



“Doing Anything New for Lent?”

On February 22nd we will celebrate Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Holy Season of Lent. We will have an Ash Wednesday service, complete with ashes and communion. But while Ash Wednesday is important, it is only the beginning of Lent. During Lent, we encourage you to participate in a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial, and spiritual discipline.

The purpose is, first of all, to set aside time for reflection on Jesus - to consider his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial, and resurrection. But also, we can use the disciplines and time to reflect on our own life and how we minister to others in Jesus' name. The early Christians knew that Easter calls for special preparations. In their own way, they prepared themselves to celebrate the joy of Jesus' resurrection.

But now it's our turn and we need to find ways to make this Season meaningful to us. Typical commitments are to such activities as giving up smoking, watching TV, swearing, or giving up a food or drink, such as sweets, chocolate, or coffee. But frankly, those are rather commonplace. This year, think about stepping outside of the usual Lenten box. Here are a few “Alternative Lenten Disciplines” you may want to explore:

- When you walk your dog, take along a trash bag and clean up the roads in your neighborhood. How can we better care for God's creation?

- One or two days a week, eat like a refugee by consuming less than 1,800 calories. Or pick one day a week and fast for those 24 hours. Does it move you to reconsider the plight of displaced persons? The food insecure? Those who can only afford the most basic foods, never knowing the luxury of a special treat.
- Volunteer your time at one of the many non-profits in our area. Where would Jesus volunteer? How often would Jesus volunteer?
- Twice a week (or more), write a letter to someone who matters to you and thank them for being in your life. What makes them special? Have you thanked God for their presence in your life?
- Attend our Book Study that will begin on March 1. (More information will be available soon).

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Ash Wednesday February 22

We will begin the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service that will take place in the Sanctuary at 7 pm. My theme for this Lenten season will be “What is Really Ahead?”.

I hope to examine how we face our current challenges/opportunities through the experience of having specific hopes and expectations for the future. What is ahead of us this Lenten Season? How might I be open to the ways God will be with me through this journey?

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- Turn off the TV on Saturday night. Read through the bulletin and the Scripture lessons for Sunday (they are in your Sunday Update email). Go to bed early so that you are refreshed on Sunday morning.
- Pick a book of the Bible and read it cover-to-cover. If you have time, read it again. What are its main themes? What is its relevance for today?
- Sign up for the daily devotionals from the Presbyterian Mission Agency yearbook:
www.presbyterianmission.org/yearbook
Thank God that you are part of a denomination engaged in such active witness.
- Create phone 'dead times' when you don't look at your phone. For the first hour after you wake up? An hour before bed? Not until after worship on Sundays? How hard is it? Do you have a phone habit? A phone addiction?
- Start a gratitude journal. Every night at bedtime, write down five things that happened that day for which you are grateful. Does it change your perspective on life?
- Learn to bake bread. Share some with a neighbor you've been meaning to meet. How did it go?
- Every time you start your car, deliberately pause, and pray the Lord's Prayer. Do you rush through it?

Do you notice a way it applies to what you are about to do? I would suggest that you find at least one practice and discover how the experience touches you. I pray that God will lead all of us, each in our own way, to a meaningful Lent and a joyful Easter.

Peace,
Pete

Stewardship



Once again Central will be participating in **“One Great Hour of Sharing”** during the Lenten season. This offering responds directly to the needs Gods called us to fulfill in Isaiah 58. *“You shall be called repairers of the breach.”*

According to PCUSA, “Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent **(February 22 – April 9)**, each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The Offering provides us a way to share God’s love with our neighbors in need. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.”

Special envelopes will be available in the sanctuary during Lent for you to make an impact to *“Restore Hope, Feed the Hungry and Empower the Oppressed”*. Your gifts will be sent to PCUSA. If we all do a little it adds up to a lot. Thank you!

Emma Justice

How Do I Join *Central*?

On Sunday, February 12, at 11:15, Central Presbyterian Church will offer an Inquiry Seminar. This seminar is being offered for people who may be interested in joining Central Presbyterian to become better acquainted with our church. Our goal is to provide an introduction to our own church, as well as the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., to give prospective members the opportunity to “inquire” and learn about the life of the church, our beliefs, organization, and programs.

Our hope is that all visitors feel welcome to attend inquiry classes. There is never any pressure to join the church, rather the opportunity to participate in an informative process for people who are considering membership.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Pete (Pastor.CentralPresbyterian@gmail.com) or call the church office (973) 744-5340.

An Invitation: Sharing Our Story

Sharing the Story of Central Presbyterian Church

The Mission Study Team of Central Presbyterian Church invites you to participate in an important event on Sunday, February 26. Following worship, join in sharing the story of the history of Central Church and our understandings of how God invites us to share Christ in our community and the world.

There is a role for everyone! We look forward to your participation and the information we will gather. This will all assist the church in compiling the Mission Study.

Fellowship



YOUTH GROUP

YOUTH GROUP

1st and 3rd Sundays at 11:15 am – 1:00 pm

Middle and high school youth are welcome to join us for fun and fellowship Sunday afternoons. Next Mission Project Gathering – Feb. 12th at 11:15 am.
Program contact: Rev. Pete – pastor.centralpresbyterian@gmail.com



Men's Bible Study

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Saturdays at 9:00 am via Zoom

February 4th and 18th

Program contact: Scott Osborne at 201-704-2510 or scott.osborne@verizon.net



SUNDAY SCHOOL

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Sundays after Time with Young Disciples (10:15 am)

Thank you to our volunteer teachers for making this possible!

Program contact: Pat Dancy – patdancy@yahoo.com

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30-9:30pm NYCCC – Grace Hall	2 5-7pm Private Event - Gym 6:30-8pm/ 7 - 9pm AA 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	3 4-6pm Private Event – Gym 6pm – Mission Committee	4 9am Men’s Bible Study 8am-5 pm Priv. Events (5) – Gym, Grace Hall & Community Room
5 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship w/Lord’s Supper 6:30 - 8pm AA + Al-Anon	6 6:30pm Private Event 7pm Deacons	7 9:30am Staff 6pm Christian Ed Cmte	8 6:30-9:30pm NYCCC – Grace Hall	9 5-7pm Private Event - Gym 6:30-8pm/ 7 - 9pm AA 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	10 4-6pm Private Event - Gym	11 10am-5 pm Priv. Events (4) - Gym & Grace Hall
12* 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship w/ Installation of Elders 11:15am – 1pm New Members Class 6:30 - 8pm AA + Al-Anon	13 6:30pm Private Event	14 Valentine’s Day 9:30am Staff 7pm Session Meeting	15 6:30-9:30pm NYCCC – Grace Hall 7pm Finance Cmte	16 5-7pm Private Event - Gym 6:30-8pm/ 7 - 9pm AA 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	17 4-6pm Private Event - Gym	18 9:00am Men’s Bible Study 10am-10 pm Priv. Events (5) – Gym, Grace Hall & Community Room
19 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 6:30 - 8pm AA + Al-Anon	20 President’s Day Office <i>Closed</i> 6:30pm Private Event	21 9:30am Staff 10am All Building Mtng. 8pm Worship Cmte	22 Ash Wednesday 6:30-9:30pm Priv. Event – Grace Hall 7 pm Evening Service	23 5-7pm Private Event - Gym 6:30-8pm/ 7 - 9pm AA 7:30pm Choir Rehearsal	24 4-6pm Private Event - Gym	25 10am-5 pm Priv. Events (3) - Gym
26 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10am Worship 11am-1pm Mission Study Event 3pm Priv. Event - Sanctuary 6:30 - 8pm AA/Al-An	27 6:30pm Private Event 7pm Deacons meeting	28 9:30am Staff	* Sunday, February 12th, 11:15 am: The Mission Committee, led by Lynn Selassie, has started a special project with the Youth Group. They will work together this winter on Mission giving ideas.			

Per Capita Assessment

Per capita is the annual primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), synods and the presbyteries. It is how we mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future.

The purpose of this assessment to local churches (based upon the Membership), is to defray the administrative costs involved in the functioning of the Denomination. The Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey has set its per capita fee at \$40 for 2023. This amount is assessed to our congregation, regardless of whether the member pays their share.

We would appreciate it if you would prayerfully consider making an additional donation to defray this expense (\$40/member). Thank you!

Process to Call a Pastor at Central Presbyterian Church

At the Annual Meeting on January 29, Rev. Pete shared the steps involved in calling a pastor at a Presbyterian Church. Here is the process:

- STEP 1 - Central Presbyterian Church undertakes Mission Study Process Team will lead and ultimately create a Mission Study Document.
- A Mission Study is a process that a congregation goes through to seek discernment about how God would have that church to be and to act in the future.
- STEP 2 - Central Presbyterian Church forms Mission Study Team
- Members: Peter Dancy, Neal Day, Lisa George, Erin Norton, and Scott Osborn
 - Team will lead and ultimately create a Mission Study Document.

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February Birthdays

4	Victoria Sneden
9	Emma Faber
10	Charles Henze
12	David Arndt Ordemann Jimmy Cabezas Joanne Amman
19	Grace Fitzgerald
20	Arshon Moses
24	Frederick Moulongo Irene Worth
29	H. Neal Day

Changes at Central

Our Office Administrator, Morgan Moulongo, will be leaving her position on the Church staff to pursue a new opportunity in the private sector. Her last day in her role will be Friday, February 17. The good news, the Moulongo family are not moving away from the community!

Morgan has provided great leadership and support to the congregation during a very challenging time. While she was employed by the Church, we have faced a pandemic that drastically changed the way the church and the office functioned. She became the "glue" during the transition following Pastor David's retirement.

She was often the first experience for people contacting Central Presbyterian Church and took that opportunity very compassionately. At the same time, she was incredibly sensitive to the people who are part of the life and ministry of this church. She will be missed.

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- The Mission Study Team then gathers information in the following areas:
 - Changes in Community and the world.
 - Spiritual health
 - Membership and church growth
 - Finances & stewardship
 - Mission and social justice
 - Its role and relationship to the community where it is located
 - Its relationship to Presbytery
 - Direction of the Church moving forward
 - Role of pastor and desired gifts of pastor

STEP 3 - Mission Study Completed

- The Mission Study ultimately is a document that is shared with the congregation. It is approved by the Session. It is then submitted to the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey for their approval. It is the goal of Central's Mission Study Team to complete the process in four months.

STEP 4 - Central granted permission to form Pastor Nominating Committee

- A Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is formed. The task of the PNC is to identify a candidate to bring to the congregation to elect to serve as the next Pastor of Central Presbyterian Church.
- The Pastor Nominating Committee will be a committee of the Congregation. There will be a meeting of the congregation to elect members to the Pastor Nominating Committee.

STEP 5 - Pastor Nominating Committee and Session Prepare for Search

- A review of Pastor's Position Description and terms of call takes place.
- Mission Information Form is completed.
- Session approves a budget for the PNC to conduct Search
- Mission Information Form is approved by Session and submitted to the Presbytery for their approval.

STEP 6 - Search is Conducted

- PNC in consultation with the Presbytery create plan to identify pastor
 - How to advertise opening
 - How to evaluate candidates
 - How to interview candidates
 - How to complete the steps in the process

STEP 7 - Candidate is Identified

- PNC shares information with Presbytery (Pastors become "members" of the Presbytery NOT the local church.
- PNC asks the Session to call for Congregational Meeting to act upon a recommendation from the PNC to call a candidate to become the next pastor.

STEP 8 - Candidate is presented to Central and Congregation Votes

- The Candidate will lead worship and following worship service, there is a meeting of the Congregation to call the Candidate to be the next called pastor of Central and approve the terms of Call.

STEP 9 - Necessary Actions *following* Congregational Action

- The action of the meeting is reported to the Presbytery. The Presbytery begins to take appropriate actions to receive the Candidate into Membership.
- The Candidate informs current employer of Central's action and leaving.
- The Candidate's Presbytery releases candidate from call.
- Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey affirms congregation action and votes to have candidate become of member of this Presbytery.
- Any needed updates/repairs to manse undertaken and completed.
- Candidate moves into manse.
- Ministry Begins!

STEP 10 - Ministry with next Pastor begins!!!!!!

How long will these next steps take?

- The Mission Study will take approximately 4 - 6 months
 - Approval by Presbytery (1 Month)
 - Search Process 12 - 18 months
 - Final Steps - 3 - 6 months
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