

The KEY

A Publication of Central Presbyterian Church
Summit, NJ

Fall 2022



A Letter from the Pastor: CHURCH FAMILY DAY

Sunday, September 18, is Central Church Family Day. Of course, many different kinds of families belong at Central Church. Some are quite large. Some are as small as one person, but size doesn't matter. There are all kinds of families that belong at Central Church and, on Sunday, September 18, we invite your family to gather together again to worship God, to welcome families from the CPC Weekday Nursery School and Kindergarten, and to share a picnic together outside on the Maple Street lawn, weather permitting.

Of course, we have all been through a lot these past two and a half years as we continue to deal with a worldwide pandemic. The church was closed for over a year, and since reopening over a year ago, Central has had to deal with many changes. Some families moved away, while other families joined us. There have been deaths and births. While we have embraced live streaming alongside our longstanding worship broadcasting, like almost all faith communities across the country, we have been confronted with lower attendance at worship and Sunday School. It seems that we are going to have to learn what it is going to be like living with COVID-19. And in particular, in the coming months, we are going to learn what role the gathered, in-person community of faith plays in our lives.

Here at Central, we will be trying some new things, built on strengths that the congregation identified through a survey at the end of last year. We are planning three Mission Sundays through the year, giving you a chance to connect hands on with one of the mission partners Central plays a vital role in supporting. And we will be trying some new activities that we hope will give you a chance to make personal connections, finding or deepening friendships. And it all begins on Central Church Family Day, Sunday morning, September 18. Please join us!

--Pastor Don Steele

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How to Worship with Central

Central is worshipping in-person Sundays at 8:30 & 10:00 a.m., plus WAVE twice a month at 5:00 p.m. September 4th and 18th will NOT have a service at 8:30 a.m.

In addition, watch us live on Summit's **Hometowne TV**, Verizon Fios channel 33, and Comcast channel 36, or live streamed on our YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPf6KiUHiNNbVwcDuanGt8w/live> at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday starting September 11th.

Website:

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

WAVE Returns in October

WAVE, Central's contemporary worship service, returns on Sunday, October 2, at 5:00 p.m. with a Blessing of the Animals. Bring your appropriately restrained pet for a special blessing! WAVE is held outdoors when the weather permits, and in the air-conditioned auditorium when it doesn't. Fall dates for WAVE include: Oct. 2 and 16, Nov. 6 and 20, Dec. 4.

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, September 11: We resume **broadcasting and live streaming** our 10:00 a.m. service,; and **Senior Lunch Bunch** (see below)

Sunday, September 18: **Central Church Family Day** (formerly known as Rally Day) with a single worship service (10:00 a.m.), first day of Sunday School, and food and games to follow, to include root beer floats!

Sunday, October 2: **WAVE** returns at 5:00 p.m. featuring a Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 9: **Mission Sunday** with Empowering Kids Organization (EKO). Details to follow in Friday emails and Life at Central.

Senior Lunch Bunch

Our Senior Lunch Bunch will continue to meet once a month after our summer hiatus. Our first meeting will be Sunday, September 11, in the Fellowship room after church with food, fellowship and fun. Cost is \$5 per person. Please RSVP to Donna Steele at 908-858-6757 or at dmorgansteele@comcast.net. All are welcome. Hope to see you there!



Music Ministry

Fall is here, and the Central music program is gearing up to have a full restart!

The Motet Choir will be meeting regularly for evening rehearsals and Sunday morning service participation. Rehearsals will be:

- **Wednesdays** - 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Choir Room
- **Sundays** - 9:10-9:50 a.m. in the Sanctuary

I invite anyone who has thought about singing to join us and give choral singing a chance!



The Vesper Bells will be meeting again regularly as well! Rehearsals will be:

- **Wednesdays** - 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

I also invite anyone with an interest to come and check us out!

I couldn't be more excited to restart **The Children's Choir!** We will meet regularly on:

- **Sundays** from 11:10-11:40 a.m. in the **Sanctuary** (following the service and a quick snack).

This choir will participate in the Sunday morning services a few times throughout the year, including the Christmas and Easter seasons!

The Angel Choir (our singing group for the littlest children) will meet in the months leading up to Christmas and Easter for a special musical presentation. We will rehearse Sunday mornings, so keep an eye out for that schedule as we get closer to those holidays!

There will also be some special concerts and musical events throughout the year, so keep an eye on the website and the announcements for when those will be happening.



I am really looking forward to seeing everybody regularly, and welcoming some new faces into these groups. It has been a long 2.5 years, and I am very ready for so much more than what has been! Please join me!

Sincerely,

Dr. Charity Wicks



'Central Closet' Reopens in September!

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.

Matthew 22:37-39



CENTRAL CLOSET, under the direction of Central's Hands-On Mission Team, will be collecting men's clothing for BRIDGES along with women's and children's clothing for EL CENTRO in Plainfield.

Central Closet reopens in September. Clean out your closets and fill the DONATION BIN (again located in HALLWAY BEHIND SANCTUARY) with 'gently used clothing:

GUIDELINES FOR CLOTHING DONATIONS:

Socks and boxers **MUST** be new. We will not take used under any circumstances

All other clothing items can be gently used. Gently used means no holes, rips, frays, or stains.

All used items must be cleaned/washed prior to donation

Zippers must function on all items that have them (coats/hoodies/jeans, etc.)

Boots/sneakers must be clean and without holes

Pat Haddon

phaddon@aol.com

Central's Circle for Women 2.0

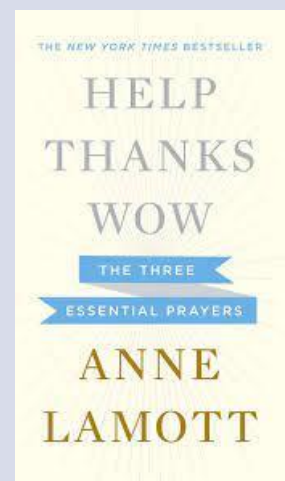
Central's women's group, *Circle for Women 2.0*, will kick off their program year on September 20, at 9:30 a.m. with a discussion of Anne Lamott's book, *Help, Thanks, Wow: The Three Essential Prayers* (purchase it [here](#).) Women in all stages of life are welcome to join the group in the Lounge on the following dates:

September 20

October 4

October 18

November 1



Meet Our Church Leaders: Rachel Diekman

The CPC Weekday Nursery School and Kindergarten has a new director – meet Rachel Diekman. Rachel has been teaching in the 5-day threes class since October of 2021, and is excited to step into the director role for the coming school year.

A member of Central since 2013, Rachel was born in Wisconsin and grew up in Indiana. She attended Purdue University, and had taught PreK-2nd grade in various locations. Rachel was a Primary School Dean for three years in Michigan and Ohio. She has also taught online English language and grammar to Chinese students.

Rachel met her husband, Casey, in college, at Purdue University. They married in 2007 in Ann Arbor, MI, where they lived for 7 years. Their oldest daughter Blakeley, now 10 years old (almost 11) and a rising 6th grader, was born in Columbus, Ohio. They moved to New Jersey in 2013 when she was almost 2 and their younger daughter Josephine, was born shortly after. She is now 7 and a rising 2nd grader. Rachel describes how her family came to Central:

When we moved to Summit we began exploring churches by attending services. We were living close to Central and we

walked most everywhere with our then toddler. We noticed the signage for a WAVE service and attended this service. We felt instantly at home! We felt welcomed and were impressed with the music and the approach of the WAVE service. We also enjoyed seeing our daughter included and involved in the service. We became members shortly after in the fall of 2013.

During her time at Central, she has been involved in the Children and Families Ministry team, as well as the Nominating Committee and in the Nursery during Sunday School.

The Diekman family spent a year in England during Casey's sabbatical from teaching at NJIT. Unfortunately, the pandemic struck while they were abroad, and Casey's program was cancelled, and the family spent lots of quality



The Diekman family: Casey, Blakeley, Josephine, and Rachel.



time together in their English home. When their Summit house, rented out in their absence, became available again, they returned home.

Rachel described her goals for the school, saying, "My biggest goal for the first year is to build relationships with the current school and church community. I plan to spend a lot of time in the classrooms observing what is happening at all age levels. CPC WNSK has a great history and reputation within the Summit community, I would like to continue to build upon that."

The CPC School, Rachel observes, is warm and nurturing place, welcoming with supportive parents and helpful teachers. She feels God is urging her to this new position.

Congratulations to Rachel!

Mission Spotlight: A Letter from EKO

Dear Kevin,

Thank you for joining us in celebrating the culmination of the 2022 Level Up! program. Your presence meant a lot to EKO, but also to the students and parents who had the opportunity to meet the CPC's Mission Team through you. As students around the world return to school this fall, many of them, especially those from lower economic levels, will be starting the school year below the academic levels where they were at the beginning of the summer break. This phenomenon, sometimes referred to as summer setback, or summer slide is what inspired the Level Up! program back in the summer of 2020. In the past three years, 4th and 5th grade students from low income families in Summit have benefited from this remedial program that focuses on core academic areas. However, the benefits of this program go beyond academics. As you know, building community is one of the main pillars of all EKO's programs. In this regard, Level Up! has been especially effective since the tutors are Summit High School alumni or students who find in our program a meaningful way to give back to their community. The bond between the students and the tutors is probably the most special aspect of Level Up!. Additionally, this summer, EKO partnered with the Summit

Area YMCA to offer the students a much needed social component. Thanks to our combined efforts, students received breakfast and lunch, a morning of academic instruction, and an afternoon of fun and social interaction at one of the YMCA summer camps. This collaboration with the YMCA enhanced the summer experience of our participants while providing working parents with a safe environment for their children during the summer.

As you witnessed at our closing gathering, the students and their families, EKO's tutors, and YMCA camp counselors were all smiles and grateful for the wonderful time they spent together. At EKO, we share

the same feelings of happiness and gratitude for having the Central Presbyterian Church as our supporter. This program wouldn't have been possible without the CPC's support and commitment to the children in our community. Please send our regards and immense gratitude to all the members of the Mission Team. We are all together building a stronger future for our youth.

Best regards,

Maria

Maria J. Orgeira

Empowering Kids Organization



Mission Spotlight: A Letter from Restore Ministries

Dear Kevin and Mission Team,

Central Presbyterian Church in Summit, NJ is a major influencer and has made an immense impact at Restore Ministries. Central was there in the beginning, some twenty-eight years ago. Your longtime partnership helps create a safe place where our young people can ask questions and learn together in a transformative environment. One example you made possible is that after learning about food insecurity and poverty, Restore youth made no sew blankets and collected non-perishable food that they donated to a local preschool and families in Elizabeth, NJ.

Erik was in the fourth grade when he journeyed into Restore. Throughout elementary and middle school, summer school was a way of life for Erik. "I can't really tell you how it happened," explained Erik, "but I think as my confi-

dence and abilities increased at Restore, my attitude and drive in school improved." Erik completed his associates degree and plans to enter Kean University in the fall. "Someday I want to own my own children and teenager psychological counseling center."

Central Presbyterian's current donation will be used to add a youth worker to our team and guarantee services for 30 new students. You will help us grow from 32 to 62 members. We continue to thank God for bringing the Central community to Restore.

ABOUT RESTORE MINISTRIES

Restore Ministries is a non-profit 501(c)3 social service organization dedicated to nurturing urban youth who are at risk of dropping out of school. Restore fully embraces a select group of stu-



dents in the Elizabeth area and provides them with comprehensive academic and personal support including mentoring, spiritual coaching, tutoring and life skills development. Restore's core programs are the Homework Center, College Preparations, Peer Leadership Development, Parental Outreach, Group Mentoring, Summer Recreation and Enrichment Camp.

Linwood Bagby, Founder and CEO

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will not be meeting for Bible study this fall, but will be participating in our giving programs and shut-in cards. Please let me know if anyone needs some cheer and would like a monthly card. No information is available on the Fall North East Presbytery Gathering yet.

Elisa Kessler Caporale

Moderator ekcaporale@gmail.com



Photo Gallery



WAVE on June 12



Baby Shower for Adam & Becky Gilbert



Lily Elizabeth Gilbert, born 8/20/22



Baptism of Mibs Wagner's grandchildren



Graduate Recognition Sunday (June 12)



Soloist Colette Boudreaux sings in worship



Dr. Charity Wicks returns



Summit commUNITY Camp VBS



Youth Mission Trip to Puerto Rico

Congratulations, Graduates!

Christian Alvarez graduated Summit High School, will attend Syracuse University

Alec Brown graduated Lawrenceville, will attend Lehigh University

Gretchen Cadranell graduated Kent Place, will attend Washington & Lee - Classics & Art History

Olivia Flaim graduated Summit High, will attend Virginia Tech

Ella Grainger graduated Summit High, will attend College of the Holy Cross

Frederick Huggins graduated FlexSchool, will attend College of Wooster- Life Sciences

Joshua Moore graduated Summit High School, will attend Elon - Media Studies & Communications

Sarah Noa graduated Summit High School, will attend Ohio State

Teddy Robertson graduated Summit High School, will attend Lafayette

Lena Schulz graduated Summit High School, will attend NorthEastern



Scholarships Awarded

Congratulations to all our graduated high school seniors. The following deserving students received college scholarships from Central during the June 12th Graduate Recognition ceremony:

Josh Moore: Greer Scholar-Athlete Award and Laura C. Binder Central Presbyterian Church Service Award

Fritz Huggins: Francis Brown Beattie CPC Service Award and Central Presbyterian Church Leadership Award

Sarah Noa: Dorothy Tawney Christian Service Award

Christian Alvarez: Jeanette Thatcher Christian Service Award

Children & Youth: Summer at Central

We have had a wonderful Summer at Central- thank you all for your prayers and support! We kicked off the summer with our Annual High School Mission Trip. We had a fantastic trip to Puerto Rico where we repaired roofs and buildings that were damaged in the Earthquake. It was amazing to experience Puerto Rican hospitality, to connect with our mission partners, and to watch our young people grow stronger and more faithful during our trip. Thank you so much to all of our parents and Mission Trip Supporters. We will be kicking off mission trip plan-



ning early this year. If you would like to be a part of our planning team, please reach out to Pastor Deborah.

vice and Bible- it was an absolute blast! We couldn't have been more proud of Abby Jeffries, Bessie Huggins, Will Gawronski, Clara Schulz, and Anderson Wise who ran our camps

from noon-4:00 p.m. It was an amazing week seeing God's love in action through the work of so many adult and youth volunteers. Thank you all for making it happen!

Preschool Bibles and Third Grade Bibles

At Central, we like to make sure that every child has a special Bible to learn from at home. Please help us out by letting us know that you need one! We like to have a special name plate for the preschool bibles, and engraving for our older kids. If you have a child ages 3 and up and you have not received a preschool bible, please let us know. If you have a child in 3rd grade and up and you have not yet received a "3rd grade" bible, please let us know. Preschool Bibles will be distributed on Family Day, September 18th, and we will invite children in 3rd grade and above to receive their Bibles in October.

Children & Youth: Looking to Fall

Communion Prep Workshop

Please send an email to Pastor Deborah if you would like to be a part of the Communion Preparation Workshop. We will gather on Sunday, September 25, from 11:00-noon for lunch and conversation, closing in a time to practice taking communion. Children are invited to come with a parent.

Nursery

Our newly renovated nursery is so cute in the auditorium cubby. This delightful, cozy spot is staffed with adult and youth staff each Sunday, and we are ready to welcome children from 6 weeks to 3 years old.

Sunday School

We are getting ready for Sunday School and our Welcome Back Sunday called “Family Day”. This year we will be kicking off Sunday School on September 18th – with ALL of our traditional Rally Day fun including inflatables, balloon animals, rootbeer floats, lawn games and fun. Children are invited to bring in their backpacks for a special moment of blessing. We will meet in the auditorium for Sunday School. To save time, please fill out the Sunday School Registration form and email it to dhuggins@centralpres.org: <https://centralpres.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Program-registration-2017.doc> Children from 3 years to 8th grade are welcome in Sunday School.



Choirs

We are delighted that Children’s Choir is BACK! Yay! We love having children sing in church. We are kicking off our Children’s choir with rehearsal on September 25th from 11:10-11:40 a.m. Children from K-5 are invited to come and sing. Children will sing in worship throughout the year. For more information, please contact Charity.

Donuts

We are bringing back the popular Friday donuts again this year on First Fridays starting in October. Middle schoolers are invited to drop by for a donut, time with friends, encouragement and prayer. Friends are always welcome 7:30 a.m. on First Fridays.

Children & Youth: Looking to Fall, cont.

Service at Central

Middle Schoolers are invited to church every month on Friday evenings for service, food and fun. Friends are very much welcome at this community based program. Each month we gather in the auditorium for a service project (like packing hygiene kits, making lunches, etc...). We will start service at Central in October.



Confirmation

We are delighted to welcome a new class of young people to confirmation this year. We ask you to pray for them, and for their mentors. Confirmation is an incredible year where our young people explore their faith, their passions, and think about how those things come together in service to God and the world. Young people in 9th grade and above are welcome in confirmation class. For more information, or to get involved, please reach out to Pastor Deborah.

Scripture Preview Study

Take an in-depth look at the Scripture that will be examined the following Sunday in worship on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the Lounge with Pastor Deborah. Come for a single week, or come every week—the sessions stand alone.

Does the Church Have Your Contact Information?

Your church likes to keep in touch with you! Have you moved or changed phone numbers? Please advise Evelyn at EThiel@centralpres.org of any new mailing address, email address or change in phone numbers. There are many members using cell phones only and no longer have a land-line. The church needs to know that so that we can reach you when there is important information to share.

Weekday Nursery School

The 2022-2023 School year at CPC Weekday Nursery School & Kindergarten is about to begin! We are very excited to be welcoming over 100 students to our school this year. We are welcoming students and families to the school beginning September 6th.



This will be my first year as CPC Weekday Nursery School and Kindergarten Director and Nikki Dvivedi's as Assistant Director. We are honored to lead an amazing school with our Office Manager, Jane Wagner. We have been working all summer to prepare the school for this transition.

The school website, cpc-school.org, has been updated and includes photos. Please visit to

find information about what is happening and see our school in action.

The halls and lobbies have a fresh coat of paint and the floors have new shiny wax. A light and bright blue color was added to the school doors that welcome children each morning.

Classrooms have been organized and rearranged after Covid restrictions on comingling were lifted. Teachers have been working very hard to prepare the physical space that will soon be filled with children.

It is our priority to be the best environment and group of educators for the children we serve and a welcoming place for all. We are looking forward to welcoming our students to the school in



September and providing opportunities throughout the year for the families and the community to see the amazing things that are happening at CPC WNSK.

Rachel Diekman

CPC WNSK Director





70 Maple Street

Summit, NJ 07901

Return Service Requested



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The publication of
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

centralpres.org

Editor: Jeanne Thiemann

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

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

*The 10:00 a.m. services are live streamed to our
YouTube channel.*