The KEY

A Publication of Central Presbyterian Church
Summit, NJ

ADVENT 2026

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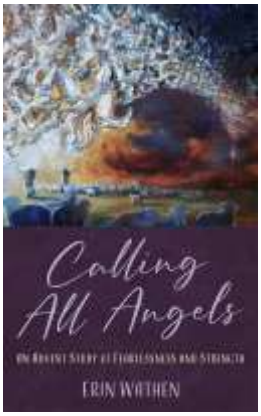


Dear Friends,



There is something wonderful about the season of Advent. The familiar music, the decorations, the anticipation, and the joy of preparing to celebrate the birth of Christ all remind us of the beauty of this season. But this year, I would like us to approach Advent with a slightly different question: What would we do if we weren't afraid? Our Advent worship theme, drawn from a book entitled *Calling All Angels*, will explore the stories of the angels who appeared to Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds in the days surrounding Jesus' birth. Each encounter begins with a familiar message from God: "Do not be afraid!" Yet these are not simply comforting words. They are an invitation to trust, to hope, to respond to God's call, and to discover what might be possible when we allow faith to be greater than our fears.

My hope is that this theme will become more than a series of Sunday morning sermons. I would love for it to find its way into our Bible studies, our conversations, our fellowship, and our daily lives. We live in a world that gives us plenty of reasons to be anxious and afraid. Advent reminds us that fear does not have to have the final word. God is still at work, still calling, still surprising us, and still inviting ordinary people like you and me to be part of something extraordinary. So, as we light the Advent candles and make our preparations for Christmas, let us also make room for a little stillness, a little courage, and a renewed sense of hope. I look forward to sharing this journey with you and discovering together what God might be doing in our lives and in the life of Central Presbyterian Church. May this Advent be a season filled with joy, peace, and the wonderful reminder that we have nothing to fear when we walk with God.



With joy and anticipation,

Adam D. Gorman
Rev. Adam D. Gorman
Senior Pastor
Central Presbyterian Church

How to Worship with Central

Central is worshiping 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. except for December 27.

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.

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

Christmas Eve Worship

Central will have two services on Christmas Eve, December 24:

4:00 p.m. Family Service with Christmas Pageant
and
8:00 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

WAVE, Central's contemporary worship service, will celebrate Christmas on Sunday, December 13, at 5:00 p.m., with a shared supper, carols, and an Ugly Sweater Contest.

Welcome, Ellen White, Director of Christian Education



Ellen White (she/her) will join Central Presbyterian Church as Director of Christian Education on December 1. She loves helping people of all ages explore their faith, ask questions, and build community. She comes to Central after serving as Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry at Pennington Presbyterian Church since 2021. Ellen holds a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Christian Education and Formation from Princeton Theological Seminary, where she focused on ministry with young people and worked at the Farminary. She is a candidate for ordination in the PC(USA). She earned her undergraduate degree in religion at the University of Mary Washington. She enjoyed working at Arena Stage in Washington, DC, before seminary and has spent the past two years also working at McCarter Theatre Center in Princeton. Ellen loves music, theatre, hiking, and thrifting, and looks forward to getting to know the Central community and sharing in ministry together!

Central Christmas Party

The Central Presbyterian Church 2026 Christmas Party will be on Friday, December 4, from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. Guests accompanied by a church member are welcome. Please save the date and watch your mailbox for your invitation. If you would like to help with the party, such as decorating or menu selection, contact Cindy Gaylord at gaylordcynthia@gmail.com.

What I Really Want to Do is Direct…



Want to help bring Central's worship services to those who cannot attend in person? Central produces a live television broadcast and live stream every Sunday, September through June, right from the HTTV studio in the church basement. The Communications Team is seeking additional volunteers to work the cameras, sound board, and software involved in broadcasting. 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!

Stewardship 2027: Because of You

Thank you to all who have submitted Stewardship pledges for 2027. Because of You, Central is a place to find friendship and community, grow in our faith, care for neighbors and one another, share God's love through our mission and outreach, and a place for children and young people to learn about Jesus Christ and community of faith.

For those who have not submitted pledges yet for 2027, your pledges are still welcome and helpful in planning and budgeting for 2027. The pledge forms are available via the centralpres.org website ("Members, Forms, Stewardship Commitment"), scanning the QR code below, near entrances to Sanctuary, or the mailing you received earlier this fall. Pledges may be placed in the collection basket at worship, emailed to LMagee@centralpres.org, or mailed to the church office (70 Maple Street, Summit, NJ 07901).

As we each consider our pledge for 2027, consider asking not only, "What can I give?", but also, "What might God do through us?" Because of You, ministry happens.

Stewardship Commitment Form

Living Nativity

The Living Nativity will take place on Saturday, December 12, 2026 and all are welcome. Please invite your friends and neighbors - it's a wonderful community event. No reservations necessary! The nativity "show" will run from 4:30 to 5:30 outside on the Maple Street lawn, with children and a few adults dressed in costumes and LOTS of live animals, to bring to life 4 nativity scenes. This has become a much loved Christmas season tradition and is highly anticipated by the entire community.

The auditorium will be full of cheer with cookies, cocoa and crafts AND our own fabulous Praise Band. The live music is amazing, and will get your feet tapping with holiday spirit. The indoor celebration will happen concurrently with the outdoor nativity.

We need lots of children "actors" in costume (we provide the costumes), as well as some adults in costume, plus lots of cookie bakers, cocoa servers and folks to help in the auditorium with crafts.

There will be a costume fitting (only for the "actors") on Friday, December 11th from 2:30 to 4:30, but if you're not able to attend, we'll work out an alternate time for the fitting.

If you're able to help in any way with this event, or have your children participate, please use the signup genius link here. https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044BA8A929A5FF2-67376289-living

If you have any nativity questions, please contact Francie Cho at yfcho@comcast.net, cell 908 303-6316. Or, if you'd like to help organize crafts in advance of the event, please reach out to Becky Gilbert at Becky-L915@yahoo.com..

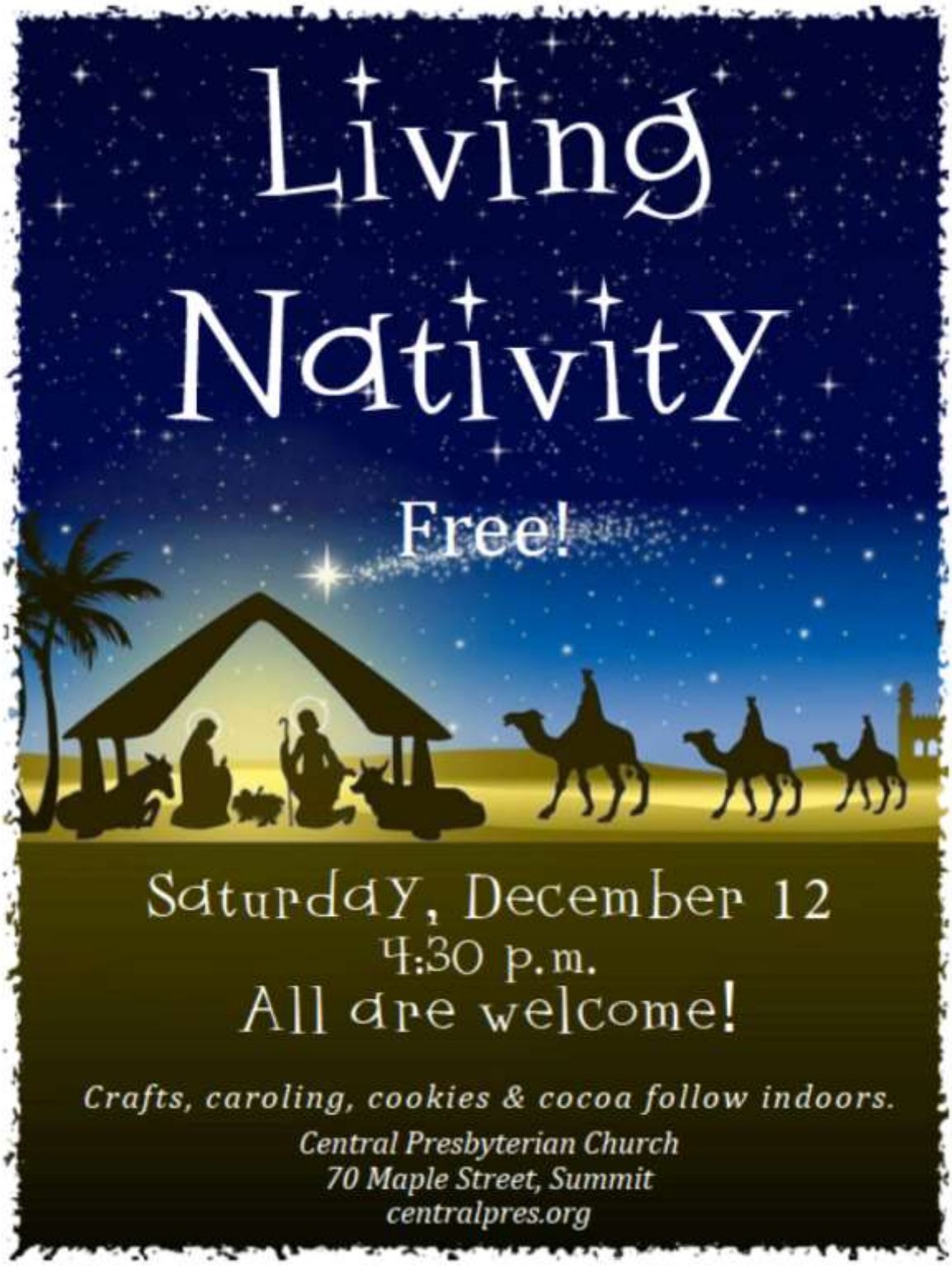











Living
Nativity
Free!
Saturday, December 12
4:30 p.m.
All are welcome!
Crafts, caroling, cookies & cocoa follow indoors.
Central Presbyterian Church
70 Maple Street, Summit
centralpres.org

Spirituality Corner by Pam Robertson



Calling All Angels:
An Advent Journey of Fearlessness and Strength

As we enter the season of Advent, we are invited to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. This year, we will be exploring *Calling All Angels: An Advent Study of Fearlessness and Strength* by Erin Wathen. Through the familiar stories of the angels and those who received their messages, we are reminded of a simple yet powerful invitation: **"Do not be afraid."**

Fear is a part of being human. We experience it when life takes an unexpected turn, when the future feels uncertain, or when we are invited to step beyond what is comfortable and familiar. Yet the Advent story reminds us that God often meets us in precisely these moments. Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds each encounter something unexpected. Their stories invite us to consider what it means to trust God, find courage, and respond faithfully even when we cannot see the whole path ahead.

Throughout Advent, we will reflect on how God continues to speak to us through unexpected invitations—in our relationships, our communities, and the quiet stirrings of our hearts. What might become possible if fear did not have the final word? Where might God be inviting us to take a step toward greater compassion, hope, or love?

A Spiritual Practice for Advent: Reading Prayerfully

You are invited to use *Calling All Angels* as a companion for your own spiritual journey this Advent. Set aside ten minutes each day to read a small portion of the book slowly and prayerfully. Rather than rushing to finish a chapter, allow a sentence or thought to settle into your heart.
After reading, become quiet and ask yourself:

What word or phrase is speaking to me today?
Where do I notice fear, uncertainty, or resistance in my life?
Where might God be inviting me to trust, grow, or act with courage?

Rest in silence for a few moments, without feeling that you need to find an answer. Close with a simple prayer:
God of hope, meet me in my fears, open my heart to your invitations, and give me the courage to respond with love.

Spirituality Corner, continued

Join Us for an Advent Book Study

Would you like to explore these themes more deeply? Join us for a weekly Advent book study as we reflect together on *Calling All Angels* and discover how its message speaks to our lives today.

Wednesdays at noon in the Boardroom

All are welcome! Whether you are able to attend the group or prefer to reflect on your own, this book offers a meaningful way to deepen your spiritual journey throughout Advent.

Purchase *Calling All Angels* by Erin Wathen on Amazon.

As we journey toward Christmas, may we become more attentive to the ways God calls us—not to a life without fear, but to a life in which fear does not keep us from loving, serving, and living faithfully.

May we listen for the angels' message and discover anew the strength and courage that come from trusting in God's presence among us.

Christmas blessings,
Pam Robertson
Director of Pastoral Care & Spiritual Formation



Free Children's Concert

Wednesday, December 9 at 11 a.m.

The Snowman



Howard Blake's musical interpretation of the classic children's story "The Snowman" by Raymond Briggs will be performed by Dr. Charity Wicks on piano, and narrated by Colette Boudreaux. The show runs about 30 minutes.

Perfect for preschoolers and kindergartners!
Schools and groups are welcome!

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In the Auditorium of Central Presbyterian Church
70 Maple Street, Summit
www.centralpres.org

Tribute to Russell H. Hulsizer, by Linda Taylor



Russell H. Hulsizer was a longtime Summit resident and Central Presbyterian Church member. When he died in November of 2023, he bequeathed a generous financial endowment to Central. To honor his legacy, his commitment to Youth, and his generosity to our church, we have requisitioned funds from the Hulsizer Endowment to establish the "High School Mission Trip Scholarship", to be awarded to CPC high school youth to help offset the cost of participation in the annual High School Mission Trip. We have also purchased a teak bench with a brass memorial plaque honoring his generosity that has been placed in the newly redesigned Cloister Garden where one can sit quietly, visit with friends, meditate or pray.

Russ was born in Madison, NJ on June 8, 1931, the only child of Florence and Russell H. Hulsizer Sr. He was raised in Union, NJ, where he graduated from Union High School. He subsequently graduated from Rutgers University, where he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa and later graduated from Rutgers University School of Law. Russ and his wife Ann Marie lived in Summit, where for 40 years Russ had his own private practice, the Law Office of Russell H. Hulsizer on Summit Avenue. He was also a Summit Municipal Court Judge.

Russ was involved in Scouting (Boy Scouts of America) from his early teens; he served as Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmaster to Troop 63 in New Providence, NJ for over 20 years. He was the recipient of the Seventy-Year Veterans Award, the Silver Beaver Award, the Wood Badge, the Order of the Arrow and was a James E. West Fellow. To learn more about Russ's lifelong involvement with Scouting and to view a portfolio of photographs, you can visit https://centralpres.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/11/Memories-of-Russ-Hulsizer.-20260519.pdf

Russ and Ann Marie joined Central in 1966, transferring their member ship from Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church in Union, NJ. Russ was ordained as a Deacon on May 12, 1985 and subsequently ordained as an Elder on May 20, 1990. His gentle smile, approachability, sparkling eyes and quick wit endeared him to all who met him. He particularly enjoyed reading, music, hiking and camping. He had a genuine rapport with the youth of Central and volunteered to assist with the Junior and High School youth fellowship meetings.



Central Presbyterian Church was honored to have Russ worship with us, mentor our youth, and enrich our faith with his wisdom, intellect, wit, and especially with his kindness and his friendship. We will always remember his generous gift to our Congregation.

Photo Gallery











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Rally Day

Photo Gallery



Hulsizer Memorial Bench



Toddler Time





Harvest Fest







50+ Year Members

LightTheWorld

Giving Machine

New Jersey

A Vending Machine That Gives Back

With the swipe of a card, you can make a difference in a person's life. Donate nutritious food, warm coats, and even a goat right from a vending machine. Stop by a Giving Machine kiosk today and give back.



Nov 14 – Dec 6

Summit, NJ

Outside
Central Presbyterian Church
70 Maple Street

Scan for events, Directions, Volunteering and MORE

GivingMachineNJ.org | Sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.


Sharing Tree
Gifts due December 6
take a gift tag ornament from the Sharing Tree and make a
Christmas wish come true
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Finance

CENTRAL QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION

ALL $000

	SEPT YTD 2026	% OF 2026 BUDGET	SEPT YTD 2025
INCOME			
REGULAR GIVING	$383	64%	$460
TOTAL INCOME	$467	65%	$536
EXPENSES			
PERSONNEL	$837	74%	$815
BUILDING AND GROUNDS	$235	86%	$241
ALL OTHER	$161	55%	$154
TOTAL EXPENSES	$1240	73%	$1210
SHORTFALL IN EXCESS OF BUDGETED 4% DRAW COVERED BY UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT	$539	77%	$470
VALUE OF UNRESTRICTED ENDOWMENT	$15,072		$8,620
MISSION DISBURSEMENTS FROM RESTRICTED ENDOWMENT	$421		$338
VALUE OF MISSION ENDOWMENT	$3,671		$3,814

TREASURER'S COMMENTS

Total income is less than plan through the third 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. Regular Giving has continued to lag in the second and third quarters.
Expenses continue to be managed well and are just below budget in total. B&G expenses exceed plan for the third quarter due to utility costs and snow removal. 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.
Central received a distribution from the Hulsizer estate of approximately $6.5 million in the second quarter. It has been invested in the unrestricted endowment with $80,000 designated as the Russell H. Hulsizer Scholarship to benefit the High School Mission trip.
The Mission Endowment continues to exceed $3 million even with distributions through the first three quarters.

CPC Weekday Nursery School and Kindergarten

As the crisp autumn air turns into the quiet chill of late fall, our nursery school hallways are filled with warmth, laughter, and the sweet sound of little voices giving thanks. The children are learning songs and prayers for Thanksgiving.

It has been a beautiful season of growth, and we are so grateful for the vibrant colors of fall all around us. The children have been exploring outdoors, collecting falling leaves for sorting and science centers and using natural, gathered materials for their art projects.

This month, our classrooms have been focusing on the themes of gratitude and sharing. Our students have also been busy creating colorful handprint turkeys and learning what it truly means to be thankful for God's blessings—our families, our friends, and our wonderful school and church community.



As we look ahead to the winter months and the upcoming Advent season, we want to extend a heartfelt thank you to the congregation. Your prayers and continuous support create a nurturing environment where these children can take their first steps in both education and faith.

Rachel Diekman

CPC WNSK Director







70 Maple Street
Summit, NJ 07901

Return Service Requested



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

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:00 a.m. Sundays

Central is worshiping in the Sanctuary on Sundays.
The 10:00 a.m. services are broadcast on HTTV and will be live streamed to our YouTube channel.