



**CENTRAL  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

# Central Press

Lent 2024

## From the Pastor

Friends,

Have you ever felt your heart wandering? For many of us, our journey of faith is not linear. Nor is it polished or perfect. Faith is a constant journey that ebbs and flows as we strive to follow Jesus. In many ways, we are not unlike many of Jesus' first disciples with all our questions, all our doubts, all the times we wander and places we wander to. I'm sure Jesus is constantly rolling his eyes when we, like the disciples, just don't get it.

The season of Lent is an opportunity for us to turn inward, to reflect on our journey thus far, and tune our hearts to sing God's grace. Even in the midst of the ebbing and flowing, we are reminded of ways we can continue to keep going, to keep searching and yearning and loving. Throughout Lent this year, we will be allowing the story of Peter, one of Jesus' first and closest disciples, to guide us. The creators at A Sanctified Art remind us that "ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people – in fact, time and again, that's exactly who God claims and calls."

God claims and calls us, imperfect as we are. As we wander through the season of Lent, you are invited to reflect on the stages of your faith journey. When have you felt called? When and where have you wandered? What experiences have shaped you? Who in your life has influenced your faith journey?

I hope you will join us as we enter this season with a reminder of our finiteness on Ash Wednesday, February 14 at 12:00pm in the Sanctuary. May we be reminded that we are always bound to the love of God.

Peace,

Jenny

## Important Dates

**February 14:** A brief Ash Wednesday service will take place at 12:00pm (noon) in the Sanctuary.

**March 24:** Join us for the Hyde Park Ecumenical Palm Sunday gathering with our neighbors. More information to follow.

**March 28:** As we remember Christ's final hours with his disciples and friends, we will worship together on Maundy Thursday during Holy Week. Sharing a meal together will be part of our worship. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30pm.

**March 29:** Good Friday Troost Avenue Stations of the Cross will be shared with Central Presbyterian Church, St. Mark Hope & Peace Lutheran Church, and St. James Catholic Church. We will gather at 12:00pm (noon) at the Kansas City Public Schools offices, in between 29th and 30th on Troost. This walking prayer service will take us to a number of locations along Troost, where we will stop and pray.

**March 31:** Easter Day Worship will take place at 10:30am in the Sanctuary.

## Lenten Devotional



Our Lenten Devotional (published through *A Sanctified Art*) will be available on the bulletin table or digitally upon request ([churchoffice@centralpreskc.org](mailto:churchoffice@centralpreskc.org)).

## Easter Flowers

If you would like to purchase Easter flowers in dedication to a loved one, we will begin taking orders in March. Look for more information about ordering in future enews.

## Admin and B&G Committees

The dust is settling a little bit with major improvement projects being completed throughout the building. Together, the Admin and B&G Committees have worked diligently to track funding for projects big and small, ensure the safety and wellbeing of our building occupants, maintain positive working relationships with our tenants, and continue to provide a welcoming and inclusive space for all.

The women's parlor renovation continues to flourish, and we have enjoyed going through Central's archives to learn more about the strong, determined, "saucy" women of Central.



## Pantry



*"When I am shopping for the pantry, I think of Cherry."*

And that one sentence from Shelly, our new Pantry Coordinator, says it all. It is the answer to why Central Presbyterian opened a food pantry on the ground floor of their church – to be in relationship with our neighbors. To get to know them, to share their joys and concerns, to share ours with them, to laugh and to cry with them and perhaps by doing so, together, we build up the kin-dom of God right here in midtown Kansas City. Thank you for your support and prayers as we grow and try to find ways to serve our neighbors.

The participation of Central members and volunteers from our community continue to support the pantry's good work. They are dedicated to showing up and being present with each neighbor who visits. Through community donations of goods and funds, we have been able to offer many neighbors new underwear, blankets, coats and menstrual hygiene products. We even have the mother of one Central member whose donations allow us to have weekly distribution of fresh eggs! We look forward to further identifying the needs of our neighbors in 2024 and expanding our services through the pantry to meet those needs.

*Shelly holding Cherry  
(included with permission)*

## Outreach Committee

Central continued to support local and global organizations as part of our outreach efforts, aligning with our dedication to Matthew 25. The committee recently awarded grants to the following organizations: Center for Conflict Resolution, DEED Foundation, Jewish Vocational Services, and Kansas City Community Gardens.

Organizations receiving grant funding prioritized one or more of the following social justice issues: structural racism and injustice, systemic poverty, food insecurity, earth care, and LGBTQIA+ issues.

Moving forward, the Outreach Committee will be updating policies and the scope of the committee, including a change in benevolence giving. We are excited to see how Central can make a bigger, meaningful impact within our community and beyond.

## Worship and Church Life Committee

Our Church Life Committee has again sprouted wings and started to meet monthly at the end of 2023. The committee has already started organizing more fellowship activities to take place after Worship and out in the community.

We will have our next Holy Happy Hour gathering on Thursday, March 14 from 4:00-6:00pm at Union on the Hill. We will celebrate "Pi Day" with locally baked pies of all kinds (including gluten free!). We will also get together on April 11 and May 9, locations to be determined.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Annual Congregational Meeting with a special thank you to Natasha Ellington (Thelma's Kitchen, Café Jo'el) for providing a delicious meal!



## Community Events

### Te Deum *Salve Mundi Salutare* *Vespers*

Te Deum will present two concerts during Lent, *Salve Mundi Salutare* featuring local soloists and works by Bach and Britten and *Vespers*, a fully chanted prayer service.

Through the Church Life Committee, Central will organize a group to attend *Vespers* in March.

For more information, visit [te-deum.org](http://te-deum.org).

#### *Salve Mundi Salutare*

Saturday, February 17 at 7:30pm, Village Presbyterian  
Sunday, February 18 at 3:00pm, Grace Cathedral (Topeka)

#### *Vespers*

Sunday, March 10 at 7:00pm, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

## Heartland Presbytery Anti-Racism Training

Join members of the Heartland Presbytery Council for a tour and discussion of the Black Archives of Mid-America (1722 E. 17th Ter). This event will take place on Monday, February 26 at 4:00pm. Advance registration is required along with a \$10 fee. Scholarships are available. More information and the registration link can be found at [heartlandpby.org/antiracism-trainings](http://heartlandpby.org/antiracism-trainings).

## Heartland Men's Chorus *Princes of Pop*

The Heartland Men's Chorus will take you on a nostalgic journey through the evolution of pop over the decades. *Princes of Pop* will pay tribute to many fan favorites: Elton John, George Michael, Prince, and more!

For more information, visit [hmckc.org/spring](http://hmckc.org/spring).

Friday & Saturday, March 22 & 23 at 7:30pm

Sunday, March 24 at 3:30pm

All performances will be at The Folly Theater.

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## Upcoming Events at Central

**February 14:** Ash Wednesday Service at 12:00pm

**March 24:** Hyde Park Ecumenical Palm Sunday (more information to follow)

**March 28:** Maundy Thursday Worship Meal at 5:30pm

**March 29:** Good Friday Troost Avenue Stations of the Cross at 12:00pm starting at the Kansas City Public Schools offices (between 29th and 30th on Troost)

**March 31:** Easter Day Worship at 10:30am

## Central Presbyterian Staff

**Rev. Jenny Wells**, Pastor  
**Dr. Cynthia Sheppard**, Director of Worship & Music  
**Dr. Ann Marie Rigler**, Organist  
**Amy Smick**, Admin. & Comm. Coordinator  
**Marisa Grady**, Audiovisual Tech/Operator  
**Lori Raye Erickson**, Facilities Coordinator  
**Colleen Simon**, Pantry Coordinator  
**Shelly Spiegel**, Pantry Coordinator

## Central Presbyterian Session

David Alonzo  
Susan Borge  
Sonja Carlson  
Sara Hirsch  
Vivian Hunt

Elaine Joslyn  
Rebecca Merola  
Matthew Mullins  
**Clerk of Session:**  
Terry Miller