



Being Faithful

Dear Brothers and Sister in Christ,

Where do we go from here? Our church buildings have been closed to group activities over the last 3 months. Your staff has continued to work at home and occasionally at the office- wearing masks and keeping our distance. Our worship, coffee hour, Bible studies, youth group, choir gatherings, and daily emails to everyone, have continued to keep us together by digital means. And our Deacons have organized shepherds to keep in touch with local members by phone. In my view, we have been serving the spiritual needs of one another well, perhaps better than we were doing before. And we continue to address social and emotional needs as well. But where do we go from here?

I think this is a complex question to answer. I don't see it as a political question. Nor as an emotional question. Nor as a question to be answered by logic alone. I believe it is first and most importantly for us, a faith question. What does being faithful look like in this time? What does it mean in this current environment to be faithful to God? To be faithful to our neighbor? What does scripture say that helps us answer these questions in a pandemic that is not going away anytime soon?

What is the Holy Spirit guiding us to do, given the scientific facts that are facing us? It won't be as simple as choosing a date to open the doors. But how does faithfulness frame all the questions we will be asking about when and where and how? What scripture, theology, or faith practices will you bring to the conversations? We need those things in order to do whatever we do faithfully. I will be writing more on this topic in future newsletter articles.

Central's Session is starting to address these questions, beginning with several committee discussions. There is no answer yet.

But this past Friday, our 'presbytery task force on re-opening church buildings' released their report and guidelines on how this can be done faithfully and responsibly. It includes a Biblical and theological framework. I recommend you read this entire report at <https://media.mywtenfold1.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/05/22181251/FINAL-Letter-from-the-Presbyterian-COVID-19-Taskforce.pdf>

Their study of the science, the legal, and the faith aspects of re-opening church buildings has led them to recommend not opening any earlier than September 12. Please read it carefully. Your Session will be studying this document as they discern the way forward. If you wish to do further reading of materials that informed this report, go to <https://newarkpresbytery.org/worship-meeting-resources/> which is a page on our presbytery website that includes many similar reports from other church organizations and related bodies. Let us bring our *faith* as the foundation of what we do here in this situation as well as all the choices and decisions we need to make throughout our lives.



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What's Inside for You?

- Committee Chairs – Who to Ask?
- Our Community Room *Before & After*
- Mission Campaigns: A Generous Response

Who to Ask?

We are here to help. We want to make sure you know who you can reach out to for questions or support. Below is a listing of the Chairs of our church committees and elected church leadership. We will also e-mail or physically deliver a directory to you if you want to be able to reach others in our church community.

Called to serve? You may also be interested to participate in the ministries of the church and connect with others. You are welcome to join the conversation and learn about our committees at any time.

Committee	Chair	Contact
Buildings and Grounds	Doug Ewertsen	(973) 973-8990
Christian Education	Carolyn Buck	(973) 809-6831
Clerk of Session	Frederick Moulongo	(206) 753-8913
Communications & Spiritual Outreach	Lynn Selassie Don Waisanen	(917) 922-1098 (646) 285-4122
Deacons	Scott Osborne	(201) 704-2510
Finance and Stewardship	David George Frederick Moulongo	(917) 414-2337 See above
Mission	Liz Burkland	(973) 222-6010
Personnel	Mark Johansen	(973) 650-5370
Treasurer	Cecil Mitchell	(201) 279-2809
Worship	Ann Arndt	(201) 247-3962

Community Room Transforms

Throughout the month of May, Mark Schoonfield has been busy transforming the Community Room. Time was spent deep cleaning and repairing key elements of the room including the radiators, cupboards, windows, and walls. Next, the entire room was painted. And last, a new, high-traffic floor was installed. Finishing touches are next to come. They include custom-sizing pews as benches, building a cover for the HVAC equipment, and stencil-painting details to the blackboard wall windows.



Left: Blackboard wall before after. Above: Main entrance before and after. Right: New flooring in-progress (now complete).



Mission in the Community

A Mighty Thank You to Central Members and Friends!

Despite the upheaval Covid-19 caused to all in so many ways these past two months, Central's members and friends refused to let the chaos stop them from donating to several good causes. In fact, donations were up considerably, showing once again what a kind and generous congregation Central is.

One Great Hour of Sharing contributions totaled \$2,650.00, almost double the amounts given in previous years. In the new Virtual Lilies program, organized by Cynthia Bennett, contributions to Toni's Kitchen by Central's members and friends totaled \$1,107.00. And, since we were unable to donate food items to the Human Needs Food Pantry, the monthly Red Wagon contribution for April totaled \$370.00. That's a lot of groceries! Please note, we will continue to seek monetary contributions for The Food Pantry for June as well.

On behalf of the Mission Committee, thank you all for your generosity.

Stay safe and well.

Peace,

Liz Burkland, Chairperson, Ann and Dave Arndt, Cynthia Bennett, John Finney, Larry Stauffer and Pastor David Noble



Virtual Lilies Project

The In-Choirer



The choir connecting via Zoom

I hope you all are safe and sound and happy!

We are in a nice groove with Sunday worship. Facebook live-streaming is becoming comfortable for us, and we hope it is an effective way to worship for you. I believe the better we are at doing it, the more meaningful it will be to you. Dave Arndt has been an enormous help to us with the technical side of it, and we have recently added soloists to sing; Barbara Sabella and Valerie Spain have stepped forward, and I am grateful to them. We are, of course, maintaining all social distancing guidelines, which is pretty easy to do with 4 people in our church. Kudos to all involved in keeping our Sunday worship going!

Our choir is still 'active' via weekly get-togethers over Zoom, and we have wonderful fellowship and good times during those gatherings. We have now entered a new phase where we will try to present a virtual version of the choir in Sunday Worship in the very near future. The choir has been itching to sing, and while we still can't do that live, we are working around it to provide worship services with our presence. Stay tuned and you'll see what we are doing!

I hope that we stay connected and vital as a church until we are allowed to be together again.

Yours in Christ,
Ed

Faith & Community for Kids

Second Saturdays at Central:

Thank you to everyone who submitted videos to our Virtual Talent Show on May 9th! I hope you enjoyed Jason Didner and Great Scott in addition to your peers! If you haven't checked it out and would like to, the event is archived on our [YouTube Channel](#). We are finalizing details for our June event and will publicize as soon as we have that information.

This season of Second Saturdays has certainly stretched our creativity and innovation. A huge shout out and thank you to our 123 Kids Steering Committee members: Brian and Christina Cattell, Frederick and Morgan Moulongo, Erin Carlisle Norton, Rolda Mitchell, and Andrea Robinson for their ideas, support and collaboration! And another BIG thank you to everyone who has volunteered this season for Second Saturdays events—whether donating supplies or their time: Barbara Sabella, the Kauhl/Johansen Family, the Halls, the Nortons, the Moulongos, Liz Burkland, Kim O'Hare, Ed Alstrom, Ron Naspo, the Nobles, Emma Justice, Scott and Pam Osborne and the Central Youth Group.



123 Kids Steering Committee Meetings continue monthly via Zoom—typically the 3rd Sunday of the month. We are beginning to plan for Season 4 of Second Saturdays. If you would like to join the steering committee, please email Lauren Waisanen at lauren@commupward.com.

Connect Montclair:

Community Movement Project continues to offer a virtual adult pilates/barre class on Fridays at 2pm and the Little Movers class has moved to a “pop-up” model via Facebook Live. Both are pay-what-you-can. Classes continue through June. Class information is shared via email and social media and is also on the website, www.communitymovementproject.org/schedule.

The Red Cross May blood drive was canceled by the ARC, but our June blood drive is on for **June 11th via SIGN UP ONLY. The ARC will not accept Walk-Ins.** Call 1-800-RED-CROSS to register. Blood donations are still needed and due to cancelations the supply is critically low. Central is committed to providing a space and opportunity for blood collection while taking every precaution necessary (along with the added protocols from the Red Cross).



Our Community Room renovation is well under way and it looks great! Check out the note on the last page!

Lauren Waisanen
Community Coordinator
with Levi

Continuing Education & Small Groups

Brief Wednesday Meditation *New!*

Could you use a few minutes of peace each week?

Beginning on June 10th we will be offering a weekly meditative prayer opportunity each Wednesday at 12:15. Meeting on Zoom, we will explore a variety of practices including contemplative prayer, body prayer, and Taize singing. Join Kara Johansen, Karen Noble and Pam Osborne who will lead us through 15-20 minutes each week of learning and experiencing a spiritual practice. We will turn to a new practice every two weeks. We hope that you will take a few moments to find some stillness, while learning practices to carry with you during these challenging days.

B.L.T. (Bible.Lunch.Together.) *Last Day 6/3*

Wednesday Bible study for all

11 a.m. through lunch via Zoom

We are currently reading Mark's gospel, discussing parables, healings, and teachings of Jesus.

Art History Class *New!*

June 10, 7 PM, Zoom

Watch for details on this event. Course to be taught by Pat Dancy.

Men's Bible Study

June 6, and 20

8am-9am via Zoom

June Birthdays

3	Maggie Dancy
8	Ryan Dancy
9	Kevin O'Hare
	Jim Dodd
	Charles Wilson
12	Cynthia Bennett
	Valerie Henry
	Mike Sneden
13	Ella Schestag
15	Frank Wood
17	Ryan Marone
21	Pat Dancy
	Lynn Selassie
24	Robel Hall
	John Robinson
25	Rolda Mitchell
	Barry Kenstler
26	Graeme George
	Michael Norton
29	Natalie Arndt Marone
30	Eric Johansen

Treasurer's Report

For the month of April 2020, Central Church collected \$23,509 in revenue (including transfers from investment funds and interest income of \$8,000) and paid \$36,439 in expenses. Therefore, the church received \$12,439 less in revenue than it paid out in expenses. The money in the checking account decreased again to \$40,960. Pledge income was about \$3,000 less than budget. The Special Offerings revenue line includes collections for O.G.H.S., HNFP and Toni's Kitchen totaling \$2,548. Money received was \$20,000 less than budget due in part to the decreased Rental and Church Use and Investment Interest & Income revenue. April 2020 expenses are about \$6,759 less than the amount budgeted for various timing and other reasons.

The investment account balances are reflective of month-end March 2020. The market for April recovered slightly but still faces strong headwinds.

Submitted by: Linda Bowers FinancialSense Bookkeeping

Cecil Mitchell, Treasurer; Ron Naspo, Assistant Treasurer; Pat Dancy, Assistant Treasurer

Profit & Loss Budget Performance

April 2020

					Apr 20	Budget	Jan - Apr 20	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
	Ordinary Income/Expense								
			Income						
			4000 · Plate Offerings		0	500	875	2,000	6,000
			4060 · Memorials/Steeple Lighting		0	167	100	667	2,000
			4100 · Pledges		10,186	13,083	40,935	52,333	157,000
			4150 · Special Pledges		0	125	0	500	1,500
			4200 · Special Offering		2,548	375	3,988	1,500	4,500
			4250 · Per Capita Assessment		0	125	0	500	1,500
			4400 · Rental Income		3,469	17,063	52,902	68,253	204,760
			4450 · Church Use		-700	1,500	6,190	6,000	18,000
			4600 · Investment & Interest Income		1,506	3,333	21,364	13,333	40,000
			4700 · Miscellaneous Income		0	1,060	200	4,238	12,714
			4800 · Funds Transfers		6,500	5,878	26,000	23,512	70,536
			Total Income		23,509	43,209	152,554	172,836	518,510
		Gross Profit							
					23,509	43,209	152,554	172,836	518,510
			Expense						
			5000 · Salaries, Benefits & Taxes		15,627	17,966	62,363	71,865	215,596
			5010 · Payroll Tax Expense		1,048	1,091	4,302	4,363	13,088
			5020 · Personnel Recruiting		0	42	0	167	500
			5050 · Church Utilities		3,631	3,708	17,251	14,833	44,500
			5060 · Manse Utilities		326	521	2,593	2,083	6,250
			5100 · Buildings Maintenance		12,344	11,945	46,977	47,780	143,340
			5150 · Insurance		0	1,917	9,760	7,667	23,000
			5200 · Professional Fees		375	508	2,700	2,033	6,100
			5250 · Church Office		741	983	3,431	3,933	11,800
			5300 · Worship & Arts		868	750	1,189	3,000	9,000
			5350 · Fellowship		0	42	90	167	500
			5400 · Outreach		144	833	1,437	3,333	10,000
			5450 · Per Capita Assessment		891	250	1,781	1,000	3,000
			5500 · Mission		0	833	1,100	3,333	10,000
			5550 · Special Offering Expense		0	375	1,769	1,500	4,500
			5600 · Christian Education		234	600	1,465	2,400	7,200
			5700 · New Begin - Community Outreach		200	833	981	3,333	10,000
			Total Expense		36,429	43,197	159,189	172,790	518,374
	Net Ordinary Income								
					-				
					12,920	12	-6,635	46	136
Net Income									
					-				
					12,920	12	-6,635	46	136

JUNE 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:00 PM Intermediate Session Meeting, Zoom 4:00 PM Christian Ed. Committee meeting, Zoom	3 SESSION REPORTS DUE <i>Last Day</i> 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM BLT, Zoom 1:00 PM Staff Meeting, Zoom 7:30 PM Personnel Committee meeting, Zoom	4 <i>New</i> 12:30 PM Lunchtime Hymns with Ed, Live Streamed via Facebook 7:00 - 8:00 PM Choir meeting, Zoom	5 2:00 pm CMP for Adults – Pilates/Barre Blend with Erin Carlisle Norton, Zoom	6 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study, Zoom
7 Trinity Sunday 10:00 AM Worship Live Streamed via Facebook <i>New</i> 11:00 AM Deacons' Picnic during Coffee Hour, Zoom. Details coming soon! 5:00 PM Confirmation 5:30 – 7:00 PM Youth Group	8	9 7:00 PM Session Meeting, Zoom	10 <i>New</i> 12:15 PM Brief Meditation, Zoom 1:00 PM Staff Meeting, Zoom <i>New</i> 7:00 PM Christian Education Art History Class	11 12:30 PM Lunchtime Hymns with Ed 1:30 – 6:30 PM American Red Cross blood drive 7:00 - 8:00 PM Choir meeting, Zoom	12 2:00 pm CMP for Adults – Pilates/Barre Blend with Erin Carlisle Norton, Zoom	13 3:00 PM Second Saturdays
14 10:00 AM Worship Live Streamed via Facebook 11:00 AM Coffee Hour, Zoom	15	16 8:00 PM Worship Committee meeting, Zoom	17 12:15 PM Brief Meditation, Zoom 1:00 PM Staff Meeting, Zoom	18 Newsletter Submissions Due 12:30 PM Lunchtime Hymns with Ed 7:00 - 8:00 PM Choir meeting, Zoom	19 2:00 pm CMP for Adults – Pilates/Barre Blend with Erin Carlisle Norton, Zoom	20 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study, Zoom
21 Father's Day 10:00 AM Worship Live Streamed via Facebook 11:00 AM Coffee Hour, Zoom 5:00 PM Confirmation 5:30 – 7:00 PM Youth Group	22	23 7:00 PM Intermediate Session Meeting, Zoom 7:30 PM Communication Spiritual Outreach, Zoom	24 12:15 PM Brief Meditation, Zoom 1:00 PM Staff Meeting, Zoom 7:30 PM Deacons meet, Zoom	25 12:30 PM Lunchtime Hymns with Ed 7:00 - 8:00 PM Choir meeting, Zoom	26 2:00 pm CMP for Adults – Pilates/Barre Blend with Erin Carlisle Norton, Zoom	27
28 10:00 AM Worship Live Streamed via Facebook 11:00 AM Coffee Hour, Zoom	29	30 7:30 PM Stewardship & Finance Committee, Zoom	<p>For Zoom access to Committee meetings or B.L.T: pastor.centralpresbyterian@gmail.com</p> <p>For CMP Classes: www.CommunityMovementProject.org Community Movement Project Little Movers (preschoolers) with Denise Kulhan, Zoom, has shifted to a “pop-up” class on Facebook Live. Follow Community Movement Project on Facebook to get important updates about classes.</p>			



The Buildings and Grounds Committee approved funds for painting the hallway. The style will match the Community Room. The Education Building entrance will be refreshed this June.



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JUNE 2020