

The KEY

A Publication of Central Presbyterian Church
Summit, NJ

Summer 2024

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A Letter from the Pastor

Beloved Central Church Family,

We are at a very exciting time in our interim season! Our Mission Study Report was completed and submitted to the Committee on Ministry of our Presbytery on May 29th. The Report was approved with affirmation and blessings by the Committee on Ministry at their meeting on Thursday evening, June 6. The way was then clear for our Special Congregational Meeting after worship on June 9th at which our Pastor Nominating Committee was elected. (Please see article on PNC on page 5).

Our Mission Study Report was completed by the Mission Study Task Force Team after 8 weeks of conversations with many of you at Central Church. Focusing on in-person conversations with groups and individuals, the

Team asked three questions at each meeting. *In this season of transition, what do we sustain? What do we release? What are your dreams for Central Church?* We hope you take the time to read through the report which can be accessed through this [link](#).

The responses in the report affirm that Central Church is in a very good place. Many feel like this faith community is "family", especially for those whose family live far away. This feeling of belonging is readily expressed through small groups that meet regularly. There is great appreciation for a talented staff, a wonderful music program, engaging worship, and mission activity. There is much gratitude for our excellent Weekday Nursery School and Kindergarten. Central is a multi-generational church which is a great gift.



The responses also indicate that Central Church is leaning forward and is excited about the next chapter. Almost everyone who participated in a conversation, members of all ages, expressed a desire to continue to care for children and families in this next season. Understanding the complexities of raising a family these days, there is a call for innovative ministries in this next chapter. Almost everyone is also eager to move beyond the impact of pandemic days encouraging the return of social and fellowship opportunities. There is a desire for our building, which went through

How to Worship with Central

Central is worshipping in-person Sundays at 10:00 a.m., plus WAVE on July 14, 21, and 28 at 5:00 p.m. Our 8:30 a.m. service will return in September.

Our TV Ministry is on hiatus during July and August, and will return to broadcasting and live streaming in early September.

Website:

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

A Letter from the Pastor, cont.

extensive renovations and restoration following a very successful capital campaign, to serve as a resource to the communities that surrounds us.

I express heart-felt gratitude to the Mission Study Task Force Team: Christine Cofer, Chris Craig, Jeff Lowman, Jess Mills, Ariane Pfaff, Karen Sinunu for their excellent work. This Mission Study Report will be a tremendous resource to the Pastor Nominating Committee as they create the position de-

scription for the new senior pastor and eventually begin their search. Thank you for your continued prayers as we continue on this interim journey together.

With love and gratitude for you in Christ,
Jan



WAVE Worship

WAVE, Central's popular contemporary worship service, has announced its Summer Schedule. WAVE will meet outdoors on the church lawn (indoors in the air conditioning if the weather is poor) on July 14, 21, and 28 at 5pm. A free super will be served, and the Praise Band will supply

music, while one of our pastors delivers a special sermon. Check it out!

WAVE
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Mission Spotlight: EKO Plans New Program with Central Church

EKO is very excited to start a program in conjunction with Pastor Deborah Huggins and Central. This after-school program is for girls in middle school. Students will be partnered with girls who are juniors and seniors in high school. The group focuses on self-esteem, friendship, leadership, and academics with a monthly mental health theme. We are looking forward to beginning this program in the fall of 2024.

Kevin Hill of Central's Mission Team attended the James W. Northrop end-of-the-year celebration at EKO (Empowering



Kids Organization), a program named in memory of our own beloved Jim Northrop, who helped develop the program.

Also in the fall, EKO will continue the James W. Northrop Afterschool program, an eight-week program, run twice a year, to supplement school instruction: lan-

guage proficiency, STEM, and cultural awareness. Summit High School teachers are in charge of the instruction components of the program. The culture and community component of the program, which included museum and community organization visits and a leadership seminar, is conducted by EKO members in NJ and NY.

Central Community Foundation

Central Community Foundation was established in 2023 as a 501-c-3 charitable organization. The mission is to seek funding for community outreach programs, educational and cultural programs, and including preservation of the landmark building of historic Central Presbyterian Church.



The Trustees include Lyle Brehm, Dave Bomgaars, Betsy Phillips, Linda Hander, and Cary Hardy .

It is hoped that some sources of funding, which do not usually support religious organizations, such as corporations with matching gifts, will make gifts to our 501-c-3 entity.

If you are connected to a corporation that makes matching gifts, the address is Central Community Foundation, 70 Maple Street, Summit, NJ.

For more information, contact a trustee.

Meet Our Pastor Nominating Committee

Thank you to Ted Chao, Lori Donohue, Betsy Flaim, Beth McCarter, Betsy Phillips, Becky Shamim, and Patrick Sullivan for serving on the 2024 Nominating Committee. In addition to the annual responsibilities of recruiting church volunteers for Deacon, Youth Deacon, Session, Financial Audit and Nominating positions, we graciously accepted the duties required to propose a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) to guide Central Church into our next important chapter.

Our church Bylaws state that our PNC must be “at least seven but not more than ten members.” Our guiding principle was to gather a PNC of dedicated church members from various parts of our congregation. As a forward-thinking group, we recognize that the future of our beloved Central Church is in our younger members’ hands, and we leaned somewhat “younger” rather than “older” in our recruitment efforts

while recognizing that longer-term members also needed to be represented. Our PNC includes church members who participate in music programs, mission work, some who attend the WAVE service vs. only the 10am worship service, parents of babies, parents of school children, members whose kids have grown up in the church and attended Confirmation class, mission trips, and Sunday School.

We thought it important to have a representation from those who have served on a past PNC, the Capital Campaign Committee, have some awareness of financial matters of Central Church, are regular attendees, and several who either serve or have served on Session or as a Deacon. Vocationally, our PNC includes those with management consulting, personnel, legal, education, and finance backgrounds.

In addition to selecting a new senior pastor, it

will be the responsibility of the PNC to represent the life of our faith community to interested candidates. We also wanted to gather a PNC that was welcoming as they extended hospitality to those in the search process who would like to learn more about our church and community. We searched for PNC members who love our faith community and enjoy living in the Summit area with all that it has to offer.

We proudly present to you our 2024 Pastor Nominating Committee.

Bill Anderson
Casey Diekman
Jeff Gaylord
Leah Griffith
Alicia Kilduff
Jessica Mills
Noni Macpherson
Drayton Wise

Meet Our Pastor Nominating Committee



Bill Anderson



Casey Diekman



Jeff Gaylord



Leah Griffith

**Meet
Your
PNC**



Alicia Kilduff



Noni Macpherson



Jessica Mills



Drayton Wise

Celebrating our Graduates



Sutton Collins

Our 2024 *Graduates*



Logan Fallon



Daniel Flaim



Dory Fosgate



Will Gawronski



Cade Gilbert



Bessie Huggins



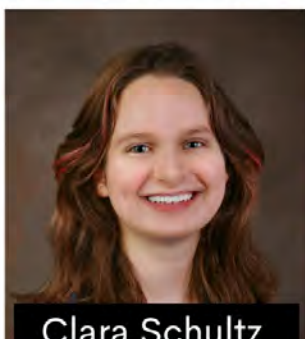
Abby Jeffries



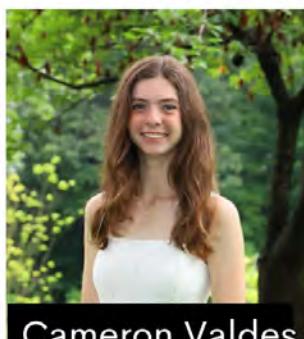
Erik Paulsen



Jack Sartorius



Clara Schultz



Cameron Valdes



Anderson Wise

Celebrating our Graduates

Sutton Collins is graduating from Oratory Prep and will attend Wake Forest University. He is a recipient of the *Central Presbyterian Church Leadership Award*.

Logan Fallon is graduating from Summit High School and will be attending Michigan State University. He is a recipient of the *Laura C. Binder Central Presbyterian Church Service Award*.

Daniel Flaim is graduating from Summit High School and will be attending Villanova University. He is the recipient of the *Greer Scholar-Athlete Award*.

Dory Fosgate is graduating from Episcopal High School and will attend Washington and Lee University. She is the recipient of the *Francis Brown Beattie CPC Service Award*.

Will Gawronski is graduating from Summit High School and will be attending Wake Forest. He is the recipient of the *Jeanette Thatcher Christian Service Award*.

Cade Gilbert is graduating from Summit High School and will attend Syracuse University.

Bessie Huggins is graduating from Governor Livingston High School and will attend Mount Holyoke College. She is the recipient of the *Dorothy Tawney Christian Service Award*.

Abigail Jeffries is graduating from Morristown Beard School and will be attending University of Tampa Majoring in Dance and Marketing. She is a recipient of the *Laura C. Binder Central Presbyterian Church Service Award*.

Erik Paulsen is graduating from Chatham High School and will attend Iowa State University.

Jack Sartorius is graduating from Delbarton and heading to Williams College.

Clara Schulz is graduating from Summit High School and will be attending George Washington University to study International Affairs.

Cameron Valdes is graduating from Summit High School and will be attending University of South Florida to study Mechanical Engineering.

Anderson Wise is graduating from Summit High School and will be attending University of Miami. He is a recipient of the *Central Presbyterian Church Leadership Award*.



Membership & Fellowship



Volunteers Needed!

We need you! Take Ten, Central's coffee time after worship, needs cleanup helpers for next September. Spend a short time working with others after enjoying the conversation and foods! Contact mibs_wagner@hotmail.com Thank you!

The Membership Fellowship Team gains more speed as the year progresses! Look for ways that YOU can become involved and assist with the variety of events coming up.

May ended with Team members volunteering to bake extra foods for the Confirmand Breakfast since there were only eight Eighth Grade parents to host. Liz Febo worked at organizing those parents; our Team assisted with paper products and the large fresh fruit bowl.

Sadly, the two Teas planned for June 1st as fundraisers for the Youth Mission Trip and Family Promise were cancelled due to low registration. M/F had assisted with PR and ticket sales. June 2nd welcomed four new members to the Congregation. They received white boutonnieres and name tags from the team and were greeted by many at Take Ten.

The M/F team also promoted attendance for the Matt Butler "Reckless Son" concert that evening. Thanks to the organizing by Joe and Jennifer Gawronski, and sons Connor and Will, a large turnout enjoyed his music along with students and parents from Christ Church. The Gawronski's assisted funding the Youth Mission Trip by organizing this program as well as hosting both church groups and parents for their pre-show supper!

Celebrating the end of the season for Central's dedicated Motet Choir volunteers June 9th was important! The M/F Team decorated the auditorium, and offered watermelon and pound cakes to guests until the Choir could all arrive with Charity. She thanked all and cut the first slice of the sheet cake: "Celebrating Our Choir! Thanks to

All!" Everyone enjoyed the festive occasion realizing the dedication of so many.

Plans for the Fall and Winter include:
Sept.: Rally Day, Sept. 8th
Oct.: "Getting To Know Central," date to be announced. Central's groups will be showcased so that you can learn more...and join! New Member Luncheon – for the 94 new members who've joined the last four years.
Dec. 6th: Mark your calendars: the Christmas Cocktail Party!

The Membership/Fellowship Team asks for YOUR ideas; ideas for programs and adventures. They've discussed canoe outings, Hackensack Riverkeeper Pontoon rides, Pot Luck Dinners, Speakers on health and medications, PT, Camp Johnsonburg and even cooking. Know of someone interesting or a program you'd enjoy? Email: mibs_wagner@hotmail.com.

Photo Gallery



Confirmation Class of 2024



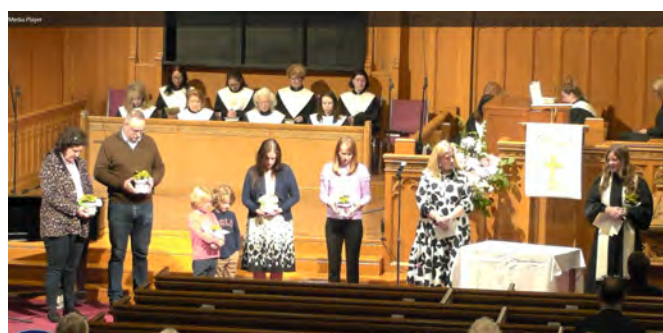
Pentecost



Reckless Son Concert



Reckless Son Concert



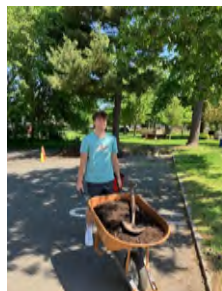
Sunday School Staff & Volunteers Appreciation



Ordination and Installation of Church Officers



Celebrating the Choir



Wildflower Planting and Cleanup



Youth Mission Trip Car Wash

Children and Youth

Dear Central,

It's almost Summer! The kids are taking finals, and finishing up their school years, graduation parties and events are in full swing. We have championship games to enjoy, cook outs, great books, and long, wonderful evenings when it feels like the only thing on the to-do list is to watch the fireflies.

At Central, we welcome this same change

of pace. We trade in our weekly Sunday School, and monthly mission projects and confirmation classes for intensive experiences- where we spend time together every day. In the summer, we focus on Mission Trip, VBS, and Specialty Camps. These times give us a chance to develop faith and relationships of deep trust, of close work, together, time to share faith and values, and amazing memories. These times of retreat allow us to refocus on God, to

build our faith, and to learn to take our faith into the world. We ask that you pray with us this summer- for the children that we serve, for the ones that we serve with, for the leadership of our kids, for our amazing staff and volunteers. Please pray for our safety and security, for joy and fun, for the people we are serving with, and for our faith to grow.

Yours in peace,
Pastor Deborah

CommUNITY Camp- VBS

Central is so excited to be offering VBS again this summer- with registration almost full, please reach out if you have a preschool or elementary aged child in your life who would like to participate. We are excited to team up with Christ Church, Fountain Baptist, and Calvary again this year to welcome Children and Youth to the church for five amazing days of Faith, Fun, and Service. We would love to borrow your Christmas Tree - we are hoping to create a pine forest in the hallway to transform the church into the "Maine Woods."

In addition to VBS, we are so pleased to offer four youth-led aftercamps again this year. Theater Camp (Abby Jeffries with Jamie Cofer), Young Kids Sports Camp (Catherine Huggins), Older Kids Sports Camp (Connor Gawronksi), and Cooking Camp (Izzy Pfaff). These amazing young people are gearing up to welcome over 50 children to participate in specialty camps, sharing skills and passion with our community. Central is thrilled to support these amazing young leaders and we hope that you will join with us in praying for them this summer from July 22-26.



Children and Youth

Mission Trip

THANK YOU ALL! We are delighted to have reached 75% of our fund-raising goal for the Mission Trip. We are so excited to be headed to Maine to serve the greater Farmington community. Thank you for supporting our Car Wash, Concert, Bake Sales, Restaurant Night, Soup Sale, and Plant Sale. Thank you for supporting us with smiles, with kindness, and with your prayers. We

hope that you will help us with our final push at the rescheduled Tea Party in August.



As we go off to Maine, joining youth from Christ Church, we ask you to pray for each one of us. Please pray that we will all stay

safe, that we will have fun, pray for the people that we are serving with- the staff, and the homeowners in Maine, and especially, pray that our faith will grow.

June 22-June 29
 Carleigh Cofer
 Connor Gawronski
 Kate Horton
 Catherine Huggins
 Bessie Huggins
 Quinn Jeffries
 Danny Moore
 Lydia Moore
 Cami Valdes
 Dahlia Valdes
 Adam Gilbert

Confirmation

Many blessings to members of our 2024 Confirmation Class. We were delighted to hear about all of the ways that they are leading change, and caring for our community in the church, at school, and in our region. The Confirmation Passion Projects ranged from adaptive sports, creating beautiful and special gifts for families at El Centro, collecting period supplies, making luminaries, and changing the world "one sandwich at a time." This class was fabulous- and we invite you all to get to know them as they continue to serve in our church in the church nursery, as deacons, in VBS, and in the community as Eport tutors, and as street captains. We are delighted to have these new members join our church. *Please note, if you have a current 8th grader in your family who would like to be a part of this program in the coming year, we would be delighted to welcome them to the confirmation program. Please reach out to Pastor Deborah for more information.*

Confirmands, left to right:
 Suzanne Horton
 Charlie Ramsey

Izzy Wise
 Anna Kate Collins
 Izzy Pfaff



Children and Youth

Sunday School

It was so fun to say thank you to our great Sunday School teaching staff this year- there are so many people who make our ministry with youth and children happen- thank you for sharing your gifts, strengths and skills with our children. At Central, our curriculum follows the church preaching calendar- so that what we do in Sunday School ties into what's happening in church- allowing our families to share their faith and ex-

periences together. We also provide a Take Home Sunday School follow up for all children in the church- with our Bible passage, Central theme, and fun activities to do at home as a family. In addition to Sunday School, our church's amazing members who are also involved in counseling and social work are helping Pastor Deborah to provide mental health support tips, with links to more resources- supporting every child at Central as we navigate these challenging times. As we make the move into summer months, we are

grateful for our wonderful Nursery staff for providing a safe and fun place to do crafts and activities during the

summer. We look forward to connecting with all of you this fall when we Kick-Off Sunday School with Rally Day.

Thank you to all of our Amazing Volunteers including:

Sunday School

Ashley Cusick, John Cusick, Jamie Cofer, Carleigh Cofer, Emily Dingle, Brianne Finnegan, Jennifer-Lauren Foy, Caroline Germa, Christian Germa, Scott Hendrix, Ryan Horvath, Jeff Huggins, Janine Kinzel, Rebecca Mader, Beth McCarter, Jess Mills, Amanda Newman, Anushka Paul, Kristen Schwartz, and Kelly Walk

Nursery

Anna Kate Collins, Rachel Diekman, Keira Fallon, Sarah Flaim, Kendall Hander, Bessie Huggins, Catherine Huggins, Fritz Huggins, Abby Jeffries, Lydia Moore, Thea Moore, Steve Peterson, Izzy Pfaff, Christina Reppert, and Izzy Wise



Sunday school staff & volunteers being recognized in worship

Deacons Fund

The Deacon's Fund is an important part of the ministry at Central that I wanted to highlight for those that aren't aware of it. As the deacon member who is currently serving as the head of the Deacon's Fund, I get to see first-hand the good work of this fund. Each year we rely on donations from church members and grants from Central's Mission Team in support of the Fund to help others. The Deacon's Fund is there to assist church members in a financial crisis and members of the community in a financial need. We also use these resources to uplift congregational members who are ill or homebound with flowers twice a year around the holidays. Requests for the Deacon's Fund can be made by church members or pastors whenever a need arises. Please consider locating the Deacon's Fund envelopes in your offering envelopes or in the church pews and share a donation so we can continue this good work.

Thanks in advance for your support,
Amy Wise, Treasurer of the Deacons

Finance Report

CENTRAL QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

ALL \$000

	MARCH YTD 2024	% OF 2023 BUDGET	MARCH YTD 2023
INCOME			
REGULAR GIVING	\$166	28%	\$188
TOTAL INCOME	\$193	28%	\$221
EXPENSES			
PERSONNEL	\$263	27%	\$231
BUILDING AND GROUNDS	\$48	24%	\$49
ALL OTHER	\$33	14%	\$37
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$344	24%	\$317
SHORTFALL IN EXCESS OF BUDGETED 4% DRAW COVERED BY UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT	\$(151)	20%	\$(96)
VALUE OF UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT	\$7,062		\$6,348
MISSION DISBURSEMENTS FROM RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT	\$125		\$216
VALUE OF MISSION ENDOWMENT	\$3,650		\$3,227

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 as well as building use which is primarily WNSK.

Expenses continue to be managed well and are also below budget in total. Expenses have increased over the same period as last year. 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.

CPC Weekday Nursery School & Kindergarten

This spring at CPC Weekday Nursery School and Kindergarten was buzzing! The classes were immersed in the transformations they see around them. Many classes are watching caterpillars transform into butterflies, monitoring ladybug larvae, watching ants build their tunnels and homes, caring for praying mantis eggs, and also spent two weeks caring for eggs and the chicks that hatched from those eggs. The excitement of learning about these transformations was energizing and gave us a collective focus. The children discussed transformation in their learning about Easter with Pastor



Deborah. Each class experienced time in the Chapel learning about the resurrection of Jesus and likened it to the transformations our children have been witnessing this spring.

The first week of June is our last program week at school. The Kindergarteners performed in the year end play, The Three Little Pigs Opera. The Transitional Kindergarteners, Almost 5's, 4's and even the 3's classes performed at their year end concerts in the Sanctuary. After the end of the school year, we will be hosting three weeks of summer camp for our current students. 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

Summer 2024

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.
The 10:00 a.m. services are broadcast on HTTV and will
be live streamed to our YouTube channel.*