

We have a labyrinth!

Thank you to all who stayed to help complete the layout of this meditative, centering ancient practice. About 15 or so people stayed after to share in conversation, a light lunch and this activity. Whether your participation was "active" or "observing," we are glad you were there.

As you may know, a labyrinth can be used in many ways. It can be a means of contemplative prayer. It can be a mindfulness exercise. It can simply be a relaxing way to move around in a patterned fashion. So, whether the intent is sacred, psychological or otherwise, it can assist us in being grounded to live our daily lives.

Our faith community is physically located in the heart of downtown Indianapolis – a busy, bustling, "building-filled" place. In the midst of all this, we have a lovely green space. We hope that turning a part of this grassy area into it tool, like we've had in the past, can help us be a place where people can come to clear their minds, quiet their spirits or soothe their souls - whether in the midst of a work week or on a weekend walk.

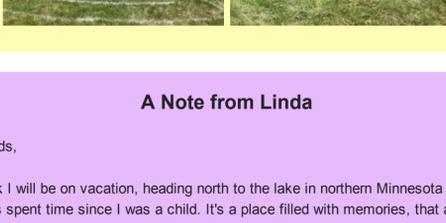
One special feature of our labyrinth is that in its center are spread the ashes of our burdens and pains. The papers that many filled out on Sunday, were burned outside after the service, in a white bowl. Upon completion of the labyrinth, these ashes were placed in the center of the labyrinth.

So, please come. Walk the labyrinth. Breathe. Connect. Use this space for your journey.

Special thanks to Warren Lynn who did the preliminary measurements and layout for us. His willingness to share this area of his expertise, passion and knowledge is greatly appreciated!

If you want to be a part of the team that helps keep the labyrinth "in shape", contact Bev Knight (bevknight@aol.com).

Here are a few pictures of the process:



A Note from Linda

Dear friends,

Next week I will be on vacation, heading north to the lake in northern Minnesota where my family has spent time since I was a child. It's a place filled with memories, that also happens to be beautiful! Like many of you, I seek solace and refreshment in nature, and this little corner of the world has not disappointed. When I return to work on July 26, I expect to be much more rested!

In my absence, you are of course in great hands. Mary Robinson will be available during business hours and Luis Gierbolini will be in (and out of) the office Monday through Thursday. Deborah Butt, one of our elders, is on call for pastoral needs. On Sunday the 22nd you'll have a wonderful opportunity to hear our own Marti Steussy, Hebrew Bible scholar par excellence, preach on Psalm 137. Roger Roe, Kent Cook, and friends will offer their musical gifts that day.

But before all that, THIS Sunday we'll hear and reflect on Psalm 139, which speaks of God searching and knowing us. I love the various reflections by our members in our online sermon text conversations (see [here](#)). I look forward to reflecting together in our worship. Hope to see you there!

Blessings,
Linda

This and That

Greeters for Doors 1 and 5 are needed for late July and throughout August. Sign up [here](#) to be a greeter! Contact Kathy Riestler (kmriester@gmail.com) for more information.

Year end **contributions statements** will be available for pick up in fellowship hall for the next several Sundays.

Youth are invited to join other youth in the region for a **conversation on race**. The event will be held here at Central on **July 28** from 1:00-3:30pm.

Please note the **new email addresses** for our pastors:

Luis Gierbolini: pastorluis@indyccc.org
Linda McCrae: pastorlinda@indyccc.org

(Note: Mail sent to cyf@indyccc.org will still reach Luis, and messages to pastor@indyccc.org will still reach Linda.)

A Summer of Stories

During the summer we are sharing stories from Central's history during worship. We will reprint them in eConnections so that all can read them. Here is a story about Central's AIDS task force, as told by Mary Hays on July 8.

Those of you who remember the time between the 1990s and early 2000s might recall names in our national awareness like Matthew Shepherd and Ryan White. Matthew was a gay man who was beaten and later died as the result of a hate crime. He died at the age of 21, simply because he was gay. Ryan was a child, who at the age of 13, was diagnosed as being HIV+. The virus came to him via a blood transfusion. Even though doctors stated he was no threat to other children, Ryan was kept from returning to public school by two central Indiana school corporations. He was finally welcomed by Hamilton Heights. However, he died, at the age of 18, one month before his high school graduation.

From an article entitled: [God and the Fight against AIDS](#): "As the deadly virus spread around the world, many Christians were silent or worse. (Some) called AIDS God's judgment on promiscuity and the homosexual's deliberate acts." For many, HIV/AIDS was seen as a "gay person's disease".

This was the environment in which the AIDS Task Force at Central was created.

In 1995, on the morning before the annual AIDS Walk, the Task Force of Central hosted an AIDS Sunday service. We invited people city-wide. There was television coverage. The Task Force prepared a gathering -- a panel discussion where 30-40 people, young and old, came to learn some things about HIV/AIDS -- including symptoms, ways of transmission, treatments available, life-expectancy, and challenges.

Here are two lines from the sermon that day, entitled: "God Shall Raise You Up on Eagle's Wings", as delivered by Central's pastor, Barbara Blaisdell:

"This is an important day because it is our chance, as people of faith, to give public witness to the love of God for ALL of God's children."

"Here in the midst of chaos is God, God who loves and seeks to protect you, to guard you."

So, what did we do at Central? We welcomed people in, posting signs stating: *Our church welcomes all living with HIV/AIDS and their families, friends and care partners.*

And, we showed up. We partnered with Parkview, a nursing home in the city that would accept people with this disease. From 1995-2001, each Monday evening, people from Central would go to Parkview to chat, play Uno, share food and simply *be* with the residents there.

We also formed an AIDS Care Team. Before we were "ready to go," Doug, a man actively dying with AIDS, said, "I know you're not organized yet. I need you now. Practice and learn on me." So, we did. We helped with housing, grocery shopping, transportation, whatever was needed. Doug did not want to die alone. So, we showed up. Members of the team, along with his family, sat with him, around the clock, when he was in the hospital and when he returned home to die. Doug did not die alone.

As members of Central's AIDS Task Force and Care Teams did over 20 years ago, may we, here and now, continue to show up, and welcome others to be held in the palm of God's hand. Amen.

Events This Weekend

Saturday, July 14

- Card making ministry in the art room at 10am.

Sunday, July 15

- Bible Study in the conference room at 9am.
- Worship in the sanctuary at 10:30am. Children age 3 through 5th grade will be together during the sermon time.

To see a full monthly printable calendar of our meetings and events, [click here](#).

A Summer of Psalms

Psalm 139 (New Revised Standard Version) -- have you tried reading the psalms out loud yet???

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and when I rise up;

you discern my thoughts from far away.

You search out my path and my lying down,

and are acquainted with all my ways.

Even before a word is on my tongue,

O LORD, you know it completely.

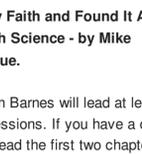
You hem me in, behind and before,

and lay my hand upon me.

Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;

it is so high that I cannot attain it...

Click [here](#) to read the entire psalm.



Summer greetings to all! The votes from our Doodle poll are in, and for our next book we will read and discuss:

Finding God in the Waves: How I Lost My Faith and Found It Again Through Science - by Mike McHargue.

Rev. Jon Barnes will lead at least the initial sessions. If you have a chance please read the first two chapters.

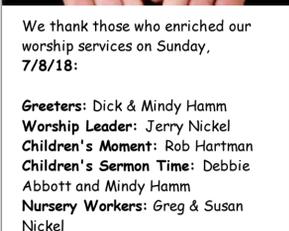
The initial meeting will be **7 pm on Wed July 18th at the home of Mark and Mary Rinehart.**

Please feel free to bring a beverage of your choice.

Thrift Store Reminders

- Donations can be brought any weekday between 9am and 5pm.
- Donations can be brought on Sundays and left at the bottom of the stairs at door #1.
- Make sure each donated item can be carried by one person. Heavier items are hard to sell.
- We always have a demand for bed linens and towels.
- Please donate only items in good repair and good working order. If there is a slight problem with electronics, please make note of it.
- Books that sell best are fiction, inspirational or cookbooks. Nonfiction might best be taken to Indy Reads or another site.

Thank you for helping us keep the store open and available for our customers. Please stop in for a visit any Monday between 10:00 and 2:30 or the last Saturday of the month from 10:00-11:30.



We thank those who enriched our worship services on Sunday, **7/8/18**:

Greeters: Dick & Mindy Hamm
Worship Leader: Jerry Hamm
Children's Moment: Rob Hartman
Children's Sermon Time: Debbie Abbott and Mervyn Hamm
Nursery Workers: Greg & Susan Nickel
Fellowship Host: Porter family
Offering Counters: Sue Allgood and Marcia Phillips
Audio Technician: Amanda Lane

Thank you also to those who have helped in the office this week: Mindy Hamm and Sandy Heidenreich

The Ripple Effect
A VOCAL JOURNALS PROJECT
IF YOU Knew Me YOU'D LOVE ME
NORTHWOOD CHRISTIAN CHURCH
4550 CENTRAL AVE INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46205
JULY 14th @ 6:30pm

Upcoming Preaching Texts

July 15
Psalm 139

July 22
Psalm 137

Race Reflections

Dr. Sharon Watkins, former member of Central and former General Minister and President of the Disciples, is now leading a new emphasis of the National Council of Churches (NCC) in an accounting of how churches and their leaders have been complicit in, and have perpetuated racism in America. The 38 communions (denominations) that make up the NCC will focus on this issue over the next few years.

Watkins has said: "Predominantly white congregations and denominations have been complicit in perpetuating the sin of racism in ways we have not yet fully recognized, and no healing, no justice, no reconciliation can be achieved without a complete telling of the truth."

On April 4th, the NCC gathered in Washington DC to launch this Truth and Justice Initiative and called on each community and person to join in truth-telling by:

- Awakening ourselves to the truth that racism is ever-present, deeply rooted in American culture, and profoundly damaging to our communities.
- Confronting racism, speaking truth to ourselves, our communities and institutions, and standing against injustice.
- Transforming the hearts, mind, and behaviors of people and structures that shape society.

How can you join this movement here in Indianapolis, in Central, in your family, at your job? What truth-telling can you do to help us all awaken to the ever-present nature of racism? Will you join Dr. Watkins and the NCC in their efforts?

In the next couple of weeks we will share messages to Central directly from Dr. Sharon Watkins about her work!

Educational Opportunity on Racism: Nedra Feeley, one of the presenters for our recent series "Waking Up White" has shared the following information about an opportunity to learn more about becoming an anti-racist church.

On Monday, July 16 from 6:30pm to 8pm at St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Joseph Barndt, an anti-racism trainer, author and organizer specializing in institutional racism will offer a unique perspective in facing the continuing crisis of race relations and racism in our country.

Note of Transition: Vision Implementation Team (VIT) and Community Ministry Grant

For over two years, Mary Hays has chaired our VIT. One of the things that was "released" by Mary in saying "yes" to the moderator role, is the leading of this group.

So, the VIT has a new chair! We are very pleased that Robin Miner has graciously agreed to continue to shepherd and guide the Vision Implementation Team and Community Ministry Grant during this year. Robin has been a part of the process from the beginning. As chair, she will bring her multiple skills and talents to the table as the grant activities (hosting art shows, labyrinth use and care, connection opportunities, etc.) continue to roll out during 2018.

Please, contact Robin (robinminer@gmail.com) if you'd like to know more about these activities or if you'd like to be involved.

Thank You! Gracias! Merci! Obrigado! Danke! Arigato! Dalu! Grazie! Shukuria! Asante!

Thank you to all who contributed global items to our "Think Global; Act Local" sale! Thank you to all who bought those items to support the sale! And thank you to all who contributed to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund through the Sunday offerings. All together we raised \$1266 to help our church members and neighbors who have need of assistance. Our ability to "Act Local" has been enhanced!

Prepare for worship on July 22: Join the conversation about Psalm 137

Can a psalm full of despair and violence be healing or helpful to anyone? Members of Central struggled with the psalm and their own experience of grief in many forms. On Central's [website](#), Jan, Kent, Carolyn, and Marti share insightful reflections on Psalm 137, the sermon text for July 22. You are invited to read the psalm aloud and listen to their meditations. Explore your own encounters with destruction, despair, anger, loss, or your interaction with others exuding such feelings. What do your prayers sound like in this situation? Opportunities to add your observations are available on the [website](#), in response to the psalm itself, or in response to any one of the reflections found there. Join the conversation with Psalm 137.

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays and Anniversaries*

July 13
Sandy Heidenreich
July 14
Jim Higginbotham
July 16
Sue Allgood

Thrift Store needs: Kitchen size trash bags, large black trash bags, men's belts, cookware, small kitchen appliances, linens, and towels

Free Clothing needs: Men's and women's jeans, belts, bras, sweatpants, sweatshirts, backpacks, light weight jackets, raincoats, and hats

CHECK US OUT ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

- Our General Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/indyccc/>
- Our Facebook Family Page - <https://www.facebook.com/CentrallndyFamilies>
- Our Church Website - <http://www.indyccc.org>
- Our Facebook Justice Network - Central Justice Network