

STEEPLE NOTES: CENTRAL CHURCH, HUNTINGTON, NY

“WHERE JESUS IS LORD & ALL ARE LOVED



August 2020

JESUS, PANDEMIC, HABITS & US

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk to them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

I used to think that habits are formed and broken due to multiple repetitions over a number of days/weeks. But I recently read in the British Journal of General Practice that habits are . . . ***“actions that are triggered automatically in response to contextual cues that have been associated with their performance.”***

I find this quite helpful in considering what God commands us to do in Deuteronomy 6 (love the Lord our God and impress the keeping of God’s commandments on ourselves and our children). Namely, we are to act in concert – both as a people and as families – to love and worship God, and to lead our families to follow us in this action.

Then the pandemic came along and we have had to scramble to adjust our behavior to be safe and to do our part for the greater society. This has included worshiping at home for some months. But situations are always shifting, and especially for parent with kids at home, as with as all of us with various relational ties, we must continue to monitor and adjust our actions. None of us have perfect answers, but I want to encourage all of us to continue to engage ourselves in actively keep adjusting as the situations develops.

Worship and pray together as families and (where appropriate) as friends to keep each other pointed to Jesus. One good way is to start “Watch Parties” during Sunday worship so that you can worship “with” friends.

Be wise in venturing out, but also let us not fear.

Consider how we might stay actively involved with our Central Church Community.

Jesus will lead us through this situation. As we are marching together, let us keep loving our God and our neighbors! And let us remain committed to being both The Church as well as A Church.

In Christ our King,

Pastor Paul Lee

THE DEACONS' CORNER

Summertime has always been a time when life tends to slow down! Schools are typically closed, and both church and school programs are on hiatus until the fall. Life tends to be more relaxed...meant to be a time of refreshment when, as David says in Psalm 23, "He leads us besides still waters and restores our soul."

BUT, this is not what we are experiencing! What a different world we live in this summer. We are living in an unprecedented time where everything has had to change, and we have needed to adapt. One of the most difficult things is the social distancing we are practicing! This is not our usual way of life, especially here at Central where we are so accustomed to fellowshiping together. We have always cared for each other, keeping up-to-date through conversations, visiting and prayer! We are a caring, loving congregation. SO what can we do now?? Until such time that we are worshiping together again!!

Well, one thing the Deacons have been doing, and we hope that you could join in, is a Zoom "Fellowship Time" scheduled at various times during the week. We have tried a lunchtime hour at 12:30 (bring your own snack, mask not required, ha ha) and now we are scheduling a Wednesday evening at 7pm time. It is nice to "see" each other and share updates on our activities! If you have any recommendations about time or day, or questions about the technology needed, please contact one of the Deacons or the Office. You just need to "sign in" to the email invitation sent by the Office!

BUT most important is that ALL of us need to be mindful of each other, reach out with a phone call or send an encouraging note....adopt a "new buddy!" to keep in touch. AND please contact one of the Deacons if there is any way we can be of assistance or if you have any suggestions as to how we can better serve you, our dear congregation!

Looking forward to hearing from you! May you find joy and blessing in each day, and may you continue to stay well and stay safe.

Love, in Christ,

Deacon Evelyn Brodbeck



CONTINUING GUIDELINES FOR SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Central Church has been worshipping in our Sanctuary on Sunday mornings since we officially reopened on June 14th, 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.
- 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 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 or Central Presbyterian Church.
- But most important, come ready to worship and praise our Lord, for He is good and His love is everlasting!

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. If you wish to pick up a pre-sealed cup from church to have at home for communion, please contact the Church Office, 631-421-3663, **NO LATER** than the Wednesday before Communion Sunday. We will put your pre-sealed communion cup/wafer in a baggie with your name on it and leave it on the bench in the rear church hallway for you to pick up.

OUR MISSIONARIES ~ AT HOME AND ABROAD

Our missionaries all face COVID-19 challenges and are trusting God for their health, safety and ministry in a time never seen before. Here are some notes on their ministries . . .

NEW LIFE CHILDREN'S HOME IN HAITI ~ School continued throughout the spring with students in residence and teachers coming to the compound daily. And birthday celebrations continue for the children. In countries like Haiti, social distancing is very hard as many people live in small houses. Pray especially for their safety.

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION ~ The Poystis' are continuing their ministry often virtually. The office staff is processing gifts to ensure continuing support for the workers. As Hudson Taylor said, "God's work done God's way will never lack God's supply." Our world has changed but our God is unchanging.

CRU (CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST) ~

Vicki Samaritano with CRU has connected students to Christian content weekly through YouTube and Instagram. Samaritans' Purse and CRU had a tangible Gospel presence in Central Park for seven weeks. On July 22nd there was a virtual faculty roundtable with invites 8,000 faculty members. CRU had two prayer calls with faculty from several universities in NYC and on Easter Sunday churches came together at 9:00 am to sing a hymn of praise from balconies, rooftops, fire escapes and streets.

The Adams Family, also with CRU, are dealing with borders closed by COVID-19, but internally Thailand is opening more to the Gospel. Zoom meetings are a means of spreading God's Word. Jeremy has been able to meet the Mayor of Chiang Mai as well as a military general – both valuable contacts. The family is all well and trusting God to keep them supplied from CRU's US headquarters.

HELPING HAND RESCUE MISSION ~ The Mission has been in constant action with food distribution since mid-March. The Mission has been given funds and connections to find local suppliers to be able to distribute 5700 pounds of food per day in 40 pound bags. Big organizations and civic groups have had drives to benefit Helping Hands work.

Minimal contact distribution is 11 am to 1 pm Tuesday through Friday. Drive-up meals at the Assembly of God Church in Huntington Station on Wednesdays and Fridays at 2 pm – 12,000 meals have already been served.

The Mission is open 10-11 am and 1-2 pm on Tuesdays through Fridays to receive food, cleaning supplies, baby and hygiene items. No clothing is received at this time – they are too busy distributing food! All ministries have continued in "drive-through" or "virtual" contact on a case-by-case basis. Praise God for the people of 11746 pulling together.

Kay Jahn, Chairperson
Missions Committee

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 again 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 President Trump, Vice President Pence and all other 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.
- * For our military men and women stationed at home and abroad: Lance Allen, John Boettjer (just returned home from a long deployment) John Byler & Bethany Byler, Kaitlin Dickson, Anasia Hines, Taylor March, Wayne McCloud Jr., Gene McNeil, DeShawn McNeil, Donald Potts, Frank Stuyvesant and Rebekah Stuyvesant.
- * 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:** Ethel Berge, Margaret Breland, Tami Greco, Eloise Clark, Nancy Clous, Lois Cowie, Don Engelhart, Claude Gibson, Jim Hankinson, Frani Hicks, June Johnston, Lisa Jones, Drew Lewis, Peg Lukrall, Shirley Hardy-Reeves, Jeanine Stuyvesant, and for friends and/or family members of many of our church family
- * **WHO ARE HOME-BOUND OR ARE IN NURSING HOMES, ASSISTED LIVING & REHAB FACILITIES, including Central members and friends:** Muffy Carlstrom, George Korinek, Christine Nolan and David Wilson.
- * **WHO ARE EXPECTING BABIES, TRYING TO CONCEIVE OR ADOPT** including expectant parents David and Lauren Waldo.
- * **AND THE NEW LITTLE BABIES BORN DURING THE PANDEMIC:** Benjamin Ferdinand Arcidiacono, Christopher Henry Byler, Ridley Faye Kokkosis, and Truss John Hutton
- * **WHO ARE STILL MOURNING THE LOSS OF LOVED ONES** including the families of Mary Bowler, Jean Bushell, Dennis Masone, Albert Thuro and Jesse Tyson.
- * **WHO ARE MOVING AND TRANSITIONING INTO NEW HOMES/AREAS** including Don and Lorraine Engelhart and Bob and Marret Salg.
- * **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.

CHURCH FAMILY HAPPENINGS

SPECIAL DAYS

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Don Engelhart
- 04 Melissa Stuyvesant
- 10 Fran Bundt
- 10 Sandy Valerio
- 11 Lauren Russell
- 11 Lori McLaughlin
- 19 Chris Fischer
- 24 Maggie Lombardo
- 24 Darin Jenkins
- 25 Marleny Paulsen
- 25 Debra Russell
- 31 Keyondra Boyle

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 03 Frank & Maggie Marlow
- 12 Drew & Jennifer Lewis
- 14 Craig & Alexis Vandergoot
- 20 Jamie & Georgina Clous
- 23 Fred & Evelyn Brodbeck
- 26 Ken & Pam Roman



COMING HOME ~

Mamma Bonnie Boettjer is very happy to report that her son, Corporal John Boettjer, has successfully completed his ten month deployment in the Middle East with the United States Marines! He was scheduled to arrive back in the USA in mid-July. Upon arrival home, John will be promoted to the rank of Sargent! Praise God for keeping all our service men and women safe from our enemies and the COVID-19 virus!

NEW ADDRESS~

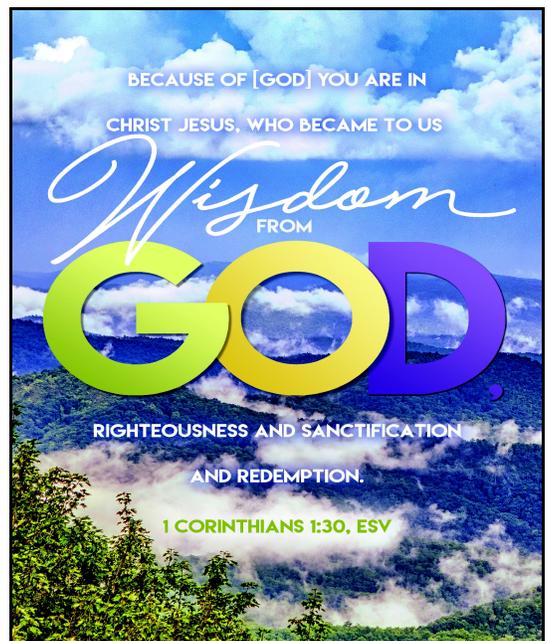
As we mentioned in a previous issue of Steeple Notes, Don and Lorraine Engelhart have relocated to North Carolina. Here is their new address:

Don & Lorraine Engelhart
1929 Hay House Avenue
Wake Forest, NC 27587-1923

CONGRATULATIONS ~

~ to John & Bethany Byler on the July 13th birth of Christopher Henry Byler born in Kansas City, KS. His big sister and brother, Evelyn & Benjamin are looking forward to welcoming him home. And grandparents, Phil & Janet Byler are thrilled to have a new little grandbaby. Blessings to all.

~ also to James Byler and Marika Chikvashvili who will be married on Friday, August 28th at an intimate family ceremony. God's richest blessings are you enter this new life together.



JUST FOR FUN

Kids were asked questions about the old and new testaments. The following statements about the Bible were written by children. *They have not been retouched or corrected and incorrect spelling has been left in.*

- In the first book of the bible, Guinness. god got tired of creating the world so he took the sabbath off.
- Adam and eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of ark. Noah built and ark and the animals came on in pears.
- Samson slayed the philistines with the axe of the apostles.
- Moses led the jews to the red sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread without any ingredients.
- The egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterwards, Moses went up to mount cyanide to get the ten commandments.
- The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
- The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
- Moses died before he ever reached canada then Joshua led the hebrews in the battle of geritol.
- The greatest miricle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
- David was a hebrew king who was skilled at playing the liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times.
- Solomon, one of Davids sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the magna carta.
- When the three wise guys from the east side

arrived they found Jesus in the manager.

- St. John the blacksmith dumped water on his head.
- Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.
- It was a miricle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
- The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.
- The epistels were the wives of the apostles.
- One of the oppossums was St. Matthew who was also a taximan.
- St. Paul cavorted to christianity, he preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marraige.
- Christians have only one spouse. This is called monotony.

– copied off of Facebook



STEWARDSHIP REMINDER ~

Although most of us have been hit hard financially during this pandemic crisis, Central Church still has bills to pay if we are to stay open, and we rely on our Central family to give what they can to help us meet these needs.

As of the end of June, we are behind by more than \$30,000. We need your financial help so that we can keep up with our expenses the rest of this summer and beyond

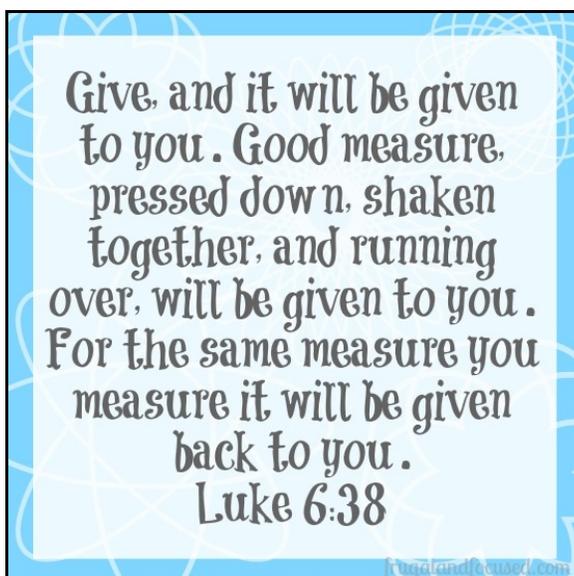
We continue to trust that God will provide as we continue to open Central to regular worship and ministries in the coming weeks and months. Won't you please pray and ask God how He can use you to help in this way?

As you are able, you can send your gifts, tithes and offerings via regular mail to the Church Office at 240 Main Street, Huntington, NY 11743.

You can go to our church website at www.centralpresbyterianchurch.net and at the top of the opening page, click on the red link that says Give Online Here, then follow the directions.

Or now that our building is open on Sunday mornings for worship, you can put your offerings in the designated offering box as you leave worship.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support for the Lord's work here at Central. God bless you all.



LADIES COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY ~

Our Wednesday Ladies Community Bible Study started up again on Wednesday, July 22nd at 9:30 am in the White Room for a time of fellowship and discussion on study topics for the fall. Distancing will be easy to achieve with our large tables. Masks will be used and less than 10 people will be in attendance.

To be able to encourage one another and support each other will be a wonderful new beginning. Please give Kay Jahn a jingle at 631-367-3886 or at 631-742-3942 if you plan on attending.

SESSION REPORT ~

At a recent Session meeting, it was decided that Elders Diane Garofola and Frank Marlow would serve as co-chairpersons of this year's Nominating Committee.

Please be praying about how God can use you to be one of our church leaders.

WCC HAPPENINGS ~

Our Women's Christian Council ladies are starting up again as follows:

Tuesday, September 1
10:00 am - Board Meeting

Tuesday - September 8
All Circles will meet at church or in homes. Watch for more details of Circle locations via phone or emails.

Many thanks to Trustees, Cleavon Black and Bill Russell for all their work, alongside Five Star Mechanical, in getting our Sanctuary Air Conditioning up and running just before our first 90-degree heat wave of the summer!