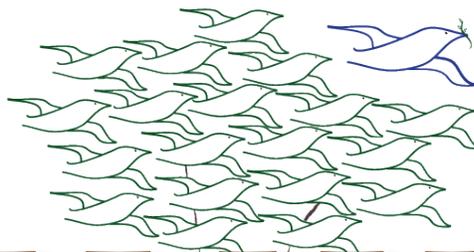


"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage ..."

Psalm 32:12

Central Park Church



2022

November

PATHWAY

November 2022 "Good News" of Central Park Church

Vol. 22. #11



Making a Difference in Serving our Community.

Did you see some families you didn't know handing out treats from their trunks this past Wednesday night? It's a story that started with the Girl Scouts.



This is what Serving our Community looks like!

A couple of weeks ago, a woman named Nicole and her daughters stopped in at church during our staff meeting. They were dropping off a thank you note. Why? They were moved with our hunger outreach and wanted to thank us for the opportunity for their Girl Scout troop to help us fill our Micro Pantry as a community service project.

Nicole then asked if they, along with a neighbor family, could participate in our **Trunk or Treat** event by handing out candy. We assured them that that would be great!

On Trunk or Treat night, Nicole and friend Kayla, along with their kids, arrived before 5:00pm in full costume with fully decorated trunks and set up to hand out candy. As they were getting everything in place, Nicole mentioned to me that they wanted to participate so that their kids could be part of *giving candy and not just getting candy.*

We live and serve in this kind of a community. This isn't the only time people of our community have stepped up to fill our Micro Pantry. People around us want to be engaged in things that make life better for all of us.

Outreach Connections & Collaborations. These connections and collaborations can energize a faith community like ours. That is why I am excited about the decision our Supervising Consistory made at their October 23 meeting... *electing to collaborate more closely with Park Church in ministering with and for the community between and around us.* Over the next few weeks, we will be putting together a team of people from both churches and this community to flesh out what that might look like. If you are interested in being part of planning this kind of hand-on ministry, let me know.

One area of collaboration with Park Church that has already been in the planning stages for a few weeks is our cooperation on holiday worship services. We are calling them **"Holidays in the Parks."**

On Wednesday evening, November 23 at 6:30pm we will gather for a Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service at Park Church. A choir and a worship team made up of people from both churches are being put together. That night, I will deliver the message.

(continued on page 4.)

OUR NOVEMBER PATH

Pastor's Corner

Outreach & Collaboration in the Community We Serve!

Worship This Month

Worshipping Together Living/Serving/Connecting (pg. 2)

Consistory Notes

Decisions facing the Leadership & Stewardship at CPC in 2022 (pg. 3)

Students Activity

The Promise of Fall, Youth Center in full swing for CPC Kids & Students (pg. 3)

Spiritual Life

God's People serving together to "Do Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly" (pg. 3)

Outreach & Mission

Holiday Shoppe Arrives, Supporting Our Missional Outreach (pg. 3)

People & Places

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

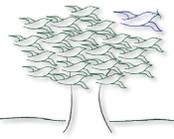


Central Park Church
614 Myrtle Avenue
Holland, MI 49423

A Congregation of the Reformed Church in America



Our Gift of Stewardship

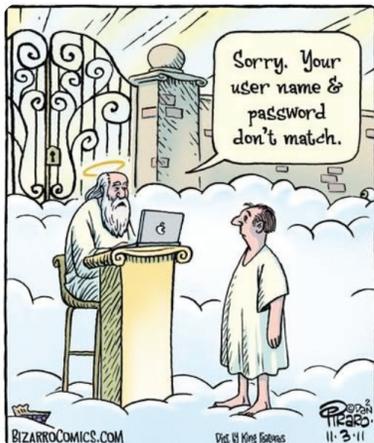


☐ The General Income total for Sept. 2022 ...	\$ 24,227
(monthly/annual need: \$27,320/\$327,385)	YTD: \$ 205,232
☐ Mission offering for Sept. 2022 *...	\$ 3,310
*Note: As <u>part</u> of the total budget need	YTD: \$ 17,720

OUR FAITH-LED DECISIONS

Supervising Consistory & Shepherding Elders Meeting Notes ... September 2022

- ☐ The Supervising Consistory met three times in October to continue conversations about what significant steps are needed in our ministry plan as well as what needs to go into a budget for 2023.
- ☐ The Supervising Consistory decided to end our subscription to RightNow Media in November.
- ☐ The Supervising Consistory reviewed the various designated funds included in the church's general accounts to better ensure that money set aside for certain purposes is available when it is needed.
- ☐ The Supervising Consistory will be ready to present a financial report for 2022 and a proposed budget for 2023 at the annual Fall Congregational meeting on Sunday, November 27 following worship. The meeting will be held in the Gathering Place.
- ☐ The Supervising Consistory approved collaborating with Park Church to serve in and with the community between and around us in creative ways.
- ☐ The Shepherding Elders reviewed the care needs of the people of the church and talked about encouraging people to reconnect as the fall ministries begin.
- ☐ The Shepherding Elders announced that the next celebration of the Lord's Supper in worship and for our Homebound members will take place on the first Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2022.



OUR WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP



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

November 6

Grace & Truth Series
"Speak Truthfully"

– Exodus 20:16, Colossians 3:12-17 –

November 13

Grace & Truth Series
"Don't Covet, Be Content"

– Exodus 20: 17, Hebrews 13:5-6 –
Operation Christmas Child Box Collection

November 20

Grace & Truth Series:
"Living in Grace & Truth"

– John 1:14-18,

November 23

Thanksgiving Eve Worship
6:30pm at Park Church

Combined Choir & Worship Team
Pastor Kevin Delivering the Word

– Deuteronomy 26:1-11 –

"Celebrate with All the Bounty"

November 27

Behold Series

"Behind the Music: Behold"

– Matthew 1:23 –

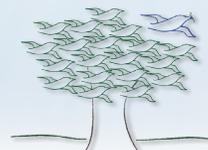
Celebrating the Lord's Supper

December 4

Behold Series

"Behold the Prophet"

– Mark 1:2 –



OUR LIFE & COMMITMENT

November News ...

Rockin' Down Under!

This is what a great youth program looks like in the Student Center "down under" the Sanctuary on Sunday nights. Max reports:

November is here, and with it comes a couple of different teaching series, along with a trip to the local theaters.

This November we'll take three weeks to look at The Greatest Commandment. **For Advent**, we're going to talk about Wonder and returning to a childlike wondering in our lives. Also, stay tuned for details about a trip to **Sperry's Moviehouse** to see Black Panther 2.

To date, we have seen 38 different students swing by our Sunday Night Community!

Wednesday nights will continue to be game nights until we begin our Christmas prep beginning on November 30. Any Q's? Check in with max@centralparkchurch.org to get connected!

central park kids & students



Max & Students in the Youth Center...



CPC Students do Trunk or Treat on October 26...

Outreach & Missions Update:

Holiday Shoppe Helps Meet the Needs of Our Missions

Holiday Shoppe arrives this Month and it is a good time to talk about all that this "ministry" and outreach have done over the past several years to meet the needs of our Missions abroad, as well as those in the US — and right here in our West Michigan community of greater Holland.



Holiday Shoppe Returns as we focus our hearts, minds, and gifts on our awesome Missions programs here at CPC!

You may recall that not too many years ago, a group of women, inspired and led by CPC artist and crafter **Pat Doolittle**, wanted to encourage our congregation to lift up the Biblical call to mission as a driving force in our ministry here at Central Park Church. Looking at our **Outreach & Missions** budget, we support World Missions, local Ministries, Church camps, and Haiti through our Mission and General Fund giving, *but we can give more!* **Holiday Shoppe is a call to support our Missions budget with an event that brings our focus back to the needs of those we are called to serve:** the poor, the hungry, the displaced, the poor in society and the poor in spirit. Providing help and hope lifting those up to raise their eyes to see the vision that is Jesus in the world.

Everyone is energized to make this the best Holiday Shoppe ever! **This year our Mission focus** is our own **Words of Hope** Mission in the **Middle East** and locally, **Escape Ministries** just down the road on 32nd St. **Escape Ministries** goes beyond reaching out to troubled kids to providing services to all members in the community who also struggle with addiction and poverty.

Small Group Bible Studies in November...

A Women's Group meets every other Saturday morning, 10:30am to noon, in the Cornerstone Room.. They will be completing their study called "Discerning the Voice of God" in November. Women of any age are welcome to join the group. Contact Kathy TenBrink or Elizabeth Maynard for more information

A Men's Group meets every Wednesday evening at 6:30pm in the **Overlook Room**. They are engaged in a study called "Be Still" by Brian Heasley, which will run through November. All men are welcome. Contact Jay Hescott for more information.

Another Women's Group meets in the **Cornerstone Room** every Thursday morning, 10:30 to 11:30am. Phil Garvelink leads this study of Beth Moore's book on the life of the Apostle John. All women are welcome to attend.

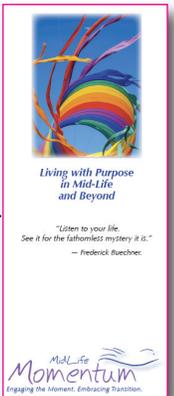
Thursday Morning Prayer Time. A group of people meets to pray every Thursday morning 9:30 to 10:15am. Come from time to time with special prayer needs, or come every week to join in prayer for people, the church and our community.

Have an idea for creating a small group? See something that you would like to dig into with others? Talk to Pastor Kevin about getting the next new group started!

Great Stories in the Library "Nook"...

Elizabeth Maynard, CPC Librarian extraordinaire encourages us to take the time to browse the good reads for all kids — from nine months to ninety years — in the CPC Library. Don't forget the work of our CPC authors, **Jim Zeedyk** and **Holly Schut**, who have produced two terrific reads. They make great Holiday gifts, for Christian (and non-Christian) friends.

- **Midlife Momentum** — by Holly Schut...
- **The Journey Home: From Graafschap to Central Park.** — by Jim Zeedyk with Sam Hofman



Trunk or Treat 2022! (We Ain't Afraid of No Ghosts!)

On Wednesday, October 26, when the clock struck 5:30, Halloween arrived at Central Park Church! Boo!

With dinner for everyone, loaded Trunks with Treats and Spooky-Good candy for the kids and kid in us all, what more could any self-respecting Goblin or Ghost want on a beautiful night in the creepy-crawley "back lot" of a Century-old church ground?

This is another one of our great community outreaches that touches our community. Lest we forget, this is also where we get to poke that Devil on All Hallows Eve, and say, "Dude, the clock is ticking, your time is up!"





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 for prayer for our families and friends of our worship community. We offer praise and thanksgiving for all who are reaching out to the Lord and finding answers through faith in His Word. We continue to hold our "family" members below in our prayers.

Please Continue to "Pray without ceasing" for ...

— **Nick Sebasta** has returned to work as his health continues to improve! Please keep Nick and family in as he continues his battle over Cancer.

— **Viv Terpstra** is home following time at Resthaven Care Center to regain her strength. She continues to receive ongoing treatment and attention for a blood disorder for which she was diagnosed.

— **Janet Gonser**, daughter of **Marge Struer**, was diagnosed with congestive heart failure. She had a procedure done in mid-October at the Meijer Heart Center in Grand Rapids to have a pacemaker inserted. She is recovering well and has returned to work.

— **Scott Kramer** was diagnosed in late August with truncal dystonia. Keep Scott, Jen, and the rest of the Kramer family in your prayers.

— **Calvin VanLente** has returned home early in October and is continuing to gain strength and mobility there.

— **Carlene Ramirez** continues to receive physical therapy for her back pain. Please keep Carlene in your prayers.

— **Manny Ramirez's** brother, **Joe**, received a kidney transplant in August and is recovering well. Manny, his brother, and their family appreciate all the 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: 1-4

We express our sympathy in Christ to **Ted & Sally Kleis-Fik**. Ted's daughter, **Michelle Kruithof**, passed away on Friday, October 14, following a motorcycle accident. May God continue to provide comfort and peace through His Spirit and His people as time goes by.

Special prayers for **Ukraine**, which is being bombarded by the Russian military, cutting off power and water to key areas around the country. We pray for her people to hold firm, remain hopeful that evil will not triumph over those who seek self-determination and freedom.

In Thanksgiving

Thank you, Central Park Family, for all the calls, visits & cards we have received since the passing of our daughter Alexa. We feel your prayers and find ourselves reading the cards over and over again for comfort. In his love,

— **Eric & Lisa Beelen**

Thank you for all the thoughts, cards, and prayers on the passing of our Mom. They were much appreciated.

— **Bill and Susan Becksvoort**

Central Park Church Family – A cemetery gravestone I once read ... "As you are now, so once was I. As I am now, so you must be, prepare for death and follow me." We thank all for your cards, thoughts, and prayers during our loss. May God Bless us all. With Love...

— **Ted and Sally Fik**

Worship with Us!

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. You can also find the past services button link on the Worship Page.

Food Pantry Helpers

Thanks to all who are keeping the Pantry stocked as an outreach to the community! Please continue to bring...

- Peanut Butter & Jelly
- Spaghetti and Sauce
- Ravioli
- Pop Tarts
- Pancake Mix/Syrup
- Fruit snacks
- Granola bars
- Paper Towels
- Tissues
- Personal Hygiene products

Remember our Homebound Members

During the Holidays! *The Shepherding Elders remind us that our Homebound Members need special prayers during holidays like Thanksgiving & Christmas. Please remember to send a card or a call when you can!*



Pastor's Corner...

Continued from p. 1

"Connections & Collaborations"

On Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, we are inviting the folks from Park Church to come to our 6:00pm worship service. And on Christmas morning, Sunday, December 25, you all are invited to attend the worship service at Park Church at 9:30am.

On New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1, 2023. The people of Park Church will join us here at Central Park for our 10:00am worship service.

Holidays in the Parks gives us a way to celebrate these special days with brothers and sisters in Christ who care deeply about this community, just as we do.

Central Park Church is planted in a great neighborhood.

We are stepping into a season with new energy and ideas for serving with and for the people here. Let's pray together, work together and see together what God wants to do through all of us here.