



September 22, 2011

An invitation to the congregation of Central Presbyterian Church,

This year at Central Presbyterian Church we have been celebrating the vibrant 150-year history of our congregation in Downingtown, and acknowledging the rich traditions and many changes to the physical location, leaders, and ministries of our church. Within that history, the Bible, our denominational creeds and confessions, the Book of Order, along with our core values, have remained an immutable guide providing our church with a framework with which to grow and thrive- these being **Christ Centered, Biblically Based, Worship Focused, Missionally Committed, and Relationally Connected.**

As members of the Presbyterian Church USA (PC USA), we are also connected to a rich and larger history built on democratic principles dating back to the 1700's and based on representation through our Presbytery (body of churches within our geographical location). Our form of denominational government is rooted in traditional values along with the respect and value of individual members, and remains vital and dynamic for this reason. Throughout its history changes have been made to reflect an evolving understanding of the authority of Scripture. Of significance, there have been recent:

- changes in the affirmation of Christ as the only way to salvation
- changes in the requirement for fidelity in marriage between a man and a woman and chastity in singleness as a requisite for ordination of our church leaders
- changes in the new Form of Government under which presbyteries and churches operate

Your Session and pastors believe this presents an important and enlightening opportunity for our church to discern, through meaningful dialogue, what we – Central Presbyterian Church in Downingtown - truly believe, and how we are to act on those beliefs as disciples in Christ. Over the next month, the Session would like to invite the entire congregation to attend one of two **"Town Hall Forums"** concerning the issues noted above. The purpose is to provide an education and understanding of the current history in the denomination and discuss any effects this may have regarding our specific Presbytery and congregation. We invite you to come to CPC to learn more about the issues and discuss any questions and concerns you may have. Most importantly, we want to hear your personal views of how CPC is called to follow God's will in the world. The dates and times for these forums are as follows:

**Town Hall Forum #1 - Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 7-8:30 pm \*** \ see childcare note below

**Town Hall Forum #2 - Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 12:45-2:15 pm \*** /

We look forward to connecting with you as we join together prayerfully to discern who we are, what we believe and how we might best serve others in His name. We welcome you to join us.

For more information please go to our web site [www.cpcdowningtown.org](http://www.cpcdowningtown.org) and click on the "Town Hall Meeting Button".

On behalf of the Session:

  
Terry Langeland, Clerk of Session, CPC

Attested By:

  
Dr. C. Patrick Hartssock, Moderator

**\*Childcare will be provided-birth to age 4- Please RSVP childcare needs by Sun. Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> to Cindy Donohue, ext. 15**