

# STEEPLE NOTES: CENTRAL CHURCH, HUNTINGTON, NY

## “WHERE JESUS IS LORD & ALL ARE LOVED



November 2021

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Happy Thanksgiving, everyone!

What are we thankful for this year? I recently had an opportunity to hold these three baseball cards in my hands (there were others, including a Phil Rizzutto, Warren Spahn—it was...incredible!). They belonged to the father of a friend who had passed, and my friend was in the process of selling them to settle the estate.

For those of you with eagle eyes, the one on top is, indeed, a Joe DiMaggio rookie card (a grade 4 version recently sold for 5 million dollars). Or, as my friend said to me, “Please pray that when we officially put this one on the market, it will be graded 4...” (lol, it is not a 4). Looks pretty good next to Satchel and the Babe, huh?

The family is selling to take care of various needs, both of this and the next generation. And it is understandable. But just as we were putting these cards away, my friend then posed an even more intriguing question. “Now that you’ve seen these, wanna see the most treasured cards in our collection?”

How could I say no?

He then opened up a separate folder. These were black and white cards. And in their pristine condition, they would have also sold for much money. But, my friend explained, when his father was a young boy who collected them, he had painstakingly hand-painted them with watercolor. When the card expert saw them, he apparently had remarked, “If only they had not been painted...the would have been worth thousands, each.”

But this is when my friend looked into my eyes, and said, “You see, Paul, our family is happy to sell the cards you first saw because to the world, they have a monetary value. But to our family, the real treasures are these b/w cards that my dad had painted by his own hands. To us, they are...priceless.”

As I was driving home that day, the realization dawned on me—how those cards taught me a simple lesson about what true Thanksgiving is all about!

Our dominant culture far too often assess value based on what can be sold and bought while here on earth. Hence, my friend’s quite serious request for prayers that when the Di Maggio card is about to be sold, that it is graded as 4.

But in the kingdom to which we belong and strive to reach, what we most value are the lives that have been touched—even painted—by the hand of God. For us, the true value lies in how God molds us—maybe even breaks us—and leaves his divine fingerprints on us. For the world, unable to fully grasp the beauty of God, the Church may seem hopelessly out of fashion. But that is because the colors and the lines God draws on us are not for the hopelessly myopic eyes of our human perception. No, God marks us for eternity through Jesus, way beyond the forced perspective of human eyes and hearts. God is making us His masterpieces. In Jesus Christ, we are truly a new creation!

What will you give thanks for this year?

As we said around the table and look into the faces of those around us, let us look for, and learn to value, the marks of our wonderful Lord.

May the Lord bless us all!  
Pastor Paul Lee



**40.871336, -73.425294**

No, you did not stumble into some weird math problem. Rather, they are the latitude and longitude coordinates for Central Church's building. I've listed them because of a thought experiment I've been playing in my head for the past 20+ years.

I know, I know, I've only been here for 3. But hear me out.

After moving to San Francisco back in 1996, I started to ask myself a simple question: If tomorrow, a terrible earthquake/hurricane/(name your localized disaster) wiped out our building off the face of the earth, for what purpose would we rebuild our church? This actually began with a very practical bent—since all of the church buildings in SF were supposed to have been retrofitted after the 1989 Loma Prieta quake. But rather than a disaster preparation question, I've been using this as a way to reflect on a church's mission.

My thought experiment encompasses various aspects of that question. Why this location particularly? What purpose are we fulfilling? How big/medium/small? Who is our target audience? And, simply because we received a recent unsolicited email about it, would we change the wording on the banner (from "Jesus can change your life" to "Jesus WILL change your life")???

In addition, our ongoing legal perturbations have only added to the vitality of this though experiment. By the way, my current recommendation would be for us to rent the AMC on Wall Street for our immediate worship, with the goal of becoming a multi-site church focusing on young families. Among many examples, the "Theater Church" down in Washington, DC, is a good example—but others abound.

But here's the rub. No matter what, come every Sunday, somewhere near or about the coordinates 40.871336, -73.425294, Central Church WILL be praising God in the heart of Huntington. Because God has a mission for us to carry out. Our job is to praise Jesus, and to invite our friends and neighbors to hear the Good News: Jesus has Risen!

And we would LOVE to invite you to join us!

Church is open, friends! Come and worship Jesus!

In His name,

Pastor Paul

# What's Happening @ Central Church



## **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

03	Jeanine Stuyvesant
04	Mila Larson
04	Mike Schroeder
06	Jeremy Allen
10	Cindy Lombardo
11	Polo Cummings
11	Michael Engelhart
13	Savion Black
13	Tami Greco
13	Marret Salg
14	Shawn Anderson
14	Shirley Hardy-Reeves
16	Essence Sterling
16	Ephraim Yao
20	Shannon Garofola
23	Briella McCoy
25	Rich Paulsen
25	Leah Braun

## **NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

14	George & Ruth Korinek
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## **Happy Belated October Birthday!**

03	Kara Dickson
04	Betty Roman
05	Vikki Braun
06	Frani Hicks
09	Solomon Asomaning
10	Bonnie Boettjer
12	Anneliese Lanza
15	Blake Fischer
16	Maris Swanson
20	Sandy Chin
23	Gina Auricchio
23	Alexis Vandergoot
27	Lorraine Engelhart
28	Kay Jahn
28	Danielle McCoy
28	Leslie Sutherland
29	Ruth Korinek

## **Happy Belated October Anniversary!**

01	Mike & Janet Schroeder
04	Laura & Dana Tiemann
06	Chris & Marie Fischer
14	Rich & Gladys Paulsen
28	Foster & Janice Bradley
30	Andrea & Claude Sterling

## **WEDDING NEWS ~**

Congratulations to Kelsey De Rosa and Jason Santana on their September 18<sup>th</sup> wedding!

Congratulations also to Akira Dekie on her October 8<sup>th</sup> wedding to Rasean Gilmore! The wedding was held at The Greater Allen Cathedral in Jamaica, NY.

## **BABY BAPTISM ~**

Congratulations to Shawn and Angelica Anderson on the birth of Bennett Malakai Leo Anderson on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Bennett was baptized at Owls Head Lighthouse State Park on Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup> with Pastor George Bundt officiating.

## **PASSAGES ~**

Our condolences to the Tillotson family on the passing of Lillian Tillotson on Sunday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Lillian was a long-time Central member. Her memorial service was held here at Central on Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup> with Pastor George Bundt officiating.

Condolences also to Frani Hicks on the passing of her daughter, Holly Timpson, on Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, after a long illness. Memorial service details will be provided soon.

Our sympathies to Frani on the passing of her younger sister, Patti, who passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, October 20<sup>th</sup>.

Sympathies also to Martha Grill on the recent passing of her sister, Alice Savage.



We look forward to the season with hopeful expectations for the many coming events at Central. We all know that Covid-19 has upended our lives and expectations, but we

trust that, with the Lord's help, we will once again be able to serve you, our dear congregation!

Typically in the fall, we plan for our Thanksgiving festivities/dinner and also look ahead to participating in the HHI initiative, partnering with Family Service League. We do know that again we will have to plan things differently this year. Please keep watching for announcements from us about what exactly this season will bring.

If you have an interest in participating in a Zoom fellowship time to help you reconnect with some members whom you have not seen in person, please contact Evelyn Brodbeck at 631-549-3514 or Nan Lee in the office at 631-421-3663. We will do our best to make this time happen! It was fun in the past year...so maybe it is time to do this again. And I also remind you to contact any of the deacons if you have any particular need or would like prayer. We care for you and love you!

*"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

Philippians 4:4-7

Continue to pray for our country and for complete healing!

Evelyn Brodbeck,  
For the Deacons



The pandemic caused problems for many of our missionaries, but God opened doors and provided for His work to go on. Haiti has been hard hit, but the Wilsons at HAFF and Miriam at New Life have survived the virus and the natural disasters. They depend on help from the States to continue.

If you would like to contribute to aid to Haiti, you can write a check to Central and put "Haiti" in the memo line and it will be distributed equally to both organizations.

The de Cerffs continue their work in NYC with counseling and the ministries of the Navigators.

Ken and Anne Haugh are working in NC helping older and retired missionaries with their finances and retirement.

Helping Hand in Huntington Station has continued at full speed since early in the pandemic, distributing thousands of bags of groceries and health and cleaning products. Your monetary donations enable Kim Gambino to buy large quantities of canned, boxed, and jarred non-perishables at wholesale prices directly from distributors. Recently when I visited to drop off food, they were unloading \$1500 worth of food bought with our and other churches' monetary gifts. Also, Saturday, November 6, will be HHRM's annual Founders Tea, a fundraiser to show the work of HHRM throughout the year. It will be at the Assemblies of God at 12pm and is a wonderful event with great food, fun raffles and door prizes. Last time in 2019 (no 2020!) 8 of us attended.

Please let me know if you want to join us—a fun and worthwhile Saturday event!

- Kay Jahn, Missions Committee



## WCC Happenings ~

### *November at a Glance*

#### **Tuesday, November 2**

10:00 a.m. - Board Meeting

#### **Tuesday - November 9**

Joint Circle Meeting. Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins.

### *Looking Ahead to December*

#### **Tuesday - December 7**

10:00 a.m. - Board Meeting - Christmas Gathering and Rededication

#### **Tuesday - December 14**

All Circles meet at church or in homes. Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins.

The current WCC Bible Study guide is by Dee Brestin: *1, 2, 3 John: How Should a Christian Live?*



The Women's Wednesday Bible Study has started a study of Romans using Dr. David Jeremiah's study guide. The first lesson was on September 29. Studies meet weekly at 9:30 AM.

If you would like to join, just let Kay know — this study is 12 weeks in duration.



## New Weekly Group ~

Our home fellowship group, also known as "Well Group," has been meeting every other week for 8 years. As it is a home-based group, it is capped at 8. We study a Christian book for approximately 6 months. Our members have found the books by Rob Morgan to be very inspiring and practical. If you are interested in joining or beginning another group, please email me at [kathrynjahn@aol.com](mailto:kathrynjahn@aol.com) and depending on responses, I will facilitate the startup of a Christian book discussion group.

- Kay Jahn



We are seeking more volunteers for two of our ministries. The first one is Audio Visual, which includes helping smoothly run the weekly onscreen media (slides and streaming) for in-person and online worship.

The second is Children's Ministry. This includes helping at Sunday School, Kids Central, or once it reopens, the nursery. Could you be a steady presence for the youngest who worship here?

Please call the office if you feel led to take part in these ministries or would like to discuss further, 631-421-3663, or email the office at [centch@optonline.net](mailto:centch@optonline.net).



## Prayer at Central ~



### After-Worship Prayer:

We have resumed our after-worship prayer time immediately following our worship service. The Pastor or an Elder will be at the bottom of the chancel steps in the Sanctuary for anyone who would like prayer and anointing with oil.

### Email Prayer Chain:

Our email prayer chain continues. If you have any prayer concerns you'd like Central members and friends to pray for, contact Linda Tengelsen, our Prayer Chain Coordinator, at [lteng@optonline.net](mailto:lteng@optonline.net), and she will be happy to send out your prayer concerns and requests to the group. Please also remember to update us on your prayer concerns.

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## Thank you for your patience!



Due to time constraints, October's Steeple Notes is rolled into this issue.

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*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen."*

Ephesians 3:20-21

## Sunday School News ~



Our Sunday School is growing!

The kids are about to learn about Joseph and God's surprising ways. The verses for these lessons are Matthew 1:18-24 and Isaiah 9:6-7. They will also be working on a triptych that tells the story of Joseph.

For Christmas, the kids will be practicing Christmas songs with our Music Director, Polo. They have also been reading verses during worship and will do this more often.

Since we will be splitting into more Sunday School classes, we would love your help. Please feel free to reach me through the office, 631-421-3663, or at my email, [jeaninecedirector@outlook.com](mailto:jeaninecedirector@outlook.com)



## Kids Central Update ~

Kids Central is doing great! We have been learning about Moses and the Israelites. They are learning about Moses' life and how God used him and can use us, too. The main verse is **"Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you"** (Psalms 55:22a).

Kids Central will wrap up in December and will start again in January 2022. Before this break, we will be practicing a Christmas play and will put on the play here. The kids are having a lot of fun learning about God!

Yours in Christ,  
Jeanine Stuyvesant  
Director of Children's Ministry

# November 2021

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
	1 Church Office Closed	2 <b>Election Day</b> WCC Board Mtg - 10 am Moms in Prayer - 4:30 pm** Youth Group - 7:30 pm	3 Ladies Bible Study - 9:30 am Staff Meeting - 11:30 am	4 Kids Central - 4:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal - 7 pm	5	6
7 <b>Communion</b> Morning Worship - 10 am CE / Visiting Missionary - 11:20 am NA Group - 7 pm	8 Trustees - 7:30 pm* Church Office Closed	9 WCC Circles - morning Deacons Mtg - 7:00 pm Worship Comm - 7:30 pm** Youth Group - 7:30 pm	10 Ladies Bible Study - 9:30 am Staff Meeting - 11:30 am Nominating Committee - 7:30 pm	11 <b>Veterans Day</b> Kids Central - 4:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal - 7 pm	12	13
14 Morning Worship - 10 am Adult CE Class - 11:20 am NA Group - 7 pm	15 Church Office Closed	16 Youth Group - 7:30 pm	17 Ladies Bible Study - 9:30 am Staff Meeting - 11:30 am	18 Kids Central - 4:30 pm Worship Team Rehearsal - 7 pm	19	20
21 Morning Worship - 10 am Annual Meetings - 11:15 am NA Group - 7 pm	22 Church Office Closed	23 Session – 7:30 pm Youth Group - 7:30 pm	24 Ladies Bible Study - 9:30 am Staff Meeting - 11:30 am	25 <b>Thanksgiving</b> <b>Church Office Closed</b>	26 <b>Church Office Closed</b>	27 Church Decorating - 10 am
28 <b>Advent 1</b> Morning Worship - 10 am Adult CE Class - 11:20 NA Group - 7 pm	29 Church Office Closed	30				

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Office hours are Tuesday to Friday, 8 am to 1 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