

The KEY

A Publication of Central Presbyterian Church
Summit, NJ

Lent 2022

A Letter from the Pastor: *Reaffirming Ties That Bind*

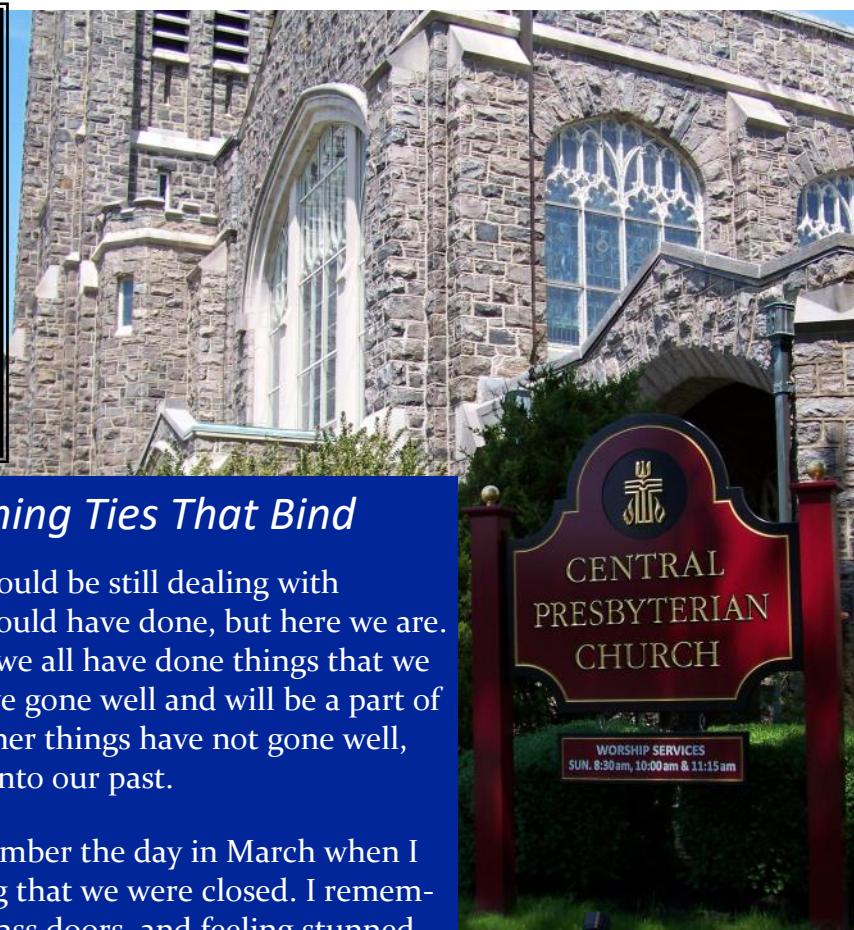
If somebody had told us in early 2020 that we would be still dealing with COVID two years later, I don't know what we would have done, but here we are. It's been two years of dealing with COVID, and we all have done things that we never imagined doing. Some of those things have gone well and will be a part of what we want life to include into the future. Other things have not gone well, and we look forward to being able to put them into our past.

And that has been true for churches. I still remember the day in March when I posted signs on the doors at Central announcing that we were closed. I remember sitting there, looking at those signs in the glass doors, and feeling stunned that we were doing this. None of us really knew what we were doing. None of us had any experience shutting down church nor any training nor really anybody advising us how to do it. Each church tried to figure it out on its own. At Central, we did the best that we could, and some things have gone well, while others have not.

And one of the areas where we have struggled, it seems to me, not just at Central but in all sorts of faith communities, is maintaining our sense of community connection with each other. To be sure, many of us have managed to stay connected to some circle of others over these past two years, but while some of us have really missed being with the larger community gathered regularly in church, I am not naïve enough to assume that all of us have missed that. Indeed, I assume that there are probably some of us who honestly are wondering why they have not missed gathering together, leaving them questioning the whole point of church.

Scholars believe that Lent was originally a time when people thought about their connection with the church. Some folks, during Lent, prepared to join the church, while others worked to deepen their connection with the church. I would like to use Lent this year as a time to do some reconnecting. I am planning to reach out by phone and email to some folks I've been missing here at Central but to see how you are doing. I really miss knowing what's happening in your life. And if you would like to talk with me over the next several weeks, contact me and let me know that, leaving a voicemail (273-0441) or emailing me dsteele@centralpres.org I really look forward to catching up with you.

Pastor Don Steele



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Worship

How to Worship with Central

Central is worshipping in-person every Sunday at 8:30 & 10:00 a.m., plus twice a month at 5:00 p.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.

New Faces in Worship

Brittany Baratz Yeshion and Michael Yeshion are thrilled to be new faces around Central Presbyterian, lending their voices to your services! As musical theater professionals, they've performed at top regional theaters, off-Broadway, and internationally-- but their favorite shows are the ones they get to do together! In the winter of 2019, they traveled to Resorts World Genting located in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where they headlined a holiday spectacular show and were the opening act for Air Supply and Earth, Wind, and Fire. They are currently preparing for their biggest roles to date-- they are thrilled to be welcoming their first child in May.

When they are not performing, Brittany works for a pharmaceutical company as a Travel and Expense manager, and Michael owns and manages a busy photography and video editing business. After 15+ years of living in Manhattan, they relocated to West Orange, NJ in 2020 and couldn't be happier. Thanks for welcoming us into your community!



Everyday Resurrections

This Lent, join us as we explore how the theme of resurrection pops up all around us, every day, in our popular culture:

At the movies on March 13

On Broadway on March 20

On television on March 27

In popular music on April 3

We will explore examples during the morning worship services and in a forum following the 10 am worship service, as well as during WAVE services on March 13 and 27. Details will be in the Friday Email each week.

Meet Our Lay Leaders: Dave Bomgaars

Dave Bomgaars is perhaps the most recognizable face at Central Church. In addition to serving as the Clerk of Session since 1996, Dave is always the first to greet newcomers at the door, introduce himself at events, and make himself present regularly at the church.

Dave was baptized in the Reformed Church of America in Sheldon, IA, and confirmed in the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, in Sioux City, IA. While in the Navy, Dave worshiped with the Presbyterian Chaplain aboard the U.S.S. Ticonderoga between The West Coast and Vietnam, later becoming Presbyterian himself in California. "I was more comfortable with the freedom to make changes and take action," Dave stated. "Presbyterianism was a good fit for me."

He met Willa, a Methodist Kansas woman, while working with the U.S. Comptroller of the Currency, and she was working for AT&T. Four years later, Willa joined the Second Presbyterian Church, and they married. After a few years in Washington, DC, Dave and Willa, with daughter Elizabeth, moved to Millburn, and later Summit.

Riley Jensen was pastor at Central Presbyterian Church in 1986 when the Bomgaars family became members. Elizabeth attended Sunday School and Dave and Willa attended worship, but Dave did not immediately volunteer at church, due to a heavy work schedule. They remained faithful attenders, and eventually Rev. Jensen became a major factor in getting Dave to become a Deacon.

Dave also taught Sunday School for 8 or 9 years, and moved on to Session, where he worked on Personnel and Finance. He became Clerk of Session in 1996 when the previous Clerk retired.

The Clerk of Session is responsible for recording minutes of Session meetings and actions regarding the membership, serving as Secretary for meetings of the Congregation and the Corporation, and acting as an advisor to the Pastor and helping interpret the feelings of the individual Session members. He also serves as the contact for those Session members who cannot attend a meeting—which led to a strong and sad memory. The day of the September 10, 2001 Ses-



Dave and Willa Bomgaars

sion meeting, Elder Todd Rancke called Dave to say he was attending a Michael Jackson concert that night and couldn't make the meeting. The next day, September 11, 2001, Todd was killed at the World Trade Center during the terrorist attacks. Dave, along with the rest of Session and the congregation, was gutted.

Dave recalls his fondest memory at Central as the day of his daughter's Confirmation.

The future at Central holds more volunteering for Dave, most likely as a member of special committees such as Stewardship or future Capital Campaigns. Dave feels that Central has a bright future, due in large part to the highly educated membership and the generous endowment that will serve the church well in the coming years.

New Chaos to Calm Episode: *Dream Big with Kate Battistelli*

Chaos to Calm is a parenting show produced by Central Church, featuring our Parrish Associate, Noelle Kirchner. In this new episode, Kate Battistelli, former Broadway star and mother to Dove and Grammy Award-winning Christian singer Francesca Battistelli, teaches us how to dream big and draw vital encouragement from scripture

in her newest book, "The God Dare."

Watch the episode on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AbyQBuwoiMA>, or visit our website, centralpres.org, and look for the "TV Ministry" page under the "Ministries" tab.



Presbyterian Women

When I think of Lent at Central, I think of the weekly music programs we had at noon many years ago. Presbyterian Women made 3-4 kinds of sandwiches which could be purchased for \$3.00 and came with tea/coffee and a bag of chips. You could take them into the church on a tray and eat your lunch while enjoying the concert (always remembering to unwrap the waxed paper before hand). They were well attended and I believe some people came on their lunch break from work. The money was donated to the music dept. PW participated in the Sharing Tree this past Christmas. We lost 2 wonderful members recently. Adele Irving led our Bible study for many years and was our accompanist at our luncheons. Olga Ulshafer sent yarn to Germany where her friend knitted wonderful layettes and baby blankets which we donated Elizabethport.



Remember to send notification of card requests for shut ins to ekcaporale@gmail.com

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: March 6 and April 3 at 9:15 a.m.

Children and Youth

We drove up to a nice brick three-bedroom ranch home in a Houston Suburb in January. The yard was cute and well-kept with a garden by the mailbox, and neat evergreens at the foundation. The house was owned by two grandparents who took care of their grandchildren - and it looked fine on the outside - but once we were inside, we saw the devastation that 18 inches of water had done. All of the appliances, cabinets, flooring, furniture and the first four feet of dry wall in the entire house had been gutted and replaced by volunteers, just like us. "We used to call it the broken house" one of the family's children said - but now it's so beautiful.



This is a story of resurrection. This is the story of how God uses us to bring people back to life - to change their lives from despair to hope - from loss to new life.

This story is all around us.

This Lenten season, at Central we are encouraging you to find resurrection in the world all around you. We will be looking at popular songs, musicals, movies, and stories. We will be planting bulbs and growing butterflies, we will be sharing our lives with others in authentic mission work.

This Lent, as we get ready for Easter, join us in exploring resurrection in our everyday lives - and let's see what God can do with our lives - where God can bring new hope, new vision, and new life into our community, into our schools, our work, into our families and into our hearts.

-Pastor Deborah Huggins

Grants Available for Youth Seeking to Lead Summer Camps

Youth at Central did an AMAZING job last summer leading after-camps— so well that we received a Synod of the North East Youth Initiative Grant to make them even better next year. Youth are welcome to run a camp this summer without a grant, but if you would like to have a mentor and a supplies budget, you are invited to apply. A mentor should both help with your lesson plans for the summer, and be an adult who can supervise during the summer. Each mini-grant is \$1000 - \$2000.

To apply for the grant you will need to provide lesson plans with a plan for each session (noon-4pm), and a draft budget. Mentors can be an adult that you know, or an adult that we help you find. For consistency, we would like to keep all of the after-camps to the same schedule - that way parents only have to do one pick-up. Camps should be at least 10 children, and you may charge a tuition if needed for supplies.

Please contact Pastor Deborah at DHuggins@centralpres.org to apply.

Youth Music Opportunities

When I started taking piano lessons at a young age, one of the things that I looked forward to was playing in our spring and winter recital. It was a chance for me to listen to other students of a wide variety of age and perform the pieces I worked so diligently on. Of course, as a young kid I also loved getting compliments and recognition for my hard work.

As I slowly - and I mean slowly - matured, I realized the music I was making wasn't so much about showing what I could do but how it made people feel. As I started singing more in middle school and into high school I noticed the response from audience members seemed to be more emotional and heart-felt. At that same time, I started playing and singing at Church and saw an even greater emotional response from those who attended services. At that point I realized the power of music and how it can truly have a direct impact on someone's life. The other thing that I started to notice and feel was the impact it was having on

mine. When I was singing in worship with the choir or as a soloist, I felt closer to God. I started to develop a connection with Jesus through music and express that connection through song. What a gift for a young person to have, an expressive outlet and connection with Jesus through music!

After 2 years we hope that Covid is finally winding down. During that time making music became much more difficult to make in person and extremely dangerous. With spring around the corner I hope that all changes. At Central we want to give our middle school and high school kids the same opportunity of expression and connection that I had when I was their age. Whether it's playing an instrument, singing or learning how to play a simple drum part, only positive things happen through music! If you have any youth in your family I would encourage them to be part of our music program and also have the op-



portunity to be a part of one of our worship services. As we all know, scheduling is also difficult so it's ok if your child comes whenever possible, this is not a weekly commitment unless they want it to be! I hope to see you all soon and look forward to hopefully connecting with your kids through music!

-Adam Gilbert

The middle school group, also known as **The Crashing Giants**, meets on Wednesdays at 6:30-7:15 p.m. in the auditorium starting up again on March 2nd. Please sign up at centralpres.org.

The high school group will meet on Thursdays at 7:30-8:15 p.m. in the auditorium starting up again on March 3rd. Please sign up via our website, centralpres.org.

Adam Gilbert can be contacted at agilbert@centralpres.org

Should We Do a Mission Trip This Summer?

Families with high school students are asked to participate in [this poll](#) about Summer Mission this year. Thank you!



Mission Spotlight: Summit Warm Hearts

Summit Warm Hearts is a program of the Summit Interfaith Council to care for our neighbors experiencing homelessness right here in Summit. Summit Warm Hearts has several components, including :

Day Program- Located at Beacon UU Congregation (4 Waldron St.) for a hot lunch, showers, laundry, coffee and conversation, the Warming Center is open from November - April 7 days a week, and once a week from May-October.

Welcome Neighbors- Social Work and Case Management services provided through Bridges Outreach connects our local population experiencing homelessness to available services in our city and county.

Overnight Hospitality- Fountain Baptist Church and Beacon UU Congregation provide overnight hospitality to Summit residents with the support of professional care

staff to keep everyone safe and organized.

The program maintains partnerships with **GRACE**—who always has healthy snacks and food for participants, and **SHIP** serving morning breakfasts and boxed lunches every single day for the last 30 years.

In addition to major financial support, Central provides many hosts and food preparers, with congregants filling vital posts, such as Dave Bomgaars serves as the Treasurer, Ruth Huneke writes the thank you notes, Jeff Huggins is on staff, and Pastor Deborah on the Executive Board.

"In the Summit Interfaith Council, we work together to seek the welfare of Summit. It has been an honor to work with so many caring and talented volunteers and staff to provide care and supports for Summit's un-



housed," says Pastor Deborah Huggins. "Together, we are making a difference in people's lives, not only keeping them safe from exposure, but helping them connect to services, to wonderful volunteers and to one another. Summit is a wonderful, caring community."

To learn more, visit https://summitinterfaith.wordpress.com/summit-warm-hearts-3/?fbclid=IwAR1zofZFt2GD2xrKtLZ78hFFFopofB9IyP1xk1aUB-owxc_zBliMBBhiuKk

Summit commUNITY Camp is Accepting Registrations

Planning for commUNITY Camp is underway- and this year promises to be so much fun! We will teach stories from the Bible, learn about mission, sing, play games and explore with great experiments and activities all with a fun beachy theme. Our awesome Central Youth are preparing After Camps for theater, cooking, and sports from noon-4:00pm. Sign up for Camp, just After Camp, or both. We are accepting registrations for campers and volunteers starting today! Camp will be July 25-July 29 from 8:30-noon, with optional before care and after camp (8:00-8:30, noon-4:00). Sign up now to make the last week of July the best week of your summer! Visit centralpres.org for links to sign up for each camp.



Living Nativity



Photo Gallery



Return of the Motet Choir



Renovation of the Fellowship Room



Community Closet



Donohue-Joyce Wedding



Decorating the Sunday School Tree



Hanging of the Greens



Christmas Pageant



Corridor Renovation

Buildings & Grounds Update

The **Hospitality Corridor** (from the Boardroom to the stairs to HTTV) is nearing completion! The ceiling has been raised 9 inches and finished, the walls have been plastered and painted, the flooring has been replaced to match the corridor between the auditorium and kitchen, and new light fixtures are on order.



The Hospitality Corridor



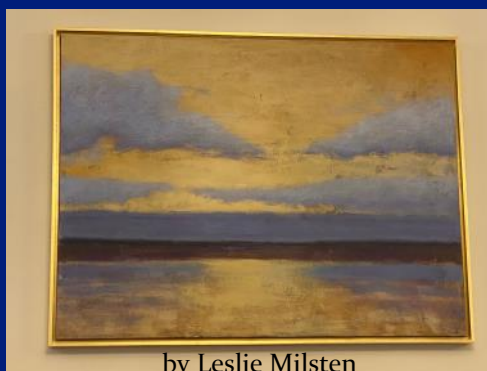
Fellowship Room carpeting install in progress

The **Fellowship Room** has been completely renovated with new carpet and window treatments, a new sofa and two new chairs, new upholstery on the remaining furni-



Fellowship Room

ture, new side lights, and a new piece of artwork, painted and donated by Central's own Leslie Milsten.



by Leslie Milsten

The **Lounge** has also been completed, with new carpeting, upholstery, window treatments, and furniture. Work was done on the cracked and damaged window mullions—which in-



Mullion removal

involved removing the windows entirely, fixing the limestone, and replacing the windows.



The Lounge in progress

The finished room is beautiful!



The Lounge

Weekday Nursery School

Spreading Kindness and Cheer and Connecting to People Everywhere!



Kindergartners had great fun with the “Gingerbread Project.” The three classes of children all made their own gingerbread person and together the class composed a letter to be sent to twenty-six schools throughout the United States and Canada. The letters were to tell others about their school, their town, and their community. Through the mail our school kept receiving other children’s artwork and letters. They mapped the states and towns they heard from. It was a wonderful experience. They met other children and learned what they had in common and what might be different.

In January, the entire school participated in “Project Grati-

tude.” Through Overlook Hospital’s Auxiliary, hand-made cards were collected to give to the hardworking health care workers. From the 2-year-olds through the kindergarten the children made sweet cards to spread kindness and say a big “THANK YOU!” We just recently received a lovely letter letting us know these cards were appreciated.

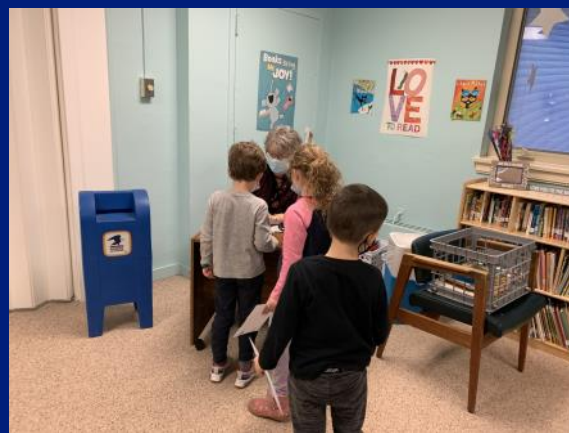


Kindergartners for Valentine’s Day made cards to mail to the list of names from Central Church that would appreciate hearing from our children. A note again to spread kindness and cheer with this special holiday of love. All the children made Valentines for their moms and



dads and the 4-year-olds and Almost 5’s used our traditional CPC Post Office to mail their Valentine’s home.

We are busy and enjoying learning and thinking of others throughout the Weekday Nursery School and Kindergarten!





70 Maple Street
Summit, NJ 07901

Return Service Requested



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Lent 2022

The publication of
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
centralpres.org
Editor: 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.*