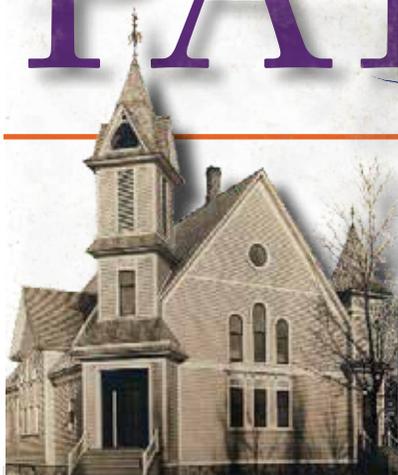


# Central Park Church

# PATHWAY

*Celebrating  
100  
Years!*



April 2018 "Good News" of Central Park Church

Vol 18, #4

Pastor's Corner...

## *Focusing on Our Future*

*What do you think the next 100 years will bring to Central Park?*

*In June of this year, we will mark 100 years of worship and service at this location.* One hundred years of welcoming new residents and providing a place for spiritual nurture as well as support in the events of life.

As we look back we can see what has been done, what was effective in the past, and what helped people come together and grow. But now we must look at the future. *In our rapidly changing world, we can't simply assume that doing the same things will bring about positive results. We are at a spot where we need to actively seek God's emerging future for us.*

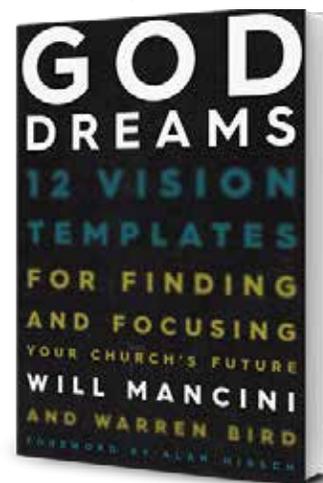
*We have a new tool to use in that process as well as a person who has been trained to help us. The tool is called "God Dreams."* It is a book: a workbook and a 12-hour retreat that will help our church leaders to dream about, and write down on paper, the things that God is dreaming for us here in Central Park. **The retreat will take place on two Saturdays, April 28 and May 5, from 9:00am to 3:00pm.** During those twelve hours, our leaders will work through two tasks. First task, they will talk about what makes our church unique and how God might desire to use that uniqueness for more effective ministry in the future. The "God Dreams" material provides a good framework for helping us to think about what God is up to among us.

The second task will be to set some goals. One big goal for five years from now and then four three-year goals to help us get there. Those will be followed by one related goal for the next year and then four 90-day goals to break it down into smaller pieces.

*One of the values of the "God Dreams" tool is that it will help us focus on fewer things instead of more.* Often a planning process leads to an attempt to add a bunch of new things to our already busy schedule. This process should help us to put our energy into a few things which will move us in an intentional direction to create an effective and fruitful ministry for the future.

*The facilitator who is going to help us with the "God Dreams" process is Doug McClintic. He has been on the staff of our Regional Synod for several years and has walked with many other new and well-established congregations to think about the future God has planned for them. We are glad to have his assistance.*

— Pastor Kevin Kleinheksel



Our Handbook for building a bright Central Park future

## OUR APRIL PATH

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*Celebrating  
100  
Years!*



## Celebrating the Journey

### OUR COVENANT ... OUR GIFTS

- ❑ The General Fund total for **February 2018** was... **\$28,418...**  
(... budget monthly/annual need: \$25,542/\$306,499) (YTD: **\$47,624**)
- ❑ Mission offering for **February 2018** was... **\$2,565...**  
*\*Note: As part of the total budget need (YTD: **\$5,150\***)*
- ❑ Expansion Fund giving in **February 2018** was **\$12,385...**  
(... budget monthly/annual need: \$6,700/\$80,400) (YTD: **\$16,110**)

**ARC Loan Praise! — The mortgage balance is currently \$ 615,192**  
*note: approximately 2/3 of each payment goes to principle.*

### OUR FAITH-LED DECISIONS

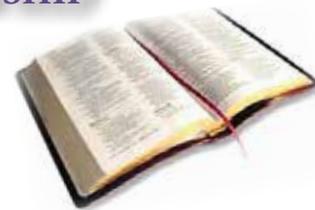
#### *Supervising Consistory & Shepherding Elders March Meeting Notes...*

- ❑ Reviewed the nominations of the congregation for elder and deacon and decided who to invite to consider the opportunity to serve in leadership beginning in July. The Congregational Meeting for the selection of Elders and Deacons will take place on Sunday, May 27, 2018.
- ❑ Set the dates of Saturdays April 28 and May 5 to hold a retreat led by Doug McClintic from the Regional Synod to work on our vision and goals for the next few years.
- ❑ Received word from the Outreach & Mission Team that an intergenerational mission trip will not happen this summer and approved their suggestion that we send a \$100 contribution to Grace Covenant Ministries in Annville, Kentucky, in appreciation for keeping a week open for us until we made a final decision.
- ❑ Approved the recommendation to continue talking with Park Church and Embody Christ about participating in a combined outdoor worship service at the park in Virginia Park on Sunday morning, July 15.
- ❑ Approved the transfer of membership of Matt & Justine VanderZwaag and their children to Faith Reformed Church in Zeeland.
- ❑ The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will next be celebrated at the 9:30 Worship Service on Sunday, April 22.



## OUR WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

### Worship Plans for April 2018



#### April 1

##### **Easter Sunday!**

##### **“No Ordinary Man”**

– John 15:5 –

*The Choir will bring the Ministry of Music. Barb VanderZwaag & the Praise Team will provide the Music for the Resurrection Celebration.*

#### April 8

##### **“The Son of God”**

– John 14:6-7 –

*The Praise Team will lead in Worship.*

#### April 15

##### **“The Darkest Hour”**

– Matthew 26: 14-18 –

*The Choir will bring the Ministry of Music.  
Barb VanderZwaag & the Praise Team will provide the music in worship.  
Professor Travis West and Hebrew students  
from Western Seminary will present “The Binding of Isaac.”*

#### April 22

##### **“The Resurrection”**

– Mark 16:6 –

*The Praise Team will lead in worship  
The Lord's Supper will be celebrated*

#### April 29

##### **Worship in the ARC**

##### **“New Beginnings”**

– John 14:25-27 –

*The Praise Team will lead in Worship.  
Season of Prayer for Discernment in our “God Dreams” Retreat.*

Central Park Church

## PATHWAY

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## OUR LIFE & COMMITMENT

### Youth Ministry Alive:

**Goin' Strong!** *Central Park Church is about youth groups that are alive and full of energy and great enthusiasm...*

**Retreatin'...** *The Genesis Retreat* was a success! We had an awesome time at the Genesis retreat in Traverse City. It was a blessing to be able to join 10 high school students for a time of fellowship, worship, and fun.



*Hunter, Fearless Youth Leader*

Thank you to everyone that prayed for the retreat, provided snacks, and drove students to Traverse City! As the youth program heads into the spring (and eventually summer) months, we look forward to the Easter season, preparing for VBS, and the end of another great school year.

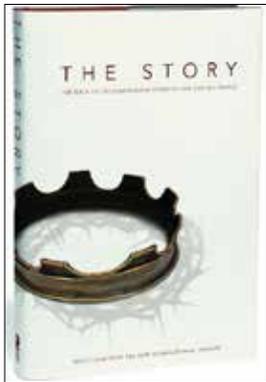


*Cuttin' Up at "Genesis"*

Please keep the students in your prayers as we begin planning summer events and volunteer opportunities!

Thank you for your support!

### Our Journey through "The Story..." from the "Old" to the "New!"



*In March, we wrapped up the Old Testament with stories of courage and wisdom from Esther, Nebemiah and Ezra.* They gave us hope for the future as the people of God struggled to live lives that were holy and set apart for God.

Some of the people remained scattered among the nations in exile, but others returned to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple, the city walls and their lives. At the end of the Old Testament, we again received the promise that God was sending someone who would make all things new.

In March we were also able to celebrate Christmas again as we moved into the New Testament and read about the birth of Jesus. We then walked with him and his disciples as his ministry began and he revealed himself and plans of God to the people.

Next month, we will continue the walk with Jesus through his ministry all the way to the cross. We will celebrate Easter twice, once on the official date of April 1, and a second time when we reach that chapter in "The Story" on April 22. Before the month ends, we will see the Holy Spirit come and the mission of the church begin. Be sure to keep up with the reading, we are now in the home stretch!

**"Walk" with Our Children...** April and May are still available for assistants in our *Children & Worship Ministry*. Every Sunday morning, our three-year-old through fifth grade students leave worship for their own time of worship and discipleship. These volunteers provide the snack and assist the children with tasks. *Sign-up for the date(s) of your choice outside the Children & Worship door.*

## More to Celebrate in 2018!

### Special Upcoming Centennial Dates!

**Saturday, April 21...** "Almost 5K" Run/Walk from Graafschap Church to Central Park, followed by Food, Fun & Games!

**"Almost 5K"...** *Come and join this FUN activity with members of Central Park Church as we celebrate our 100th Year* here, at the corner of Myrtle and Floral. Our church began in the new colony of Graafschap in 1848, In 1917, the Church building and the horse barn were moved in sections, on lumber wagons pulled by horses, from the Graafschap community to the expanding community of Central Park.

**We will recreate our Journey at 8:30 A.M. at the Graafschap Christian Reformed Church location,** on foot or bicycle for 2.6 miles(4.18k) following the probable route to today's Church. Please join us then at Central Park Church for snacks, children's pony/wagon rides and stay to view a number of Antique Autos and Trucks. *This FUN event is not a sanctioned race* but we would love to have you join us! Shuttles between Graafschap Christian Reformed Church and Central Park will be provided starting at 7:45 AM.

**Sunday, June 10... Re-dedication Sunday** w/Special Guests, former Pastors, members and friends of the Church.

### Well done! Our Friends in Mission Enjoy Clean, Accessible Water in Bunia

*Shawn Voss, Champion and Special Liaison in the US to the African-based Eden Mission reports on the successful completion of the special project well in Bunia, Democratic Republic of Congo.*

It was completed this past February. According to Kenneth Rwego, Mission Director, "The well is working great and is a huge blessing to the community. We have a lot of water now. The neighboring community makes a long line of Jerrycans outside our fence to receive water ... we are using this opportunity to share with them the Gospel. Excited about what GOD is doing through this project."



Central Park's fundraising support in 2017 helped make this possible. Kenneth will be returning to CPC mid-April to give us an update on the impact this well is having. Watch your bulletin and [centralparkchurch.org](http://centralparkchurch.org) for exact date and time.

**Haiti Update:** Holly reports, "The February trip was amazing, and now we gear up for two summer trips... Upcoming needs: We will need to bring 180 backpacks on our summer trips. Dark color, plain black are best. And personal hygiene supplies.... Soap, toothpaste, deodorant, etc.

*I challenge you to talk with Nan Borik, Randy and Leah Bennett about their recent Haiti experience. Ask them why you should go, or what impacted them the most. They've got stories to tell! Make a decision to join an upcoming trip."*

[See page 4 for more info on our upcoming trips.](#)



## Restoration

### **Prayer & Thanksgiving**

#### Joys, Healing & Sympathies

*Let us remember these concerns and praises as we hold our church family in our prayers:*

#### For Healing, Hope, and Praise...

— **Abigail Kramer** was recently a patient at DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids. She has been diagnosed with ulcerative colitis and has begun to receive medication for it. Please pray for her health as she overcomes this condition.

— **Bonnie Pastoor**, mother and grandmother of the Pastoor family, was recently diagnosed with 'invasive' breast cancer. Cancer was not found in any of the lymph nodes; and a recent PET scan did not show cancer anywhere else in her body. She started chemotherapy and developed bronchitis, as well as other side effects of the chemo. Please pray for her comfort, and that God's healing hand may be with her through this journey, that she may experience a full cure through God's grace

— **Marla Zeedyk** has returned to Holland Hospital a time of observation, tests and treatment for heart and other issues.

— **Mary Lou VanHeest's** condition remains improved at this time while she remains under care at Lakeside Vista.

— **Rose DeJonge** is recovering from a recent bout with pneumonia. Pray for Rose and her daughter Sandra.

— **Karen Holmes** is home and her leg is healing well. She will be having some in-home assisted care. Please keep Karen and Ralph in your prayers.

— Dorothy Riggerink's great granddaughter, **Lydia Hope Bouwens**, continues to do well in spite of the tumor on her optic nerve.

— **Ellie Jean** was hospitalized several times this past winter due to colds. She has finally returned to school. Last year a study was done in hopes of removing her trechea this year, however since it is so instrumental when she has a cold and congestion, the decision is on hold. Ellie is **Bob & Jeanne Westrate's granddaughter**, who has Cornelia De Lange Syndrome

— **Cayla Mayer** struggles daily with the symptoms of the auto-immune diseases Sjögrens Syndrome and Fibromyalgia. They have yet to find any medication that works for her. Please keep her in your prayers.

#### In Sympathy & Concern...

*For those unnamed requests for prayer during challenging times ... Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God... I am going to prepare a place for you.* — John 14: 1-2

**With Our Lord...** We pray for those recent losses of so many loved ones, friends and relatives over the past months at Central Park

We extend our sympathy to **Brad & Jeanne Kane and family**. Brad's father, **Al Kane**, passed away Sunday morning, February 25. We pray for God's comfort and grace in their time of sorrow and loss.

God's Comfort to **Nick & Sarah Disselkoen**. Nick's grandmother, **Helen Bolks**, went to be with Jesus on March 16. We pray for God's comfort and grace in this time of sorrow and loss.

#### In Praise & Joy...

— For all those **unnamed requests** whom the Lord has helped through recent tough times.

— For our High School Youth and their especially Spirit-filled **Genesis Retreat...**

— For the recent returnees from the **Haiti Mission Trip**. For **Al & Holly Schut** and their dedication to this cause.

#### Odds & Ends...

**More on Haiti...** Please consider joining us on these next trips:

☐ **July 16-21** which will include a dental clinic and VBS. This is a great one for families.

☐ **July 21-27** which will focus on community development and provide unique opportunities for young adults. Schut son-in-law Ephraim will join in again to lead community leaders in discerning local opportunities.

☐ **November 5-10**

☐ **February 11-16, 2019**



**Cardio Café!** Come, join your CPC buddies and walk... get your *Cardio & Joe!* On **Tuesday and Thursday** mornings in the ARC, from **8:30am - 10am**, take time to get out, walk around the gym, enjoy a fresh cup of java and a light breakfast treat. **Contest Quiz:** How many "laps" make up a mile? Winner gets a free cup of famous CPC Brew and an extra lap on us!

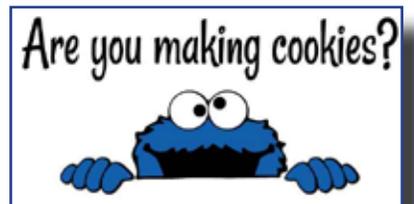
**FaithWalk Offering ...** Our FaithWalk offering update for "Turn on the Tap" with Samaritan's Purse: most recent collection brings the total up to \$262!

**Holiday Shoppe Date Reminder ...** Please save the date for the next show, which is scheduled for November 10, 2018. **Get busy!**

**Security & Response Team** The Security & Response Team is looking for a few people who would be willing be part of a team to walk through the building during worship, check in at the nursery, and lock designated doors at certain times. Contact Scott VanTame-ler or Garry Visscher.

#### Cookie Monster Alert!

We are out of cookies for Fellowship Time following worship. **Cookie Monster** has been hard at work, and we need to make up the difference! Please, pretty please, contact **Kathy Gusler** [335-9949] if you are willing to make or donate cookies to stay ahead of this furry blue character!



#### Pastor's Corner ...

*(cont. from Page 1.)*

Of course, we need your help as well. This is a discernment process, a time when we are seeking to know the mind of God for the future of ministry here in Central Park. There is no way to engage a process of discernment without prayer.

**We need everyone to pray.** Pray for both the installed and informal leaders of our congregation who will take part in the "God Dreams" Retreat on April 28 and May 5. Pray for God to speak through his people and make his emerging future clear for us. *Pray for clarity as we communicate and for courage as we live into the things God has in mind for us.*

**There is no reason why the next 100 years can't be just as fruitful for Central Park Church as the past 100 have been.**