

# CENTRAL CHURCH NEWS

April 2020



From photo by Gwen Charles

## “The peace of Christ be with you”

Peace is in short supply right now. It feels more like anxiety and even fear are with me. Public figures squabble with each other. Peace seems very far away.

So, I miss “sharing the peace” on Sunday mornings. I miss the refreshment that passing the peace provides. I bet you do, too. Everyone can do it, so it unites us in a way that is special. It will be extra special when we can do it again.

While on the sea, Jesus rebuked the wind, saying, “Peace, be still.” He said to those he healed, “Go in peace.” He preached in his Sermon on the Mount that you and I are peacemakers. And after his resurrection as he met the disciples, he said, “Peace be with you.” And in the letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul wrote, “make every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

We may think we are just saying “hi” or being polite when we share the peace of Christ, but really, we are identifying with Christ who gave his life to make peace with humanity. Peace wasn’t cheap, it cost Jesus his life. So, too, it is costly for us. How could the hands we offer in peace, ever be clenched in anger over some difficult decision? How could the spirits that we unite with a hug, ever be so at odds with each other that we cannot speak or look at each other?

We pass the peace of Christ every week because every week we need to remember we are one in Christ, and because we need a nudge to be who we are called to be- peacemakers. We continually practice making peace, so it shapes us to be more like Him, and the world we inhabit can see what peace looks like. I can’t wait until we share it again. Together.

The peace of Christ be with you!

## What’s Inside for You?

- Central and COVID-19: How We Continue to Worship God and Love One-Another in this Unusual Time
- Friendly Faces: Photographs of Church at Home
- Steeple Update: The Work is Done!



PASTOR DR. DAVID C. NOBLE  
CELL: (248) 229-9720

PASTOR.CENTRALPRESBYTERIAN@GMAIL.COM

# Central and COVID-19

In January of this year, the world began to learn about a new health threat in the form of a virus. At first we learned there was an outbreak in a city called Wuhan, in China. Then we heard about transmissions and losses of life outside of China. In mid-March, our communities of New Jersey, and more locally, Montclair, were called to local action. Community guidelines to combat the virus have gradually become more and more restrictive.

On Thursday, March 13, Session approved a motion to close our facilities to all events and gatherings until they deemed the spaces safe as a matter of public health. As of March 24, Session voted to keep the facilities closed for the foreseeable future. Session has been and plans to continue meeting every Tuesday to review the situation.

In the span of two weeks we mobilized to keep the life of the church – our members and friends – connected.

- 1) Worship moved to an on-line, live stream format (see details in the Worship updates)
- 2) We send out daily e-mails with pastoral messages of hope, calm, and restoration
- 3) Established Zoom video conference ability to shift staff and committee meetings
- 4) Community Movement Project trained on Zoom and shifted to offer classes from instructor's homes
- 5) Deacons created a shepherding plan to make sure our friends and members are kept in the loop and have an opportunity to share their needs, be heard, and stay connected

Staff and members have worked hard and collaborated well to make these things happen. It has long been a desire to grow our use of technology at Central. We simply did not envision it happening through a situation like this, on this timeline. Our first Live Stream worship service, March 22, had 457 views, and our March 29 video has 207 (as of today).

Session is mindful of the ways we can help others. They voted to continue the April Red Cross blood drive as a life-saving opportunity, incorporating enhanced precautions. Virtual Easter lilies will raise money for Toni's Kitchen.

Thank you to all who are stepping up to help us stay connected in this time. Now more than ever...

## Continuing Education & Small Groups

### B.L.T. (Bible.Lunch.Together.)

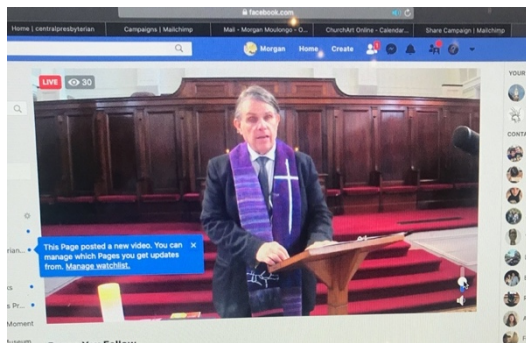
Wednesday Bible study for all – now on Zoom.  
11 a.m. through lunch. We are currently reading through Mark's gospel, discussing parables, healings, and teachings of Jesus.

### Men's Bible Study

April 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.  
8am-9am via Zoom.

Please call if you would like a Zoom tutorial and access information. Pastor David: (248) 229-9720.

# Our New Virtual Reality



As our world has been turned upside down, it's comforting to know that we can still connect with our church family through technology. We now "gather together" for Sunday Worship by live streaming on Facebook and teleconferencing via Zoom. This has caused some of us to move beyond our comfort level in learning new things. The Worship Committee is grateful to Ed Alstrom for learning how to work with a new tool (Mevo) recommended by Dave Arndt, for live streaming, and for our Pastor, Morgan Moulongo, and Lauren Waisanen for assisting with the implementation.

The Worship Committee continues to meet weekly to discuss improvements and challenges to worship. Sometimes we surprise ourselves with new ideas! Thanks to committee member Emma Justice for her suggestion of "Virtual Lilies" for Easter. Our congregation will donate the contributions given for Easter lilies to Toni's Kitchen to feed our hungry neighbors.

We will be worshipping together virtually for the foreseeable future, so be sure to stay tuned for email updates about Holy Week services and Easter.

In the meantime, we remain confident in God's good grace and abounding love.

The Worship Committee

## Bulletin Board

Thanks to Pam Osborne for her help in starting a Prayer Wall for Central. We can now visit this site to read others' concerns, and add our own, knowing we can pray for each other.

[padlet.com/cpcprayers/412kp8rf373s](https://padlet.com/cpcprayers/412kp8rf373s)

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

6	Lon Hoyt
7	Cecil Mitchell
8	Don Waisanen
10	Kim O'Hare
11	Aubin Ames
18	Christina Cattell
21	Max Sneden
22	Ron Naspo
26	Katie Dancy
29	Ellie Cattell
30	Charlotte Eveleth



The steeple is illuminated in April, her birthday month, in loving memory of Mary Wood.

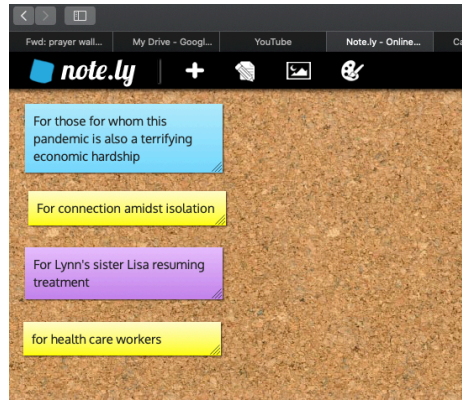


# Together Apart



Lauren Waisanen

Community Outreach Coordinator, Central Montclair



Clockwise Top Left: Erin Carlisle Norton and Miles say *hello* after teaching a CMP Pilates class; Lauren Waisanen on Facebook with a video for our Second Saturdays audience; Pastor David and friends on a Zoom call for B.L.T.; our virtual Prayer Board with “post-its” for prayers; the Moulongo family during a Zoom “Little Movers” class taught by Denise Kulhan; Carolyn Buck participating in B.L.T. from her kitchen table.

# Two Opportunities to Give

**During this Lenten Season**, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many of us are experiencing a lot of stress, confusion and perhaps fear for our families, our friends, our businesses and the world beyond.

Despite the fact that we are unable to worship together, we can still help others through two wonderful giving opportunities: the Virtual Lilies Project and One Great Hour of Sharing.

## The Virtual Lilies Project



Virtual Lilies Project

Since we will not be placing lilies around the chancel steps, the Deacons and the Mission Committee are asking CPC members and friends to donate the same amount you would have spent on lilies, with the donations distributed to Toni's Kitchen instead. Toni's Kitchen is a food ministry sponsored by St. Luke's Episcopal Church located in Montclair. On a weekly basis, Toni's kitchen feeds up to 100 guests four times per week without reference to their economic status. During the pandemic, Toni's is also donating groceries one day per week at the three Montclair school locations where free lunches are handed out to students.

To give, please address your check to Central Presbyterian Church, and write 'Toni's Kitchen' in the lower left-hand corner of the check. Please mail the check to:

Central Presbyterian Church, 46 Park Street, Montclair, NJ 07042.

## One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

OGHS is the single, largest fund-raiser sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA). Your gifts help a variety of Presbyterian programs world-wide provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and self-development and support for the poor and oppressed.

A letter sent earlier this month included an envelope for your offering. Please send the envelope with your check, or, if you do not have the envelope, address your check to Central Presbyterian Church and write "OGHS" in the lower left-hand corner of the check. Please mail the check to:

Central Presbyterian Church, 46 Park St., Montclair, NJ 07042.



We will collect the fish banks when it becomes feasible to do so!

Please give generously.

*Stay safe and well,*

CPC Deacons and the Mission Committee

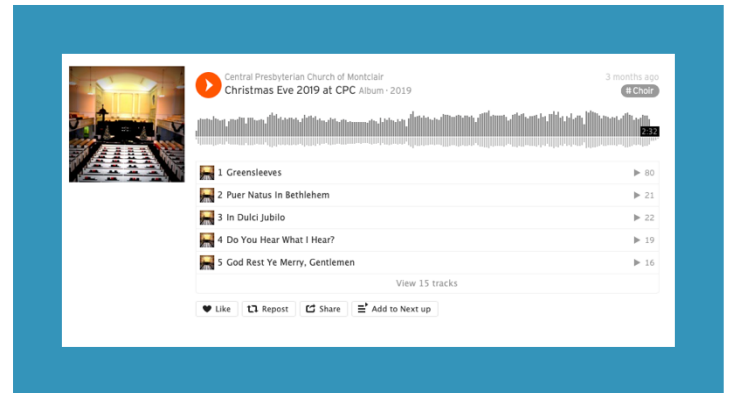
# The In-Choirer

Greetings everyone!

I miss you all, especially those I make beautiful music with each Thursday and Sunday. At least we have broken through a little by now having the ability to present some kind of worship service in real time on Sunday mornings; even though there's only two people in the church, it's gratifying for us. I'm confident that our presentation will continue to improve over time. Do tune in on Sunday mornings to Facebook - we love the real-time response (yes, I can see it!).

I want to take the opportunity, since many more of us will be online trying to make contact, to point you to our **SOUNDCLOUD MUSIC** page at <https://soundcloud.com/user-555518888>.

This page has almost all of the music we have praised God with in Worship and performed since my arrival in Fall of 2016 - Sunday choir anthems, instrumental ensembles, solos, special services, concerts, cantatas, kids, local festivals we have performed at, and more. It may help tide you through lonely times, or just plain entertain or amuse you, help you pray, and put a smile on your face.



Detail from Our Soundcloud Page

It's there for you, and it's free! *Please visit and listen.* There are over 340 pieces up there, and more will come when we get back to the business of Sunday Worship and all the other activities we are missing now. Again, <https://soundcloud.com/user-555518888>.

If you want to reach out to me for any reason, I am at [music.centralpresbyterian@gmail.com](mailto:music.centralpresbyterian@gmail.com). I hope you all stay safe and healthy, and as the song goes, 'God be with you 'til we meet again.'

Yours in Christ,

Ed Alstrom  
Music Director



Thanks to Ed Alstrom for helping explore and create new ways for us to be together. He has been learning about and producing live-stream videos from the sanctuary using a Mevo camera. His role has been double-duty, running the camera while playing our organ for the service. *Thank you, Ed!*



# Faith & Community for Kids

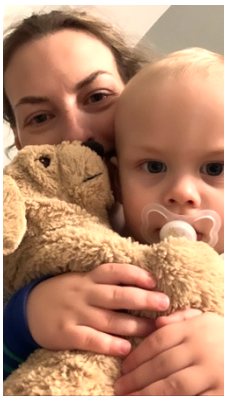
## Second Saturdays at Central:

As you all know, our Second Saturdays on March 14<sup>th</sup> was canceled due to the rising concerns over coronavirus. These are unique times which call for innovation and creativity! We are fortunate to live in a time when virtual technology allows us to “see each other” from distance. To that end, our steering committee team has come up with a creative way to do our Easter-themed Second Saturdays on April 11th VIRTUALLY.

Lili Moulongo has volunteered to be our Easter Bunny this year, and we have a Virtual Egg Hunt planned. At 3pm on April 11th, we will go live on Facebook and kids (with their parents’ help) will comment on the livestream in order to direct the Easter Bunny to where eggs have been hidden in the live shot.

Additionally, we will be pre-recording a story time with Lili where she reads some Easter-themed books for kids and an Egg Surprise Reveal with Nina and Sidney (there is a kid phenomenon on YouTube where kids watch other kids opening Kinder Surprise Eggs. It’s the same idea). We’ll drop links to those videos via email and social media on Easter Sunday at 2pm for families to enjoy.

Our aim with Second Saturdays has always been to foster community, and we need community now more than ever. We’ve been sending out emails every couple of weeks to the Second Saturdays Newsletter community and will continue to do so.



Lauren Waisanen,  
Community Coordinator  
with Levi

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This year we will host an Easter-themed “reveal” video. Our kids will be on screen opening up Kinder Surprise Eggs. This kind of video is enormously popular with young children around the world.



Mark Johansen with Kara Johansen as the Easter Bunny, 2019 Easter day. *From photo by Gwen Charles.*



L to R: Lidet Hall, Eden Selassie, Nina Moulongo and Robel Hall open Easter eggs together after the 2019 hunt.

Photo by Gwen Charles

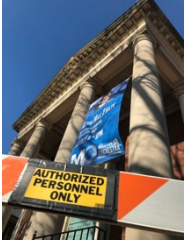
# APRIL 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>For Zoom Access:</p> <p>Committee meetings or B.L.T, contact Pastor David Noble at <a href="mailto:pastor.centralpresbyterian@gmail.com">pastor.centralpresbyterian@gmail.com</a></p> <p>For CMP Classes, see Zoom info at: <a href="http://www.CommunityMovementProject.org">www.CommunityMovementProject.org</a></p>			<p><b>1</b> 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM BLT, Zoom</p> <p><b>7:30 PM</b> Personnel, Zoom</p>	<p><b>2</b> 6:30 PM - 7:15 PM Lenten Soup Supper, Zoom</p>	<p><b>3</b> 2:00 pm CMP for Adults – Pilates/Barre Blend with Erin Carlisle Norton, Zoom.</p>	<p><b>4</b> 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study, Zoom</p>
<p><b>5</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 10:00am Worship Live Streamed via Facebook</p>	<p><b>6</b> 11:00-11:30 am Community Movement Project Little Movers (preschoolers) with Denise Kulhan, Zoom.</p>	<p><b>7</b> 7:00 PM Session Meeting, Zoom</p> <p><b>7:30 PM</b> Christian Ed. Committee meeting, Zoom</p>	<p><b>8</b> SESSION REPORTS DUE</p> <p>11:00 AM - 12:30 PM BLT, Zoom</p>	<p><b>9</b> <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 1:30 PM - 6:30 PM Red Cross Blood Drive (CR) 6:30 PM - 7:15 PM Lenten Soup Supper, Zoom</p>	<p><b>10</b> <b>Good Friday</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 2:00 pm CMP for Adults – Pilates/Barre Blend with Erin Carlisle Norton, Zoom. <b>8pm</b> Worship Details TBD</p>	<p><b>11</b> 3:00 PM Second Saturdays – Live Stream Egg Hunt</p>
<p><b>12</b> <b>Easter Sunday</b> 10:00am Worship Live Streamed via Facebook</p>	<p><b>13</b> 11:00-11:30 am Community Movement Project Little Movers (preschoolers) with Denise Kulhan, Zoom.</p>	<p><b>14</b> 7:00 PM Session Meeting, Zoom</p>	<p><b>15</b> 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM BLT, Zoom</p>	<p><b>16</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p>	<p><b>17</b> 2:00 pm CMP for Adults – Pilates/Barre Blend with Erin Carlisle Norton, Zoom.</p>	<p><b>18</b> 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Men's Bible Study, Zoom</p>
<p><b>19</b> 10:00am Worship Live Streamed via Facebook</p>	<p><b>20</b> 11:00-11:30 am Community Movement Project Little Movers (preschoolers) with Denise Kulhan, Zoom.</p>	<p><b>21</b> 7:00 PM Session Meeting, Zoom</p> <p><b>8:00 PM</b> Worship Committee meeting, Zoom</p>	<p><b>22</b> 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM BLT, Zoom</p> <p><b>7:30 PM</b> Deacons meet, Zoom</p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> 2:00 pm CMP for Adults – Pilates/Barre Blend with Erin Carlisle Norton, Zoom.</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>
<p><b>26</b> 10:00am Worship Live Streamed via Facebook</p>	<p><b>27</b> 11:00-11:30 am Community Movement Project Little Movers (preschoolers) with Denise Kulhan, Zoom.</p>	<p><b>28</b> 7:00 PM Session Meeting, Zoom</p> <p><b>7:30 PM</b> Stewardship &amp; Finance Committee, Zoom</p>	<p><b>29</b> 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM BLT, Zoom</p>	<p><b>30</b></p>		



# Steeple Report

In March we conducted repairs to the steeple. What seemed a minor issue – a panel that shook loose and fell during a winter storm – had a very involved solution. Thanks to the Buildings & Grounds Committee and Building Manager Mark Schoonfield, for coordinating the restoration.



Top (clockwise): Police close Claremont Avenue between Park and Midland Aves.; A truck brings a 50k lb. lift to our front lawn; Workers drive the lift up a custom ramp onto the plaza; A work crew drives the lift from a caged basket at the top. First they re-confirm the damage; Workers come back throughout the week to make repairs. They install new paneling and paint; Our sanctuary steps are off limits to avoid anyone getting hurt by possible falling debris.

## Treasurer's Report

For the month of February 2020, Central Church collected \$38,129 in revenue (including transfers from investment funds of \$9,603) and paid \$33,789 in expenses. Therefore, the church received about \$4,340 more in revenue than it paid out in expenses. The money in the checking account increased to \$107,760 as a \$50,000 check from the insurance company to start the steeple project was received but not yet paid to the vendor and a payroll glitch left an additional \$8,500 in the account. Pledge income was about \$2,600 less than budget. Money received was \$5,000 less than budget but remains ahead of YTD budget due to the strong January income. Actual expenses were about \$9,409 less than the amount budgeted.

Expenses were low this month for several reasons including timing issues reflected in the high January expenses from insurance and fuel costs. Please note, the Salary, Benefits & Taxes line is still understated, though the overdue benefit payment from January was included with the February payment. Due to an error by Paychex, the 2.28.20 payroll run excluded four employees for a total of about \$7,000 in salary and \$1,500 in tax payments. This error is in the process of being rectified.

Submitted by: Linda Bowers FinancialSense Bookkeeping

Cecil Mitchell, Treasurer

Ron Naspo, Assistant Treasurer Pat Dancy, Assistant Treasurer

# Profit & Loss Budget Performance

February 2020

	Feb 20	Budget	Jan - Feb 20	YTD Budget	Annual Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>					
<b>Income</b>					
4000 • Plate Offerings	361	500	746	1,000	6,000
4060 • Memorials/Steeple Lighting	100	167	100	333	2,000
4100 • Pledges	10,443	13,083	21,631	26,167	157,000
4150 • Special Pledges	0	125	0	250	1,500
4200 • Special Offering	0	375	0	750	4,500
4250 • Per Capita Assessment	0	125	0	250	1,500
4400 • Rental Income	16,082	17,063	32,871	34,127	204,760
4450 • Church Use	1,540	1,500	4,590	3,000	18,000
4600 • Investment & Interest Income	3,103	3,333	18,851	6,667	40,000
4700 • Miscellaneous Income	0	1,060	0	2,119	12,714
4800 • Funds Transfers	6,500	5,878	13,000	11,756	70,536
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>38,129</b>	<b>43,209</b>	<b>91,789</b>	<b>86,419</b>	<b>518,510</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>38,129</b>	<b>43,209</b>	<b>91,789</b>	<b>86,419</b>	<b>518,510</b>
<b>Expense</b>					
5000 • Salaries, Benefits & Taxes	14,011	17,966	28,361	35,933	215,596
5010 • Payroll Tax Expense	633	1,091	1,704	2,181	13,088
5020 • Personnel Recruiting	0	42	0	83	500
5050 • Church Utilities	4,925	3,708	9,976	7,417	44,500
5060 • Manse Utilities	68	521	1,337	1,042	6,250
5100 • Buildings Maintenance	9,886	11,945	22,922	23,890	143,340
5150 • Insurance	0	1,917	9,760	3,833	23,000
5200 • Professional Fees	950	508	1,775	1,017	6,100
5250 • Church Office	1,204	983	2,147	1,967	11,800
5300 • Worship & Arts	40	750	321	1,500	9,000
5350 • Fellowship	0	42	90	83	500
5400 • Outreach	175	833	523	1,667	10,000
5450 • Per Capita Assessment	0	250	891	500	3,000
5500 • Mission	0	833	1,100	1,667	10,000
5550 • Special Offering Expense	0	375	1,769	750	4,500
5600 • Christian Education	1,380	600	1,421	1,200	7,200
5700 • New Begin - Community Outreach	517	833	714	1,667	10,000
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>33,789</b>	<b>43,197</b>	<b>84,811</b>	<b>86,397</b>	<b>518,374</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>4,340</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6,978</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>136</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>4,340</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>6,978</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>136</b>



## We recall...

Easter 2019 when we enjoyed the simple luxury of celebrating together in the Guild Room.

Won't a little thing like sharing a cup of coffee and catching up on news feel so different the next time we're there?

May the peace of Christ be with you until we meet again.

## CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

46 PARK STREET, MONTCLAIR, NJ 07042

WEB SITE: [WWW.CENTRALPRESBYTERIAN.NET](http://WWW.CENTRALPRESBYTERIAN.NET)

CHURCH PHONE: 973-744-5340

CHURCH E-MAIL: [OFFICE.CENTRALPRESBYTERIAN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:OFFICE.CENTRALPRESBYTERIAN@GMAIL.COM)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY, 9AM-3PM



APRIL 2020