



## One Great Hour of Sharing:

As we begin the Lenten season, all Central worshippers are being asked to contribute to the “One Great Hour of Sharing.” This offering responds directly to the needs God called us to fulfill in Isaiah 58. “You shall be called repairers of the breach.” According to PCUSA, “Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity.

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (February 22 – April 9), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.”

One Great Hour of sharing envelopes will be available in the sanctuary during Lent for you to make an impact to “Restore Hope, Feed the Hungry and Empower the Oppressed. Your gifts will be sent to PCUSA. Thank you for being a “repairer of the breach” during these challenging times!



Dear Friends

This year during the season of Lent, we are taking time to reflect upon the book, “Life Together” by Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

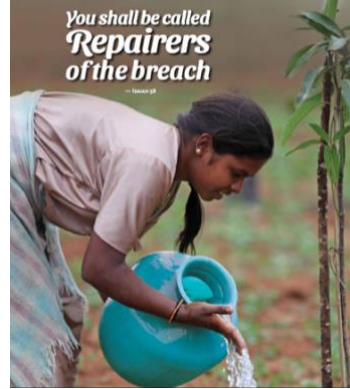
In this marvelous reflection upon the importance of community, Bonhoeffer states:

“We Must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God. God will be constantly

Crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions.

Peace,  
Pete

## Stewardship



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Emma Justice  
Chair, Stewardship

## Mission Study Team Continues Their Task

Sharing Our Story: On Sunday, February 26, the Mission Study Team led a conversation with the congregation following worship that examined the history of Central Church. It reexamined our current mission statement:

***As disciples of Jesus Christ and good stewards of God’s Grace, we are a caring, inclusive congregation that strives to grow in Christian Faith, proclaim the Good News, and provide service in ministry to each other, our diverse community, and the world.***

We also had a conversation surrounding the characteristics that the next called pastor might possess. The input was extremely valuable and the Team appreciates your prayerful support and participation.

Mission Study Team: Erin Carlisle Norton, Peter Dancy, Neal Day, Lisa Krizner-George, Scott Osborne, Rev. Pete Wilkinson



## Our Lenten Journey 2023

This year at Central, we will reflect upon the journey of Christ through the examination of “Life Together”. How are our journeys of life and faith informed and transformed through the experience of Christian Community.



## Fellowship



Bible Study

### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays at 9:00 am via Zoom  
Program contact: Scott Osborne at 201-704-2510  
or [scott.osborne@verizon.net](mailto:scott.osborne@verizon.net)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sundays after Time with Young Disciples (10:15 am)  
Thank you to our volunteer teachers for making this possible!  
Program contact: Pat Dancy – [patdancy@yahoo.com](mailto:patdancy@yahoo.com)

### YOUTH GROUP

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays at 11:15 am – 1:00 pm  
Middle and high school youth are welcome to join us for fun and fellowship Sunday afternoons. Next Mission Project Gathering – Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 am.  
Program contact: Rev. Pete – [pastor.centralpresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.centralpresbyterian@gmail.com)

## Sundays at Central

March 5 - John 3:1-17 - Encountering Jesus

March 12 - John 4:5-29 - Transformed by Jesus

March 19 - Psalm 23 - Connecting to God

March 26 - Ezekiel 37:1-14 - Living into the Future

April 2 - Matthew 21:1-11 - Confession and Communion

## 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

SUNDAY  
SCHOOL

YOUTH  
GROUP

## UNDERSTANDING PER CAPITA AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT

As a way to have Mission Dollars fund mission projects, the Presbyterian Church developed an annual assessment to defray the administrative costs of the denomination. Each year, Central is asked to pay a per capita assessment per member. This direct cost to Central is \$42.50 per member.

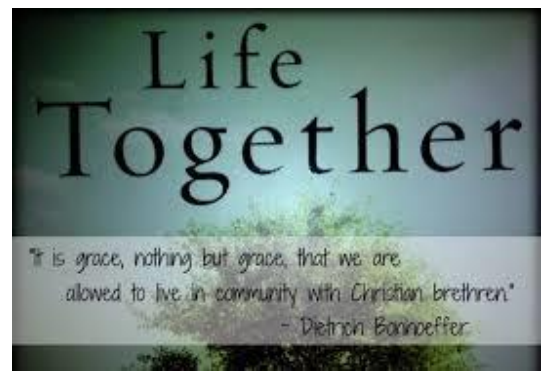
The \$42.50/per member assessment funds the administrative work of the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly. These groups provide the support needed by congregations in crisis. They provide assistance filling pastor vacancies, mediating congregational disputes, ensuring doctrinal correctness and uniformity, and providing pastoral and congregational support. By funding these portions of the Presbyterian church, per capita provides the wherewithal for the ecclesiastical democracy of the priesthood of all believers to run smoothly.

The theological and biblical support for per capita is 1 Corinthians 12:18. It is the connective tissue in the body imagery of the Apostle Paul - "But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as God wanted them to be." I.e., all parts of the church are part of one body. Being a connectional church takes both the contribution of gifts to per capita and the work of pastors and elders who together advise, guide, and govern our General Assembly, synods, and presbyteries. Congregations worship, teach church school, sing in the choir, marry, and bury. We advocate for justice. But without the support per capita provides for the parts of the Presbyterian church that undergirds the way we do church; congregations would find it difficult to thrive.

We would like to prayerfully ask that you might make an additional contribution to Central in the amount of \$42.50 to aid the church in defraying the cost of this assessment. We thank you for your support!

## Wednesdays At Central

On Wednesdays during Lent, we will explore Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Book "Life Together". We will meet at church at 6pm for supper and conversation will begin at 6:30. Childcare will be available. Contact the Church office if you would like to sign up. Let's See what God seeks for us to Experience.



## Holy Week at Central: Questions of Faith

Maundy Thursday, April 7: We will worship in the Sanctuary at 7 pm. What makes this night different?

Good Friday, April 8: We will worship in the Sanctuary at 7 pm. What is truth?

Easter Sunday April 9 - What's next?

# Process to Call a Pastor at Central Presbyterian Church

At the Annual Meeting on January 29, Rev. Pete shared the steps involved in calling a pastor at a Presbyterian Church. Here is the process:

STEP 1 - Central Presbyterian Church undertakes Mission Study Process Team will lead and ultimately create a Mission Study Document.

- A Mission Study is a process that a congregation goes through to seek discernment about how God would have that church to be and to act in the future.

STEP 2 - Central Presbyterian Church forms Mission Study Team

- Members: Peter Dancy, Neal Day, Lisa George, Erin Norton, and Scott Osborn
- Team will lead and ultimately create a Mission Study Document.

The Mission Study Team then gathers information in the following areas:

- Changes in Community and the world.
- Spiritual health
- Membership and church growth
- Finances & stewardship
- Mission and social justice
- Its role and relationship to the community where it is located
- Its relationship to Presbytery
- Direction of the Church moving forward
- Role of pastor and desired gifts of pastor

STEP 3 - Mission Study Completed

- The Mission Study ultimately is a document that is shared with the congregation. It is approved by the Session. It is then submitted to the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey for their approval. It is the goal of Central's Mission Study Team to complete the process in four months.

STEP 4 - Central granted permission to form Pastor Nominating Committee

- A Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is formed. The task of the PNC is to identify a candidate to bring to the congregation to elect to serve as the next Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church.
- The Pastor Nominating Committee will be a committee of the Congregation. There will be a meeting of the congregation to elect members to the Pastor Nominating Committee.

STEP 5 - Pastor Nominating Committee and Session Prepare for Search

- A review of Pastor's Position Description and terms of call takes place.
- Mission Information Form is completed.
- Session approves a budget for the PNC to conduct Search
- Mission Information Form is approved by Session and submitted to the Presbytery for their approval.

## STEP 6 - Search is Conducted

- PNC in consultation with the Presbytery create plan to identify pastor
  - How to advertise opening
  - How to evaluate candidates
  - How to interview candidates
  - How to complete the steps in the process

## STEP 7 - Candidate is Identified

- PNC shares information with Presbytery (Pastors become “members” of the Presbytery NOT the local church.
- PNC asks the Session to call for Congregational Meeting to act upon a recommendation from the PNC to call a candidate to become the next pastor.

## STEP 8 - Candidate is presented to Central and Congregation Votes

- The Candidate will lead worship and following worship service, there is a meeting of the Congregation to call the Candidate to be the next called pastor of Central and approve the terms of Call.

## STEP 9 - Necessary Actions *following* Congregational Action

- The action of the meeting is reported to the Presbytery. The Presbytery begins to take appropriate actions to receive the Candidate into Membership.
- The Candidate informs current employer of Central’s action and leaving.
- The Candidate’s Presbytery releases candidate from call.
- Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey affirms congregation action and votes to have candidate become of member of this Presbytery.
- Any needed updates/repairs to manse undertaken and completed.
- Candidate moves into manse.
- Ministry Begins!

## STEP 10 - Ministry with next Pastor begins!!!!!!

### **How long will these next steps take?**

- The Mission Study will take approximately 4 - 6 months
- Approval by Presbytery (1 Month)
- Search Process 12 - 18 months
- Final Steps - 3 - 6 months



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