

**STEEPLE NOTES: CENTRAL CHURCH, HUNTINGTON, NY**  
**“WHERE JESUS IS LORD & ALL ARE LOVED**



January 2021

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## **FROM THE PASTOR**

### ***Happy New Year, Central Church!***

As we turn a new page, I want to praise God for bringing us to this new time. The Bible often speaks of newness to describe God’s goodness toward us. So you may remember from Lamentation 3:21-23 series last year:

*“Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the LORD’S great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”*

It is my hope that 2021 will be a year of refreshing for all of us. This is why the new sermon series to open the year is: “Restore, Revive and Rejoice!” Jesus Christ is in charge of our lives, and we need to look for how, even amidst the difficulties of our lives, God shows us His goodness in parallel—not only sequentially.

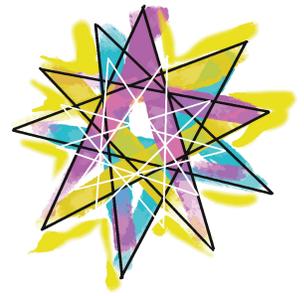
A quick example of this came just a few weeks ago. Pete Melillo was in the hospital, and due to the second wave of Covid 19, the hospital was again shut down to all visitors. Then, on the December 6<sup>th</sup>, the Second Sunday of Advent, as the Reilly’s were lighting the Candle of Hope, Kari told me a most curious story. It happened that a couple of nights before, when she was working at Huntington Hospital, she happened to be in a ward where her help was needed. So even though she was not assigned there, Kari naturally pitched in. And in one of the rooms, she happened on a patient with whom she struck up a conversation. And who was that patient (whom she had not met until then)? I hope you guessed – Pete Melillo, because that’s who she met. See? Jesus gives us hope especially when the times are tough. God’s grace works in parallel to the various times of our lives.

I pray that in 2021, even as we continue to make our way out of the tough situations we face, we will remember that Jesus’ hope can be found right now!

Again, Happy New Year Central Church! Jesus loves us!

In His name,  
Pastor Paul Lee

## FROM THE DEACONS



We find ourselves in the midst of a most unusual Holiday Season! Despite the pandemic we are grateful for all the blessings our loving God has bestowed upon us and continue to pray for His protection and comfort.

The Deacon's have been very busy attending to the needs of our congregation and our community even in the midst of a pandemic!

Our Thanksgiving lunch was a great success despite the fact that we couldn't cook or invite guests into the church building this year for our traditional Thanksgiving Day lunch which we've held for more than 35 years. But that didn't stop the Deacons! We provided 150 'take out' meals from Boston Market! They were delivered to the church on Wednesday morning where a limited 'staff' of Deacons bagged, numbered and distributed the meals during the 3-7 pm 'drive by' pick up! It all went so smoothly that we KNEW God's hands were at work with us!

Sadly, our annual Camp Hope Christmas Party at Central had to be cancelled this year. This is an important outreach that we just wouldn't dismiss. So the Deacons had gifts purchased and delivered to Ann from Children Bible Fellowship who then distributed the gifts among the Camp Hope "campers."

Our Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative (HiHi) program was also impacted by Covid. We are unable to provide our building as a refuge for the homeless men this year as we have done for so many years in the past. We continue to be faithful to this much needed ministry and have partnered with the Family Service League of Huntington (and others) to provide financial support for the men who have come to rely on Central for a safe refuge for food, shelter and fellowship. Please continue to keep the less fortunate in our community in your prayers.

The Deacons also organized a clothing drive for the homeless men. We reach out to you, our congregation and requested winter coats, hats, gloves, scarves and socks. Central rose to the occasion and the rear coat room was FILLED with everything we requested and MORE!

The Deacons would like to thank you for your support of our ministries to our congregation and community. Without your financial support (and prayers) we could not be the presence we are here in Huntington!

On behalf of all the Deacons we wish you a Merry Christmas and a New Year with ***no surprises!*** Stay safe!

Deacon Bonnie Boettjer

# WHAT'S HAPPENING @ CENTRAL CHURCH



and always had a special welcome for anyone new who came to Central.

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## WCC HAPPENINGS

Our Women's Christian Council ladies meet this month as follows:

### Tuesday, January 5

10:00 am - Board Meeting at Church

### Tuesday, January 12

Both Circles will meet at church or in homes. Watch for details of meeting times and places via phone or email from your Circle leaders.

The ladies are already planning their special events for 2021. Let's pray that the COVID-19 virus disappears so that we all can get back to our regular Church activities!

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## BIRTHDAYS

- 07 Sharon Lenardo
- 09 Elizabeth Stuyvesant
- 12 Andrew Sutherland
- 13 Lucy Malm
- 14 Dave Vandergoot
- 14 Margaret Breland
- 14 Shakayah Boyle
- 15 Debra McCoy
- 16 Ethel Berge
- 16 Adela Dickson
- 17 Frank Marlow
- 18 Dotty Kannapin
- 20 Maggie Marlow
- 23 Foster Bradley
- 24 Nan Lee
- 26 Doris Agardi
- 27 Diane Garafola
- 29 Jason Lee
- 31 Lillian Tillotson

## ANNIVERSARIES

- 05 Diane & Joseph Garafola
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## PASSAGES ~

Our condolences to the family of Muffy Carlstrom who passed into eternity with her Heavenly Father on November 28<sup>th</sup>. Muffy moved to Connecticut to live close to her daughter, Elizabeth Osterhus, shortly after her husband, Bob, passed away. Muffy was one of our faithful Trustees for many years and also served on a number of different church committees. She was an encourager



Your Staff at Central Church thanks you for your generous Christmas love gift and wishes you all a very happy, healthy and safe 2021.

**Paul SK Lee**, Pastor

**Christen Dekie**, Worship Director

**Jeanine Stuyvesant**, Children's Director

**Rayna Caputo**, Youth Director

**Lori McLaughlin**, Financial Secretary

**Linda Tengelsen**, Administrative Assistant &  
Office Manager

# SESSION REPORT

At our annual meetings of the Congregation and Corporation, which were held after worship on Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, the following individuals were voted into leadership positions:

## ELDER:

Phil Byler - 3 year term  
Doral Hardy - 2 year term  
Frank Marlow - 1 year term  
Suzanne Valerio - 1 year term

## DEACON:

Janice Bradley - 3 year term  
Evelyn Brodbeck - 3 year term  
Jeanine Stuyvesant - 3 year term  
Carolyn Thuro - 3 year term  
Karen Swanson - 1 year term

## TRUSTEES:

Cleavon Black - 3 year term  
Janet Byler - 3 year term  
Joe Garofola - 3 year term  
Min Yao - 3 year term

## AT-LARGE MEMBERS:

Bob Elliott - 1 year term  
Kathy Elliott - 1 year term  
Gladys Paulsen - 1 year term

Pastor Paul's Terms-of-Call for 2021 were also voted on and accepted by the membership.

This year, due to the Pandemic, Session approved, on a one-time-only basis, that members who worship with us from home, could join the meetings via ZOOM. All voting was done via acclimation.

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All submissions for the February 2021 issue of Steeple Notes are due into the Church Office no later than Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>. Please make Linda happy and have them in on time! Thanks!!!



Our Sunday School program continues during our morning worship service.

The children, from Kindergarten through Sixth Grade, are dismissed mid-way through the worship service (just prior to the sermon) and meet their teachers in Fellowship Hall.

Wearing masks and social distancing will be practiced by all, and temperatures will be taken before entering the class.

If you have any questions contact Jeanine Stuyvesant, our Director of Children's Ministries.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Until further notice, there is NO infant nursery or Pre-K available.

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## CENTRAL'S YOUTH GROUP

Our Youth Group, for 6-12 Grades, also continues to meet on a regular basis with about 7-8 regular attendees plus our Youth Director, Rayna Caputo, and volunteers, Fran Bundt and Rich Goetz.

They meet weekly on Tuesday evenings here at Church from 7:30 to 8:45 pm.

Peter Stuyvesant is the van driver who picks up a number of the kids and transports them to and from church. Jeanine accompanies him.

And ***congratulations*** to our Youth Director, Rayna, who is expecting and due to give birth this March!



## AN ON-GOING GOAL

Still searching for a New Year's resolution? None is more worthy than becoming Christ-like. In fact, 19th-century evangelist Henry Drummond calls it "the only thing in the whole world worth caring for."

Two modern-day authors offer more insights. Stormie Omartian points out that we're either making progress or backsliding on this goal. "There is no neutral position in the Lord," she writes. "You are either becoming more like Christ every day or you're becoming less like him." And followers of Jesus must keep the goal always in focus. Christ-likeness is our "eventual destination," writes Rick Warren, but the "journey will last a lifetime."

Used with permission from The Newsletter Newsletter, January 2021 issue.

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## THE GREAT OIL BURNER SAGA ~ A GOD-SIGHTING TALE

On November 2<sup>nd</sup> Pastor Paul and staff member Lori McLaughlin heard an extremely loud bang coming from the basement and found the problem was with the small boiler that heats the first floor office wing and the second floor youth wing. It had basically exploded!!!

When the plumbers were called, they came quickly to check out the situation, and after assessing the boiler, immediately condemned it as "unfixable." We knew that a new boiler, which is what we needed, would come at a high price, but what could we do??? The staff needed heat and winter chills were already setting in!

But to make matters worse, on November 8<sup>th</sup>, during the middle of Sunday morning worship, the church had to be evacuated

because of a gas leak! So before we could replace the boiler, the leak needed to be repaired, and National Grid needed to come in, and inspect and sign off on the repairs. This took another week.

Once that was done, the Trustees gave the go-ahead to the plumbers to order a new boiler and get the heat going again. We were told that it would take a couple of weeks for this to happen, so we were looking toward the beginning of December until we could get heat in that section of the building.

Trustee Fran Bundt purchased individual space heaters for our offices, and the staff was grateful for what heat they provided!

Fran also worked very closely with the plumbers and kept us informed of when the scheduled repairs and installation would happen. She was finally able to let us know the plumbers would begin clearing out the old boiler and putting in the new boiler beginning Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and that they should be finished with the work sometime during the week of November 30<sup>th</sup>. Hallelujah!!

But the biggest 'Hallelujah' came at the beginning of that week. We received in the mail a letter from Bob Carlstrom's son, Dave. Bob had passed away back in February of 2019 and had graciously named Central Church in his will. Dave sent us a very nice letter, and with his letter, he had enclosed a check from Bob's estate! With this very generous gift, we are able to pay for the new boiler in full!

It was so amazing to see God's Hand working in all of this – we received this gift at just the right time, just when we needed it most, and not only would it pay for the new boiler, it was double what we needed! Our God is so-so-so very good!

Oh, and by the way – we have heat!!!!!! And we are so grateful! Praise the Lord!!!

– Linda/Church Office

## GUIDELINE REMINDER - Revised

# CONTINUING GUIDELINES FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Central Church has been worshipping in our Sanctuary on Sunday mornings since we officially reopened on June 14<sup>th</sup>, We continue to follow these guidelines as set by the New York State Department of Health. They are as follows:

- The allowed meeting size for our Sanctuary is 127 persons (25% of total Sanctuary capacity).
- If you are not feeling well, have a fever or other COVID-19 symptoms, or have been in contact within the last 14 days with someone who has been diagnosed with the COVID-19 virus, please stay home and worship with us online.
- With the exception of the Pastor and Worship Leader and any band members, everyone must wear masks at all times.
- Social distancing must be followed at all times.
- Please sanitize your hands as you come through either of the church entrances. Hand sanitizers and masks (if you do not have one) are available at each entrance.
- **VERY IMPORTANT:** Please fill out a yellow pew card with your name and the names of anyone with you in worship and place it in the offering box. We need this for tracking purposes, especially if a member has been diagnosed with COVID after having been to worship.
- Please place your yellow cards and your tithes and offerings in the box at the rear of the Sanctuary.
- You can enter the church by either the rear or front entrances before worship. However, at 10:00 am, the rear doors will be locked and you must enter through the front doors.
- If you wish to remain at home, our worship service will still be available online. Go to our website at [www.centralpresbyterianchurch.net](http://www.centralpresbyterianchurch.net) and click on the link on the opening page or you can follow the worship service on either of our Facebook pages at Central Church.
- But most important, come ready to worship and praise our Lord, for He is good and His love is everlasting!
- **WITH THE CURRENT RAPIDLY RISING NUMBERS** of individuals who are testing positive for COVID, it is very important that, if you or a family member tests positive, that you 1) inform the Church Office so that we can be praying for you and your quick recovery, and 2) if you've been to church for a worship service or meeting, we can inform those who have been in contact with you, of your status and encourage them to be tested as well.

### **ON COMMUNION SUNDAYS (FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH):**

**IN-HOUSE:** On Communion Sundays a pre-sealed communion cup with a wafer will be available for you to pick up as you enter the church. For sanitary reasons, please take only one per person, and do not touch any other cups.

**AT HOME:** For those of you who are worshipping with us from your home, please have a bit of bread and juice available so that we can partake of Communion together.

# CENTRAL FAMILY PRAYER CONCERNS

“...For we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.” Romans 8:26

## PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH

- \* For the health and safety of our church family as we worship together on Sunday mornings while following strict guidelines.
- \* For the gradual reopening of our church ministries, programs and events.
- \* For our Pastor, staff members and church leaders (Session, Deacons, and Trustees) who are doing their best to keep the church running and helping our church family with needs.
- \* For those in our church family who have been affected by the pandemic, including those who have suffered from the virus themselves and those who lost loved ones due to the virus.

## PRAY FOR OUR NATION & OUR WORLD

- \* For all of our government officials on all levels, as they are trying to do their best for our country through this pandemic, violence eruptions, the economy and natural disasters, etc.
- \* For our military men and women stationed at home and abroad: John B., John & Bethany B. Kaitlin D., Anasia H., and Frank & Rebekah S.
- \* For our police, fire fighters, doctors, nurses & other health care workers, truck drivers, store employees and all other essential workers who have laid their lives on the line for our country.
- \* For our country which, along with this pandemic, is experiencing much racial and political tension.
- \* And for nations around the world who are also devastated by this pandemic, as well as natural disasters and civil unrest.

## ONGOING PRAYER FOR INDIVIDUALS

- \* **WHO HAVE VARIOUS HEALTH & OTHER ISSUES including Central members and friends:** Derek N., Ethel B., Margaret B., Malia B., Eloise C., Nancy C., Lois C., Don E., Claude G., Jayden P., Jim H., June J., Lisa B., Peg L., Pete M., Frank M., Don M., Shirley R., Jeanine S., and for the many friends and/or family members of our church family
- \* **WHO ARE HOME-BOUND OR ARE IN NURSING HOMES, ASSISTED LIVING & REHAB FACILITIES, including Central members and friends:** Frani H., George K., Barbara L., Christine N. and David W,.
- \* **WHO ARE EXPECTING BABIES, TRYING TO CONCEIVE OR ADOPT** including our Youth Director, Rayna C., who is expecting in March 2021.
- \* **AND THE NEW LITTLE BABIES BORN DURING THE PANDEMIC**
- \* **WHO ARE STILL MOURNING THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES**
- \* **WHO ARE MOVING AND TRANSITIONING INTO NEW HOMES/AREAS**
- \* **WHO ARE EXPERIENCING EMPLOYMENT ISSUES DUE TO THE PANDEMIC** including all who were furloughed, had work hours cut or were laid off altogether from their jobs.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 <i>Happy New Year!</i>  <i>The Church Office is Closed Today</i>	2
3 <b>Epiphany Sunday</b> Morning Worship & Sunday School - 10 am * NA Group - 7 pm	4	5 WCC Board Mtg - 10 am Moms in Prayer - 4 pm ** Deacons' Zoom Mtg. - 7 pm ** Youth Group - 7:30 pm	6 Ladies Community Bible Study - 9:30 am Staff Meeting - 1 pm	7 Morning Prayer - 10 am * Worship Team Rehearsal - 7 pm	8	9
10 Morning Worship & Sunday School - 10 am * NA Group - 7 pm	11 Trustees - 7:30 pm	12 WCC Circles - morning Moms in Prayer - 4 pm ** Worship Committee Mtg - 7:30 pm ** Youth Group - 7:30 pm	13 Ladies Community Bible Study - 9:30 am Staff Meeting - 1 pm	14 Morning Prayer - 10 am * Worship Team Rehearsal - 7 pm	15  <i>February Steeple Notes are Due Today!</i>	16
17 Morning Worship & Sunday School - 10 am * NA Group - 7 pm	18  <i>The Church Office is Closed Today</i>	19 Moms in Prayer - 4 pm ** Youth Group - 7:30 pm	20 <b>Inauguration Day</b> Ladies Community Bible Study - 9:30 am Staff Meeting - 1 pm	21 Morning Prayer - 10 am * Worship Team Rehearsal - 7 pm	22	23
24 Morning Worship & Sunday School - 10 am * NA Group - 7 pm	25	26 Moms in Prayer - 4 pm ** Session - 7:30 pm Youth Group - 7:30 pm	27 Ladies Community Bible Study - 9:30 am Staff Meeting - 1 pm	28 Morning Prayer - 10 am * Worship Team Rehearsal - 7 pm	29	30
31 Morning Worship & Sunday School - 10 am * NA Group - 7 pm						

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:**

Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm unless otherwise specified.

\* - Meetings both in-house and via Zoom (Worship services can be viewed on our website)

\*\* - Meetings via Zoom only

All other scheduled services and meetings will be in-house

