THE VOICE

OF CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday | 9am to 5pm

Louise Westfall
Senior Pastor

Tim Mooney
Parish Associate

Molly Dowling Brown
Director of Mission and Faith Formation

Emma Moore
Youth Ministries Assistant

Kathleen Eckert
Church Administrator

Wil Smith
Director of Music

Sarah Eaton
Associate Director of Music

Nileen Hart
Music and Arts Coordinator

Anthony Martinez
Building Superintendent

Rachel Palmiero
Children's Ministries Assistant

Barb Brueggemann
Nursery Supervisor

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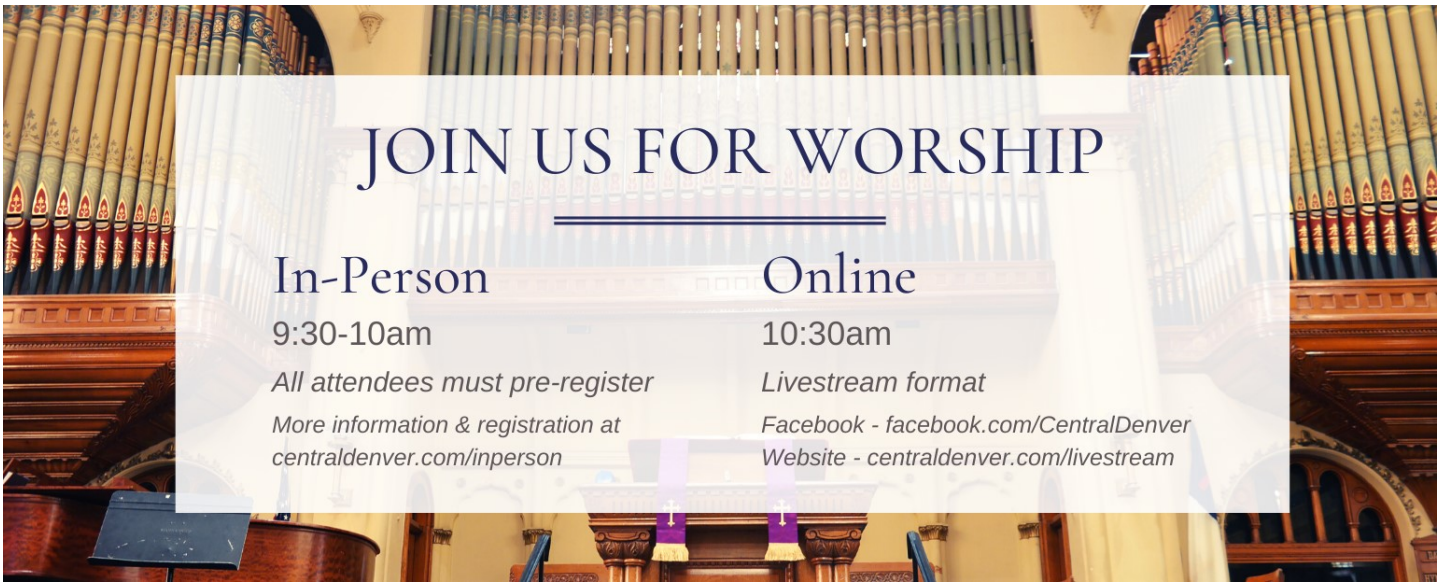


MESSAGE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Louise Westfall | louise@centraldenver.com

Welcome to a new season at Central! Wait, is it a new season? The pandemic makes it seem a lot like the old season. Day follows day and it's hard to delight in the beauty of the turning seasons, a fresh school year, or innovative offerings for worship, faith formation, fellowship, and service.

Yet faith, the Bible reminds us, is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Reconnecting with church can enlarge our capacity for faith that sees beyond what's in front of us, and recover hope in God's presence and creative power "doing a new thing" in our midst. This "2020 vision" inspired the theme for this new season at Central:

Encourage… Explore… Engage!

Each of these words describes a core value of Central, as well as expressing our aspiration to follow the way of Jesus and create Beloved Community with everyone.

This is a time of challenge, therefore we will **encourage** one another and build each other up (I Thessalonians 5:11). Not a single one of us has escaped some of the losses and difficulties of pandemic. How can we care for one another and strengthen the bonds among us when we are still socially distanced? How can we demonstrate love for those with whom we disagree during the national election cycle and bitter partisan divisions that mar it? How do we ensure that no one feels alone or forgotten, and reach out with special care to those struggling with depression and other mental illness? How do we mark occasions for celebration and remembrance in ways that honor each other? Encouragement includes words *and* actions that help us rise, lift our spirits, and renew our energies.

This is a time of change, therefore we will **explore** the landscape of the post-COVID world, and pursue learning that will help us navigate it faithfully. Some are calling it "the Great Pause" or "the Great Turning," to reflect a sea-change in ways of being community together. Central has a long commitment to education and faith formation involving mind, soul, heart, and hands. Learning builds understanding between and among diverse people, and can open our eyes to God's redemptive work here and now. Jesus said, *Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light. (***Matthew 11:29-30)**

This is a distracting time, therefore we will **engage** ourselves in actions that serve the needs of others, transform the world which God entrusts to our care, and shine the healing light of Christ in shadowed, scary places. We can proclaim our faith, but it takes action to confirm it. *By their fruits you will know them,* Jesus said. (Matthew 7:16)

This issue of the Voice provides a glimpse of what's ahead as we encourage… explore… engage. Come on, join us! Try something you haven't done before. Invite a friend. Tune in to our online worship service every Sunday, and consider attending in person beginning September 27. Make a fresh start. Have fun!

With love,

Louise

Pastor Louise Westfall

STAY CONNECTED

Central is offering many ways to stay connected to your church family this fall. The most up-to-date information may be found on our website centraldenver.com/stayconnected and in our weekly e-newsletter (sign up at centraldenver.com/contact/). **The password to all Zoom offerings is: *CPC*.**

THRIFE: CREATING A THRIVING SPIRITUAL LIFE

Mondays, 12pm (begins September 21)

Join us via livestream on Facebook facebook.com/CentralDenver/ or watch anytime on our website centraldenver.com/thrife/

A weekly online video course with Tim Mooney with optional discussion group on Zoom. Participants may join the class live on Facebook or watch the archived videos later on Central's website.
Read more on page 6.

RACIAL HEALING INITIATIVE

4th Mondays, 7pm

Zoom link to join https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82725537751pwd=Qm5oMVVEaXpmN3RmTmlvUGl5M2tUZz09
Join the Racial Healing Life Group as we continue to address racial inequity, white privilege, and God's call to the church to do justice.

HYMNS BY REQUEST

Tuesdays, 12pm

Join us on Facebook facebook.com/CentralDenver/

Join Wil Smith for a live, 30-minute concert on Facebook of your favorite hymns for piano and organ. Requests can be made in the comments section during the Livestream, or by emailing Wil in advance at wil@centraldenver.com

THURSDAY TEXT-PLORATIONS

Thursdays, 1pm

Zoom link to join https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84174978495pwd=L1l0eVV2clBqWlVFQk5jVlNBbVg0UT09

Join Pastor Louise to explore Biblical texts for upcoming sermons. Through reading, conversation, and prayer, we'll listen for God's Word to guide our lives today.

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Sunday Mornings

In-Person—9:30-10am

All attendees must pre-register. Details and registration at centraldenver.com/inperson

Livestream—10:30am

Join us via livestream on Facebook facebook.com/CentralDenver/ or watch anytime on our Website centraldenver.com/livestream/

ZOOM COFFEE HOUR

Sundays, 11:15am

Zoom link to join https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85427351186pwd=TThyb2gvb1ZWUE1ZcFhMMWwwTG05QT09

Join us after our online worship for a time of virtual fellowship on Zoom. Check in with Central's pastors, staff and the rest of your Central family!

FAITH FORMATION
HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST

Sundays, 11:30am (begins September 27)

Zoom link to join https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85427351186pwd=TThyb2gvb1ZWUE1ZcFhMMWwwTG05QT09

The Faith Formation Council and the Racial Healing Initiative Group will offer a four-week class, beginning Sunday, September 27 on Ibram X. Kendi's book, *How to Be an Antiracist.*

THEOLOGY ON TAP

Theology on Tap is currently trying some in-person socially distanced gatherings in addition to online Zoom meetings. Please contact Tim Mooney tim@centraldenver.com to be added to the email list for current locations and times.

WORSHIP FUELS OUR MISSION

Louise Westfall | louise@centraldenver.com

Worship online every Sunday at 10:30, followed by a Zoom fellowship hour with ministers and staff. For children: online Bible stories and activities are available from Director of Faith Formation Molly Brown.

In addition to online worship, we will offer in-person worship in the sanctuary every Sunday beginning September 27, at 9:30am. A maximum of 50 people, masked and socially distanced, will be allowed. Reservations will be required: via website registration (centraldenver.com/inperson) or by calling the church office 303.839.5500. For children: worship "backpacks" with theme-related activities are available to check out.

Special Events:

September 27 The Rev. Olivia Hudson Smith, Stated Clerk of Denver Presbytery and long-time Peoples Presbyterian Church member will preach on the spiritual significance of Black Lives Matter.

October 4 World Communion Sunday. We will join Christians around the world in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, a visible sign of our unity and Christ's reconciling power to bring us together.

October 11 Celebration of Mission. The Summer of Service looked different this year, but mission in Jesus' name was accomplished. Hear personal stories of transformation and joy from participants and mission partners. We'll receive the *Peace and Global Witness Offering.*

October 18 We'll commemorate Central's 160th anniversary with stories from our long-standing members and images of the past and present. Special music led by Wil Smith to celebrate God's grace shown to us throughout the years, and to anticipate the future to which God calls us.

November 1 All Saints/Commemoration of Those Who Have Died. This service will provide opportunity to remember and express gratitude for all those who have died during the pandemic (often without funerals or memorial services), particularly these Central beloveds: John Likes, Helen Murphy, Rick Lafoon, Lois Vogelsang, Margaret Zier, Kent Olson.

160 YEARS YOUNG!

Louise Westfall | louise@centraldenver.com

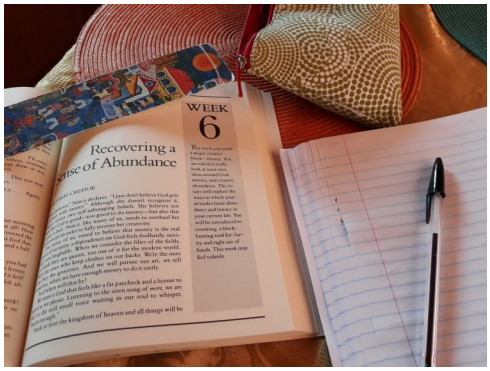
160 years young! What better way to celebrate than to hear stories and memories from our long-standing members? Beginning September 13, we'll hear greetings and messages from these beloved members about the marvelous things God has done through this amazing congregation. We'll see images of Central through the years and recall ministries and mission in every decade that have strengthened the heart of Denver…and the faith of countless individuals who have worshiped and served here. We'll also train an eye toward the future and wonder what God will do next. Special music and extended Zoom fellowship time.

THRIFE: CREATING A THRIVING LIFE—2nd EDITION

Tim Mooney | tim@centraldenver.com

Over the course of the summer, on Mondays at Noon, I offered a 12-week course, *Thrife: Creating a Thriving Spiritual Life.* I taught the classes on Central's Face Book Page via Live Stream, and in the 4th week added a Zoom meeting for participants to converse about their experience of the course materials, practices, and tasks.

Thrife asked for a sizable commitment from the participants. So I was surprised to find a solid group of fourteen people who Zoomed in, in addition to those taking the course but were unable to join the Zoom meeting. Perhaps thirty people altogether. During a Zoom meeting someone confessed they were not doing all the practices and tasks. Everyone else raised a hand, including me! But the impact of *Thrife* on their lives was significant. Here are testimonials from a few of the participants.



I was thinking of reigniting my creative side during the COVID sheltering period. Then I heard Tim was doing this class based on a book by Julia Cameron, "The Artist's Way"…It added just the right amount of structure and motivation to get the juices flowing. Each week Tim talked about a different topic to help release our creative energies…It was a free flowing course and it was lots of fun. …The course is over, but I am continuing some of the activities and I am more engaged in my creative side of life. Thanks Tim, and to all of the others I got to know. Well worth the time. Bruce

I am so happy to be a part of this program. Thrife has been a sacrament to me, really--God coming to me through the practices I am learning and the community with others I am experiencing. My trust in the Creator's love and care for me and active engagement in my life has grown in a very natural, deeper way. It is a joy to hear about the experiences of others and to share in their growth. I am very grateful for Thrife and look forward to continuing on this way! Andrea

I read the book, "The Artist's Way" by Julia Cameron, at the beginning of this year to search for my creative side. Participating in the Thrife course with Tim, provided a much more enriched experience. His personal examples of creative failures and successes as well as discussions with course attendees were invaluable for identifying the roadblocks stopping the creativity I yearn to add to my life. Laurie

I serendipitously stumbled upon Thrife just as the course was beginning. And while Julia Cameron's "The Artist's Way" allows for a working framework, Tim Mooney has expanded the boundaries. I discovered my own previous interpretation of "creativity" was quite limited. In times of uncertainty and feelings of isolation due to the pandemic, I actually began to feel more connected, and noticed a gentle, creative internal shift as to how I experience challenging times. Tim is an unusually sensitive, kind, and open individual as well as a highly skilled teacher and facilitator. That, combined with the course material was a powerful combination. Jane

Thank you, for the reality, authenticity, and heart. Thrife has been a rejuvenation for me, especially reconnecting with my song writing, my poetry. It has rekindled a wonderful connection with the Spirit, who is in me not "up there." Sending so many pieces of gratitude and blessings. Sky

I happened to be on Face Book one day and there was Tim teaching the first class of Thrife. It was a God thing because I would have never joined on my own…I clung to Tim's insistences that creativity does not only mean art, it can mean looking at the world a new way, solving a problem with a new way. ...Thrife is a class that helps you discern and let go of the messages the world has taught you, so you can be the person God created you to be. Beth

I hope you will consider joining in on the 2nd Edition of *Thrife*. The course is 12 weeks long, but please don't let that prevent you from giving it a try. All the participants in the first edition did not do all the tasks, yet found what they did do to be transformative for their lives. I will offer a Livestream presentation on Central's Facebook page on **Mondays at Noon, beginning September 21.** The videos are recorded and are available on Central's website for viewing at any time. Following the Livestream I host a Zoom meeting at 1pm for all who would like to talk about the course and your experience of it, and hear the stories of others as they work through the weekly material and tasks. The Zoom meeting has become a place of authentic and vulnerable community.

VOTER REGISTRATION EVENTS

Louise Westfall | louise@centraldenver.com

Voting is one of the best ways to exercise one's voice in society, and the right to vote is a cherished American right reflective of our national ideals of freedom and self-determination.

When people wondered about what actions Central could take to address racial injustice and unrest in our community, Dr. Jacque Howard, Central member and chair of the Racial Healing Life Group, responded immediately: *Register voters.*

What unfolded has resulted in Central's sponsorship of 8 voter registration events in September and early October to ensure broad access to the ballot box, especially in communities that have historically been disenfranchised.

Partnering with Peoples Presbyterian Church, Inner City Health Center, Metro Caring and the Center for African American Health, over 20 Central members and friends will help register voters in these locations as well as Central.

The events will be conducted outdoors, following social distancing and masking protocols. *It's another way to put feet and hands on our Christian commitment,* Dr. Howard said. For more details, go to our website: centraldenver.com/vote

CONFIRMATION

Emma Moore | youthministry@centraldenver.com

Our last confirmation update shared that we expected to complete the confirmation process in the fall once we could gather together in-person safely. While I'm sure we all still hope to do that, the timeline we had in our minds back in March or April was probably not realistic of what the COVID-19 pandemic is requiring of us to maintain safety.

However, Confirmation is an extremely important time in the faith journey of our young people and is conducted with so much love and sacred fellowship at Central that we don't want to alter the final steps of the confirmation experience to decrease the opportunity of in-person connection and support as the youth make the decision to be confirmed and formally join this community of faith.

We will continue to maintain the class and mentor relationships virtually while we are required to maintain social distance but hope to finish the confirmation experience with the ever special session meeting that is attended by the confirmands, their families, mentors and prayer partners followed by the Confirmation Celebration Sunday. Any future confirmation classes will not take place until this class has had the chance to be confirmed with all of the sacred celebration that such an occasion deserves--something we are privileged to wait on because these students have just moved onto high school instead of college or other callings away from Central and Denver. Thank you to all who have been and continue to be so involved in this process!

Confirmands: Grace Malone, Hugh Clark, Ian Nyberg, Sean Ghulati Sam Habib, Casey Zemanick

Mentors: Leah Pellett, Steve Zemanick, Mark Earnest, Bruce Heagstedt, Timi Davenport, Anne Bond

Prayer Partners: Pam and Eric Bartczak, Mark and Leslie Williams, Carol Farnsworth and Larry Armstrong, Billie Lusk, Marty Jewell, Sherry and Andy Kenney

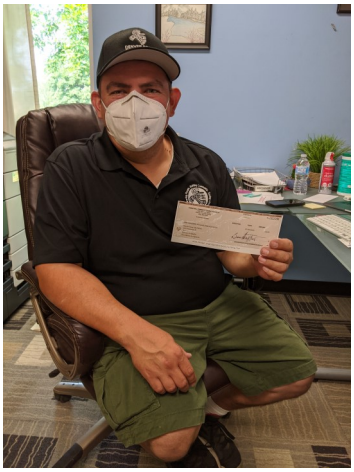
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND MISSION: Is it in the Water?

Molly Dowling Brown | molly@centraldenver.com

As March 2020 unfolded, our lives changed drastically. Schools closed, those deemed non "essential" workers adapted to working from home. Many lost jobs and livelihoods. Some made difficult choices regarding jobs and childcare. We rallied support for essential workers. We were truly living a life amid a pandemic. Naïve as it may seem, I never contemplated what this situation would be like. Now we have new norms of mask wearing, social distancing, limited small gatherings, continued online school and remote work for many, temperature checks, symptom checks. We are constantly assessing and monitoring. Despite all of this, we continued to assess and monitor our community and serve it. Summer of Service is *not* the appropriate title for what Central and its members have done. The best I can create for now is Spring and Summer of Service 2020. I suspect we will continue to retitle our work and reframe our terms as we continue to support our community in need and our beloveds within Central.

Central Presbyterian Church celebrates its 160th anniversary this fall. This is where we came from:

Central founded and maintained The Railroad Union Mission to railroad workers in the downtown area through 1928. Central hosted the Chinese School in Denver from 1877 until 1919 for immigrant workers to receive educational and spiritual support. Presbyterian Hospital (now Presbyterian-St. Luke's) is another agency that Central initiated through the years. During the Great Depression, Presbyterian Hospital was in danger of closing due to lack of funds. Many community leaders donated to ensure that the hospital – vital to Denver's community - did not close its doors. Central joined them and contributed the funds planned for its own building's expansion to keep the hospital open. Is this sense of mission served in the water or coffee here? Ultimately, no, but Central consistently attracts those who seek to serve its community. This issue of The Voice features articles from Rob and Celeste Habiger *Journey with Migrants*, Derek Jones *New Genesis and We Don't Waste Partnership*, Cheryl Fleetwood *Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence* plus one from youth (Caroline and Morgan Brown) *Volunteering at Central Visitation Program*. The Racial Healing Group's Voter Registration efforts with faithful community partners are highlighted. This is all testimony to our commitment. We maintained our work with our core mission partners plus added new mission initiatives in response to community needs.



Join us on Sunday, October 11 for Mission Sunday. This annual celebration will be at 10:30am during our *virtuous* online service. We will share stories and statistics on how we have continued to build on our mission services in atypical times.

So many thanks for ALL that you and we do together!

COLORADO FAITH COMMUNITIES UNITED TO END GUN VIOLENCE

Cheryl Fleetwood | cherylrfleetwood@gmail.com

Most of us will associate the year 2020 with a devastating global pandemic and an overdue reckoning with racial injustice. However, let it also be known that 2020 marked the beginning of Central members stepping forward to help end the scourge of gun violence in our community.

Back in January Molly Brown and Cheryl Fleetwood attended a meeting of Colorado Faith Communities United to End Gun Violence to learn about their work and explore opportunities for engagement. Founded in 2014 CFCU is a coalition of more than 40 congregations from diverse faith traditions "working together to support legislation and policies at the state and national level designed to reduce the current levels of violence arising out of the improper use of firearms."

Although plans to share the work of CFCU during an adult education class in April were derailed by the coronavirus, Cheryl has continued to attend meetings, looking for concrete action opportunities to engage Central members who may be interested. And, we're happy to announce the time for action has arrived!

Currently, plans are underway for CFCU to host a series of virtual meetings in October which will be focused on preventing youth gun violence. Cheryl is part of a team which is planning this event and there will be more details available in the coming weeks, but these are the goals of the virtual convenings:

- To inform members about the nature and scope of gun violence in the Denver Metro area with a special focus on Denver and Aurora.
- To learn what is being done to prevent and reduce youth gun violence and where help is needed.
- To identify how CFCU congregations could be supportive based on *community defined solutions and our capacity.*

If you would like to join Cheryl in the effort to connect Central to the work of CFCU, please contact her at cherylrfleetwood@gmail.com or get in touch with Molly Brown. Otherwise, stay tuned for more information about the upcoming virtual events scheduled for October.

PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS OFFERING—Sunday, October 11

Judy Jones | judy6253@gmail.com

We will celebrate World Communion Sunday this October 4. We will receive our third special PCUSA offering of the year, the Peace and Global Witness Offering, on Sunday, October 11 – the day we celebrate our annual Mission Sunday! The Peace and Global Witness Offering, intended to further peace throughout the world, is allocated as follows: 50% to PCUSA for national and international initiatives, 25% to mid council initiatives, and 25% to stay within the local community. Central has designated its community member Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network (www.rmian.org) to receive our local community portion.

Mark October 4 as the day to celebrate World Communion Sunday and October 11 as the day to give generously to the Peace and Global Witness Offering. Central's 2020 goal is $1500.

JOURNEY WITH MIGRANTS: a new Denver Presbytery Mission Partnership

Celeste and Rob Habiger | rchabiger@gmail.com

What migrant journeys have you been on in your life? Perhaps you moved from another state to Colorado; perhaps you have lived overseas; or perhaps you have just moved to another town in the same state. No matter your journey, almost all of us in today's world have been a migrant at some time in our life. We hope that your migrant experiences have all been pleasant. Unfortunately, this is not the case for everyone. The parable of the sower in Luke 8:5-8, talks of seed being scattered on many different types of ground. Many of us were lucky to have our seed scattered on fertile soil, where we could grow and flourish and stay close to home. Some were not so fortunate and had to grow among thorns, or on hard ground where roots could not penetrate, or on a path where their seed was trampled.

Imagine what it is like to have a drug cartel show up at your door and demand that your oldest son joins the local cartel and start doing the cartel's business. You cannot go to the police or the government because both are corrupted. You resist for a while, but you know you must leave to protect your family and try to make a better life. You have a brother in Tennessee and think that if you can just get to the US, he can help you get settled into a new life where you family will be safe. Your house is burned down.

Imagine you are a couple with two children, ages 2 and 5. Your brother was kidnapped by the cartel and your husband is not able to find enough work to feed your family. Two cartels are fighting each other in your city and you are caught in the cross-fire. You decide you must leave to protect and feed your children.

Imagine you are living in an abusive relationship with your husband and there are no protective services you can go to. You decide to leave 3 of your children with your mother and flee with your oldest son, who will help you find safety in the US.

Imagine that you are a professional in Cuba. You are well educated and professionally trained but cannot make enough to escape basic subsistence and you have no freedom of expression or way to better your economic situation. You know that once you leave Cuba and seek asylum in the US, you cannot go back, but it is worth the risk. You travel through 10 different countries trying to find entry to the US and finally end up at the Mexico border, blocked indefinitely from even asking for asylum.

Imagine you were a mother of 3 underage children and you and your children are all authorized to live in the US. Your husband is undocumented but has been checking in with ICE as required by law and trying to get residency for 14 years. One day he is detained at GEO in Aurora without warning and then deported. You and your children anxiously await the appeal of his case but know that you may be required to uproot and move the whole family to a life none of you know.

Imagine you are a mother of 5 and have Lupus. You are documented and are living in the US, but your husband was deported. He was so desperate to reunite with you and his family that he tried to cross the border without documentation. He was caught and is now in a federal penitentiary. Because you have Lupus, you are a high health risk and therefore finding work is difficult, especially with 5 young children. You need to feed them, but you cannot also afford to become ill with COViD-19, especially with no medical insurance and who would care for your children?

These migrant stories are not hypothetical. We know these people. In Matthew 25: 31-46, Jesus does not ask about political affiliation or policy, or race, education, or legal status. Rather he asks how we have responded to their needs.

Central is a charter member of a new Denver Presbytery Mission Partnership called **Journey with Migrants**. The other charter congregations are Capitol Heights, Montview, and Divino Salvador. The goal of this Mission Partnership is to be the Presbytery of Denver's corporate response to the needs of 1) undocumented residents who have migrated to Colorado and 2) individuals and families who are seeking asylum in the United States. There are four objectives:

1. Congregational education on the challenges migrants face and ways we can help;

(continues on page 11)

2. Accompaniment to provide assistance and friendship;
3. Advocacy on how the lives of migrants can be improved through state and national policy and legal reforms;
4. Promotion of interfaith efforts to address the needs of migrants in the Denver Metro area.

Central is an affirmed Matthew 25 church and dedicated to find ways to respond to the needs of migrants, many who are hungry and need food, who are walking thirsty in the desert and need a drink, who cannot afford jackets and need clothing, who are sick or have a loved one in prison and need a friend and advocate.

If you feel called to help with this ministry, please contact us. There are many ways to learn, many resources to share, and many places to plug into in a way that fits your time, talents, and comfort level.

VOLUNTEERING AT CENTRAL VISITATION PROGRAM

Caroline and Morgan Brown

On a hot July day, we put our masks on and volunteered at Central Visitation Program (CVP). CVP provides a safe space for children to be with non custodial parents. They play, talk, make new connections, build relationships. These activities take place on the third floor at Central. Due to COVID 19, CVP's staff needs extra help cleaning and sanitizing their spaces so children and families are in a clean and healthy environment. We cleaned and sanitized tables, chairs, toys, bins, shelves, counters, televisions, - even the piano! The kitchen required work as well – cleaning out the microwave and refrigerator. We sorted pieces of board games so the games were back in "working" order. We were glad to give the CVP staff some relief from this duty and know that we were making a safer space for those who rely on it.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Do you love to knit or crochet? If so, put your needles and hooks to good use by getting involved with Central's Prayer Shawl Ministry. Prayer shawls are given to those who are recovering from loss or illness, birth, or anyone who just needs some extra comfort. Please join us in bringing comfort and prayers to those in our community and beyond. Contact Celeste Habiger, rchabiger@gmail.com.

Ben, Joanna and Rowan John LaPorte wrapped in a prayer shawl made by Central's Prayer Shawl Ministry.

WE DON'T WASTE

Derek Jones | derek@feedmedia.com

The Mission Committee has made a connection with local non-profit We Don't Waste (www.wedontwaste.org) to provide significant food support for New Genesis. Founded in 2009, We Don't Waste collects food from purveyors who want to avoid food waste and distributes the food to those in need. To date, We Don't Waste has diverted over 25 million pounds of food from landfills and has provided more than 100 million servings of quality food to families, individuals and organizations. Nearly 50% of the food distributed by We Don't Waste is fresh produce – items normally out of reach for the hungry.

While We Don't Waste had been supporting New Genesis through periodic deliveries, it was discovered that by scheduling regular pickups from the We Don't Waste distribution center, large, regular volumes of food could be collected for New Genesis. Food items include fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh and frozen dairy, bread, canned items of all types, eggs, juice, some meat, prepared meals, and even a few dessert items.

CPC's deliveries to New Genesis started in April and brought 600-800 lbs of food per week. In August, Mission Committee member Larry Armstrong organized a group of volunteers to start making deliveries two times per week. It is estimated that we are now delivering over 1,000 pounds of food per week. By spreading out the deliveries, New Genesis can better handle storage of perishable items.

We'd love to add more volunteers to the team. If you are interested, have an SUV or truck, can lift ~25 lb boxes, and are available for two hours early afternoon on Mondays or Thursdays, please contact Larry: Larry@larrydarmstrong.com.

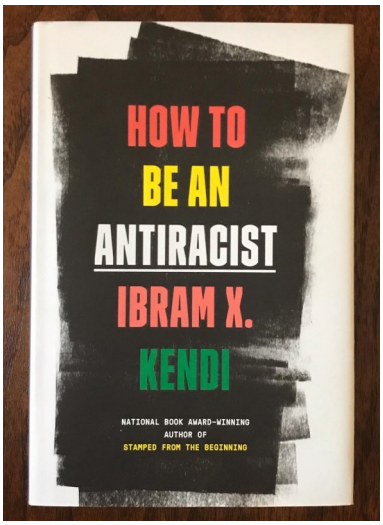
New Genesis reports that this additional food has enabled them to use money that would have otherwise gone toward purchasing food for additional expenses incurred because of the pandemic like: disposable utensils, disposable plates, and cleaning supplies.

This additional food has been very beneficial to New Genesis, but there is still significant need for protein and financial support.

FAITH FORMATION

Tim Mooney | tim@centraldenver.com

Central Presbyterian Church is excited to offer a mix of educational opportunities, spiritual practices, self-initiated interest groups, and in-person gatherings for this Fall.
Check out the following options!



How to Be an Antiracist

The Faith Formation Council and the Racial Healing Initiative Group will offer a four-week class, **beginning Sunday, September 27 at 11:30am on Zoom,** on Ibram X. Kendi's book, *How to Be an Antiracist.* The class will focus on excerpts from the book, and an outline of the argument Kendi makes, rooted in his own story, for becoming "Antiracist" instead of "not Racist." Kendi invites us to rethink our categories, and to see social problems as not inherent in groups of people, but the result of power and policies. The classes will be lead by Dr. Jacque Howard, Rev. Olivia Hudson Smith, Molly Brown, and Rev. Tim Mooney.

Like a Child: Restoring the Awe, Wonder, Joy, and Resiliency of the Human Spirit.

Six weeks before Advent and six weeks following, I will lead us through my book exploring what Jesus might have meant when he said, "Unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven." (Matt. 18:3) In this time of pandemic and social unrest, it has become more evident that child-like qualities - trust, beginner's mind, playfulness, adaptability, humility, awe, and wonder – are helpful attitudes for us to cultivate in order to navigate well the changes asked of us in a rapidly changing world. The 12-week class is suitable for children and adults, a great way for families to participate together! Yes, there will be some play involved!

Fellowship, Fun, and Forums on Facebook

Before COVID-19 hit, we made plans for lunch, discussed things of interest, shared our joys and concerns, and laughed at the crazy things your kids or your parents did, in the Narthex before or after worship. Thanks to Cathy Hawk, who came up with the idea, we now have a "New Narthex" in which to make those connections by creating a Central Presbyterian Church Facebook Private Group. The group will be composed of members and friends of Central who want to be a part of it. To join the group, go to facebook.com/groups/centralfellowship/ and click "Join Group". After answering the questions and agreeing to the guidelines, your membership will be approved by the moderators. When you are accepted the rest is up to you! Volunteering at Metro Caring? Ask others to join you. Come across a podcast that sparked your interest? Share the link for others to check out if they wish. Want to start a book study? Post the info and see if there are any takers. Stay tuned for more details on the guidelines that will make the group a kind, caring, and safe place for the members and friends of Central.

Theology on Tap

When Rev. Tim moved to Buena Vista, he messed up all of our calendars by moving Theology on Tap from Thursday - which was our FAVORITE night, or at least it had become HABIT - to Sunday, or Monday, or Tuesday!!! How could he?? Then we tried Zoom Theology on Tap and that worked okay, but lots of us are Zoom Fatigued (yes, it's a real thing!), and what night was it again this week?? Tim then came to his senses – at least as much as possible after his brain surgery, or maybe it's genetic – and asked us for our preferred night for Theology on Tap. We finally landed on **Monday nights at 7pm on Zoom** beginning September 14.

A BALANCING ACT

Louise Westfall | louise@centraldenver.com

Heaven and earth are yours, O God, and of your own we give you. (I Chronicles 29:11, 14)

How does Central fund its mission? How do we support Care, Service, Worship and Faith Formation as faithful stewards of the abundant resources God has given us? What will our annual Generosity Campaign look like in this peculiar time? What is the impact of COVID-19 on our financial situation now and ahead?

Central member Chris Adams will once again engage us with the online tool he has developed that provides opportunity for the congregation to hear about priorities and plans and then make decisions and choices about where to invest resources to accomplish the work to which God has called us. You have an important role in the development of a faithful and financially responsible budget! The budget simulation will take place via zoom on Sunday, October 25, and you'll receive more information about how to participate.

Between now and then, you'll hear from members and friends sharing the impact of Central's mission on their lives and faith. Each of the four Ministry Councils will highlight the "essential services" comprising our mission, and give you a first look into their dreams and plans for 2021. Elder Mark Williams is leading the campaign this year, assisted by Bruce Heagstedt and Pastor Louise Westfall.

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES THIS FALL

Wil Smith | wil@centraldenver.com

The chancel choir will be having a 'virtuous' fall season, and invites you to join! While we won't be meeting in person yet, we will continue to "rehearse" together via Zoom on Wednesday nights from 7-8pm with short presentations from our director, section leaders, and members, and will begin making virtual choir videos of hymns and anthems for our virtual services. The recordings of our voices singing the hymns will also be played on the speakers during our 9:30 in-person worship, which Wil will accompany live on the organ.

When things are safe to do so, we'll return to singing in worship and to in-person rehearsals on Wednesdays from 7-9. Wil is researching masks that are made especially for singers, and might allow for safer group singing of smaller amounts of people.

Also, handbells will be returning earlier with in-person rehearsals, masked and socially distant. If you're interested in playing in this ensemble, please contact Wil at wil@centraldenver.com!

CAFÉ JUSTO COOPERATIVE

Opportunity to participate in Central's Migrant Ministry while enjoying fair trade, high quality, organic coffee from Chiapas, Mexico.

The *Café Justo (Just Coffee) Cooperative* was formed in 2002 by coffee growers in the state of Chiapas, Mexico. The goal of the cooperative is a *fair trade plus* enterprise that allows local coffee growers to earn a living wage for their coffee. The *plus* refers to including the roasting, grinding, packaging, and sale of their coffee. This increased the earnings of the local growers by four times over having to sell it to large corporations, known as *coyotes*, at low contract-farming prices.

It is also an economic model with a potential to be replicated with the hope that Mexican-owned cooperatives could help ease the intractable twin problems of rural poverty in Mexico and undocumented immigration to the United States. Members of this cooperative no longer need to consider coming to the United States to earn a living wage, but can stay with their families and establish a family business to be passed to their children, while also creating jobs in coffee processing and marketing.

Central members, Rob and Celeste Habiger, and Jo Culbertson learned about *Café Justo* during their November 2019 border mission trip with the Denver Presbytery. The Reverend Mark Adams, their host for that trip, has been a Presbyterian Mission Co-worker serving with Frontera de Cristo (a Presbyterian border ministry in the sister cities of Douglas, Arizona and Agua Prieta, Mexico) since 1998 and supported the farmers in their founding of the co-op. He says that by allowing the co-op members to stay home and earn a "just wage," Café Justo addresses the double tragedies of families split apart by migration to the United States and of migrants dying in the desert trying to get here.

You can support this cooperative and Frontera de Cristo's response to COVID -19, by purchasing coffee online and having it delivered directly to your home. This is especially helpful now since demand by churches has fallen off during the pandemic.

Please visit the website: https://tinyurl.com/yypuchgb **and start enjoying organically grown, fair trade plus coffee.**

This website will also tell you how to join weekly zoom meetings to learn more about Frontera de Cristo and its border mission. Whether you join the weekly meetings or not, start enjoying the coffee and knowing that you are doing something to help ease the current immigration problems at its source.

Contact Celeste or Rob Habiger rchabiger@gmail.com, who have been enjoying this high-quality coffee, if you have any questions.

Café Justo is a coffee grower cooperative based in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas, Mexico. We market a pure, organic coffee which is grown, harvested and marketed in the spirit of justice. Our goal is to provide incentives for people to remain on their family lands.

Our business model is simple and optimizes the profit for the growers. The coffee is harvested, cleaned and prepared for shipping in Salvador Urbina, Chiapas.

The beans are then transported to Agua Prieta, Sonora. In Agua Prieta the coffee is roasted, ground and packaged for shipment to our customers.

Central
Presbyterian Church
1660 Sherman Str., Denver, CO 80203

VOTER REGISTRATION EVENTS

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1660 N SHERMAN STREET, DENVER

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

9:30AM - NOON

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

9:30AM - NOON

More dates and information @
centraldenver.com/vote

Central
Presbyterian Church