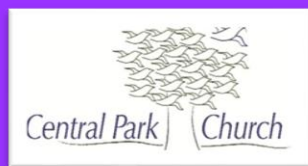


**Seeking God and others
By Loving
Serving
And Learning together**



**Central Park Church
December 14, 2025**



Pastor Wayne Brouwer will offer pulpit supply preaching on Philippians 4 "Anticipation of Joy" for the third Sunday of Advent.

Order of Worship

We Gather

Prelude – Ruth Keel – "Oh, Come Little Children"

"Once He Came in Blessing"

Ringling of the Bells

"Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

Welcome

Advent Candle: Joy

"Joy to the World"

We Approach

Announcements

Ministries update

Congregational Prayer

Mutual Greeting

Presentation of Offering *"Doxology"*

Inviting the Children to CPKids

"Instrument of Peace"

We Hear God's Word

Prayer for illumination

Scripture: Philippians 4

Page 1028 in Pew Bible

Sermon: "Anticipation of Joy"

Prayer

We Respond

"I Cannot Tell"

Blessing

"God of Mercy, God of Grace"

(hearing loop available)

A Community Seeking God & Others



To send out an email **For Prayer and Care** contact Jessica Stam:
at 616-820-9329 jessica@centralparkchurch.org

- **Marge Streur** is home.
- **Marla Zeedyk** continues to recuperate at home.

Thank you to all who lent their Nativity Scenes, we had 43 different sets. Thank you to Nancy, Bill, Jeanne, and Kathy for all the work you put in and the volunteers who helped during a stroll through Bethlehem.

A group meets every Sunday morning from 9:25-9:45 for prayer in the Overlook Room. You are welcome to join to pray or to be prayed for. In addition, the second Sunday of every month, prayer team members are available after the morning service at the front of the sanctuary and would be glad to pray with or for you there, or if you prefer, in a more private setting.

By Loving & Serving

Worship Online- To catch the livestream or watch the service later, click on the link on our website homepage and go to the Central Park Church YouTube Channel.

A nursery is available on the lower level for children and infants to 3 years old. Our helper today is Shelley Kunkel. Next week (December 21) will be Kim & Val Nevenzel.

Stay for a bit following worship and enjoy coffee and cookies. Coffee is also available before and during the worship service. Please use one of the covered cups. Dave & Lynn VanHekken are our Hospitality leaders today. Next week (December 21) will be Jeanne Westrate and Char Bouwens. Doug Kooiker and Jim Zeedyk are our Greeters this morning before and after worship. Next week (December 21) will be Dianne Slager and Judy Prince.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be December 24 at 6:00pm.

We need help with shoveling! If you would like to help with this contact Dave VanHekken.

Ever wonder why the sanctuary is dressed in purple, or green, or white (or once per year red)? Central Park worship team follows the church year (liturgical) calendar which tells the whole Christian story in the course of a year. Particular colors tell worshippers what part of the story we are in. If you are interested in learning more, there is a guide on the information table that explains how this works and why we follow it.

Our annual Kids Christmas Program will be on Sunday December 21, during our morning service at 10:00am. The last practice will be from 5:30 until 7:00pm (dinner included) on Wednesday December 17. We would love to have you be a part of our Christmas celebrations! Contact Jodi with any questions at 616-834-1484.



Remembering our Homebound Members at Christmas. Visit the table in the Gathering Place and take a few minutes today to sign some cards for our Homebound Members or bring in your own and put them in the appropriate bag. Donations of boxes of Christmas cards are accepted in the church office. Cards will be delivered on December 17.

Haiti Giving Tree - please consider giving to the mission that we support in Haiti this Christmas. We haven't been able to send a mission team in quite a while, but we can help them know that they are loved and remembered at Christmas. Even though we can't ship gifts - we can bless the children and some of the teachers with monetary gifts - the tree contains "ornaments" that give you an idea of what each item would cost. The money has continued to make its way to support the children's education, and we have continued to try and send money to ensure that they get a meal during the school day. We also try to send funds to help with school supplies and teachers' salaries, and food. Please consider taking an ornament and blessing our Haitian brothers and sisters in Christ. You can put money in the collection plate marked for the Haiti giving tree or you can find information on how to give online or directly to Beautiful Response Haiti. Thank you for continuing to be a blessing to them!
-Outeach & Mission Team

Parents, please check out the **Advent and Christmas books** we have on display in the church library. Reading together the stories of Christmas is a great way to prepare during Advent.

Wednesday night community dinner will resume on January 7th.

2026 Church Directories will be ready in January, if you have anything that needs to be updated email Jessica at jessica@centralparkchurch.org

Trivia Night with the youth group was a huge hit last time! Join them tonight, Sunday December 14 at 6:00pm for pizza and trivia in the Student Center.

The Youth Group is doing a Pizza Fundraiser.

Find one of the youth kids or contact Jodi if you would like to order a pizza and help our youth group go on a mission trip. Cheese, Pepperoni or Deluxe homemade pizzas made by the kids. Orders need to be turned in by December 21.

Keeping our Micro Pantry well stocked

Here's what we need this week-

- Complete Meals
- Boxed Mashed Potatoes
- Mac and Cheese
- Boxed Cereal
- Pop Tarts
- Rice
- Knorr Pasta sides
- Pasta Roni Pasta mix
- Pancake & Syrup
- Snacks – Fruit snacks, crackers
- Paper Towels, Kleenex
- Hand and Dish Soap
- Shampoo & Conditioner

As the weather gets colder let's stock up on items that won't freeze. Help us support our community by donating items to keep the pantry full. Keeping our Micro Pantry stocked this week is Ellen Hossink.

And Learning Together

MS/HS Students meet on Sundays at 6:30pm.

Wednesday Nights – Will resume on January 7th with Scott Hoezee teaching on “Why We Listen to Sermons”

Thursday Morning Women's bible study meets at 10:00am.

Saturday Women's Bible Study meets every other week and will be starting a new study soon on Experiencing Contagious Joy by Christa J. Kinde.

Next Sunday Pastor Marc Nelesen will be preaching on Isaiah 7:10-16 “God With Us” for the fourth Sunday of Advent.

This Week at Central Park Church:

Sunday December 14

- Congregational Meeting – Following worship service
- Trivia Night with the Students – 6:00pm

Tuesday December 16

- Cardio Café – 9:00am
- Congregational Life and Care Team meeting – 6:00pm
- Outreach & Mission Meeting – 6:00pm

Wednesday December 17

- Kids Christmas Program Practice – 5:30pm

Thursday December 18

- Cardio Café – 9:00am
- Women’s Bible Study – 10:00am
- Open Volleyball – 7:00pm

Saturday December 20

- Women’s Bible Study – 10:30am

Offering:	11/30/2025	YTD %
General Fund	\$9,986**	87%
Mission Fund	\$1,563.49**	93%

**Includes November Clover Give and December E Giving

Year to date actual General Fund expenditures	Year to date General Fund gifts
\$253,213	\$223,717

Making a year-end gift to your church through your RMD as a QCD (qualified charitable contribution) is a smart and generous way to support your faith community while optimizing your tax benefits. By applying this strategy, you can help your church thrive and fulfill your required IRA withdrawal at the same time. If you have any questions please contact Dave Van Hekken.

Two ways to give from your smart phone.

- Text the keyword GiveCPC to 616-201-3550
- Scan our Giving QR Code

Contributions can also be made online through the church website, by mail, dropped off during office hours or placed in the baskets at the sanctuary entrances. **Thank you for your continued financial support of the ministry of Central Park Church**



Communication with Congregation

The Consistory met on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 and offers the following highlights from the meeting:

General Information:

1. The Consistory is working together with the Executive Team on a preliminary Pastor Job Description. We plan to work on a survey for the congregation to give feedback as to what you are looking for in a called pastor.
2. The Executive team is planning to present the Church Profile at the Congregational Meeting on 12/14/25.
3. Central Park and Park Church met on 12/11/25 to discuss our continued partnership for ministry.
4. The Community Relations and Mission Team continues to work on future plans for the Indoor Pantry.

The Consistory has approved the following items:

1. The Proposed Preaching Schedule for 2026.
2. Joint worship with Park Church on Maundy Thursday, 4/2/26.
3. The Vision for Mission Fund grant allotment of \$10,750 (as recommended by the Finance Team).
4. The recommendation that up to \$2200 for the Youth Group Cran Hill High School and Middle School retreats and up to \$3900 for the Youth Group Summer Mission trip to Nashville be provided from the 2026 Vision for Mission Fund.

The next ordinary meeting of the Consistory is January 13, 2026 at 6:00pm.