

STEEPLE NOTES: CENTRAL CHURCH, HUNTINGTON, NY

“WHERE JESUS IS LORD & ALL ARE LOVED



May 2021

THE CHURCH WE BELIEVE IN

by Pastor Paul Lee

Hi to all our Central family and friends! As we return to more in-person worship, one of the ways we have joined together was our recitation of both the Lord's Supper (now during Lord's Supper) and the Apostles' Creed.

One of the questions I have been receiving has been over the traditional language of the creed, specifically in our affirmation: "I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy **catholic** church."



So why do we use this word, and most importantly, what did this word originally mean when first used?

In its original meaning, "catholic" meant "as far as it goes." It, therefore, did NOT mean anything to do with Rome. However, interestingly enough, nor did it mean in any sense "universal." Rather, it literally meant "to the natural extent of its borders."

How did this work? Because in the original church system, every city or town had a church (think about the church in Corinth, for instance, or for that matter, in Rome). But the church was made up of many different "prayer houses." (As a plug for our current sermon series, I will be mentioning a "prayer house" that was archeologically found in Capernaum that will be really fun to hear about). But the COLLECTION of these prayer houses made up the...wait for it...the catholic church of that city.

Why is this important? This meant that the original meaning of this phrase in our creeds had nothing to do with the Roman Catholic Church in its current form. But what happened was that as the Roman church literally and geographically expanded, it took on for the modern Roman Catholics a very different meaning. Because what the original Apostles' creed affirmed was that each catholic church was, in and of itself, authoritative and complete. It actually did NOT need a bishop, and certainly, no popes were needed.

Furthermore, the modern tendency of some protestant churches to try to use the word "universal" in its place tragically adopts the Roman Catholic assertion and distortion of that word as, well, "universal" — simply with a different twist!

We have other words like this that are being misunderstood and misused. Fulsome actually means disgustingly evil and ugly. Artful means misleading and lying. You get the idea. But we have very good reasons to affirm that we believe in the holy (*set apart for God*) catholic (*complete on its own with no need for bishops*) church (*gathering of the people called together*).

I hope this helps!



From the Deacons

April 4th brought us a beautiful Easter Sunday celebration as a Central Church family! Beautiful music, a great children's sermon, powerful preaching, an Easter egg hunt for the children (complete with the Easter bunny), and quite a number of our church family back in worship after many weeks apart due to the corona virus. What a great way to worship our Risen Savior and Lord!!!

And now that Easter is behind us, and we enter the month of May, let's look forward to the nicer weather that's coming our way! Our church garden is already in full bloom and the warmer weather is upon us! God is good!

Your Deacons' participation with the HiHi (Huntington Inter-faith Homeless Initiative) has once again come to a close. We not only provided financial assistance to cover food costs, but we also provided new clothing to the men, including underwear, socks, t-shirts, sweat shirts and sweat pants. We are praying that as things return to "normal" that we will be able to host HiHi here at Central in December. But either way, we will still be participating in this worthwhile program.

We are so glad that the congregation likes the new easy-to-open pre-filled communion cups. We will have them available for our in-house worshipers on Communion Sundays, and for those who worship at home, you can stop by the Church Office and pick up a pre-filled cup before our next Communion Sunday if you'd like!

We are always here to help in any way we can, be it financial, spiritual, or personal! Your Sunday bulletin lists the Deacon-on-Call along with their phone number. The bulletin can be found weekly on our church website at www.centralpresbyterianchurch.net.

We leave you with this Scripture found in Isaiah 41:10:

***So do not fear, for I am with you;
do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.***

Yours in Christ,

Elizabeth "Liz" Stuyvesant



One of the mission ministries that we support from Central is HAFF (the Haitian American Friendship Foundation). Several of our members have made visits to the compound in Bohoc, Haiti. The mission of HAFF is also driven by education of 7th through 13th graders through IPB - Institute Practique Bohoc and is a Christian-based, excellent education program. They also provide college-prep education to 300 children at very affordable rates.

God is starting to provide better physical resources, curriculum and instructional techniques, but the Administrative Board feels there needs to be a renewal of the hearts and minds of teachers and students.

There are many prayer opportunities for those here at Central who care about youth in Haiti, a very insecure country in a changing world. Please ~

- pray once a week for the entire staff at HAFF
- pray daily for the teachers in a specific subject, i.e. math
- pray for the leadership
- pray for individuals
- pray for money for basic needs
- and pray for health, highway safety, good godly parenting, absence of natural disasters, etc.

I have a list of subjects, teachers and departments which you can focus on individually.

The public school system is virtually nonexistent. Eighty percent of Haiti's schools are church-run as a result of this inadequate system. IPB started 40 years ago by HAFF as an affordable secondary school, and 80% of their teachers are IPB grads. After 13th grade, the students receive a diploma. Eighty-five percent of the teachers have some past high school education.

The Haitian unemployment rate is also 80%. Jobs are very scarce and since teachers are hired for a specific subject (maybe two), they find other part-time work, and/or have large gardens to sell produce or barter for needed items.

Students walk to school, often three-to-four hours. There are 30-55 students in a class, sitting on benches, close together, no lights, no air conditioning or heat on occasionally 55 degree days in winter. Many of the students do not have pens, paper or notebooks to last through the year. Teachers write on a chalk board, or give handouts if availability of supplies is sufficient. The school week is 31 hours (7th grade) to 50 hours (13th grade).

It is very apparent that Haiti needs a "barrage of prayer." Please pray for the devoted Christians who believe that God will bring hope, health and a good future to Haiti and are working to educate the children with a godly and well-planned school experience.

– Kay Jahn
Missions Chairperson

WHAT'S HAPPENING @ CENTRAL CHURCH



BABIES

Congratulations to Shawn & Angelica Anderson on the March 26th birth of Bennett Malakai Leo Anderson. God's blessings to them all!

MAY BIRTHDAYS

01 Kyle Roman
02 John Boettjer
04 Lindsay Larson
05 Jamie Clous
05 Thomas Swanson
06 Malia Bundt
08 Cole Fischer
10 Olivia Arcidiacono
14 Fred Brodbeck
14 George Bundt
17 Sean White
19 Gladys Paulsen
22 Lucas Vandergoot
22 Madelyn Vandergoot
24 Megan Lewis
24 Annabelle Novinski
24 Vivian Ford
25 Carolyn Thuro
27 Anastasia Novinski
27 Deborah Whitfield
28 Kurt Roman

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

07 Jim & Leslie Sutherland
14 Kevin & Ingrid Poupis
19 Ken & Sandy Chin
23 Phil & Janet Byler
30 Lori & Tommy McLaughlin
31 George & Fran Bundt

PASSAGES

Our longtime missionary, Dr. Ernest "Ernie" Lee, went home to be with his Savior on December 5, 2020. Ernie and his late wife, Lois, served with Wycliffe Bible Translators for many years in translating portions of Scripture in various languages.



*The storms of life may come and go
When and where we do not know
But we can trust our Heavenly Father
In Him we've found our safe harbor
He holds the reins in His hand
He's in complete control
He stills the storm at His command
And calms its very soul
It signs and whispers silently
Peace be still it says to me
And this I know no doubt nor fear
My Father's voice is what I hear.*

Written by Lois Cowie



WCC HAPPENINGS

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

Tuesday, May 4

10:00 am - Board Meeting at Church

Tuesday, May 11

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.

Coming Up . . .

Circle Tuesday and Wednesday, September 21st and 22nd on your calendars and plan to join our WCC ladies for their annual overnight retreat to Cormaria in Sag Harbor. Cormaria is a beautiful old mansion with private bedrooms (shared bath) on the waterfront.

Watch for further information in upcoming issues to Steeple Notes.

SESSION REPORT

Here are some actions taken by your Session at a recent meeting:

- approved the annual Easter Egg hunt to be held on Easter Sunday after church.
- approved vacation for Pastor Paul from August 17-30, 2021 and Study Leave from August 31-September 6, 2021.
- approved making an offer to Polo Cummings to serve as Worship Leader.
- accepted the resignation of Christen Dekie effective on Easter Sunday.
- approved the payment of current legal bills and payroll from the Session Designated Fund.

– Frank Marlow, Clerk

TRUSTEES UPDATES

At recent meetings the Trustees have acted upon the following agenda items:

- CO2/smoke detectors have been replaced in the Manse.
- All-Church Spring Clean-Up is scheduled for May 15, 2021.
- New sound, video equipment and other items to be purchased.

– Janet Byler for the Trustees

ALL-CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY

The Trustees have scheduled our all-church Clean Up Day for Saturday, May 15th, beginning at 8:30 am until about 3:00 pm. Many hands make light work, so if you are ready, willing and available to help, please join us for any or all of the day.

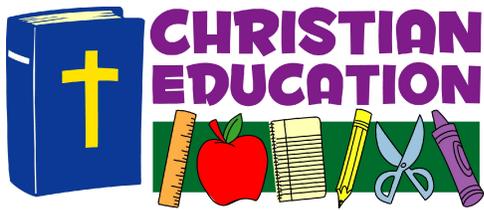
There will be plenty of work to do as we weren't able to have our clean up day in 2020. There's cleaning, polishing, washing, gardening, etc., and if you see or know of any other projects that need doing around the church, please let Cleavon Black, Fran Bundt or any of the other Trustees know.

Also, if you could bring your own buckets, rags, cleaners, tools, gardening equipment, etc., that would be helpful.

A light breakfast, as well as lunch will be provided by the Trustees.

Thanks in advance for your participation.





We are in need of volunteers for each program. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact our Director of Children's Ministries, Jeanine Stuyvesant at church, 631-421-3663, or on her cell at 631-897-9183.

BIBLE STUDIES:

Our **Sunday Bible Study** with Pastor Paul has resumed. This group meets in the White Room immediately following our morning worship service and are studying the book of Galatians.

The Wednesday morning **Ladies Community Bible Study** has begun a new series in the book of Ephesians. They meet at 9:30 am in the White Room.

Social distancing and mask requirements are followed for these studies.

CHILDREN/YOUTH PROGRAMS:

Sunday School for all children from Kindergarten through Sixth Grade is available on Sunday mornings. The children will be dismissed just before the sermon and meet their teacher in Fellowship Hall. Wearing masks and social distancing will be practiced by all; temperatures will be taken before entering the class.

Please note that until further notice, there is **NO** infant nursery or Pre-K available on Sunday mornings.

Daily Vacation Bible School planning and preparation is in the works for the week of August 9-13. Please pray about what your part will be as we plan and prepare for our "Concrete & Cranes" Vacation Bible School for children in Kindergarten through Sixth Grade.

Kids Central for children in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade will be starting up again on Thursday, September 9th.

Youth Group for Middle School, Junior & Senior High students continue to meet each Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm for a time of fellowship and study. If you have any questions, please contact our Youth Director, Rayna Caputo at 516-810-5720.



Central Church is seeking a part time Administrative Assistant/Office Manager with great organizational, communication and people skills. Proficiency in MS Word and a willingness to learn other programs is a must. Key responsibility is to act as liaison between church boards, members and the public. Salary will be commensurable with experience. Please email your resume to: centch@optonline.net.



Mother's Day, Sunday, May 9, 2021

PERSONAL GROWTH

From “Girlfriends in God”

“Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.”

What do you think about? And does it follow Philippians 4:8? As believers in Jesus who aim to have the mind of Christ, we have a lot to consider in our thoughts and speech! Often our words echo our thoughts and we need to be careful as once words leave our mouth they cannot be retracted. But if we take a thought captive and make it secure, the words will also be kept secure! We only have a split second to rein in those words before they come to the open door of our mouth.

Before you speak, ask yourself if those words are **T**True, **H**elpful, **I**nspiring, **N**ecessary and **K**ind. If you follow Philippians 4:8-9, then the spoken words that follow unspoken thoughts will like up with God’s intentions for you to become more like Christ.

Keep T-H-I-N-K in mind before you speak. Memorize true, helpful, inspiring, necessary and kind!!! Keep your thought following Philippians 4:8 and the words that follow will be heard as what Jesus would have said.

– Kay Jahn

MYSTERIOUS WAYS

Before pursuing a career as a Christian singer, Ryan Stevenson was a paramedic, encountering trauma and “true brokenness.” When he received a 911 call about a woman struck by lightning, Stevenson didn’t think she’d survive. But thanks in part to his efforts, the woman made a full recovery — and later struck up a friendship with him.

One day the woman asked Stevenson, “If you could be doing anything with your life, what

would it be?” His answer? Music. She gave him a check for \$2,000, and he used it to cut an EP, which led to a record deal. Through Stevenson’s chart-topping song **“Eye of the Storm,”** he wants to remind listeners that God “hasn’t forgotten about us. He’s still paying attention to us no matter how horrible things might seem. He’s in control.”

Used with permission from the Newsletter Newsletter, May 2017 issue

WHEN GOD CLOSES ONE DOOR HE OPENS ANOTHER

On Sunday, April 4th, we bid farewell to our Worship Director, Christen Dekie. We thank God for loaning her to us for even a little while and blessing us with her beautiful voice singing praised to our Lord. We wish her God Speed in her new endeavors as she continues to use her voice in praise to Him.

But, God has also blessed us with our new Worship Director, Mr. Napoleon “Polo” Cummings. We first met Polo back in 2018 when he led worship here several times along with our friends from Pursuing JC. Then when Christen became our Worship Director, Polo joined our worship team as pianist! And as Christen was leaving, he accepted our job offer as new Worship Director.

Polo sang with the acappella group Naturally 7 for a number of years and has also toured and performed internationally. In addition to serving the Lord here at Central, Polo is also a vocal coach.

Welcome Polo. We are blessed to have you here!



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** Evelyn B., Ethel B., Margaret B., MaryLou D., Nancy C., Lois C., Don E., Jim H., Tina H., June J., Lisa B., Pete 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**
- * **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.

CENTRAL MAIL BOX:

Dear Pastor Paul, Linda, Lori & Central Church:

Thank you for your prayers, I know that the presence and power of God will protect me.

With love and appreciation,
Jim Hankinson

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 COMMUNION Morning Worship & Sunday School - 10 am * Bible Study w/Pastor - immed. following worship NA Group - 7 pm	3	4 WCC Board Mtg - 10 am Deacons' Zoom Mtg. - 7 pm ** Youth Group - 7:30 pm	5 Ladies Community Bible Study - 9:30 am Staff Meeting - 1 pm Moms in Prayer - 4 pm ** Worship Team Rehearsal - 7 pm	6 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER Morning Prayer - 10 am *	7	8
9 MOTHER'S DAY Morning Worship & Sunday School - 10 am * Bible Study w/Pastor - immed. following worship NA Group - 7 pm	10 Trustees - 7:30 pm * June Steeple Notes Due Today	11 WCC Circles - morning Worship Comm. - 7:30 pm ** Youth Group - 7:30 pm	12 Ladies Community Bible Study - 9:30 am Staff Meeting - 1 pm Moms in Prayer - 4 pm ** Worship Team Rehearsal - 7 pm	13 Morning Prayer - 10 am *	14	15 All-Church Clean Up - 8:30 am - 3:00 pm
16 Morning Worship & Sunday School - 10 am * Bible Study w/Pastor - immed. following worship NA Group - 7 pm	17	18 Youth Group - 7:30 pm	19 Ladies Community Bible Study - 9:30 am Staff Meeting - 1 pm Moms in Prayer - 4 pm ** Worship Team Rehearsal - 7 pm	20 Morning Prayer - 10 am *	21	22
23 PENTECOST Morning Worship & Sunday School - 10 am * Bible Study w/Pastor - immed. following worship NA Group - 7 pm	24	25 Session - 7:30 pm ** Youth Group - 7:30 pm	26 Ladies Community Bible Study - 9:30 am Staff Meeting - 1 pm Moms in Prayer - 4 pm ** Worship Team Rehearsal - 7 pm	27 Morning Prayer - 10 am *	28	29
30 TRINITY SUNDAY Morning Worship & Sunday School - 10 am * Bible Study w/Pastor - immed. following worship NA Group - 7 pm	31 MEMORIAL DAY The Church Office is Closed for the Holiday					

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

