

Central United Methodist Church

Annual Report – 2021

After following the challenges presented by Covid in 2020, and the introduction of vaccines in 2021, we had hoped things would have improved and we would return to some semblance of normalcy (whatever that is). But once again, we faced challenges with Covid Omicron. However, as you will read in the following pages, the faithful servants at Central stepped up. Central continued to provide ministry, programs, and support missions both locally and internationally. The congregation and supporters of Central have a special calling to be the 'hands and feet of Christ', as evidenced by all that was accomplished in 2021. We look forward to this continued support, enabling Central to continue to provide Christian service in so many ways.

If you would like to become part of the programs and missions of Central, please feel free to contact the leaders of each committee, or the Church Office.

Knud Hansen, Church Council Chair

Pastor's Narrative Report – Charge Conference 2021

One of the stated expectations for me upon my appointment here seven+ years ago was to lead the congregation in vision and planning for the future, and this work has been incredibly intense as well as rewarding. Huge decisions and change continued in 2021, despite the continued disruption of COVID-19.

Our Lay Leader is new this year, and he has taken on the role with gusto. His ministry is one of spiritual care and growth, and along with his musical gifts and preaching ability, he is creating a wonderful vision for that role. I have enjoyed working with him very much.

Ministry ideas and vision are developing and moving along with changing circumstances: We continue to live into our Mission DNA with the (finally!) official 501c3 (CentralServes), and have begun to develop a vision for the best ways to connect the potential of that with the reality of our current Missions work. Our need for a clearly articulated intentional discipleship pathway for persons along their faith journeys has not yet been fully realized, but we are working toward it.

We continue pivoting and adapting ministry and programs. We have found new ways to use space, and are currently hosting Berkshire Farms foster care services to provide space for some of their important work; the Lions Club, which has spent several meetings volunteering in service at Central with our Clothing Center; one Brownie and two Girl Scout troops; and we continued our weekly community dinner and free clothing center ministries, though with significant adaptations for take-out meals and shopping by appointment.

hope@central, our NFC, lost some steam as we continued to navigate through pandemic conditions. Our Lay Leader for hope@central and I are working to create a new iteration of hope@central, with a slight shift in focus demographic due to the development of several new church plants in the area. As that Lay Leader is a candidate for ministry, we hope to grow that role into a Lay Pastor, then Licensed Local Pastor role in time.

We created three new Faith Formation Assistant positions, and two new staff joined us under the supervision of our Associate Pastor for Faith and Action (Laurel O'Connor). Laurel's role is to coordinate with Education and Missions/Central Serves to provide leadership and continuity of purpose for each. We hope to grow that role into a place for a Deacon, and grow into that as Laurel progresses in her candidacy for ordination as a Deacon.

Even with COVID, we continued to emphasize experiences that connect or re-connect persons with God and their own life in God, primarily through worship, which continues as a "Livestream+Live" hybrid experience at 11am. Our "early church" worship continues at 8.30am each week. In-person attendance has grown this year, yet has not reached nearly the pre-Covid numbers. However, our Livestream regularly tops out in the vicinity of 100+ views, which when used with the multiplier of 1.7 to account for multiple persons included in each view, in addition to worship, is very healthy. We are exploring ways to build a digital campus for those who live at a distance, as well as those who have settled into "church on the couch" and may rarely return to in-person worship. We have offered other opportunities as well, including our ZOOM Book Study. We are beginning two ZOOM long-term studies this November: Living the Questions and Disciple Bible Study. My hope is always that parishioners and persons in other places are learning to articulate their own discipleship and desire for spiritual growth.

We have continued to examine our programs and ministries and staffing in light of the changing financial and community realities facing us. Our internal demographic is aging and we have lost a significant number of stalwart parishioners to death or relocation, we are located within a community that is declining, and we are simply not attracting large numbers of younger people who might be interested in traditional forms of church. Even if we did, they likely would never be able to support the church financially as its older members have done. We are looking hard at what that means for Central, and how to envision its support and vitality in the future.

In my connexional ministry work, I continued to serve on the District Committee on Ministry and the District Leadership Team/District Committee on Superintendency. I am certified as a lead trainer with the Intentional Growth Center in Transitional and Interim Ministry, and will be continuing this work in the future. I also continued mentoring candidates for Ordination. I will be attending General Conference 2020+ and Jurisdictional Conference in whatever

form they end up taking. It is my hope that the UMC can come to some sort of sane resolution to our current schismatic polarities; in any case, our Reconciling Task Force will be leading the congregation through the preparation and aftermath of GC2020/1.

For my own development, I attend a weekly lectionary study group with colleagues, have spent a couple of retreats in worship planning, and am partway through a Certification Program in Peer Homiletic Coaching at Vanderbilt Divinity School. I am also currently working toward a 2-3 month renewal leave in the Summer of 2022, as a time of rest as well as prayer and discernment in the approach of General Conference.

God has led the leadership at Central through an amazing discernment and visioning process. I am so proud of the leadership teams and staff, who have worked and prayed so hard and faithfully to follow God's leading for a vital future. I am deeply grateful to them, as well as to the retired clergy in our midst, who offer support and mentoring of all kinds! The future has so much possibility, even if it may seem drastically different from Central's past. Our laity is vital and empowered, and I believe that together, we can craft a powerful vision for that future. I am blessed by our ministry together.

Pastor Michelle Bogue-Trost

Associate Pastor Report

It has been a year filled with creative expressions of Faith Formation – we've spent most of the year working with children and families remotely, and beefing up some of our technological offerings so we can keep engaging with families in new ways.

In 2021, I continued working on streamlining the Weekly Sentry email that so many have come to rely on as a quick-reference for weekly church events. I began training Maureen to take on parts of the Weekly Sentry, and will continue transitioning that weekly endeavor to her through training and assistance.

As the Weekly Sentry became cemented into the fabric of Central communications, the Education Council decided to invest in a new app to push out faith formation materials to families. App development began slowly, but as the months passed the Education Council's pilot project turned into a church-wide communication tool. At the end of 2021, over 100 people had downloaded the app and were using it to watch worship, give electronically, download the bulletin, read the Bible, and more. Work continues on refining that communication tool to help engage visitors and current members alike with church-related resources.

The Education Council took on a major facelift for upstairs in preparation for the 2021 school year – we got a dumpster and cleared out many of the classrooms, and have been slowly investing in portable furniture options. That project is still ongoing, and the Education Council decided to put Children's Faith Formation on hiatus for 2021 to allow for further program (and hopefully vaccine) development. In the meantime, Education worked with Worship and the AV team to outfit the back of the sanctuary with a kid-friendly space as well as a third TV so that songs and Scripture can be broadcast to families using the playspace.

One of my favorite seasons of 2021 for outreach was Halloween – I was invited by the Southern Tier Community Center to their trunk or treat the night before, so we were able to share God's love with the hundreds of families who went by to trunk or treat out of the church van. We had signs like "God loves you" and had rainbow stickers on the candy we handed out. Families took pictures of the event flyer for the following day at the church, and we had a really great community turnout.

One of my goals for this year was to help Allocations get enough applications for funds to completely expend their grant budget; thanks be to God that over \$25,000 was given away in 2021 through that program! I am so grateful for the Allocations funds; it's a great way to begin to build bridges with other area organizations to show that we are a church that is interested in more than what we can GET from the community, that we are active community contributors.

This coming year, the plan is to continue outreach in the community, including a growing relationship with Jennie F. Snapp School. In 2021 we were able to meet a need they had by getting enough water bottles for each student at the school – in place of the Block Party or Backpack giveaway. We also donated socks, underwear and leggings for students, as well as hygiene products.

Central has stepped up to ministry in new ways during the pandemic. Connections continue to be made in the community, technology and communication is breaking down geographic barriers, and families are being reached to share the God's love.

Laurel O'Connor

Lay Leader

I started by term as lay leader without a clear roadmap of where I might be headed, but looking back it has been a year of great learning and faith strengthening for me.

While I was familiar with Central's organization, I have learned so much by attending committee meetings this year. I have a better understanding of church operations, but have also been inspired by the deep commitment so many people have to the work of Central.

While in my mode of learning about committees by joining their meetings, I hopped on to one of the weekly Soul Care Zoom meetings. I had heard about it, but had no idea what it was all about. I quickly learned it's all about love – how we experience God's love, and how we share that love by supporting each other through challenging times. Who knew you could become so close to people through a Zoom meeting? This group has been a joy for me.

Worship and music have always been passions for me, and I have missed being able to share those experiences in person. I led weekly prayer services through Lent and Advent as a way of creating new opportunities for spiritual connections in an online community. I led an adult Sunday school series on the background of some of my favorite hymns. I contributed two video sermons and led one worship service in person. The Blue Christmas service has always had special meaning for me, and I was grateful to be able to lead that again this year.

This fall I joined the Living the Questions study group, which is the first serious Bible study work I've done since my confirmation! It has challenged me a great deal, but it has been a great experience to work through those challenges with our group. This experience has reinforced to me that faith is a living, evolving thing that needs to be poked at and nurtured to remain vibrant.

Who knows what 2022 will bring, but I am grateful to be on this journey of faith with the members of Central. God bless each and every one of you.

Jeff Heald

Faith Formation/ Education

2021 proved to be another challenging, yet innovative year for our education and faith formation program. We found new ways to connect and communication tools became a key element in this transition. Since Covid was still very much with us, we were unable to have an in-person program for the better part of the year. Luckily, we were able to connect with a new Central app and social media outlets. Our leaders, Sarah and Laurel helped to keep the children connected with mailings for special occasions and our Adult program used Zoom to do a variety of classes.

In the spring, we did our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. We were able to serve about 60 people by take out only service. The weather made it difficult for many to come out so we didn't get the turn out that we planned but it was still a great team building event for those that took part.

As the weather started to improve we took the opportunity to do some major spring cleaning on the second floor of the Education wing. We filled a dumpster to overflowing and was able to get rid of damaged furniture and lots of clutter. It was therapeutic to start fresh and revamp a lot of the rooms for new classroom and office uses. We have hopes to offer these spaces to others and utilize the rooms in much more creative and useful ways. This process is still on going.

We were hoping to start our in person program again in the Fall. We were able to have adult class opportunities available in person and on zoom, and these continued through the end of the year. Our children's and youth programs were not as successful. Parents were still reluctant to send their children and after trying for a few months, we decided to put things on hold and work on developing a program that would reach our churchschoolers in different ways. We hired a Faith Formation team to help Laurel with this endeavor. Donna Kross and Ben O' Conner were added to this team. An area referred to as a "Prayground" was created in the back of the Sanctuary for children to have a special place to engage in activities while their parents attended worship. Ed. Council provided funds for a TV to be mounted in the back part of the Sanctuary for easier viewing.

One of the highlights of the Fall was a Halloween Happening and pumpkin painting event. We invited the community through Shepherds Supper and the Clothing Center, and had a fantastic turn out. Donna used her decorating expertise and we transformed the downstairs into a spooky fun house. We had over 100 people attend. Everyone came masked (of course) and we had all covid protocols in place.

For Advent and Christmas we had to be more creative with what we could do. We decided to hold a "Family Christmas in a Bag" event. Families signed up for this in advance and we all met in the Sanctuary and sang carols, listened to a story and were entertained by bell ringers. Then the families were given a bag to fill with family activities and goodies. Gingerbread houses, cookie kits, ornament making and lots of activities filled the bags. We gave out 20+ bags in all.

For the Christmas Eve Family Worship, Donna and Laurel led us in family games, They encouraged families to take part in these at home. The games were a lot of fun and also a learning experience. It was yet another creative way to come into people's homes and bring the word of the birth of Jesus.

As we look ahead to 2022, we are still dealing with a covid world of uncertainty. We will continue to adapt and revisit new ways of connecting, living and learning. We are grateful for such wonderful leadership and willing workers on this journey.

In His Service,
Pat Hansen

Worship

In 2021 the Worship Council continued to coordinate and support the church's worship leaders. The Worship Council and the church's Covid Task Force continually monitored recommendations from the NYS Department of Health, the national Centers for Disease Control, and the Broome County Health Department. While the arrival of

vaccinations and boosters blunted the impact of Covid, they could not eliminate it.

In response to the changing dynamics, we relaxed masking and congregational singing protocols for a time. Subsequently, when the Omicron variant caused a surge in cases and heightened safety concerns, the full protocols were reinstated and remained in place for the remainder of the year and into 2022.

At mid-year it became apparent that the threat of the Covid virus, while being increasingly better managed, would not be eliminated in the foreseeable future. Thus, offering the sacrament of Holy Communion was extended to remote worshipers as well as those in the sanctuary. Similar to the Love Feast, remote worshipers were invited to provide their own beverage (preferably grape juice) and bread (or a substitute) and join as Pastor Michelle led the sacrament. Careful procedures while distributing the elements kept worshipers in the sanctuary safe while receiving them.

LiveStream participation remained strong, with sometimes over 100 devices logged in. During the week, many more viewed video clips of the live services as well as videos that were edited for broadcast on Spectrum cable.

Vocalists and instrumentalists continued to provide special music. Jeff Heald and Roger Richards contributed more pieces on the rebuilt and refurbished organ. Still, the Covid virus often disrupted plans. Needs changed from week to week, sometimes at the last minute. Organist/Pianist Sean Stafford saw that we had quality music each Sunday despite these snags. We are grateful to these gifts from all of our music people. The organ provided a grand evening on October 29 when Tim Smith- who managed the rebuild project- provided a concert. The local chapter of the American Guild of Organists joined in sponsoring the event, which was open to the public.

The Worship Council continued to guide Central's worship life in adapting to the changing challenges of Covid. We are grateful to Central's members and friends who have supported and sustained the church and its leaders during this unusual time.

Mark Marino

Chair, Worship Council

Missions Council

2021 was a very busy year, and many lives were positively impacted by the work of the Mission Council, volunteers at Shepherd's Supper and the Clothing Center, and members of the congregation.

Shepherd's Supper served 6,790 meals. Along with the Thursday night meals, we provided 336 bags of groceries. We had 436 volunteers with 1,546 hours of service. With the help of food donations from Broome County, the cost per meal was \$1.10, (which include the extra costs of takeout containers and utensils). During the Thursday meals, we started providing warm clothing, decorative knickknacks, books, and other life-enriching items from the Clothing Center for guests to enjoy and take with them.

The Clothing Center received an upgrade, including new racks, storage, and a bathroom refurbishment (in process). Throughout the year, the volunteers diligently sorted, hung, and organized clothing to create a welcoming atmosphere. We helped families meet their clothing needs during appointments and by providing specific donations through community contacts. A diaper and hygiene supply closet was added to the Clothing Center's services. The Clothing Center went beyond the church doors by serving people staying at the Del Motel (Binghamton) and King's Inn (Endwell). Sleeping bags were donated to Truth Pharm. Worn-out shoes were given to the Twin Tiers Honor Flight to support their mission of bringing veterans to Washington, D.C. Donated yarn was knitted and crocheted into mittens and hats. Afghans and lap quilts were provided to Meals on Wheels. Well-worn blankets and towels were sent to the Broome County Humane Society.

The Mission Council also supported some short-term projects. A bottle and can drive was held to raise money for the Joe Santacroce Foundation to help offset their costs to deliver free furniture and appliances to those who need them. Toiletry bags were stuffed and delivered to organizations providing needed hygiene items. November's Harvest Home grocery collection benefited the CHOW food pantries.

In looking forward to 2022, Shepherd's Supper and the Clothing Center will continue to minister to guests within and outside of the church walls. Lighten the Load, a new outreach providing quarters at laundromats is starting. Other short-term projects are also being considered based on community needs.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maggie Hungerford

Fellowship

Fellowship has been working hard to find ways to maintain fellowship in a safe manner.. We have done Zoom get-togethers with Trivia nights and "Scattogories" game nights during the winter months. Both of these activities fit the Zoom format well. We hosted a Radio Show in February that was live streamed on the Central You tube channel and well watched. We had a Road Rally in May where participants did a photo scavenger hunt followed by a picnic at Round top. During the summer, we played a round of golf at Chucksters on the Vestal parkway and hosted an Ice Cream social outside in the parking lot and sitting area by the office door.

We held a mini CHOW walk around Jenny F Snapp school in the fall. And stayed in touch with our college students by sending Christmas cards and gift cards during finals. As Covid stays around, we will continue to look for ways to connect in creative and safe ways into the new year.

We also started a formal 'We-Care' process, where we have a set of volunteers who send cards to our home bound members each month.

Blessings, Pat Breneman

Board of Trustees

The mission of the Board of Trustees is the care, oversight, and supervision of CUMC's property and equipment. This includes, but is not limited to, the Church, parsonage, vans, parking lots, equipment, and endowment funds.

In 2020, we continued our annual focus on the care and maintenance of our facilities and equipment, and when appropriate, replacement or renovation. This year continued the Trustees advice and consideration of many Covid-19 approaches and accommodations.

Items of note that required significant church or trustee resources included:

- (a) New Phone System: Upgraded church phones and related equipment which have provided the church staff with many new capabilities and more flexibility
- (b) Kitchen Equipment Maintenance: ovens, plumbing, and refrigeration
- (c) Bathroom Renovation: Completed the renovations of the Education Building first floor bathrooms
- (d) Parsonage Patio Roof: Replaced patio roof panels
- (e) Boiler Maintenance: Implemented an annual boiler maintenance program for the church and parsonage; many issues were addressed or avoided
- (f) Access Ramp: Rebuilt Education Building access ramp
- (g) Church Use: Approved requests for recurring use of our church facilities for more than 5 new community groups
- (h) Sanctuary Lighting: Funded outside engineering study for future upgrade of sanctuary lighting if needed

Administration of the Endowment Fund included the awarding of:

- ◆ \$2,000 scholarships to 3 well-deserving applicants that are furthering their education
- ◆ Shalom Funding for Audio Visual and Internet Equipment for the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall; Funding for Clothing Center Upgrades
- ◆ Annual funding of \$16,000 to the Allocations Committee for requests in 2022

Entering 2022, we will look to advance several projects from 2021, including parsonage front porch painting, church security, additional LED lighting enhancements, and planning for parking lot repaving.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Hall

Finance

Entering 2021, we knew we were facing a financial challenge. While Central tends to have a gap between the budget and committed giving each year, this gap grew larger in 2021. But as we had done in the past, we proceeded into the year with faith that we would close the gap. Through the faithful giving of the Central family we were able to close the gap significantly, but not entirely. Congregational giving increased by \$30,000 from 2020, thanks to you all! We did have to take some money from our Endowment fund to enable us to continue with our financial obligations through the year. We finished the year with a positive financial balance.

Thanks to a successful Stewardship campaign the committed giving increased for 2022. While we enter 2022 with a gap between committed giving and the budget, we have faith that as in past years we will close the gap by year end. It is only through the committed spiritual giving by all of us that Central can continue to serve Christ by providing the ministries, programs and missions to our community and beyond.

Thank you all for your continued support.

Knud Hansen, Finance Committee

TV Ministry

Mission

The mission of Central's TV Ministry is to use television and video to share the ministry of the Central United Methodist Church with our congregation and the community.

Goal

In keeping with that mission, Central's TV Ministry continued to serve our congregation in reaching out to the local community. We broadcast Central's message via Spectrum Cable and LiveStream on the church's YouTube Channel. We have served the community by televising other concerts and special programs such as the Martin Luther King service, the UMW Christmas Program, Central Players "Radio Show," and others.

Central's Video Ministry

Viewers can watch Central's services on:

- ◆ Live Streaming on YouTube
- ◆ Spectrum Cable TV channel 1301— Sundays at 8:00a.m. and Mondays at 5:30p.m. (taped from previous week)
- ◆ On Demand anytime on Central's YouTube Channel.

In 2020 the church's YouTube channel and LiveStreaming capability took on particular significance as we implemented safety practices in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. That significance and challenge continued and became more important in 2021.

TV Ministry provided support and LiveStreaming for more than just Sunday and special worship services around Easter, Advent and Christmas. There was an increased number of requests to LiveStream funeral and memorial services, and we were able to accommodate each one. The LiveStreamed services have been helpful to local members and friends who needed extra measures to stay safe and were valuable to many family members and friends who would not have been able to participate otherwise. We also continued to integrate worship videos developed by participants of our video editing workshop.

In conjunction with the Fellowship Council, TV Ministry produced a DVD collection of Christmas Music that was shared with area nursing homes. This was an extension of our traditional Christmas caroling program which was impractical during the pandemic.

We have recently met the challenge of ice storms and Covid cancellations by integrating a Zoom presence with our LiveStreamed worship. Although not perfect, this has allowed us to maintain our Sunday worships at a time when we might have had to cancel the services.

Participants of our video editing workshop have produced their own videos for the education program and Hope at Central. Additionally TV Ministry has developed a number of special highlight videos that have enhanced Central's social media presence.

Central now has 287 YouTube subscribers; more than last year, and still increasing. Growing numbers of people use YouTube and the church website to explore the congregation before coming to the building itself.

Audio-Video Update Plan

In 2021 the Tech Team completed three major improvements.

1. We installed a dedicated Internet line. In the past, we uploaded our LiveStream using the existing building network, including the WIFI network shared by worshipers in the sanctuary. This new direct line is dedicated to our LiveStream upload. It helps to ensure a more problem-free, reliable connection for LiveStreaming.
2. Another upgrade was the replacement of the projectors and reflective screens at the front of the sanctuary with large screen LCD TVs. The TVs are brighter, use less energy, require less maintenance, and have a longer life. A number of worshipers have commented on how helpful this improvement has been. We also worked with the Education Council to add an LCD monitor in the overflow area at the rear of the sanctuary. This TV positioned is so that worshipers in that area can more easily see images and read text that are displayed. The combined effect of the new LCD monitors and dedicated Internet connection has allowed us to upgrade our video image at a higher resolution (i.e. 1080p) both in the sanctuary and for our remote worshipers.
3. Two microphones, designed to record music from the rebuilt organ, were permanently installed above the sanctuary floor on the front pillars. These microphone not only save setup time for recording the organ, but also allow us to do justice to the improved sound quality of the organ.

Plans for the Future:

In the year ahead we will overhaul our existing equipment, determine how we can get the most out of it, and determine what additional equipment would help provide even better service in the sanctuary and on the LiveStreams.

Also, we will be talking with church boards and committees to develop a strengthened financial stream so that we can plan and implement future improvements without having to rely exclusively on grants and special funding.

The TV Ministry team continues to recruit and train new persons. We would like to have a deeper pool of volunteers so we would have more people available for regular and special services and be better able to cross-train persons to be more familiar with the processes of planning, production and post-editing. Please encourage interested persons to contact us or the church office.

As always, we thank Central's members and friends in supporting these efforts as well as for comments and suggestions on how we can continue to adapt, adjust, and improve.

Mark Marino and Carl Muldner

United Methodist Women

United Methodist Women Despite another year of adjusting to Covid, I'm pleased to say that our three circles continue to meet monthly via Zoom for devotions, various programs and fellowship. Zoom enables members that are not local to still be a part of their group.

In April and October we had very successful Take-Out Luncheons. We joined with Lyceum and the Naturalist Club of Broome County on July 10 for our Garden Tour. Ten beautiful gardens in Endicott, Owego and Berkshire were on display. The weather was beautiful and the tour well attended. In August we gathered at Round Top Park for a picnic. That was the first time in several months that we had the opportunity to be together in person. Mission recognitions were given to Art Felton and Amber Gaylord.

Sean Stafford and Roger Richards presented a beautiful, musical Christmas Program in December. It was enjoyed by many, in person or on Livestream. Central is so fortunate to have a Tech Team that is willing to give of their time so many can enjoy such events. We are so grateful to all that support our fundraisers. It enables us to carry out our mission and vision of turning faith, hope and love into action on behalf of women, children and youth.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shirlenn O'Brien

Allocations

The 2021 summary below displays the budget and describes the actions of the committee through January 31, 2022. Allocations fiscal year runs from February 1 to January 31 each year.

The source of the Allocations budget is earnings from the Endowment fund and is managed by the Trustees. The Allocations Committee acts on requests for funds from the church, community, and other not-for-profit organizations. Funds are awarded in the following categories: (1) Missions, (2) Pastor's Supplementary, (3) Local Church Program, (4) Local Community, and (5) National, International, or Conference Projects.

We supported 18 requests in 2021 to local organizations such as: Binghamton Food Rescue, Masking Broome County, Literacy Volunteers of Broome-Tioga Counties, and the Addiction Center of Broome County. We also approved requests for internal church programs and projects, such as supplies for the Clothing Center and Lukens-Jackson camperships. Of particular note, Allocations put forward \$8,853 of the \$10,000 Central UMC sent to Church World Service for the resettlement of Afghan refugees. It is also worth noting that Allocations had the largest number of external, local community requests that we've received in 5 years. These community connections are of great importance and have major impact, so we are grateful to people like Associate Pastor Laurel for fostering these connections and we look forward to continuing to grow those relationships.

2021-2022 Budget Summary:

2020-21 Budget Carryover	\$ 9,584
2021-22 Allocation Budget	\$ 16,000
Total Budget Available	\$ 25,584
Total Expenditures	\$25,535
1/31/22 Balance	\$ 49

Respectfully submitted,
Maggie Wolford

Organ Project

Once upon a time, we had a plan to dedicate our newly rebuilt organ on Easter Sunday in 2020, with an inaugural concert to follow later that week. We were finally able to dedicate the new organ in worship in November 2020, and in October 2021 we were treated to an organ concert by our organ builder, Tim Smith. We are now working with the Binghamton chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) to host their members recital later this spring. Thanks to the generous support of the Central congregation, we can look forward to many more years of glorious organ music in worship and concerts.

Jeff Heald

Reconciling Task Force

With the Covid-19 pandemic still among us, our committee only met twice in 2021 via zoom to discuss what we needed to do to prepare the congregation for the upcoming General Conference that was postponed from 2020 until late August early September 2022. We decided to have a "Forum Forward" held after the 11:00 service both in person and Livestream so that we would be able to post it on our YouTube page for people watch. The thought is that we can begin 2022 with a forum explaining where things stand now in the UMC. Then as the Conference gets closer and more information surfaces about the issues before GC, we will hold more forums to address how the issues will impact Central.

Respectfully submitted,
Bev Cosimano

Altar Guild

There have been no significant changes with the altar guild in 2021. Central members and friends continue to generously donate altar flowers weekly and support the purchase of plants at Easter and Christmas. White poinsettia plants were included this past Christmas along with the traditional red plants. Reorganization of the sacristy was done so that fabrics can be stored and accessed more efficiently.

A faithful team of people make sure the altar is prepared for each Sunday's worship experience.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carla Wood

hope@Central

Our church-within-a-church, hope@central, went into 2021 with big dreams. Then, we hit some roadblocks. Our primary organizers for our monthly services were experiencing a lot of fatigue, so we decided to take a short hiatus. We had hoped that in that time, as vaccinations rolled out and we came out of winter, that we would have a "COVID Comeback" in late spring / early summer of 2021. But, as they say, the best laid plans....

Our leadership was going through some transitions. Maggie, for example, decided to enroll in a Master's of Divinity course at Drew on top of her work at Binghamton University, leaving very little time for additional endeavors. Other members of the leadership team similarly had "life stuff" happen that either pulled them in different directions or simply took a lot of their time. COVID is very much a part of lives as well, and it's been hard to find direction for this new faith community.

Yet, while quiet, we are still here. Maggie and Pastor Michelle have met regularly to discuss ideas for collaboration opportunities, missions projects, etc. We still feel this call to build *something* - we're just not yet sure what it will look like or when that might come into focus.

So, for now, we covet the prayers of our church as we continue to discern a way forward.

May you all find hope @ central,
Maggie Wolford
Lay Leader to hope@central

Lukens- Jackson

We had a slow start getting back to camping this past summer. Restructuring of every aspect of getting kids to camp was carried out. Sky Lake staff was incredible with adapting all elements of camp so that they could safely offer camps to approximately 50% of the typical numbers of campers. Registration needed to be done online, something that we had not dealt with as a small task force. Without the possibility of a pizza party to hold registration we set up appointments for campers with no computer access. We registered 18 campers, a lower number than usual but are encouraged that this year we will reach more children.

Our funding is consistent from wonderful donors, former campers and staff and the Shalom Fund and Allocations and the supporters of the L-J Camps.

As 2022 begins the L-J Committee is anticipating some changes to our process. We are still committed to continuing the ministry that Bob Lukens and Everett Jackson started 50 years ago at Central.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carla Wood

Van Committee-

The Van Ministry saw very limited usage in 2021 due to concerns about Covid exposure. In November, Endwell UMC used the van to collect the donations for the Red Bird Mission. We had \$350 in donations and \$1412.61 in expenses for the year. The committee is still considering purchasing a van to replace the tan van at some point in the future. Currently we have 3 members on the van committee and a small pool of van drivers. We have suspended the Sunday morning pick up program as Covid concerns have increased.
Gregg Wood

Central Serves

During 2021 the Board of Directors of Central Serves concentrated and performing all the required activities to be officially recognized as a 501c, by the IRS. Upon receiving this approval and a Tax Identification number Central Serves was able to open a checking account. We were also able to reserve 'Central Serves' as a internet domain. Central Serves mission is to provide community support and guidance for the Greater Endicott Area through service and education.

Our goal in 2021 is to partner with other organizations in the community as well as Central's Missions Council and to pursue service opportunities with them.

Knud Hansen, President