

# The KEY

A Publication of Central Presbyterian Church  
Summit, NJ

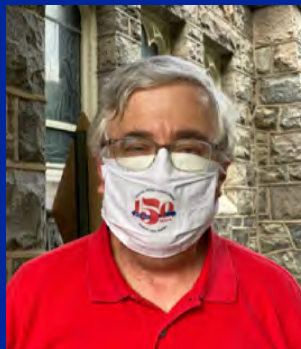
## Advent 2020



## A Letter from the Pastor

### A NEW KIND OF HOLIDAY SEASON

This holiday season promises to be unlike any other holiday season that we have known. Gathering for Thanksgiving dinner with family and friends, attending holiday parties with neighbors and co-workers, sitting in church on Christmas Eve waiting for that wonderful moment when candles are lit and “Silent Night” is sung—all of those wonderful traditional celebrations are probably not likely this holiday season as we work together to reduce the spread of this deadly pandemic and to care for each other.



And yet, that does not mean that this holiday season needs to be nothing but a disappointment. Indeed, maybe this holiday season will be a new kind of holiday season during which we are able to focus more on what really matters to us. It's not the food that really matters at Thanksgiving, but it's the family and friends who matter. It's not the parties that matter, but it's our neighbors and our colleagues who matter. It's not the church buildings that matter, but it's the One whose life continues to shine light into the dark who matters.

Maybe this holiday season, instead of focusing on all that we cannot do this year, we need to try to focus on all that we still can do. We can let our family and friends know how much we love them by phoning or texting or, if we really want to do something old-fashioned, writing them a card or a letter. We can let our neighbors know how much we care for them by wearing a mask and avoiding close physical contact with others. And we can let God know how devoted we are by making a special gift to some organization involved in the lives of those for whom God has a special concern—the least and the little, the lost and the lonely—or by performing some simple act of kindness for somebody.

It will be a new kind of holiday season this year, but maybe that's really not so bad. Maybe, actually, it's a gift, in a way, to be able to rid these days of all of the distractions so that we can reset what the holidays really mean to us, refocusing on all that is genuinely important.

--Pastor Don Steele

### Inside this Edition

Covid & Reopening	2
Grant Award	3
Daily Devotions	4
Christmas Pageant	4
Confirmands	4
Messiah Class	5
Advent Candle Lightings	5
Sharing Tree	5
50-Year Members	6
In Memoriam	6
Advent Kits	7
New Members	7
Children & Youth	8
Financials	10
Carillon Celebration	11
WNSK	12

## COVID and Reopening Central Church

Back in March, the Session appointed three of its members—Bill Horton, Margaret Kovera, and Drayton Wise—to a COVID Response Team, authorizing that team to work with Pastor Steele in determining how Central would respond to the global coronavirus pandemic on a day-by-day basis. It was that team that helped to determine how to invite staff back into the building in limited capacity since June. It was that team that helped to determine how to hold in person, outdoor Sunday School and worship since September. And it is that team that is working to determine best practices along with criteria about inviting groups to meet indoor for education and worship moving ahead.

The criteria that is being used to determine the use on inside spaces is guided fundamentally by COVID Activity Level Index of the New Jersey Department of Health. You can look at that weekly report by follow-

ing this link:

<https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/covid/>

Central can be open to groups meeting inside when our region (Central East) has a low/green or moderate/yellow score. However, if Summit High School, or Summit Middle School, or two Summit elementary schools at the same time shut due to COVID, then Central will shut to indoor groups regardless of the regional CALI score. And if the regional CALI score is high/orange or very high/red, Central will shut.

We remain committed to doing all that we can do to safeguard public health and the well-being of our community as we are attentive to what is happening, learning what it means to be flexible and resilient during these difficult days.



## 150th History & Mission Works DVD is Your Holiday Gift

The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee completed its two year work, not only with the Carillon Celebration on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, but with the DVD celebrating those years.

The committee, chaired by Earle Eaton, worked tirelessly to complete this twelve minute piece celebrating what has become the Central legacy. We are grateful to the dedication of these committee members for sharing our history and works for years to come!

The DVDs will be available when services allow. They may also be picked up at the church or requested for mailed delivery.



## Central Awarded Grant

### How to Worship with Central

Although in-person worship has been subject to cancellation due to the pandemic, we are still worshipping together every Sunday. Try us on any of the following platforms:

**Facebook:** (<https://www.facebook.com/centralchurchSummitNJ/>) Join in worship at 10:00 a.m. Sunday mornings, on Central's Facebook page. Simply click the link (even if you don't have a Facebook account) and you can view our content.

**YouTube:** (<https://youtube.com/channel/UCPf6KiUHiNNbVwcDuanG-t8w>) See all of Central's videos on our YouTube channel, with a new premiere each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

#### HTTV:

Watch us on Summit's Hometowne TV, Verizon Fios channel 33, and Comcast channel 36, at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday, with a re-broadcast at noon.

#### Website:

Visit [www.centralpres.org/sermons](http://www.centralpres.org/sermons) for links to our worship videos.



We are delighted to inform you that Central Presbyterian Church has been awarded a matching grant of up to \$250,000 from the National Fund for Sacred Places. We were one of 155 grant applicants this year and are honored to be one of 16 congregations chosen for the 2020-21 award cycle. Our long 150-year history in Summit, magnificent building, and outstanding community programs were cited as reasons why the National Fund selected us. We are the first church in New Jersey to ever receive this national distinction!

The grant will provide funds for masonry work and the restoration of our magnificent "Christ Blessing the Children" stained glass window. The terms of the grant are:

1:1 match up to \$100,000; 1:2 match for \$101,000 - \$500,000

More information on the grant and opportunities to contribute will follow, but we are very proud to share this news! Thank you to Betsy Phillips ,



who spear-headed the effort, and collaborators Jennifer Alvarez, Dave Bomgaars, Kevin Hill, Francie Cho, George & Mimi Ross, Peter Richardson, Warren & Ginni Braunwarth, Sarah Engle, Jeanne Thiemann, Lisa Magee, Chris Craig, Evelyn Thiel, Don Steele, Deborah Huggins, Charity Wicks, and Sally Bond.



## Daily Devotional with Pastor Don

Beginning December 1 and lasting through December 23, join Pastor Don Steele each day, Monday through Thursday, at noon on Facebook Live for a Daily Devotional based on Part I of Handel's beloved oratorio, *Messiah*. Pastor Don will offer some reflections on the various texts that Handel used and there will be an option to leave prayer requests and interact with others through the comment section. Gathering daily for devotions was such a help during the spring when we were in lockdown. As we approach a very different Christmas, let's gather together again daily to support each other.

## Christmas Pageant

We are working on a socially distant, no rehearsal, outdoor pageant for Christmas Eve, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. We will use narrators and we are asking families to sign up for the various parts of the story - animals, angels, shepherds, holy family, magi. Families of all sizes are invited to participate, and we are happy to include well-behaved dogs. To sign up, please click here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044ba8a929a5ff2-outdoor>. More than one family is invited to sign up for each scene. Everyone is invited to attend this short, outdoor service!



## Confirmands in Action

Confirmand Jack Sartorius and his mentor, Dave Bomgaars, have been preparing grocery bags for drive-by pickup by those individuals and families in need through the Grace Food Pantry. Under direction of Director Amanda Block at the Cornog Field House, Memorial Field in Summit, Jack, Dave, other Confirmands Will Gawronski and Sutton Collins, Pastor Deborah, and other volunteers spent afternoons carrying bags out onto the field house lawn, and adding fresh foods to each bag. As cars arrived to receive the donations, our confirmands loaded bags directly into the vehicles. When completed, the Confirmands began filling bags for another day. In addition, the Confirmands assisted in placing bags of clothing, by sex and size, in the larger of the Cornog rooms.

We are very proud of the work our Confirmands are accomplishing in the community, especially during these challenging times.



## HALLELUJAH: The Bible and Handel's *Messiah*

### Sundays at 11:00 a.m.

You are invited to join Pastor Steele and Dr. Wicks for a four-week study of Part I of Handel's wonderful oratorio, *Messiah*. The study will be held via Zoom on Sunday mornings from 11:00 a.m. until noon, beginning November 29 and continuing every Sunday through December 20. Please register for the course by visiting this Sign Up Genius link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10Co848A5A929AoFC1-advent>. Once you sign up, you will be sent the Zoom link. (If you need help using Zoom, please contact Pastor Deborah. Help is available from Central Church youth!) And if you must miss a week, that's not a problem since each session will be recorded so that you don't have to miss out on the content being covered.

And there will be interesting content each week as Pastor Steele explores the Biblical texts and Dr. Wicks explores the musical treatment of those texts. Whether or not you know the oratorio well, you will be learning things that you did not know about it, deepening your appreciation of this beloved musical classic.

## Advent Candle Lighting

### Sundays at 4:30 p.m.

Join us each Sunday at 4:30 pm during Advent, November 29-December 20, for a live lighting of candles on the Advent wreath. We will be featuring Christmas music from our new carillon and readings from Advent texts in the Bible, in addition to lighting the candles. The wreath will be lit at the North Classroom entrance so that you can participate from your car, parked in the municipal lot on Elm Street, no matter what the weather is like! Each evening's service will be about 15-20 minutes long. Join us as we celebrate a very different Advent!



## Sharing Tree 2020

The Sharing Tree team is again working to bring the joy of Christmas to our community this season. Because it's such an unprecedented year, we will be doing things slightly differently. This year, we will show our generosity by helping families in need at Family Promise. The need is huge this year and they could really benefit from our grace this holiday season. Family Promise has requested gift cards this year due to COVID so that the families can do their own shopping. Please plan to drop off your Sharing Tree gift cards (suggested \$20-\$50) by Friday, December 4th, to Jessica Mills (62 Portland Rd. in Summit). There will be a box on the front porch labeled *Sharing Tree*. Please place your gift cards inside a sealed envelope with your name and gift number or numbers on the outside. Thank you to everyone in advance for your generosity. Here is the link to sign up to help: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080c48a9ae2fa5f94-central>



## 50 Plus Year Honor Roll

The following people have been members of Central Presbyterian Church for 50 years or more! A special congratulations to Pat Haddon and Christine Vauglé for whom this is their first year on the list.

### **78 Years**

*Donald W. Hufnail*

### **73 Years**

*John H.C. Anderson*

### **72 Years**

*Virginia P. Braunwarth*

### **71 Years**

*Jean W. Hughes*

### **69 Years**

*Mary Ann Bennett*

*Warren J. Braunwarth*

*Frederick Buchaine*

### **65 Years**

*Phyllis Hartley*

### **64 Years**

*Dee Robertson*

### **63 Years**

*Peggy Kizzia*

*Mary McCurdy*

*Dan Nelson*

*Marion Olcott*

### **61 Years**

*Wayne Braunwarth*

*Katrina Havourd*

*Kathleen Jessup*

### **60 Years**

*Cynthia Biber*

*Elaine Powers*

### **59 Years**

*Nancy Harmon*

*Frederick Roessle*

*Diane Swett*

### **58 Years**

*Lee Horner*

*Nancy Horner*

*Gil Owren*

*Pat Reed*

*Bill Reed*

*Allyn Von Neida*

*Caryl Von Neida*

### **57 Years**

*Bruce Havourd*

*John Hensel*

*Heath McLendon*

*Judy McLendon*

### **56 Years**

*Pam Flynn*

*Audrey Hanaway*

*Arthur Vanderbilt*

*Janet Whitman*

### **55 Years**

*Carol Cowan*

### **54 Years**

*Russ Hulsizer*

*Margaret MacCowatt*

*Ruth Roessle*

### **53 Years**

*Fran Owren*

*Pam Schroeder*

### **52 Years**

*Nancy Smith*

*Russell Smith*

*Dawn Wolfenbarger*

### **51 Years**

*Randy Bostwick*

*Gretchen Braunwarth*

*McVey Graham*

*Bruce MacRae*

*Joann Milsark*

*Jane Wagner*

### **50 Years**

*Pat Haddon*

*Christine Vauglé*

## In Memoriam

On All Saints Day, November 1, we remember those lost during the previous year. The following Central members have died since last All Saints Day. A bell was tolled for each name during the first worship service in November.

### Member

### Date of Passing

Sara Rand

11/16/2019

Paul Dunnder

01/04/2020

Robert Gaeckle

02/22/2020

Jim Northrop

03/23/2020

Harriet Joyce

09/14/2020

Jean Sheeleigh

09/10/2020

Pam Hauptfleisch

11/13/2020



## Advent Kits Available



We have been sharing the light of Christ with Summit for over 150 years, this year, we want to be sure that every family at Central knows how much we love and care for them, so we made “Advent-at-Home” kits for each local family. Each kit contains candles, an Advent calendar and devotions. We hope that our Advent kits remind you of Christ's love, and Christ's light this Christmas.

Contactless pickup of your kit will be available in the church driveway, past the glass doors and dumpster on the following days and times:

Sunday 11/22 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.,

Sunday 11/29 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  
and 4:00—5:00 p.m.,

Friday 12/4 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## Central Welcomes New Members

In spite of the pandemic and social distancing, Central has gained two members recently.

We welcome **Kristin Schroeder**, who joined on October 12, 2020. Kristin and her husband, Thomas, were married in the Presbyterian Church of Morristown in 2011. They have two sons, ages 3 (Andrew) and 6 (Charles).



**Leslie Kizzia**, who re-joined May 11, 2020, is Peggy Kizzia's daughter-in-law, and was an active member of Central years ago. Leslie left to follow her pastor husband's call, but has always considered Central to be her church home. Leslie was born and baptized, confirmed, and married at Central, and sang in choirs, served on committees, taught Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, and worked in the Weekday Nursery School. She is currently living in North Carolina, and joins us in virtual worship.



# Children and Youth

## Sunday School

Many thanks to everyone who has helped us with Sunday School this fall. It has been such a treat to share the stories of our tradition with the kids each week and the absolute highlight has been getting our kids involved as leaders and teachers in the program. There is something magical about being in a multi-aged setting, and our kids have been sharing their ideas, talents, and skills with each other. Grace and her mom, Shelley, thought of the idea of making Sensory Bottles to explore the crossing of the Red Sea, Max and Maddie gave us pitching lessons to think about David and Goliath, and Sara, Keira, and Catherine took the lead on messy crafts and the most perfect slime ever.

We are so grateful to get to see our young people as leaders, to have them sharing their ideas with us, thinking through how to share them, and teaching others. Leadership in churches is not only a chance for young people to develop skills for later in life, it's also one of the primary ways that people feel connected in the church. Leadership in the church gives young people a sense of belonging, not only to Central, but also to God.

This fall, we have 15 youth advisors reading, studying and praying about how to nurture leadership in our kids. "Key Chain" leadership is what Fuller Seminary calls it, and it is amazing to gather in prayer with parents, teachers and young people to imagine and think about the ways that God is calling us to share our church with young people. We hope that you can all join with us in prayer as we commit ourselves to helping Central be a place that "Grows Young," a place where we can all learn from the gifts and skills of our young people.

## Confirmation

On a perfect fall day, in a beautiful backyard, our young people and their mentors gathered together to celebrate what our confirmation class has accomplished so far this year. In spite of this being one of the most challenging years of ministry, our kids and their mentors highlighted what they can do. In spite of social distancing, our young people spent time serving food, packing lunches, gardening and landscaping. They shared the closeness that they felt with their friends, the joy of making someone's life a little brighter, and the way that serving others makes them feel closer to God. (continued on next page)





## Children and Youth, continued

After the young people presented their work, mentors and confirmands spent some times talking, exploring and digging into the Gospel of Mark. As the pairs talked, they noticed places where they both had questions, where they both felt close to God, and where they read the passages differently. Finally, we ended our celebration with a “water communion,” each of us adding our own small portion of water to a large bowl. As each pair came forward, our mentors offered prayers for our young people, and our young people thanked God for their mentors. We are so proud of these young people, and the amazing adults who are nurturing them during this year. Sharing in service to others, and the word of God has been the focus of our first unit of confirmation.



## GRACE

This fall we have spent lot of time with our partnered organization GRACE. Not only did we all participate in the cleaning supplies drive for GRACE and Family Promise, on Friday evenings, members of Central have been volunteering with GRACE to pack groceries, and now to distribute them in the car line. It is powerful to provide food to so many people in need in Summit. GRACE regularly distributes over 400 bags of groceries each week. We have had about twenty volunteers from Central serve with us. Adults and youth in middle and high school and above are invited to sign up and come from 5:30-8:00 pm on Friday evenings.



## Advent

During Advent, our job is to prepare our hearts for God, to prepare our hearts to receive Christ again, and to make ourselves ready to nurture and care for our faith, just like parents care for an infant child. This Advent, our children and youth are invited to share their favorite advent traditions and crafts with each other. Each week in Children’s Church we will invite our young people and their teachers to share their traditions and stories with us, and we will have special crafts to go with them. In addition to making things for our own homes, we will include hand made gifts for our shut-ins too. I hope that this year, we can all draw close to God as we prepare our hearts for Christ’s arrival.



# Financial Report

## CENTRAL QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

ALL \$ooo	SEPT YTD 2020	% of BUDGET	SEPT YTD 2019
<b>INCOME</b>			
REGULAR GIVING	433	61%	391
TOTAL INCOME	498	63%	463
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>			
PERSONNEL	620	71%	639
BUILDING AND GROUNDS	110	47%	142
ALL OTHER	118	52%	143
TOTAL EXPENSES	848	63%	924
SHORTFALL COVERED BY UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT	350	64%	461
VALUE OF UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT	6643		6559
MISSION DISBURSEMENTS FROM RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT	270		335
VALUE OF MISSION ENDOWMENT	4195		4199

### TREASURER'S COMMENTS

Regular giving is behind where we had projected to be through three quarters of the year; however there tends to be more giving in the fourth quarter. Quarterly statements are a reminder of where members stand year to date compared to their pledges. Expenses likewise are down through the first nine months. Personnel costs are close to plan. Building and Grounds as well as other expenses are down primarily due to the limited activities at the church due to Covid 19.

Market volatility has caused the value of the Endowment to change throughout the year. Fortunately, much of the early deterioration in the value of the Endowment has been recovered as of early November.

Cash needs for the balance of the year for Missions as well as the Church operations were prefunded at Sept 30 .

## Carillon Celebration

On Sunday, November 8, 60-70 people gathered on the Maple Street lawn to celebrate Central Church's new carillon—a donation from the Bauer Family Foundation in honor of Central's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It was a beautiful evening to be out on the lawn, and, as Pastor Steele commented during the evening, the music of the carillon is a gift, not just to Central Church, but to our entire community, and that evening, we could see it already working, for that evening, folks walking by were observed to stop and to listen for a while. And a person checked in with our ushers, reporting that she heard the music while waiting in the train station and it "called her to come and listen even if that meant taking a later train."

Of course, Central is indebted

to Lyle Brehm who worked diligently to secure this donation from the Bauer family, which has been such an integral part of Summit and of Central for generations. Indeed, a previous carillon had been donated by the Bauer family in honor of George and Ada Bauer. This particular instrument, which plays some 7000 prerecorded selections using a variety of bells and even bagpipes, is a gift made in honor of George and Ada's children: Dorothy Fedor, Ray Bauer, Robert Bauer, Grant Bauer, and Robert Boak.

The carillon will be programmed to play regularly every day. Watch our website and upcoming Friday emails for news about that schedule.





## Weekday Nursery School

This is normally the time when we invite perspective families into our school, when we have parents who currently have children in the school give tours and talk about their child's and their own family's experience, as we look to register for next year. None of what was "normally done" can be done this year as we keep to all health and safety protocols during this COVID-19 pandemic. Open House it is not! In its place we have a *virtual tour* available on the school website [www.cpc-school.org](http://www.cpc-school.org). We are also gathering testimonials from parents to add and share with perspective families. Below is one such story.

*While touring Nursery Schools in Summit two years ago, my husband and I were not sure if we would find a loving, warm, community-based preschool like the one our children attended in NYC. To our surprise, the moment we walked through the doors at CPC Weekday Nursery School and Kindergarten, we knew we found the right fit. Our fall tour was given by parents, who gave us first hand testimonials of their children's learning experience at school, the parent's positive experiences with the teachers and staff, as well as a glimpse of the supportive close knit community that CPC offers. New to Summit, our family felt right at home in the community and within the school. Our middle daughter started in the 2 1/2's last year, her first formal year of school, and absolutely loved it.*



*From the hands-on play-based learning to the early introduction of the alphabet, numbers, and colors, we have been incredibly happy with the amount of learning CPC Nursery offers.*

*The Kindergarten education was above and beyond expectations as well. Coming from a small Manhattan play-based preschool a year ago, our oldest daughter began her year of Kindergarten at CPC last fall. We choose CPC Kindergarten because of the similar sized classrooms, student to teacher ratio, as well as the unique reading program. Our daughter began Kindergarten not being able to read at all. By the spring, she was a confident reader who is passionate about books. My husband and I are so impressed and thankful to the CPC Kindergarten teachers and staff for their individual help which they provided for our daughter. Learning new skills in a warm, friendly, and safe environment was beyond beneficial to our daughter's early education and*

*self-esteem.*

*With our move we were in search of friendly church community which is welcoming to new families with young children, interfaith families (my husband is Hindu) and one that gives back to the community as well as provides our children with a positive introduction to the Christian Faith. We discovered Central Presbyterian Church through the nursery school and kindergarten which our daughters attended. My girls and I loved participating monthly in the Mission with Mommy program, which introduces children to give back to the community alongside their parent or caretaker. From there we met Pastor Deborah, who is warm and welcoming to the children. She will always make it a point to say hello to our girls which makes them feel comfortable in the new school environment. Seeing the wonderful community outreach, the friendly welcome from both Pastor Deborah and Pastor Don, as well as the positive introduction for children to the Christian faith, we knew that this was the Church we would like to join!*

*With thanks to Stephanie, this is the Sen family's story.*



70 Maple Street

Summit, NJ 07901

**Return Service Requested**



## THE KEY

Advent 2020

The publication of  
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

[centralpres.org](http://centralpres.org)

Editor & Printing: Jeanne Thiemann

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m.

*Central is worshiping virtually during the Covid19 pandemic. Join us on HTTV, Facebook , or on our YouTube channel.*