

The KEY

A Publication of Central Presbyterian Church
Summit, NJ

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Fall 2025

Dear Central Presbyterian Church,

I am looking forward to meeting each of you and I am excited to be with you and to have the opportunity to serve God with you.

My family is thrilled to be joining your church, living in your community and for our children to be attending the schools that your children are attending or once attended. We are enthusiastic about our future together as we grow together, share life together, and as we care for our neighbors and break bread together.



Churches are what I would call the remainder of “the village.” In many places throughout our world and our country, people have lost the sense of “the village,” and they have become isolated and alone with less sense of community. Many people have moved from where they grew up in search of jobs and so they have left their families and their original village behind. They live in places where their families don’t and so sometimes struggle to find new people to call family. Over the years we have put fences up around our yards and, as time has progressed, it hasn’t always been easy for people to find a village to plug into and so that is where church can be of such importance.

At churches, people of every age can come together to worship God and serve God. At church, people of every age can gather in community, fellowship, and friendship. Church is the center of “the village,” and that is exactly what Central is. Central is to be an extension of our homes. It is to be a place where we feel at home and where we know we are cared for and where we are loved by God and by others. It is also to be a place that we share with others by inviting them into the fold and making them feel at home and feel like they are a part of our family, God’s family.

Where else can you enter a room where people from one month old to over 90 years old can spend time together, caring for one another, sharing food together and stories together? This is that place and we look forward to listening to what the Spirit has in store for Central Church as we grow together.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Adam Gorman

How to Worship with Central

Central is worshipping in-person Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary (effective Sept 7). WAVE contemporary worship will meet on September 7 & 21, October 5 & 19, and November 2 & 16 at 5:00 p.m.

In addition, watch us live on Summit's **Hometowne TV**, Verizon Fios channel 33, and Comcast channel 36, or live streamed on our YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/@centralpresbyterian/streams> at 10:00 a.m. Sundays September through June.

Website:

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

Worship Schedule

Worship returns to the Sanctuary at 10:00 a.m. effective September 7. Broadcasting and live streaming will also resume that day. Pastor Deborah Huggins will preach.

Pastor Adam Gorman will take the pulpit on Rally Day, September 14, at 10:00 a.m. The Motet Choir returns from summer hiatus, also.

WAVE Worship

WAVE, Central's contemporary worship service, will meet at 5:00 p.m. on the following Sundays in the auditorium: September 7 & 21; October 5 & 19; November 2 & 16; December 7 & 21

Childcare is provided, and a free supper will be shared. Come check out why this service keeps growing!

PNC Update

On August 7, members of the Pastor Nominating Committee; Noni MacPherson, Jessica Mills, and Bill Anderson, as well as Rev. Adam Gorman, met with the Presbytery Commission on Ministry to certify the call. In that meeting, Rev. Gorman reviewed his statement of faith and the PNC members talked about the comprehensive process guided by the Holy Spirit. We highlighted

his diverse background, substantial organizational experience, collaborative leadership style, and deep spirituality. Rev. Gorman is a relationship builder who will build on our strengths. Rev. Greg Horn, the Presbytery representative on the PNC, advised us early on to "find someone who will fall in love with your church". We are grateful to have found Rev. Gorman.

He will start the position on September 2, with his first sermon to be preached on Rally Day, September 14. An installation service for him will be organized by the Presbytery this fall. The date has yet to be determined.

Again, the PNC thanks you for your prayers throughout this journey.

Pastor Robin Farewell

“Sooooo, how is Summit?” I’ve been asked on more than one occasion since my arrival. My answer has been, “I’ve never been with a more encouraging church.” You are quick to praise, and you may take that for granted about yourselves, but I certainly have not. My short tenure with you has been delightful, and I am grateful to the staff, the personnel committee, and the hospitality of the congregation-at-large. I am so glad that I was able to provide some stability over the summer and get to experience CPC. Your music program, both in Sunday morning and the WAVE services are top-notch. I doubt I will ever experience better. Your staff are all very capable, committed, and able to talk faith as well as accomplish their responsibilities. They

are a blessing to this community. It has been a treat getting to interact with each of them.

As my parting is a little bittersweet for the brevity of time, I must confess that I will not miss the commute: Route 287 to Route 24 and back are the worst. I highly recommend scooting up John F. Kennedy Parkway through Livingston and take Route 280 if you’re going north during rush hour. It will save you a lot of time in prayer.

It looks like I’ll be serving a church much closer to home this time. I don’t think it will be official until after I leave so I will defer announcing the location. Come September, I’ll take a couple weeks off to go see my folks again up in



Vermont, and, of course, commune with my garden as much as possible.

CPC will be in my prayers as you live into your mission statement together with Pastor Adam: Engage! Equip! Extend! Together, I trust, God will accomplish great things in and through you.

God bless you always!

-Pastor Robin

Central Scholarship Winners

Three of our graduates have been awarded scholarships from Central Church for their college studies. Congratulations and best wishes at school!

Kate Horton- *Francis Brown Beattie CPC Service Award and Jeanette Thatcher Christian Service Award*

Lydia Moore- *Laura C. Binder Central Presbyterian Church Service Award and Dorothy Tawney Christian Service Award*

Max Hendrix- *Greer Scholar-Athlete Award and Central Presbyterian Church Leadership Award*

Rally Day



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RALLY DAY

Welcome to the kick-off of a new program year at Central Church! Celebrate the first day of Sunday School, Pastor Adam Gorman's first day at our pulpit, and the return of the Motet Choir.

- ✓ Bouncy House
- ✓ Picnic Lunch
- Games ✓
- Balloon Artist & Face Painting ✓

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025
FOLLOWING WORSHIP

☎ 908-273-0441

www.centralpres.org 🌐

Music Ministry

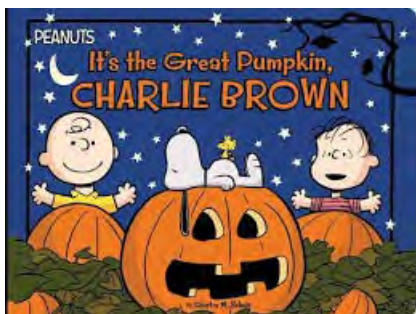
Pipe Organ Spectacular

Celebrate the upgrade of our pipe organ on Sunday, September 21 at 3:00 p.m. at a concert featuring world-class local organists.



Harvest Fest Concert

As part of Central's Harvest Fest on Sunday, October 26, a showing of the movie, *It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*, live-scored by Charity Wicks, piano and Andy Blanco, percussion, with the Children's Choir will be performed at 11:30 a.m.



A Bluegrass Concert

On November 16 at 3:00 p.m., Central will offer a concert featuring the Brooklyn Bluegrass Collective, and Motet Choir, and soloists! This concert is free and open to the public.



MUSIC GROUPS SCHEDULE

Starting
4
SEPTEMBER

PRAISE BAND

Thursdays at 6pm in the Music Studio

11
SEPTEMBER

VESPER BELLS

Thursdays at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary

11
SEPTEMBER

MOTET CHOIR

Thursdays at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary

17
SEPTEMBER

MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

Wednesdays at 5pm in the Music Studio

18
SEPTEMBER

HIGH SCHOOL GROUP

Thursdays at 7pm in the Music Studio

5
OCTOBER

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Sundays at 11am in the Music Studio

Summer Mission Project by Izzy Pfaff

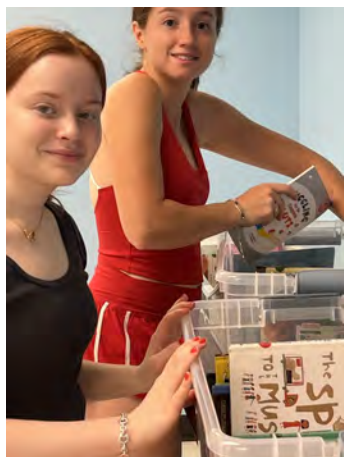
Each year Central Church completes a mission project, typically revolving around building or repairing houses in needy communities. While past years have been in a variety of places such as Puerto Rico, Maine, and Albuquerque, this year is something different. Central has brought our mission trip a little closer to home, working in Elizabethport to rebuild Elizabethport Presbyterian Center's (Eport) library after a disastrous flood caused by Hurricane Ida in 2021. During the time span of just one week and with a lot of hard work, the Eport library was completely transformed.

Central Church has been in partnership with Eport since 1969, offering support through tutoring, community outreach, and extensive volunteer work. The Eport Tutoring program, which occurs on Tuesday evenings during the school year, is run by Sarah Engle and Ellen Burchenal, under direction by Pastor Deborah Huggins. This im-



pactful program brings young students in need from Elizabeth and teen mentors from Central together. In fact, many of these young students come from Eport's preschool and summer camp, meaning that the new library's benefits extend to an already well-established community.

The mission trip began on Monday, June 23, and lasted throughout the week. Over the course of just a few days, many of Central's



members began their mission project by bringing large boxes full of donated books to Eport. Throughout the project, these books were labeled according to age group, alphabetized, and then placed on the newly built shelves. New statement pieces like an alphabet rug, a colorful



lamp, various stuffed animals, as well as wall lamps in fun shapes such as turtles and clouds, were brought in to make the library feel inviting. Meanwhile, Eport's older collection of books were sorted through and books that had substantial



Summer Mission Project, continued by Izzy Pfaff



water damage were thrown away. In just five short days, plenty of work was accomplished, but the impact it left on the volunteers was even more significant. Many of the helpers finished the week feeling touched and reconnected to their childhood. Intern volunteer Lydia Moore felt that the experience evoked past memories and that rediscovering childhood-favorite books was able to transport her back to that time. This

feeling was universal among the volunteers, to the extent that at the end of the week, Pastor Deborah had everyone write a dedication to future readers in their favorite book. This dedication summarized the week perfectly - not just as time spent rebuilding the library but as a meaningful experience that resonated with every volunteer.

After over 50 years of partnership, Central Church continues to make a difference for Eport, strengthening our relationship. The importance that this mission trip has, despite it being a short journey, is immense. Central has provided the students of Eport a chance to have a stronger education and develop a love of reading, something that not even a flood can take away.



Central will continue collecting children's books throughout the year to continuously replenish the Library. Donations may be placed in the bins at the top of the Glass Hallway ramp.

Thank you to everyone who helped with this project!



Youth Deacons by Izzy Pfaff

Central Church provides many wonderful opportunities for its youth, from volunteering to building lasting relationships. The Youth Deacon group embodies both, offering high school students leadership roles while expanding their faith throughout their high school career. Led by Pastor Deborah, Lisa Parkes, and Jennifer Gawronski, the group includes around twenty students who are actively involved by creating events that cater to the church community's needs.

One of their initiatives is a quarterly tech table held on Sundays after service (excluding summer months), where they assist senior members with any technological issues they may have. Another event is a monthly Parents Night Out, held in the church auditorium on Sunday evenings during the school year. Parents can drop off their children for an evening of movies, games, and pizza - all under the supervision of certain Youth Deacons. Both of these events have been well-received and will continue in the Fall.

The Youth Deacons also participate in ushering - usually done alongside their

parents - which occurs during every Sunday service. By handing out bulletins before service, collecting the offering during, and making sure the Sanctuary is clean after, the Youth Deacons play a crucial role in how the service operates each week.

To offer a better understanding of the vital role they play in the Central community, a select few Youth Deacons have shared why they chose to take on this role and what they most enjoy about it.

Suzanne Horton, 11th Grade:

1) I chose to be a youth deacon because I wanted to serve the church, and being a youth deacon seemed like a really good way to serve the community and to become more involved.

2) My favorite part of being a youth deacon is greeting people before the services.

Anna Kate Collins, 11th Grade:

1) I chose to be a youth deacon because Central Presbyterian Church has always been a huge part of my life. I've been coming here since I was born. I was baptized at CPC, went through Sunday School, and was confirmed here about a year ago in the Spring of '24. This church has shaped who I am, not just in my faith, but in my values and how I see the world. Becoming a youth deacon felt like the natural next step in continuing that journey and giving back to a community that's given me so much.

2) My favorite part of being a youth deacon is feeling like I can make a real difference in a place that means so much to me. Whether it's helping with services, building



Youth Deacons, continued



friendships with fellow deacons, or just being there to support others in the church, I love that I get to play an active role. It's also been really meaningful to connect with other deacons and leaders in the church, as well as growing in my faith alongside them.

Catherine Huggins, 12th Grade:

1) I chose to be a youth deacon to be more involved in Central and to learn more about how the church works.

2) My favorite part of being a youth deacon is learning about how many decisions and people go into how the church is run.

Brady Parkes, 12th Grade:

1) After completing confirmation, I chose to become a youth deacon to

continue staying involved with the church and community.

2) My favorite part of being a youth deacon is finding new ways to help serve and support our community, such as the creation of the tech table.

Sarah Flaim, 12th Grade:

1) I chose to become a youth deacon because I've always cherished being a part of the community and wanted to deepen my involvement in the church. Central Presbyterian Church has been a constant presence in my life, and I finally feel ready to return the favor and contribute to the positive impact it has had on me.

2) One of my favorite aspects of being a deacon is greeting everyone in the morning and spreading positivity and uplifting energy throughout the day.

Izzy Pfaff, a Youth Deacon and Children's Ministry volunteer, has written two articles for this edition of the KEY. Izzy is a rising junior at Summit High School, has been at Central for the majority of her life, and was confirmed in 2024. She is considering studying Communications in college.



The Youth Deacons are an important aspect of the church. By ushering, as well as the many initiatives they have created, they certainly add to Central. Through the many opportunities that have been provided to them and the relationships that have been built, each youth deacon is able to take away a sense of responsibility and belonging in the church.



SEEKING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO TUTOR

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SUMMIT
with THE ELIZABETHPORT PRESBYTERIAN CENTER
INVITES HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO HELP IN TUTORING ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
1st-8th GRADE WITH MATH AND ENGLISH.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR STUDENTS TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO THE PROGRAM
TUESDAY EVENINGS FROM 6:45-8:15pm FROM OCTOBER 7, 2025 TO March 31, 2026

WE ARE HOSTING MANDATORY ORIENTATIONS AND SIGN UPS
SEPTEMBER 17th or 18th from 7-8pm
PLEASE COME ONE NIGHT ONLY!

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
AUDITORIUM
70 MAPLE STREET
SUMMIT, NJ
Please use the entrance on ELM STREET at the
DOUBLE GLASS DOORS

CONTACT:
SARAH ENGLE
908-884-7920

commUNITY Service at Central

Service opportunities for
middle schoolers!
2025



Middle school students are
invited to a fun service
night on **Wednesdays at
5:30pm on 10/1, 11/12, and
12/3**, at Central
Presbyterian Church, 70
Maple Street in Summit,
NJ. Earn service hours,
have fun with friends, and
serve the community!



¡SE HABLA
ESPAÑOL!

More information:

DHuggins@centralpres.org
Sign up here:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044ba8a929a5ff2-cpcyouth>



Central Presbyterian Church

Bilingual BOOK DRIVE

for Eport Preschool Library

HERE IS A QUICK NEW WAY TO DONATE
VIA OUR AMAZON WISH LIST:

Thank you to everyone who has been
donating children books for the Elizabethport
preschool library! We will continue to accept
new and gently used children's books
throughout the year.

THANK YOU!

Toddler Time

Learn through play

WEDNESDAYS
9:30AM

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Toddler Time offers play-based
experiences through storytime, songs,
crafts, games, and free play to foster
social interaction, creative innovation
and joy. Classes are co-created by
local parents and community
members who specialize in child and
language development. Each child
must be accompanied by a
parent/caregiver.

Classes will begin on September 10 and
run through December 10. Registration is
encouraged please utilize the QR code.

Central Presbyterian Church
70 Maple Street, Summit, NJ

For more information contact:
Becky Gilbert - BeckyL915@yahoo.com



CLASSES ARE
FREE AND
OPEN TO ALL

Spirituality Corner by Pam Robertson: A Rule of Life

A reading from *Soul Feast*, by Marjorie Thompson:

Certain kinds of plants need support in order to grow properly. Tomatoes need stakes, and beans must attach themselves to suspended strings...

Without support, these plants would collapse in a heap on the ground. Their blossoms would not have the space and sun they need to flourish, and their fruits would rot in contact with the soil. We would be unable to enjoy their beauty and sustenance. When it comes to spiritual growth, human beings are much like these plants.

We need structure and support. Otherwise... the fruit of the Spirit in us gets tangled and is susceptible to corruption... We need structure in order to have enough space, air, and light to flourish. Structure gives us the freedom to grow as we are meant to. There is a name in Christian tradition for the kind of structure that supports our spiritual growth. It is called a rule of life. A rule of life is a pattern of spiritual disciplines that provides structure and direction for growth in holi-

*ness... It is meant to help us establish a rhythm of daily living, a basic order within which new freedoms can grow. (Reprinted from *Soul Feast: An Invitation to the Christian Spiritual Life* by Marjorie J. Thompson. Copyright 1997.)*

Author Joseph D. Driskill in his book, *Protestant Spiritual Exercises*, writes: *A Rule of Life is a list of practices and activities used to express one's faithfulness to God and to nurture one's spiritual life. It might be helpful to think of rules as guidelines for ordering daily life. Creating a personal Rule of Life promotes spiritual development by increasing our awareness of the many things we do to nurture our spirits. It helps us to evaluate our spiritual practices and, assess the nature of our personal commitment, and claim the often unrecognized spiritual significance of many of our daily activities.*

Creating a personal Rule of Life also allows one to look seriously at the practices and events that open one



to life's deeper levels of meaning. People seeking growth need to know what they already do well.

Be on the lookout this fall for a workshop by Pam Robertson for making your own Rule of Life!



**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**



HARVEST FEST



October 26

ENJOY FREE FAMILY-FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES

**70 MAPLE ST
SUMMIT, NJ
STARTING AT 10AM**



**PUMPKIN HUNT, BRUNCH, GAMES, AND A
SHOWING OF *IT'S THE GREAT PUMPKIN*,
CHARLIE BROWN - SCORED LIVE, WITH A
PERFORMANCE BY THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

908-273-0441

centralpres.org

Photo Gallery



Worship in the Garden



Children at WAVE joining in on the last song



Summer WAVE



Community Camp—VBS



Children and Youth

AfterCamps

It's hard to believe that this year we celebrated our eight year of theater camp, our 6th year in Sports Camp, and our 4th year in cooking camp! We are so grateful to our amazing youth leaders and their mentors!



CommUNITY VBS

Central opened our doors to an amazing community of children, youth, and adults for our 11th commUNITY VBS!



We had so much fun going on a "road trip" with God, singing songs, and learning dances, having fun in science, playing games, doing crafts, and learning Bible stories. We even had a special appearance from Wallie and from Ellie- our adorable dog co-pilots. The kids finished the week by packing lunches and hygiene kits for Bridges, and we got to hear about the vital ministry at SHIP as well.

Fall Programming

This fall we are so excited to welcome Pastor Adam as our new head of staff! We will be welcoming him into the pulpit for the first time



on Rally Day- our traditional kick off to the fall program year. This year we will enjoy a picnic, bouncy houses, special balloons, face painting and lawn games. If you or middle or high school child would like to sign up to help, please [volunteer here](#).

Sunday School Training Day

We will kick off our church year with a training day for all Sunday School teachers, assistants, chaperones, leaders and staff. We will go over our safe church policies, tour our learning spaces, review safety plans including alerts, door procedures, and fire procedures. We will even have time for fellowship and delicious snacks. 8:45-9:45 9/7. We encourage all parents to participate in Sunday School as a helper, a sub, or a regular teacher. It's a great way to share faith with your kids- and lots of fun.



Children and Youth, continued

Confirmation Class

Confirmation class is kicking off this fall with our orientation for parents and confirmands on 9/7 at 11:00. starting in September. At Central we welcome all 9th grade and older youth into the class. All confirmands have a mentor for the year, and mentors and confirmands complete projects and assignments together. It's a wonderful year of growth in faith, in service to the church and connection to the larger community. Please speak to Pastor Deborah for more details. Email link

3rd Grade Bibles

One of our favorite traditions is welcoming our 3rd graders and up to the communion table, and presenting them with a Bible. As children grow and learn, we love to acknowledge that they are growing up- we hope that you will [sign up](#) for the workshop, for a Bible, or for both! Open to all children third grade and older. Workshop: September 25: 11:00 a.m. -12:30 p.m. Worship: October 5 at 10:00 a.m.

Eport Tutoring

We are celebrating our 58th season of tutoring on Tuesday nights at Central church this year, and we would love to invite our high school students to participate. Contact Sarah Engle at 908-884-7920 to sign up.



Youth Deacons

Our Youth Deacons are especially invited to attend the meeting on September 15 at 7:30 p.m. to plan the calendar or events for the fall. Please be sure that Mrs. Flaim has any updates to your contact information, and be sure to check the text chain for updates.



Service at Central

We will be kicking off our Middle School Youth Service Program- commUNITY Service at Central on 10/1 at 5:30. After we pack supplies for Bridges, we will enjoy pizza and games. [Sign up here.](#)



Middle School Music

Right after commUNITY Service at Central on October 1, Middle Schoolers are invited to stay to play drums, sing, and be a part of crashing Giants, our Middle School Music ministry. Everyone is welcome- it's a ton of fun! Email Adam at AGilbert@centralpres.org to register.

Financial Report

CENTRAL QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

ALL \$000

	JUNE YTD 2025	% OF 2025 BUDGET	JUNE YTD 2024
INCOME			
REGULAR GIVING	\$372	62%	\$326
TOTAL INCOME	\$428	61%	\$381
EXPENSES			
PERSONNEL	\$530	51%	\$506
BUILDING AND GROUNDS	\$123	47%	\$95
ALL OTHER	\$62	22%	\$62
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$716	45%	\$663
SHORTFALL IN EXCESS OF BUDGETED 4% DRAW COVERED BY UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT	\$(151)	25%	\$(154)
VALUE OF UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT	\$7,326		\$7,143
MISSION DISBURSEMENTS FROM RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT	\$316		\$264
VALUE OF MISSION ENDOWMENT	\$3,587		\$3,576

TREASURER'S COMMENTS

Total income is better than plan through the second 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 through the first half of the year.

CPC Weekday Nursery School and Kindergarten

As summer winds down, we begin to make preparations for a new school year. This year we will welcome 165 students to our classrooms. We anticipate a smooth transition from the relaxed days of summer to the structured rhythm of the school year. The start of a new school year brings a flurry of activity for children, their parents and teachers.

Although the children are not in attendance in the summer months, the school is busy with many building updates and preparations, like painting of hallways, doors and classrooms, vanity and sink replacement, floor and carpet cleaning, among the many summer maintenance items. This summer our playground is getting a refresh with a new sun shade over the sandbox that is replacing a damaged shade, and a new rubber surface for all the running feet that we welcome in September. We are excited to see the chil-

dren enjoying the playground again in just a few weeks!

The teachers have begun trickling back into the school building to prepare classes for the year ahead. They are preparing the learning environment where play leads to social, emotional, physical and cognitive growth and development. Play is the work of children and how learning happens in early childhood. The classrooms are designed for purposeful play—where children learn through play experiences.

We are looking forward to welcoming the children and their families back to school the first week of September.

CPC Weekday Nursery School
Rachel Diekman
CPC WNSK Director





70 Maple Street
Summit, NJ 07901

Return Service Requested



THE KEY

Fall 2025

The publication of
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
centralpres.org
Editor: Jeanne Thiemann

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Sundays

*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.*