

# STEEPLE NOTES: CENTRAL CHURCH, HUNTINGTON, NY

## “WHERE JESUS IS LORD & ALL ARE LOVED

December 2021/January 2022



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!** First of all, I hope this isn't you. But at the same time, it'd be awesome if it were you, right?

What's so neat about this picture is how a lot of people not only get the humor, but they see the love. And I like that. The humor is great—a mash-up of *The Far Side* and Norman Rockwell. You cringe in a good way because, well, a disaster is about to happen. But at the same time, you are pulling for that everyday miracle that we all experience in our lives.

But what really draws me in is the love on display. First, the love of the husband for his wife. Which one uses the walker? It's not clear, which makes it that much better. But he's been holding her steady for all those years, and by golly he's gonna try one...more...time.

Conversely, I love the concentration on the wife's face—she is going to place that decoration atop the tree no matter what—and of course he would hold her steady. It's what he's done all those years. We're all pulling for them to make it—even as we're pretending to not see the expression on the husband's face, and ignoring those three angels that the wife is inevitably gonna grab if/when it all goes south on them.

As a Christian, however, I can't help but see the allegories that this picture suggests. For it is Christmas, and what the First Advent of Jesus did was to open the way for Christians to...rise! This is what the actual angels proclaimed to the shepherds (Luke 2:9-14):

*An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."*

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."*

When Jesus was born an infant born in Bethlehem, he brought to us the divine love that our everyday passions could only point to—the love that truly uplifts! See the wife rising above, above the walker, above even the outstretched arms of her husband, to the waiting arms of Jesus! (Because let's face it—one or both of them are going to need that divine uplift...)

2020 was a disaster. 2021 has been a bummer. We don't know what 2022 will bring. And yes, we have lots of questions that we are prayerfully awaiting the answer to from the Lord. But the abiding Good News of Jesus Christ is that He came to us when we were lost in the darkness. And Jesus proclaimed to us (John 8:12): *"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

So with that in our hearts, I say to all of us: Merry Christmas!  
And a Happy New Year In Jesus' name!  
Pastor Paul Lee



P.S. On behalf of the staff of Central, we thank you all for your generous gifts and prayerful support!

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## Reflections ~

The story is told of an old man who lived on a farm with his young grandson. Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his Bible. Pouring over the text, looking at the illustrations, he sought his daily wisdom.

His grandson who wanted to be just like him tried to imitate him in any way he could. One day the grandson asked, "Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you but I don't understand it, and what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?"

The Grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water." The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house.

The grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move a little faster next time," and sent him back to the river with the basket to try again.

This time the boy ran faster, but again the basket was empty before he returned home. Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was "impossible to carry water in a basket," and he went to get a bucket instead.

The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough," and he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all.

The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfather the basket was again empty.

Out of breath, he said, "See Papa, it's useless!"

"So you think it is useless?" The old man said, "Look at the basket."

The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old coal basket, it was clean.

"Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out."

*This is the work of God in our lives. To change us from the inside out and to slowly transform us into the image of His son. Take time to read a portion of God's word each day, and remind a friend by sharing this story.*

*"Live Simply, Love Generously, Care Deeply, Speak Kindly, Leave the Rest to God."*

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A Coal Basket and the Bible...





## Deacons' Corner

We trust that your Thanksgiving was a pleasant one surrounded by family and friends. Even as we continue to struggle with Covid-19, we pray that the Lord has blessed you and your family as only He can do!

The Deacons provided 130 Thanksgiving 'take out' dinners to our congregation and community. We long for the day when we can once again open our fellowship hall and gather and worship our living God as a church family.

The Deacons are committed to continuing to serve our church and the community. Despite the pandemic we have continued to preform our duties in accordance with scripture. Please prayerfully consider continuing your financial support to this much needed outreach. As you have noticed, there are no longer individual boxed envelopes. However, in each pew there are envelopes where you can 'designate' a specific offering to the Deacons Fund. Thank you for your faithfulness to this much needed and utilized outreach!

The Christmas season is now upon us. As we enter Advent let us remember that 'Jesus is the Reason' for this joyful Season! We rejoice in His birth and fill our hearts with His strength!

December through March also brings us into our HiHi Warm Bed program. Although Central cannot open our doors and hearts to feed and offer rest to the participants, Central has paired up with The Family Service League to continue this ministry within our community. Participants are offered a warm bed each night and food to sustain them through the winter months.

The Deacons are here to serve you in any way we can! If you have a need or know someone struggling, please contact the church office and let us know. We are here for YOU!

We wish you all a joyous Christmas. We pray that our loving God will continue to offer you His strength as you enter 2022.

Your sister in Christ,  
Bonnie Boettjer  
Central Deacon



# What's Happening @ Central Church



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01	Phil Byler
12	Drew Lewis
12	Jon Larson
14	Charlotte Russell
15	Leevon Black
15	Maris Swanson
16	Rachel Roman
21	Barbara Larson
25	Ted Folprecht
28	Trafford Watkins
28	Zach Grill

## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

21	Derek & Julie Novinski
27	Bev & Dave Vandergoot

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

07	Sharon Lenardo
09	Elizabeth Stuyvesant
12	Andrew Sutherland
13	Lucy Malm
14	Dave Vandergoot
14	Margaret Breland
14	Shakayah Boyle
15	Debra McCoy
16	Ethel Berge
16	Adela Dickson
17	Frank Marlow
18	Dotty Kannapin
20	Maggie Marlow
23	Foster Bradley
24	Nan Lee
26	Doris Agardi
27	Diane Garafola
29	Jacob Lee

## JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

01	Mike & Janet Schroeder
04	Laura & Dana Tiemann
06	Chris & Marie Fischer
14	Rich & Gladys Paulsen
28	Foster & Janice Bradley
30	Andrea & Claude Sterling

## **PASSAGES ~**

Our condolences to the Korinek family on the passing of George Korinek on Tuesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. George was a long-time Central member. His memorial service was held at Jacobsen's Funeral Home on Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, with Pastor George Bundt officiating.

Condolences also to Evelyn Tjon on the passing of her sister, Signe Hastings, on Friday, November 26. Signe was a few days shy of her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. Her memorial was held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Hicksville on Tuesday, November 30<sup>th</sup>.

Prayers and sympathies also for Cheryl Hairr on the recent passing of her son, Billy, after his long illness.

The memorial service for Holly Timpson, Frani Hicks' daughter, was held here at Central on Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup> with Pastor George Bundt officiating.



### **After-Worship Prayer:**

We have resumed our after-worship prayer time immediately following our worship service. The Pastor or an Elder will be at the bottom of the chancel steps in the Sanctuary for anyone who would like prayer and anointing with oil.

### **Email Prayer Chain:**

Our email prayer chain continues. If you have any prayer concerns you'd like Central members and friends to pray for, contact Linda Tengelsen, our Prayer Chain Coordinator, at [lteng@optonline.net](mailto:lteng@optonline.net), and she will be happy to send our your concerns and requests to the group. Please also remember to update us on your prayer concerns.



## WCC Happenings ~

### *December at a Glance*

#### **Tuesday - December 7**

10:00 a.m. - Board Meeting - Christmas Luncheon and Rededication

Ruth Korinek, the Women's Christian Council President for 12 years, will be stepping down this month. Many thanks for Ruth's diligence, organization, and leadership.

The new WCC President will be Betty Roman. Congrats, Betty!

#### **Tuesday - December 14**

10:30 a.m. - Circle Meetings

### *Looking Ahead to January*

#### **Tuesday - January 4**

10:00 a.m. - Monthly Board Meeting

#### **Tuesday - January 11**

10:00 Monthly Circle Meeting. Watch for more details in the Sunday bulletins.



## Bible Study With Kay ~

The Women's Wednesday Bible Study just completed their study of Romans using Dr. David Jeremiah's guidebook and is taking a Christmas break.

They group meets weekly at 9:30 AM. A new study on Isaiah is starting up on January 5<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to join, just let Kay Jahn know.



## Sunday School Update

The Sunday School kids have been learning about the power of Jesus with lessons from Isaiah 11:10, Matthew 8:5-13, Mark 6:14-44, and John 6:1-14.

For Christmas, they will be practicing two songs with our Music Director, Polo. The children have also been Bible verse readers during worship services, and they will do this more often.

Since we are splitting into more Sunday School classes, we would love your help. Please feel free to reach me through the office, 631-421-3663, or send an email to [jeaninecedirector@outlook.com](mailto:jeaninecedirector@outlook.com)

Yours in Christ,  
Jeanine Stuyvesant  
Director of Children's Ministry

## Kids Central Update ~



Kids Central wrapped up in December and will start again on Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30 pm. Before the Christmas break, we learned lessons from the Old Testament. The kids are having a lot of fun learning about God!

Yours in Christ,  
Jeanine Stuyvesant  
Director of Children's Ministry



We are seeking more volunteers for two of our ministries. The first one is Audio Visual, which includes helping smoothly run the weekly onscreen media (slides and streaming) for in-person and online worship.

The second is Children's Ministry. This includes helping at Sunday School, Kids Central, or once it reopens, the nursery.

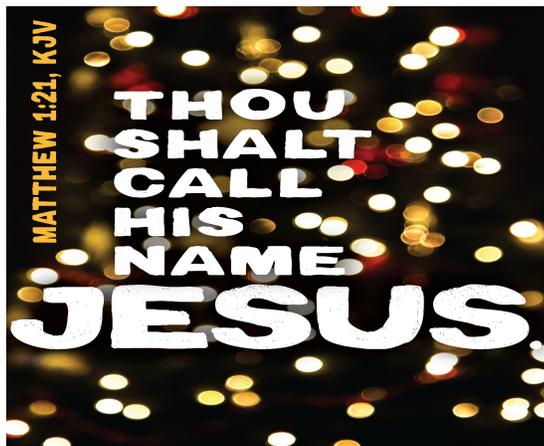
Please call the office if you feel led to take part in these ministries or would like to discuss these further at 631-421-3663, or email the office at [centch@optonline.net](mailto:centch@optonline.net).

## Share your news ~

We would love to read your written faith and family updates, of any length, in Steeple Notes! Mail them, drop them by the office, or email [centch@optonline.net](mailto:centch@optonline.net)



The monthly deadline is the 10<sup>th</sup>. Thanks!



**“And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”  
- Isaiah 9:6b**

**Join us on Friday,  
December 24,  
at 6:30 p.m. for our**

**TRADITIONAL  
CHRISTMAS EVE  
CANDLELIGHT  
SERVICE**



**Be with us as we celebrate,  
through Word and song,  
the birth of our Lord and  
Savior, Jesus Christ.**

**Central Church Huntington**  
240 Main Street  
Huntington, NY 11743  
631.421.3663

**Rev. Paul Lee, Pastor**  
**Mr. Polo Cummings, Worship Director**

Central Church is handicapped accessible.



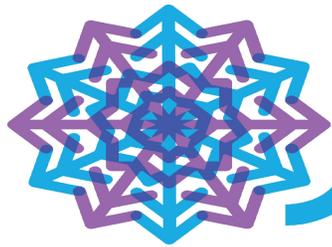
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
			1 Ladies Bible Study - 9:30 am Staff Meeting - 12:00	2 Kids Central - 4:30 pm	3	4 Celebration of Life: Holly Timpson - 2:30
5 <b>Advent 2</b> Worship Rehearsal 8 am Morning Worship - 10 am Adult CE Class - 11:30 am NA Group - 7 pm	6 Church Office Closed	7 WCC Board - 10:00 am WCC Luncheon - 11:30 Moms in Prayer - 4:30 Deacons Mtg - 7 pm* Youth Group - 7:30 pm	8 Ladies Bible Study - 9:30 am Staff Meeting - 12:00	9	10	11
12 <b>Advent 3</b> Worship Rehearsal 8 am Morning Worship - 10 am Adult CE Class - 11:30 am NA Group - 7 pm	13 Trustees - 7:30 pm* Church Office Closed	14 WCC Circles - 10:30 am Moms in Prayer - 4:30** Worship Comm - 7:30** Youth Group - 7:30 pm	15 Ladies Bible Study - 9:30 am Staff Meeting - 11:30 am	16	17	18
19 <b>Advent 4</b> Worship Rehearsal 8 am Morning Worship - 10 am Adult CE Class - 11:30 am NA Group - 7 pm	20 Church Office Closed	21 Moms in Prayer - 4:30** Session – 7:30 pm Youth Group - 7:30 pm	22 Staff Meeting - 11:30 am	23	24 <b>Christmas Eve</b> Christmas Eve Worship - 6:30 pm	25 <b>Christmas Day</b>
26 <b>Christmastide</b> Worship Rehearsal 8 am Morning Worship - 10 am Adult CE Class - 11:30 am NA Group - 7 pm	27 Church Office Closed	28 Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed	30 Church Office Closed	31 <b>New Year's Eve</b> Church Office Closed	1 <b>Happy New Year!</b>

Church office hours are Tuesday to Friday, 8 am to 1 pm, unless otherwise specified.

\* Meetings both in-house and via Zoom (Worship services can also be viewed on our website)

\*\* Meetings via Zoom only

All other scheduled services and meetings will be in-house



# JANUARY 2022

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
						1 Happy New Year!
2 Worship Rehearsal 8 am Morning Worship - 10 am Adult CE Class - 11:30 am NA Group - 7 pm	3 Church Office Closed	4 WCC Board - 10:00 am Moms in Prayer - 4:30 ** Deacons Mtg - 7:00 * Youth Group - 7:30	5 Women's Bible Study - 9:30 am Staff Meeting - 12 noon	6 Kids Central - 4:30 pm	7	8
9 Worship Rehearsal 8 am Morning Worship - 10 am Adult CE Class - 11:30 am NA Group - 7 pm	10 Trustees - 7:30 pm * Church Office Closed	11 WCC Circles - 10:30 am Moms in Prayer - 4:30 ** Worship Comm - 7:30 ** Youth Group - 7:30	12 Women's Bible Study - 9:30 am Staff Meeting - 12 noon	13 Kids Central - 4:30 pm	14	15
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