

THE VOICE

February 2016 VOLUME 68 • ISSUE 2

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CONCERTS & SERVICES

Souper Bowl of Caring
February 7 | 11:30 am

Ash Wednesday Service
February 10 | 6 pm

Prayer Room Dedication
February 21 | 11:30 am

Karaoke Fundraiser for
Guatemala Trip
February 26 | 6 pm

WE MAKE THE ROAD BY WALKING

Don't Give Up Something for Lent

Giving up chocolate or alcohol? Fish only Fridays? What other ways have you traditionally practiced your faith during Lent? This year, we encourage you not to give up something for Lent but to take up a new spiritual practice. Starting on Ash Wednesday (February 10th), Central will begin sending noon push notices to everyone with the Central app. Upon swiping the push notice, you will be taken to a brief, guided prayer practice making your lunchtime nourishing for the body and the soul. If you don't already have the Central app, we encourage you to download it – and remember to give us permission to send you notices. If you have any questions about how to do this, please contact Bear Redmon in the church office



The church office will be closed Monday, February 15 in honor of Presidents' Day.

Prayer Room



The new prayer room is located in the Shepler Heritage Center which provides a quiet, comfortable, and reverent environment, well suited for personal prayer and reflection. There will be ample resources in the prayer room, such as Bibles, meditation books, books of prayers, prayer request cards, prayer stones, and prayer labyrinth.

God calls us to be in communion with Him so that we can find rest, peace, and love. We encourage you to take this opportunity to seek His presence in your life and the life of the church as we prepare for Easter.



Fellowship Hour will be held in the Shepler Heritage Center (basement) on Sunday, February 21, following church service. We will dedicate the new prayer room in the Heritage Center and enjoy an open house to celebrate the role prayer plays in Central's ministry and spiritual growth.

THE VOICE

THE VOICE is published monthly. Article submissions are due no later than the second Monday of the month.

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Deacons | **Penny Burke** (Moderator 2016)

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The Generosity Team | **David Daniel** (Chair 2018)

Mission & Outreach | **Gina Batali-Brooks** (Chair 2016), **Steven Erhart** (2016)

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Personnel | **Eric Bartczak** (Chair 2017), **James Eklund** (2018)

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Task Force on Member Engagement | **Amy Stevens** (Chair 2017)

Worship & Music | **Emily Nease** (Chair 2017),
Youth Ministries | **Sydney Stevens** (2016)

February Worship Schedule

February 7 COMMUNION Jacqueline Decker Vanderpol will preach “Mixed Bag” based on Isaiah 6:1-8 and 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. Communion will be served.

February 10 ASH WEDNESDAY 6pm Simple soup supper 7pm prayer service and imposition of ashes (optional)

February 14 Louise Westfall preaching We Make the Road by Walking: Into the Wilderness (Luke 4:1-13)

February 21 Louise Westfall preaching We Make the Road by Walking: With Humility (Luke 13:31-35)

February 28 Louise Westfall preaching We Make the Road by Walking: In Trust (Isaiah 55)



The labyrinth is open for walking meditation every Wednesday, 11:30 -1.



The Prayer Room (in the Shepler Heritage Center) is open every Sunday, and staffed by a minister on the third Sunday of each month.

FROM YOUR PASTOR



The memory of the baby Jesus may still be in the rearview mirror, but the road unfolds relentlessly towards his cross. The church’s season of Lent preceding Easter offers opportunity for reflection on Jesus’ suffering and death and what they mean for our own journeys of faith. We’ll explore this theme through the lens of walking the road, covering familiar ground but also searching out new guideposts and practices along the way. As we come again into a political election season sure to be corrosive, we’ll draw from Jesus’ words calling us to humility and self-awareness as a helpful corrective.

Some people “give up” something for Lent, as a personal discipline. This can be a good way to increase mindfulness and focus. Poet Mary Oliver offers a perspective that invites us to give up certainty in favor of embracing the mystery of truth, of God, of spirit, in her poem *Mysteries, Yes*.

Truly, we live with mysteries too marvelous to be understood.

How grass can be nourishing in the mouths of the lambs.
How rivers and stones are forever in allegiance with gravity while we ourselves dream of rising.

How two hands touch and the bonds will never be broken.

How people come, from delight or the scars of damage, to the comfort of a poem.

Let me keep my distance, always, from those who think they have the answers.

Let me keep company, always, with those who say “Look!” and laugh in astonishment, and bow their heads.

Please keep company with your church as we walk the road of Lent together, beginning with Ash Wednesday (February 10) soup supper and prayer service, all the way through Easter, March 27.

With love and prayers for a joyous and purposive 2016,

Pastor Louise Westfall



ADULT EDUCATION

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:00AM. Adult Education at Central is lively; the language is sometimes irreverent, and people feel very free to disagree with the teachers. Prior attendance is never required.

In the Shepler Heritage Center in the Basement...

Every Sunday

Bible Study for Women

On the first Sunday of every month, we study *Come to the Waters* which explores spiritual nurture through Biblical stories about water. On following Sundays, we study a chapter in *We Make the Road by Walking*. Whether or not you've read the chapter, you're encouraged to join us! We will meet in West Room this week only!

In the East Room...



Walking the Colorado Trail

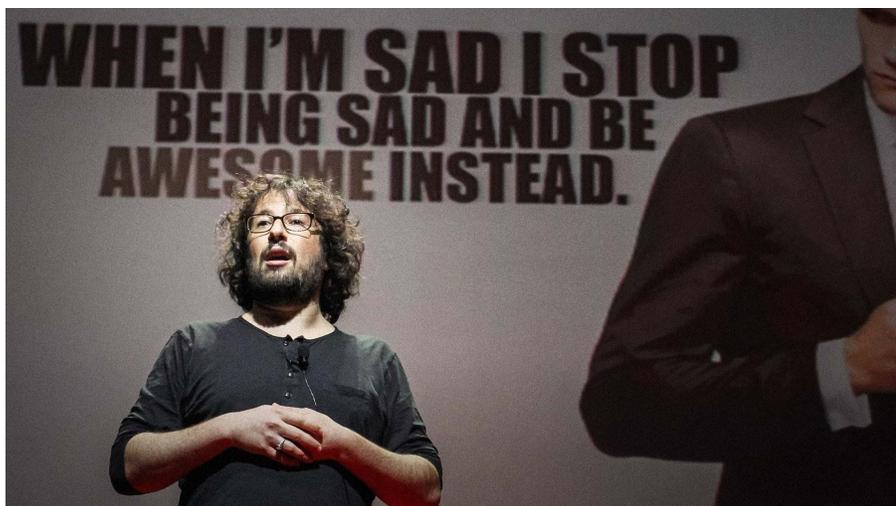
February 7

Photojournalist Dean Krakel set out to walk the entire length of the Colorado Trail---566 miles--- last summer, and portions of his blog appeared in the Denver Post. He'll recount tales from the trail and share photographs, offering his perspective on the road we make by walking.

TED Talk on Love

February 14

Join Nick Vanderpol on this Valentine's Day Sunday to look at all things LOVE. We will hear from the great minds of authors, sociologists, psychologists, and philosophers as they wax eloquently through TED Talks on this subject that has such an impact on all of us. Learn how to love better and be more loveable.



In the West Room...

Valentine's Day Relationship Check-Up

February 14



This Valentine's Day, you can give your relationship a check-up! Using the Prepare-Enrich online inventory, couples will reflect on all aspects of their relationship (finances, communication, conflict resolution, parenting, sex, religion, etc.). Then, we will gather at

9:00am on Sunday, February 14, so couples can receive their results (privately). During the class, Jacqueline Decker Vanderpol will explain how to interpret the results and how to make progress in areas where there is room for growth. While the inventory costs \$35, Central will cover the cost for any couples who participate on February 14. If couples have taken the inventory with Jacqueline before, she will bring a copy of your past results, so you can see where you've made progress and where you could use more work. If you are interested, email jacqueline@centraldenver.com with the preferred email address for you and your partner. All participants are asked to complete the online inventory by February 7 in order for the results to be ready in time for the class.

Challenging Bible Texts for 21st Century American Christians

February 21



How are today's Christians similar to – and different from – the audiences who first heard Jesus' message? Are we hearing them clearly? Has the interpretation changed over time? And how can we make sure our ears are open? Texts include Nicodemus' secret talk with Jesus and the rich young ruler. This class will be taught by Chris Wineman.

The Next Church: Blogs, Twitter, and Social Media as a Place for Worship and Faith

February 28

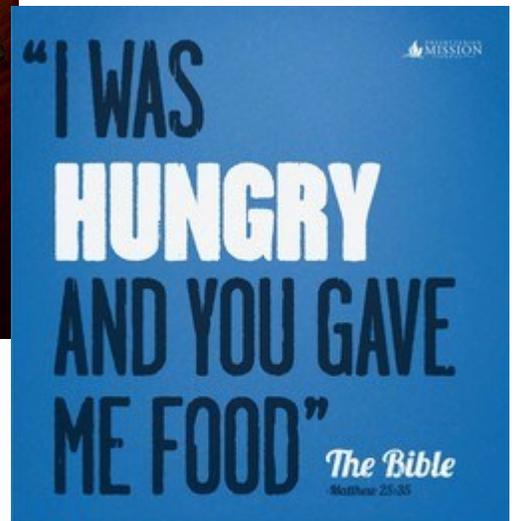
How can God's Word be heard around the country in a matter of seconds? Social media. Whether it's people sending a YouTube link of a particularly moving sermon or tweeting a favorite Scripture verse or sharing a picture of a cross that majestically appeared in the clouds on Facebook, people are willing to share uplifting things. So how can you get Jesus' message out to others without being overbearing? Bear Redmon, Central's administrator, and Blair Shiff, chair of the Marketing and Communications Committee, will explain which social media tools are the best to use for each type of message.



One Great Hour of Sharing

On Palm Sunday, March 20 - Presbyterian Church (USA)'s special offering will be collected for One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) which funds and supports disaster assistance, hunger relief and self-development. Additionally, 32% of the offering is designated to a local organization that supports one of the OGHS initiatives. This year as in years past, Central will designate 32% of the offering to New Genesis, <http://newgenesis.org/>.

During Lent, children will also receive "fish" offering boxes on February 14 to collect money for One Great Hour of Sharing with their family to return the boxes on Palm Sunday. The goal as a congregation is to raise \$3,500. To learn more about OGHS, visit <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/oghs>.





MUSIC NOTES

Coming up in February, we're gearing up for Lent! We've been averaging over 20 people each week in our choir, a really exciting development, and we're always looking for more members to join us. Please let Wil or Sarah know if you're interested in joining!

Also, on Friday, February 19 at 7:30pm, the Denver Philharmonic will present an exciting concert featuring some classical favorites. This includes Mozart's Symphony #40 in G minor, Rachmaninoff's Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, and Stravinsky's Firebird Suite. There will also be a pre-concert chat at 6:30. Tickets are \$20—please come support our new ensemble in residence!

Shop at King Soopers and Support Central Visitation Program!

Central Visitation Program is partnering with King Soopers on an easy way you can support Central Visitation Program! Purchase a \$20 Gift Card from Central Visitation Program, and keep reloading the card and using it every time you shop!



Helping the children of divided families

HOW IT WORKS - Central Visitation Program receives 5% of your purchases made using this gift card. For every \$100 you spend on groceries, CVP earns \$5. You can reload the card with as much money as you want at the service desk or before you check out.

Cards will be available after worship on the last Sunday of the month (this month: February 28) – look for CVP volunteers in the Narthex after worship!



THE CHURCH MOUSE



It's a common sight to see people working to keep Central's beautiful old building up and running. But when I noticed some work going on in the sanctuary balcony area, which is not so typical, my mousey curiosity was sparked and I started nosing around. I discovered that new gadgets are being installed in the corners of the balcony, and I overheard the workers refer to them as invisible laser beams. These will provide new smoke detection in place of the unserviceable, old ceiling detectors mounted very high up in the sanctuary. I'm glad we're looking out for the safety of our members and visitors; it certainly makes me feel safer, too!





WE MAKE THE
ROAD BY WALKING
CHILDREN

Upcoming Breakfast Club and Bible Program Schedule

February 7: 9am Breakfast Club. Souper Bowl of Caring after worship.

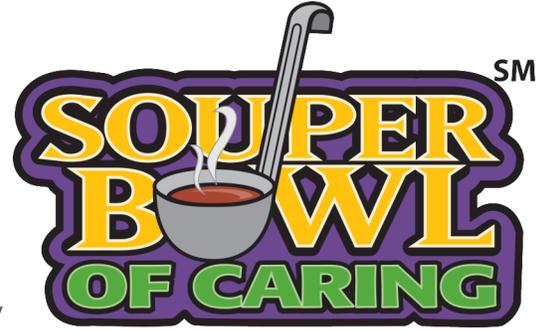
February 14: Breakfast Club at 9am followed by Bible Story Room and Bible Trek at 10:30am.

February 21: Breakfast Club at 9am followed by Bible Story Room and Bible Trek at 10:30am. Middler and HS Youth gathering after worship!

February 28: Breakfast Club at 9am followed by Bible Story Room and Bible Trek at 10:30am.

January was another excellent month. On January 10 the high school youth joined with the Middlers to do some lunch and bowling. Large quantities of noodles were consumed and numerous pins struck down whilst the Seahawks crumbled on the big screen at Lucky Strike. Our next outing will be on February 21. Stay tuned for more details.

In February, the youth are kicking things off with the Souper Bowl of Caring on February 7 but with an added dash of competition this time. This year, First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, NC has thrown down the gauntlet looking to mirror the football rivalry between our two cities in a competition to end hunger. So bring your canned foods, your pocketbooks, and a big appetite, because we are going to show these panthers what it truly means to be United in Orange!



Online Giving

Central now offers a new way to give that many of our members find easy and helpful.

Go to www.centraldenver.com and you can make a gift that goes directly to our mission using your debit or credit card or electronic funds transfer, and take advantage of all the benefits of digitally tracking your finances.

Give Now »

Parents Night Out

Parents Night Out With Donations Supporting Guatemala Mission Trip!

February 26 Support Central's missions in Guatemala.

6 pm—9:30 pm Parents drop your kids off so you can enjoy an evening out! Suggested



CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

Communion

Communion will be served on **February 7**. Please remember canned goods or a monetary gift in support of hungry families served by Metro Caring.

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT

Lunch Bunch | will meet Sunday, February 14 at noon in the Sturgeon Room. Reservations are due by February 9. Please contact Don and Nadine Ross (303.367.0624) with any questions. All are welcome.

Longtime Central member **Cheryl Fleetwood** will share her family's experience of living in Costa Rica for a year at the **February 25** meeting of **Serendipity**, an informal group for all women. **Sue Wilcox** and **BL Ray** are hosting and will welcome us at 7 pm in the first-floor Health Suites Community Room of Clermont Park, 2479 S. Clermont Street, Denver 80222. RSVP to Sue at 303.333.9031 or wilcoxsr26@gmail.com. Park in visitor parking or on the street. Those taking Light Rail to the nearby Yale & I-25 Station can coordinate with others who are driving. We build friendships through fellowship, so please join us!

This Lent Life

All through this lent Life
keep me ever learning
leaning toward the Light
in your paths of right.
Whatever gain I make
may it be offered toward
the pain of this world's
violence and disasters
as a spark of living Presence.

—Kent Ira Groff ©2016



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