

The KEY

A Publication of Central Presbyterian Church
Summit, NJ

Inside this issue:

WAVE	2
Holy Week	2
Ash Wednesday	3
Annual Meeting	3
Pancake Brunch	3
Living Nativity	4
Children's Bibles	4
Lent Book Study	5
Key to the Past	6
Book Donations	7
Mission Spotlight	8
Musical Lent Jour-	9
Sr. Lunch Bunch	9
Photo Gallery	10
Children & Youth	12
Activities	14
WDNSK	15

Lent 2026

Dear Central Presbyterian Church,

On February 18th, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Lent is a time of refocusing ourselves on God. It is a time of focusing on prayer, fasting, living simply and moving closer to God. During this season of Lent, we will share in the Lord's Supper and remember many stories of Jesus' life as He headed toward the cross and to His resurrection.



Lent is a time to repent, to turn - or return - to God, and to refocus oneself on God. There are many ways that one can do this and picking a Lenten discipline, or Lenten practice, is one way. Lenten disciplines involve fasting from something or adding something to your life that has meaning and significance. It means giving something of yourself in a way that brings you closer to God. Lenten disciplines or practices also involve prayer, worship, devotionals, and intentionally reading the Bible in your daily life.

This year at Central Presbyterian Church, our choir will be working on a special Lenten project culminating on Maundy Thursday and we hope you can join us for this wonderful service. I was told once that you can't have Easter without going through the cross and a special way to do that this year is with a powerful and moving Maundy Thursday Tenebrae service. It will be on Thursday, April 2, at 7:00 p.m.

Some other ideas for Lenten practices to do at home are: fast from unkind words, add a letter writing time, fast from meanness, add daily acts of forgiveness, say grace at the dinner table every night, read scripture together, start an intentional prayer time, take a break from Social Media, cultivate a life of gratitude, etc.

I hope you will join us on Sundays for worship as we head through Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and into Easter together.

Sincerely,
Rev. Gorman

How to Worship with Central

Central is worshipping in-person Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. WAVE contemporary worship will meet on second and fourth Sundays 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.

WAVE Worship

WAVE, Central's contemporary worship service, will meet at 5:00 p.m. on the following Sundays in the auditorium:

February 22
March 8 & 22
April 12 & 26

The Praise Band will supply live music, and a supper will be shared. Childcare is provided during the service.



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, March 29, at 10:00 a.m.:

Palm Sunday commemorates Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, marking the start of Holy Week. Crowds welcomed him by laying palm branches and cloaks on the road, signaling his status as a king, while his arrival on a donkey symbolizes humility and peace. Palms will be distributed in worship. A Palm Sunday Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt follows.



Maundy Thursday, April 2 at 7:00 p.m.:

The Lent Choir will provide music for this Tenebrae service. "Tenebrae" is Latin for "darkness" or "shadows," and the service commemorates the passion, death, and burial of Jesus.

Easter Sunday, April 5, at 10:00 a.m.:

Celebrate our risen Lord with a festival service in the Sanctuary. The Motet Choir, soloists, and guest musicians will fill the room with music, while Pastor Adam Gorman delivers the Easter sermon.

Ash Wednesday Worship & Disposition of Ashes: February 18

An Ash Wednesday service and disposition of ashes will take place in the Chapel at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 18. Classical guitarist Carlos Cuestas will supply music, and Pam Robertson and Pastor Deborah Huggins will lead worship.



Annual Meeting of the Congregation: February 22, 2026

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Central Presbyterian Church of Summit, New Jersey will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following the 10:00 a.m. Service of Worship. The business agenda will begin at approximately 11:05 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to receive the 2025 reports of Pastors, Staff, and Team Leaders; receive and comment upon the 2026 Operating Budget; act upon the recommendations of the Session for the 2026 Terms of Call for Pastors Gorman and Huggins; and hear any other business brought before the Congregation.

Reverend Adam D. Gorman
Moderator

Dave Bomgaars
Clerk of Session

Pancake Brunch: February 22

We are planning our annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, February 22nd. It will be held in the auditorium following the 10:00 a.m. service. We'll have pancakes (blueberry, plain and chocolate chip), sausages and fellowship! AND we'll again be serenaded by a Summit High band. Don't miss it! The event is free - no reservations necessary - but we'll be collecting a free will offering to benefit the mission trip.



Living Nativity

The 2025 Living Nativity on Saturday, December 13, was a huge success! We had 50 children and adults in costume on the Maple Street lawn and they were joined by 2 piglets, rabbits, a llama, 3 donkeys, a small cow and 9 goats and sheep. Talk about a menagerie!! The show was enjoyed by many in our community and we were grateful that the snow held off until the animals (and people) were safely back home.

A huge shout out to Becky Gilbert for organizing our return to indoor crafts and live music from the Praise Band. The auditorium was rocking and was literally standing

room only. Everyone loved being able to warm up with cookies and cocoa inside after viewing the Live Nativity outside.

(more photos on the Gallery page)



Looking for Children's Bibles

We are hoping to add Children's Bibles to the pews at our church and are looking for **50 Children's Bibles** to make this possible.

New or **gently used** Children's Bibles are welcome. If you have one you would be willing to donate—or would like to purchase one for this purpose—we would be deeply grateful. Our hope is that these Bibles will help children feel welcomed, included, and engaged in worship. Thank you for helping us nurture faith in the lives of our young people.

If you don't have a gently used Bible at home, but you would like to share God's word with the Children of Central, feel free to purchase one here: <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/owner-view/3UGZKV7BMANFI>

Lent Book Study

Join Pam Robertson for a book study, *Every Thought Captive: How Renewing Your Mind Can Change Your Life*, a book and RightNow Media study by Pastor Kyle Idleman.

The group meets at noon on Wednesdays during Lent. Meet in the fellowship room. Bring a copy of the book and a bagged lunch!

About the book...

Every Thought Captive: Calm the Mental Chaos That Keeps You Stuck, Drains Your Hope, and Holds You Back

Discover the biblical, neurological, and emotional keys to transforming destructive patterns of thinking into a renewed mind—one thought at a time.

Whether we wrestle with anxiety, harmful thoughts about ourselves, or mental spirals that hold us back from spiritual growth and healthy relationships, many of us wish we could control our thoughts rather than let them control us.

As the senior pastor of one of the largest churches in America, bestselling author Kyle Idleman has seen the power of right thinking

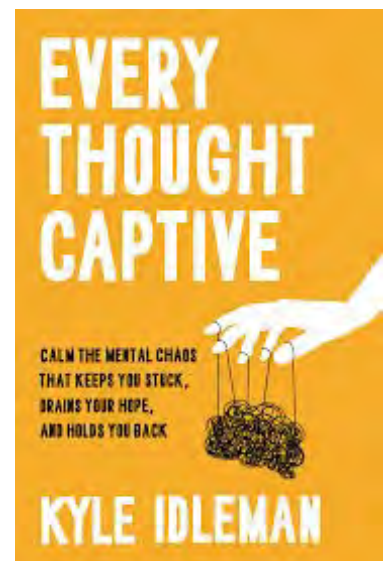


transform lives, including his own. In *Every Thought Captive*, Kyle points us to the tools we need to get our thoughts into submission so we can live a fuller and more joy-filled life. If you feel frustrated and discouraged in your battle to take control of your thoughts, this biblically rich, practical book will help you:

- Learn to identify the five thinking patterns that sabotage your life and relationship with God
- Encourage your brain's neural network to develop new ways of thinking that are consistent with your values
- Start getting "unstuck" immediately as you implement simple but profound practices like "Win the Morning" and "Say It Out Loud"

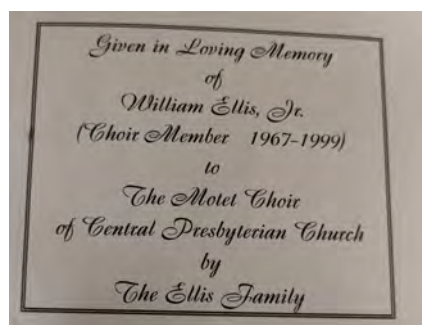
- Understand what transformed thinking looks like in the unique context of your life

What you think about creates your attitudes, governs your emotions, determines your behavior, shapes your relationships, and ultimately defines your life. But armed with God's wisdom and fresh truth about brain health, you can take control over your thoughts and embrace the full and flourishing life you long for.



The KEY to the Past: William Ellis, Jr. by Linda Taylor

Every year during the Christmas season, the Motet Choir sings selections from Handel's most glorious masterpiece "The Messiah." When you open the score, there is a Dedication Page saying that these copies were given in Loving Memory of William Ellis, Jr. (Choir Member 1967-1999).



I had the privilege of singing with Bill in the late 80's and 90's and have happy memories of Choir parties and European tours where we shared many group adventures and hysterical meals where we could not read the menus!



I reached out to my friend Noel Werner, Central's Minister of Music from 1995 to 2006, and received the following letter from him to share:

"I remember Bill Ellis as always having a smile and taking great joy in singing with the Choir, even in the face of the difficulties he faced in life. He was so proud when Bill Dembaugh would invite him to sing duets with him during the summer services, and his diligent preparation paid off with a pure tenor tone. Bill was a joy to have along on the choir tours in the 90's, and I know that experience meant the world to him. I remember his exclamation of "Oh No" the night his heart failed him in choir rehearsal in the Sanctuary, Pat Haddon and Mary Moser administering CPR, and his choir family gathering to pray as the EMTs took him to Overlook. He went to heaven that night singing, sent



from the arms of his church family into the arms of God.

I'm grateful to have had this chance to remember his smile and his voice and see some of the photos of his choir tour experiences and to recall the beauty of the Central Church Congregation"

Noel Werner, Director of Music, Nassau Presbyterian Church, Princeton, NJ



Mission Project



DONATE YOUR BOOKS!

BOOKSMILES BOOK COLLECTION EVENT!

Our goal: Fill the truck with 5,000 books!

We will be collecting used books from March 1st leading up to the BookSmiles Fill-The-Truck Event that will be held on

March 8, 2026 10:30-12:30

Park in the Elm St. lot and put your books in the truck.

Buying books at the Book Fair? Drop off your gently used books on your way to the sale. The collection bins are in the Glass Hallway between 7:30am-3pm.



BookSmiles will accept ALL used books, for both children and adults. We also accept antiquarian books, encyclopedias, text books, cookbooks, library discards, magazines, and newspapers.

Downsizing? Decluttering? We accept large estate library donations! Contact Carter@booksmiles.org for info.

Scan the QR code to visit our website to learn more about our mission.



BookSmiles is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to give new life to books and distribute them to promote childhood literacy, inspire readers, support educators, and strengthen communities.



Mission Spotlight: Lena Willis Fund

The Mission Endowment Fund, more commonly known as the Lena Willis Fund, was established in 1994 through a \$3-million gift from long-time members Lena and Edward Willis. In Lena's will, she drew special attention to the needs of the homeless in New Jersey. In her honor, the Fund gives special attention to organizations that sponsor programs to alleviate the causes and effects of homelessness.

From inception through 2025, the Fund has contributed approximately \$7-million to numerous local, regional, and international organizations. In 2025 alone, the Fund supplied \$482,044 in contributions.

Larger contributions in 2025 included:

Elizabethport Presbyterian Center \$45,000

Elizabethport Tutorial \$10,248

Bridges Outreach \$38,800

Family Promise \$40,000

PCUSA Disaster Relief \$20,000

Greater Life \$30,000

Institute of Music \$12,500

Homeless Solutions \$20,000

Restore Ministries \$35,000

Summit Helping Its People \$10,000

Summit area YMCA-Strong Kids \$11,050

Haiti Partners \$15,000

NJ Food Bank \$30,000

Empowering Kids Organization \$32,882

GRACE \$40,000

Friends of the Carpenter \$20,000

Mrs. Wilson's Treatment Center \$15,000

The Mission Endowment Fund is managed by the Mission Team, led by co-chairs Bill Anderson and Kevin Hill, with team members Mark Washburn, Lee Barnes, and Sebastian Mader. Pastor Adam Gorman is the Staff Liaison.



Lena and Edward Willis in 1978

Continued careful management of distributions from the Mission Endowment Fund has protected the principal balance with the current balance at \$3,750,376.41.

Take a Musical Lenten Journey!

Thursdays 6:30-7:30pm

February 19-March 26

During Lent, a special choir is forming, and we'd love to have you join us! We will devote the Thursdays in Lent to rehearsing, and the journey will culminate with our participation in the Maundy Thursday evening service on Thursday, April 2nd.

FREE childcare will be provided in the auditorium, so plan to drop off your kids, and while you rehearse, they will have fun learning music with Adam Gilbert, watching movies, and playing with friends!

No experience required!
Questions? Email Charity at
cwicks@centralpres.org



Senior Lunch Bunch

The Senior Lunch Bunch (SLB) meets monthly from September to May following the 10:00 a.m. Sunday service. Interesting programs are presented ranging from church activities to jobs to travels. Recent programs have included "Becoming a Commercial Airline Pilot", "Diving in Indonesia" and "Church Music". Before the programs, lunch is served. Lunches can be homemade or catered and are often ethnic. Recent lunches have included Chinese, French, and Swedish menus. The lunches are homemade or catered and are followed by sumptuous desserts generally made by the members using a favorite recipe.

The next **SLB meeting is March 1st** following the 10:00 worship service. The program will be "Animals of Kenya" presented by Elin Krhoun.

Photo Gallery



Central Christmas Party



Sanctuary Decorating



Children's Concert: The Nutcracker



Wreath Decorating Workshop

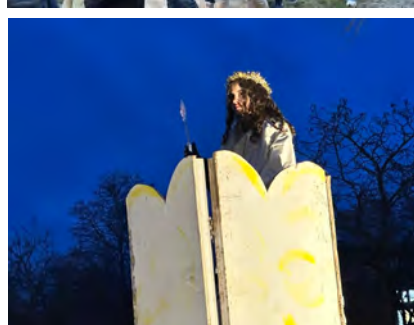
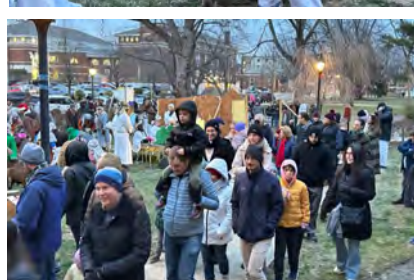


50+ Year Members



Rev. Gorman Installation service

Photo Gallery



Living Nativity



MLK Day of Service

Children and Youth

Thank You — Looking Back

On this beautiful winter day, sunshine is streaming through my window—and even though the groundhog may disagree, I see signs of God's renewal all around our community.

This winter has been a season of joy and commitment at Central. From special events like the Christmas Party and Winter Concerts, to beloved traditions such as the Living Nativity and Christmas Pageant, to acts of generosity and service through the Sharing Tree, food drives, and our Day of



Service, Central has been hard at work sharing God's love with our community. I cannot express enough gratitude to the many people who have offered their time, talent, and treasure in service to God's work among us. Thank you.



In addition to our Christmas celebrations, we have continued the regular work of nurture and service that sustains the life of the church year-round. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers, chaperones, program leaders, and to all of our children, youth, and families for your faithful participation in Sunday School, Confirmation, Service at Central, Youth Deacons, and the Elizabethport Tutorial. Your steady presence is at the heart of our discipleship with young people in our community.



As we look ahead to Lent, Palm Sunday, Easter, Confirmation, graduation, spring sports, and so many good moments in the life of our church and community, we pause to say thank you for your ministry with us.

Celebrate — Looking Forward

The days are growing longer, and the sunlight fills our homes—and our hearts—with hope and joy. Our early spring season kicked off last week with the Souper Bowl food drive and soup sale. Thank you all for supporting Wallace Chapel's new food bank and our mission trip to Alaska.

Our Middle School Youth Group continues to be a popular and joyful gathering for church and community youth. We meet monthly to serve our mission partners, and last month Family Promise requested our lasagna once again! Together we prepared six complete lasagna dinners—with garlic bread and brownies for dessert. It was wonderful to see our kitchen filled with kids experiencing the joy of serv-



Children and Youth, continued

ing God alongside friends. After cooking, they enjoyed making music in the band and sharing food and fellowship in the youth center.

Our next meeting is March 4—drop in anytime between 3–7 p.m.

Sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044BA8A929A5FF2-cpcyouth#/>

The youth at Central have kicked off mission trip fundraising season, and we



are looking forward to the annual Pancake Breakfast on February 22, when we will hear from our young people about the upcoming trip. Please continue to pray for our youth and for the people and communities we will serve in Alaska. If you or someone you know would like to join



the trip this summer, please sign up soon—we are down to the last couple of spots:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044BA8A929A5FF2-59752806-youth#/>

Our Confirmation class met last week to present their service projects to the church. As we enter our final unit on belief, the class is preparing for the Confirmation breakfast and service on May 3. Please continue to hold our confirmands and their mentors in your prayers.

Vacation Bible School registration is off to a wonderful start, with nearly 30 campers already signed up! If you are interested in participating this summer as a counselor, station leader, after-camp director, or camper, please sign up here:

<https://vbspro.events/p/89cc0e>

We look forward to the many ways we will worship God this spring—celebrating cherished traditions and serving our community with God's love and grace. Thank you for your steadfast and continued support of ministry with children and youth at Central.



Activities at Central

Central offers many regularly-scheduled opportunities for fellowship, study, and service. How many of the following have you tried?

Wednesday Scripture Study—9:30 a.m. in the Lounge led by Pastor Deborah. Examine upcoming scripture lessons in greater depth.

Circle for Women—All women are invited to join this group meeting for Bible study and spiritual development. All meetings are in the Lounge at 9:30 a.m. on the following Monday mornings: February 23, March 9 & 23, April 13 & 27, May 11

Friday Mahjong—9:30 a.m. in the Auditorium. Free to play, but reservations required. Sign up here: <https://www.jotform.com/form/252667489360065>

Toddler Time—9:30 a.m. on Wednesdays. This learn-through-play experience for toddlers and their caregivers is held in the auditorium. The program is free, but space is limited and registration is required through this link: <https://form.jotform.com/251963192416056>

Service at Central—First Wednesdays from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. A program for middle schoolers to drop in to perform service projects at Central, with a pizza supper.

Elizabethport Tutoring—Tuesdays at 6:45 p.m. Central's longest-running ministry (since 1969!) Students from Elizabethport and Summit are tutored by high school mentors in the auditorium each week, October through March. Adult volunteers needed. Contact Pastor Deborah Huggins at DHuggins@centralpres.org.

Music Opportunities:

Children's Choir—Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m.

Middle School Band—Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.

High School Band—Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

Vespers Bells—Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. (during Lent)

Lent Motet Choir—Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. (during Lent)

Praise Band—Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

CPC Weekday Nursery School and Kindergarten

Christmas is a special time, and we embrace the holiday, traditions, and meaning of Christmas at CPC Weekday Nursery School & Kindergarten.

All the children visited the Chapel to hear about the story of Christmas from Pastor Deborah Huggins.. The Kindergarteners used the Christmas story to write their own script to the annual Christmas Pageant, accompanied by musical performances that included the PreK 4's students. Our music teacher, Mrs. Susie Seum, coordinated the musical performance with the Pageant script.

The Preschool 3's classes held their first combined concert in the Sanctuary. The students sang, danced, and used jingle bells to perform three songs for their families before celebrating in their classrooms together.

Experiencing the holidays in the presence of children extends the

joy even further. We are honored to nurture these children that bring so much joy to the world!

Rachel Diekman
CPC WNSK Director





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Return Service Requested



THE KEY

Lent 2026

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.*