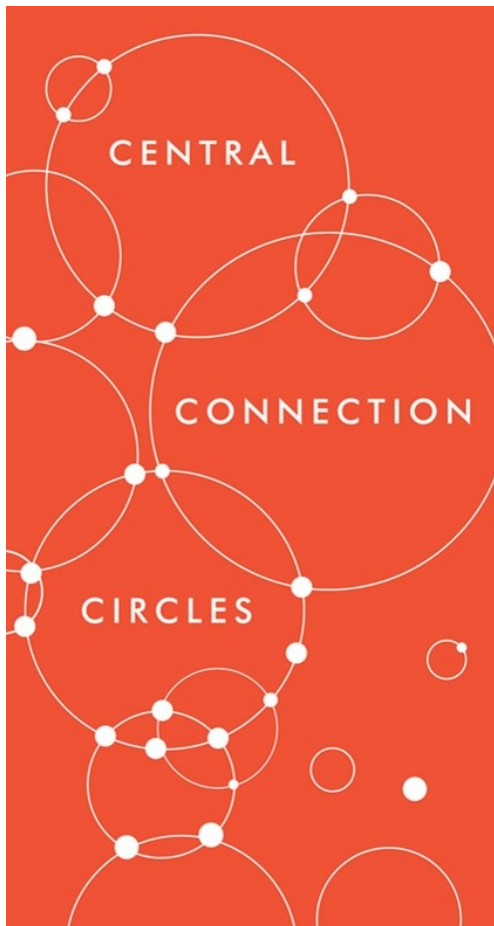
1:00 - 1:45 p.m.

Middle and high school youth

2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Confirmation class

The Zoom links will be included in the weekly Children and Youth email. If you need help or have questions, contact Children & Youth Ministry Coordinator Katie Morris at katiem@centralforgood.org.



CIRCLES CONTINUE THRU 2020

Have you yet shared in Central's weekly Connection Circles?

Each week Deacons lead Zoom events to explore how we can support each other in these difficult days, how we can reach out to others, and how we can ask for help when we need it. These 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. (with the exception of Thanksgiving Day).

How to Participate

The following information is the same for all Connection Circles.

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.

WORK BEGINS ON FRONT OF CHURCH

[BY FLURYANNE LEACH]

The Facilities Management and Risk Assessment Committee is excited that work has begun on the first phase of a five-phase project to rehabilitate and preserve the exterior fabric of the church. This project began in 2018 with an assessment by a historic architect of the condition of the exterior of the church and recommendations for work needed to both repair and then preserve the masonry and stained-glass windows for the future. This was funded by a grant from the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society. This year we were awarded another grant to help fund the work in this first phase.

The project started in late July with the large rectangular stained-glass windows in the main front doors. These were found to be in such poor condition that they were removed for restoration in the studios of Classic Glass Ltd in Fargo, North Dakota. This is the first time that the windows have been removed since they were installed in 1890. There are a number of areas where earlier repairs had been done with the windows in place. Several of the rondels (the small square panes that appear to have a 'blob' in the center) must have been broken and were replaced with various other pieces of glass. Before the windows were removed the workmen pointed out that the windows were not centered exactly in the opening space. When the windows were removed the reason for this became evident – the windows were originally

made about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch too wide for the space! In order to install the windows a channel was cut into one side of the opening to accommodate the extra width. After restoration the windows will be centered exactly when they are re-installed. New protective coverings will also be installed so the glass will be visible from the outside and will allow more light into the narthex.

If you have passed the church recently you will have seen that the front is covered with scaffolding. Rehabilitation of the masonry will begin early in October. Almost half of the tuck pointing needs to be completely replaced and 40% of the rest needs repair. They will also repair cracked and spalled stones, replace stones that cannot be repaired, and replace sealant. In addition, the wood frames of several non-stained-glass windows will be repaired, and new storm windows installed. All this work is expected to be completed this fall.

The final portion of this phase is to replace the protective covering over the large stained glass window over the main doors and do any repairs needed to the outside frame of the window. There isn't time to complete this before winter and ensure that the stained glass will be protected from bad weather so this will be done in the spring. This work will be done by Classic Glass Ltd. who were also responsible for the restoration of the large, stained glass window on the south side facing MPR. They will also be replacing the protective covering of



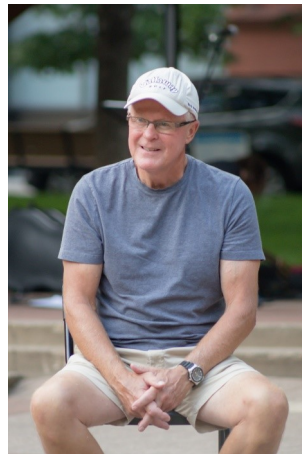
the large, stained glass window over the main front doors with a new glass covering to match the window on the south side. This will allow the beauty of that window to be seen from the outside once again.

Because of the scaffolding and for safety reasons there will be no access to the church via the main front doors until the masonry work is completed and scaffolding is removed. The 500-entrance on Cedar Street will remain accessible throughout the work period.

Please contact Fluryanne or the Central office if you have questions or comments about this project.

DEACONS MOVE OUTDOORS

In this time of social distancing, many committees are using Zoom and teleconference options. But, occasionally, some just want to get out and enjoy the fresh air! Such was the case for Central's Deacons who hit up Mears Park for their recent monthly meeting, complete with live music from the Mears Thursdays Summer Concert series (and a few unexpected raindrops)!



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COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS PLAN 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 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.

Happy
BIRTHDAY
 To you

Join us in wishing a very *Happy Birthday* to all who are celebrating during the month of October.

Sharon Knowlton	10/2
Alexis Juffer.....	10/3
John Patton	10/3
Cody Erwin	10/4
Maria Johnson	10/4
Rekita Ndumbe	10/4
James Olson.....	10/5
Sandra Gryfinski.....	10/15
Charity Willis.....	10/16
Joanna Kimani	10/17
Kelly Ishizuka.....	10/18
Hannah Ross.....	10/19
Christie Rachelle.....	10/22
Erik Bollman.....	10/25
Crystal Green.....	10/26
Megan Beese	10/27
James O'Neill.....	10/27
Christopher Ross	10/27
Cheri Townsend	10/27
Kiera Voelker.....	10/27
Joel Fisher.....	10/28
Sophie Kannapiran.....	10/28
Rachel Rich.....	10/28
Isabelle Schlittenhart.....	10/28
Josephine McCarten	10/29
Marcia Robert.....	10/30
Dean Soderbeck.....	10/30
Michelle Soderbeck.....	10/31

If we missed you, please send us a note to office@centralforgood.org so that we can correct our records.



WELCOME!

Join us in welcoming another new member to Central’s congregation!

Allynne Burg

After Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church closed, Allynne visited a number of churches. Central and Dayton Avenue always reminded her of her church home in New York - high spirited and welcoming. Originally from New York, Allynne came to Minnesota in 1962 to attend lab school, working for doctors’ offices and attending the University of Minnesota with a major in medical tech. Allynne retired in 2013 from St. John’s Hospital lab after 41 years of service. Allynne loves ballet, walking, crocheting, knitting, and concerts. She loves to travel and favorite stops include China, Egypt, Israel, Palestine, and the Caribbean.

Allynne was welcomed as a new member in worship in July.

Announcements

THANK YOU

Thank you to all of the women who have supported the annual pledge request for the Women of Central. Your generous gifts help us support Presbyterian Women mission locally and across the globe. Many thanks from the Women of Central Coordinating Team!

DID YOU KNOW?

If you missed a recent worship service, you can watch or re-watch worship videos from previous weeks by simply visiting www.centralforgood.org/stream and scroll to the bottom of the page.

**Join us
 for worship each
 week online at**

www.centralforgood.org/stream

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

office@centralforgood.org



CENTRAL

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

500 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

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CENTRAL IS *in the city for good!*

September's Central on Parade event brought a chance to welcome our members to the new program year as well as a welcomed hello with our area neighbors!