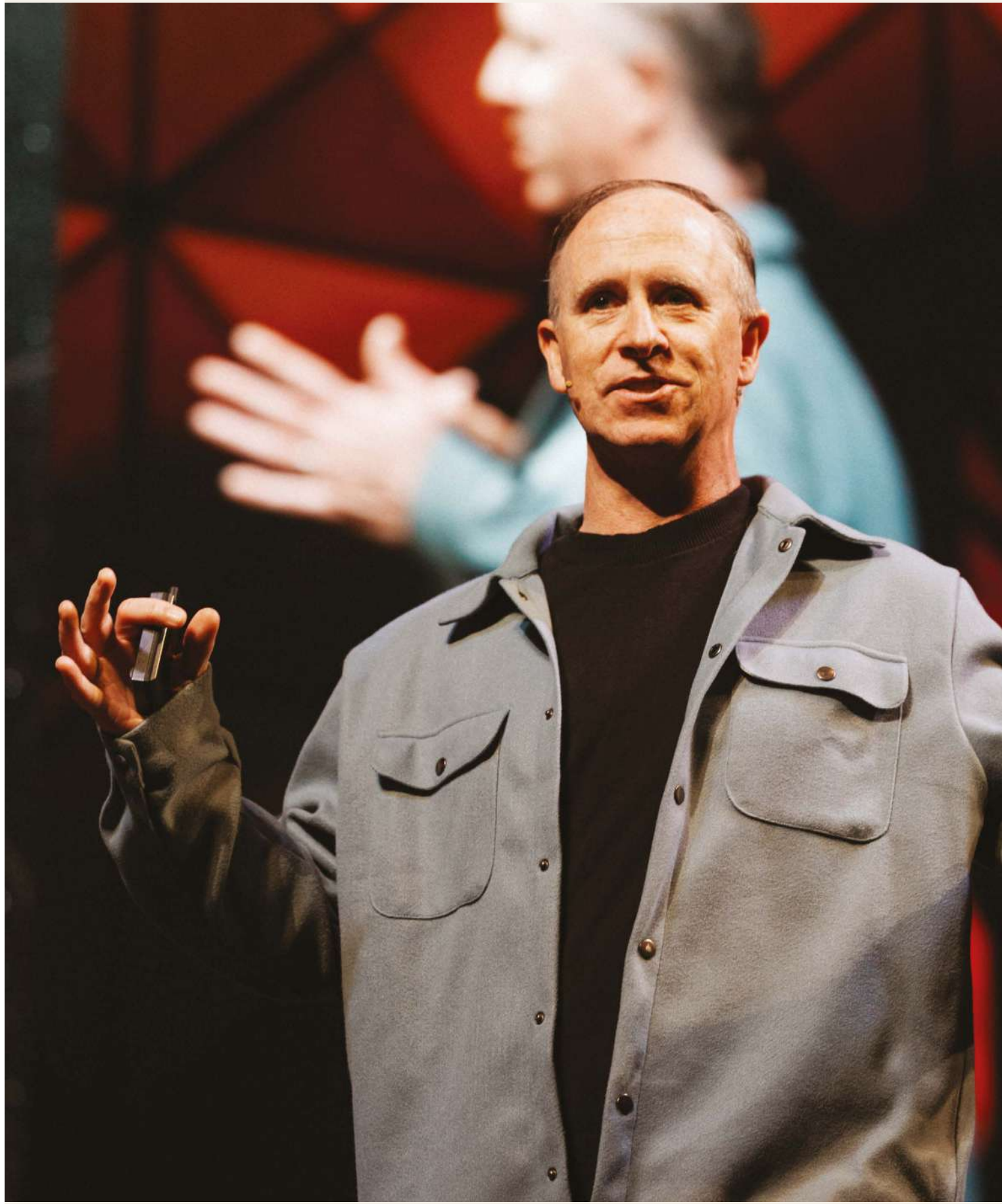


BUILDING HOPE

Together





A LETTER FROM CRAIG

It's that time of year when I write a letter for our annual report. Whenever I do, I am mindful of the privilege I have in partnering with you to build something that goes beyond ourselves. This year's theme **Building Hope Together** reflects the heart of our calling and our shared commitment to a mission that brings light into the struggles and challenges of life. We are not merely participants, but builders—co-laborers with Christ (1 Corinthians 3:9), constructing lives, communities and legacies of hope.

Throughout this past year, we have seen remarkable examples of what it means to **build hope in real and lasting ways**. From the stories of individual transformation within our congregation, to the impact of our ministries reaching far beyond our local community, we are building toward things that will last forever. Hope is not just something we speak about; it is something we are building, one life, one step, and one act of faith at a time.

In the pages of this report, you'll find evidence of this hope. Each story, statistic, and moment we've shared reflects our collective strength as a church. **Together, we've given generously, prayed it forward, and served sacrificially to create spaces where hope can take root and grow.** From our local initiatives to the churches we've supported globally, we are building walls of hope, and our elders, committees, and staff are honored to be a part of that work.

Looking ahead, we are excited and eagerly anticipating what is to come. As a church, we are committed to planting the seeds of the gospel and building the structures that nurture long-term spiritual growth. Jesus said, "I will build my church" (Matt. 18:16), and we find our call in that promise. We are not just bystanders—we are builders, shaping the future of the Church with every prayer, every action, and every gift we give.

Thank you for building with us. Your faithfulness, generosity, and unwavering commitment have made this year one of incredible progress and profound impact. We will see even greater things ahead as we continue this journey together. **We are building hope together** for this generation and the next.

With deepest gratitude and enduring hope,

CRAIG REES

Lead Pastor of Central
and Water's Edge Family

**LOOK WHAT
THE LORD
HAS DONE.**

He has been faithful.



3,321 Average weekly attendance
2,485 Average weekly livestreaming
180 New guests
91 Baptisms

Easter



1,300 Pancakes served Easter morning

5 Gallons of syrup used Easter morning



5,009

Guests on Easter Sunday

4,461

Guests livestreamed Easter Sunday

Building Hope CELEBRATE RECOVERY

God is faithful, and we too, seek to be faithful in all that he has called us to build through Celebrate Recovery. This may look like a large gathering at Kollen Park, or meals on Monday nights, but it also may look like a small circle of three or four men or women who gather in a local sober living home for bible study and prayer, or a group of ten meeting at the jail for a weekly recovery meeting. Every life matters and **every person is created in HIS image with a purpose and deeply loved by him.**

In 2024 we introduced weekly free meals. This was a huge step of faith for us, but GOD has continued to provide in wonderful ways. This has been a blessing for our community and a great way for individuals and families to connect.

"I started attending Central in February when I moved here from the Chicagoland area. Prior to that, I had been watching online. I originally started attending Central because I heard you had an amazing Celebrate Recovery Ministry and that was important for me when looking for a church. I believe every church should have a Celebrate Recovery Ministry!!!

I originally got sober in AA, but it wasn't until I started attending CR at my church in Chicago that I truly began to understand the overwhelming and unconditional love and grace of Jesus Christ. AA is where I learned to live life without drinking and where I

learned that there was a spiritual solution to my problem. CR is where I learned about Jesus, and where I learned about all the underlying issues that caused me to drink and act out in other ways. I love that I was able to continue my recovery journey surrounded by like-minded Christians who showed me an example of what it was to be Jesus. Today, CR is not only where I continue growing and recovering from my hurts, habits and hang-ups, but also where God is using my story to help others. There is no greater joy than being used to do God's work and CR is a safe place to serve, learn and grow."

—JACKIE GUINANE





238 Average weekly Celebrate Recovery attendance

34 Average weekly Landing attendance (teens)

42 Average weekly Celebration Place attendance (kids)

230 Average weekly meals served each week

494 Attended CR in the Park, Summer of 2024

“

I thought my “freedom session” would be the most difficult hours of my life, but they were actually the most liberating and healing hours I have endured. The prayer warriors are trained and spiritually aligned to expose all things in a gentle and loving way. I have been set free from the bondage that kept me in a very dark place for the longest time.

**I have found
freedom and
a new hope!”**

WELLSPRINGS OF FREEDOM
GUEST

140

Wellsprings of Freedom sessions

Building Hope IN COMMUNITY

God arranged a series of life-changing circumstances that led to a life-changing decision—a decision that began when **someone built community by inviting a friend to Freedom Fighters**, one of our Thursday evening men's group. The young man who was invited shared his story and struggles, and then he prayed to invite Jesus to become his personal Savior. But his story didn't end there; he began attending Central and was baptized in August. His journey continues and discipleship is happening weekly—we invite you to pray as God continues to build a faith and hope in this young man's life!



1,100+ People in groups



75 Visits to Prayer Room
149 Prayers requested
80 Frozen meals distributed

The Care Team walks alongside people who are experiencing some of the most painful earthly struggles, and yet they assure them of all that God has to offer them in their valley—a listening ear, a reminder of God’s promises of presence, comfort, and guidance, and practical help like meals or community resources. Whether it’s relational, financial, physical, spiritual, or all the above, the God of heaven can make a way when there seems to be no way.

Whether it’s on Sundays in the Care Room, in nursing/assisted living homes, or in one-on-ones over coffee, our team is meeting earthly needs with heavenly care. Many times it’s in the serving that people are blessed. I don’t always get to see the end of the story, but as one couple who has been volunteering told me after their own loss, “this is life-giving.” And that’s what heaven has to offer!

Joy and Don embody what Jesus, the Church, and guest services look like. The two of them are a welcoming presence at any door or area they are in. They love and care for the guests and regulars here at Central by serving in multiple ways. Greeting and guiding come very naturally to this couple. They are willing to connect and even comfort with their smile, words, and actions.

Their leadership and caring nature have served Central and those dealing with grief in the most giving way. They lead the funeral luncheon team with such precision and grace that those who volunteer have direction and a sense of belonging. The families they serve have a sense of calm and ease that their needs have been met and taken care of, which takes a huge burden off of each family. Thank you for your love and commitment.



922 Serving at Central





Building Hope HOLLAND PLAYLAND

Each week we are honored to welcome families into the Playland. One Saturday a group of grandmothers who were raising their grandchildren visited Holland Playland. Several of the grandchildren were autistic and in need of constant supervision. By God's grace, on that day there were three junior helpers in Playland helping to supervise and oversee play. We were able to have each of them pair up with a child

needing help/supervision. For an hour and a half the grandmothers were able to sit and relax and visit with their group while the helpers saw to the needs of the children. When they were leaving, two of the grandmothers came to me with tears in their eyes, and one told me she did not remember the last time she had a waking hour to herself. Such a wonderful chance for Central to shine the Hope and Life.

32,176 Playland check-ins

4,966 First time guests

1,003 Hours of play

28 Guests each month at *Special Needs Night at the Playland*

“

**I wish it was
Summer all
year, so I
can come to
camp every
single day!”**

SUMMER CAMP CAMPER





Summer Musical Theatre Camp performance / O Chicken of Little Faith

Building Hope SUMMER CAMPS

In 2021, we launched the first ever summer camp, Musical Theatre Camp. That year we saw 57 young performers discover their unique talents and passions while building their love for Jesus. Since then, kids summer camps have expanded to also include camps for sewing, pickleball, Spanish, fishing, cooking, science, sports adventures, LEGO master builders, arts & crafts, creative worship & dance, and woodworking. We have witnessed God use the passion of volunteer leaders to ignite the wonder of the love that Jesus has for each child who participated.

“I just want to say thank you so much for sending my kids to camp. They really enjoyed the experience, and I really appreciate you always looking out when we are in need. God bless you, **you all are truly a blessing on earth.**”

—COMMUNITY MEMBER

“My seven-year-old went to Science with Sandy summer camp and loved it! It was so organized; my son learned a ton, and he really enjoyed the experiments, but most importantly, it was clear that Sandy and the volunteers had a rich love for God and the campers. This was evident in how they interacted with my son. Thank you so much!”

—SHARON NEWHOUSE

“As a grandparent of an unchurched child, I am beyond grateful for the impact Central’s summer camp ministry has had on my entire family. My granddaughter traveled from another state to participate in the sewing camp and the remarkable Musical Theatre Camp. Everyday she heard about God’s unconditional love and faithfulness—especially in times of fear. The final performances creatively portrayed this truth which was heard by the entire audience, including my own family. The ripple effect of this remarkable outreach ministry is immeasurable. Thank you to the exceptional team for their time and talents.”

—MUSICAL THEATRE CAMPER





2021	57 campers
2022	87 campers
2023	186 campers
2024	290 campers

Building Hope **CENTRAL KIDS**

Central champions our Special Needs Ministry as we minister to the whole family.

Who comes to church with the **biggest smiles ever**? Our Special Friends with disabilities that's who! Have you seen children eagerly running down the hallway to be enthusiastically greeted by their Special Needs Buddy? Have been greeted by one of our dear friends who welcomed you at the door as members of the Guest Services Team? Have you met our friends who live nearby in a group home that often have breakfast in the Gathering Grounds before joining you to worship the Lord with gladness? If you haven't met them yet, you need to! You will be greeted with the best smiles ever! We are growing and serve about 20 plus friends on a weekly basis!

You make an incredible impact when you SMILE...MEET...EMBRACE our very special friends. —**DEBBIE HEISER**



I recently sat down with a father of three kids, two of which are currently in Central Kids and another who recently graduated to Central Students Middle School. As we caught up he shared how well they are doing and how much Central Kids has meant for his kids' spiritual development.

"My oldest daughter learned how to serve as an upper elementary student, and now she serves on the first floor with preschool kids and babies. Her faith is growing more every day and she is really owning it. As her dad It makes me so proud. My son can be wild and easily distracted, but he loves coming to Central kids and has grown more than I had hoped. His teachers are patient and attentive and celebrate him in class. I feel that is making the difference for him. My youngest brings her Bible every Sunday just in case there's a Sword Drill. She works hard to memorize her monthly Bible verse as well. I love seeing how much work she is putting in. Thank you for challenging her."

—ETHAN LAMPE



332 Average weekly attendance

10 Average weekly first time guests in kids



Building Hope CENTRAL STUDENTS

Our student ministry continues to be person-centered and Christ-focused, and we pray that we would continue to Amplify the Hope + Life of Jesus to the young people of Holland!

“FUEL this past year has entirely changed who I am as a person on how I treat others. I’ve been influenced to follow Jesus and try to be as much like him as possible. It feels like the perfect home I’ve never had before, and it’s the place I feel the most comfortable in! Fuel is a great place to push high school students like it has done to me—
to pick up our cross and walk

the hard walk to follow and grow with our savior! There’s is no place I’d rather be, and it’s shaped the way I act and am as a person. Truly, it’s one of the most important factors in my life ranging from leaders to other students who pushed me to be the best I can be.”
—MCKENZIE BENDRY, AGE 15

- 83** Average Sunday Middle School attendance
- 61** Average Wednesday Night Middle School attendance
- 87** Average weekly High School attendance

Building Hope WORSHIP NIGHTS

On June 12, Central hosted a Water's Edge Worship and Revival Night. That entire week, Water's Edge leaders from around the world were able to come together as a team for the Water's Edge Conference. Dina Shelpuk, the Worship Leader at Transformation Church in Kyiv, Ukraine, made the long journey to join us that week. Dina was able to see her brother, Andrii, for the first time in a year.

At the Worship Night, Dina led an unforgettable moment. The night before, Kyiv was under missile attack. Dina's husband and family woke up in the middle of the night to the screeches of missiles. Dina spoke that night about how overwhelmed and scared she feels when she thinks about the devastation she, her family, and her country have faced.

Dina said, "Sometimes, behind the

tears, we don't see what Jesus is doing for us. When you focus only on your pain, only on bad news, only on people dying, you can't see how God is moving in your life, how **God is working in your life.** Just focus on Him. **Just let him move in your life.** Sometimes, I can't feel gratitude. But when I focus on him, I feel gratitude."

11 Worship nights with Water's Edge Worship





WATER'S EDGE WORSHIP

117,000

Apple Music + Spotify streams of “What Can’t You Do?”

WHAT CAN'T HE DO?

He is restoring what is broken





BUILDING HOPE

Local + Global

MISSIONS

42,000 Total hours served in Missions Ministry





\$2,188,578.08

Medical debt abolished
for **2,651 individuals** in
Ottawa & Allegen Counties

42,000

Hours served in
Missions Ministry

130

First night backpacks donated
to Children of the Heart

250

People sent on Mission

17

People served in Alaska
partnering with Awaken City
Church in Anchorage.

25

People sent to Guatemala and
built **17 houses** in one week!

11

Countries visited this year:
*Jamaica, Peru, Indonesia,
Cambodia, Ukraine, Nigeria,
Wales, Panama, Mexico,
Guatemala and Ethiopia*



Central Students **MISSION TRIP**

This summer, **31 middle school students and 12 leaders** partnered alongside People Helping People to serve the community of Pullman, MI. Our team ran a VBS program for 60 children in the community, prepared and served them lunch everyday, and also completed a variety of work projects including painting, landscaping, yard cleanups, and chopping wood for their firewood ministry (many of the residents in Pullman use small wood stoves to heat their homes in the winter months). Our team was given a renewed perspective on our many blessings and was propelled forward to continue this missional mindset close to home. Perhaps the greatest benefit of this experience lies in the opportunity to continue to serve alongside People Helping People year-round with their location being so close to home!

Leading up to and coming out of our time in Pullman, students have been given opportunities to come alongside the senior community at Resthaven Maple Woods in Holland. We've had the tremendous privilege of lending an extra hand during events offered to their residents, including car shows, cardio drumming, picnics, birthday parties, along with simply spending time with residents while playing games and walking with them. While we hope to have helped the Resthaven team and helped their residents feel seen and valued, it's also been great for our students to be involved in a community that is entering into the last stages of life. Their community has been a tremendous blessing to us and has taught us to be thankful for each day God gives us. The team and their residents have also voiced how thankful they are to have such young faces and energy in their space on a consistent basis!



THANK *You*

KAMRYN IS A JEFFERSON

Elementary Kids Hope student.

Like most 5th graders, she's trying to fit in with friends and figure out "who she is". Through the Kids Hope program, Kamryn was offered a summer camp scholarship at Camp Beechpoint and was super excited to go, but not sure what to expect. Her thank you letter back

to Central included this: "I had so much fun this week...camp filled me with so much adventure. It also ***made me realize how much God loves us and that will never change!***" Kamryn got to see firsthand the love of Jesus through the gift of camp and hear about God's unconditional love for her!

2,200 Hours served in Kids Hope

45 Students matched with a Kids Hope mentor

“ Thank you Central Wesleyan for donating a huge amount of snacks for each of our teacher work rooms at the High School.

We sincerely appreciate your generosity!!“

—HOLLAND HIGH STAFF

“ I am so extraordinarily grateful for the ways we have continued to partner with Central over the last year. When we look at

ways to mobilize the unity of the body of Christ for the good of the community, Central's ideas and insights are almost always one of our first connection points.”

—MOVEMENT WEST MICHIGAN

“ Thank you cannot come close to how grateful myself and Make-A-Wish Michigan are for the generosity and support of

Central Wesleyan Church leading up to and through Wish-A-Mile this year! Please know and share that there will be 160 transformational wishes granted as a result of your generosity and support. That is an extremely large amount of hope to both the kids and their families!”

—MAKE A WISH

“ Thank you to both you and Central for being so quick to respond to our need for a “new” dryer! I am grateful that we can reach out to you when these situations arise.”

—MY HOUSE MINISTRY

“ You guys are so generous. I don't know how you do it, but your attention to our staff and students screams of God's love.”

—JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY STAFF

Local **OUTREACH PARTNERS**

Benjamin's Hope
Children of the Heart
Circles, Holland
Community Action House
Dads Heart Ministry
Escape Ministries
Feeding America
Gateway Mission
Habitat for Humanity
Hand2Hand
Holland Public Schools

Hope Packages
Kids' Food Basket
Kids Hope
Nestlings Diaper Bank
My House Ministry
Positive Options
Refresh Hygiene and Hope
Slavic Community, Holland
Sus Manos Gleaners
Sylvia's Place

Global **OUTREACH PARTNERS**

Cross Cultural Connections—Dan Smeenge

India

Nicaragua—Jeff & Diane Gilbert

Shepherds College

Turkey

Waha People

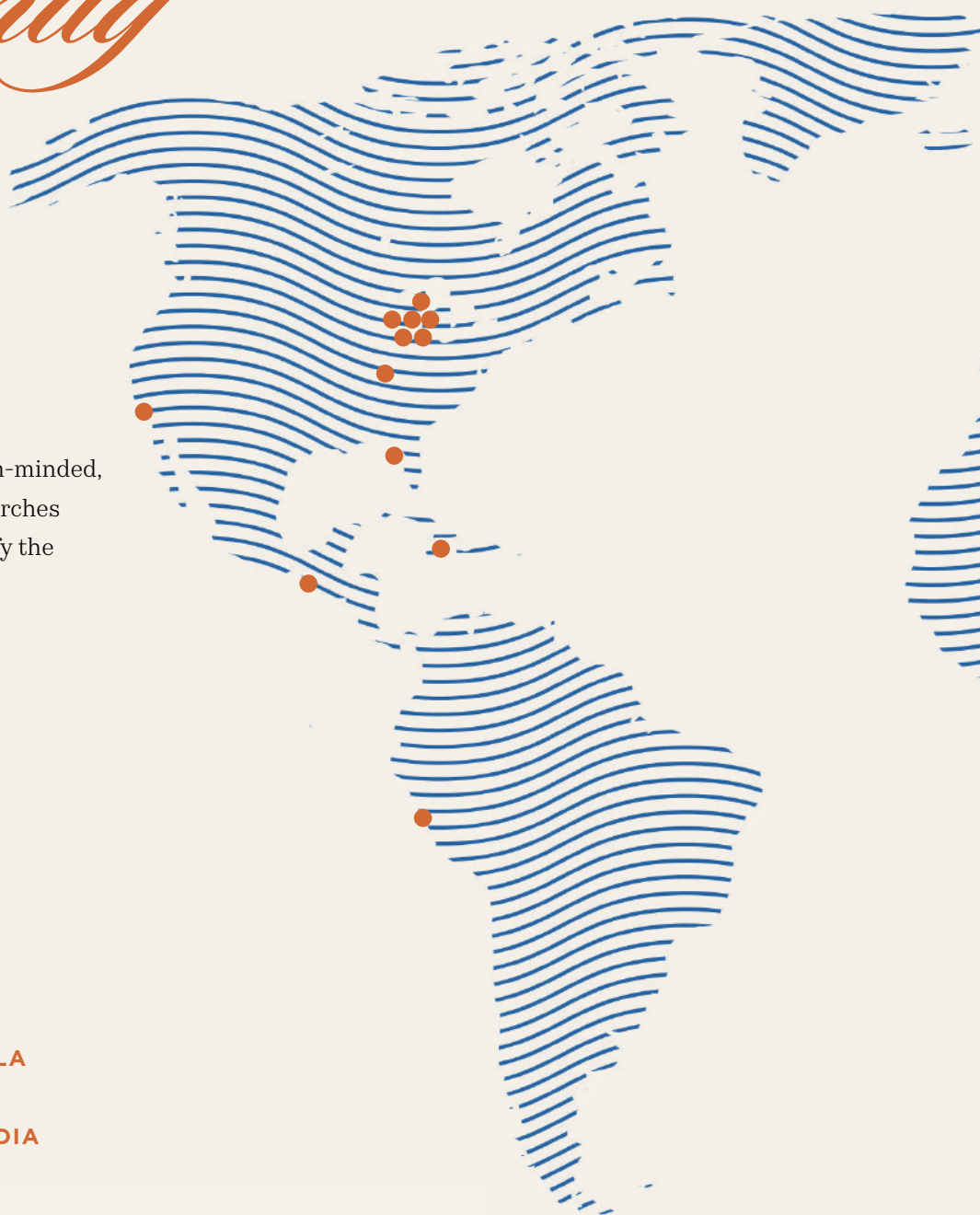
YWAM - San Diego/Baja Tamara Ochoa

WATER'S EDGE

Family

We are a family of kingdom-minded, missionally-motivated churches working together to amplify the hope + life of Jesus to all.

HOLLAND, MI
GRAND RAPIDS, MI
GRAND LEDGE, MI
BENTON HARBOR, MI
SOUTH HAVEN, MI
COLUMBIA, TN
TAMPA, FL
SAN DIEGO, CA
KINGSTON, JAMAICA
LIMA, PERU
CHIMANGO, GUATEMALA
KYIV, UKRAINE
PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA
BOGOR, INDONESIA
IBADAN, NIGERIA





\$16,554,799

Total Giving across all of Water’s Edge Family

\$6,990,121

Total Giving at Central

DISBURSEMENTS:

\$1,840,345

Given outside our walls

\$3,803,251

Personnel

\$914,331

Ministry Operations

\$432,194

Facility Operations

Based on our budget year June 1, 2023–May 31, 2024

THE BEST IS YET To Come

As we close out this remarkable year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the many ways God has blessed our church and community. It has been a year of transition, growth, and undeniable blessings, and I am truly honored to be part of this great team!

This year, we celebrated the retirement of Lynn Bruce, who served as CFO for over 32 years. His dedication and leadership have left a lasting legacy at Central, and we are deeply grateful for his many years of faithful service. I had the privilege of stepping into this role in January, and Lynn officially retired in July. We pray that he will be blessed in this new chapter of his life.

God's faithfulness has been evident throughout this year. We have seen tremendous progress in our **Pray It Forward** capital stewardship campaign, and thanks to your faithful giving, we are making significant strides in paying down the chapel debt. As of July 31, we received over \$800k in pledge commitments and have received \$537,612 in giving. 42% of that giving to date has not been associated with a pledge. Bless the Lord! Your generosity has been a true blessing, enabling us to move forward in the mission God has called us to.

Beyond Central, the Water's Edge Family of Churches continues to grow and flourish. The Local Church (TLC) in Grand Rapids has purchased a new property, opening up new opportunities for ministry. The Well Church in Tennessee is experiencing significant growth, and Overflow in Benton Harbor is thriving. I could keep going but God is moving in incredible ways across our church family, and we are grateful to be a part of it.

As we look to the future, we do so with great anticipation and confidence in God's continued blessings. We are excited to see how he will use your gifts and contributions to further his Kingdom through Central and the Water's Edge Family of Churches.

Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and generosity. Your commitment is making a lasting impact, and we look forward to seeing all that God has in store for us in the coming year.

With gratitude,

JASON ADAMS

Chief Financial Officer

Water's Edge & Central Wesleyan Church



WAYS *To Give*

ONLINE

centralholland.org/give

MAIL

446 W 40th. St. Holland, MI 49423

IN PERSON

Giving kiosks on Sundays

THE CALL TO GIVE

Tithing and giving is an act of worship, an expression of thanksgiving, and an act of trust in God's provision. When we give, it's like planting a seed—God always responds by blessing us far beyond what we've offered. Proverbs 3:9-10 and Malachi 3:10-12 remind us that we can never outgive God. The bible encourages us to be generous, and as Christians, give cheerfully (2 Corinthians 9:7) and sacrificially, recognizing that all we have is given by God to be used for his purposes.

WHY WE GIVE:

A Biblical Mandate

The biblical model of giving is not just a duty but an act of faith that recognizes God as the source of all blessings. As Malachi 3:10 calls us to bring the full tithe into the storehouse, we are reminded that God blesses the rest when we trust him with our first fruits. Giving is more than a financial transaction; it is an expression of our worship and an acknowledgment that God owns everything. In Proverbs 3:9-10, we see the promise of abundance in response to our obedience in giving. We believe that as we trust God with our finances, he will continue to provide, ensuring that our needs are met while advancing his kingdom on earth.

Advancing the Kingdom Through Giving

There is no organization with more potential to change the world than the local church, and it is through your generosity that the work of God is made possible. At Central, we have seen the impact of giving in expanding ministries, supporting missions, and transforming lives in our community and beyond. Each contribution is an investment in the kingdom of God, helping to bring hope and life to those who need it most.

Following God's Call to Give

We are called to be generous, trusting that God will bless us as we bless others. When we give, we participate in God's work, experiencing the joy and fulfillment that come from living generously. Your giving matters, and together, we are making a lasting impact for the kingdom of God.

Good Stewardship:

Honoring God's Provision

Stewardship is about managing what God has entrusted to us. At Central, we encourage giving of our "first fruits" as an act of worship, recognizing that all we have belongs to God (Matthew 25:14-30). By giving cheerfully and sacrificially, we renounce greed and align ourselves with God's purposes. Our church is committed to using these resources with integrity, ensuring every dollar is maximized to further God's kingdom.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness.




Central

CENTRALHOLLAND.ORG