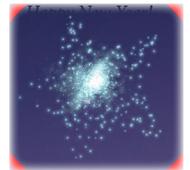


"And the Wise Men Came from the East..."

Central Park Church



Happy New Year!
2022!

January

PATHWAY



January 2022 "Good News" of Central Park Church

Vol. 22... #1

Going into the Deep Water

Time to Take the Plunge?

When you get into a swimming pool or lake do you head for the deep end, or do you stay where the water is shallow?

I tend to stay on the shallow end. I feel much more comfortable (safe) there. I never learned to swim well. It took me two summers of swimming lessons to get my "Tadpole" certificate.

I blame my lack of swimming ability on two things. First, my upbringing. When I was a kid the only body of water we went to regularly was Lake Michigan. My grandparents had a cottage near the lake, and we often went there on summer evenings for a "swim." But that meant wading in the waves or floating in the old truck or tractor tire innertubes my grandpa kept at the cottage. I never really swam at the lake.



Are we meant to live our life in the shallow... or deep end?

Second, I blame the body I was born with.

I can't float. I have tried many times. I just can't do it. I sink like a rock. Family members who float naturally have tried to help me, but it simply doesn't work. I have always told my family that if we are ever in a boating accident, I just plan on going down with the ship.

With these two things against me, I have given up on becoming an able swimmer. I just stay out of the deep water.

Perhaps you feel that way about living in a relationship with Jesus. You like knowing about Jesus and trust him for your salvation. You know the Bible stories and trust that the Bible has wisdom for how we should live today. But you feel uncomfortable going into the deep water of the Christian faith. You prefer to stay in the shallow end.

Perhaps you blame your upbringing. Maybe you didn't grow up going to Sunday School and your parents didn't read Bible stories to you when you were little. Or maybe it's not a part of your nature to go deep on spiritual matters. You have tried some Bible studies before, and just ended up with more questions, so now you don't try any more. You have become content to stay in the shallow end of the pool.

But I want you to think about going deeper. To venture out of the shallow end of the faith into the Deep Water.

(continued on page 4.)

OUR JANUARY PATH

Pastor's Corner

Challenging us all to take the "Plunge!"
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Consistory Notes

Decisions facing the Leadership
& Stewardship at CPC in 2022 (pg. 2)

Students Activity

Student Life and Ministry @ CPC
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Spiritual Life

God's People serving together to Do Justice,
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Outreach & Mission

Reaching Out in 2022
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People & Places

Healing & Hope through Faith,
Redemption, and Restoration of Our
Families & Friends (pg. 4)



Central Park Church
614 Myrtle Avenue
Holland, MI 49423

A Congregation of the Reformed Church in America



Our Gift of Stewardship



<input type="checkbox"/> The General Income total for November 2021 ...	\$	22,737...
(monthly/annual need: \$26,585/\$318,780)	YTD: \$	233,255
<input type="checkbox"/> Mission offering for November 2021 *...	\$	1,430...
*Note: As <i>part</i> of the total budget need	YTD: \$	22,210
<input type="checkbox"/> Expansion Fund giving in November 2021 * ...	\$	N.A.
	YTD: \$	453,943
The Mortgage Balance is still...	\$	00 !!!

OUR FAITH-LED DECISIONS

Supervising Consistory & Shepherding Elders Leadership Meeting Notes ...December 2021

- The Supervising Consistory & Shepherding Elders reviewed the progress on the four 90-Day God Dreams goals and set the date for the next 90-Day Check-In as Tuesday, March 1, 2022.
- The Supervising Consistory reviewed plans for increasing Sunday hospitality with trained greeters before worship and a "Family Sitting Area" in the Gathering Place during worship.
- Discussed how to better communicate and connect with the community around the church and made plans for better sharing of information.
- Updated our guidelines for Covid-19 to be shared with the congregation and posted on the church doors.
- Supervising Consistory approved the recommendation of the Outreach & Mission Team that our half mission share (\$3,400) budgeted for Local Mission in 2021 be sent to Community Action House with \$1,000 being designated for the new Food Club ministry and \$2,400 to be used for meeting the needs of our local homeless population.
- Approved the recommendation of the Outreach & Mission team that the remaining \$2,775 of Vision for Mission funds in for 2021 be divided between our ministry partners in Haiti (\$1,000) and supporting Afghan Refugees in partnership with Bethany Christian Services (\$1,775).
- Supervising Consistory discussed the possibility of working with others in our community to sponsor an Afghan Refugee family and asked the Outreach & Missions team to come back to the January Consistory meeting with additional information.
- Shepherding Elders approved purchasing Pickleball equipment for the ARC to be used as an opportunity to invite others in for activity and connection.
- Shepherding Elders continue to review their cluster lists for care and connection.
- Approved the transfer of membership for Randy Bennett to Goshen First United Methodist Church & The Life Center in Goshen, Indiana.
- Approved the transfer of membership for Richard & Glenda McKinley to Family of God Community Church in Newaygo, MI.
- Shepherding Elders set the dates for the next few celebrations of the Lord's Supper on Sunday, January 23, 2022; First Sunday of Lent, March 6, 2022; and Good Friday, April 15, 2022

OUR WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP



Worship Plans January 2022

Join On-Site Worship or Online YouTube Services.
Past Services are also available Online...

January 2 Second Sunday of Christmas

Behind the Carols Series "We Three Kings"

– Matthew 2:1-12 –

Max and the Worship Team will lead in worship

January 9

Deep Water Series

"Dying & Rising with Christ"

– Matthew 3:13-17 –

Ruth Klaasen Max and the Worship Team will lead in worship

January 16

Deep Water Series

"Welcome to the Covenant"

– Genesis 17:1-14 –

Max and the Worship Team will lead in worship

January 23

Deep Water Series

"Come to the Table"

– 1 Corinthians 11:17-34 –

Ruth Klaasen will accompany the congregation in worship

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

January 30

Deep Water Series

"How Deep?"

– Matthew 16:21-28 –

Max and the Worship Team will lead in worship

February 6

Fear Series

"Lift Up Your Head"

– Luke 21:25-36 –

Max, Ruth Klaasen, and the Worship Team will lead in worship



OUR LIFE & COMMITMENT

central park
students

Student Happenings

Check out our activities on the church website and put the dates into your calendar.

Sunday Nights and All the Other Good Stuff on Deck in '22!

Sunday evenings were in the student center from 6:30-8:00pm. All 6th-12th graders are welcome to join us! Small Group will return on Wednesday nights in January!



We kicked off our Advent season November 28 with a series, 'Reclaiming Identity.'



Student Crew ready for the "Visitation"

Check your email for all the dates into '22! Add them to your family calendars, and register.

January 5... We're starting a new small group open to all ages going through the book, *How (Not) to Read the Bible*.

January 9... Youth Group returns and we're starting a new series titled, relationship status.

January 16... We have an interest meeting for our summer mission trip plus we're celebrating Christmas with our secret Santa and white elephant gift exchange.

Outreach & Missions Update:

Our ongoing relationships and impact on the great missions we support here at Central Park Church...

Outreach & Missions Review...

For a church the size of Central Park, the tradition of outreach and missions has been an integral part of our DNA since our forbears first set foot on the soil of this place called America (see article at right).

Offshore, CPC's missional reach has touched Europe, Africa, Asia, and our neighbors beyond our southern borders. This "outer" reach finds a home today in *Haiti* and *Turkey*. We are blessed to be a part of their ministries.

Our focus in the US on the struggles of native peoples like the *Apache of Mescalero* and the *Lakota (Sioux) of South Dakota* provides a small measure of help and hope. Our youth serve every year through retreats and work camps throughout the US.

Right here in Holland, we not only budget funding through our Church's call and commitment to end homelessness and hunger, we give of our time and talents through focused programs run by *Kids Food Basket*, *Community Action House*, *Holland Rescue Mission*, and *Bethany Christian Services*.

With our own Micro Pantry here on our front steps, we keep looking for hands-on, boots-on-ground ways that we can make a difference, living into our charge in *Matthew 25:34-40 to feed the hungry, provide shelter for strangers, take care of the sick, and visit the prisoners*. So many have been reached here by this welcoming, loving congregation. **Your input to our Outreach & Missions team is needed as we all look to fulfill our call to "inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world..."**



Church dinner @ Mescalero

Wednesday is Community Night

Wednesdays Community Night is on January 5 after the holiday break at Central Park Church...

We look forward to seeing you back in the new year, 2022!

- Community Night Meals are served in the ARC from 5:30-6:15pm.



Community Night Group Small Groups 2022!

Community Night Small Group Options:

- The Men's Group will be studying the book of James using a Rightnow Media study by Francis Chan. Meeting in the Overlook Room.
- Pastor Kevin's Group will be studying Ezekiel using a Rightnow Media study by Mike Ackerman. Meeting in the Cornerstone Room.
- Max Blumer will be leading a small group which is open to students and adults on the book "How (Not) to Read the Bible" by Dan Kimball along with videos from The Bible Project. Meeting in the Gathering Place. *Meanwhile...*
- On Thursday mornings at 10:30am a group of women is studying the book of Psalms with a resource by Beth Moore. Phil Garvelink leads the study which meets in the Cornerstone Room.
- On Saturday mornings at 10:30am a group of women meets in the Cornerstone Room to study a book on prayer called "Fervent" by Priscilla Shirer. Elizabeth Maynard is coordinating the study.

Legacies & Legends: The Road from Graafschap to Central Park: The History of Central Park Church...

Jim Zeedyk and Sam Hoffman have been working on the History of Central Park for over three years now. The manuscript has been developed, the photographs are collected and the production of our 175-year history will soon move into its final phase. You will find our unique history integral in the development of both the Christian Reformed Church and the Reformed Church in America... here is an excerpt:

The early founders of the Central Park Reformed Church were part of a group of church separatists, having withdrawn during the years 1834-1847 from the State Church in the Netherlands. This also applied to the County of Grafschaft-Bentheim in Germany, across the border from the Dutch Province of Drenthe.

These were Dutch people who were strong Calvinists, and although they were geographically a part of Germany, their language was Dutch and they had very close religious ties with the churches and church leaders in the Netherlands. The civil authorities had the power to arrest and fine anyone who conducted or attended religious services outside of the State Church. Nevertheless, meetings were held in homes or in barns, sometimes in the early morning hours so as to avoid detection. It was a period of great distress.

The Rev. A. C. Van Raalte, an Associate Pastor in Arnhem and a leader of separatist groups in the Netherlands, also ministered to the Dutch people across the border in Germany. He encouraged them to consider emigration to America, as he and a group of about 100 from congregations in the Netherlands were planning to do in the Fall of 1846.

(to be continued...)



At Graafschap, circa, 1859



OUR RESTORATION

Prayer & Thanksgiving

Healing, Sympathies & Joys

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

For Healing, Hope, and Praise...

We continue to ask that you take special precautions to protect yourself, your loved ones, and to pray for our neighbors and all who have lost loved ones from Covid-19. Understanding the current threat from the Delta as well as the Omnicron variant, we offer praise and thanksgiving for all our people — who are exercising caution through these challenging times.

We pray for those recovered family and friends as well as for those who are facing the Covid-19 challenge in the hospitals. We continue to pray that we might *all* feel safe about worshipping, meeting, and fellowshiping together.

Please also continue to “Pray without ceasing” for ...

— **Mary Kleinheksel** suffered a stroke on December 3 and was hospitalized for a couple of days. She has some remaining weakness on her left side for which she is undergoing physical therapy.

— **Bea Boucher** spent some time at the end of December in Holland Hospital to diagnose the cause of a blood pressure irregularity.

— **Beth O’Donnell** underwent surgery on December 26 to repair a fractured hip which she suffered in a fall.

— **James Oonk**, son of **Sandi & Charlie VanHouten**, underwent surgery on December 23 for kidney stones. He is also suffering more side effects from his brain tumor. At this time, the prognosis for surgery or treatments is not promising.

— **Viv Terpstra** has been regaining her strength at home following hospitalization for a bout with Covid-19 late in November.

— **Faye Westrick**, the 6-year-old granddaughter of Jeff & Kathy TenBrink, continues to make progress in her rehabilitation at home.

— **John Windisch** underwent surgery on December 20 to receive a pacemaker. He was discharged from the hospital the same day and is recovering well at home.

— **Linda Schut**, our former Mescalero missionary with husband Bob, appreciates the prayers in her battle with cancer.

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

— We extend our sympathy to **Brad & Jeanne Kane, Eli** and their family. Brad’s mother, Lois Kane, passed away Thursday, December 2. May they experience God’s love and grace in this time of sorrow and loss.

In Thankfulness...

For health and healing, for a community who cares and shows great love during our moments of concerns, grieving, and loss.

—Pastor Kevin & Mary would like to offer a heartfelt thanks for all your prayers, cards and word of encouragement following Mary’s stroke. We have felt the prayers lifted up on our behalf and appreciate your continued support. We are truly grateful for our loving and caring church family! —Pastor Kevin & Mary

—Thank you for the prayers & gifts during Ken’s passing. —Joy Wesseling

— Thank you for all of the prayers and cards I received following my surgery. —John Windisch

Our Sunday Morning Worship...

Join us on Sunday mornings at 10am in the Sanctuary or stream on our **YouTube Channel...** just click on the livestream link at www.centralparkchurch.org on our home page “Sunday Worship” button. Also find the past services button link on the Worship Page.



Remember our Homebound Members in Winter

The Shepherding Elders remind us that our Homebound Members need special prayers during the cold winter months. Please send a card or a call when you can!



Pastor’s Corner... “Dive Deeper” cont. from p.1

During the month of January we are going to talk about going deeper in our relationship with Jesus, deeper in our faith, and deeper in our partnership with this church body.

The teaching series will simply be called “Deep Water.” We will dig into scripture to see what it means to be baptized as followers of Jesus. We will think about what happens when we share together in the Lord’s Supper. And we will be challenged to move from being participants in the life of this church to really being partners in what God is seeking to do in this community.

If you are looking for a group that is going deeper this winter, we have several small groups and classes to offer. On Wednesday nights, Max will lead a group for adults and students in the book “How (Not) to read the Bible.” The men’s group is starting a study of James using a Frances Chan resource. And I will lead a group studying Ezekiel. There is also a women’s group that meets on Thursday mornings looking at the book of Psalms and another group on Saturday mornings studying the topic of prayer using a book called “Fervent” by Priscilla Shirer.

Don’t be like me and stay in the shallow end. It’s time to get into the Deep Water.