



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

January is always a time of looking backward and forward. Taking stock and setting a fresh path. This seems like especially meaningful work for us this year, doesn't it? The beginning of the year here at Central has been moving slowly and I am the major cause of the slow movement.

On December 29, I tested positive for Covid. While our household was filled with family, we began the process that many have experienced....how to isolate, what types of symptoms were appearing (for me, chills, a cough, great fatigue were the ones that defined my life), and how to move toward healing and wholeness.

It is the first weekend in January and I finally can "focus". I have intellectually appreciated that covid was a disease that generally attacked the lungs and our capacity to breathe. I have always understood that the Hebrew word of spirit (ruach) also means "wind" and "breath". Over the past 10 days, I have chosen to look at my experience of dealing with this "dis-ease" as an opportunity to gain greater appreciation for the gift of breath. What does God seek for me to understand about myself? How does God seek for me to function as I "get my breath" back?

2023, will be an interesting year at Central as we begin to take the intentional steps forward to identify how the "Spirit" of God is moving in our midst. Within 30 days, we will conduct our annual meeting as an opportunity to look back at what we have experienced. By the end of January, our Mission Study Team will be identified and the important work of discerning how God is leading this congregation into the future will begin.

I discovered as this year begins, it begins with an enforced pause. I look forward to working with everyone to discover the path our God has for us to take.

May we have a joyous 2023.

Blessing,
Pete



2022 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place on Sunday, January 29, 2023, following our 10 am worship service in the Community Room. The purpose of the meeting is to hear reports from the Committees of Session and Deacons along with transacting any needed business of the Congregation.

Fellowship



YOUTH GROUP

YOUTH GROUP

1st and 3rd Sundays at 11:15 am – 1:00 pm

Middle and high school youth are welcome to join us for fun and fellowship Sunday afternoons. Look for emails from Rev. Pete for date confirmation.

Program contact: Rev. Pete – pastor.centralpresbyterian@gmail.com



Men's Bible Study

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays at 9:00 am via Zoom

January 7th and 21st

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



SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

Training: Save the Date

On Wednesday, January 25th at 7pm, church leadership will take part in a training on mental health first aid. The 1.5 hour session will be provided by Madine Despeine, Director of Self Help, Advocacy & Education with Mental Health Association of Essex and Morris Inc.) This is an opportunity for our leadership to expand their awareness and skills. The goal is to ensure all participants at Central Presbyterian Church are safe and supported in their fellowship here.

January Birthdays

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

January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2 Office Closed 6:30pm Private Event	3 9:30 am Staff 6pm Christian Ed Cmte	4 6:30-9:30pm NYCCC – Grace Hall	5 5-7pm Private Event - Gym 6:30-8pm/ 7 - 9pm AA 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	6 4-6pm Private Event - Gym	7 9am Men’s Bible Study 10am-12pm Private Event – Gym 12:45 – 2:15pm Private Event – Gym 3-5 pm Private Event - Gym
8 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship w/Lord’s Supper 6:30 - 8pm AA + Al-Anon	9 6:30pm Private Event	10 9:30am Staff 7pm Session Meeting	11 6:30-9:30pm NYCCC – Grace Hall	12 5-7pm Private Event - Gym 6:30-8pm/ 7 - 9pm AA 7pm Choir Rehearsal	13 9:30 am Communicati ons Cttee 4-6pm Private Event - Gym	14 10am-12pm Private Event – Gym 12:45 – 2:15pm Private Event – Gym 3-5 pm Private Event - Gym
15 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 11am Holiday Décor Clean Up 6:30 - 8pm AA + Al-Anon	16 MLK Day Office Closed 6:30pm Private Event	17 9:30am Staff 8pm Worship Cmte	18 6:30-9:30pm NYCCC – Grace Hall 7pm Finance Cmte 7-9:30pm Private Event - Sanctuary	19 5-7pm Private Event - Gym 6:30-8pm/ 7 - 9pm AA 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	20 4-6pm Private Event - Gym	21 9:00am Men’s Bible Study 10am-12pm Private Event – Gym 12:45 – 2:15pm Private Event – Gym 3-5 pm Private Event - Gym
22 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 3pm Private Event - Sanctuary 6:30 - 8pm AA + Al-Anon	23 6:30pm Private Event	24 9:30am Staff	25 6:30-9:30pm Private Event – Grace Hall 7pm Mental Health Training for church leadership	26 5-7pm Private Event - Gym 6:30-8pm/ 7 - 9pm AA 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal	27 4-6pm Private Event - Gym	28 10am-12pm Private Event – Gym 12:45 – 2:15pm Private Event – Gym 3-5 pm Private Event - Gym
29 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 11am Annual Meeting 6:30 - 8pm AA + Al-Anon	30 7pm Deacons meeting	31 9:30am Staff				

A Beautiful Christmas



This Christmas marked a re-emergence into gathering for the holiday to worship, sing, and enjoy fellowship in community. We had a full house of congregants and visitors, in addition to online viewers. Music Director Ed Alstrom, our choir and musicians returned to providing a musical program ahead of the service. Rev. Wilkinson's service set the stage for an uplifting experience of tradition and illumination.



You are invited to revisit the special music via the homepage of our website at www.centralpresbyterian.net or on our YouTube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLh464eWiDo9zdFPEfQSUKMGNnO2kwaBXz>

