

# The KEY

A Publication of  
Central Presbyterian Church  
Summit, NJ



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## A Letter from the Pastor

Beloved Central Church Family, I hope you had a wonderful summer season. I pray it was a time of rest, renewal, or whatever you needed to restore your soul.

My prayers are with you as we turn into the fall season with all the changes it brings. I pray for college students who are departing for their studies. I pray for children who are heading off to school for the first time. I pray that you find a good rhythm for your lives as we lean into autumn life which includes work, studies, and extra-activities.

Our program year begins at Central Church on Sunday, September 15, with Rally Day. Following a special 10:00 a.m. service, we hope you will take time to connect with one an-

other over a meal. There will be lots of activities for the children. I am looking forward to being with you to celebrate the summer and to look ahead to a great fall season!

On September 15, I will begin a sermon series which I have called, **“What the H.?”** Of course that means we will explore Home, Hope, Healing, Humility, and Honesty. On September 15, we will lean into Home. Maya Angelou says, **“The ache for home lives in all of us.”** Please come to help fill that ache for home in your soul. Here is a place where we multiply our joys, divide our sorrows, lift prayers, sing songs, and share hope.



Thank you for your prayers for our faith community, especially for our Pastor Nominating Committee as they begin their exciting work.

With Love and Anticipation in Christ,  
Jan

## How to Worship with Central

Central is worshipping in-person Sundays at 8:30 and 10:00 a.m., plus WAVE at 5:00 p.m. on September 22, October 6 & 20, and November 3 & 17.

Beginning September 8, the live-streaming on our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/@centralpresbyterian/streams>) and TV broadcast on HTTV of our 10:00 a.m. services will resume.

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

## Parish Associate for Spiritual Formation

I am delighted to announce that Pam Robertson has accepted my invitation to serve as Parish Associate at Central Presbyterian Church beginning on September 1. For six hours per week, Pam will be helping us lean into our souls with leading a meditation group and nurturing other opportunities for spiritual growth. Pam will also be assisting with some visiting and pastoral support in our community. As many of your know, Pam has wonderful gifts and we welcome her home to share them with us once again!

Pam, a wife and mother of four grown children, has been a member of Central Church for more than twenty five years. As a young mom she accepted an invita-

tion from then Associate Pastor, (me!) to join the newly formed Monday Morning Moms group. This became a transformative experience in her journey of faith. Some years later, Pam would lead this same mom's group which led her back to school to pursue a Master of Ministry Degree. At Central, Pam has served two terms as an Elder, as Christian Education Chair, served on the Weekday Nursery School board, taught Sunday school, small groups, workshops and retreats.

Pam is currently a member of the Spiritual Direction Graduate Program at Moravian Theological Seminary where she also teaches Prayer class, offers supervision to students and produces and hosts



the Seminary podcast.

Pam has a passion for spiritual practice and is excited to be coming home to Central in this new capacity as Parish Associate for Spiritual Formation, helping others to highlight their individual gifts and to go deeper into their relationship with the Holy.

-Jan Ammon

Note: Pam is starting a weekly Meditation Group on Tuesday, September 17 at 9:00 a.m. in the Lounge. The event is free and open to everyone!

## Return of the 8:30 a.m. Service

This summer the Cloister Garden has undergone a renovation, and the 8:30 a.m. service held there was suspended. On September 8, the service returns! Join us for worship filled with the sounds of nature in this intimate setting. In case of poor weather, the service will move to the Chapel.



## Take Time for Music

We all love music. We love listening or creating it and a world without it would be a pretty bland one. We feel its healing powers and the joy it brings us to create or listen to it. **It's also readily available and free to do or create!** Sometimes though I think we can take it for granted. Other times I think we forget about the magical powers of it, especially as we get busier. We forget about the emotions it can bring us; the healing, joy, excitement, passion, calmness, peace and connection to each other and God.

**I don't want to say it, but it** appears that summer is coming to a close. What does that mean for you? Back to school, move into the fall schedule, focus more on work, fill up the calendar with things we love: sports; plays; musicals after school events; etc. These are all

good things! The majority of us like to stay busy and like to stay productive so we have a feeling of accomplishment or sense of purpose. **I know when I'm busy and achieving my goals I have more energy and feel a stronger sense of purpose.** But where does music fit in your life?

God has given us many gifts, I think the gift of music is one of the most precious ones. When we sing or play in Church you can feel more of a connection to God as a listener or participant. **I must say though, I've felt closer to God as a participant rather than a listener. Don't get me wrong,** there have been wonderful moments in my life as a listener where I have been so moved in and outside of Church but as a participant those feelings have been elevated to a whole other

level. As most of you know at Central Church we want to give you the opportunity to experience these emotions with our music programs. We want the adults to experience it in the choir, the band, the bells and we want the kids to experience it with the high school group, the middle school group and the kids choir. These groups exist so we all can have that experience, that feeling of making music which is so important to **our well being. It's one of God's special gifts to us,** therapy for the soul, an intangible type of magic that we possess! So let's explore it, let's discover it, let it bring us closer to our creator. So I say as we are booking up our calendars try to make time for **music too. You won't regret it!**

-Adam Gilbert

Motet Choir - Thursday evenings 7:30-9:00pm - Starting September 12. No prior choir experience necessary, just a shared love of music and the voice!

Middle School Band—Wednesday evenings 5-6pm, Music Studio. Starting September 18.

High School Band—Thursday evenings 7-8pm, Music Studio. Starting September 19.

Bell Choir - Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30pm - Starting October 3. No prior experience or music-reading required!

**Children's Choir** - Sunday mornings - 11:15-11:45am, Music Studio, Starting Sunday, October 6.

## WAVE Worship

WAVE is a non-traditional worship service at Central Presbyterian Church, featuring a wide variety of contemporary music covering folk, gospel, singer-songwriter, popular, and modern contemporary Christian songs, under the musical direction of Adam Gilbert. Held outdoors during the summer, during the cooler months (or rainy days) WAVE is in the Auditorium at 5:00 p.m. on select Sundays.

WAVE features a special message from one of our pastors each service, as well as a free supper and activities for children.

Fall dates include:

September 22

October 6 & 20

November 3 & 17

December 1 & 15

Volunteers are always needed to plan, prepare, and serve the meals. Please contact Adam Gilbert at [AGilbert@centralpres.org](mailto:AGilbert@centralpres.org) to sign up or ask questions.

**WAVE**  
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is up and running! We had an orientation meeting in July, during which we learned about the process of searching for a new senior pastor. Rev. Greg Horn, Pastor and Head of Staff of the Presbyterian Church in Upper Montclair, will serve as our liaison from the Presbytery and shepherd us through the process.

**We'd like to ask the congregation to pray for the PNC throughout this exciting season of transition.** We are embarking on a journey of discernment to identify who God is calling to be our new pastor and lead our congregation in its next chapter of mission and ministry.

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

## Member Spotlight: Arthur T. Vanderbilt II, author

On September 20 at 7:30 p.m., the CPC Book Club will host an Author Talk with Arthur T. Vanderbilt II, author of *Fortune's Children: The Fall of the House of Vanderbilt*.

The author is a 60-year member of Central Presbyterian Church, and was born and raised here in Summit. Arthur is the fourth generation of his family at Central—his great-grandparents moved from NYC to Summit in the 1870s and became members, followed by Arthur's grandparents and then parents. His parents both taught Sunday School and his father served on the Board of Trustees for many years.

Arthur himself served on the Board of the Elizabeth Presbytery and as its president for a number of years.

*Even before I could read or write, I had an urge to write a book. I grew up in a house filled with books, and with parents who read all the time so*

*I'm sure that was an influence. It wasn't surprising that I aimed my senior thesis at Wesleyan University on a topic that could become a book, and indeed it did--the first biography of my grandfather, Arthur T. Vanderbilt, a famous law reformer of the 20th century and chief justice of New Jersey.*

After the success of his first book, Arthur was hooked, working on several books as he pursued a career as an attorney. With the help of an agent he landed a contract to write the four-generation saga of the Vanderbilt family, which became his book "Fortune's Children: The Fall of the House of Vanderbilt".

*A lot of good things happened with my book **Fortune's Children: a selection of the Book of the Month Club, selection of Readers Digest series "Today's Best Nonfiction", foreign editions, serialized in magazines, here and abroad, and really from the day it was published under option***

*for television movie, options which are renewed year after year. It came very close to production a year or two ago, until my production team changed hands and everything was reshuffled. **I've written** about 20 books, all nonfiction, be it history, biography, memoirs, essays, etc. **Now I'm dying to try** my hand at fiction, a novel, and now I'm having fun, pulling characters, settings, plots down from the clouds!*

You can meet Arthur Vanderbilt at Central on September 20 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Room, where he will discuss **Fortune's Children**.



## Opportunities to Serve

### Service at Central

Do you like volunteering and giving back to the church and community? We would love to have you share that love with our young people. Volunteer to help out as part of Service at Central. We meet once a month on Fridays starting in October for service and fun with community and church middle schoolers. First Fridays, 5:30-7:00. For more information, talk to Pastor Deborah or Ashley Cusick.

### Sunday School

Parents and grandparents with kids in Sunday School are invited to sign up to help out with as a small group leader. It's easy, fun, and a fantastic way to share your faith with your children. For more information, talk to Pastor Deborah or Ashley Cusick.

### Service Days

We are hosting a series of service days this year on Summit Half-Days, and of course, MLK Day. Do you love to serve? Do you love our community? Do you love pizza? Sign up to help out! For more information, talk to Pastor Deborah or Ashley Cusick.

### Special Events

Do you love a good party? If so, we would love to have your help with our special events with our church family- from Rally Day, Pumpkin Festival, and Living Nativity, to the Easter Egg Hunt, Teacher Appreciation, Confirmation and Graduation Sunday- Central's special events committees would love your help! For more information, talk to Pastor Deborah or Ashley Cusick.

### Vacation Bible School Team

It is just so much fun- that's why we do it! From the decorations, to the snacks, the welcome table, and of course, sharing our faith with teaching, worship, and music- Vacation Bible School is an awesome way to reach out and give back. If you would like to be a part of the fun, or for more information, talk to Pastor Deborah or Ashley Cusick.

### Mission Trip Team

From fundraisers, to organizing tools, to tee shirts to fun days, it takes a village to create this amazing experience for our youth, and the communities that we serve. To be a part of this life changing ministry, reach

out to Pastor Deborah or Ashley Cusick.

### Communion Preparation

Do you love worship- especially communion? Help us set the table for third graders and their families as we help our children deepen their understanding of communion. For more information, talk to Pastor Deborah or Ashley Cusick.

### Confirmation

Whether it's sharing a special program at the church, or helping to put the breakfast together, we would love your help with confirmation. For more information, talk to Pastor Deborah or Ashley Cusick.

### Rally Day

It takes a village to welcome our church and community at our fantastic picnic- we are looking for help pulling the pork, staffing games, and even scooping ice cream. To get involved, please reach out to Pastor Deborah!

*Continued next page*

## Opportunities to Serve, cont.

### Take Ten

Everyone enjoys a beverage and a light snack after worship, with time to fellowship with church friends. We are looking for people to help clean up after Take Ten—it only takes a few minutes, but it makes continuing this popular social time possible! Contact Mibs Wagner at [mibs\\_wagner@hotmail.com](mailto:mibs_wagner@hotmail.com) to sign up.

### Television Ministry

Central broadcasts on HTTV and live streams to YouTube on Sunday mornings. If working with cameras and sound appeals to you, consider joining our team—all training is provided and no experience is necessary. Contact Jeanne at [JThiemann@centralpres.org](mailto:JThiemann@centralpres.org) for more information.

### Eport Tutoring

Adult volunteers are needed to help with snacks, supervision, and check-in on Tuesday evenings from October to April. Please reach out to:  
Sarah Engle  
908-884-7920  
[Jengle58@aol.com](mailto:Jengle58@aol.com)

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## Central Concert Series - First Concert of the Season

On Sunday, October 13, at 3:00 p.m., The Central Concert Series will present:

Christopher Dylan Herbert, baritone, & Carl Patrick Bolleia, piano  
Faculty members at William Paterson University  
**Performing Gabriel Kahane's *Book of Travelers***

*"Book of Travelers* is an attempt to rediscover and celebrate our collective humanity in the face of deep political and cultural divisions. The day after the 2016 presidential election, Gabriel Kahane set out on an 8,980 mile train trip around the continental U.S. with no phone or internet connection. The song cycle/monodrama that resulted etches not just a series of intimate character studies, but also tells the story of a poignant encounter with a group of young men whom Kahane almost certainly would not have met within the confines of our **silo'd digital culture. In a chilling coda, Gabriel draws from his grandmother's diary**— written during her own cross-country train trip after fleeing Nazi Germany in 1939— asking the audience to contemplate the varied scars of our collective past, while at the same time offering a seed of hope in the notion that when we step outside of our digital lives, we may have more in common with **our fellow Americans than we're often led to believe.**" - Gabriel Kahane



The concert is free and open to the public.

## Eport Tutoring Needs Your Help



Can you imagine entering high school never having read a book?  
Can you imagine a young boy sending his work to his father in jail?  
Can you imagine a program at Central that has benefited young students since 1969?  
These are true situations some of our students have faced.

Eport Tutoring, a mission of Central Church, serves students from Summit and Elizabethport every Tuesday night 6:15-8:15 p.m. October through April 1st with reading, writing and fellowship.

### We need ....

HELP buying snacks get reimbursed through CPC  
HELP checking in students on Tuesday nights  
HELP us with idea building on projects  
HELP with keeping students busy with work provided by us  
We welcome you one Tuesday night or many nights



Mibs volunteers as our Storyteller - our students of all ages love being read a story!

**WE WANT TO KEEP THIS PROGRAM AT CENTRAL !**

Please reach out to:  
Sarah Engle  
908-884-7920  
Jengle58@aol.com





## Monday Morning Circle of Women

The Monday Morning Circle of Women meets at 9:30 a.m. in the Lounge on select Monday mornings. Please join us, everyone welcomed!

### Our fall/winter dates:

September 16: Misunderstood Jew  
 September 30: Misunderstood Jew  
 October 21: Misunderstood Jew  
 November 4: Misunderstood Jew  
 November 11: Mission Project  
 November 25: Advent Devotional  
 December 9: Advent Devotional

**For the first month, we will be reading and watching videos from Amy Jill Levine's book, *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*.**

In *The Misunderstood Jew*, scholar Amy-Jill Levine helps Christians and Jews understand the **"Jewishness" of Jesus so that their appreciation of him deepens and a greater interfaith dialogue** can take place. **Levine's humor and informed truth-telling** provokes honest conversation and debate about how Christians and Jews should understand Jesus, the New Testament, and each other.

**"Must read for Christians"**

**"Highly recommended reading for all Christians"**

## Chancel Flowers

Last spring, when the florist we had been using for years closed up shop, we switched to using Sunnywoods Florist in Chatham. And the Chancel flowers have never been more beautiful!

Chancel flowers may be dedicated to a loved one or in memory of someone special to you, or in honor of a special event.

To reserve a Sunday to dedicate flowers, please contact Evelyn at [EThiel@centralpres.org](mailto:EThiel@centralpres.org) or sign up using the Flower Chart, which is hung at the top of the ramp where you enter the Sanctuary. The cost of each arrangement is \$100. Your dedication will be printed in the bulletin and shown on our broadcast and live-stream.



## Membership & Fellowship

**There's lots of news coming** from the Membership/Fellowship Team. Be ready to participate in the events and volunteer as you can.

After many years on the **Team, Steve Peterson's** tenure has ended and Jeff Lowman is now Session Liaison along with Mibs Wagner. The organizing team has been formed consisting of Dave Bomgaars, Lyle Brehm, Cindy Gaylord, Chris May, Susan Peterson, Barbara Speni, and Betty **Torell. They'll meet** monthly to coordinate planned events and enlist the helpfulness of those of **you who'd like to help.**

The **team's purpose is to** draw members together in ways that strengthen commitment to Central through hospitality, refreshments, and hosting larger events. They also assist with New Member Orientations, and create opportunities for small group interaction and more. Contact: Jeff Lowman to share how you'd like to volunteer.

Rally Day will be Sept. 15 with a picnic presented by Susan and Steve Peterson. Watch for all the de-

tails and how you might assist.

The monthly Senior Lunch Bunch resumes, carefully planned by Lyle Brehm with Elin Krhoun **helping organize. It's a** lively group.

The **Book Club's Author** Talk will be Sept. 20. Watch for Betty **Torell and Cindy Gaylord's** announcements and be sure to read Arthur **Vanderbilt's book, *Fortune's Children***, available on Amazon.

**"Getting To Know Central," Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>!** Have you wanted to know more about the many activities and committees at work at Central? Come to the special Take Ten following church on Sept. 29! All organizations of Central are invited to have an **informational "spot" in the Auditorium** as the Congregation meanders from group to group learning more about our Music Programs, Sunday School, Mission Projects and Donations, Confirmation Class and so many more. All leaders contact Mibs Wagner to re-

serve your spot! **Celebration of New Members, Oct. 20** Another new event will be our Celebration of New Members who joined during the past **four years! We'll enjoy** a special Congregation-wide luncheon so that all 90+ are celebrated. Baby sitting will be provided.

50+ Year Recognition Sunday – In November will be the 50+ Year Recognition Sunday once again.

Christmas Cocktail Party, December 6<sup>th</sup>: The Christmas Cocktail Party returns December 6<sup>th</sup> - be ready to sign **up AND celebrate! It's** a memorable fun evening!

Please pitch in at **Take Ten's** to assist Susan Peterson in clean up and also at WAVE services, in any way that you can. Enjoy getting to know more and more of the congregation as you participate in more and more of our Central activities!

# Photo Gallery



Youth Mission Trip to Maine



Youth Mission Trip Participants at WAVE

Renovation of the Cloister Garden



commUNITY Camp VBS



Theater Camp, an after-camp of VBS, performed *Willie Wonka*

## Children and Youth

Summer at Central has been full of faith and nurture. We are so grateful to all of the volunteers, leaders, and youth who made it happen.

We joined with kids and young adults from Christ Church this summer to serve the community of Farmington, Maine. Serving six homeowners, we were able to build stairs, awnings, trailer skirting, and even spend some time in the **garden. Central's youth** did a phenomenal job serving together with friends and residents. We are proud of them,

and grateful for the way that God used them to serve our community.



CommUNITY Camp was a huge success in both the morning camp, and the afternoon, youth-led camps. Thank you to the adults and youth who served our church and community. Highlights included the **Willy Wonka performance, s'mores** snacks, music, stories from the Bible, and our

day of service with Bridges. Thank you all for your support and care!

As we get ready for fall, we are excited to begin Confirmation, Sunday School, Service at Central, and more. We will kick-off the church year at Rally Day, September 15. We are excited to welcome kids and volunteers to our new program year! For more information, be sure to check out the Family Email for more information, and ways to connect!



## Finance Report

### CENTRAL QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

ALL \$000

	JUNE YTD 2024	% OF 2024 BUDGET	JUNE YTD 2023
<b>INCOME</b>			
REGULAR GIVING	\$326	54%	\$328
TOTAL INCOME	\$381	55%	\$395
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
PERSONNEL	\$506	51%	\$459
BUILDING AND GROUNDS	\$95	48%	\$104
ALL OTHER	\$62	27%	\$73
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$663	47%	\$636
<b>SHORTFALL IN EXCESS OF BUDGETED 4% DRAW COVERED BY UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT</b>			
	\$(147)	33%	\$(104)
<b>VALUE OF UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT</b>			
	\$7,143		\$6,559
<b>MISSION DISBURSEMENTS FROM RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT</b>			
	\$264		\$300
<b>VALUE OF MISSION ENDOWMENT</b>			
	\$3,576		\$3,293
<b>TREASURER'S COMMENTS</b>			

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

It has been a busy summer at CPC Weekday Nursery School & Kindergarten!

### Summer Camp at CPC WNSK

We started the summer with three weeks of Summer camp at CPC. It is an opportunity to extend the school year. Summer camp was held for three weeks in June with almost 70 children joining for the first two weeks and 40 children the last week. We were happy to welcome so many children to experience summer camp at CPC!

The children traveled the world, visiting a different country each day through literature. Each week the children explored countries and their cultures using familiar stories. The children created a Passport that guided their travels. The children engaged in fun, hands-on learning experiences that immersed them in literature and connected to a country. They learned about the culture of each location and music and dance were incorporated into their daily lessons.

Summer camp provides our children an opportunity to continue to interact in their school community and engage in experiences that extend their learning and growth into the summer months.



### Summer Facilities Enhancements

We have been preparing the school to welcome 167 students for the 2024-25 school year on Tuesday, September 3rd. There have been several facilities projects to prepare the school for another school year. The stalls, vanities and sinks in two bathrooms were replaced. Painting of those bathrooms and two classrooms was done. The floors were waxed on the first floor and carpets were replaced in three classrooms and the other classroom carpets and rugs were professionally cleaned. Additional sidewalk was added along the drive to ensure the safety of our children exiting



and entering their vehicles in the car line.

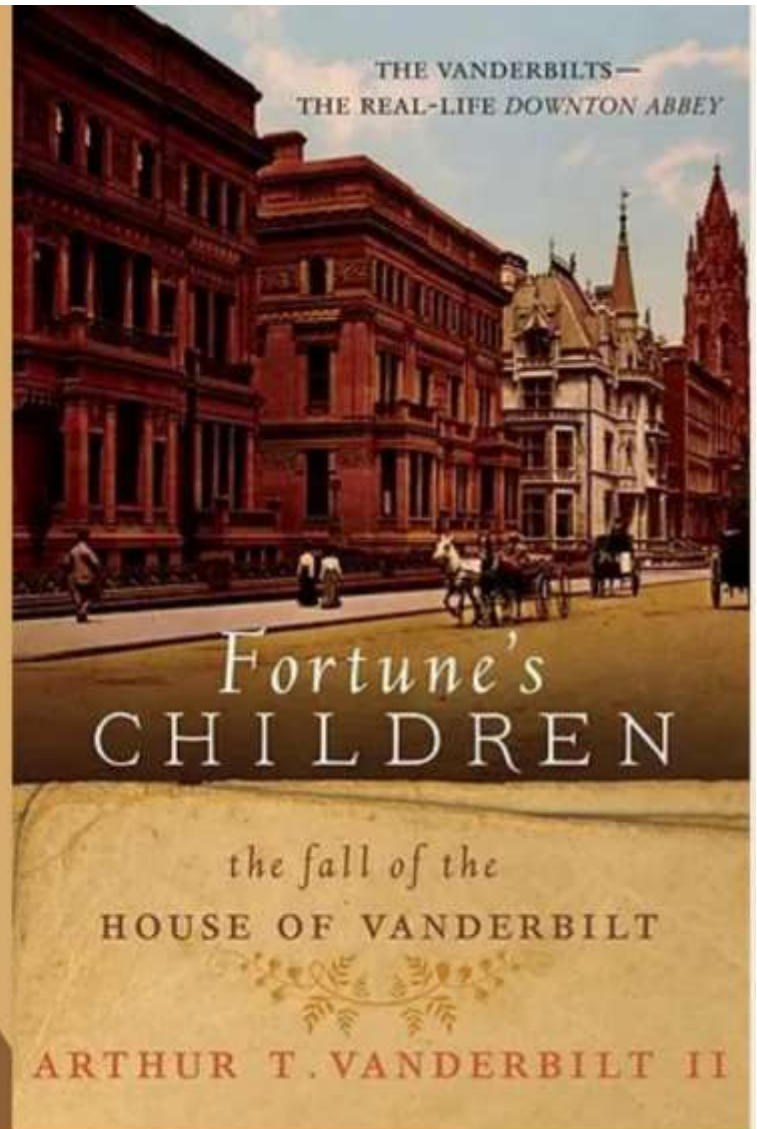
We are creating a safe, clean environment for the children to learn, grow and thrive in the care of the nurturing teachers in the upcoming school year. Thank you to **the school's Advisory Board** for supporting these projects and the Parent Organization for donating funds for these facilities projects.

Rachel Diekman  
CPC WNSK Director



# Book Talk with Arthur Vanderbilt II

Sept  
20



## Author Visit

Arthur T. Vanderbilt II, Central Presbyterian Church member, will discuss his book on September 20 at 7:30 p.m.

### The details:

- In the Church Fellowship Room
- Enter via the glass doors that face Elm Street
- Open to the public
- Hosted by the Central Book Club
- Free

Central Presbyterian Church, 70 Maple Street, Summit, NJ



70 Maple Street  
Summit, NJ 07901

Return Service Requested



## THE KEY

Fall 2024

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 will  
be live streamed to our YouTube channel.*