



# HOPE

*in motion*

*because*

**GOD'S NOT  
DONE YET~**



**This year, hope didn't stay still.**

Hope has moved through our worship,  
classrooms, neighborhoods, and  
around the world, reminding us  
that God's not done.



## MAC'S STORY

After being baptized last year, Mac has kept saying “yes” to the Lord’s promptings—listening, responding, and growing through the *I Have Decided discipleship study* with a mentor.

Along the way he began serving on the Connect Team, traveling to Guatemala on mission, and meeting regularly with his mentor. He has made 2 Corinthians 5:17 come alive—he truly is a *new creation*.

He’s also faced real “sifting” moments (Luke 22:31), but he knows he’s not alone. Mac’s transparency invites others to pray with him and God’s faithfulness has proven a sure foundation. Step by step, he’s walking with the Lord—watching for his leading and obeying as he calls. He knows God is faithful to his promises to him, and the foundation is secure. Step by step Mac is walking with the LORD while looking forward to and obeying His leading.





# Where hope MEETS LIFE

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Through baptism, we see the power of Jesus at work—ordinary people becoming living stories of extraordinary grace.

## LEAH'S STORY

This past summer, I was baptized along with two of my children, Savannah and Jaxson. At that same service, my sister Jodi was baptized with her husband Chad and their two kids, Brandi and Braxton. Later, at the most recent indoor baptism, our parents, Judy and Blas, were baptized, along with my oldest daughter Keagan.

For most of us, this was actually a recommitment. We had all been baptized as infants, but this year we felt led to take that step again as a personal choice—to openly commit our lives to God on our own. At the Summer outdoor baptism, the rest of our family came to support us, and they were so moved and inspired by what God was doing that they decided to take that same step at a later time, in God's timing.

**It's been really special to see how God has been moving across the generations in our family**, with grandparents, parents, and children all choosing him. It's been a powerful reminder of God's faithfulness and how **he continues to work in and through our family in new ways**—with hopes that it will snowball and encourage even more of our family to take that next step in their faith.

As Psalm 133:1 says, *How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity.*



# Hope INTERCEDES

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**Through prayer, recovery, and the power of community, hope moves into the places that hurt the most—bringing healing, freedom, and new life.**

## **CHRIS' STORY**

When I met Chris 3 years ago, she had been diagnosed with lymphoma which presented as a large, softball-size growth on one side of her face. This could have been an excuse to avoid people, to hold back from serving, or even to question God's goodness, but I soon discovered those were not true of Chris. I'm not sure if it was her courage or her boldness in claiming the promises of Jesus that struck me first, but both of these characteristics are hallmarks of Chris's faith. She prayerfully chose alternative treatment that spared her from systemic chemo, which took her and her husband, Dan, to Mexico 16 times for 31 treatments. Between trips she continued to serve. She helped at Celebrate Recovery (CR) and at Moms & Mentors (M&Ms). On Sunday mornings you could find her praying in the Care Room or serving coffee with Dan at the coffee cart. She led a Grandmothers in Prayer group and helped coordinate the decorations for Christmas Desserts. They took more trips to Mexico; the lymphoma was stubborn, but the mass shrank until only a small swelling beneath her eye remained. The final treatment killed that last spot of cancer, but it also took the sight from that eye. She had other complications and local hospital emergencies. Even still, she didn't take a break...she continued to love through serving. She had her family over for Easter, hosted baby showers, wedding showers, and kept

showing up at CR, M&Ms, and the Care Room. Truly, Chris is a hope-bringer, but she doesn't do it alone. She has a fantastic husband, a large supportive family, and a Small Group, loving friends they've poured into—underscoring all of that is a relationship with God she's curated over time. Jesus is her rock. He's the one she's leaned on and leaned into. **She's talked to him, heard from him, and trusts in him, and wants others to know him. If she has a chance, she shares her faith—with doctors, nurses, other patients, strangers, family—always giving God the glory for his presence and purpose in her life.** In fact, she's close friends with her local medical team and had a Thank You Tea in

her backyard last summer for them. Chris is also a beautifier of spaces. God has gifted her with a knack for style and design, and she gives generously of her time to arrange flowers for her granddaughter's wedding or to make centerpieces for church functions. She doesn't do any of this to be exalted, but because she knows the Exalted One and these things bring her joy. I know she wouldn't have picked this journey, but she's told me she's more grateful, more appreciative, and more attentive to ways God is speaking to her because of what she's suffered. Chris is an example of rejoicing in suffering. It's not the suffering that brings the joy, but I believe if we acknowledge Jesus

as our close companion, the world we occupy in times of suffering is closer and God's intimacy is more accessible. If we stay in community with him and vulnerable in our connections something happens. Our spiritual senses are sharper and his messages come through. **Our raw hearts are touched by the salve of compassion through the people God uses.** I'm thankful to be counted among one of those people in Chris's life because I've been blessed to be her friend, and now, privileged to tell her story.—*Jennifer Stohler, Director of Community Care*

## ENRIQUETA'S STORY

I accepted Christ in 2003 and for many years I leaned on him. But two years ago, as my sweet father was dying, I lost my footing. I dropped everything to be with him, my brothers, and his wife. In the process, I stopped taking care of myself. Instead of trusting Jesus Christ, I chose anger. I felt abandoned because my father was being taken by a cancer we had already fought alongside him 15 years before. We didn't win this time. He didn't win. His death was devastating for me, for my brothers, and for my stepmom who loved him so deeply. In my grief, I fell back into addiction. That brokenness is what finally brought me through

the doors of Celebrate Recovery. I didn't know what to expect, but what I found there was grace, understanding, and people who walked with me when I couldn't walk alone. Through Celebrate Recovery, Jesus has reminded me that even in the middle of pain and loss, he has not abandoned me. His love continues to restore me day by day, teaching me to trust him again and to believe that my true identity is in Jesus Christ alone. If you are walking through grief or struggle, please know you are not alone. **The hope of Jesus Christ is real, and there are people willing to walk beside you,** just as others have walked with me.

## JAN'S STORY

When I arrived at my Wellsprings appointment, I was welcomed by a circle of ladies. I joined the circle. They didn't ask me why I had come or ask any questions about what my problem was. Instead, for 30 minutes we listened to worship music while they prayed and listened to what message God wanted them to give me. They

wrote down their thoughts and scripture given to them by God for me. After the 30 minutes were over they went around the circle, each reading what they had written. I was amazed! Everything they said was exactly what I needed to hear—that **I am loved by God, I am valued by him, and he thinks I am beautiful.** I wept as they read their

messages to me. His word was the truth I needed to have to replace the lie I was believing. They gave me their written messages, and I read them over and over again until they took root.

## ALLIE'S STORY

When I first had a Wellsprings session years ago I agreed to go, but was also very hesitant. I didn't know what to expect. That session was powerful, God revealed a dream that I had earlier that week to the discerners and it really proved to me how real He is and how much He loves me. However, I started believing the lies again, I got into an abusive relationship and felt trapped in it for 5 years. This is when my addiction to alcohol and starving myself just got worse and worse. I never stopped believing in God, but my relationship with him was not there and I was slowly dying. I remember

crying out to God more and more. Laying in bed so weak and worn, just saying Jesus, please just take me or somehow save me, if that is even possible... A couple days later I felt like I was going to die. I called my mom in desperation, we went to the ER, and I was admitted to the hospital, 74 pounds and not even able to really walk. My body was shutting down. During that week in the hospital God was slowly giving me strength back and that healing continued from then on. It was painful to eat while my digestive system was healing. One Sunday I went into the physical healing room after the Chapel

service. That day I was prayed over to heal my stomach and digestive system, and from that day forward I have not had any pain while eating. That is all God. I also ended up having another Wellspring session this past summer at the last minute, and weirdly the night before I was attacked and felt so down. But I was more open to having healing this time. I felt overwhelming love and a knowing that God has been with me through all of my life. **God is still writing my story and I know he is and always will be with me one step at a time.**



# Hope that GROWS WHEN SHARED

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**Hope looks like kids exploring their gifts in Summer Camps, students discovering who God made them to be, and leaders giving time to grow hope each of them.**

This year, we've continued to see stories of hope taking root in the lives of students. Every week, we watch students not only encounter Jesus for the first time but also begin to grasp that their **faith can transform** every part of their lives.

One story that captures this so well comes from a student who was first invited to one of our Friend Sundays. She showed up that Sunday not knowing anyone well, and yet, she has attended every week since. Recently, she shared that just a few months ago, she survived a horrific car accident—the car was completely destroyed, and she's incredibly fortunate to be alive. In the aftermath, she wrestled deeply with questions like, "Why am I still here?" and "Is God even real?"

As she's continued coming to Central Students, she's found a community that's both loving and welcoming, a space where she can honestly explore those questions and discover what Christianity is truly about. Through relationships with leaders and peers, she's beginning to see that her survival wasn't random—that perhaps God has a purpose in it. **Her story is a powerful reminder that hope meets students right where they are, often through the simple invitation of a friend.**

These moments are what make Central Students so special. Week after week, we get to see students encounter the real Jesus, find belonging, and be moved to live on mission—**inviting their friends to experience the same hope they've found.**

—Spencer Olson, High School Pastor

# HOPE MOVES FARTHER

*when  
we go  
together*

## LOCAL PARTNERS

Children of the Heart  
Circles, Holland  
Community Action House  
Escape Ministries  
Feeding America  
Gateway Mission  
Hand2Hand  
Holland Public Schools  
Hope Packages  
Kids' Food Basket  
Kids Hope  
My House Ministry  
Positive Options  
Refresh Hygiene and Hope  
Slavic Community, Holland  
Midtown Counseling

## GLOBAL PARTNERS

**Kris Palosaari**  
Unknown Nations | Scripture Translation

**Jeff & Diane Gilbert**  
Nicaragua

**Waha People** | Turkic-Arabic

**India**

**YWAM** | San Diego/Baja | Tamara Ochoa

**Alyssa Munsaka** | Poetice Zambia

**Liz and Hamed** | United Kingdom

**Mission to the World** | Jim Dewitt | Mexico

**Children's HopeChest** | Ethiopia



**2,578**

Average Weekly  
Attendance

**1,645**

Average Weekly  
Online  
Attendance

**59,655**

Views on Central  
YouTube

**59**

Baptisms

**8,771**

Unique visitors to  
Central Online

**1,675**

Central Holland  
App Downloads

**308**

Average  
Celebrate  
Recovery  
Attendance

**250**

Average meals  
served each week  
at Celebrate  
Recovery

**EACH NUMBER**

**TELLS A STORY OF SOMEONE**

**32,865**

Guests in  
Playland

**9,693**

First time guests  
in Playland

**876**

People in  
Small Groups

**3,000**

Pancakes served  
Easter Sunday

**4,422**

Easter Sunday  
Attendance

**96**

Total Wellsprings  
Sessions

**35**

Average  
Landing  
Attendance

**45**

Average  
Celebration Place  
Attendance

**550**

Attended  
CR in the Park

**7500+**

Hours Served  
through  
Missions

**5**

Countries  
by Mission  
Teams

ONE WHO ENCOUNTERED HOPE

**55**

Students  
Participated  
on Mission Trips

**121**

People sent  
on Short Term  
Mission Trips

**120**

Families Supported  
with Christmas Gifts

THIS YEAR

**120**

First Night Backpacks  
Collected for  
Children of the Heart

**128**

Children sponsored  
through Central's  
Partnership with  
Children's HopeChest,  
Ethiopia

**29,460**

Meals Distributed  
by Volunteers through  
Holland Public School's  
Summer Meal program  
at Central

**263**

Kids Attended  
Summer Camps

**37**

Students  
Participated in  
Students Onstage,  
*Narnia*

**333**

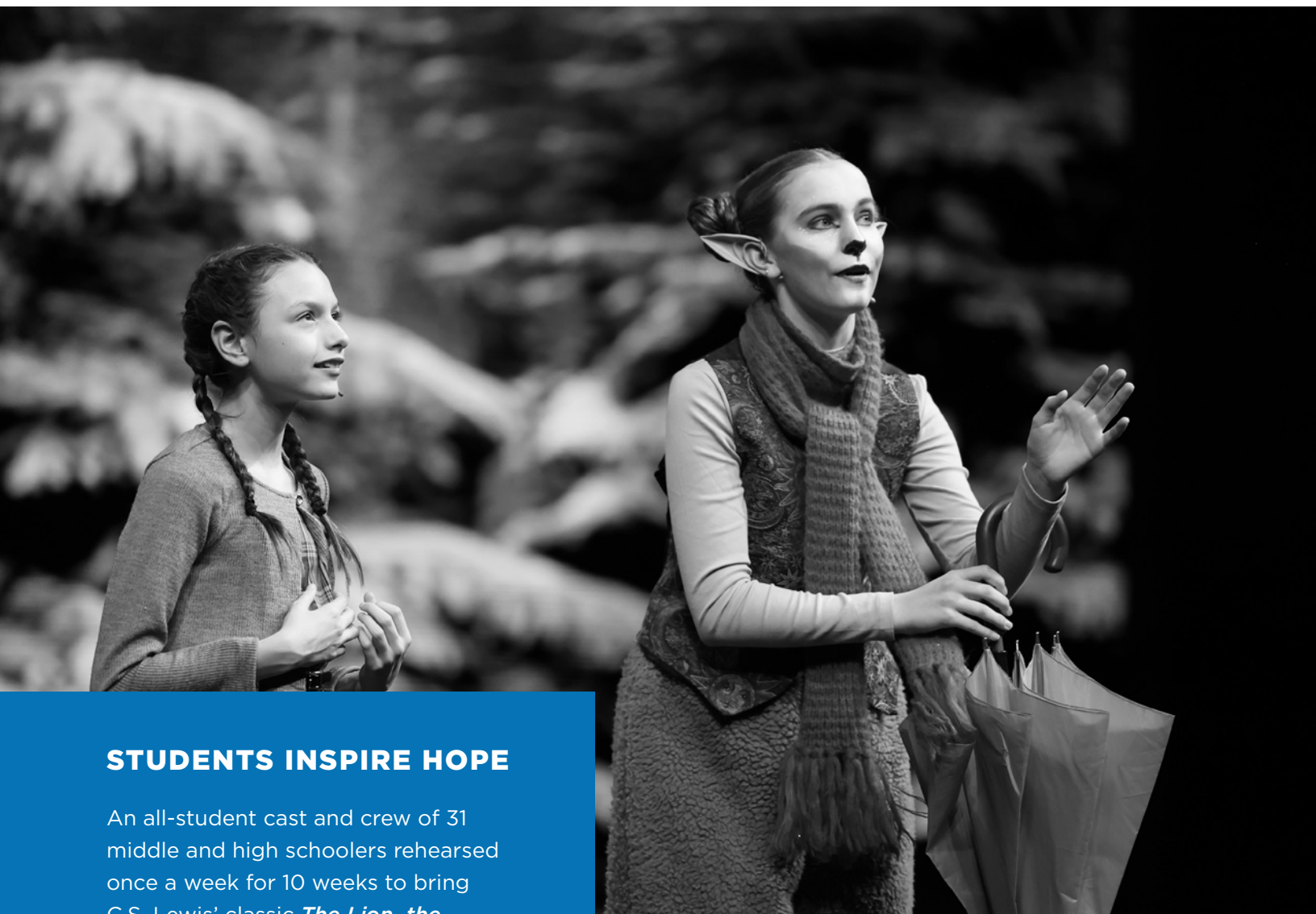
Central Kids  
Average Sunday  
Attendance

**98**

Middle School  
Average Sunday  
Attendance

**88**

High School  
Average Sunday  
Attendance



## STUDENTS INSPIRE HOPE

An all-student cast and crew of 31 middle and high schoolers rehearsed once a week for 10 weeks to bring C.S. Lewis' classic *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* to life. This brand-new ministry united 22 dedicated volunteers across generations—guiding, mentoring, and cheering on these young performers. Their performance filled the Worship Center with over 900 community members, each witnessing hope shared through creativity, collaboration, and the power of story.



## MATT & VICTORIA'S STORY

Leading Central's Summer Fishing Camp brought more goodness and joy into our lives than we ever could have imagined! As we prepared, we prayed our campers would be blessed as we shared God's love through our passion for fishing. But God works in mysterious ways—we were the ones who left feeling blessed. Every. Single. Day.

Outside of Central's Summer Camp ministry, we never would have met these remarkable kids and their families—who we now consider friends. We're especially grateful for the opportunity

to meet community members invited through scholarships from Central's Mission Team. Each camper came with their own unique story. We prayed that fishing with new friends would help them feel safe and loved.

Our hearts still leap whenever a camper sends a photo of their latest catch! We're excited to continue these relationships through the Kids Hope mentoring program—proof that sometimes the best catches happen off the water.



## BETH & JOY'S STORY

We were honored to introduce the craft of sewing to Summer campers! God's goodness radiated in every moment: daily prayers, patterns to follow, projects to create, games to play, snacks and devotions to share, and lots of laughter and learning. The greatest blessing was watching special friendships and memories form—**mentors offered more than individual instruction and expertise; they shared some-thing far more valuable: their unconditional love.** It is an honor to serve the Lord through this unique community outreach ministry. Central's summer camps are impacting the next generation, not only for a week, but for a lifetime.

# FROM HOLLAND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH

*hope is  
moving*



TEAMS FROM CENTRAL WENT TO FIVE COUNTRIES THIS YEAR——

## BRENDA'S STORY

The Lima, Peru Short Term Mission trip was a combined trip with Captivate Church, another church in the Water's Edge family. Our team was a mix of new Jesus followers (6 months saved) and seasoned saints—we all loved the Lord and it was a great group of people and we got to know each other by sharing our stories during morning devotions.

The team was greeted by the kind pastor's wife at 2:30am and that was just the beginning of the hospitality we felt from the people of Peru. We got up the next morning to attend the Water's Edge church in Lima, Somos Del Reino—what a healthy vibrant church!

**We had many opportunities to share the gospel with street evangelism ministries** and

outreaches to children in the outlying areas of Lima province. I felt God's presence with us when we visited with people in a poorer area. We split into groups and my group was invited into a small home owned by a grandmother who supported six grandchildren. **The conversation became an avenue for us to lead the grandmother and her brother to accept the Lord as Savior.** The grandmother then had us pray for her oldest grandson who was about 10 years old and was dealing with anger issues. We saw him later that day at the children's outreach we put on at Su Refugio.

I got a better feel for the influence Central has in San Diego and Peru. I was able to get to know some incredible brothers and sisters in the Lord. Heaven is going to be awesome.

## STEPHANIE'S STORY

As a 5th grade teacher at Jefferson, I have deeply felt the love, support, and prayer that Central, Kid's Hope, and the We Love Jefferson ministry pour into our school community. I have witnessed countless Kid's Hope mentors invest their time, hearts, and faith into students who may not otherwise have someone outside of school to care for them in such a genuine and consistent way. Our entire staff has also experienced the unwavering support of the We Love Jefferson ministry. Just when we need encouragement most, they show up—with prayer, snacks, meals, and heartfelt care. **Central, Kid's Hope, and the We Love Jefferson ministry truly wrap around our school community, embodying the hands and feet of Jesus.** They are a vital and cherished part of Jefferson.

## KRIS'S STORY

I went through a little bit of a difficult season for a couple of months this summer, leading up to our trip to Shone, Ethiopia. I walked away from our experience with **a renewed confidence in God's plan for my life** and a deeper sense of gratitude.



# CHILDREN'S HOPECHEST

SHONE, ETHIOPIA

We know that lasting change happens through relationships. In 2025 we began a partnership with Children's HopeChest and it's built on the conviction that **God calls us to walk alongside communities—not just provide aid, but empower families to thrive.** By partnering with Children's HopeChest through sponsorship and capital projects, we connect directly with children and their caregivers, supporting their physical, spiritual, and emotional growth while strengthening the local church's impact.

Central supports the Shone Yehiwot HopeChest CarePoint in Ethiopia, located in the Yehiwot Berhan Church. At the CarePoint, children and families experience the love of Christ through education, nutritional support, medical care, and discipleship. Local staff and leaders actively share the Gospel through Bible teaching, worship, and relationship-building, helping each child and family understand that they are deeply known, loved, and chosen by God.

This partnership goes beyond meeting physical needs; it's about spiritual restoration and long-term transformation, equipping the next generation to grow in faith, character, and leadership while helping their community move from dependence to independence and sustainable stability.





## A STORY FROM SHONE, ETHIOPIA

When I first met Yeabtarik in the fall of 2024, she was in a dark and painful season. She had never known her mother, and after her father fell ill and passed away, she was sent to live with a relative who was unable to care for her well and treated her poorly. Left largely on her own, she was doing whatever she could to survive.

Brilliant and resourceful, Yeabtarik used her love for learning to earn money by taking exams for other students. When I met her, she was burdened by grief over losing her father and guilt over how she was surviving. That day, I prayed with her, and I haven't stopped praying since.

In February of 2025, as Central launched its partnership with Children's HopeChest, Yeabtarik was sponsored by Jack and Linda TenCate. That sponsorship opened the door for her to receive education, discipleship, nutrition, and health support through the Shone Yehiwot CarePoint. When I prayed with her again that February, the CarePoint staff and I reminded her that God is her heavenly Father, and that the CarePoint community is now her earthly family. Jack and Linda committed to praying for her and writing letters of encouragement, reminding her she is deeply loved and never forgotten.

When our team returned in September 2025, I asked the CarePoint's social worker and program director, Teketel, how she was doing. With joy, he exclaimed, "Your prayers are working! She's in a much healthier living situation and is fully engaged in the CarePoint's programs, education, health, and discipleship!" The next day, Yeabtarik joined us for lunch

and later for a time of worship with the children, church leaders, and our team. As I looked across the room, **I saw a completely transformed young woman, her face radiant with joy as she worshiped. Her voice, lifted in her native Hadiya language, was filled with freedom and faith.** She motioned for our team to join her, inviting us to worship together with her in her heart language before the Lord.

That moment captured the true power of sponsorship. It's not just about financial support, it's about commitment, prayer, and relationship. Sponsorship opens a door for children like Yeabtarik to encounter hope, healing, and the love of Jesus. And through prayer and ongoing connection, sponsors become part of that story, reminding each child that they are seen, known, and deeply loved by their Father in Heaven.

*-Patty Jones, Director of Central Missions*



Holland, MI • Grand Rapids, MI • Grand Ledge, MI • Benton Harbor, MI • South Haven, MI • Columbia, TN • Tampa, FL • San Diego, CA • Bozeman, MT •



WATER'S  
EDGE

A FAMILY OF CHURCHES

Chicago, IL • Kingston, Jamaica • Lima, Peru • Chimango, Guatemala • Kyiv, Ukraine • Phnom Penh, Cambodia • Bogor, Indonesia • Ibadan, Nigeria



# Hope that MULTIPLIES

**Every dollar given becomes a seed of faith—  
sown into stories of transformation that will  
echo into eternity.**

In God's economy, your generosity produces fruit that lasts: families formed, leaders raised, and lives transformed. This is faith in motion. **The goal is not the gift itself, but the faith behind it—a faith that moves, multiplies, and invests in eternity.** What you'll see in this report is the visible fruit of that invisible faith. God, help us continue to see giving the way You do.

## \$17,200,000

Total giving across all of  
Water's Edge Family of churches

## \$8,500,000

Total Giving at Central

### Disbursements:

#### \$2,200,000

Given outside our walls

#### \$4,100,000

Personnel

#### \$960,000

Ministry Operations

#### \$410,000

Facility Operations

*Based on our budget year  
June 1, 2024–May 31, 2025*



As we look back on this past year, my heart is full of gratitude for God's faithfulness. Together, we have witnessed His hand at work in remarkable ways—moving us forward in mission, deepening our impact, and strengthening our church family.

One of the clearest signs of God's provision has been through our Pray It Forward capital campaign. This year, we finished the campaign and surpassed our \$1 million goal—praise God! Because of your faithful giving, our remaining bank debt is now under \$700,000. This is an incredible step toward greater financial

freedom, allowing us to invest more fully in ministry, missions, and the next generation.

The Water's Edge Family of Churches also continues to grow and flourish. This year we celebrated the addition of The Beloved Church in Allendale, expanding our reach into a new community. We also rejoiced as Overflow Church in Benton Harbor moved into a brand-new facility, opening new doors for ministry and outreach. God is writing powerful stories of transformation, and we are humbled to play a part in His Kingdom work.

Here at Central, God continues to move in profound ways—each story is a testament to his grace and to your faithful partnership in prayer and giving. As we step into a new year, we do so with great expectancy—trusting that the same God who has led us this far will continue to guide us into even greater impact. Together, we are building a legacy of faith, generosity, and mission that will bless generations to come.

—Jason Adams, Chief Financial Officer, Water's Edge & Central Wesleyan Church



## WAYS TO GIVE

### ONLINE

[centralholland.org/give](http://centralholland.org/give)

### MAIL

446 W 40th. St.  
Holland, MI 49423

### IN PERSON

Sundays during services  
or at giving kiosks in lobby



  
**Central**

**CENTRALHOLLAND.ORG**