



# CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

May 2023

Dear Friends,

As I am reflecting upon what to share with you in these challenging times we face, I was reminded of a quote by a wonderfully gifted Presbyterian, Anne Lamott:

The opposite of faith is not doubt: It is certainty. It is madness. You can tell you have created God in your own image when it turns out that he or she hates all the same people you do.

I found this quote to be very helpful and humbling. Here at Central, we are seeking to gain a sense of direction through the diligent work of our Mission Study Team. I am appreciating more and more the importance of embracing the unknown. I think about Peter and Andrew minding their own business and having a stranger approach them and invite them to step away from the certainty of their vocation and fall in step with one that would change not only their lives but the world.

As we wonder what is ahead of us, whether as friends and members of Central or people wondering how we will navigate the challenging opportunities that we face, let us discover what is in store as we trust in the presence of the One who will lead and guide us.

Blessings, Pastor Pete



Thank you Mark and Kathy Johansen

Central Presbyterian Church has been blessed by the participation of Mark and Johansen. Both have taken significant leadership roles in the church. They have been vital participants in the Choir. The Johansens moved to Pennsylvania and continued to participate at Central until the end of 2022. On Sunday, May 21, we will celebrate the contributions of Mark and Kathy and have the opportunity to formally say, “Good Bye”. Following worship on the 21st, we will have an opportunity for people to spend time with them.

Please save this date and join in the festivities.

## Mission Study Process:

The Mission Study Team is moving toward the completion of the Mission Study for Central Presbyterian Church. The Mission Study is a foundational document that examines the ministry of our Church and how we understand the ways we will fulfill our mission to share Jesus Christ with the community and the world in the days and years ahead. This document will be approved by our Session and then forwarded to the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey for its approval. Following the approval by the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry, Central will then be granted permission to form a Pastor Nominating Committee. This Committee of the Congregation will be tasked with the challenge of searching for and identifying the next minister for Central. In June, we anticipate conducting a Town Hall Meeting where the Mission Study document will be shared and discussed. We thank you for your prayerful support.

Members of the Mission Study Team: Peter Dancy, Neal Day, Lisa Krizner-George, Erin Carlisle-Norton, and Scott Osborne.

## Session Notes

The Session met this past Wednesday at the church and among the items discussed and acted upon included:

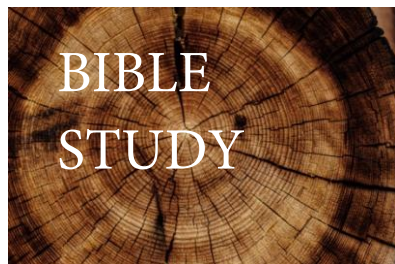
- We were updated on the Status of the Mint Nursery project. At this point, the project is in a holding pattern as we have been informed by the licensing authorities, that because of the ages of children that we anticipate using spaces in the church, a sprinkler system for those specific spaces must be installed. This was new information shared and we are now determining the feasibility and cost of installing this system into two rooms in the education building.
- We have been engaged in an extended process to enact significant changes to the organizational structure of Central. The conversations actually began almost seven years ago, but with the impacts of Covid and Pastor David's retirement, the conversations had been shelved. What has been clear is that there is a need to streamline our decision making process. We want to eliminate unnecessary meetings. We are recognizing the changing ways that people have time and ability to engage in activities and in the leadership of the church. We also recognize that we have a governing structure that our tradition dictates and there is the need to have our organizational structure "fit" the ways we want to fulfill our mission and ministry plans.

## Session Notes Continued :

- We heard an update from the Mission Study Team that included a brief conversation regarding the initial learnings from the Congregational Survey that many of you completed. It is the hope that the Mission Study Team will have a completed report by the end of May.
- During the month of May, there is going to be an opportunity to recognize the contributions of the Johansen family as they have recently moved away from Montclair. More information will be shared in the future about the date and the specifics.

## Recognizing Graduates:

On Sunday, June 1, we will recognize our graduates during our worship service. Please contact the church office if there is a member of your family graduating from High School, College, or Graduate School.



### 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)

# 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:

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

## In Memory Of:



### Marilyn Stone

Long time member, Marilyn Stone, passed away peacefully on April 11, 2023. She had moved last April to Albuquerque, New Mexico, in order to receive additional support from her children. Marilyn joined the church in 1959, became a Deacon in 1979, and an Elder in 1996. Let us keep Marilyn's children, Chip, Addie Scavone, and Lisa, in our prayers. The family appreciates the love, friendship and support received from the congregation. The is planning a Memorial service at some future date. If you would like to send the family a note, please contact the church office for family contact information.

## May Birthdays

2	Barbara Eveleth
2	Eugenia Bishop
4	Neal B. Day
5	Nina Moulongo
11	Curran Schestag
16	Loren Hoyt;
17	Marylyn Smalls
20	Stephanie Fitzgerald,
20	Pam Osborne;
24	Lidet Hall
26	Mark Johansen

H A P P Y

# Mother's Day



## Zumba @ Central

### Mothers Day ZUMBA CLASSES sweat together

Start Your Mother's Day  
Weekend with a Zumba Class!  
Saturday - May 13, 2023

Come Join Us  
Location: Community Room

