



## *Welcome, Rev. Jenny Wells!*

Please join us on Sunday, September 10 to welcome and worship with Rev. Jenny!

The congregation moved to approve the call for Rev. Jenny Wells on Sunday, June 11. We are looking forward to having her on board at Central, and we anticipate great things to come.

Thank you to the PNC for their time and effort spent throughout this process.

Rev. Jenny Wells holds a B.A. in Theatre and Liberal Arts from Monmouth College (2010) and an M.Div. from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary (2017). She grew up in central Illinois and has served in previous calls as an Associate Pastor, as a Director of Christian Education and Lay Ministries, and as a barista. Jenny identifies as queer and pansexual, and in her free time she enjoys a variety of hobbies, including reading, baking, crocheting, and gardening.

## Music & Worship

We recently said "see you again soon" to our July retirees, Sarah Linton and Rev. Jeff Light. We thank you for your service here at Central and wish you both the best for this next chapter!

As the saying goes, when one door closes, another opens. We will be welcoming Dr. Ann Marie Rigler, organist, educator, and clinician, to our music ministry this fall. Ann Marie is beginning her 20th year as Professor of Music and College Organist at William Jewell College where she also frequently performs with Jewell's acclaimed Concert Choir. Her credits as solo recitalist, chamber musician, and presenter include performances at national conventions of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), the Organ Historical Society, the College Music Society, and Musforum.



Ann Marie holds degrees from Southern Methodist University, University of Illinois, and the University of Iowa. Ann Marie has held several collegiate faculty positions in Pennsylvania and throughout the Midwest. She served on national committees and adjudication panels for AGO-related competitions and conventions.



*Vocal Music Ministry: (left to right) Finley Murphy, Tom Garrison, Cindy Sheppard, Amy Smick, Eryn Campbell*

We also welcome back our section leaders and Sunday choir with many thanks to those who gave their time and talents this summer performing solos, duets, and in small ensembles. We look forward to the "joyful noise" our musicians will bring this season!

We extend a special thank you to our guest preachers this summer: Rev. Dale Jackson, Elder Tony De La Rosa, Rev. Ellen Marquardt, Rev. Kristin Austew, Rev. Melissa Potts-Bowers, and Rev. Donna Simon. We appreciate all you do for our congregation and community and look forward to joining together again in the future!

## Pantry and Garden

To everything there is a season, we hear in Ecclesiastes and in music. And so it is for our neighbors that visit our pantry. Week to week, many of our neighbors return to shop. But over time, some move on for different reasons. Sometimes we hear that they have moved too far away to visit, but sometimes people stop coming because things have really come together for them. The McMann family began visiting the pantry last fall. The business that they had was forced to shut down during the COVID epidemic. Ira shared with us that the business was open again, but not profitable. "Without the pantry, it would have been impossible. Coming to the pantry feels like 'going to Mom's.'" Then this spring, Ira shared that she had gained employment at Costco Warehouse! Through Ira, Costco is beginning a program to distribute some of their returns to our pantry and other no barrier pantries! The love we share with others is coming back to us in so many wonderful ways. Thank you all for your support.

In other good news, our Pantry had its annual Harvester's monitoring inspection and passed its Harvesters Partner Compliance Certification. Thank you to all the volunteers who help us keep the pantry running smoothly and efficiently! We also celebrate the bounty our garden has provided. We have harvested over 400 pounds of produce so far this year!

In our pursuit to feed the whole person, we proudly partner with Oak Street Health, Kansas City Community Gardens, Kanbe's Market, Harvesters, and other local organizations. Through these partnerships, our pantry and garden volunteers have the opportunity to learn best-practices in supporting our neighbors and community. We are grateful for the gifts we have received and can in turn give.



## Outreach & A Night Under the Stars

Central continues to support local and global organizations as part of our outreach efforts. The committee recently awarded a grant to the Heartland Center in support of their summer camps and benefit concert. Heartland Center's benefit concert, *A Night Under the Stars*, is on Thursday, September 14 at 6:00pm. 100% of proceeds will go toward Heartland Center Camps: A Place Where Children Belong. Through this program, campers grow in confidence, build friendships, learn new skills, and grow in their faith.

More information about this event can be found at [heartlandcamps.org/stars](http://heartlandcamps.org/stars).

-----  
The next deadline for outreach grant requests is Thursday, November 30.

## Peace & Global Witness Offering

As we enter the Season of Peace (September 3-October 1), we will begin the Peace & Global Witness Offering. This special offering encourages the church to cast off anxiety and fear, discord and division, systems of conflict and injustice, and embrace our God's mission of reconciliation to those around the corner and around the world.

## Presbyterians for Earth Care

Presbyterians for Earth Care (PEC) is hosting a national conference September 20-23 to inspire hope while addressing what individuals and organizations can do to slow the climate crisis. PEC has gathered speakers, worship leaders, and experts including pastors, scientists, teachers, environmental activists, everyone concerned about God's world! Join the conference virtually and register at [presbyearthcare.org/2023-conference/](http://presbyearthcare.org/2023-conference/).

Earth Care is Social Justice!

## Congratulations!

We congratulate Rev. George McCall as he celebrates his 60th Anniversary of Ordained Ministry! This is an incredible achievement. George and his wife Neta have been instrumental in social justice advocacy in the PC(USA) and have been longtime supporters of Central and its mission. We are honored to be part of their legacy.

A formal recognition of this milestone will be scheduled at a later date.

## Central Volunteer Opportunities

We are looking to expand our committee membership. We welcome and value new ideas, diverse perspectives, and inclusion. Please see a Session member if you are interested in any of the following: Session, Admin Committee, Nominating Committee.

Our community garden continues to thrive and provide. Volunteers are welcome Monday mornings from 8:00-10:00am or 9:00-11:00am. Please contact Rebecca Merola if you are interested in assisting.

We are always looking for enthusiastic Pantry and Clothes Closet volunteers on Monday, Tuesday, and some Friday mornings. To sign up to volunteer and receive updates, please text @428g4d to 81010.

Our A/V Technician, Marisa Grady, will be offering a training session for volunteers to learn how to run the various aspects of sound and livestream for Sunday services. Please contact the church office or fill out the linked form in the weekly enews.

## Upcoming Community Events

### Gardens at Sunset

One of our community partners, Kansas City Community Gardens (KCCG), is hosting an enchanted evening at the Beanstalk Children's Garden on Saturday, September 9 from 5:30-8:30pm. *Gardens at Sunset* invites guests to enjoy a picnic dinner, silent auction, tour of the gardens and orchards, and support local vendors. Proceeds benefit KCCG's mission to inspire and empower low-income households, schools, and community groups to grow their own vegetables and fruit. More information can be found at [gardensatsunset.org](http://gardensatsunset.org).

### Te Deum

*Truer Words* kicks off Te Deum's 2023-2024 concert season. Featuring a world premiere by Composer-in-Residence Anthony J. Maglione, this concert will explore the works of great poets, thinkers, and faith leaders whose words offer comfort, grace, inspiration, understanding, and joy. Tickets are available at [te.deum.org](http://te.deum.org).

September 16 at 7:30pm, St. Mary's Episcopal Church  
September 17 at 3:00pm, Village Presbyterian Church

### Heartland Presbytery

You are invited to join the Stated Meeting & Matthew 25 Panel Discussion: *Heteropatriarchy and LGBTQIA+ Inclusion* on September 19 at St. Paul Presbyterian Church, Kansas City.

Register online at [heartlandpby.org](http://heartlandpby.org) by September 12 or in person the day of the meeting at 9:30am. Lunch will be catered by Thelma's Kitchen.

### Heartland Center Autumn Adventures

There's no better way to spend a fall day! Visit the Heartland Center in Parkville for daily activities - hayrides, pumpkin picking, yard games, campfires, target practice, and more. Tickets are available at the gate, and concessions are available for an additional charge. You may also bring your own picnic lunch.

Fridays & Saturdays open at 10:00am, Sundays at 11:00am  
September 22th-October 29th  
[heartlandcamps.org/autumn-adventures](http://heartlandcamps.org/autumn-adventures)

### Heart of America CROP Hunger Walk 2023

Central has a team participating in this year's Heart of America CROP Hunger Walk. The 3.5 mile walk will take place on Saturday, October 14 at 10:00am and will begin and end at Country Club Christian Church, 6101 Ward Parkway. Every year, 25% of funds raised stay in the local community. This year's Kansas City beneficiaries are: Community Assistance Council, Kansas City Community Gardens, Lazarus Ministries, Metropolitan Lutheran Ministries, and Seton Center.

The CROP Hunger Walk is a nationwide movement sponsored by Church World Service to raise funds to end hunger and poverty in the U.S. and around the world. Hundreds of religious groups, businesses, schools and others organize local and national Walk events each year.

Visit [events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/kansascitymo](http://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/kansascitymo) to sign up, and make sure to register as a member of the Central Presbyterian Church team. Reminders will be provided in the weekly enews.