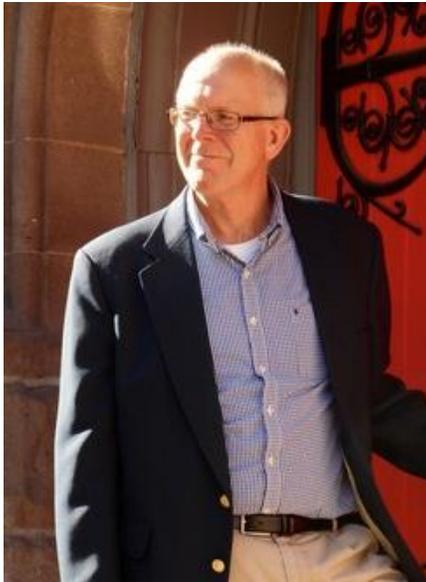




## Pastoral Transition



### Announcing Interim Pastor

Rev. Peter Wilkinson

Joining us: March 1, 2022

The Interim Search Committee has been on an interesting and rewarding journey over the last few months. We have been through an extensive process of asking ourselves what Central Church needs in our new Interim Pastor. We have looked through many resumes and interviewed many candidates searching for the one person who we thought would be the best fit for Central. We are proud to have arrived at a unanimous choice in Peter Wilkinson. He is already getting to know our Session and Staff members and we are looking forward to having him with us starting the beginning of March. Below is a letter of introduction he has written for you to start to get to know him.

### Greetings, the Community of Central Presbyterian Church!

I am Rev. Peter Wilkinson. It is my great honor to have been called by the Session to serve Central Presbyterian as the Interim Pastor during this time of pastoral transition. As we are all experiencing the challenges of living through the uncertainty of this Covid pandemic, I am excited to see how God will walk with us during this time of transition.

My goals during this time will be to serve God faithfully, preaching, teaching, offering pastoral care, guiding the staff, and moderating the Session through the process which will prepare the congregation to call a new installed pastor. Let me introduce myself more fully.

*Continued*

## Important Dates

### 1/16: Storing of the Greens

Time to carefully pack away our beautiful holiday décor for use next year. If you can, please stay after the worship service to lend a hand. Many hands make lighter work!

### 1/30: Annual Meeting

Plan to join us for our Annual Meeting following worship on Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. Annual Reports will be available as of the 22<sup>nd</sup> for your review.

*Continued*

I grew up in Lafayette, Indiana. Attended Purdue University where I received a B.S. in Management. I moved to San Francisco following graduation and worked as an accountant (two tax seasons taught me that I DID NOT want to be an accountant!). I volunteered at an agency in San Francisco's Chinatown, Donaldina Cameron House, that led me to attend seminary.

I attended San Francisco Theological Seminary and then began serving churches in the Midwest. I first served as an Associate Minister at a church in Indianapolis. I then served two churches as an Interim Pastor and a church as a Designated Pastor. I then served a church in Illinois for twelve years and am now concluding my ministry of fourteen years at First Presbyterian Church in Rutherford.

I have been married for 32 years to Janice Burgess (we met in Indianapolis). Jan is currently serving as the Director of MMO Preschool Programs at First Congregational Church in Montclair. We have two "homemade" children, Madeleine and Evan. They both work with Jan at MMO. While in Rutherford, our family expanded as it now includes two foster children, Kaitlin and Emma Knight. Kaitlin Knight Duracher now lives in Honolulu, Hawaii, with her husband Mitchell who is on active duty in the Navy. Emma is currently living in Manhattan and working in the City.

At this point, Jan, Maddie and myself are looking forward to living in the Manse and the gift of a shorter commute to work! Maddie's dog, Rue is a delight to remind us how we are loved!

I enjoy listening to jazz, reading, eating desserts, talking with friends, cheering on the Chicago Cubs, Bulls and Bears, and enjoying God's sense of humor. I am looking forward to having a gym near my office and am willing to play a game of "horse" with anyone (playing basketball is part of the DNA of almost everyone who grew up in Indiana).

I have a specific call to walk with you during this important transition time. My ultimate job is to work myself out of a job. We will go through a process of discovery. We will discover what makes Central the unique community of faith that it is and how it looks at its future. We will discover how it experiences and shares Christ. We will discover the direction it seeks to move into the future and ultimately discover the person who will be called as the next pastor.

I am finding that there are three gifts that I hope will define my ministry with you. First, I am a very curious person. I will ask lots of questions as we all ask questions about what life together at Central will be about in the years ahead. I have found a sense of curiosity is a spiritual gift that allows us to be open to God's plan and not our human agendas. *Cont.*



L to R: Janice, Kaitlin, Madeleine, Emma.  
Top row: Peter and Evan.



Maddie's dog Rue



L to R: Madeleine, Emma, Peter, Kaitlin, Mitchell,  
Janice, Evan.

Continued

Second, I seek to be a good listener. I find the better I listen, to God, to others, the more likely I can participate in fulfilling God's plan. Finally, I want us to have FUN. I am a strong believer that living life with a sense of Joy allows me and us to live through the trying, anxiety filled times we are experiencing with a perspective of how our God will be present.

I take my calling very seriously, and recognize that having a sense of humor allows me the opportunity to experience God's love and grace.

I know this is a LONG letter of introduction. I am looking forward to working with the Session, Deacons, the staff and all who volunteer. I am excited to get to know you and the community.

I will make myself available to meet with people as individuals, families or groups in a manner that keeps people safe. I am looking forward to beginning my ministry with you on March 1. We will indeed discover, together, what God has in store for us during these unique times.

Peace,  
Pete

## The Church Triumphant

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are writing with the sad news that longtime member Larry Stauffer entered the church triumphant on Wednesday evening.

Details about a memorial service - likely in a few months - will be distributed to the congregation when plans are finalized.

Please keep Pam, Scott, Emily and all those who loved Larry in your prayers.

*Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff - they comfort me.  
- Psalm 23:4*

Pam has indicated that if anyone should want to send along a note or offer of food, they may contact her directly via email at [enrobso@verizon.net](mailto:enrobso@verizon.net), or by mail:  
Pam Osborne  
92 Franklin Street  
Verona, NJ 07044

## Faith & Fellowship

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays after Time with Young Disciples (10:15 am)

Kindergarten through fifth graders are invited to a volunteer-led lesson with an activity during the church service.

Follow the leader through to the Education Building.

Program contact: Carolyn Buck – [goulderbuck@verizon.net](mailto:goulderbuck@verizon.net)

### Men's Bible Study

#### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Saturday at 8 am, January 22

Program contact: Contact Scott Osborne at 201-704-2510  
or [scott.osborne@verizon.net](mailto:scott.osborne@verizon.net)

### YOUTH GROUP

#### YOUTH GROUP

On hiatus this January. We will confirm the February calendar soon!

Program contact: Carolyn Buck – [goulderbuck@verizon.net](mailto:goulderbuck@verizon.net)

# January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> <b>NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> Office Closed
<b>2</b> Rev. Frank Broyles <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship w/Sunday School	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Personnel Committee meeting	<b>6</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> Rev. Frank Broyles <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship w/Lord's Supper	<b>10</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Christian Ed. Committee meeting	<b>11</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Session Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> <b>8:00 PM</b> APEX Ensemble Concert	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Rev. Frank Broyles <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship w/Sunday School	<b>17</b> MLK Day	<b>18</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Communication Spiritual Outreach <b>8:00 PM</b> Worship Committee meeting	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> <b>8:00 AM</b> Men's Bible Study
<b>23</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship w/Sunday School	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Deacons meet	<b>27</b> <b>7:30 PM</b> Choir Rehearsal	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship w/Sunday School <b>11:00 AM</b> Annual Meeting	<b>31</b>					

## Birthdays

2	Gus Arndt	17	Meyling Cabezas
6	Erin Norton	18	CeCe Mitchell
10	C.C. Fitzgerald	19	Jonathan Ali
12	Sidney Moulongo	22	Jane Speer
13	Lisa Hoyt	31	Charlotte Worth
	Roald Mitchell		
	Trevor White		



On Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, we enjoyed a live Christmas pageant during the morning worship service. Our kids of all ages arrived early to put on their costumes. Guest pastor Rev. Debra Givens gamely read out the Christmas story and provided helpful details for the very young. Many thanks to our Christian Education team for this joyous production.



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