

“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news...” (Isaiah 52:7)

Central Presbyterian Church

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Life during the pandemic can feel as if we are trudging up a never-ending mountain. Just when we think we've reached the peak, we round the corner to see we are nowhere close. Defeated, we moan, "This is too hard. I'll never make it." The classes listed below are provided to bring good news for those struggling on the pandemic's mountain of suffering. Day by day, we travel this arduous path in faith, reminding one another that each step moves us closer to divine peace and love. As we walk together, we become "the feet of those who bring good news" to the world. Please print out this brochure and share it with friends.

(Zoom links not already listed will be posted on CPC's website or the weekly E-Blast.)

- **The Kerygma Bible Study**

Thursdays beginning Sept. 16, 7:00-8:00 pm

Led by our Parish Associate, The Rev. Mary Swierenga, participants will engage in lively discussions as they wrestle with Scripture and it's meaning for daily lives. Contact Mary Swierenga at 512-514-0141 or mlvswierenga@gmail.com for more information.

Newcomers are always welcome!

- **Check 'n Chat**

Thursdays, 1:00 - 2 :00 pm Each week we gather with Pastor Katheryn on Zoom to check in with each other. We reflect on Scripture and share our joys and concerns. All are welcome!

- **Christians Against Christian Nationalism**

Sundays, Sept. 19, 26 & Oct. 3, 9:30 - 10:30 am

The Rev. Reuben Lashley, and our pastors, Katheryn and Carolina, will lead these discussions on how to work against Christian nationalism. This ideology demands that Christianity be privileged by the State, and it often provides cover for white supremacy and racial subjugation. Please watch the webinar at this [LINK](#) prior to the class.

- **New Members Class**

Sundays, Sept. 26 & Oct. 3, 12:15 pm - 1:00 pm

Led by Pastor Katheryn, this two-week class covers three basic questions: "Who are we? What do we believe?" and "How do we express our faith? Please attend if you are a new member, interested in joining, or just want to learn more about CPC! Questions? Contact Pastor Katheryn at 512-472-2445 or katheryn@cpcastin.org.

- **Live Forward & Give Forward Legacy Giving Seminar**

Wednesday, Sept. 29 at 7:00 pm

Learn more about the many ways the church benefits from your generosity at this seminar — led by Maggie Harmon of the Presbyterian Foundation at this Zoom meeting: [LegacyLINK](#).

- **Prayer and Meditation**

Tuesdays beginning Oct. 5, 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Led by Brian Taylor, this class invites participants to connect with God and each other through meaningful conversations as they explore different ways to engage in prayer and meditation.

- **Mission Acceleration Weekend — Where Do We Go From Here?**

Oct. 23 & 24 (time TBA — Look for details on CPC’s website and E-blast.) Led by Maggie Harmon, this workshop will help us answer the question, “How can we be the church God needs today.” Centuries old, the Presbyterian Church is a link in chain that stretches back thousands of years through Jesus, who reminded us that our greatest obligation was to love God and each other; to Moses, who exhorted us to open our hand to the needy in our land; and further still to Abraham, who answered simply, “Here I am,” when God called.

Today we continue that legacy by laying the foundation for the church to come. At our “Mission Acceleration” workshop, we will engage in exercises designed to assess the role of the church today, the goal for the future, the current and desired mission of the church, and the values that define our work. Our time together will help us create a plan to effectively serve as Christ living body of love in the world today.

- **Book Study: “The Constitution of Knowledge: A Defense of Truth” by Jonathan Rauch**

Sundays, Oct 10 , 17, 24 & 31, 9:30 - 10:30 am

Discussions between The Rev. Sam Riccobene and Professor Harrison Wagner, Emeritus, UT Austin’s school of Government, will focus on the issues raised by Jonathan Rauch in his latest book.

A retired cleric and a professor sat on a park bench together in the shade of a spreading tree and one asked the other, “How do you know the truth when you hear it or read about it?” And before the other could answer a “journalist” for Christ’s sake, answered their question with erudition and a healthy taste of the history of human thought and human nature.

To maximize your class experience, please read the entire book. (Contact the church office if you don’t have access to it so we can provide one.) To learn more about the author click on the following links: [J. Rauch](#) and [Author](#). Also ponder your opinions in light of the

following quote by Oliver Cromwell written to the Church of Scotland’s General Assembly in August of 1650 shortly before the Battle of Dunbar: “I beseech you, in the bowels of Christ, think it possible that you may be mistaken.”

- **Staying Calm at the End of the World**

Nov. 7, 14, & 21 9:30 - 10:30 am

With a global pandemic, climate catastrophe, racial disparity, and increasing political polarization, it can feel like we’re at the beginning of the end of the world. But fear not! Learn about different types of meditation, mindfulness, and spiritual disciplines that can help you keep your head and heart in the right place. If you feel like you are being tossed aimlessly on a wild sea, we recommend the book, “Rowing Without Oars” by Ulla-Carin Lindquist.

Spiritual Formation for Children & Youth

Youth: Sunday school lessons, videos and discussions, and scripture study are being integrated into Youth Fellowship meetings, led by our amazing youth sponsors, Will & Tamara Slade and Celeste Pierce. Youth Fellowship is open to 6th through 12th graders and generally meets the 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sunday of each month. Currently meeting online, there are hopes to have some in-person outdoor gatherings later this fall.

Please contact Will Slade or Carolina Treviño if you are interested or have questions.

Children: We’re offering a Family Sunday School class over Zoom, for parents and elementary children together, once a month. We’ll learn about Bible stories and have fun together! Look for details in the E-blast. Families of nursery-aged children can find Godly Play videos in the weekly E-blast to watch at their convenience.

Please contact Allie Barden if you have any questions.

