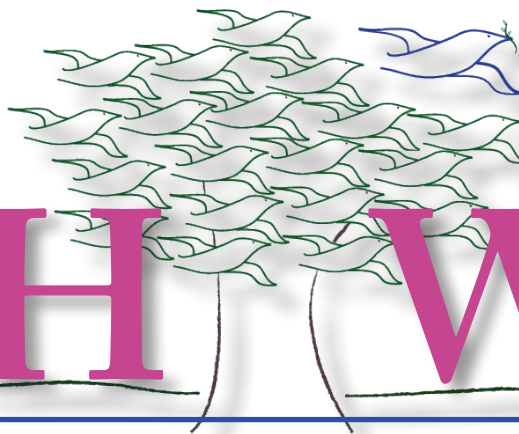


HappyTulip Time!

PATHWAY

2023



May 2023

The "Good News" of Central Park Church

Vol. 23. #05

Engaged in Mission Right Here

This month I have two things that I want to draw to your attention. So, this month you get a double Pastor's Corner.

The first topic has to do with our Churches in Mission Team. What's that, you ask?

Last fall, our Supervising Consistory decided that we need to focus some ministry attention on the neighborhood around us. We know that many of our members live in other neighborhoods, but this is the place where God has planted Central Park Church. We have a special responsibility and opportunity right here. It is good for us to learn more about our neighbors and explore what God might want us to do in this place.



Serving God's people through food distribution

One of our resources for becoming more intentional about engaging in ministry around the church comes through Western Seminary. It is called "Churches in Mission."

In March, we joined a cohort with 10 other churches from around the country that are all discerning how their resources and passions as a church address the needs and circumstances of the people around them.

Our Churches in Mission Team is comprised of Holly Schut, Kathy TenBrink, Paul Towne, Jen Werley, Garry Visscher, and me. We meet monthly by Zoom with our coach from the seminary, Hannah Stevens.

Early on in this process we are doing some interviewing of people in the church and in the neighborhood. Our hope is to get a clear picture of how we see ourselves as a church and how people around us see the neighborhood in which they live. This is an exercise in listening and bringing together stories and hope.

Each team member will be doing five interviews inside the church and five outside, so many of you will have an opportunity to be interviewed.

We have some ideas of people outside the church to talk with but need some suggestions as well. If you know someone who lives near the church to whom you would be willing to introduce one of our team members for a conversation, please let one of us know.

(continued on page 4.)

OUR MAY PATH

Pastor's Corner

Engaged in Mission Right Here
at Central Park Church

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

More activities throughout the Summer
Months... here's what's happening (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)



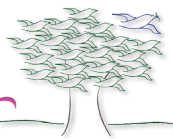
Central Park Church

614 Myrtle Avenue
Holland, MI 49423

A Congregation of the Reformed Church in America



Our Gift of Stewardship



☐ The General Income total for March 2023 ...	\$ 29,826
(monthly/annual need: \$26,464/\$317,568)	YTD: \$ 70,644
☐ Mission offering for March 2023 ...	\$ 2,565
*Note: As <u>part</u> of the total budget need	YTD: \$ 6,085

OUR FAITH-LED DECISIONS

Supervising Consistory & Shepherding Elders, Leadership Notes ... from April 2023

☐ The Supervising Consistory committed to revising their meeting agendas to spend the first hour of each meeting making plans for doing ministry in the church neighborhood. They will share stories from their conversations and connections as well as consider the impact of other decisions being made by the Supervising Consistory and Ministry Teams.

☐ Supervising Consistory received the responses to the nominations of Supervising Elders & Deacons and decided to extend additional opportunities to serve in those roles. The recent nominees will respond by the end of April.

☐ **The Annual Spring Congregational Meeting** will be held on **Sunday, May 21, 2023, at 11:15am**. The meeting will be held in the Gathering Place following worship. The agenda will include selecting Elders and Deacons as well as an update on church finances and on our mission to connect more deeply in the church neighborhood.

☐ Supervising Consistory noted that mission giving fell below expenses during March. Expenses from the "Mission & Ministry" section of the budget in the amount of \$2,525 were paid from the VanPutten Fund.

☐ Approved three grants from the Vision for Mission fund that were recommended by the Outreach & Mission Team: \$500 for Garry Visscher going to Mescalero, \$4,550 for Student Ministry going to Nashville, and \$615 for David Beattie going to Pine Ridge.

☐ The Shepherding Elders received the responses to the nominations of Shepherding Elders. They approved the names of those giving affirmative responses to be on the ballot for the congregational meeting.

☐ The Shepherding Elders reviewed their clusters to share health concerns and other needs.

☐ Our next celebration of the **Lord's Supper** will be on Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023. Communion will also be served to our Homebound Members at that time.



OUR WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP



Worship Plans May 2023

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

May 7

Best Practices Series
"Put It Into Practice"
– Matthew 7:24-27 –

May 14

Mother's Day
Best Practices Series
"Mentoring"
– Ruth 2:17-23 –

May 21

Congregational Meeting Sunday
11:15 After Worship
Best Practices Series
"Home Church"
– Acts 16: 11-40 –
Max Blumer Teaching

May 28

Pentecost Sunday
Best Practices Series
"Vulnerability"
– Acts 2:1-4, 42 –
Celebrating the Lord's Supper

June 4

Graduate Sunday
Best Practices Series
"Living Generously"
– Luke 21:1-4 –



OUR LIFE & COMMITMENT

Summer on the Way!

Central Park Kids is wrapping up its weekly Sunday mornings on May 21. Our summer schedule will be posted mid May. This year we've worked our way through major stories throughout the entire Bible. This May we focus on the early church and Jesus' return!

Central Park Students Summer Events & Projects...

Here's our summer schedule:

June 4 - event

June 25-30 - Nashville mission trip

July 10-13 - serve at VBS

July 30 - event

August 13 - event

August 19 - work project in student center

central park kids & students



At a Student Tennis Match



Nashville bound!

Graduation Already?

I can't believe we've reached that time of year again. This year's graduation Sunday will be on June 4! Whether your student will be here or not, we want to recognize and celebrate them! We'll put together a little presentation that morning in worship and celebrate afterwards with dessert! Would you please pass along:

1. Student's name as they wish it to be published
2. Where they are graduating from (and with what kind of degree, if applicable)
3. What's next for them
4. A nice recent picture!

Thanks! — Max

Outreach & Missions Update:

Feeding the Children of Haiti and More! Pastor Antoine Tends his Flock...

As Over 400 students at Emmah, Pastor Antoine's school are fed daily!



180 students are receiving their scholarships and are back to school for Nursing, mechanics, teacher education, accounting and so much more! Twenty children and young adults are living in the "Family" at Mission Love Haiti! Forty staff and teachers are being paid a salary and are able to feed their families!

All of this during a year when life has been very tenuous and chaos is still a part of many Haitian lives. Beautiful Response can only accomplish this when our generous support base continues to be faithful. Galatians 6:9 encourages us, "Do not grow weary in doing good, for in the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." We often need to hang on to this word. When we think of the needs of our dear friends in Haiti we know that giving up is not an option.

—Blessings, Holly and Al

Small Group Bible Studies in May...

A **Women's Group** meets every other Saturday morning, 10:30am to noon, in the Cornerstone Room. They are studying Kay Arthur's book ***Standing Firm in These Last Days***. New group members are welcome anytime. Check the bulletin for the specific dates they are meeting. Contact Kathy TenBrink or Elizabeth Maynard for more information.

The Wednesday night **Men's Study Group** will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings in May at 6:30pm. They will continue a study featuring the teaching of Craig Groeschel. All men are welcome to join in this study. Contact Jay Hescott for more information.

Thursday Morning Women's Group has completed their study and will begin to meet again in September.

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.

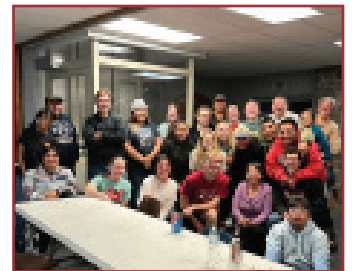
Have an idea for creating a special focus Small Group? See something that you would like to dig into with others? Talk to Pastor Kevin about getting the next new group started!

PENTECOST

"And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them." Acts 2:3

Return to Mescalero

As reported here recently, Mark and Miriam Vellenga have returned from a pre-pandemic "retirement" to take up the leadership reins with the elders at the Mescalero Reformed Church. Mark reports, "So things are busy and somewhat chaotic and challenging, but also very good at the same time."



Celebrating the New Elevator!

The biggest concern and personal challenge I face is getting the word out that I'm back here and that many good things are happening at Mescalero Reformed Church. We desire other partner churches to join us with prayer support as well as financial backing for the ministry."

Reaching Our Ongoing Missions Nearby ...Please consider putting your volunteer hours to work at these missions:

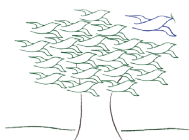
- **Escape Ministries** • **Gateway Ministries**
- **Community Action House** • **Kids Food Basket**
- **Mediation Services** • **Holland Momentum Center**
- **Lighthouse Immigration Services**



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.

— **Viv Terpstra** has regained some strength and has been able to return to her home following stays at Holland Hospital and MediLodge.

— **Scott Kramer** was hospitalized with the sudden onset of stuttering. Tests and changes in medication have not given a clear diagnosis of the cause. Scott also underwent successful testing for a medication pump that could bring relief for his ongoing back pain. Scott & Jen are thankful for your ongoing prayers.

— **Marilee Bosma's** mother, **Joanne Nieboer**, was diagnosed with Covid-19 late in March. She recovered well over the next couple of weeks. Thanks for all the prayers.

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

In Sympathy & Concern...

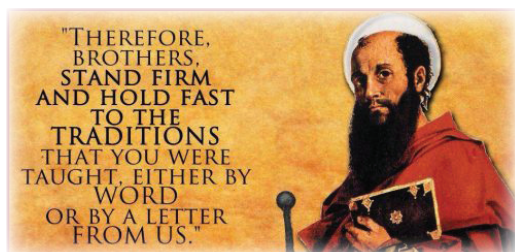
For those unnamed requests for prayer during challenging times ...

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God... I am going to prepare a place for you. — John 14: 1-4

We extend our sympathy in Christ to **John & Elizabeth Maynard** and the entire **Maynard family** as they mourn the loss of **Kenny Rose**, their brother-in-law who was seriously injured in November and never fully recovered. This is the fourth death in their family in the past 12 months. Please take a moment to hold them all up in your prayers!

In Sincere Gratitude...

Thank you again... to everyone who has volunteered for the all the Community Night Meals, Classes, and Activities.

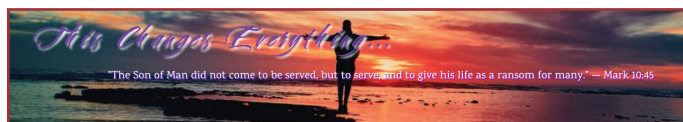


Changes in Latitudes....



Address/Contact Updates:

Tracy Brown is now living at 304 West 12th Street, Holland, MI 49423. His phone number remains 616-510-8645



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.

Don't forget our Homebound Members as Spring brings the promise of life new and eternal!

Make a Call, or send a Card letting them how much We Care!



Pastor's Corner...

Continued from p. 1

The team and I are excited about what the Churches in Mission process can help us discern about God's intentions for us in this community.

Down the road we will have wisdom for how we can minister most effectively in the spot God has planted us.

Best Practices...

I also want to draw your attention to our teaching series for the next couple of months.

Our goal is to be very practical about the things we can do to grow deeper as disciples of Jesus. We are calling it "Best Practices."

Each Sunday we will look at a passage of scripture and pull apart the steps for growth modeled there. We will also provide some "best practices" around that theme which other Christians have developed over the years.

Perhaps you have a best practice that you will want to share with others as the series goes along. We would welcome that.

Here at Central Park Church, we seek to be all about "Crossing boundaries in Jesus' love to meet needs, build relationships, and grow disciples."

Over the next couple of months, we can work on "building relationships" with the Churches in Mission Team and "growing disciples" in worship.

God's got exciting things in store for us as we move from spring into summer this year.

