

"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love..." | 1 Corinthians 13:13

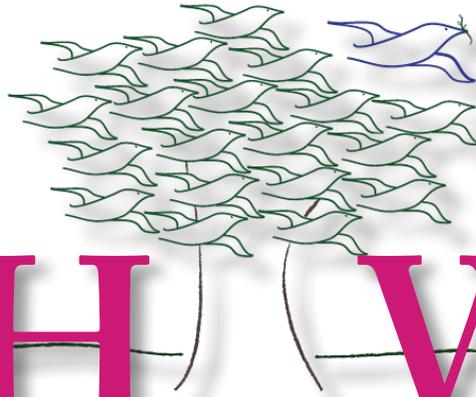


Happy Valentine's Day!

2023

February

PATHWAY



February 2023

"Good News" of Central Park Church

Vol. 23. #02



"An Igniting Place"

During my sabbatical last summer I had the opportunity to connect with some pastors and churches that I would not have in ordinary day-to-day ministry. In the month of February some of those interactions will come back to Central Park and bless our ministry here.

One of churches Mary & I visited was CenterPoint's Kalamazoo City Church. The building they meet in used to be the home of Trinity Reformed Church of Kalamazoo which we served back in the 1990s. We worshiped with the congregation on a Sunday morning and talked with the people there. Later in the week I had an extended phone conversation with the pastor, Jason Olson.



Let's be that "Igniting Place" in our Neighborhood

The thing that caught my attention was that Kalamazoo City Church is *effectively ministering in the neighborhood where the church is located*. About half of their members come from the area around the church building, and the members who live farther away are committed to serving in that neighborhood as well.

Pastor Jason Olson will join us by Zoom at our February 7th Supervising Consistory Meeting. I have asked him to share some of the things they did early on to begin connecting within the community and then to explain how they are continuing to develop that ministry focus year after year. ***I hope we can gain some wisdom for our ministry focus on the neighborhood around us which is very similar to the community around Kalamazoo City Church.***

Another conversation I had on my sabbatical was with Pastor Mark Waterstone from Rose Park Church on the north side of Holland. A few years ago, Rose Park partnered with a larger church in our area to shift the focus of their ministry. That partnership later dissolved and Rose Park is going it alone once again.

Pastor Mark emailed me last fall and asked if I and Central Park would be interested in working on a teaching series with them. Several conversations later, with some changes of plans along the way, you all will get to participate in the teaching series during the season of Lent.

We are calling it "Famous Last Words." It will focus on Jesus' seven words from the cross. **Embody Christ Fellowship has joined in the series, so there are three churches involved.** On Wednesday, February 22, Embody Christ will host an Ash Wednesday worship service. The **Famous Last Words** of Jesus begin on Sunday, February 26. We will provide some weekly devotional passages and thoughts as well.

(continued on page 4.)

OUR FEBRUARY PATH

Pastor's Corner

Connecting Community. Living into a Church that is an "Igniting" Place (pg. 1)

Worship This Month

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

Consistory Notes

Decisions facing the Leadership & Stewardship at CPC in 2023 (pg. 2)

Student Activity

Still Chillin' in Valentine month, here's the news for CPC Kids & Students (pg. 3)

Spiritual Life

Serving together to "Do Justice, Love Mercy, and Walk Humbly" (pg. 3)

Outreach & Mission

We rejoice that Support for our Missional Outreach makes us Stronger (pg. 3)

People & Places

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

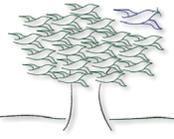


Central Park Church
614 Myrtle Avenue
Holland, MI 49423

A Congregation of the Reformed Church in America



Our Gift of Stewardship



<input type="checkbox"/> The General Income total for Dec. 2022 ... (monthly/annual need: \$27,320/\$327,385)	\$ 34,741 YTD: \$ 298,786
<input type="checkbox"/> Mission offering for Dec. 2022 *...	\$ 1,888 YTD: \$ 24,223

*Note: As part of the total budget need

OUR FAITH-LED DECISIONS

Supervising Consistory & Shepherding Elders, Leadership Notes ... December 2022

- Supervising Consistory reviewed the events and ministry of 2022 and completed the annual "Life & Health of the Congregation" report to Holland Classis, Regional Synod and General Synod.
- Reviewed the final Treasurer's Report of 2022 and will share the numbers with the congregation in the bulletin and the letter that goes out with giving statements.
- Approved grants from the remaining allotment of the Vision for Mission Fund for 2022 as recommended by the Outreach & Mission Fund: \$750 to participate in the "Churches In Mission" coaching cohort with Western Seminary, \$1,000 to Camp Geneva, \$1,000 to CranHill Ranch, \$2,000 for emergency food relief through our ministry partners in Haiti.
- Supervising Consistory approved using the remaining \$1,000 of money given in memory of Michael Peuler to purchase a new computer & software for projecting to the screen in the sanctuary and then permanently moving the current computer to the Student Center.
- Approved the installation of a digital information screen inside Entrance D to share news about church events with people who come to use the ARC for various purposes.
- The Shepherding Elders reviewed the care and membership of the people in their Clusters.
- Approved a letter for all parents of middle and high school students sharing the opportunity for students to "Dig Deeper" and move toward confession/baptism on Easter Sunday.
- The Shepherding Elders decided that the next celebrations of the Lord's Supper will be on Sunday, January 22, 2023, and then on the second Sunday of Lent, March 5, 2023. Communion will also be served to our Homebound Members in early March.
- Change of meeting dates In February: the Supervising Consistory will meet on Tuesday, February 7 and the Shepherding Elders will meet on Tuesday, February 28.

Special prayers for **Ukraine**, which is being bombarded by the Russian military, cutting off power and water across the country. We pray for her people to hold firm, remain hopeful that evil not triumph over those who seek freedom to worship and freedom from tyranny.

OUR WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP



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

February 5

The Letters of John Series
"Opposition"

– 1 John 2:15-27 –

February 12

The Letters of John Series
"Children of God"

– 1 John 2:28-3:3 –

February 19

The Letters of John Series
"Continuing to Sin"

– 1 John 3:4-15 –

Shawn Voss Teaching

February 22

Ash Wednesday

7:00pm Service

Hosted by Embody Christ Fellowship

February 26

First Sunday of Lent

Famous Last Words Series

"Father Forgive Them"

– Luke 23:34 –

Max Blumer Teaching

March 5

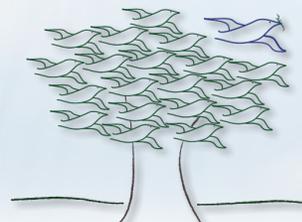
Second Sunday of Lent

Famous Last Words Series

"Woman, Here is Your Son"

– John 19:25-27 –

Celebrating the Lord's Supper



OUR LIFE & COMMITMENT

February Kids & Students

central park kids & students

Winter Jam at the Van Andel Arena



@ Kennedy Gustafson's Game

High Schoolers...

Friday, January 27-29 Winter Retreat @ CranHill

Middle Schoolers...

Winter Retreat@ CranHill on February 10-12

Check in with max@centralparkchurch.org to get connected!

Small Group Bible Studies in February...

A **Women's Group** meets every other Saturday morning, 10:30am to noon, in the Cornerstone Room. They will begin a new study of Kay Arthur's book *Standing Firm in These Last Days* on February 11. This is a great time to join the group. Contact Kathy TenBrink or Elizabeth Maynard for more information.

The Wednesday night **Men's Study Group** has resumed meeting as a part of Community Nights. All men are welcome to join in the scripture study, discussion & prayer. 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 special focus Small Group? See something that you would like to dig into with others? Talk to Pastor Kevin about getting the next new group started!



Outreach & Missions Update:

Reaching out to Cran Hill & Beyond...

During the "off-season," CranHill Camp is holding two **Winterfest Community Days** and needs volunteers on **January 29th and February 19** to help in the celebration. Contact Bill VanBruggen or Jeff Bosma for information on how you can help!



Reaching Into the Community...

You may recall a gift of \$2,000 that was given to **Escape Ministries** out of proceeds from last Fall's Holiday Shoppe. We recently received a thank you note from the Director Linda Jacobs who informed us that Central Park's donation grew! "First time donations given between November 15 and December 31 of 2022 are eligible for a 100% grant up to \$10,000 offered by the Escape Ministries Board. Your gift is eligible for the match *and will make double the impact!* We cannot thank you enough for your contribution!" It's nice to see our gifts go toward rebuilding lives and hopes right here in our Holland Community.

Reaching Our Ongoing Missions Nearby ... We praise God that we are able to reach out to these special local ministries with offerings of dollars as well as our time and talents. Please consider putting your volunteer hours to work at: • **Escape Ministries** • **Gateway Ministries** • **Community Action House** • **Kids Food Basket** • **Mediation Services** • **Holland Momentum Center** • **Lighthouse Immigration Services**

Reaching Outward to Haiti...

Our friends in Haiti ask for our prayers as they live with continued food scarcity and unbelievable inflation and instability. However, the students are back in school! The students at Pastor Antoine's school are also fed, through your generosity! Our nursing students are continuing their education so they can bless their community with healthcare. We are thankful that the banks have continued to function and we can get relief funds to our partners. Here in America we cannot imagine living with the uncertainty that our partners work with.

Again, you make this possible! We are thankful for your generosity in funds, prayers, and encouragement!! Please, be assured that you are making a life-saving and life-changing difference in the lives of hundreds of people.





OUR RESTORATION

Prayer & Thanksgiving

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.

— **John Maynard** continues his recovery following a December back surgery.

— **Kyle Nevenzel** is receiving physical therapy as he recovers from knee surgery which took place in December.

— **Jack VanLente** continues to regain his strength after he broke several ribs in a fall and suffered complications from broken ribs.

— **David Osterhaven** was hospitalized at the end of December with inflammation in his legs. He has returned home and is doing physical therapy to regain his strength.

— **Charlie VanHouten** has recovered well following a short stay in the hospital at the end of December where he was diagnosed with inflammation around his heart.

— **Tracy Brown** is a resident at a long-term recovery & treatment center in Northern Michigan.

— **Scott Kramer's** test with a spinal stimulator in late December went well enough for them to consider the possibility of implanting a permanent one as a means of dealing with his ongoing back pain.

— **Calvin VanLente** has completed his physical and occupational therapy and has now returned to work.

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

— **Howard VanHuis** has moved to Poppen Hospice in Muskegon. He continues to have trouble with breathing and weakness and is appreciative of the good care he and his family are receiving.

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 extend our sympathy in Christ to **Jason & Stacy Trott**. Jason's mother, **Ellen Trott**, passed away on Wednesday, January 25. May God support them with his peace and grace in this time of sorrow and loss.

We express our sympathy to **Barb Nevenzel** on the death of her brother, **Ben Knoll**, who passed away Monday, December 19, 2022. We pray they will know the presence and comfort of Jesus.

We express our sympathy in Christ to **Joe & Gail Rogers** and their family. Joe's brother, **Tom Lee**, passed away December 25. May God bring the comfort of His Spirit through the words and presence of His people.

We express our sympathy to **Rich & Judy Baumann**. Judy's brother-in-law **Lloyd Lubbers** passed away Monday December 26. May God provide them with grace and peace.

We express our sympathy to **Manny and Carlene Ramirez**. Manny's mother, **Gloria Ramirez**, passed away Monday January 16 in the evening. Manny was able to make it there to see her before she passed. May God provide them and their family with grace and peace.

Thank you for the visits, thoughts, and cards I received during and after the surprise open house for my 80th birthday. The Central Park Family has always been central in our hearts. — Jim Zeedyk

Thank you for all the Christmas cards! They were very much appreciated. — John Windisch

We want to express our thanks to our church family for your prayers and cards sent during John's surgery and recovery. We appreciate your thoughtfulness. John is slowly improving and hopes to be back in church soon. Gratefully... —John and Elizabeth Maynard

Address Updates:

Dan Calkins: 371 West 19th Street, Holland, MI 49423

John Windisch: 616-321-4115 (new phone #)

Pastor's Corner...

Continued from p. 1

In March, we will have two Sundays where the three pastors will teach at the other churches. So, you will get the chance to meet Andrew Spidahl from Embody and Mark Waterstone from Rose Park, and I will have the opportunity to meet their people.

One of our goals is to help each of us gain a bigger picture of the church than just the four walls of our building and the neighborhood where we live. We may be separate congregations within the RCA, but we are all eager to worship God and make Jesus known to the people around us.

Last week when I was visiting **Ken & Barb Strengholt** at Appledorn Care Center, Barb asked what was going on at church. When I told her some of the things we have happening this winter, she intended to say "Central Park is an exciting place." However, what came out as she stumbled over the word "exciting" was the word "igniting." *Central Park is an igniting place.*

I like that. Our church as an igniting place. A spot where things begin. Where sparks turn to flames. I told Barb that she had just given me the title for my article on the front page of the February Newsletter. *"An Igniting Place."*

That is something to live into!

