

Dear Friends,

I get a daily to weekly email from one of my favorite authors/spiritual guides, Father Richard Rohr. In one of his articles, he talked about how we need more transformation in our faith and life and less information. Father Rohr offers up the idea that we should approach scripture and prayer as the Hasidic mystics did looking to encounter God, not get more information. That means we go to scripture specifically with no motivations or intentions or preconceived ideas looking to prove our current points on some subject. Rather we do so with trust, humility, patients to be exposed to the God we follow.

We approach to be led not know, to be transformed not to gain the upper hand in a debate. In many ways I feel we have lost this in our faith journeys. We use our faith as some sort of gotcha moment where we can say well this is what I believe and its right so thus I know more or have the upper hand about some moral code. When in reality our faith should be about our lives being transformed by the grace and love of God so that we are different people.

Rohr quotes the mystics saying: “One who reads the words of prayer with great devotion may come to see the lights within the letters, even though one does not understand the meaning of the words one speaks. Such prayer has great power; Mistakes in reading are of no importance.” Sometimes when we pray and read scripture it doesn’t make sense to us, we don’t understand and I understand how completely frustrating that can be, but when understanding and knowing are our only purpose we miss the light that is there behind the words and moments. How many times have I missed God’s presence and an opportunity to be transformed by a moment in time and interaction because I have spent the whole time trying to make sense, trying to collect the data, trying to understand and know it all. When what I should have been doing was basking in the moment that I was in, the interaction I was part of,

the scripture I was reading, seeing God within all those things and being transformed rather than working on knowing or gaining something from it to have and hold.

Rohr again says: “We need transformed people today, and not just people with answers....It’s for divine transformation (theosis), not intellectual or “small-self” coziness. Ideas are not a problem—but a true inner experience is something else. It changes us, and human beings do not like to change.” Change means stepping out of our comfort, out of what we know or think we know often means danger in some ways out of our safe bubbles of knowledge, data, making sense. It’s hard because it means relinquishing control and stepping into the unknown mystery of the divine and what could possibly happen to us in that space. Friends, I hope you join me as we seek to further be changed by the divine, stepping into the mystery of the divine call rather than sitting in what we think we know feeling comfortable and safe.

Blessings,
Rev Pete



Congregation Elects Pastor Nominating Committee

Congregation Elects Pastor Nominating Committee At a Called Congregational Meeting on June 25, Liz Burkland, Brian Cattell, Rolda Mitchell, Frederick Moulongo, Erin Carlisle Norton, Kim O'Hare, and Susan Worth were elected to serve on the Pastor Nominating Committee. This Committee is tasked with the challenge of identifying an individual whom the Congregation will then be asked to elect to serve as the next called Pastor at Central. Let us keep these wonderful people in our prayers.



Summer Worship at Central

We will worship in the Chapel beginning July 2. During the Summer, we will have child care, but there will not be our children's Sunday School. There have been some improvements made to the chapel (different window coverings and a vastly improved air conditioning system). We are going to take the summer to determine how to utilize the space effectively as the church moves forward. We look forward to this change of pattern this Summer.



Update on Life around Central:

*This Summer, there is going to be an extensive window repair and painting project taking place. The goal is to have some much needed restoration of all of the windows (including replacing cracked windows, grouting, and painting). We hope that this needed work will assist controlling utility costs and support the long-term care of the building.

*Along with this work: the project to bring a sprinkler system into the Education Building will take place. The sprinkler system will be installed in the Community Room and Nursery (along with the hallways in that portion of the building). The installation of the sprinkler system will provide the needed improvements so we can provide child care space for younger children.



CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Session Notes - June 2023

1. The Congregation Elected Liz Burkland, Brian Cattell, Rolda Mitchell, Frederick Moulongo, Erin Carlisle Norton, Kim O'Hare, and Susan Worth to serve on our PNC. They will hopefully have organizational meetings with myself and the Presbytery and then get moving forward.
2. We had a New Member gathering and had four people who participated
3. Mint Preschool - We have worked out with Mint a Lease agreement. Along with the lease, Mint has agreed to help pay for the sprinkler system.
4. We will begin worshiping in the Chapel, beginning July 2.

July Birthdays

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*1 Lisa Krizner-George, 2 Adelle Buck, Lisbeth Hoyt,
4 Heather Day, 6 Linn Kristine Johansen
7 Natalie Grace Wilson, 10 Levi Waisanen
31 Jackie Lane, Lin Roth, Valerie Spain*



Summer Lunch at MPL

- June 26 to August 25 -
Monday to Friday

12 - 2 p.m.

1st floor Café


Meals provided by Toni's Kitchen



Stop by Mondays through
Fridays and pick up
a healthy brown-bag lunch!

 Free to kids 17 and under

 Supplies are limited

 Please note that we cannot
accommodate special diets
or food allergen restrictions

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