

# *Steeple Notes*

*Central Church, Huntington, NY*

*Where Jesus Is Lord and All Are Loved*

*February - March 2026*

**Hi, Central Family!**

So, 2026 came in not with a whisper but with quite a bang! I trust that everyone endured the storm warm and safe! This picture is from my visit to Chris and Rachel's home, where I jokingly tried to steal their snow shovel. Really, I was joking...

Recently, I received three calls at the Church office that got me to reflect on Christian living.

The first call was from a man named Charles, the second was a woman named Gwynn, and the third a man named Tom (all, pseudonyms). And they could not have been further apart.

Yet all three caused me to think about what Christian living is supposed to look like.



I start with what the Bible tells us about our general duty as Christians. As James famously put it, "Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world" (James 1:27).

James is not speaking about what leads to salvation. Rather, he describes what follows true faith. James refers to, in a sense, the practical application of Jesus' two greatest commandments (love the lord, and love our neighbors).

This is a good struggle for Jesus' Church to contend with—because we face the need to apply the Biblical imperatives both faithfully and responsibly. Which brings us back to Charles, Gwynn and Tom and their separate (and disparate) calls to our office.

Both Charles and Gwynn genuinely needed help. The former was homeless living on the streets, and the latter a victim of domestic violence, living in a car. And both called just before our two recent snowstorms. The Biblical imperative to help was clear. Yet HOW MUCH HELP?

And this is where the Spirit taught me an unexpected lesson.

In Charles' case, I decided to put him up in a modest motel for the duration of the storm. Then, I asked if the deacons might help. And graciously, they agreed to help with finances. Then came Gwynn. She called our office just before our huge storm. And this is where I felt the practical limits of how much we could help as a church. Again, I reached out to the deacons.

But interestingly, the Spirit told me to slow down. Even though the need was actually even more dire, I felt the Spirit guiding me even more powerfully. And this time, the Spirit led me to ENCOURAGE Gwynn—not take precipitous action.

Thanks be to God; He opened up spaces that did not at first seem available. Gwynn survived one cold night, then was placed in housing until after the storm. Then, in a follow-up, she tells me that a longer-term space might be available.

Which led me to a spiritual lesson from a practical dilemma. As always, we need to do our utmost for His highest in every aspect, but we more than anything need to TRUST the Spirit's active guidance.

But what about Tom—the third person? And this is where discernment from the Spirit will not only guide us, but also protect us. After Tom called our office, we soon found out that Tom was known to feign need, and demand not help but service. We quickly ended any entanglement with him.

So what does this mean?

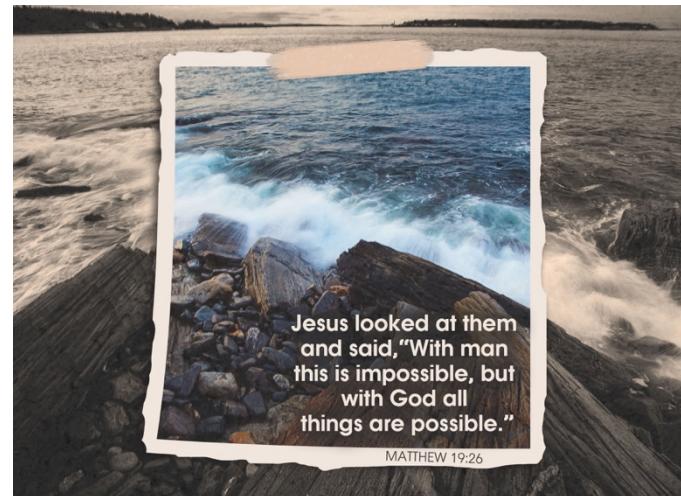
Sometimes, we may be called upon to take direct action. Sometimes, the Spirit will invite us to trust Him—so that He will open the doors. Other times, the Spirit will even tell us to wisely disengage. Yet in all cases, what matters is that as Jesus' people, we are called by the Lord to actively engage with people in need.

So I end with this. Let me encourage you to do two things.

1. *Let's keep our eyes open for people in need*
2. *But let us also listen for the Spirit's guidance for our actions.*

May the Lord bless you and keep you!

  
Pastor Paul Lee



# In Loving Memory

Former Central member, good friend and pastor-teacher, Jack Crabtree, went home to live for all eternity with his Lord and Savior on Saturday, January 24. He was surrounded by his family and friends as he left this earth to be in the presence of the Lord.

Jack is survived by his devoted wife, Becky; his children, Andrew and his wife Kathy, and Ben and his wife Courtney; and his cherished grandchildren, Marin, Jaxson, and Caleb.

A Celebration of Life service is being planned for the spring, location and date to be decided. Please continue keeping Becky and all of the family in your prayers.



## DEACON'S Corner

**The Deacons are rolling into 2026 with a renewed focus on serving our Huntington community and supporting local charities that are building meaningful relationships with those in need.**

Our Deacons are prayerfully discerning where God is stirring a fire in their hearts, and Helping Hand Mission continues to stand out as an organization making a powerful impact. Their work reaches many areas of our community, from operating a local kitchen to

providing mental health support and caring for children and families in need.

We are also excited to begin growing relationships with two new charities and finding ways to support their missions.

**Corey's Promise** is a grassroots charity founded by a family in Cold Spring Harbor, NY, who lost their son to cancer. Their mission is to support local families by helping fund specific needs during a child's cancer journey, including travel expenses, medications, chemotherapy treatments, food, accommodations near hospitals, and copayments during an incredibly difficult time.

**Living Water Charity** is a mental health organization with a compassionate, faith-based counseling team. Their center specializes in providing counseling and life-coaching services to adults and children who have experienced trauma and abuse.

As we move forward, the Deacons look forward to deepening our relationships with these organizations and discerning how we can best support the vital work they are doing in our community.

**Deacon Andrea is leading our efforts as we patiently await the opening of additional ports in Jamaica.** In the coming weeks, we will be asking for help from the congregation to pack multiple containers filled with food, clothing, and other essential household items.

Andrea remains in close communication with her brother and receives weekly updates on current needs, allowing us to continue collecting the most helpful items. Our support for Jamaica as communities work to restore their homes, electricity, and infrastructure will be a long-term commitment. We will continue to keep the church updated, and we are deeply grateful for the generous financial support we have received.

*Yours in Christ and for the Deacons,  
Rachel Silvia  
Moderator*



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Lois Cowie
- 06 Chris Silvia
- 07 Gabriella Devine
- 09 Donna Periana
- 10 Joe Garofola
- 13 Bill Russell
- 13 Aaliyah Gonzalez
- 13 Felipe Gonzalez
- 14 Shakayiah Boyle
- 15 Janet Byler
- 16 Lynn Watkins
- 18 Jennifer Bradley
- 20 Jordan Rolle
- 24 Nancy Clous
- 26 Laura Tiemann
- 28 Pastor Paul Lee

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 04 Ken Chin
- 05 Lauren Lewis
- 06 Kevin Reilly
- 07 James Sutherland
- 09 Evelyn Brodbeck
- 11 Seth Lee
- 14 Ken Roman
- 15 Sophia Swanson
- 17 Doral Hardy
- 17 Kari Reilly
- 19 Henry Grill
- 19 Andrea Hines-Sterling
- 20 Cayden Fernandez
- 21 James D. Clous
- 24 Paige Pollaccia
- 25 Mariah Wilson
- 26 Kassidy Reilly
- 29 Beverly Vandergoot



## February at a Glance

### Tuesday – February 3

10 am – Board Meeting

### Tuesday – February 10

10 am – Circle Meeting

## Looking Ahead to March

### Tuesday – March 3

10 am – Board Meeting

### Tuesday – March 10

10 am – Circle Meeting

*Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins*



Welcome to the newest member of the LaMay family! Matt, Jess, and big brother Caleb welcomed a perfect seven-pound, seven-ounce little girl, Layla Rose, on New Year's Eve 2025.

God's blessings to the LaMays and to Layla Rose ☺





# February 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30 NA GROUP 7 PM	<b>2</b> BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	<b>3</b> WCC BOARD MEETING 10 AM	<b>4</b> WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:30 AM STAFF MTG 11 AM YOUTH 7:30 PM	<b>5</b> KIDS CENTRAL 4:30 PM	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> NA GROUP 9:00 AM
<b>8</b> WORSHIP 10 AM ANNUAL <i>GATHERING</i> 11:15 NA GROUP 7 PM	<b>9</b> BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM WORSHIP COMM 7:30 PM	<b>10</b> WCC CIRCLE MTG 10:00 AM DEACONS 7 PM TRUSTEES 7:30	<b>11</b> WOMEN'S BIBLE 10:30 AM STAFF MTG 11 AM	<b>12</b> KIDS CENTRAL 4:30 PM	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> NA GROUP 9:00 AM
<b>15</b> WORSHIP 10 AM NA GROUP 7 PM	<b>16</b> BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM PRESIDENT'S DAY	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> WOMEN'S BIBLE 10:30 AM STAFF MTG 11 AM YOUTH 7:30 PM	<b>19</b> KIDS CENTRAL 4:30 PM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> NA GROUP 9 AM
<b>22</b> WORSHIP 10 AM NA GROUP 7 PM	<b>23</b> BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	<b>24</b> SESSION MTG 7:00 PM	<b>25</b> WOMEN'S BIBLE 10:30 AM STAFF MTG 11 AM YOUTH 7:30 PM	<b>26</b> KIDS CENTRAL 4:30 PM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> NA GROUP 9:00 AM
					 central church HUNTINGTON, NY	OFFICE HOURS: TUES TO FRI, 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30  NA GROUP 7 PM	<b>2</b> BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	<b>3</b> WCC BOARD MTG. 10:00 AM DEACONS 7PM	<b>4</b> WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:30 AM STAFF MTG 11 AM YOUTH 7:30 PM	<b>5</b> KIDS CENTRAL 4:30 PM	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> NA GROUP 9:00 AM
<b>8</b> WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30  NA GROUP 7 PM DAYLIGHT SAVINGS	<b>9</b> BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	<b>10</b> WCC CIRCLE 10:00 TRUSTEES 7:30 PM WORSHIP COMM 7:30 PM	<b>11</b> WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:30 STAFF MTG 11 AM YOUTH 7:30 PM	<b>12</b> KIDS CENTRAL 4:30 PM	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> NA GROUP 9:00 AM
<b>15</b> WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30  NA GROUP 7 PM	<b>16</b> BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	<b>17</b> STEEPLE NOTES ARTICLES DUE  ST. PATRICK'S DAY	<b>18</b> WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:30 AM STAFF MTG 11 AM YOUTH 7:30 PM	<b>19</b> KIDS CENTRAL 4:30 PM	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> NA GROUP 9:00 AM
<b>22</b> WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30  NA GROUP 7 PM	<b>23</b> BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM  MLK JR. DAY	<b>24</b> SESSION MTG 7:00 PM	<b>25</b> WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 10:30 STAFF MTG 11 AM YOUTH 7:30 PM	<b>26</b> KIDS CENTRAL 4:30 PM	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> NA GROUP 9:00 AM
<b>29</b> PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP 10 AM BIBLE STUDY 11:30  NA GROUP 7 PM	<b>30</b> BIBLE STUDY 7:00 PM	<b>31</b>			 central church HUNTINGTON, NY	OFFICE HOURS: TUES TO FRI, 8:30 AM - 1:00 PM