

The KEY

A Publication of Central Presbyterian Church
Summit, NJ

Fall 2021



A Letter from the Pastor: *God's Vaccination Gift*

I had thought that I would be writing a cover for the Key this fall highlighting all the ways that we were going to be opening things up here at Central Church, because I thought that, by this point, due to highly effective and safe vaccines, COVID-19 would be in retreat. Instead, it seems like, as the fall approaches, WE are in retreat. We are wearing masks indoors again, and we are increasingly reluctant to go out to certain places. Here at Central, we are re-evaluating all and changing many of our plans to have a more normal year at church, and that is tremendously disappointing, but COVID infections and deaths are surging again due to variants that, we are told, are more contagious, and due to the refusal by far too many to get vaccinated.

Of course, there is a lot of false information circulating about the vaccines, which I suspect is influencing some people to resist getting vaccinated, which is so sad. That is why I follow a Facebook page run by a young woman who, when she was a teenager, was active in the youth group in a church I served. You will find her stuff if you search Facebook for "Infectious Optimism." The subtitle for her page is "Scientist," and the young woman who runs the page, Catherine Manix Feintuch, is a scientist, with a PhD in microbiology and immunology from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, with a focus on infectious diseases and a certificate in public health. If you wonder about getting vaccinated, or if you know somebody who wonders about it, you might find it helpful to check out this page, because on her page, you will find the truth about just how effective and safe the COVID vaccines really are.

And as a Pastor, I encourage you to get vaccinated. We Presbyterians believe in using the best medical treatments available because, as we see it, medical science is the way that God heals the sick. And so, you could say that the COVID vaccines are God's gift to us, and getting fully vaccinated is accepting God's loving gift. Getting vaccinated also expresses our love for and solidarity with each other since vaccination protects, not just ourselves, but our neighbor as well, including younger children who are still ineligible to be vaccinated, as well as those who really cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons.

Jesus told us that everything that God wants us to know is summed up in two commandments—that we love God with everything we have, and that we love our neighbors as ourselves. In these times, maybe there is no more basic way for anyone to demonstrate that they take those two commandments seriously than to get their COVID vaccination.

--Pastor Don Steele

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Upcoming Events

How to Worship with Central

Central is worshipping in-person in the Sanctuary every Sunday at 8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

In addition, watch us live on Summit's **Hometowne TV**, Verizon Fios channel 33, and Comcast channel 36, or live streamed (when staffing allows) on our **Facebook** page (<https://www.facebook.com/centralchurchSummitNJ/>) at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday.

Following the services, we post video to our channel on **YouTube**: (<https://youtube.com/channel/UCPf6KiUHiNNbVwcDuanGt8w>)

Website:

Visit www.centralpres.org/sermons for links to our recent worship videos.

Below are some of the events on Central's calendar this fall. Please note that everything is subject to change or cancellation during the pandemic.

Sept 12 - **Rally Day** - all church picnic to celebrate the beginning of the program year, and first day of **Sunday School**

Sept 19 - **Carillon Dedication** at the 10:00 a.m. worship service with the Bauer family who donated the Carillon, and a 5pm **WAVE** service.

Sept 18—**Ted Stewart Memorial** at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Sept 26 - **Communion Workshop** for 3rd & 4th grade families

Oct 3 - **World Communion Sunday & the recognition of Pastor Deborah's doctoral degree** (10:00 a.m.), and **Blessing of the Animals** at **WAVE** (5:00 p.m.)

Oct 17—**Memorial Sunday**: Central will dedicate this day to those we have lost during the pandemic. At the 10:00 a.m. service, we will honor our members and friends who died while we could not mourn together. At 5:00 p.m., we will host a public, non-religious ceremony on the Maple Street lawn with invited speakers from the community.

Oct. 31—**Fifth Sunday: Family Mission Day** - help make treats for Bridges after the 10:00 a.m. worship service

New Member Classes

Anyone interested in learning more about Central Church is invited to attend a New Member Class. You will have chance to meet a pastor and some members of Session and ask questions. An opportunity to join in membership will be offered. RSVP to ethiel@centralpres.org.

Dates: October 3 and November 7 at 9:15 a.m.

Interview with Charity Wicks

By the time she was 10 years old, Charity Wicks was already playing the organ for worship at the church in her tiny hometown of Oklee, Minnesota, population 400. And although she had won major piano competitions in the state, she still was considering a career in accounting when it was time to choose a college. “I was good at math, and accounting seemed practical” Charity said. It had never occurred to her that an existence in the arts was possible.

Following her third year at Concordia College, Charity packed up and moved to Philadelphia, feeling the need to be in a place where there were more “fish in the sea”. After a few months, she enrolled at Temple University and found joy studying piano performance and eventually switching her major to accompanying. “I wanted to work with people more than I wanted to be in a practice room all alone,” she explained. Charity stayed at Temple through her Masters Degree, then moved to New York to attend the Manhattan School of Music for her Doctorate.

Shortly after finishing her studies, Charity met an important contact, the Broadway conductor Kimberly Grigsby, while serving jury duty. By the time her jury duty was finished, Charity had been hired as sub-conductor on her first Broadway musical, the original production of Spring

Awakening!

Spring Awakening was also where Charity met her now-husband, Jason DePinto, who was working on that show in stage management, following a many-years long career as a dancer. They eloped 10 months into their relationship and have never looked back!

Today Charity and Jason are parents to two children, Cora Jay, age 5, and Joseph Michael, age 3.



Charity has been the Director of Music Ministries at Central since January 2013, is Adjunct Faculty at William Paterson University, plays many on-off gigs as musicians usually do, and together with her husband, recently started a farm business. Pre-pandemic, she also played and conducted several Broadway shows, including *Come From Away*.

“My position at Central Presbyterian is one of the few constants in my life, and that makes the



other projects possible. I am incredibly grateful for everything that my position at Central adds to my life,” Charity declared. The church and especially her boss, Rev. Don Steele, have been very flexible and supportive of her, and she appreciates it greatly.

The DePinto/Wicks family has taken time during the pandemic to do some soul-searching about how their future lives look, and where the hours of the day are spent. While Broadway is fun and can be very meaningful, the hours are crazy, and with the children entering school this year, they are considering what their future may look like. So the infrastructure of their home farm is set up, and they are growing organic vegetables and fruit, have chickens and goats, and are proudly using regenerative farming techniques in this new “market farming” adventure. So this little family is prepared to face their future, whether Broadway is part of it, or not. Happily, music seems to be a given.

Pastor Deborah Launches New Platform

Pastor Deborah launched a blog and website this summer called "Belonging: Together for Faith Inclusion." She is using this site to connect with people with disabilities, church leaders and parents around disability and the church.

"When we listen to people with disabilities about what they need, and how to be the best church for them, there is nothing that we can't accomplish together. People with disabilities have so many gifts for leadership - we all gain

when they share them with us."

Pastor Deborah, who used to be a special education teacher, has a longtime interest in faith inclusion, and she works at the Synod and Presbytery level to support faith inclusion. She completed her doctorate in Special Education looking at Faith Inclusion last spring. She also works with Presbyterian Publishing as a consultant around faith inclusion. Be sure to check out her blog at www.faithinclusion.com.



Presbyterian Women

Normally we get together starting in September, but we all know life is not normal these days. We are instead planning for something in October. The new PW Presbytery of the Northeast has been working on their by-laws and there is a Gathering planned for the Fall. The Elizabeth Presbytery was dissolved several years ago because lack of interest, so we are looking forward to this new reorganization and leadership. The World Wide Triennial Gathering in St. Louis was done virtually in August. The theme was Rejoice in Hope romans 12:12-13.

Our card ministry is active if you know of anyone who needs some cheer please email Elisa at ekcaporale@gmail.com. A special thanks you to all who responded to our letter in June to support our ministry in the coming year.

Elisa Kessler Caporale Moderator

Central Welcomes New Members

At their June meeting, Session received into active membership four Summit residents: Paige & Pete Britt, and Alicia & Brian Kilduff. Please make them welcome!

Children and Youth: commUNITY Camp

We celebrated our 7th summer of hosting our commUNITY's camp with partnering churches in Summit. It was a delight to welcome about 100 children and volunteers to camp this year - and to see them grow in faith, friendship and service to the community. It was also so much fun to see how much our campers have grown! Many of our volunteers have been with us since they were campers - and to see them move into leader counselors and station leaders in our camp was amazing.



We are grateful to our commUNITY Partners this year. We are grateful for Mrs. Spagner from Fountain Baptist, Sherri Shumate from Summit UMC, and to the staff and volunteers from St. Theresa of Avilla, Christ Church and Calvary who all came together with volunteers from Central to make camp happen. It's so fun to work together with other volunteers and professionals to make camp happen at Central.

In addition to learning stories from the Bible in fun and engaging ways, our campers also spent the week partnering with Bridges Outreach. All week the kids learned about the work that we do with Bridges to bring the housed and homeless together, and all week they brought in snacks to share. Donating over 500 snacks, our kids learned a lot about what they can do to make our community stronger and safer, and how our faith calls us to care for one another, and to belong to one another as sisters and brothers in Christ. On our last day of camp, the kids made over 300 lunches, made 100 sandwiches, packed 100 hygiene kits, and decorated 100 placemats for SAGE. It was humbling to see the generosity and engagement of all of our kids - and to see them working together to end homelessness. Thank you for the financial support of the Hands On Mission Team for making this day happen and to Bridges for this partnership.

Every year in camp our campers tell us that they cannot wait to be leaders. Taking care of four younger campers, and assisting at each of the stations is a powerful experience for our young leaders - and they are so excited to share their growing responsibility and strength with our community's children. As the kids move into being counselors for the first time, we pair them with more experienced counselors and adults, until they are ready to fly solo. Finally, as our leaders excel in leading a small group, they move on to being station leaders, responsible for a part of the program. This structured leadership model allows our young people to gain leadership skills and confidence.

In addition to learning about the Bible, I am so proud that our camp is an inclusive place to welcome all kids. Many thanks to the Lena Willis Foundation for the support of three behavioral aids to make sure that all of our campers and volunteers have a great experience. Inclusion is central to what we do at Central, and thanks to your generosity, camp is no exception. We are also so thankful to our amazing young leaders who provided wrap around care at no cost for our families this year in our Sports and Playground Camps. These after care options opened camp up for many of our camp families. Your volunteerism, leadership and care for our community is something that we can all see and we are so proud of the ways that you share your faith and your passions with us all.

Summit commUNITY Camp (VBS)



Summit commUNITY Camp (VBS)



Key-Chain Leadership, Innovation and Community : New Directions in Youth Ministry

This past year, Emily Campbell and I spent the pandemic learning about new ways of doing youth ministry. It turns out that kids are busy all over the country (not just in Summit) and although they are full of faith, that they struggle to connect to old patterns of youth ministry. Youth Group, as we know it is shrinking all over the country - but new things are happening to take its place. Growing Young - a program of Fuller Youth Institute - brought together powerful tools for evaluation, researchers in the field, and other volunteers and workers who all care about youth and their faith formation. Emily and I learned a lot at our four conferences, readings, reflections and pod-casts, a lot about the strengths of our church, and how we can be more intentional about using them to reach kids and to help them grow in faith.

Leadership

One of the places that the program helped us to identify for Central's programs with young people was Key-Chain leadership. This idea is a way of supporting young people as they become leaders in our church and community. The idea is to listen to kids, and to "give them the keys to the church" - to let them make important decisions, and take on leadership roles in our community, all while supporting their success with adults who care about them.

We will be focusing on developing leadership across the lifespan

- from preschool all the way into young adulthood. Be sure to watch for tips in our Weekly Emails and look for opportunities for our teachers, parents and youth volunteers.

Community

In addition to listening, we need to think about the vast resources that we have in the church and how we can use these to help our young people grow as leaders. For years, our church has been Central to Summit. And whether it was building the village green, providing parking for a growing downtown, building affordable housing or supporting the schools, Central has been a part of it.

As we continue to nurture these partnerships in our community, we can also see them as a resource for ministry with our young people. For years, our kids have done projects with Family Promise, EPort, Bridges and the YMCA - thinking about these confirmation, scout and community service projects as an essential part of Youth Ministry will help us think about youth ministry in the future.

Innovation

Young people are natural innovators. Creating something new - whether it's a program, a solution to a problem, or a product - the ability to innovate is a powerful driver for today's kids.

With a rising senior in our

house, my family has gone on a lot of college tours this year and we have noticed that innovation Labs are a hot amenity at colleges and universities. And what these labs promise in addition to a lot of white boards, a 3D printer is access to experienced mentors and community partners. After a few of these talks, it occurred to us that we have our own innovation lab right here at Central.

Using partnerships and relationships with the community, know-how from experienced mentors, and the resources of the church - we are starting to see something special happen at Central. Central is becoming a place where young people learn to become leaders and innovators who are partnered with and connected to our community. This summer we have seen how we nurtured the leadership of 35 VBS camp counselors, and we see the continuation of one youth led program, and the creation of two others. Eleven of this church's young people in partnership with friends, parents created innovative programs to serve our community. To learn more about them - I hope that you will check out the articles on the following pages about commUNITY Camp, Theater Camp, Sports Camp and Playground Camp.

-Pastor Deborah Huggins

Youth-Led Initiatives

This year, we celebrated three youth led initiatives around our CommUNITY Camp - Theater Camp (in its fourth year), Sports Camp, and Playground Camp. Seeing our young people take the initiative and lead these experiences has been a powerful view of how our community supports the development of our young people, and shows us the power of this community to support innovation and leadership.

Theater Camp

Born out of a passion for theater, and experience with other camps, Anna Jeffries started our first youth-led camp. This camp started out as an after-care option for campers, allowing kids from the community to experience theater in a low stress, low cost environment. “Starting this program has helped me become so much more of a leader and each year I learn new things. It has helped me work on organization, delegation, and problem solving. This year one of my biggest takeaways was learning to relax and really enjoy the program as well as working on motivating and empathizing with the kids,” Anna explained.



It has been amazing to see Anna and her team lead young people who have gained skills and confidence to prepare them for roles in Middle School and in other theaters.

Sports Camp

This year in Confirmation, we talked about vocation - or how God calls us to love and care for people. All year, we worked with Buechner’s idea of using our passions to serve the world’s needs, and we saw an amazing constellation of projects around sports. At the confirmation breakfast, a conversation started about how our young people could take their passion projects and use them to serve God and our community. With six members of the Confirmation class of 2021 (Logan Fallon, Daniel Flaim, Will Gawronski, Cade Gilbert, Jack Sartorius, and Anderson Wise), and several skilled friends, the sports camp welcomed 21 children to learn about basketball, lacrosse and soccer. It was amazing to see how our young people took their love of the game and used it to share skills and build relationships with Summit’s children. Thank you to Jen Gawronski and all of the parents for chaperoning the Sports camp, and to our amazing young people for planning and leading the activities.



Playground Camp

To provide wrap around care for families, we needed activities for two more days during VBS - Monday and Friday. This is where Keira Fallon and Sarah Flaim stepped in. These two were instrumental in developing our Sunday School to Go kits last year - and their knack with kids, and love of games are unparalleled, especially for two middle schoolers! With a little help from chaperone Ben Davis and their parents, these girls planned two great days of games, crafts, and water balloons for our campers.

“This year I led the playground camp with Sarah. The playground camp was a safe, fun after-care option for campers. My favorite part about playground camp was putting together the fun activities and games,” said Keira.



Thank you, Sarah and Keira, and thank you, Betsy and Carrie!

Celebrating our Graduates

Central congratulates our high school graduates! Below is a list of the schools they graduated from, and the colleges and universities they plan to attend in the fall. Available photos are shown on the next page.

Kendall Blundin graduated Kent Place School, and will attend Bucknell this fall.

Andrew Brown graduated from The Aaron School and will attend Lynn University.

Matthew Brown graduated from Fusion Academy and will attend Eastern University.

Bayley Buchanan graduated from Summit High School and will attend Union College.

Matthew Carey graduated from Del Barton and will attend Dartmouth.

William Cho graduated Summit High School and will attend Yale University.

Caroline Collins graduated from Summit High School and will attend Wake Forest.

Ben Davis graduated from Del Barton and will attend Holy Cross.

Connor Fallon graduated from Summit High School and will attend Indiana University.

Harper Fosgate graduated from Summit High School and will attend Washington and Lee.

Tristan Germa graduated Millburn High School and will attend Penn State.

Skye Gilbert graduated from Summit High School and will attend Bucknell.

Ellie Griffith graduated from Summit High School and will attend Santa Clara University.

Gary Lewis graduated from Del Barton and will attend Lawrenceville.

Audrey Hannigan graduated from Summit High School and will attend Lafayette.

Lucas O'Dowd graduated from Summit High School and will attend Hamilton College.

Mackenzie O'Dowd graduated from Summit High School and will attend Santa Clara University.

Lily Ramsey graduated from Oak Knoll and will attend Yale University.

Mimi Robertson graduated from Summit High School and will attend Lafayette University.

Justin Ross graduated from Summit High School and will attend High Point.

Caroline Sharpe graduated from Summit High School and will attend Providence College.

Thomas Sharpe graduated from Summit High School and will attend Boston College.

Anna Torell graduated from Summit High School and will attend University of Michigan.



Harper Fosgate

Our 2021 *Graduates*



William Cho



Mimi Robertson



Caroline & Tommy
Sharpe



Matthew Brown



Mackenzie O'Dowd



Justin Ross



Caroline Collins



Ellie Griffith



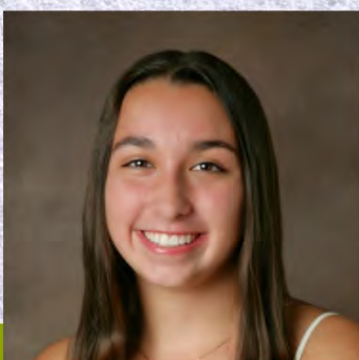
Connor Fallon



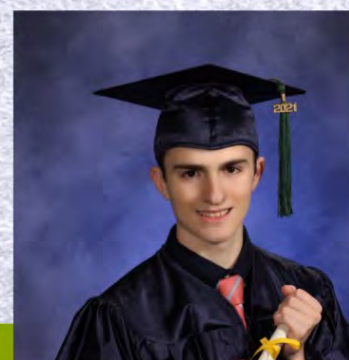
Bayley Buchanan



Ben Davis



Anna Torell



Andrew Brown

Saying Goodbye to a Special Man

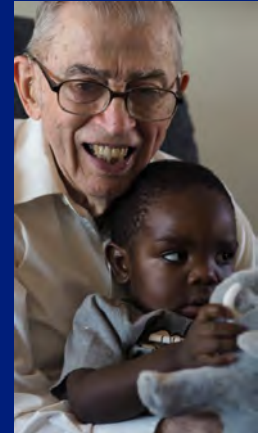
Theodore Cannon Stewart was born January 22, 1932 in Washington, Iowa, the son of Cloyce and Mary (Cannon) Stewart. He attended Washington High School, Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania; and Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, where he received a bachelor's degree. He received a master's degree from Columbia University, New York City. He was an opera buff, and for forty years was a subscriber to the Metropolitan Opera. He taught school for 39 years, 30 of which were in Summit, most of it in Brayton Elementary School.

After he retired in 1994, Ted worked for five years as a volunteer teaching the children of Wycliffe Bible Translators in Papua New Guinea. He then worked five years as a volunteer in the Domasi Mission School in Malawi, Africa, a mission partner of Central

Church. It was there he met Herbert Magombe, whom he adopted. "Ted's stories about the students and the people of Malawi connected CPC's heart with this place and this ministry." John Illian, former Associate Pastor at Central, said.

Ted was very active at Central, serving as an elder and teaching Sunday School for 25 years. "Ted taught our second & third grade church school for years! He really knew how to inspire the children and was so organized that it was pleasure to make sure he had the supplies he needed each week," remembers Ruth Huneke.

A **Memorial Service** for Ted Stewart will be held at the Central Presbyterian Church at 10:00 a.m. on **Saturday, September 18, 2021**. Ted died on August 1, 2020



after an illness of aspiration and pneumonia, associated with Parkinson's Disease.

Memorial gifts may be given to the church. They will be sent to the Domasi Mission Secondary School in Malawi, Africa. This is the school started by Ted's mother, where Ted worked as a volunteer for five years, and where Ted met his son, Herbert Magombe.

Central Scholarships

In June, the Central Scholarship Committee, led by Kevin Hill, awarded college scholarships to the following graduating high school seniors:

- Central Presbyterian Church Leadership Award: **Eleanor Griffith**
- Jeanette Thatcher Christian Service Award: **Tom Sharpe and Caroline Collins**
- Greer Scholar-Athlete Award: **Skye Gilbert and Caroline Sharpe**
- Laura C. Binder Central Presbyterian Church Service Award: **William Cho**
- Francis Brown Beattie CPC Service Award: **Connor Fallon and Gary Lewis**
- Dorothy Tawney Christian Service Award: **Anna Torell**

Buildings & Grounds Update

So much progress has been made on capital projects this summer at Central!

The *Christ Blessing the Children* window has been restored and re-installed in the Sanctuary by Feminella and Associates. You must take a look when you are in the building—the colors are magnificent and the photo does not do it justice. This



project was funded by a grant from the National Fund for Sacred Spaces and our own Capital Campaign.

A least half of the building **exterior masonry** has been repointed. This project, which can only be worked on during fair weather, will continue into 2023, and is funded by our Capital Campaign.



The **kitchen** is finished, and awaiting final inspection by the city. The renovation included new flooring, cabinets, lighting, and painting, with all new appliances except for the dishwasher and stove. The new refrigerator was funded in part by a grant from the Summit Junior League, with the rest of the project funded by our Capital Campaign.



The **Hospitality Corridor** on the first floor is in progress. The corridor and Boardroom have been painted, window treatments are on order, and the chairs are at the upholsterer. The Boardroom and Lounge are being re-carpeted (photo below),



and the stairwells will be painted later this year. The black and white tiled floor will be overlaid with new flooring to match the auditorium and kitchen hallway. This project has been designed by Sarah Engle Interiors, and funded by the Capital Campaign.

Financial Report

CENTRAL QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

ALL \$000

	JUNE YTD 2021	% OF 2021 BUDGET	JUNE YTD 2020
INCOME			
REGULAR GIVING	\$303	51%	\$332
TOTAL INCOME	\$350	51%	\$386
EXPENSES			
PERSONNEL	\$383	46%	\$419
BUILDING AND	\$92	43%	\$77
ALL OTHER	\$97	43%	\$48
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$572	46%	\$561
SHORTFALL IN EXCESS OF BUDGETED 4%			
COVERED BY UNRE-	\$93	30%	\$52
VALUE OF UNRESTRICT-	\$7,654		\$6,399
MISSION DISBURSE-			
RESTRICTED ENDOW-	\$279		\$226
VALUE OF MISSION EN-	\$4,618		\$4,042

TREASURER'S COMMENTS

Total Income is right on budget at the midpoint of the fiscal year.
 Expenses continue to be managed well and are slightly below budget.
 Central continues to require additional funds from the unrestricted endowment above the budgeted draw of 4% to fund day to day operations.
 Mission disbursements are similar to prior years with major disbursements occurring in the second quarter for mission grants.
 The Mission Endowment continues to exceed \$4 million at the end of June.

Weekday Nursery School

The summer of 2021 was a productive one in the school wing. The floors were all stripped and waxed and are shiny and clean to start the year. The carpets throughout the school were professionally cleaned. They look amazing! Two rooms were scheduled to be

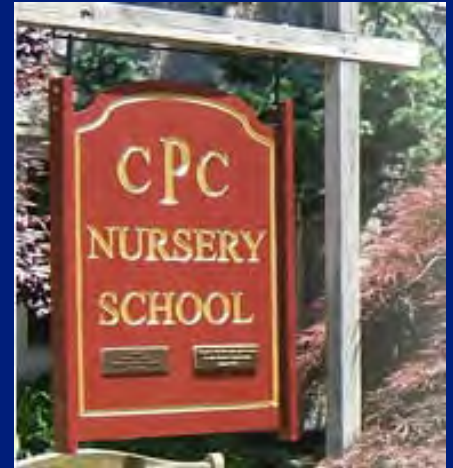


Painted this summer. It makes such a difference, and the rooms look so neat and clean. Another two rooms were scheduled to have carpets replaced. Frayed and well-worn, they were due. It has made a tremendous difference in the appearance of these rooms.

The school continued with summer extra cleaning and disinfecting throughout. With much appreciation to our Parent Organization the arrangement has been made for the sandbox to be refilled and the mulch redistributed for the playground. Steve Capaoraso

Landscaping LLC has graciously donated his time and service. Completed summer projects with a week to spare!

Unfortunately, we are still very much amid the pandemic. The Delta variant now shadows the confidence that was slowly emerging. The risks and concerns continue to weigh heavy. We have been working diligently to be prepared. Documents are being finalized with many health protocols and regulations to be enforced within a year where once again all will be subject to change. Keep the school in your thoughts and prayers as we welcome children back. We pray all teachers, children and their families stay well. We move forward to provide our level of excellence in early childhood education as we embark on the 2021-2022 school year! Smiling children will be with us soon!





70 Maple Street

Summit, NJ 07901

Return Service Requested



THE KEY

Fall 2021

The publication of
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

centralpres.org

Editor & Printing: Jeanne Thiemann

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

*Central is worshipping in the Sanctuary on Sundays,
and broadcasting on HTTV.*

*Videos of the services are posted to
our YouTube channel.*