



Dear Friends in Christ,

It has been an interesting Summer as I seek to gain an understanding of the “rhythm” of life here at Central. By the end of 2022, I anticipate the Session will be working on the following opportunities:

- A Mission Study Team will engage the congregation and the leadership in determining the direction that Central will take (in anticipation of beginning our search for the next called pastor).
- The next steps in the church’s 123 Kids plan to create affordable younger child daycare will be completed (the needed renovation of the Nursery, work on bathrooms, and the actual opening of the program for children in this calendar year).
- Staffing issues will be addressed with the passing of Mark Schoonfield.
- The determination of the Sunday School Curriculum that the church will use in the near future.

These projects will be taking place in the midst of the continuing challenges that we are all navigating because of COVID, an uncertain economy, and a growing restlessness with the current state of the world.

What I know at this point in time is the following:

- The last two and a half years have been the most challenging time that I have personally seen both in the world and in the life of the Church. The “playbook” for living through extremely anxious times is being created as we live through these experiences.

- I am incredibly impressed with the leadership on our Session. There are not many good models on how to navigate times such as these. Our leadership is seeking to listen for God, listen to each other, and make good decisions.
- Even though we are in August, I sense a fatigue that impacts both life at the church along with our daily lives. I suspect that we will be mindful of how to support people as we all seek to “restore our souls.”

I look forward to facing the challenges ahead with you. I am curious to see what God has in store for us as we move forward to clarify how Central Presbyterian Church in Montclair, New Jersey will be used by God to share the Good News.

I hope that you all have a wonderful August.

Blessings,

Pete

Rev. Peter Wilkinson

What’s In This Issue?

- Session’s Summer/Fall Goals
- New Preschool Opportunity
- August Fellowship Events

New Preschool Opportunity

In June, the Session took actions on a proposal Rolda Mitchell and Stephanie Fitzgerald submitted (in March 2022) to open an early Childcare program at Central using the current nursery and the community room. The childcare program will operate Monday to Friday between 9AM-5PM.

The following motions were put forward:

Motion 1: “Session approves the opening of an early childhood program at Central that is consistent with our mission to serve early childhood” seconded and approved

Motion 2: “To authorize Building and Grounds to spend funds not to exceed \$40,000 to renovate the nursery” seconded and approved

Motion 3: “To set the lease amount to \$600/month for the first year in consideration of startup costs” seconded and approved

Motion 4: “In order to start, the program must have all licensing, certificates, approvals, insurance and renovations completed” seconded and approved

Background:

In 2015, our church completed a self study. The study identified a need for the church to focus on supporting individuals and families with children under the age of 3. Central then organized a 123 Kids Committee to develop options to fulfill this need. A team of people then put together a plan to open a Preschool for younger children (not to compete with the Park Street Academy). The desire is for the program to seek to provide affordable daycare options for lower income families. There is a great need in our community for affordable preschool programs that have space for children under the age of 3.



Photo: Wall signs reading “faith” and “believe” hang above a grouping of toys in the nursery.

A team put together a business plan that has been shared with the Session. The plan included:

- How to organize a new preschool program that fits into the mission and ministry goals of Central Church.
- The steps involved in organizing the Preschool and the licensing protocols established by the state.
- The steps needed to renovate space in our facilities and the costs involved.
- All of the financial considerations (including start up expenses, renovation costs, and on-going program/staff costs).

The initial plan involves beginning with a smaller number of children and utilizing the space in the Nursery and Community Room. Because of the age and condition of the nursery (and the bathrooms in that section of the building) some renovation is needed.

The Session approved the business plan and is moving forward with this project. The goal is to have the program up and running with a license, completed renovations, and staff to begin.

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Continued

Because we have been making these decisions this Spring, we are hoping to begin the program as soon as possible in the Fall/Winter of 2022.

The physical renovations/improvements include:

- Adding plumbing (sinks) in the Nursery
- Some renovation of bathrooms to accommodate younger children
- Creating a dedicated outdoor playspace (fenced) between the two buildings

This summer this has involved going through the licensing steps, completing needed building and soil tests, and beginning the renovation projects needed to conduct this program.

Joanne Bernard has worked with Rolda at Mint Family Daycare for over 12 years and specializes in infants.

Carole Burroughs has worked with Rolda over two years and works with infants and toddlers.

Stephanie Fitzgerald is a thirty year pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade educator who has founded and/or led four different early childhood centers, trained and supported urban public school principals, and served as the founding president and CEO of an education foundation dedicated to statewide public education excellence. She has lived in Montclair for more than twelve years and knows personally and professionally that this is a desperately needed resource for the children and families in the Montclair area.



Photo: As of 7/22, cabinets have been removed from the southwest corner to make room for a hand-washing sink.

The team involved in the development of this plan included:

Rolda Mitchell is a 22-year member of Central Presbyterian Church. She serves as a Deacon and as a member of the pastor search committee, Sunday School teacher, and choir member, and is always ready to serve the Lord and her church. She has been the owner and director of Mint Family Daycare since 1997 and caring for children for 36 years. Mint Family Daycare, in operation for 22 years, serves infants through preschoolers in a nurturing and supportive, neighborhood setting. She has her CDA and nanny certificate and continues her education in all areas relevant to child development and learning. She is presently leading Mint Family Daycare, an S Corporation, which is certified by the State of New Jersey as sponsored by Programs for Parents. She is a proud mother of five grown children.

Renee Nilajah is a leadership coach who teaches the CDA and helps prepare early childhood teachers.

There have been some challenges. Once the proposal was approved, the challenge of completing the projects began. We were comfortable with and confident in the support that Mark Schoonfield was going to provide in completing the needed renovations. With Mark's unexpected death, Mark Johansen has stepped up to provide support and leadership with the needed building projects. We are moving forward, but this unexpected event has slowed the process.

Session has identified this project as a top priority. We appreciate all of the work that people are putting into fulfilling this plan.

August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:30am Staff Meeting	3 7:00-9:00pm Private Event – Grace Hall	4 7:00pm - 9:00pm AA	5	6 9:30-11:30 am Private Event
7 10:00am Worship w/nursery 12:00 – 3:00 pm All-Church Pool Party – call office for details/address 6:30pm - 8:00pm AA + Al-Anon	8 6:30 pm Women in Action	9 9:30am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Session Meets	10 7:00-9:00pm Private Event – Grace Hall	11 1:00pm – 6:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive 7:00pm - 9:00pm AA	12	13
14 10:00am Worship w/nursery 6:30pm - 8:00pm AA + Al-Anon	15 6:30 pm Women in Action	16 9:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Christian Ed. Committee 8:00pm Worship Committee	17 7:00 pm Finance Committee 7:00-9:00pm Private Event – Grace Hall	18 7:00pm - 9:00pm AA	19	20
21 10:00am Worship w/nursery 6:30pm - 8:00pm AA	22 6:30 pm Women in Action	23 9:30am Staff Meeting 11:00 am Communications Committee	24 7:00-9:00pm Private Event – Grace Hall	25 7:00pm - 9:00pm AA	26	27
28 10:00am Worship w/nursery 6:30pm - 8:00pm AA	29 7:00pm Deacons meet	30 9:30am Staff Meeting	31			

Birthdays

10 Tom Goulder	24 Peter Dancy
11 Ernest Mitchell	27 Henry Eveleth
12 Amy White	29 Silas Hall
13 Evelyn Ann Ordemann	Brian Cattell
18 Joel Waisanen	Lilith Claire Marone
23 Ellie Fitzgerald	30 Elizabeth Burkland
Max Marone	31 Caroline Schestag

Fellowship Events



All-Church
Pool Party
Sun. Aug. 7th

ALL-CHURCH POOL PARTY

Sunday, August 7
12:00 pm – 3:00 pm

This is a chance to dip your toes or go “all in” to a pool this summer in fellowship with the community at Central. A catered deli lunch will be provided. Please bring any towels or specific flotation devices needed for child safety.

To RSVP, call (973) 744-5430 or email office.centralpresbyterian@gmail.com by Thursday, August 4th, and the address and directions will be provided.



A NIGHT OF BASEBALL

Thursday, August 11
First Pitch - 7:05 pm

Plan to join us for the New Jersey Jackals vs. Empire State Greys game at Yogi Berra Stadium. We have tickets for 40 + seats and the possibility for more. *Thank you Neal Day!* This is a family favorite.

For tickets, call (973) 744-5430 or e-mail office.centralpresbyterian@gmail.com