

THE VOICE



YOU SHALL NAME HIM JESUS

Wonderful Counselor. . . . Strength of God. . . . Eternal Protector. . . . Champion of Peace

The Church waits for Christmas in a particular way: by preparing to receive the gift of God-with-us in Jesus. This year we will explore these four Hebrew names describing the One God sent to bring us life and light.

The last thing you need in this busy season is one more thing to do! We're not asking you for *more* but *better*. Choose one action or practice outlined in this newsletter that will help you and your loved ones experience the hope, peace, joy, and love of God's gift in the Baby of Bethlehem who grew up to be the Savior of the world. Our Christmas tables are beautifully set and abundant with good food. Let's be intentional about setting the table for spiritual nourishment as well. Prepare for a merry Christmas by observing a thoughtful Advent. What a feast for the spirit it will be!

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CONCERTS & SERVICES

Denver Gay Men's Chorus
December 1–3 | 7 pm

Denver Philharmonic Orchestra
December 16 | 7 pm

Unsilent Night
December 22 | 7 pm

Christmas Eve Services
December 24 | 5:30 & 11 pm



December Worship Schedule

November 27 Advent I Louise Westfall preaching Name Him Jesus (1): Wonderful Counselor

December 4 Advent II Communion Louise Westfall preaching Name Him Jesus (2): Strength of God

December 11 Advent III Louise Westfall preaching Name Him Jesus (3): Eternal Protector

December 18 Advent IV Journey to Bethlehem Children's program. Commissioning of youth confirmands; Joy Offering received.

December 22 6-8 pm Unsilent Night Join us for this interactive caroling event

December 24 5:30 Christmas Eve all-ages-appropriate readings, carols, and candlelighting. 11 Christmas Vespers with choir, candlelighting and Louise Westfall preaching Name Him Jesus: Heaven on Earth.

December 25 Join us on Christmas Day for carol-singing and a special Christmas story told by Louise Westfall.

January 1 Welcome 2017 with Communion and worship. We'll let go of the old year, offer thanks for its blessings and anticipate all God is doing in the new year.

To enhance our exploration of the names of Jesus, we invite you to bring a figure from your Nativity set to add to one on the chancel. November 27—Magi and/or stars December 4---shepherd December 11 --- Joseph and Mary figures December 18---angels and Baby Jesus

Central's Prayer Room in the Shepler Heritage Center on the lower level is open every Sunday for personal prayer and meditation.

Walking meditation with the labyrinth at Open Doors, each Wednesday 11:30 – 1 pm



THE VOICE

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

Bear Redmon **Editor and Publisher**
Jane Brown **Copy Editor**

MINISTRY TEAM

Pastor
Louise Westfall
louise@centraldenver.com

Stephanie Fritz
stephanie@centraldenver.com

Associate Director of Music

Sarah Eaton
sarah@centraldenver.com

Director of High School Youth

Bear Redmon
bear@centraldenver.com

Director of Music

Wil Smith
wil@centraldenver.com

Church Administrator/ High School Youth Director

Bear Redmon
bear@centraldenver.com

Building Superintendent

Joe Martell
joe@centraldenver.com

Finance Office

Kathy or Sarah
accounting@centraldenver.com

20s/30s Group | **Tom and Teresa Crane**
thomasjcrane@gmail.com

Adult Education | **Anne Bond** (Chair 2018)

Budget & Finance | **Bill Jones** (Chair 2017),

Children and Family Ministries | **Cheryl Fleetwood** (Chair 2018), **Chris Colwell** (2016)

Communications and Marketing | **Chris Gibson** (Chair 2018), **Dave Ramsey** (2016)

Deacons | **Bruce Haegstedt** (Moderator 2016)

Endowment | **Derek Jones** (Chair)

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

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

Music & Arts | **Jean Herman** (Chair 2017), **Larry Armstrong** (2017)

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

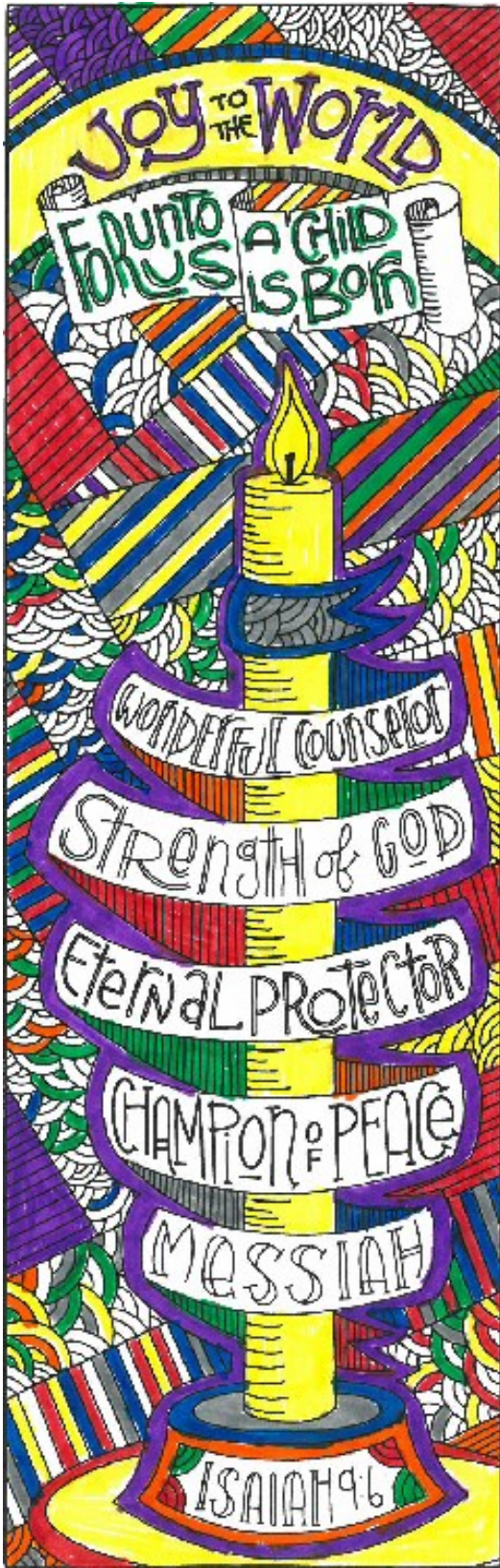
Property & Building | **Rob Habiger** (Chair 2016), **Lynne Brown** (2018)

Representative Nominating | **Amy Stevens** (Chair 2017)

Task Force for Mission Center | **Lynne Brown** (Chair 2018)

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

Worship & Music | **Emily Nease** (Chair 2017),



Razors
Hand/boot warmers

Generations in Faith Together: Season of Advent

**In this season of Advent, you are invited to the table.
We have set the table with opportunities to grow
spiritually, worship in community and serve together.**

Daily and Weekly Devotions

Pick up a devotion from the narthex for children, youth or adults.

Setting the Table devotion emailed out each week and updated on our website

Preparing the Crèche in Worship

Each Sunday of Advent you are invited to bring a piece of your crèche from home to be part of our community crèche in worship.

November 27: Bring your wise men and/or stars

December 4: Bring your shepherds

December 11: Bring your Mary and Joseph

December 18: Bring your angels and baby Jesus

Participate in the community coloring project that when put together will be the story of Christmas.

Serve together

Colfax Community Network

Holiday Party on December 17th. Central is providing stockings and stuffers for 300 children. The angel tree in the narthex has donation items. Watch for sign up details for the party!

New Genesis Socks of Love

We will fill 160 Socks of Love on December 18th after worship. In addition to the sock stuffers, we will need tube socks (white or black). Contact Stephanie Fritz if you can provide socks. Bring any of the following items on or before December 18th.

Travel sized toiletries
Hard candy, gum
Individually wrapped snacks
Chap stick
Playing cards, dice
Stretchy gloves
Tooth brush





MUSIC NOTES

There is lots going on around Central in the month of December! Along with lots of concerts from outside groups, we're also presenting our Unsilent Night caroling with Cellphones again on December 22, our choir will combine with People's Presbyterian Choir for a concert at People's on December 17, and we're gearing up for 2 great services on Christmas Eve.

First, please plan to attend our Unsilent Night caroling with cellphones event on December 22 starting at 6:00. Unsilent Night is holiday 45-minute long piece by NYC composer Phil Kline that takes place as a walking symphony of smart phones, mp3 players, and boomboxes. This year is its 25th anniversary, and it's being performed in cities across the world. You don't need to have any previous musical experience in order to take part; It's family-friendly, pet-friendly, and just a great way to connect with the neighborhood and to take a little break from the holiday bustle. We'll meet on the front steps of Central at 6:00 for hot chocolate, and all push play simultaneously and embark at 6:30 on our promenade.

Central's Choir will join the choir of People's Presbyterian Church on December 17 at 4:00 for a concert at Peoples. Each choir will be doing some of their own music, along with some combined pieces, and some instrumental pieces that will be featured. We hope that you can join us!

As far as community holiday concerts, we have quite a few! The Denver Gay Men's Chorus presents their annual holiday concert on December 1-3 with concerts at 7:30pm, and a matinee concert on December 3 at 2:00pm. The Rocky Mountain Children's Choir presents their holiday concert on Sunday, December 4 at 4:00pm. The East High School vocal music winter concert is on December 6 at 7:00pm. The Evergreen Chorale is back along with the Jefferson Symphony presenting the "Amahl and the Night Visitors," a family friendly opera originally written for television back in the 1950s that has since become a holiday classic. And last, but certainly not least, the Denver Philharmonic presents their "Holiday Cheer!" concert on December 16 at 7:30.

We can use all of the help that we can get to put on each of these concerts! If you'd like to help out (and see the concerts for free), please contact Wil Smith at wil@centraldenver.com



Concert Calendar

December 1 - 3
Denver Gay Men's Chorus

December 4
Rocky Mountain Children's Choir

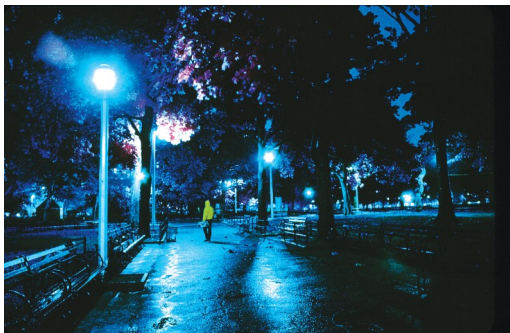
December 6
East High School Choirs

December 9
Evergreen Chorale

December 16
Denver Philharmonic Orchestra

December 17
Combined Concert at People's
Presbyterian Church

December 22
Unsilent Night—caroling with
smartphones



CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES



Journey to Bethlehem

December 18th during worship

Children's "no-rehearse" nativity experience

Children and youth of all ages are invited to participate in our nativity experience during worship. Children choose the character they would like to be upon arriving at church that morning and the nativity is narrated as a parade of many Mary's, Shepherd and even Stars on the chancel. Children may arrive beginning at 9am on the 3rd floor. Please try and be at the church no later than 10am. Friends, family—all are welcome! There are special parts for our babies and toddlers who should arrive at regular worship time and pick up "props" in the narthex.

Bible Story Room and Bible Trek

(3 years-4th grade)

Children will depart after the Passing of the Peace to these classes on November 27th and December 11th. December 4th is communion Sunday when we all worship together. December 18th is our Journey to Bethlehem when all children actively participate in the worship service! There will not be any classes on December 25th and January 1st.

Breakfast Club

9am on the 3rd floor for ages 3 through high school

November 27, December 4, 11 and 18.

High School Youth (8th—12th Grade)

Youth Group

Sundays at noon

Youth Group starts at noon in the Youth Room. Lunch will be provided by volunteers. Contact **Bear Redmon** (bear@centraldenver.com) on how you can help. This will be available every Sunday throughout the year.

Confirmation Commissioning

December 18

Faith formation experiences for youth will begin in January. In November, adult mentors were selected and trained. 2017 class members will be commissioned in December and include: **Alfredo Cortez, Remi Daniel, Jackson Malone, Ellen Clark, Olivia Earnest, Ellery Adams, and Wiley Adams**

Youth Christmas Party

December 20

We will be meeting up with some other youth groups in the presbytery to have celebrate the Christmas and the end of the school semester. See old Triennium friends! Eat lots of food! All are welcome so bring a friend!



ADULT EDUCATION

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 9:00AM. Adult Ed at Central asks questions, goes deeper, delights in diverse perspectives, pursues truth, honors all people, trusts God. Expect to be challenged, provoked, inspired, amazed and grateful.

In the West Room...

Waiting with Henri Nouwen

December 4, 11, and 18

Writer **Henri Nouwen** has explored the experience of "waiting" in several of his significant works. This coming season of Advent - a time of waiting for the promises of God and the expectation of the coming Christ Child - seems an opportune time to think on Nouwen's writings. Three members of the Central family will share reflections on times of waiting in their lives: **Claire Wineman** (Dec 4), **Jonathan Riddle** (Dec 11), and **Zach Warren** (Dec 18). Please join us and be prepared to look more deeply at your own times of "waiting" for the coming of God's presence and blessing.

Christmas Joy Offering

Thank you for participating in the special offers this year! The Christmas Joy offering is the last to be collected in 2016 on December 18! Fifty percent of the Christmas Joy Offering is distributed to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs that provide support to retired and active church workers and their spouses and families. The other fifty percent supports PCUSA's General Assembly Council supporting racial ethnic education programs.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHRISTMAS JOY

The goal as a congregation is to raise \$1,000 on Sunday, December 18. To learn more about the Christmas Joy Offering, please visit <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/christmasjoy>.

2016 Goal \$1,000

Thank you for your continued generosity for the four PCUSA special offerings this year!

Church Mouse

I know humans tend to think that mice aren't clean creatures, and while this is the case with some of them, I happened like taking a weekly shower in the Heritage Center, thank you very much! One of the steam valves leaked just enough to allow me some nice time in the hot water, especially now that the weather is getting chillier. Unfortunately for me, Joe fixed the leaky valve, and my former pleasant shower is now dry as a bone. Joe and the Property Committee may be happy, but I need a bath!

All Church Retreat

Save the date for Labor Day Weekend 2017 for an all church retreat at Highlands Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center in Allenspark, Colorado. Rest, recharge, relax with your church family.





Hanging of the Greens

November 26

Few sanctuaries are lovelier than Central's when decked out for Advent and Christmas. Join your church family on Saturday,

November 26 from 9am to noon for the annual Hanging of the Greens. There will be tasks for every age group. Bring your family and friends for this season-starting tradition!

Serendipity, an informal group welcoming all women, will meet Dec. 1 at 7 pm at the home of **Louise Westfall**, 1860 Washington St. #203, Denver 80203. All are invited (but not required) to bring two dozen homemade cookies. Everyone will be able to take cookies home. And, we will sing some Christmas carols! RSVPs to Louise at

louise@centraldenver.com, 303.839.5500, ext. 102 or 216.403.3781. We build friendships through fellowship, so please join us!

Central Men's Group will meet Thursday, December 8, at 6 pm. **Larry Armstrong** is hosting at his home, 747 Newport Street, Denver. A-L bring a salad or appetizer; M-Z bring a dessert or beer/wine. We're following on our successful shared Fall Retreat with men of Peoples' Presbyterian and inviting them to join us. Men of all ages are welcome! RSVPs to Larry@LarryDArmstrong.com or call 303.875.7808.

Brunch With Blair and Andy

December 4

Our old friends return from the Big Apple for the weekend. Join us for brunch following worship.

Dear Members of Central Presbyterian Church,

I want to take an opportunity to wish you all a very blessed Advent and Holiday season. I was a full time minister of music and fine arts in the church for 15 years and this was my favorite time of year. I loved the music, the anticipation, and the coming together of families and friends.

Speaking of friends, thank you, Wil Smith and Joe Martell for being such great friends to the Denver Gay Men's Chorus (DGMC). Since our first concert in your stunning sanctuary, the men of the DGMC have experienced nothing but love and acceptance from your congregation. In an often-hostile religious environment for gay people, your church has been a safe space for our singers and that has been a great gift you have given. Our guys look forward to seeing you each year and the love shared.

This year has been particularly difficult for the Gay community with the worse mass shooting in US history of 50 beautiful humans killed in an Orlando Gay Nightclub. Also for many of our singers, the election results has been a devastating and frightening experience of what this might mean for LGBTQ people with our new president.

With that said, it would be especially meaningful to our singers this year, if as many of you can attend one of our Holiday Concerts at Central Presbyterian Church December 1-3rd. To have you help us pack the church to a sold-out crowd would be such a message to the men of our organization. It would show to us so clearly that you validate us, see us as a valued and sacred humans in God's heart and will stand by us in the potential troubling times ahead.

It is going to be a wonderful experience for all of us and we hope to see you there.

We also ask you to share our concert information to friends and family in Denver. We are hoping to have our entire straight and faith allies come out in massive numbers this year to bring some comfort and joy to our disheartened spirits. More information can be found at www.rmarts.org

James Knapp



CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

Communion

Communion will be served on **December 4**. Please remember canned goods or a monetary gift in support of hungry families served by Metro Caring. Suggested items include: tuna, whole wheat pasta, peanut butter, canola or olive oil, rice, cans of corn

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT

Lunch Bunch

December 4

Join hosts **Jim and Nileen Hart** in the Sturgeon Room for the Lunch Bunch holiday lunch on Sunday, December 4 from 12 -2 pm. The cost is \$12 and will be catered by Fina's Kitchen. RSVP to 303.807.4520 or nileenh@comcast.net by Thursday, December 1.

Church offices will be closed November 23 and 24, December 26 and 27, and January 2.

We celebrate the birth of Owen David, to Tom and Teresa Crane, on November 13.

The All-Church Christmas Party is set for Saturday, December 10, so be sure to mark your calendars now for this festive Central tradition! The party will be at the home of **Rick and Joyce Coville**, 17 Polo Field Lane, Denver 80209, beginning at 6 pm. Remember that this event is open to all ages. As in previous years, the plan is potluck dishes by all, and beef tenderloin expertly prepared by Rick Coville. Contact Joyce at fjcoville@msn.com or 303-871-8991

The staff wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Central
Presbyterian Church
1660 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203

