



Discovering What is Next

Rev. Pete Wilkinson

I am excited to begin my ministry as the Interim Pastor at Central. As I begin this new chapter, I would like to thank the support that I (and my family) are already experiencing through the actions of Mark Johansen. Mark Schoonfield has been tirelessly working to have the manse ready for our family. Ed Alstrom has been helpful in helping me understand the music ministry of the church. Morgan Moulongo has been patiently aiding me in this time of transition. I am looking forward to working with the Session and the congregation as we discover what God has in store for this community....next.

It is so appropriate to begin this transitional ministry with you during the Season of Lent. We may have different understandings of what Lent “means”. Is it simply giving up chocolate? Does it involve adding something to one’s life for 40 days? I love the way Barbara Brown Taylor describes this “season”:

Do not bother looking for Lent in your Bible dictionary, because there was no such thing back then. There is some evidence that early Christians fasted forty hours between Good Friday and Easter, but the custom of spending forty days in prayer and self-denial did not arise until later, when the initial rush of Christian adrenaline was over and believers had gotten very ho-hum about their faith.

When the world did not end as Jesus himself had said it would, his followers stopped expecting so much from God or from themselves. They hung a wooden cross on the wall and settled back into their more or less comfortable routines, remembering their once passionate devotion to God the way they remembered the other enthusiasms of their youth....

Little by little, Christians became devoted to their comforts instead: the soft couch, the flannel sheets, the leg of lamb roasted with rosemary. These things made them feel safe and cared for – if not by God, then by themselves. They decided there was no contradiction between being comfortable and being Christian, and before long it was very hard to pick them out from the population at large. They no longer distinguished themselves by their bold love for one another. They did not get arrested for championing the poor. They blended in. They avoided extremes. They decided to be nice instead of holy. And God moaned out loud.

Hearing that, someone suggested it was time to call Christians back to their senses, and the Bible offered some clues about how to do that. Israel spent forty years in the wilderness learning to trust the Lord. Elijah spent forty days there before hearing the still, small voice of God on the same mountain where Moses spent forty days listening to God give the law. There was also Luke’s story about Jesus’ own forty days in the wilderness – a period of preparation between his baptism and his ministry – during which he was sorely tested by the devil...

Continued

Sunday, March 6th
Central Welcomes
Rev. Pete Wilkinson

Join Us
10 am Worship
11 am Special Coffee Hour

Cont.

So the church announced a season of Lent, from the old English word Lenten, meaning “spring” – not only a reference to the season before Easter, but also an invitation to a springtime for the soul. Forty days to cleanse the system and open the eyes to what remains when all comfort is gone. Forty days to remember what it is like to live by the grace of God alone... Now the truth is, not all of us need to go looking for wilderness experiences. For some of us, the wilderness comes to us, unbidden and unsought, and not in a predictable season each spring. But it is for just such times that the season of Lent is designed to prepare us. (Barbara Brown Taylor, “Lenten Discipline” in Home By Another Way. pp 65-66.).

I am curious to see what is in store for us as we begin this Lenten journey together. I am curious to see what we will discover together during this time of transition.

Peace,
Pete

Save the Date



Save the Date for Saturday, April 19th, 2-4 pm, for our Easter Egg Hunt. We will build on this popular 123Kids/ Outreach Committee event to include egg-hunting, outdoor play opportunities, and themed snacks. Volunteers are needed to welcome guests and support the event. Program contact: Brian Cattell at bcattell@clpstrategies.com

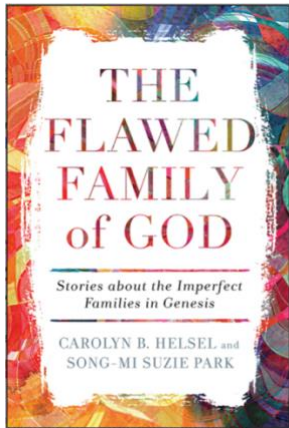
March Birthdays

- 2 Ben Schestag
- 3 Cathie Hartnett
- 9 Lillian Moulongo
- 10 Sam Waisanen
- 14 Hope Dancy
- 15 Michael Goulder
- 28 Ann Arndt
Gaylord French
- 29 Audrey Cattell



The Central Church Steeple is illuminated for the month of March in memory of Thomas Buck with love from his family.

Faith & Fellowship



“THE FLAWED FAMILY OF GOD” – SMALL GROUP

Wednesdays, March 9 – 30, 6-7:30 pm

This 5-week small group study of “The Flawed Family of God” is a hybrid program. What keys does the Old Testament offer us in looking at our own family ‘flaws’? What answers for healing and connection? Meet in-person for dinner and discussion or join the group online. Childcare in the nursery is from 6-8 pm. Program contact: Rev. Pete – pastor.centralpresbyterian@gmail.com



YOUTH GROUP

1st and 3rd Sundays

March 6th and 20th, 5:30 – 7 pm

All middle and high school youth are welcome.

Program contact: Carolyn Buck – goulderbuck@verizon.net



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 colorful classroom in the Education Building.

Program contact: Carolyn Buck – goulderbuck@verizon.net



COMMUNITY MOVEMENT PROJECT

Spring Session 1: March 8th – April 12th (7 classes)

Spring Session 2: April 26th – June 7th, 2022 (7 classes)

Tuesdays, 10-11 am

Pilates/Barre Blend with Erin, in-person.

Suggested Donation: \$140 (\$20/class)

Register and More Info: www.communitymovementproject.org



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Saturday, March 19th at 8 am

Program contact: Contact Scott Osborne at 201-704-2510 or scott.osborne@verizon.net

The In-Choirer

Can we say we've made it all the way back yet? Probably not, but we're surely getting there. And here at Central, we've been ahead of a lot of places, in terms of live worship, live music, the quality of our broadcasts, and the general 'way things have gone'. It is to everyone's credit that this church has stood up and pitched in and made things seamless during this period, and in the teeth of a pandemic to boot.

We all owe a specific debt of gratitude to Dave Arndt for the stellar work in getting our services online each and every week; Cathy McMahan, who has not only added her beautiful flute playing to our services but has also filled in for Dave at the video control desk; and to everyone in our choir, which has been incredibly flexible and spirited during what could have easily been a down time. I am really proud of this church for bearing up through this pandemic with such grace and efficiency, and I am truly privileged to work with all of you.

Now, we embark on a new phase with Pastor Pete. We met right before I joined Central, and hit it off then, and it is an honor to work with him now. He has already provided me with a lot of info about the themes of services going forward, and that is especially appreciated, since I haven't had much lead time to pick music during the constant stream of supply pastors. I am confident that we will work very well together, and continue to provide you with the best worship experience that we possibly can.

You will hear and see a new voice in the choir, too! She is my friend Sandy Taylor, whom we have recruited to be our Soprano section leader. We've worked together quite a bit over the years, doing all kinds of music. She is a pro's pro, a wonderful human being, and has the voice of an angel. You will hear plenty of that fabulous voice going forward. Please make yourself known to her on a Sunday.

(Cont.)

Our pipe organ, as you may know, is a grand old dame. It is an Austin organ built in 1957, with some pipework still left from its amazing and historic predecessor, a 1923 E.M. Skinner organ. Despite being incredibly hardy, as many of us old people do, it needs some help every once in a while, and it will be taking a brief vacation soon to get some much needed work done.

What is getting done? Specifically, since you asked: replace windsocks with new ones; rebuild regulators, replace gusset and hinge leather; replace felt on regulator valve and check for proper operation; reinstall regulators and connect to valves; adjust action for proper operation and set wind pressure. These parts of the organ will be 'vacationing' to Pennsylvania to have this work done.

So, in the coming weeks, the pipe organ will disappear from services for 3 or 4 weeks, and you will hear a lot of piano and the Hammond. And there's nothing wrong with that, right?

I wish you a devout Lent and good health!

Yours in Christ,
Ed Alstrom, Director of Music

Education Building Update

The Park Street Academy preschool has officially moved back into their restored space. Over the weekend of February 26-27, Lisa Raphael and Sandy Weber of PSA, teachers and friends, helped shuttle the supplies from their temporary school space in our nursery and Community Room back downstairs. Thanks to special work by Building Manager Mark Schoonfield for managing repairs after Hurricane Ida-related flooding damaged significant portions of the school on September 1st of 2021. The PSA children, teachers, and church staff will now be settling back into pre-hurricane routines.

March 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>This month we welcome The Red Cross and AA back into our building for the first time since March 2020.</p>		1	2 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Private Event 7:00 PM Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7:30 PM Personnel Committee meeting	3	4	5 2:00 PM Memorial Service for Larry Stauffer
6 10:00 AM Rev. Peter Wilkinson Worship w/Lord's Supper 11:00 AM Special Coffee Hour 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Youth Group	7	8 10:00 – 11:00 AM CMP 7:00 PM Session Meeting	9 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM "The Flawed Family of God" - Small Group 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Private Event	10 12:30 PM - 6:30 PM Red Cross Blood Drive 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	11	12
13 10:00 AM Worship w/Sunday School	14 6:00 PM Christian Ed. Committee meeting	15 10:00 – 11:00 AM CMP 8:00 PM Worship Committee meeting	16 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM "The Flawed Family of God" - Small Group 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Private Event	17 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	18	19 8:00 AM Men's Bible Study 11:00 AM Private Service
20 10:00 AM Worship w/Sunday School 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM AA	21	22 10:00 – 11:00 AM CMP 7:30 PM Communication Spiritual Outreach	23 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM "The Flawed Family of God" - Small Group 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Private Event 7:00 PM Deacons meet	24 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	25	26
27 10:00 AM Worship w/Sunday School 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM AA	28	29 10:00 – 11:00 AM CMP	30 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM "The Flawed Family of God" - Small Group 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM Private Event	31 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal		



On Sunday, February 27th, Christian Ed hosted a Young Families Gathering. As part of the program a “big reveal” took place for the refurbished Sunday school classroom. Papered-over windows and an official ribbon-cutting added to the excitement and sense of discovery. Inside, the kids found bright wall colors, new furniture, and a new carpet and pillows area for circle time on the floor.



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