

The KEY

A Publication of Central Presbyterian Church
Summit, NJ

Spring/Summer 2026

Inside this issue:

WAVE	2
Pick-Up Choir	2
TV Volunteers	2
Confirmands	3
Spirituality Corner	4
Sacristy	6
Member Spotlight	7
Photo Gallery	8
Children & Youth	10
Volunteers List	12
Blood Drive	13
Finance	14
CPC School	15



Dear Central Church,

This past year has been a great one in the life of Central Presbyterian Church, filled with many blessings. We have seen worship attendance and Sunday school participation grow. During worship services little ones have had the opportunity to light the Christ Candle, high schoolers have read scripture, new members have been added to our church family, and babies and young ones have been baptized. There have been countless seen and unseen blessings happening all around us and for that we celebrate.



We celebrate the life of a vibrant church community that extends well beyond these walls.

With those celebrations, we celebrate Pastor Deborah Huggins and her family as they move on to the next chapter of their lives. We celebrate all that they have done as a part of this church family and we rejoice with them for their future as they move back to New Mexico where their life together began and where Deborah's call to ministry was encouraged. It is a bittersweet moment as we are sad to say good bye, as well as joyful for them in their future endeavors.

Deborah will be with us through this summer including leading the Mission Trip and VBS before her departure. In the meantime, we will find ways to celebrate her ministry with us here at Central. One of those ways will be with a party on June 7th. We will have a special worship service and Take Ten that day. We will begin collecting a purse to say thank you for eleven great years of ministry. We will also collect letters and photos from the congregation to send with her. (Send any letters and/or photos you wish to include to JThiemann@centralpres.org.) This will become a great keepsake for her to remember all the wonderful times she has shared with you here.

Let us celebrate the year that we've had, while continuing the momentum into the future, as we give Pastor Deborah an appropriate send off.

The peace of Christ be with us all,
Rev. Adam Gorman

How to Worship with Central

Central is worshipping in-person Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary through June. During July and August worship will be at 9:00 a.m. in the Cloister Garden (or Chapel if it rains). WAVE contemporary worship will meet on second and fourth Sundays at 5:00 p.m. outdoors or in the auditorium.

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 second and fourth Sundays of each month. This year, we will continue throughout the summer on those Sundays. The service will be outdoors when weather permits, or in the air-conditioned auditorium when we need to be more comfortable.



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

Summer Pick-Up Choir

Here is your chance to sing in the choir without a long-term commitment! On both June 21 and 28, Music Director Charity Wicks will lead a pick-up choir in morning worship. Those wishing to participate on either or both dates are invited to arrive at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary to learn a simple song or two to sing during the following worship service. No robes!

What I Really Want to Do is Direct...

Ever wanted to work in television? Juggle sound and cameras and live-action? Central produces a live television broadcast and live stream every Sunday, September through June, right from the HTTPV studio in the church basement. The Communications Team is seeking additional volunteers to work the cameras, sound board, and software that brings our worship services to those who cannot attend in person. No experience is necessary—we will train you! The broadcast crew starts at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings and ties up a few minutes after the service ends. You do not have to be available every Sunday—the schedule is flexible, especially when we have a full slate of volunteers. Anyone over the age of 14 is welcome. Please email Jeanne at JThiemann@centralpres.org to volunteer or ask questions. Thank you!



Welcome, Confirmands!

The Confirmation Class of 2026 wrote the following Statement of Faith:

We believe that God is everything. God is always there for us, the father, the creator.

We believe that Jesus is always with us. He is the son of God, he is our salvation, the one who sacrificed himself for us.

We believe that the Holy Spirit is mysterious and confusing and the part of our soul that belongs to God.

We believe that the church is home. The church is the place to feel God, to feel God's presence, to connect with God.

We believe that Church is community.

The seven students, Jack Cusick, Blakeley Diekman, Max Kimmel, Will Moore, Harper Plaushchinat, Sloane Pringle, and Tess Walden, recited the Statement of Faith at the Confirmation Breakfast on Sunday, May 3, 2026. They also presented their individual passion projects, and answered membership questions to become Central's newest members. The mentors and families of the Confirmands were guests at the Breakfast, along with members of Session.

The Confirmands were welcomed by the membership at the worship service following the Breakfast. Thank you to all the mentors, teachers, and leaders who worked with this fine group throughout the year.



Back Row: Jack Cusick, Max Kimmel, Will Moore
Front Row: Blakeley Diekman, Harper Plaushchinat, Tess Walden, Sloane Perkins

Spirituality Corner by Pam Robertson

As Jesus' disciples begged him to teach them to pray, we too long for instruction in prayer. Prayer that invites us into a living relationship with God. It makes sense then to include both our minds and bodies in prayer.

BODY PRAYERS

It is easy in our busy lives to begin to think that we "have" bodies rather than that we "are" bodies. All of our experience of God is filtered through some aspect of our bodies—usually involving our mind at some point. It makes perfect sense, then, to acknowledge and intentionally include our bodies in prayer.

Presbyterian theologian Craig Dykstra once observed that, **"you can know things on your knees that you can't know sitting in a chair."**

When we engage our bodies in prayer, we experience God in new ways. This is especially true for people who are what multiple-intelligences scholars call "body smart," possessing a lot of bodily-kinesthetic intelligence. But even if we are not body smart, we can know different things about God as we move in different ways.

As people who grew up with the benefits of the Enlightenment, in which **the mind was given priority**, it is not always as easy as the mystics suggest and allow our minds to sink deep into our body's center and pray with movement, senses, and breath.

If you are a head-oriented person, these BODY prayers that I will share with you may feel awkward to you at first. You may want to say, "But I'm very knowledgeable about movement." And that's okay, I felt awkward when I first learned more about this type of prayer too. And as you will learn these prayers are not designed to have you move in difficult or uncomfortable ways. All they do is call attention to the role of your body in communication with God. Forget about how you look or even how different these prayers are from your daily style of prayer.

Try to focus only on being in the presence of God and using your body in all the different ways we pray... thanksgiving, praise, supplication, silence, or lament. It is not uncommon for some people to reconnect with God in a powerful way as a result of body prayers.

I once met a woman who had grown disillusioned with pray-



er until she attended a retreat where she was taught some simple body prayers. What she needed was to feel communication with God—in a variety of muscles—not just in her brain. The purpose—as you begin to stretch, breathe, and walk your prayers, notice how your relationship with God stretches, breathes, and walks as well.

Let me introduce or re-introduce you to a few body prayers that you can try.

I. Breath Prayer In Jewish and Christian thought, breath is closely related to Spirit. The Hebrew word *ruach* means "breath," "spirit," or "wind," and we first encounter it in the Bible in Genesis 1:2 as the "wind from God swept over the face of the waters" as the earth was being formed. A breath prayer is one that moves in and out on the wind of your breath, as the Spirit of God intermingles with your own

Spirituality Corner, continued

spirit. It reminds us John 20:22 of the time the resurrected Jesus breathed on his disciples, saying, **“I am the beloved child of God”**

Breathing is one of the only things that we can do both consciously and unconsciously. As you breathe, your body, mind, and spirit are enlivened by God's Spirit. **Tip** It may take some time before you find this prayer soothing. Over time, your ability to focus on your breath will most likely increase. But even when you are struggling, know that God—who is Spirit is with you in the breath of the prayer.

2. Focusing Prayer How many times have you felt, deep within your gut, what you needed to do? There is no religious experience that is not filtered in some way through our bodies. When we say we feel a sense of God's presence, we are saying that something deep within our body is resonating with something Holy. Perhaps if I explain it this way.... "Jesus came to reconcile us to God, to show us how to live in the flesh as creatures. In Christ we are made new and whole, empowered to fulfill God's purposes in the flesh. So, as new creatures in Christ, we embrace our body's wisdom. One way to do that is to

practice this focusing prayer, for listening to places within our bodies that hurt physically, emotionally, or spiritually. The prayer involves some creative visualization and imagination, so relax and get ready for something completely different in prayer. **Ask your body to show you how healing would feel.** You may want to put your hand on that part of the body and send it warmth. Also, if you feel so moved, ask Jesus, God, or the Holy Spirit to help you care for this part of yourself. Gently end your conversation with the felt sense. Thank your body and its senses for being with you in this prayer. **Tip** As you use this prayer on a regular basis—and especially when you have a strong felt sense around an emotionally charged situation—you will find the gift within it. Perhaps you will begin to notice how incredibly knowing your body is, and you will learn to listen when it speaks, and long before it has to scream at you in pain.

3. Prayer Walk Mindful walking is a devotional practice in many religions. It is prayer in motion, walking calmly and confidently with an openness to God's revelation. The exercise: Simply begin the walk with only one intention—to experience God in

the walking. Express the intention to God and ask for God's grace along the walk. Ask God to use the walk to communicate something to you. Keep your senses open to any sight, sound, smell that you might experience—be open and accepting and just let it unfold.



4. Praying the Labyrinth

to walk a symbolic path that brings you closer to God. One of the more popular prayer walks for Christians today is the labyrinth. An ancient practice involving a winding path that leads ultimately to a center and then winds back out to the point where it began. —there are no dead ends and the path is symbolic of the journey inward towards God's illumination and then outward, grounded in God and empowered to act in the world.

Check out this link to find a labyrinth near you! <https://labyrinthlocator.org/>

-Pam Robertson, Pastoral Care

*Inspired by Teresa Blythe, author of *50 Ways To Pray*

The Sacristy and the Worship Team

On the first Sunday of each month, Central Presbyterian Church, along with many other Christian churches, celebrates Communion during morning worship. Bread and juice are served on silver trays, passed among the congregation by Elders. But where do these elements come from? Where are they prepared, and who prepares them?

At Central, the elements are prepared in a small room behind the Sanctuary Chancel called the Sacristy. This space is dedicated to worship preparation, and is filled with cabinets, counters, a sink, and a small refrigerator. Much effort has been spent recently to upgrade this space. The refrigerator is a new addition,

brought in to lessen the traffic in the church kitchen on Sunday mornings. Years of clutter has been cleaned out, and the room is slated to be painted this spring.

Central's Worship Team, which plans and executes our worship services, includes Scott Genualdi, Chair; Linda Taylor; Mike Moore; Debbie Crowell; Inge Gropp; and Charity Wicks as staff liaison. Debbie Crowell and Inge Gropp handle most of the Communion preparation activities, including shopping, cutting the bread, pouring the juice, and cleaning up after Communion is done.

Debbie says she is thankful for the generosity of the church for taking steps to make these preparations easi-



er with the upgrade of the Sacristy. Special thanks to Geraldo Rivera, our building manager, who coordinated the cleanout and purchase and installation of the new refrigerator.



Member Spotlight: Sebastian Mader

Although Sebastian Mader was raised Catholic in his homeland of Germany, he has found a spiritual home here at Central Presbyterian.

Seb grew up in Bavaria, and served in the German military for a year before attending law school. Following a practical clerkship in Berlin, he spent a short time in Hamburg, but never made the final step into practicing law. Seb had fallen in love with photography, and decided to pursue it as a career.

He began as an assistant to a photographer, learning the skills he would need to build a career. He moved to New York City on a tourist visa, and networked his way into a photography studio. His employer sponsored his visa, and Seb remained with him for five years before opening his own studio. Sebastian became a U.S. citizen in 2024.

During this time, Sebastian met and married Rebecca, a fashion producer in advertising and film, and a Presbyterian. He had avoided church since his teens, but when the couple moved to Summit in 2020, they began “church shopping,” seeking a comfort-



able fit for their small family. “At Central, the people were kind, but left space for us to explore. Other churches were overly attentive,” Sebastian explained. The couple appreciated the talents of the church music ministry, the dedication of many members, and the kindness and generosity of the congregation. They were especially drawn to Pastor Don Steele and his sermons, and became members at Central in 2021.

The Maders have two boys, Franz, 7, and Leopold, 5, who attends the CPC Weekday Nursery School.

Sebastian has become an elder serving on Session, and is the new leader of the

Alternative Worship Team, which oversees the WAVE worship services. He also serves as a member of the Mission Team.

During Lent this year, Seb joined the Lenten Choir, and enjoyed it. He hopes someday to have enough time in his schedule to join the Motet Choir.

Photo Gallery



Circle for Women learning about the organ



Welcoming the Confirmands into membership



Lent Story Time with our Preschool



Easter Worship



Palm Sunday

Photo Gallery



Pancake Brunch



Grounds Cleanup Days



Children and Youth

This Summer, Central will host children and youth from Summit and surrounding areas for a winter sports themed week of fun and faith. During commUNITY Vacation Bible School, we will welcome children from age 3 through highschool.

One Week, Two Camps

In the morning, campers come together for a traditional Bible School. We work hard to create a memorable week- with decorations, themed snacks, music and dancing to bring home five different bible stories to encourage our children and youth to brave and bold in their faith, focusing on all the things that children can do

with God's help.

In the afternoon each day, children can choose between our youth-led specialty camps. We have a sports camp, cooking camp, and theater camp for the kids to choose from. Youth from our church and community work with an adult leader to develop lessons and activities to share something that they love to do. In aftercamp, we are focused on the faith development of our young people as they share something that they love with community children. Along with Buechner, we believe that young people grow closer to God as they share their skills and gifts with the world.

Ways to Get Involved

We still have a few spots left for volunteers and kids to help to lead, and a few spots left for campers. Go ahead and [sign up here](#). You can come for a day, or the whole week. We are also looking for decorations to transform our space into a winter wonderland. We have two decorating days

planned for July, join us to transform the church. And most importantly, please pray for our children, youth, and adults. Pray for our safety, and pray for our faith as we seek to create a memorable experience for all.

Mission Trip to Alaska

Thank you all for your amazing support of our trip to Alaska. We continue to have record participation from the congregation for all of our fundraisers this year. Thank you for supporting the bake sale on Mother's Day, the Pancake Brunch, and the Soup Sale back in January. We have one more fundraiser coming up on Father's Day - we will give you a chance to support the purchase of tools and supplies after the 10:00 service.

Preparation for the Trip

We started our preparation for the trip by thinking about the ways that we do mission in partners with organizations and local leaders with parents, chaperones, and kids in February.

Coming up at the end of the month, our chaperones will come together for a leader's retreat. Leaders will learn from each other as they pre-

JULY 27-31

Summit commUNITY Camp
Friendship, Faith, and Fun
VBSPRO.EVENTS/P/88CCDE

8:30AM-NOON

REGISTER:

ACTIVITIES:

- STEAM
- GAMES
- STORIES

AFTER-CAMPS AVAILABLE NOON-4PM

THEATER COOKING SPORTS

REGISTER FOR AFTER-CAMP

<https://vbspro.events/p/219ac3>

CENTRAL MINISTRY CHILDREN'S

**CENTRAL CHURCH
70 MAPLE ST., SUMMIT**



Children and Youth, continued



pare to lead our kids.

In early June, we will be bringing our kids together for a retreat. In addition to working with tools, and basic safety, we will dive into why and how we do mission together, and how God shows up in all of it.

Ways to help

In addition to your amazing financial support, we ask that you pray for our trip. Please pray for our well-being, pray for our home owners and partners in Alaska, and please pray that for each of our leaders and kids will grow in faith.

THANK YOU!!!

Summer Sunday School

On 5/17 we focused on casting our cares on Jesus in our Does It Float lesson. This is our last regular Sunday School of the season. We will begin our summer program on 5/24. In Summer Sunday School, we invite kids to connect as they do crafts and activities. Kids love beading, origami, playdough and coloring as they build relationships with other kids and caregivers across ages. Summer Sunday School runs every Sunday until Rally Day.



Thank You to Our Volunteers!

For our annual appreciation service, we counted 83 vol-



unteers this year with children and youth - WOW! It truly takes a village to raise a child, and Central shows it's care for every child in our church and community. Thank you! Each year volunteers support long standing programs like Sunday School, confirmation, and Elizabethport Tutoring, brand new programs and events like Toddler Time, youth and adult leaders at Central have responded to God's call to love and nurture children in so many creative and beautiful ways. Thank you for all of the big and small ways that you have been a part of welcoming and nurturing Central's Kids. See the next page for a list of everyone who helped out this program year.



Children & Youth Volunteers 2025-2026

Bob Abernathy: Youth Deacons
 Shelley Barnes: Nursery
 Eliana Boyd: Special Events
 Ellen Burchenal: Eport
 Francie Cho: Confirmation, Special Events
 Jaime Cofer: Nursery, Mission Trip
 Jim Cofer: Mission Trip
 Carleigh Cofer: Eport
 Anna Kate Collins: Eport, Nursery
 Stacie Collins: Confirmation
 Mary Cummings: VBS
 Ashley Cusick: CFM Chair, Sunday School,
 Special Events
 John Cusick: Sunday School
 Jack Cusick: Nursery, Special Events
 Blakeley Diekman: Service at Central
 Rachel Diekman: Special Events
 Emily Dingle: Sunday School
 Griffin Dingle: VBS
 Sarah Engle: Eport
 Keira Fallon: Nursery
 Harley Febo: Nursery
 Brianne Finnegan: Sunday School, Special Events
 Sarah Flaim: Nursery
 Dave Fosgate: Confirmation
 Jennifer-Lauren Foy: Sunday School
 Connor Gawronski: VBS
 Jennifer Gawronski: Youth Deacons
 Charlotte Genualdi: Acolytes, Nursery
 Christine Germa: Sunday School
 Caroline Germa: Sunday School
 Becky Gilbert: Toddler Time, Sunday School
 Amanda Grainger: Youth Deacons, Confirmation
 Leah Griffith: VBS
 Timmy Henderson: Service at Central, Nursery
 Scott Hendrix: Sunday School, Confirmation
 Maddie Hendrix: Eport, Special Events
 Suzanne Horton: Nursery, VBS, Mission Trip
 Lauren Hudacek: Sunday School, Toddler Time,
 Special Events
 Jeff Huggins: Sunday School
 Bessie Huggins: Nursery, VBS
 Catherine Huggins: Nursery, VBS
 Fritz Huggins: Nursery, VBS
 Abby Jeffries: Nursery, VBS
 Anna Jeffries: Nursery, VBS
 Denise Jeffries: VBS
 Zoe Karelis: VBS
 Meredith Keiser: Sunday School
 Alicia Kilduff: Sunday School
 Jung Soo Kim: Sunday School
 Janine Kinzel: Sunday School
 Kendall Lee: Sunday School
 Sydney Lewis: Nursery, VBS
 Natalie Lind: Confirmation
 Jeff Lowman: VBS, Special Events
 Lee Anne Lowman: VBS, Special Events
 Seb Mader: Mission Trip
 Rebecca Mader: Sunday School
 Beth McCarter: Special Events
 Jessica Mills: Special Events
 Andrea Moore, Special Events, Children's Choir
 Lydia Moore: VBS, Nursery
 Danny Moore: VBS
 Amanda Newman: Sunday School
 Stephanie Parker: Sunday School
 Brady Parkes: Eport
 Lisa Parkes: Youth Deacons
 Anushka Paul: Sunday School
 Steven Peterson: Confirmation
 Ariane Pfaff: Special Events, Sunday School,
 Nursery, Service at Central
 Isabella Pfaff: Eport, Nursery
 Kayla Rivera: Nursery
 Elizabeth Rivera: Nursery, VBS
 Emma Sanchez: Sunday School
 Quinn Sartorius: VBS, Nursery, Eport
 Lila Sartorius: Eport, nursery
 Marianne Speni: Nursery, VBS
 Barbara Speni: Nursery
 Jennifer Sullivan: Sunday School, Special Events
 Linda Taylor: VBS
 Dalia Valdes: Nursery, VBS
 Elizabeth Valdes: Special Events

Staff:

Deborah Huggins
 Adam Gilbert
 Christina Reppert



Blood Drive
Summit New Providence
Rotary Club
Central Presbyterian Church

Auditorium
 70 Maple St
 Summit, NJ 07901

Thursday, June 4, 2026
2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Co-Sponsored by Summit New Providence Rotary Club and Central Presbyterian Church.

Maximize your blood donation. Help more patients. If you are an eligible type O, B - or A - donor, consider making a Power Red donation. Red blood cells are the most commonly transfused blood component.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: snprotary to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health history questions on the day of your appointment.



Scan to be directed to RapidPass!

Come to give blood 6/1-28 for a \$15 e-gift card + chance to win a \$7.5K prize! See rcblood.org/June.



Scan to schedule an appointment.

Give Blood.

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

Finance

CENTRAL QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

ALL \$000

	<u>MARCH</u> <u>YTD 2026</u>	<u>% OF 2026</u> <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>MARCH</u> <u>YTD 2025</u>
INCOME			
REGULAR GIVING	\$194	32%	\$249
TOTAL INCOME	\$230	32%	\$277
EXPENSES			
PERSONNEL	\$283	25%	\$264
BUILDING AND GROUNDS	\$68	30%	\$72
ALL OTHER	\$66	24%	\$24
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$418	24%	\$360
SHORTFALL IN EXCESS OF BUDGETED 4% DRAW COVERED BY UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT			
	\$(188)	19%	\$(83)
VALUE OF UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT	\$7,821		\$6,850
MISSION DISBURSEMENTS FROM RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT			
	\$213		\$170
VALUE OF MISSION ENDOWMENT	\$3,430		\$3,438

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 just below budget in total. B&G expenses exceed plan for the first quarter due to heating costs. Utility costs continue to increase compared to 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 and Kindergarten

The Weekday Nursery School & Kindergarten focuses on real-world experiences to encourage a lifelong love for learning.

Sensory Play: Using sand, water, playdough, or sensory bins to explore textures and materials.

Gardening and Nature: Planting seeds, exploring local ecosystems on nature walks, and observing insects to learn about life cycles.

Role-Playing: Setting up dramatic play areas like a grocery store, airplane trips, or doctor's office to practice social roles.



Simple Science Experiments: Mixing ingredients, building structures, or testing what sinks or floats.

Community: Visiting local community spots, like Natales Bakery or having community visitors like police officers, fire fighters, farms, aquariums, and so much more.



Rachel Diekman
CPC WNSK Director





70 Maple Street
Summit, NJ 07901

Return Service Requested



THE KEY

Spring/Summer 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.*