



CENTRAL NEWS

Nov 2025

Vol. 33, No. 3

A Good Word From Patrick



Hey folks, Earlier this month, I was in a meeting with non-profit leaders from across our community. We were hearing reports on the impact of reduced federal funding – how legal battles and the threat of a prolonged government shutdown strain the programs that keep our neighbors housed, fed, and cared for. The information was heavy, but the people were remarkable: clear-eyed, compassionate, and deeply committed to finding ways to make it all work.

One director had recently been invited to Washington, D.C., to meet with members of the House and Senate to celebrate nonprofits building healthy communities. In the midst of a (now historic) government shutdown, the bipartisan group of elected officials told them they had cleared their schedules – no agenda, no votes – so they could spend the day in conversation and celebration.

That may have been the most frustrating part. The people elected to ensure the ongoing viability of this experiment had a free day while programs that protect the most vulnerable hung in the balance. Hosting an event to honor non-profit work while neglecting those same nonprofits' funding needs is a sobering bipartisan symbol of our fractured priorities.

Of course, this same director came home to Providence and got right back to work – helping her organization pivot to meet our community's growing needs. In fact, this is what all of our non-profit partners are doing: showing up, adapting, and serving. At the end of the day, that's where hope lives. Hope doesn't come through institutional negotiations or symbolic days of recognition. Hope is born in ordinary people who decide to show up, even when no one is watching.

The church, at its best, stands for this same quiet alternative to public debate stages and performative recognition. We don't exist to applaud good work from afar, but to join in it – to take up the work of compassion with our own hands.

When systems falter, the church's work becomes even more essential: to feed, to listen, to stand beside those still waiting on promises that never seem to arrive. And just as importantly, to remind one another that faith still moves us toward real hope – rooted in presence, sustained by compassion, and committed to making the world more whole.

As we look ahead, my hope is that Central will continue to embody this kind of practiced hope – not just in our worship, but in every meal shared, every act of service, every gift of generosity. The world needs communities like ours: people who show up, stay rooted, and keep choosing compassion when it would be easier to turn away. Together, we can keep making Providence a place where hope takes root. I'll see you Sunday ~ *Patrick*

Welcome, New Members!

On Sunday, Oct. 19, we welcomed seven new members to Central's community of faith (left to right): **Lauren Van Schepen, Tristan Jimerson** and their son **Calvin** who was baptized that morning; **Amy and DB Hebb; Hannah Merry; Lisa and Jonathan Morgan; Torin Mathieu, Robert Ramspott; and Pam Rothenberger.**



NOV EVENTS

2	Adult Sunday School	9 am
	Stewardship Committee	9:15 am
	All Saints Sunday Worship	10:30 am
	Children's Church	10:30 am
	Bow Making Demo	11:30 am
	Religious Education Committee	12 noon
5	Gallery Committee	9:30 am
	MIDWEEK	6 pm
	Children's Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm
6	Board of Deacons	5:45 pm
7	Gallery Opening	5 pm
9	Adult Sunday School	9 am
	Worship	10:30 am
	Children's Church	10:30 am
	Death Becomes You	11:30 am
	Care Package Assembly	11:30 am
12	Amos House Volunteers	6:30 am
	Plant & Properties Committee	5:45 pm
	MIDWEEK	6 pm
	Children's Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm
13	Food for Thought Book Group	7 pm
14	Friday Film Fare	7:30 pm
15	Sewing Circle	10 am
16	Adult Sunday School	9 am
	Worship	10:30 am
	Children's Church	10:30 am
	Providence Flea Outing	11:30 am
	Women Gather	12 noon
	Better Christian Politics	12:15 pm
17	Mission & Action Committee	6:30 pm
	Technology Committee	7 pm
18	Plant & Properties Committee	5:45 pm
	Prudential Committee	7 pm
19	MIDWEEK	6 pm
	Children's Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm
20	Central Men's Group	7:30 am
	Newsletter Deadline	3:30 pm
	Music Committee	6:30 pm
22	Fall Clean Up	9 am
23	Adult Sunday School	9 am
	Festival Thanksgiving Worship	10:30 am
	Children's Church	10:30 am
	Hope Circle Meeting	11:30 am
	CCC Players Auditions	12 noon
26	MIDWEEK	6 pm
	Children's Choir Rehearsal	6:30 pm
30	Adult Sunday School	9 am
	Children's Church	10:30 am
	First Sunday of Advent	10:30 am
	Membership Committee	12 noon

The Church Office will be closed November 11 for Veterans Day – and November 27 and 28 for Thanksgiving.

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP AT 10:30 AM!



Seeking a Church Home?

If you are looking for a church – or know someone who is – we would love to talk with you about it at our Inquirers' Meeting. It's very informal. You'll meet with our senior minister, Patrick Faulhaber, and others like you who think Central may be the right church home. No commitment necessary. To join us, fill out a pew card during Sunday Worship or call the Church Office at 401-331-1960, and Patrick will get in touch.

Inquirers' Meeting

Sunday, February 1, 11:30 am

New Member Sunday

Sunday, February 8, 10:30 am

Death Becomes You

Join us for an afternoon of honest and hopeful conversation about the end of life: what matters most, how we want to be remembered, and the plans that make that possible. Death Becomes You will help us think about legacy, care, and love that endures. All are welcome and encouraged to RSVP to Patrick Faulhaber. **Sunday, Nov. 9, 11:30 am, in the Fireplace Room**

Support Neighbors in Need

Neighbors in Need is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ (UCC). Your gifts support ministries of justice and compassion, the Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM), and Neighbors in Need grants for those engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. Thank you for your generosity!

Adult Sunday School

The Adult Sunday School will continue to examine the Ten Commandments and what they mean for us today – exploring how these divine rules of conduct, given by God to Moses on Mount Sinai, have challenged, changed, and transformed human society for millennia. Questions? Ask Claudia. **Sundays in November, 9 am, in the Fireplace Room**

Midweek

Please join senior minister Patrick Faulhaber in Chapel Hall for MIDWEEK: fellowship, food, and faith-filled conversation. Centralites of all ages and friends are invited to join! Adults will share a meal at 6 pm and then dive into the previous Sunday's scripture. Kids and youth will eat dinner at their own table and then enjoy crafts and games. RSVPs are helpful so we have enough food. **Wednesdays in November, 6 to 7:30 pm, in Chapel Hall**

The Deacon's Bench

You're running late, and traffic is near a standstill. The courtesy you typically extend to other drivers is eroding as quickly as the expected arrival time on your navigation app. You jam on your turn signal and swerve your car to the left, entering the middle lane. You wave to the car you just cut off – like that driver had a choice to let you merge.

You exhale and relax. Then you hear it: a siren in the distance. You check the rearview again and, one by one, you see the cars behind you flash their signal lights and move out of the way of the emergency vehicle. You look for a hole in the compressed line of cars so you can slip between them. Miraculously, the driver of the car you cut off is now waving you over, giving you enough room to slip in front of him.

We've all experienced this. Drivers see an emergency vehicle and pull over to make sure it has room to pass. I've often reflected on what this act says about us.

I expect if I surveyed the drivers that pulled over, they would be of differing political views, races, immigration status, religious affiliations, and gender orientations. Think about it: dozens of people – each with their own views, priorities, and needs – put aside their own interests and got out of the way, no questions asked. This group of individuals literally pulled their own priorities over to the side of the road. And, I remain unconvinced that we participate in this ritual to avoid traffic citations. I truly believe we do this because we instinctively know that it is the right thing to do.

As a person of unyielding faith, this small example of our time-tested tradition to yield to strangers gives me great hope. Our duty as a community of faith is to work hard to expand our own unselfish acts – and not just in times of emergency. We must remind ourselves that it is sometimes important to pull our own views over to the side and give others a pass. And like that driver behind you, we must always offer the person who might have cut you off in the past, room in your heart to merge back in. ~ *Tom Viall*

Fall Clean-Up!



Come one, come all – young and not so young – to help prepare our church building and grounds for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. We'll clean, rake, dust, and discard as a community of faith. Please send project ideas and supply needs to Antonia Greco (antonia@centralchurch.us). And when you arrive, there will be coffee, doughnuts, and plenty of good cheer! **Saturday, Nov. 22, 9 am to 12 noon.**

Buy Nothing Day

It's time again to bring warmth and comfort to those in need at the 2025 Buy Nothing Day Coat Exchange, which provides free winter wear for adults and children. The annual event will be Nov. 28 on the Rhode Island Statehouse lawn.

Please go through your closets and see what you can add to the racks. We need coats, hats, scarves, gloves, and mittens. All items should be gently used and clean ... or brand new. (If you knit or crochet, why not use leftover yarn to make accessories!)

Drop off coats, etc., in the far-left pews of Wilson Chapel, which will be labelled by age and category. **The last day for donations is Sunday, Nov. 23, 12 noon.** For more information, contact Liz Viall or visit www.ricoatexchange.org.

This year's collection will not include heavy sweaters and sweatshirts. If you have these items, please donate them to Goodwill, Salvation Army, or Savers.



Join the Hope Circle

The Mission & Action Committee has an opportunity for Central Congregational Church to partner with Hope High School's Hope Circle (hopecircleprovidence.org), a group of volunteers who use their creativity, smarts, and love to nourish this vibrant and hungry school.



Learn about opportunities to volunteer – including mentoring and tutoring students and staffing Hope Street Fashions, their student thrift store (open Thursdays, 10 am to 1 pm) – on **Sunday, Nov. 23, 11:30 am, in the Fireplace Room.** Questions? Contact Michael Fournier (mfournier0816@gmail.com).

Food Drive

Please join our Thanksgiving Food Drive for Your Neighborhood Food Pantry. They need stuffing mix, canned gravy, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, cake mixes, brownie mixes, canned yams, elbow macaroni, and frozen turkeys. Turkeys must be placed in the refrigerator. Everything else can be delivered to the baskets at the front of the sanctuary during Sunday Worship. **Please bring donations to Central no later than Thursday, Nov. 20, at 3:30 pm.**



Your Neighborhood Food Pantry (www.ynfp.org) serves Providence neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity.

From Claudia

"At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us."

I love this quote by Albert Schweitzer. It reminds me that we all have so much in our lives for which we should be thankful. I think of the times I have experienced the caring of those who have lighted my own way. The times when I witness the caring of those who have lit the way for so many others. Those who have lit the flame within when it was barely a spark. Those who have fanned the flame to a glowing fire. Those who have relit the lights in one another when those lights were in danger of being extinguished altogether.

There is so much for which we can give thanks. We are all connected to each other in so many different ways. The lights we carry cannot be extinguished. If it dims for one of us, the light is carried on by others. That's the beauty of a community of faith. We can lift the torch high to light the way for those whose torch is dimming. We can show the way for ourselves, as well as those whose feet are unsure and searching for solid ground. We can light a beacon of hope for those who feel their own lights waning.

Jesus tells us, "You are the light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden, and no one lights a lamp and puts it under a clay pot. Instead, it is placed on a lamp stand, where it can give light to everyone in the house. Make your light shine, so others will see the good you do and will praise God in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16)

So, let your lights shine, dear friends! And, if you feel your light dimming a bit, stand next to your neighbor's light – as they stand next to their neighbors' lights – until the whole world is lit by the fire in all of us.

With great thanksgiving for the flames within each one of us that are given by God and nurtured by every one of us. We are God's people here in this place. God's people who shine our lights brightly together out into the world! Gratefully – *Claudia*

Christmas at Central!

Our annual holiday bazaar will open for business Sunday, Dec. 7, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm. We need your presence and help to make this FUNraiser the success we know it can be! **Donations are welcome beginning Sunday, Nov. 30, in Chapel Hall.** No toys, games, or videos, please. **Set-up will be Saturday, Dec. 6, 8:30 to 11:30 am.** Please volunteer to help set up, bake, donate, serve lunch, and clean up. Sign-up sheets are on the back table in



Auction – Nancy Gage

Craft Workshop – Torin Mathieu

The Gallery – Jim Scott

Gift Baskets and Raffle – Heidi and Bill Julian, Cheryl Ludwig

Grandma's Attic – Frances Munro

Sweet Shoppe – Nancy Collins, Amy Hebb, Laurel McLaughlin, Amy Punchak

Ye Olde Book Cellar – Ellen Miller

Lunch Room – Hope McCullough and Temi Sonubi

Clean-up – Liz Viall

Musical Notes

As previously reported, the Choir Room is the one part of Chapel Hall that still needs reimagining. The congregation approved the renovation at June's Annual Meeting, and now the Prudential Committee has approved funding. So there finally will be a suitable practice space for Central's musicians.

The Music Committee has worked closely with the Prudential and Plant, Properties & Design committees – carefully discussing the remodel and ultimately deciding to update and improve ventilation, lighting, flooring, plaster and paint, and acoustics.

A portion of the funding will come from the Chapel Hall capital campaign residual funds and the church's special fund for music program capital improvements. In addition, the Music Committee has committed to raising \$30,000 for the project.

Some of the planned fundraisers include:

Naming Opportunities (recognized with engraved brass plaques)

- Choir Room Chairs (38): \$500 each
- Other selected items still to be determined (12): \$1,200 each

Matching Challenge Fund sponsored by the Central Congregational Church Choir and the Music Committee

Special Purchase: The Choir Room's vintage wooden chairs: \$52 each – in honor of the year Central was founded: 1852

Pops Concert: Souvenir program ad sales.

Stay tuned for more details. Questions? Speak to members of the Music Committee.

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday • December 21 • 4 pm

Christmas Carol Service and Silver Tea

Come hear the story of the birth of Christ unfold in scripture and song

Food For Thought Book Group

This month, Claudia's book group will discuss "The Gardner Heist: The True Story of the World's Largest Unsolved Art Theft," by Ulrich Boser – a fascinating account of the 1990 burglary at Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum. Questions? Ask Claudia. **Thursday, Nov. 13, at 7 pm, in the Fireplace Room.** Coming up Dec. 11: Christmas Book Swap and Dessert

Sewing Circle

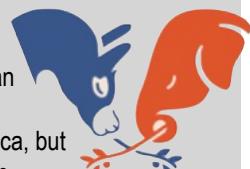
Central's sewing circle repairs, upcycles, and repurposes items ... mostly for charity. There are mending projects, sewing machines, ironing board, and supplies. All skill levels welcome. A seamstress is on hand to help. Contact Amy Hebb. **Saturday, Nov. 15, 10 am, in the Fireplace Room**

Women Gather

This month, Central's women's fellowship will share Thanksgiving anecdotes! The amazing, not-so-amazing and everything in between. Anything featuring Thanksgiving is fair game! **Sunday, Nov. 16, 12 noon, in the Deacons Room**

Toward Better Christian Politics

This discussion group not only explores the Christian response to political polarization in America, but also how we can turn Christian views into action. Questions? Contact Paul Armstrong or Kristin DeKuiper. **Sunday, Nov. 16, 12:15 pm, in the Fireplace Room.**



Central Men's Group

Open to all ages, Central Men's Group is a monthly breakfast gathering – held on the third Thursday of each month – for fellowship and spirited conversation on topics ranging from current events and ethics to trends and shared experiences. If you have questions, contact John Trevor. **Thursday, Nov. 20, 7:30 am, in the Fireplace Room**

"Rashomon" Auditions

CCC Players is casting its spring performance of "Rashomon," derived from works by Ryūnosuke Akutagawa. Auditions are open to all whether skilled performer or

CCC Players theater novice. (If you've ever done community theater, you already know there is no easier way to make friends!) Questions? Contact Liam Newberry. Auditions are **Sunday, Nov. 23, 12 noon, in the Makepeace Room.**

Fourth Thursday Book Group

The Fourth Thursday Book Group will be postponed a week due to Thanksgiving, when they will discuss "How We Learn to be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith," by Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde – an inspirational guide to the key junctures in life. Email Ann Scott for a Zoom invitation. **Thursday, Dec. 4, 12:30 pm, via Zoom.**

Reflection

As autumn settles in and the days grow shorter, we're surrounded by signs of change: the turning leaves, the crisp air, the harvest's abundance. Fall naturally invites us to slow down and reflect. It's a time to notice where we've been, what we've learned, and how God has been present through it all.

In Children's Church, we've been exploring gratitude, kindness, and discovering God's wisdom and goodness in everyday moments. As I watch the children share stories, sing, and pray together, I'm reminded how much they learn by simply observing the faith lived out around them. Our children catch glimpses of God's love not just through lessons, but through us, in the way we listen, forgive, and show care for one another.

Reflection doesn't have to be complicated. It might look like pausing at the dinner table to name one thing you're thankful for, or noticing beauty on a walk together, or saying a short prayer before bed. These small, sacred moments help our children see that faith isn't only for Sunday mornings – it's woven into the rhythms of daily life.

This fall, I invite you to take a few quiet moments to reflect on how God's light is shining in your home. Where do you see grace at work in your family? What simple practices might help that light shine even brighter? Don't forget, we have guided prompts and devotionals for parents and caregivers, as well as an app, which connects our lessons to conversations with the kids. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you would like some help in accessing these wonderful resources.

As we move through this season of gratitude and change, may we reflect God's warmth and love, illuminating the hearts of our children and one another, so that we may reflect back the kingdom of God. Gratefully yours ~ *Cristina*

The Providence Flea

Get a head start on your holiday shopping at this untraditional flea and farmers market. The Providence Flea features unique local goods – all homemade, hand-crafted, and small batch – from more than 80 artists, independent makers, and vintage vendors. Parking and entry are free. Food and beverages are available for purchase. Questions? Ask Cristina. **Sunday, Nov 16, 11:30 am, at The Flea at Farm Fresh**



Market Hall
(10 Sims
Avenue,
Providence)

In the Gallery



This November, the Gallery at Central will present **“Cauley Greene: Recollection.”**

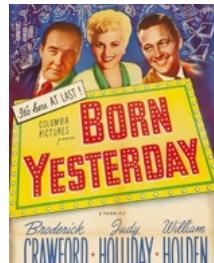
Cauley is a father and a middle school teacher. He began painting in 2023 ... with intention. He hadn't painted for pleasure since first grade. He decided to try painting because – though he'd done a lot of writing – he couldn't get close enough to what he was trying to say. Cauley has avoided formal instruction and admits he has had some struggles. But the pleasure of figuring out his own way has been indescribable.

He enjoys Bob Ross (host of PBS's "The Joy of Painting") for the magical emergence of his paintings and his groovy energy. Cauley tries to hold the same energy as he works in his garage, where "all are welcome," including his cat, mosquitoes, and other creatures that keep him company.

Cauley primarily admires paintings showing human spirit in the American context. He prefers to work from memory or old snapshots – which is why the paintings in this show are particularly meaningful to him.

Cauley comes from – and married into – a family of artists. He said he is glad he finally went with the flow, "It brings me a joy I can't overstate and has completed my already bountiful life."

Meet the artist at the **opening reception on Friday, Nov. 7, from 5 to 7 pm.**



All Saints Day Parade

For All Saints Day, Central's children make "paper-bag Saints" of people they see as saints in their lives. On Sunday morning, they'll process into Worship, then bring the bags home to fill with food items for Your Neighborhood Food Pantry (see page 2 for needed items). They'll gather **Sunday, Nov. 2, 10:15 am, in Chapel Hall.**

Christmas Wreath Fundraiser



CCC Youth's annual sale of hand-decorated Christmas wreaths is a fundraiser for their summer mission trip. You can help!

- **Learn to make bows:** Attend the bow-making demonstration **Sunday, Nov. 2, on the Chapel Hall stage.**
- **Donate pinecones.** Drop them off in the labeled box on the Chapel Hall stage before Saturday, Dec. 6.
- **Make wreaths:** Saturday, Dec. 6, 11 am, in the Education Wing
- **Order wreaths any Sunday in November in Chapel Hall during coffee hour.**

To help or for questions, contact Cristina.

Kids Table at MIDWEEK

Kids Table at MIDWEEK is going strong. Kids and teens – including Central's Children's Choir – hang together for dinner at their own kid-friendly table in Chapel Hall. At 6:30 pm, choristers move to the Choir Room for their weekly rehearsal – while the others remain in Chapel Hall for crafts, games, and other activities. **Wednesdays, 6 to 7:30 pm, in Chapel Hall**

The Cherub Choir

Got a singer in preschool through the third grade? Join the Cherub Choir! The choir will practice each Sunday leading up to its performance on Dec. 21. For more information, see Caroline Hunter. **Sundays, Nov. 9 to Dec. 21, 10 am, in the Education Wing**

Care Package Assembly



CCC Youth will package up boxes of goodies for CCC Youth Alumni who can use a mid-autumn pick-me-up. Bring leftover Halloween candy and join them **Sunday, Nov. 9, 11:30 am, in the Gallery.**

Christmas Pageant

During Advent, Central's first through sixth graders reenact the Christmas story as only children can. Rehearsals will take place during Children's Church – so everyone can participate! **Sundays, Nov. 30 to Dec. 14, 10:30 am, in the Education Wing.**

Dress rehearsal is Saturday, Dec. 20, at 11 am, and the performance will be Sunday, Dec. 21, during Worship.

Central Congregational Church

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