Students (and teachers) are getting ready to head back to school in a few weeks. Everyone’s anxious. Everyone’s uncertain how things will go. We figure they could all use some special prayers this year.

Central will include a Blessing of the Backpacks in our online worship service on Sunday, August 23, at 10:15 a.m. and we are asking for your help! We would like photos of everyone in our church who is involved in education—students at any level (even college or grad school), teachers, professors, administrators, substitutes, support staff, aides. We’d love the photos to include something related to their education or their work—a backpack, a school t-shirt, a pencil pouch, a laptop, a briefcase, whatever. Send those photos to Communications Director Kim Coulter, at kcoulter@dmcpc.org, by Wednesday, August 19. And those photos will be included in the online worship service as a collage or slideshow. Seeing their faces will help the rest of our congregation know who to pray for as we get ready to send them back to school with God’s blessings.

Blessing of the Backpacks is coming August 23—send in your photos!

Date change for Mask Brigade Giveaway, now August 26

On Wednesday, August 26, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. the Iowa Mask Brigade will be offering another mask giveaway to Central members, friends and neighbors in the east parking lot. (The date needed to be moved forward because of the sewer’s power outages due to the storm on Monday.)

Central members and others will be on hand to bring a tray of masks to your car for easy selection. The ‘car hops’ plan to have 600 of the Olsen masks available in both men, women and kids sizes, and 100 of the new ‘light’ disposable masks (see picture above). All will be able to choose one mask and you may pick up one for a friend. You may also pick up extra filters. Each mask is individually bagged with multiple filters and extenders, so everything is safely packaged (Note: kid’s packs to not contain filters.). Also, shoppers may pick up one for a friend. All are available at no charge; a free-will offering is allowed for the COVID-19 mission fund of the church. If you have questions, contact Connie Klug, at 515-707-4757 or ck4525@att.com.
Upcoming @Central

Thursday, August 13
5:30pm Choir gathering on the East Patio
6:00pm Deacons Meeting

Friday, August 14
12:00pm Office closes

Sunday, August 16
10:15am Worship online

Monday, August 17
7:30pm Mission Monday Group Study

Wednesday, August 19
10:00am Philippians Bible Study
6:00pm Troubling Passages of Scripture Study

Thursday, August 20
5:30pm Mom’s Gathering on the East Patio

Friday, August 21
12:00pm Office closes

Sunday, August 23
10:15am Worship online

Monday, August 24
7:30pm Mission Monday Group Study

Wednesday, August 26
10:00am Philippians Bible Study
5:00pm Mask Giveaway East Parking Lot
6:00pm Troubling Passages of Scripture Group Study

Friday, August 28
12:00pm Office closes

Sunday, August 30
10:15am Worship online
6:00pm AMOS Listening Campaign

Monday, August 31
7:30pm Mission Monday Group Study

Wednesday, September 2
10:00am Philippians Bible Study
6:00pm Troubling Passages of Scripture Study

More gatherings on the Patio:
When and if you plan to attend a gathering on the East Patio at the church, please observe the following:

- Maintain social distancing at all times.
- Wear a mask upon arrival and whenever closer than 6 feet to anyone else.
- Please stay home if you are sick, if you have any symptoms of COVID-19, if you have been around anyone with COVID-19 in the past two weeks, or if you are in a group considered to be at higher risk by the CDC.

Christian Education classes continue in August via Zoom
Bible Study is on The Book of Philippians – Join the Rev. Wallace Bubar as we explore this Book of Philippians in depth, on Wednesdays, until Sept. 2, 2020, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. To join by computer, tablet or smart phone, click this ZOOM link. Or join by telephone; dial 1-312-626-6799, use Meeting ID: 813 4636 0933 #.

Troubling Passages of Scripture study continues through Summer – On Wednesday evenings, join Sheryl Puderbaugh in this study group to discuss more passages in the Bible. To join by computer, tablet or smart phone, click this ZOOM link. Or join by telephone; dial 1-312-626-6799, use Meeting ID: 439 794 721 #.

Mission Monday class discusses Racial Justice Challenge – Join the Rev. Annika Lister Stroope, for mission and adult education topics like the recent Synod’s Racial Justice Challenge class. Our discussion is Mondays at 7:30 p.m. using this ZOOM link. Or join by telephone; dial: 1-312-626-6799. Use Meeting ID: 889 4365 1882 # and this Password when prompted: 644387.

Lou Peters
Lou Peters, Director of Youth Ministry at Central, was married to Kristin (Wolf) Peters on Saturday, August 8, in a ceremony in Newton. Lou is being ordained as a minister in the Lutheran Church (ELCA) on Sunday, April 16. He has announced that he will soon be taking his first pastoral position at Fairbanks Lutheran Church in Fairbanks, Alaska. His final day with us at Central will be Sunday, August 23. We will include a recognition of him in the 10:15 a.m. Worship service that morning and will have a drive-by farewell party for him later that day (time yet to be determined).

The search for a new youth ministry director is well underway. There have been a number of applicants, and two interviews conducted thus far. You can expect to hear an announcement about the position very soon.

News from Lou Peters
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Time to declutter the garage and donate bikes and bike stuff
A bicycle drive will be held for the Des Moines Bicycle Collective. This is a non-profit organization that accepts anything related to bikes to recondition for giveaways, to sell or to recycle. Central member Carl Voss was one of the founders of the Collective.
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3829 Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50312-2807
office@dmcpc.org
515-279-3658

Church Office Hours
Monday–Thursday
8:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.,
Friday 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

NOTE: All doors remain locked. If you need to access the church office, please go to the north door and press the button on the video intercom system, and you will be buzzed in. If you have any difficulty, please call the office at 515-279-3658. We ask that anyone coming into the church office maintain a safe distance during this time.

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The Bike Collective keeps bikes out of the landfill by recycling and providing bikes to children and adults who cannot afford to purchase one. Volunteers and staff take the bikes completely apart and rebuild them with needed new parts. Bikes that cannot be reconditioned are scrapped for recycling.

So, bring your unused bikes, accessories, parts, tools, car racks, or biking clothes to help the Bicycle Collective and keep that much out of the landfill.

Date: Saturday, August 22
Time: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Location: Mark & Barb Schmidt’s home, 125 42nd Street, Des Moines

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Join the AMOS Listening Campaign
On Sunday, August 30, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m., join us for a listening campaign to give members of Central an opportunity to weigh in on how we as a moral community should respond to the economic ramifications of the pandemic. The discussion will be facilitated by Central member Susan Stroope.

For more information, go to www.amosiowa.org.

- To join the Zoom Meeting by video and audio online, click here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85914581256
- To join by telephone conference call, dial 1-312-626-6799, at prompt, enter Meeting ID: 859 1458 1256 followed by the #.

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Our Deacons are in need of used flower vases
Each week, the chancel flowers from the Worship service at Central are collected by the Deacons and then taken to those who may need cheering up or to local retirement centers to brighten their lobby atmosphere.

If you have vases that you no longer need or want, consider bringing in your vases and donating them to the Deacon closet filled with vases of all sizes! Or if you’d like a Deacon to pick up a box full of vases, contact Lynn Mankins, at 515-988-5154 or lmankins@gmail.com. Thank you.

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SOME GOOD NEWS!
God is still in charge, The sun still rises in the east. And Central’s knitters are still producing!

Please consider choosing from our bounty of prayer shawls, lap robes and baby blankets for someone you know in need. The knitting rack with these items is now located in the 39th Street Lobby for your selection needs.

If you need help acquiring one, contact the church office or call Sandy Dahl, at 515-306

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AMOS: A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy

Consider the past and present. Connect our stories. Create just communities.

Join the AMOS CCC Campaign to reflect on lessons from history and the 1930s New Deal, share stories about the pressures facing our communities today, and build our capacity to create more just communities in the months and years to come.

Contact AMOS at amosiowa@gmail.com with questions and to schedule a virtual workshop for your neighborhood association, congregation or community organization.

www.amosiowa.org

Image Source: Valerie Macon/AFP via Getty Images.
Central Iowa Organ Scholarships are now available!
Last fall the America Organists Guild of Central Iowa, established an Organ Scholarship, details are on their website: https://www.ciaago.org/cia-organ-scholarships. This new scholarship development is one of many around the U.S. to seek ways young musicians and adult pianists can enroll in lessons close to their home community and local church. A gift of $400 provides 10, 60-minute lessons for example.

We know that the pandemic restrictions present challenges to church musicians and budgets as it is. Yet we urge everyone to keep the faith and optimism strong. Thank you for your awareness, advocacy and mentoring to foster interest in organ scholarship opportunities in Central Iowa.

— Lois Harms, organist at Central Presbyterian Church