



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



October 2023

Dear Friends,

In the first chapter of the Gospel of Mark, Jesus shares his “mission statement”:

“The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.” (Mark 1:15, NRSV)

“Time’s up! God’s kingdom is here. Change your life and believe the Message.” (Mark 1:15, The Message)

Mark’s story of Jesus begins with Jesus’ bold statement: the Kingdom of God is present. It shares a powerful invitation: repent (turn around). Essentially, Jesus invites the world to participate in the ongoing construction of God’s Kingdom.

For the past 2000 years, people have received the message, accepted the challenge, and have actively participated in the world transforming work of kingdom building. This construction project is predicated upon the trust in a God that created everything. It is fueled by love.

Here at Central, as we enter year three of our transition in pastoral leadership, we are determining how we will participate in God’s magnificent construction project. What is the “landscape” that we find ourselves facing? What are the resources that God is providing us? Where do we need to focus our attention and our energy? What type of leadership is needed to navigate these challenging times?

The Session has determined that it is time to move forward with a structural change in how Central will seek to fulfill its ministry. The changes involve the creation of Councils that will work under the direction of Session that will have the responsibility to carry out the ongoing ministry tasks of the church. The Deacons will begin to have an expanded role in the support and nurture of individuals.

There are two primary reasons for the Session to make these changes, now. First, we recognize how many activities and functions within the church are impacted and influenced by the work and efforts of other committees (in our former structure). We are simply attempting to streamline the decision making and implementation of projects and programs. Second, we recognize that the participation patterns have changed and the number of active members has decreased in recent years. We are seeking to make it easier for individuals to become involved and engaged in the acts of ministry.

When there are construction projects taking place around us, it is easy to physically see the changes taking place. One can

see a building or changes to a building unfold. A unique feature of the unfolding nature of the construction of God’s Kingdom, we may not even notice the powerful work of the Spirit of God that is taking place right in front of us.

Let’s see what God has in store for us.

Blessings,

Pete
Interim Pastor

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 8

Sunday School resumes during worship for K-5! Led by rotating church volunteers.

October 11

**Wednesday Bible Study
CHANGING TIME - 11am
Hybrid - Zoom & Fellowship Room**

Wednesday Bible Study is moving forward its start time to 11am beginning, Oct 11. We are going to focus upon the Gospel of Mark.

Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82678761761?pwd=4q86iSF3TpJts8NRVKWBHeyktoU31L.1>

OCTOBER 15

Young Family Gathering

There will be an organizational gathering for our Young Families following worship on October 15, in Grace Hall.

We will create a tentative schedule for gathering and brainstorm future activities. Childcare will be provided.



October Birthdays

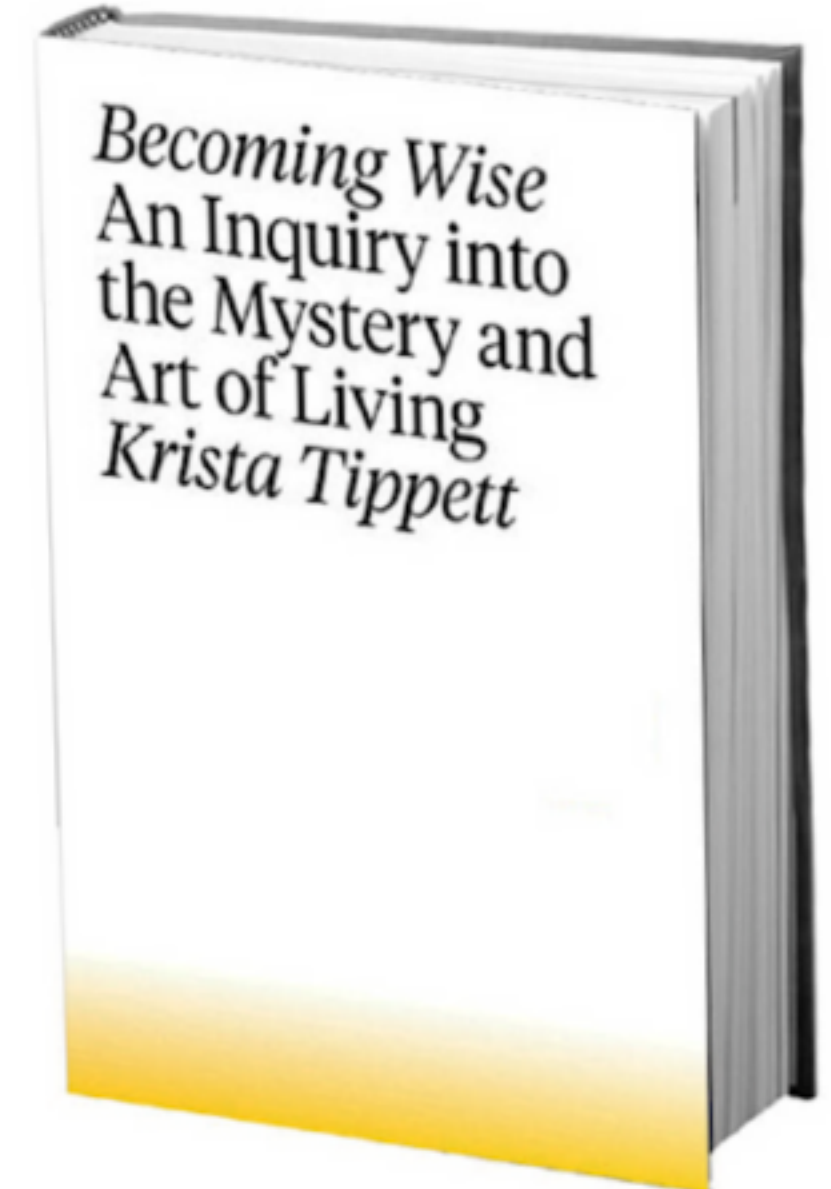
2 Rudy Katwaru, Scott Osborne, 4 Carolyn Buck, Elba Perez, 5 Barry Dancy, Mles Norton, 6 Carole Brand, 10 Lucas Deupree, 12 Ed Alstrom, 13 Connie Reck, Catherine Worth, 16 Michael Fitzgerald, 18 Michaela O'Hare, 26 Diallo Hall, 27 Kathy Kauh Johansen, 29 Darlene Sneed

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

In the past month, the Pastor Nominating Committee met with the Session in order for the Session to approve the Ministry Discernment Profile that the Pastor Nominating Committee had completed. The Ministry Discernment Profile is one of the key documents that is used to advertise with potential candidates about the opportunity to become the Pastor at Central. This document will also be approved by the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey's Committee on Ministry. After that step, the document will be forwarded to the Presbyterian Church (USA) where it will be formally posted to indicate that we are actively searching for a pastor.

This is an important step in the process and the exciting work is ahead for the Committee as the search process actively begins. Please keep Brian Cattell - Chairperson, Liz Burkland, Rolda Mitchell, Frederick Moulongo, Erin Carlisle Norton, Kim O'Hare, and Susan Worth in prayer.

New Book Study Begins! October 25 @ 6pm



"Becoming Wise, An Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living" by Krista Tippett will be the subject of our Fall Book Study. We will have a light dinner at 6pm and the conversation will begin at 6:30pm with Zoom access for those who cannot attend in person. Childcare will be available at the church. Sign-ups coming soon!

If you have any questions, please contact the Church Office; pastor.centralpresbyterian@gmail.com

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Central Presbyterian Church uses photographs and videos of church members and visitors during events in its newsletters, emails, on its website, and in social media. This media release form helps ensure that individuals and families are comfortable with their images being shared, with respect to personal preferences and privacy.

Fill out the form here:
<https://shorturl.at/mIRV7>



www.centralpresbyterian.net

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