

The Messenger

The Newsletter of Central UMC

From the Pastor

Dear Central Friends,

We are officially in The Holiday Season. The next two months will see us move from Thanksgiving seamlessly into Advent and Christmas. With that in mind, and knowing that many of you are making Christmas gift plans already, I want to share with you some exciting news:

This year at Central, we are giving away our Christmas Eve offering! All of it. Not only that, but we'll be receiving Christmas Eve offering gifts throughout the month of December. Why are we doing such a bold, extravagant thing? It's not because Central has lots of extra money lying around. No, it's because of something much, much bigger.

We're doing it because *it is the right thing for us to do*.

There is a specific need in Kansas City that you have been hearing about on the news. There is a specific way that we can reach out to have an impact on that specific need. And so, we're going to take on a totally ambitious, beyond-our-reach goal. And I'm pretty certain we'll be able to meet this audacious goal.

By now, you're probably wondering what we're going to be doing for our Christmas Eve giveaway offering. I'll tell you. . . in worship on Sunday, November 7. I realize that it's awfully early to be talking about Christmas giving, but I want you to have plenty of time to plan and dream about this goal. Perhaps you'll find that your usual gifting will change this year. You might teach your children or grandchildren about the joy of generosity. Rather than giving Uncle Ralph yet another tie he'll never wear, you might find that you give something to this goal in his name. There are so many opportunities that can help transform your holiday season, and I want to make sure you have plenty of time to dream possibilities along with me.

I can't wait to tell you about our Christmas Eve Giveaway Offering this coming Sunday! I hope you'll be as excited as I am!

Blessings,
Sally

PS: Even before we get to Christmas Eve, will you help us retain our title of MOST FOWL CONGREGATION? It's time for our annual competition! Bring a frozen turkey (or 2 or 20) with you to church on Sunday, November 21, or donate \$20 per turkey at any time between now and then. Let's keep being most fowl, Central!



**Central's Most Fowl Congregation Trophy,
ours for 2 years in a row!
Help us make it 3!**

Contact Us:

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All Saints' Worship

We'll observe All Saints' Sunday on November 7, remembering all of Central's members who have died in the past 12 months. Knowing that there have been many losses in this past year, there will be votive candles available at the beginning of worship for you to light in memory of anyone you choose. Please join us for this meaningful service in the life of our church family.

Sympathy

Our sympathy is extended to friends and family of Jack Mooney, who died on October 11, 2021.

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Creator through him. Colossians 3:17

Financial Update

Your faithful support continues to help us be in ministry each day. Thank you!

	SEPTEMBER	YTD	BUDGET % YTD (75% of year)
INCOME			
Member Support (Pledges and All Offerings)	38,833	273,395	64%
Other Income (Investment Income, Parking, etc.)	18,964	137,501	64%
EXPENSE			
Apportionments (District and Confere All Expenses (Salaries, Utilities, Program Expense, etc.)	-0-	46,059	57%
	47,533	445,388	68%
TOTAL	10,264	-37,423	

COUPLES CORNER

Editor's note: For many years, this series of articles by Ruth Achelpohl was a favorite feature of this newsletter.

Couple's Corner November 2008

BEING THANKFUL FOR YOUR PARTNER AND YOUR RELATIONSHIP

November makes us focus on thankfulness. We have devoted a whole day to being thankful and our government has even made it a national holiday. As we approach Thanksgiving Day, perhaps it is a good time for us to take a look at the deeper things we can be thankful for this year. With the downturn in the economy and a seemingly endless political season, we may think that we don't have much to be thankful for. However, we do still have the priceless things that we can give thanks for and our close relationships are probably near to the top of that list.

We have found that one of the ways to keep our relationship growing is to express our appreciation to each other on a regular basis. If you are like us, it is too easy for us to focus on our partner's shortcomings and in doing that we tend to concentrate on his/her faults or weak areas. However, our relationships will grow stronger and closer when we learn to focus on the strengths and positives.

How do we express appreciation to our partner? We have found several things that work for us. One is to remind ourselves that we need at least five times as many positive as negative moments together if our relationship is to be stable. Positive thoughts are worth developing and worth expressing. As part of our checking in time each morning, we try to share one positive thing with each other. That puts money in our relationship bank.

Giving your partner encouragement is a great way to express to him/her that you are thankful that they are in your life. We need to keep in mind that our praise and encouragement should be specific, sincere, vocal and creative. Since we are not mind readers it takes more than just thinking about how wonderful we think our partner is, we need to tell them frequently. If we practice giving encouragement to our partner it is easier to overlook those little annoying things that they do. Sending a note by snail mail or email, or a quick phone call, may be some ways to "vocalize" how you feel.

Developing a sense of humor is helpful in getting through those times when we come up against the fact that our partner is not perfect. There are times in life when you can either laugh or cry. Choosing laughter dispels tension. It's good for your physical health, your mental health and the health of your relationship. When we laugh together we seem to be more affirming.

As we approach Thanksgiving Day, we would invite you to do a little activity to affirm your partner. Create an acrostic for your partner's name using the letters from the word Thanksgiving. It could read, as an example: (*Your Partner's name*) is...Talented Helpful Active Nurturing Kind Steady Gentle Intelligent Vital Interesting Nice Generous. Now try your hand at making up your own acrostic using your partner's name. You might be surprised what a little kindness can do for your relationship.

Keep on Growing,
Ruth Achelpohl

How Can I Worship With Central?

Join us (masked) in the sanctuary
Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m.

We're also on Facebook Live at 10:30 a.m., and our worship is uploaded to the Central YouTube channel by the next day. Find links to our Facebook and YouTube channel on our website, www.connectatcentral.com.

How Can I Find Out About Joining Central?

We'd love to have you join our church family! Contact Sally at Sally@connectatcentral.com

Where Can I Find the Central Prayer List?

If you'd like to receive our weekly prayer list, send a request to Cindy Wienstroer at cjkwinkc@gmail.com

KIDS NEWS!

Be sure to check out the toy bins in the Connect each Sunday, containing sanitized toys for every age level child!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Kathy Hedges-Sell	Nov. 4
Tom Holley	Nov. 4
Britney Costanzo	Nov. 5
Arie Cutelli/Keller	Nov. 7
Greg Coy	Nov. 8
Sandy Carolan	Nov. 10
Lois Stock	Nov. 10
Lisa Treese	Nov. 10
Ted Wienstroer	Nov. 13
George Nicholson	Nov. 14
Katy Young	Nov. 14
David Lemon	Nov. 18
Sheldon Vogt	Nov. 19
Bob Vandergriff	Nov. 20
Kim Gibbens	Nov. 21
Don Robertson	Nov. 21
Rob Bruce	Nov. 23
Brad Boeck	Nov. 28
Gary Loar	Nov. 30
Mason Warriner	Nov. 30

Update on Children's Ministry Director

Ash Mason, our beloved Children's Ministry Director, has had to resign unexpectedly for health reasons. Opportunities for helping her during this time will be shared via church email as they become known. Please hold her in your prayers.

We are so very grateful to Carla Warriner for offering to step into this position on an interim basis while we conduct a job search. Carla has been a teacher with our ECC for years and has been working in the Central nursery since the resumption of in-person worship. She brings a lot of skill with children and enthusiasm for helping us out during this transition time. You can reach out to her at cjtwarriner@gmail.com. Ask her questions and, best of all, volunteer to help out!



Educational Ministry Director Job Opening

Would you or someone you know want an opportunity to serve Christ through working with Central's children and families? With Ash's resignation, we are seeking a new Director of Educational Ministries. This person will guide our church families into a deeper connection with God through Sunday morning programming, weekday outreach, and seasonal events. A strong love for God and all of God's creation is required. Educational requirements and experience are negotiable. For more information and the full job description, please go to www.connectatcentral.com.



CENTRAL EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

LGBT

CECC and Saving Sight to Offer Free Vision Screenings in December!

CECC has scheduled free auto refractive vision screenings for ALL children in CECC. This screening involves taking a scan of each child's eyes with the results provided to parents the day of the screening. This test can detect the presence of 6 possible eye disorders. The screening is performed by a trained Saving Sight technician and requires NO physical contact with the child, so they are able to comply with the COVID safety protocols. Screenings will be held during the morning on December 1st and 2nd. Offering this screening has been an annual event for many years. We are delighted to still be able to offer this valuable service during a year of so many cancellations.



Conscious Discipline Classes

A series of Conscious Discipline classes are being held virtually for ECC and Central Church parents, staff, teachers and volunteers. Weekly classes began in October as part of a partnership with The Family Conservancy (TFC) and a grant from the Jackson County Community Children's Services Fund (JCCSF). This partnership began in 2019 and will continue through 2021-2022 school year focusing on early childhood mental health and social emotional development. This training is facilitated by Michelle Franklin who is the Early Childhood Social Emotional Specialist. Michelle and colleagues have been offering support to Central teachers through materials, equipment, and training. Classroom visits were also conducted prior to the pandemic. Visits have been virtual since June of 2020. The Family Conservancy has been a major resource for and supporter of the early childhood community in our area for decades.

We are delighted to still be able to offer free vision screenings during a year of so many cancellations!

The Central Early Childhood Center educates, stimulates and nurtures *creative hands* and *creative minds* in the children and adults who actively learn, play, grow and work together.

Two of Central's Finest to be Honored by KC Shepherd's Center 70 Over 70 Awards winners!

KC Shepherd's Center (KCSC) has announced the cohort of honorees for the fourth annual **2021 70 Over 70 Awards**, a celebration that recognizes the community and leadership contributions of older adults. This year's virtual event will be held on November 4, 2021.

The 70 Over 70 Awards honor civic leaders, unsung heroes, or other examples of active and engaged individuals who have and continue to make significant contributions and achievements. KC Shepherd's Center inaugurated the awards in 2018 to celebrate those who share their goal of empowering, celebrating and serving older adults.

Sally Firestone will be honored this year for her many contributions to the life of Kansas City. ***"For me, the best description of service is from John Wesley: 'Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, for as long as ever you can.' I've tried to use this as my guiding principle."***

Sally moved to Kansas City in 1975 as a manager for a woman's clothing store, and then became one of only a few female customer engineers for IBM. Her life changed dramatically when she was part of the Hyatt Regency Hotel disaster in 1981 and she became a quadriplegic. She went back to work at IBM in 1982, but retired in 1985 and has devoted herself to issues related to accessibility, as well as her love for church and the arts. She currently serves on the board of the American Jazz Museum; her past board service includes Saint Paul School of Theology, the Folly Theater, Kingswood Senior Living and Central United Methodist Church, assisting them with barrier removal and improving access. She also has served on the Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities and committees for Truman Medical Center Behavioral Health, reStart and the Rehabilitation Institute of Kansas City.

In addition to the 70 Over 70 honorees, **Bert Bates** has been selected for the Elbert Cole Lifetime Achievement Award, a designation that honors an older individual for outstanding community contribution. Bates was also an honoree in 70 Over 70's 2020 cohort.

To view the full list of winners and to learn more about their achievements, visit <https://www.kcshepherdscenter.org/2021-70-over-70-honorees>.

"We couldn't have asked for a more wonderful group of nominees for 70 Over 70's Class of 2021," said KCSC Executive Director **Janet Carlson Baker**. "As we are with each new year of award winners, KC Shepherd's Center is humbled by the opportunity to recognize the incredible contributions and accomplishments that these influential individuals have provided for our community."

If you're interested in donating to, attending or sponsoring the 70 Over 70 Awards Ceremony, visit <https://www.kcshepherdscenter.org/70over70> for more information.



MORE²

METRO ORGANIZATION FOR RACIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUITY
16TH ANNUAL TRANSFORMATION EVENT

Souls REUNITED *and* REIGNITED

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2021, 6-9 PM

THE LEX, MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM LOWER LEVEL

Food & Music for the Soul!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:



REV. DR. OTIS MOSS III
CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCATE &
SENIOR PASTOR OF TRINITY
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



JOIN US TO HONOR OUR
2021 EQUITY PARTNERS
OF THE YEAR:

NATE HOGAN
CHRISTINE MCDONALD
RAYMOND RICO
YAZMIN VALDEZ

EMCEES:

**LISA BENSON &
DARRON STORY**

LIVE OR REMOTE TICKETS AVAILABLE: WWW.MORE2.ORG

\$80 LIVE (OR \$75 EACH FOR 10 OR MORE) / \$35 REMOTE

QUESTIONS ABOUT SPONSORSHIPS? CONTACT LORA AT 816.277.5912 OR MCDONALD@MORE2.ORG

LEADERSHIP TEAM 2022

CLASS OF 2022

Jessica Bryon
Brandon Cummins
Cindy Petrie, Chair
Maggie Holley, Lay Leader

CLASS OF 2023

Doug Sell
Kevin Sowell
Erin Thompson

CLASS OF 2024

Chris Klockau
Seth Tracy
Judy Vickrey

COMMITTEE ON LAY LEADERSHIP

CLASS OF 2022

Brian Petrie
Montell Justice
Trina Taft

CLASS OF 2023

Gary Loar
Sheldon Vogt
Maryann Williams

CLASS OF 2024

Warren Green
Gabe Okafor
Shari Lawrence

Please pray for these incoming leaders of our congregation, that God will use them in their service to Central.

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