

# The KEY

A Publication of Central Presbyterian Church  
Summit, NJ

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Spring/Summer 2023

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## A Letter from the Pastor: IN PRAISE OF ORDINARY TIME

Within weeks, after a brief exposure to red, the church will put away the white from the pulpit, the lectern, and the pulpit gowns. The season of Easter will be over at Pentecost, and as summer begins, the church will enter into a long season of green. There will be 25 Sundays after Pentecost this year before we move towards Advent, and while there is a tradition of counting those Sundays off, I like the other tradition which refers to these weeks, along with the weeks between Christmas and Lent, simply as **“ordinary time.”** Most of our time is ordinary, in other words, and I like remembering that as summer arrives.

For my memories of summer when I was growing up are incredibly ordinary—a stream of long, warm days when nothing much

special really happened.

There was a week of Vacation Bible School, a week at sleep away church camp, a week with my family at the Jersey shore. But most of summer was ordinary, hanging out with other kids in our neighborhood until our Moms called us home to get ready for supper, riding bikes to the pool, reading comic books, playing baseball in the street. It was all so ordinary, but looking back, it is a memory that I cherish—that undistinguished stream of incredibly ordinary summer days.

I know that summer has changed, even for children. With practices and day camps and all the rest, it seems that there is less unstructured, unscheduled time



than there used to be. However, what I wish for you this summer is some ordinary time. I wish for you days when nothing much special happens, and you get to do nothing more than hang out and play with those you care about and read for no other reason than pure pleasure. Because I think that it is no accident that the church colors ordinary time green, which is the color of life. For I think that it is these ordinary days that give us life.

-Pastor Don Steele

### 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. May 28 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/UCPf6KiUHhNNbVwCduanGt8w/live> at 10:00 a.m. every Sunday through June.

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

### Get an Early Start on Sunday Morning

Central holds a worship service at 8:30 a.m. most Sunday mornings. It lasts a little over 30 minutes, and includes a weekly celebration of **the Lord's Supper**. During the summer

months, when the weather is good, it is held in the Cloister Garden. Why not give it a try some week and get an early start to your Sunday morning?



Monday, May 15 at 11:15am  
Central Presbyterian Church  
70 Maple Street  
Summit, NJ



## WAVE Worship

**WAVE, Central's** contemporary worship service, will meet on May 21 and June 4 at 5:00 p.m. outdoors if the weather allows, or in the Auditorium. Summer dates include July 9, 16, 23, and 30. This come-as-you-are

service includes a light supper, activities for the children, a special message from one of the pastors, and music by the Central Praise Band. Bring the entire family for a relaxing and re-vitalizing experience!



## Easter Flower Donations Exceed Expectations

This year, in the spirit of Resurrection and Renewal, the Floral Decorating Committee introduced a new plan for the plants that are donated to decorate our Sanctuary every Easter. We asked the Congregation to consider leaving their plants at the church this year so that we could transplant them after Easter into our Cloister Garden, Memorial Garden and other garden areas surrounding the church. These plants would then be a living remembrance of our loved ones that all could enjoy all spring and summer when they came to the Church.

Thanks to the enthusiastic support of this idea, we were able to create the atmosphere of a spring flower garden in the Sanctuary and the Glass Hallway. After Easter, Building and Grounds started transplanting the daffodils and the tulips. The remaining plants are being cared for until the weather is a little warmer, when they can be safely planted outside.

The response to this new plan was so generous that even with all the plants that we purchased for Easter, there was enough money remaining for the Committee to gift

funds to Building and Grounds to purchase perennials and summer flowering shrubs to be planted on the Church grounds later in the spring as permanent memorials to our Church members loved ones.

This new plan was so successful that we hope to continue it next year to further bring color and beauty to Central's gardens to remember our loved ones and for all of Summit to enjoy as they drive or walk past the church.

-Linda Taylor



## Meet Our Church Leaders: Francie Cho



Francie Cho is one of those people who quietly, without fanfare, gets things done. If you do not know who she is, you will certainly recognize the things she has accomplished at Central.

In addition to creating and running the Living Nativity every year, Francie serves on Buildings & Grounds, plays in the bell choir, hosts the Pancake Breakfast, mentors confirmands, and recently re-joined the Board of Deacons. In the past she has served as a Deacon, Elder, Sunday School teacher, Treasurer for Presbyterian Women, and ran our OASIS program for several years.

“The Living Nativity which was my brain child, but for which I have had TONS of help over the years, is my most favorite event. I love the pageantry of the night and the animals and the fact that every attendee as well as participant seems to be happy during that **one hour.**” Francie explained.



Francie grew up in Palm Beach, Florida, and attended Yale University, majoring in Astronomy and Physics. She had intended to go to graduate school in physics, but moved to New York City and took a job as an actuary at the pension consulting firm The Segal Co. and thoroughly enjoyed the mix of computer programming, deep dives into the Internal Revenue Code,

and married to Yon Cho for 32 years, and they have 4 children—Clara, 24, working in Washington, DC for the World Resources Institute; James, 22, who works in NYC for the Clearinghouse; William, 20, a sophomore at Yale; and John, 17, a senior at Summit High School who will also attend Yale next fall.

Francie feels volunteering at church provides



meeting with clients, and studying for the actuarial exams, eventually becoming an Enrolled Actuary.

The Cho family joined Central in the winter of 2001, after moving to Summit.

Francie has been mar-

an opportunity to meet people of all ages she otherwise might not have. She is looking forward to the Memory Garden Project through B&G this summer, and serving as a Deacon again.

## Organ Fundraiser

**Central Church's** sanctuary has a spectacular Schantz organ that was installed in 1993, and has been lovingly cared for since, with upgrades and expansions throughout the years that truly make it a show-stopping instrument!

However, if you were in attendance at the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, October 2nd, and stayed through the final hymn, you were a lucky witness to what literally WAS a showing

**-stopping event...and** what quickly became apparent was an urgent issue with the organ. While playing the final hymn, things suddenly went wrong, and even though I was playing a **C Major chord...**

EVERY NOTE was sounding, in a glissando effect! Please watch the video below to hear what happened! (This video was made for our organ consultant immediately following the service - I clearly was still in shock at what had just happened Ha-Ha!)

Adam Dieffenbach, our

organ consultant for many years from Dieffenbach Pipe Organs (dba Emery Brothers), spent time with me trying to diagnose the issue. It was as if the



communication lines within the organ were all jumbled up. I have, since that Sunday, made adjustments to how I am playing the organ every week so that that **issue doesn't happen** again, but that is not sustainable, nor what this incredible instrument deserves.

The truth is, the electronic system that **"operates" the organ...** the parts that communicate from the con-

sole (the keys, pedals and draw knobs) to the actual pipes, is more than 30 years old. It appears that the console was installed in 1987, (according to this amazing organ database: <https://pipeorgandatabase.org/organ/40715>), six years before the new Schantz organ was installed, making the console system 36 years old. And if we think about electronics and communication, and how many advances have been made in these fields in **36 years...it can seem** somewhat miraculous that it is still working at all! If we do not fix this issue soon, it will one day fail completely!

So we are launching a fundraiser to fix the control system within the organ console, and make our beautiful Schantz organ last for decades to come! Adam Dieffenbach recommends the Opus-Two instrument control system, which comes with a 10-year warranty.

*Continued on next page*

## Organ Fundariser, cont.



The estimated cost of the project is \$96,000. A hefty pricetag, indeed, but it is THE central operating system of the organ; an instrument that this congregation has so thoughtfully and graciously supported through the years. And of course, **the organ wouldn't be** the majestic instrument it is without the support of the generous

Dr. Christopher Warren as well. It truly is a beloved instrument to so many people.

Central Presbyterian Church has always highly valued its music program, and the installation of the Schantz organ in 1993 was certainly an exemplary showing of that commitment. It is an incredible asset to this

church and the community at large. That asset must be maintained and updated so that it can continue to have a long life.

Please consider a donation to this organ project, so that the Schantz can continue to give in ways that only a church pipe organ can.

## Choir Surprise Party for Charity Wicks



On March 22, before our weekly choir rehearsal, an enthusiastic group of Motet Choir and Vesper Bells members hosted a Surprise Party for our much beloved and much admired Director of Music Ministries, Charity Wicks, in honor of her 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Central. The joy of **watching Charity's face** as she entered the Choir Room, arms full of music and her water bottle, as we all called out **"SURPRISE"** set the scene for a lovely evening. The celebration would not have

been complete without her two children in attendance and Cora and Joey added their exuberance to the gathering.

We honored Charity with a bouquet of flowers and we gave her a woven basket that was overflowing with individual, personalized cards. We also gave her a framed photo collage highlighting her 10 years with us. With Cora and Joey watching closely waiting for their piece, Charity cut her cake, decorat-

ed with a piano keyboard, and we all enjoyed some time of fellowship together before getting down to business and rehearsing for Palm Sunday, our Motet Choir Concert and Easter Sunday.

Linda Taylor  
Motet Choir

## New Volunteer Opportunity

**We're calling for Volunteers!** How we enjoy gathering at Take Ten each week, to chat, snack, and enjoy our Congregation. This takes work whether in the creating of foods chaired by Susan Peterson OR the setting up and cleaning up following the enjoyable time.

Two volunteers are needed each Sunday morning so the foods can be arranged and the Sanctuary is staffed

with Deacons. How great if we could create a large Volunteer base to set up and take down each Sunday!

The Membership/Fellowship Team was asked to provide Greeters, set-up, and take-down for the weekly Take Ten gatherings. This will enable the Deacons to have a greater presence in the Sanctuary at all times. Duties would be arriving at 9:30, setting out foods and dishes, and

returning to the Auditorium during the last hymn to greet, supplement foods, and clear up.

We all enjoy this special time – **won't you** volunteer for a Sunday? Contact Mibs Wagner at [mibs\\_wagner@hotmail.com](mailto:mibs_wagner@hotmail.com) to say you'll help!!



## New Officers Elected

On Sunday, May 7, the new Central Church volunteers listed to the right were unanimously approved by a Congregational Vote after the 10:00 a.m. worship service.

Thank you to the 2023 Nominating Team for their hard work in recruiting these volunteers:

Ted Chao,  
Rachel Diekman,  
Lori Donohue,  
Betsy Flaim,  
Thea Moore,  
Susan Petersen,  
Betsy Phillips,  
Becky Shamim

DEACONS	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
	Tony Celantano	Lisa Parkes	Ariane Pfaff
	Jennifer Gawronski	Michael Moore	Earle Eaton
		Dave Fosgate	Kate Horvath
			Brian Kiduff
			Francie Cho
			Torie Paulsen
			Amanda Granger
YOUTH DEACONS	Class of 2024	Class of 2025	Class of 2026
	Will Gawronski	Brady Parkes	Catherine Huggins
	Erik Paulsen	Elsie Fosgate	Connor Gawronski
			Jack Granger
SESSION			
	Nick Mills		Class of 2026
	Cynthia Gaylord		Class of 2026
	Carol Cowan		Class of 2026
	Bill Harrison		Class of 2026
	Mark Washburn		Class of 2026
FINANCIAL REVIEW			
	Griff Welton		Class of 2024
	Bill Evenson		Class of 2024
	Jeff Lowman		Class of 2024
NOMINATING COMMITTEE			
	Patrick Sullivan		Class of 2025
	Beth McCarter		Class of 2025

# Photo Gallery



*Pancake Breakfast*



*Easter Egg Hunt*



# Photo Gallery



*Easter Sunday*



*Easter Baskets for Family Promise*



*Sunday School*



*Plant & Sip Event*



*Teacher Appreciation Sunday*



*Blessing of the Bicycles at WAVE*

## Capital Campaign Update

The work on the Capital Campaign projects started in 2018 with the East End project starting in 2019; this included the full restoration of three Tiffany windows and partial restoration of three other windows around the Chancel area. We also took the opportunity to remove the organ pipes for repair and paint the walls. We also restored the stone masonry. Work has continued on other projects since then.

We currently have six ongoing projects. Last year proved to be a difficult year; record temperatures caused the stone restoration work to dry too quickly creating cracks and supply chain issues for limestone cap stone replacement. Restoration of an additional five windows was delayed due to a shortage of Stained glass craftsmen. We have found significant damage in all five windows over and above what was included in the original contract specifications and costs have increased.

In addition, we learned that the control system within the organ console needs to be replaced. The current

control system is decades old (installed in 1993) and is failing. **If we don't replace this** old analog system with digital, it could fail completely.

Because of these significant unanticipated costs associated with the windows and the organ console, we decided to delay any new projects until we have completed the current work load, to ensure that there are sufficient capital campaign funds.

As such, we will defer the start of the redecoration of the Sanctuary. Our original estimated cost for this work has almost doubled over the past three years, due to price increases and increases in scope. This work tentatively includes new carpet and pew cushions, a new sound board curtain, repairing plaster molding and painting the walls. Once the emergency window and organ repairs are completed, we will address the cosmetic Sanctuary work.

### Clerestory Windows

You will have seen Femenella resumed work on a window project started last year to restore 6 windows: The Sermon on the Mount and the 5 Clerestory windows adjacent

to Morris Avenue.

Femenella removed the old safety glass and old Caulking and found the windows were in worse condition than previously reported. You will see in the pictures that we have parts of the frame missing, lead that needs replacing and cracks to the glass



## Capital Campaign Update



The damage is significant on the first two windows. Complicating things, the first window cannot be removed due to the Narthex portion of the organ so it will be repaired in place, and the second window will be partially removed for the summer. All windows require Dutch man repairs to the window frame, a Dutch man repair is when a section of material is so damaged that it **can't be reused so the carpenter will make a new section and make it look as though it hasn't been repaired. You'll see in the next picture a section that will need to be remade and another area that needs work.**



South and West Facade Paragon will be starting their work on May 9<sup>th</sup>; they will be working on the partial stair replacement to office entrance, the date plate stone and the capstones above the roof to the offices.



### Organ console

The organ is being digitized, the existing system has started to fail and it could completely fail at any time. The organ console will be missing for 4 months, work will only start once the contractor has received all the ordered parts.

North and East Façade Limestone buttresses will be replaced in early June.

Scuppers and Flashing This project is ongoing and will continue as time allows.

Flat roof replacement This project is ongoing and will continue as time allows.

*Continued on next page*

## Capital Campaign Update, continued

Projects completed for this Capital campaign.

- Ramp accessibility project
- Kitchen remodel
- Hospitality corridor remodel
- Redecoration of Library, lounge, Board room and Fellowship room, including carpet
- Air conditioning and venting windows in Chapel
- East end project: Six windows, paint walls, restore water damage organ pipes and repoint masonry
- East and west repairs to the wood work for the Auditorium
- Sanctuary sound system replacement
- Sanctuary lighting replacement
- Restoration of the Christ Blessing the Children and Sermon on the Mount windows
- Milled and replaced Black top in both lots
- Auditorium Air Conditioning
- Auditorium redecoration including painting and Floor replacement
- Main corridor lighting and floor replacement

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## Welcome to Our New Members!

**Jill Johnson** is married to Michael Johnson and they have two children: Olivia who is nine and Dylan who is one. They live in Summit.

**Joseph & Jamie Rizzo** were welcomed into membership. They have a one-year-old daughter named Sophia Rose They live in New Providence.

**Rebecca & Sebastian Mader** have two sons: Franz who is four, and Leopold who is one and a half. They live in Summit .

## Finance Report

**CENTRAL QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION**  
 ALL \$000

	MARCH YTD 2023	% OF 2023 BUDGET	MARCH YTD 2022
<b>INCOME</b>			
REGULAR GIVING	\$188	31%	\$222
TOTAL INCOME	\$221	32%	\$245
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
PERSONNEL	\$231	26%	\$210
BUILDING AND GROUNDS	\$49	26%	\$43
ALL OTHER	\$37	12%	\$29
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$317	24%	\$282
SHORTFALL IN EXCESS OF BUDGETED 4% DRAW COVERED BY UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT			
	\$-96	15%	\$-37
VALUE OF UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT	\$6,348		\$7,407
MISSION DISBURSEMENTS FROM RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT			
	\$216		\$130
VALUE OF MISSION ENDOWMENT	\$3,227		\$4,112

**TREASURER'S COMMENTS**

Total income is better than plan through the first quarter of the fiscal year. This is from regular giving, i.e. pledge donations, Sunday collections and contributions towards Per Capita.

Expenses continue to be managed well and are also below budget in total. Expenses have increased over the same period as last year. This is due to a return to normal church programs and activities. Costs have also increased in general over the same period as last year.

Central expects to require additional funds from the unrestricted endowment above the budgeted draw of 4% to fund regular operations during the year.

The Mission Endowment continues to exceed \$3 million even with distributions in the first quarter.

### Celebrating Our High School Graduates



John Cho is graduating Summit High School and will attend Yale University.



Maddie Ducey is graduating from Summit High School this June and will be attending Clemson University



Peter Horton currently attends Gill St. **Bernard's School** and will be attending Purdue University



Henry Olson will be going to Colby College where he will be studying Computer Science and Music.



Emma Ramsey is graduating from Oak Knoll School and will attend Yale University.



Ben Torell attends Summit High School and will attend Virginia Tech, majoring in Fin Tech and Big Data Analytics



Robert G. Welton is graduating Summit High School and will attend Rochester Institute of Technology to major in animation

## Children and Youth

We welcomed 18 new freshmen into membership at Central this past Sunday (see the next page) - and got to hear from each one of them how God is using their lives in amazing ways. We heard about how these young people are passionate about sports, cooking, chil-



dren, dance, poetry, tutoring, and serving others. It was so inspiring to think about how God gives us gifts, and helps us to use them to bless the people around us. These young people work in our nursery, they serve as youth deacons, and they lead our programs all summer long.

Lydia Moore, Connor Gawronski, Catherine Huggins, and their parents have been busy

planning our Mission Trip this summer - we are delighted to be taking a short trip (June 24 - June 28) to Bath, NY.



Our High Schoolers are going to be putting on siding, and painting a family who has served in their community tirelessly, all while struggling to take care of their home. Please pray for our youth, and our hosting family in Bath.



In July, Lydia Moore will be leading one of our VBS stations, while Abby Jeffries, Bessie Huggins, Catherine Huggins, Will Gawron-

ski, and Connor Gawronski will be leading our after camps will help from our high school community. We will be welcoming children from all over Summit into our commUNITY VBS camp- focusing on counting, and sharing our blessings.



Starting on 5/28, our youth will take the lead with summer child care (with help from caring adults). Summer Sundays are a little more relaxed than during the year, and kids will have a chance to play and connect during church while their parents worship.



Summer is a time for us all to relax, to unwind, and to notice the beauty of God's creation. **At Central, it's also a time** for all of our young people to really shine.

-Pastor Deborah Huggins

## Children & Youth



Congratulations to our newest members! The following 18 young people were accepted into membership during the Confirmation Breakfast and following worship service on Sunday, May 7. The class includes (left to right in the photo):

Back Row: Keira Fallon, Carleigh Coffey, Elsie Fosgate, Sarah Flaim, Connor Gawronski, James Grainger, Stella Lemkau, Catherine Huggins, Danny Moore

Middle Row: Quinn Sartorius, Lyla Sartorius, Thomas Walden, Will Pringle, Jake Welton

Front Row: Caroline Schultz, Erik Paulsen





## CPC Weekday Nursery School and Kindergarten

Spring has sprung at the CPC Weekday Nursery School and Kindergarten! The classes have been busy experiencing the world around them. Many classes are watching caterpillars transform into butterflies, monitoring ladybug larvae, watching ants build their tunnels and

learning and transformation that I have done this year myself, much like the cycle our children have been witness to this spring.

We will begin to transition to the end of year preparations. The Kindergarteners will be performing in the year end play, The Three



homes, caring for praying mantis eggs, and just spent two weeks caring for eggs and the chicks that hatched from those eggs. The excitement of learning about these transformations has energized the school and given us a collective focus. As I wrap up the first year as Director, I am reflecting on how much

Little Pigs Opera. The **Almost 5's and 4's** classes are practicing songs to perform at their year end concert. And the entire school is preparing for three weeks of summer camp! Our campers will travel the world by learning about a different country each day.

Thank you to Central for recognizing the Weekday teachers at the recent Teacher Appreciation Service. I am grateful to lead an amazing group of teachers that provide children a strong start to their educational journey and provide experiences that enrich their lives. It is amazing to witness how the teachers at CPC WNSK carry out the mission that was started within Central over 50 years ago.

Rachel Diekman  
CPC WNSK Director





70 Maple Street  
Summit, NJ 07901

Return Service Requested



### THE KEY

Spring/Summer 2023

The publication of  
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
[centralpres.org](http://centralpres.org)  
Editor: Jeanne Thiemann

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

*Central is worshipping in the Sanctuary on Sundays.  
The 10:00 a.m. services are broadcast on HTTV and  
live streamed to our YouTube channel.*