

# In The Centre

— Monthly Newsletter and Calendar



Centre Presbyterian Church, 83 New Park Rd., New Park, PA 17352  
 Phone: 717-993-2345 Find us on the web: [www.centrechurhpa.org](http://www.centrechurhpa.org)

## Pastor Don's Keyboard

### A Treasure Found!

It was reported recently a family that was gardening in England found a treasure of old gold coins dating back to the 1400's. Now, it is not likely that you or I will have such a discovery, but we have something better! In our homes and even our computers, ipads, and phones, the Bible is waiting to be unlocked and the riches enjoyed!



The Psalmist declared: "***I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways.***"

In this new year of 2021, we invite you to open up and dig into God's Word to you.

### Consider which ways would fit you best:

1. Read through the Bible in a Year. It is an excellent way to see the panoramic view of God's story and plans for your life.
  - a. Here is a website that gives you **three different plans** to go through the Bible in a year. <https://readthebibleinayear.com/bible-reading-plans/>
  - b. The **Action Bible** is a visual approach to help you know the big picture of the Bible and available at Walmart. <https://www.theactionbible.com/>
2. Join us via zoom for First Look on Monday nights at 7pm for small group Bible study. We will be looking at the preaching texts from Ephesians each week. Email me if you are interested at [pastor@centrechurhpa.org](mailto:pastor@centrechurhpa.org).
3. Commit to a daily devotional to feed yourself spiritually. Here are some that I have found helpful:
  - a. **Daily Bread** devotional <https://odb.org/>
  - b. Daily Devotions from **Presbyterian Mission** <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/devotion/daily/>
  - c. **D365** devotional <https://d365.org/>

**The riches of God's Word are waiting for you and me. Let's dig in!**

In Christ, *Pastor Don*

### Inside this issue:

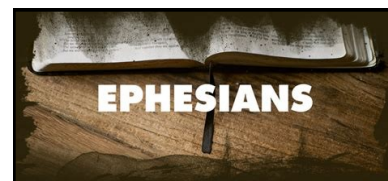
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# Worship

## Preaching topics for January 2021

- January 3 — 2nd Sunday of Christmas, ***Ephesians 1:1-14*** *Winter Communion*  
 January 10 — Baptism of the Lord, ***Ephesians 1:15-23***  
 January 17 — 2nd Sunday after Epiphany, ***Ephesians 2:1-10***  
 January 24 — 3rd Sunday after Epiphany, ***Ephesians 2:11-22***  
 January 31 — 4th Sunday after Epiphany, ***Ephesians 3:1-13***

On Monday nights in January we will study the passage for the next Sunday's sermon. Join us on zoom for "First Look" at 7pm!



## First Communion of 2021

**On Sunday, January 3, 2021 at 11am** we will celebrate the Lord's Supper together online for the presence, joy, and hope only Christ can offer. Please set your table home with the communion elements you wish to use.

**Sealed communion juice/wafers cups** are available for pick up in our church garage (left side).

**Login at:**

1) Our Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/centrechurcpa/>

2) Zoom ONLINE: <https://zoom.us/j/426946488?pwd=MFVVFQ2Y0VjBLMTY4YjBLeTBpenp0UT09>  
Meeting ID: 426 946 488 Password: 280239

3) ON YOUR PHONE: Dial 1 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 426 946 488 Password: 280239



## Tuesdays - Noon Prayer Meetings

**1. Join Zoom Meeting from your computer or ipad:**

<https://zoom.us/j/104976436>

**2. Call in at 1 929 205 6099, Meeting ID: 104 976 436**

**Everyone is welcome to this time of prayer.**

**Join us online or on your phone, wherever you are!**

## Experiment—"First Look"

**Got questions about faith?  
Want to go deeper with God?**

**Want to go deeper with the Centre Church community?**

*We are hosting a four-week online class for YOU called "First Look".*

**The purpose of First Look is to:**

- Give adults an opportunity to explore their Christian faith through studying the Bible.
- Build deeper connections with God's community at Centre Church
- At the end of the month, give an opportunity for adults to publicly join our faith community

**Schedule:** There will be four, one-hour, online Zoom sessions conducted on **Mondays at 7pm on December 28, January 4, 11, and 18.** A follow-up meeting would be scheduled with Session on January 25th for any non-members wishing to join the church.

For more information or to sign up, contact Pastor Don at [pastordonhackett@gmail.com](mailto:pastordonhackett@gmail.com) or leave a message at 717-203-1018.



## Membership Survey

As part of the pastoral search process we are asking our members to provide their thoughts on the future mission and leadership of Centre. If you received an email with a link to the survey, please participate. If you did not get that link, or prefer not to answer electronically, you may send your responses to the following questions to the church. It is important that your voice is heard—so please take a few minutes and help the PNC. Thank you.

- 1. What is God doing in our congregation? What are the best things about our congregation?**
- 2. What are the greatest needs in our surrounding community and wider world? How does our congregation make a difference in addressing these needs?**
- 3. What are our biggest challenges as a congregation?**
- 4. What characteristics and skills will the person called to serve as a pastor for Centre Presbyterian Church need to demonstrate?**
- 5. In two years, what ministry or mission do you hope we will be growing as a congregation?**
- 6. What else is on your heart and mind?**

You may mail your answers to: Centre PC, 83 New Park Rd., New Park, PA 17352 Thank you.

# Leading in Faith

## Session Meeting Notes

During the December Session meeting the following items were covered:

- Clerk of Session, Mary Linkous, reported that the 2019 Session Meeting Minutes were reviewed and approved as part of the Presbytery Minute Review process.
- Pastor Don announced plans for a weekly online Bible study entitled "First Look" to begin in January, 2021. He explained that this will incorporate an online class for prospective new members.
- The motion passed to approve 2021 Communion on January 3, February 17, April 1, May 2, August 29 and Oct 3.
- It was noted that the online Congregational meeting and voting worked well—and appreciation was extended to Rev. Dr. Michael Wilson for his assistance in the process. It was also noted that our on-line worship services have been running more smoothly each week. That is attributed to the new equipment and software that was purchased for the sanctuary, and to the time and effort put into the productions by Don Wilson and Hugh McPherson, who were thanked for their work.
- The Session agreed on the questions to be included in a survey being sent to Centre members regarding their vision for our church. The Nominating Committee will be meeting to select members of the Pastoral Nominating Committee. Their report will be presented to the congregation for approval in January.
- It was reported that the Trustees have made the repairs and improvements to the manse their top priority.
- June Stratmeyer was recognized and thanked for her hosting of the Women of Centre meeting in December that included both in-person and Zoom participants.

## Calling a Pastor

With the retirement of Pastor Don Hackett set to begin in July, 2021, our pastoral search process has begun. Here is **what has been accomplished** thus far and **our steps to come**:

### Steps in the Pastoral Search Process:

#### Session Responsibilities

- In Oct. 2020, Session approved the retirement of Pastor Hackett to commence on July 1, 2021.
- In Nov. 2020, the Donegal Presbytery Executive Presbyter and Stated Clerk visited Session to review the steps of the call process.
- In Nov. 2020, our Session voted to begin the process to search for a full time, installed pastor.
- In Dec. 2020, our Session will conduct a survey of our members to help determine the future direction of our church mission and leadership.
- In Dec. 2020, our Personnel Committee and Treasurer will prepare a financial review, pastor position description, pastor search budget, compensation package range, and other documents for Session and the Presbytery's Connecting our Ministries Commission (COM) review and approval.
- The Nominating Committee will seek recommendations for the Pastor Nominating Committee to present to the congregation for approval in early 2021.

#### Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

- Presbytery will coach the PNC in how to proceed.
- PNC will prepare a Ministry Information Form (MIF) to be approved by Session and COM.
- PNC will advertise the position, receive resumes, interview candidates, select a candidate for vote, and present the terms of call to Session for approval.
- The candidate will meet with the Presbytery of Donegal's COM to discuss the fit between the candidate and Centre, and membership in the presbytery.
- The candidate will be introduced to the congregation in various ways.
- A congregational meeting will be held to meet and vote on whether or not to request that the Presbytery of Donegal install the candidate as Centre's next pastor.
- PNC will oversee the welcome and ongoing support of the approved candidate.

**Please be praying for wisdom** as we discern our direction and leadership for the future.

Please **participate in the congregational survey** that you should have received recently. If you did not receive the survey—please see the survey questions on page 2 of this newsletter—and mail or email your responses to the church.

## Women of Centre News

In 2021, the Women of Centre will be meeting on the first Tuesday of the month. The year will begin with a Coordinating Team meeting at 6:00pm on **January 5th**, followed by our first Circle Meeting of the year at 7:00pm. The Bible Study leader will be Jo Ann Clement. We will be meeting in person and via zoom through the link below. We will be starting a new study entitled "Love Carved in Stone". Lesson one is *Words of Love: I am Your God; You Shall Have No Others*. Study books are available for pick up from the left side of the cinder block garage.

Please join us for fellowship and Bible study!!

Join via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86560466734>

Join via Telephone: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 865 6046 6734

**COLLECTION OF PERSONAL CARE ITEMS** - Many thanks to all who generously donated to the Women of Centre collection of personal care items. A very full car load of items were delivered to Mason-Dixon Community Services. There is such a huge need for these supplies and they were very gratefully received.



### THANK YOU!!

The Women of Centre want to say **thank you** for all the donations of mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and socks that were placed in the Christmas grocery cart in the church garage. There were about 110 items taken to the Mason-Dixon Community Services in Delta, PA in mid-December to be distributed as needed. Thank you for your continuing generous support of this project and giving to our community.

## What is Per Capita?? - and that blue envelope??

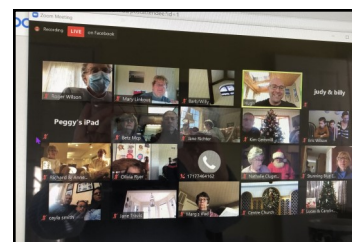
Per Capita is "the tie that binds" — annual giving that unites the entire church in the ongoing and essential work that guides the Office of the General Assembly, the life of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and benefits every congregation and every mid council ministry. Per capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly, and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future.

- It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better ruling elders, deacons, and ministers of word and sacrament/teaching elders.
- It is how Presbyterians come together to discern God's call in their lives.
- It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the wider church by serving on General Assembly committees and commissions, regardless of distance or financial resources.
- It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the Church universal as we commit ourselves to work and live in fellowship with "all persons in every nation".

For 2021 the per capita is \$35.38 per member. Those contributions are being accepted now. You can contribute your share by marking your check "per capita" or by using the designated blue "per capita" envelope and mailing to the church (or give electronically via our website). **Thank you!** It is a joy to partner in ministry and mission.

## Don't Miss Centre Worship Services or events

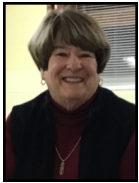
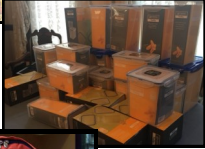
You don't have to have internet to receive Sunday morning services or be part of the Tuesday Prayer Meeting. From your telephone, landline or mobile, dial the phone number provided. If asked, enter the meeting ID number and you should be good to go. If you are having any problems accessing through the internet or by telephone—please contact Pastor Don, Hugh McPherson, Mary Linkous, or any member of the Session. We want everyone connected while we stay safe!



Zoom attendees, including Santa Claus, for our Hanging of the Greens service on Nov. 30th.

# Outreach & Mission

## Deacons Update



The Deacons would like to express appreciation to our congregation members for their many donations to various causes throughout 2020. Those included several food item collections, (most recently for the Holiday Baskets distributed by Mason-Dixon Community Services), the Sunshine Fund (food pantry at KDHS), The Backpack Food Program (for middle and elementary students), Undie Sunday, and the collection of Saubels stamps which were exchanged for a multitude of storage containers! We all know that the year has been an unusual one and it has been a strain on many in our community. There is no way to know how many people have been touched by the generosity you have shown. Thank you for your kindness and concern.

Looking ahead, in February we will be promoting "Undie Sundays" - asking for packages of men's and children's underwear and socks. Also, monetary donations for local soup kitchens and food giveaways will be collected as part of the National Souper Bowl of Caring. More details will be in the February newsletter.

The Deacons extend heartfelt appreciation to Connie Anderson, for her six years of leadership and dedication. During that time she served as Secretary and Co-Moderator and was instrumental in identifying need and directing our work to serve our church and community. **THANK YOU CONNIE!!!**

## Hands Across the Street Mission Opportunity

We will be serving at Hands Across the Street on **Saturday January 9th starting at 10am**. The plan is to help distribute food to those in need. We will meet at the location, 291 South 4th Street, Columbia PA. Please call or text Kristi Wilt at 717-578-8150 if you would like to serve or have any questions. This is an excellent opportunity for fellowship and outreach as we serve others in need.

## Local Mission Spotlight

**Mason-Dixon Community Services, Inc. is a private non-profit 501(C)(3) organization**, founded over 35 years ago to provide emergency food and energy assistance to low-income residents of York and Harford counties. Today, the agency serves more than 25,000 individuals annually. Their goal is to provide a safety net in the community for struggling individuals and families.



### Testimonials:

"The Mason-Dixon Community Service is a local Organization that helps those less fortunate. I am Proud of my Neighbors. They are dedicated to this mission God Bless those that help others." ~Mike Fiore

"Always there to help when it is needed the most. So happy to have you all do everything that you do." ~ Client M.

"Thank you. You have helped me to survive!" ~ Client

"You do so much, I can't think of anything more!" ~ Client

"God bless you all!" ~ Client K.

### Ways to Support Our Missionaries:

- **Pray** - Safety and health for clients, staff, and volunteers as they serve this winter.
- **Give** - To our Benevolence Fund to support our six missionaries  
<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/donate/E200383/>

# Celebrations

## Happy January Birthday!!

- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1—Charlie Shotton      | 21—Jennifer Renfrow |
| 2—Betsy Renfrow        | 22—Cole Broadway    |
| 5—Kim Huber            | 23—Joe Brown 96th!! |
| 5—Paul Smith           | 23—Mescal Wiley     |
| 10—Calista Kurtz       | 23—Kristina Wilt    |
| 12—Amy Manifold        | 24—Diane Stockley   |
| 12—Carson McElwain     | 25—Leah Trout       |
| 13—Sherry March-Fitch  | 27—Jake Bennett     |
| 13—Garrett McElwain    | 28—Dale Barshinger  |
| 16—Rob Edie            | 28—Chad Marsteller  |
| 16—Don (Willie) Wilson | 30—Rosanna Gemmill  |
| 21—Norman McElwain     | 30—Beth Hash        |



## Happy January Anniversary!!

- Jan. 5—Millard & Sherry Neale  
 Jan. 11—Paul & Jo Ann Clement  
 Jan. 26—Bob & Pat McElwain  
 Jan. 31—Darren & Suzanne Marsteller

## Christmas Gratitude

A pandemic cannot stop Centre Presbyterian Church from celebrating Advent and Christmas! Thanks to everyone who helped in any way, especially: **Kathleen Wilson, Julie Yahnke, Rila Hackett, Michael Austin, Tess Leighty, and Annie McPherson** for the beautiful music. **Jamelyn Scott-Smith** for ordering the poinsettias, making our sanctuary beautiful and for organizing the Hanging of the Greens service. Thank you to **all the families** who participated in that service (see back cover pics!). Thank you **Bakers, Leightys, Eric Wilsons, Schneiders, and Don Wilsons** for lighting the Advent candles and hosting services. Thank you **Hugh McPherson and Don & Barb Wilson** for live stream production of our services. Thank you **Pastor Don** for leading us through this unusual holiday season. As they say—it takes “a village” - and we are blessed to have that village at Centre!!



### Active Military??

Please notify Pastor Don if you or someone in your family is actively serving in the military so that we may add them to our Prayer List. Thank you.

## January Assignments

**Trustees of the Month** - Rick Marsteller 717-880-5599  
 and Bob McElwain 443-463-5885

# January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 11:00—Worship Online <i>Winter Communion</i>	4 7:00—First Look Online Bible Study	5 12:00—Prayer Meeting Online 6:00—W/oC Team Mtg. 7:00—Women of Centre Circle Meeting	6	7	8 1 Happy New Year!!	9 10:00—Hands Across the Street— Columbia, PA
10 11:00—Worship Online	11 7:00—First Look Online Bible Study <i>Feb. Newsletter Items Due</i>	12 12:00—Prayer Meeting Online 7:00—Trustees Meeting	13	14	15	16
17 11:00—Worship - Online 12:00—Congregational Meeting	18 7:00—First Look Online Bible Study	19 12:00—Prayer Meeting Online 7:00—Session Meeting	20	21	22	23
24 11:00—Worship Online	25	26 12:00—Prayer Meeting Online	27	28	29	30
31 11:00—Worship Online						

**“Centre is a  
Christ-centered,  
community  
focused,  
fully alive church  
that grows as it  
serves”.**

**January 17th –  
Congregational  
Meeting for  
Election of  
PNC members  
via Zoom.  
Voting  
Instructions  
Will be  
Announced.**

83 New Park Road New Park, PA 17352 (717)993-2345	<b>Name</b> Pastor Don Hackett Sun. School Betsy McPherson Secretary Mary Linkous Youth Joy Chester	<b>Cell Phone</b> 717-203-1018 717-487-8072 410-382-6166 410-458-5712	<b>Email</b> pastordonhackett@gmail.com betz721@gmail.com mmlink@zoominternet.net joyatcentre@gmail.com
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**Centre Presbyterian Church**

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