Central Baptist Church of Atlantic Highlands Welcomes You!
The mission of Central Baptist Church shall be the advancement of the kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Central Baptist Church shall seek to attain this mission through the public worship of God, the preaching of the Gospel, consistent Christian living by its members, personal evangelism, missionary endeavors, Christian education, and Christian social involvement.
Get to Know Us

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Find us on Facebook: Central Baptist Church Atlantic Highlands
Get to Know Us

Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA and New Jersey
Member of the North Shore Association
Active participant in the Area Association of Community Churches
In 2018 we celebrated our 125th anniversary
January 26, 1893, Central Baptist Church was organized. By October 1, 1893, Frank C. Colby became the first Pastor, and the members numbered 99. On July 26, 1894, the cornerstone was laid, and on December 28, 1894, Central Baptist Church was dedicated. (The property cost $3,600, and the church cost $20,000.)

This area was settled by followers of Roger Williams from New England seeking religious freedom, and who established one of the first Baptist churches in the US in 1665, in nearby Middletown. Central Baptist Church is a granddaughter church of that church. In the late 1800s, the area was known for many summer camp meetings and revivals.

Pastorate of our church has been held by 16 pastors, and the Sunday School has been led by 18 superintendents.

Biblically, we know that our church is not our magnificent building. The church is the people of God, redeemed by His grace and committed to do His will.
Our Ministry Statement

To be a church that lives by faith, is known by love, and is a voice of hope to the world.
Our Core Values

- Deepening our relationship with Jesus.
- Really understanding the bible.
- Joyful fellowship.
- A beacon of light in our community.
Church Covenant

Having been, as we trust, brought by divine grace to embrace the Lord Jesus Christ and to give up ourselves wholly to Him, we do now solemnly and joyfully covenant with each other to walk together with Him in brotherly love, to His glory as our Lord. We do, therefore in His strength engage:

That we will exercise a mutual care, as members one of another, to promote the growth of the whole body in Christian knowledge, holiness, and comfort; so that we may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God;

That we will endeavor to uphold the public worship of God and the ordinances of His church; to hold constant communion with each other therein, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together; that we will cheerfully contribute of our property for the support of the poor, for the support of home and foreign missions, and for the maintenance of a faithful ministry of the gospel among us;
Church Covenant (continued)

That we will not neglect private and family devotions at home or the great duty of training our children and those under our care in the nurturing and discipline of the Lord, with a view to the service of Christ and the enjoyment of everlasting life with Him;

That we will walk circumspectly in the world that we may win others to the Lord Jesus Christ; we will endeavor to be Christian in example, in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity of life; we will remember that God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, of love, and of a sound mind, and that we are the light of the world and the salt of the earth, and that a city set on a hill cannot be hidden; we will frequently exhort and, if occasion shall require, admonish one another according to Matthew 18, in the spirit of meekness, considering that we ourselves are also tempted. As in baptism we have been buried with Christ and raised again, so there is on us a special obligation thenceforth to walk in newness of life.
Church Covenant (continued)

That we will, upon moving to another locality, seek to associate ourselves with a church of like faith and practice by joining membership via a letter of transfer within a period of one year after leaving this church;

And may the God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do His will, working to use that which is well-pleasing to His sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory, forever and forever. Amen.
Church Demographics

- The church has 59 active members.
- Typical Sunday worship service attendance ranges from about 45 to 60 people.
- Most of our congregation lives in Atlantic Highlands, and the adjacent towns of Highlands and Middletown.
- Most of our congregation is of European American descent.
- Most of our congregation falls within the middle class.
- We are a diverse mix of tradespeople, professionals, and retirees.
## Our Leadership

### Church Boards:
- Deacons, Deaconesses, Missions and Evangelism, Trustees, Christian Education

### Committees:
- Auditing, Nominating, Pastoral Relations, Budget, Technology, Worship

### Other Leadership:
- Sunday School Superintendent, Church Clerk, Assistant Treasurers, Moderator

### Paid staff:
- Senior Pastor, Administrative Assistant, Pianists, Choir Director, Organist, Youth Director, Treasurer, Custodian, Nursery Attendant
Board of Deacons

- The deacons are responsible for the overall spiritual health of the church.
- The Board typically consists of 4 to 6 men and women, plus the pastor.
- The Board meets monthly.
- Deacons have previously held leadership positions in the church.
- The board reviews candidates for baptism and membership, administers the Fellowship Offering for care of the needy, assists the pastor in caring for the sick and other spiritual issues, administers the Lord’s Supper, leads the Call to Worship at each Sunday service, and is responsible for obtaining the services of the music team and nursery attendant.
Board of Deaconesses

- The Board of Deaconesses has many responsibilities, including providing the elements for the Lord’s Supper, assisting during baptisms, recognizing weddings and births, arranging fellowship meals, and attending to members in need.
- The board typically consists of about 4 to 6 members.
- The board meets monthly.
Board of Missions and Evangelism

- The Board of Missions and Evangelism is responsible for local evangelistic outreach and administering the funding of worldwide missions
- The Board typically consists of 4 to 6 members
- The Board meets monthly
Board of Trustees

- The Board of Trustees is responsible for all church property, along with its maintenance, repairs, and upkeep.
- The Board obtains estimates for major projects, and presents them to the church membership for approval.
- The Board administers the Renovation Fund.
- The Board obtains the services of the Church Custodian.
- The Board typically consists of 4 to 6 members.
- The Board meets monthly.
The Board of Christian Education is responsible for the Sunday School, Junior Church, Vacation Bible School, and any other Christian education activities in the church.

The Board typically consists of 4 to 6 members, including the Sunday School superintendent.

The Board meets monthly.
Local Evangelism

A major event is “Good News at the Gazebo” which provides free food, fellowship, and live Christian music at the Atlantic Highlands Harbor on Saturday evenings in August.

With the Area Association of Community Churches, the church sponsors the Easter Sunrise Service, Good Friday Service, and Pentecost Walk. The AACC also administers the local Food Pantry.

The church participates in the Memorial Day parade, and sponsors a Palm Sunday walk.

In various years, a billboard on Route 36 has been rented, or flyers have been mailed out inviting people to worship on Christmas or Easter.

The pastor authors an article in the Atlantic Highlands Herald, and the church has a website and Facebook page which are actively administered.

The church Fellowship Hall is used by AA groups, and the sanctuary is sometimes used for recitals and other musical events.
Good News at the Gazebo
Atlantic Highlands Memorial Day Parade
Worldwide Missions

$ The church devotes 10% of its budget to the support of missions.

Support includes specific foreign missionaries, World Vision, Samaritans Purse, Trans World Radio, Jewish outreach, campus ministries, a crisis pregnancy center, and prison ministries.
CBC Financials

- Church Operations - 2019 Budget: $178,701
  Includes $17,800 Missions Budget

- Renovation Fund: $43,112

- Scholarship Endowment: $10,000

- No debt

- Surplus operating funds in savings

- The church endeavors to maintain a balanced budget
Our Worship Service

- Prelude and Call to Worship
- Praise band
- Special music (choir, soloist, etc.)
- Tithes and Offerings
- Biblically based preaching (about 35 minutes)
- Lord’s Supper (first Sunday of each month)
- Baptism and baby dedications (as needed)
- Traditional Hymn
- Benediction

Typically about 1 hour and 15 minutes
Central Baptist Church offers the following in our church life:

- One Sunday morning worship service
- Sunday school classes for all ages (year-round)
- Fellowship time after the Sunday morning worship service
- Wednesday bible studies:
  - Men’s early morning
  - Mid-morning
  - Evening
- Day of prayer and fasting:
  - First Saturday of each month
  - Prayer requests collected and distributed to congregation
- Music ministries:
  - Senior choir
  - Praise band
  - Children’s choir
  - Soloists
- Vacation Bible School (joint with other churches)
- Operation Christmas Child
- Joint worship with other local churches
Special Services

- On the first Sunday of each month, the Lord’s Supper is offered to all believers
- Children’s and Graduation Sundays
- Children’s Christmas Pageant
- Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- Joint worship service and fellowship luncheon (twice yearly)
- Weddings, funerals, and memorial services
Children and Youth

- Nursery for ages 0-4
- Junior church for ages 5-10
- Several Sunday school classes from pre-school to high school
- Vacation Bible School joint with other local churches
Our Facilities

Our Building

Our Sanctuary

Sunday School

Conference Room

Nursery

Office

Fellowship Hall
Our Facilities

- Besides worship, due to its excellent acoustics, our sanctuary is often used for benefit concerts and recitals. It was recently renovated, and the stained-glass windows have been restored. It can accommodate 300 people, and with the partition between it and the Sunday School auditorium opened, 600 people. The sanctuary is accessible, and there is an accessible restroom.

- Our Sunday School consists of an auditorium for collective prayer and singing, and several classrooms. The auditorium is also used for the Sunday fellowship hour, and other events. It has a stage and a large screen TV for displaying videos and slides.

- Our Pop Maxson Fellowship Hall (named in memory of a former deacon) is used 6 times per week by AA groups. The Fellowship Hall has a fully equipped kitchen and has been a venue for many bridal and baby showers, wedding receptions, dedication luncheons, fellowship luncheons, etc.

- The Kraft Room (conference room named in memory of former pastor Rev. Harry Kraft) is used for various meetings, bible studies, choir practice, etc.

- We have a nursery and another classroom used for Junior Church.

- The pastor’s office includes a large desk, bookshelves, files, printer, etc. There is also an area for the administrative assistant. The church is equipped with WiFi.
Parsonage

- Adjacent to church
- 5 Bedrooms
- 1 ½ baths (newly updated)
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Playroom/breakfast nook
- Laundry room
- Kitchen with large pantry (completely newly renovated)
- Newly restored hardwood floors throughout
- Wrap-around porch
- Fenced-in backyard
- Garage
- Off-street parking
- Basement
Former Pastors

1991 – 2020: Rev. Dr. George Hancock-Stefan

Pastor George is a man of great faith with a heart of great love for God’s people. A seminary professor, his preaching has always been biblically based and intellectually challenging. He is a strong evangelist who readily shares his faith with others and is known for walking around town introducing himself and the church to neighbors. Pastor George has been very active in ABC and the North Shore Association, and serves as president of ABC-NJ. A Romanian immigrant from Communist Yugoslavia, he frequently travels to various parts of the world teaching and preaching.


Coming directly from the seminary, the Zobas were the only joint husband/wife pastorate at CBC. They were very innovative and introduced contemporary worship to the church. They organized mission trips to Haiti and Honduras, and became missionaries themselves after their pastorate. They initiated new bible studies as well as CBC participation in a men’s Christian softball league.

1949 – 1985: Reverend Harry W. Kraft

Serving the longest of any CBC pastor, Pastor Kraft was known in the community as the angel of God because he would appear at homes bringing gifts and comfort when families did not expect them. Under his tenure, the Sunday school expanded greatly; he would pick up children and bring them to Sunday school if they did not have transportation. He also organized the youth to visit nearby nursing homes. Pastor Kraft started a praise band and initiated CBC participation in the Memorial Day parade.
Congregational Style

- Our church considers the pastor to be a member of the church, to share leadership with the boards, bring issues to the boards when necessary, and insure communication among the boards and church members.

- Many members have strong feelings on church issues, but they tend to express them privately and to avoid public confrontation.

- Members feel free to dialog with the pastor on biblical, theological, and social issues. We avoid partisan politics, but expect the pastor to have positions on moral issues that can be biblically justified based on the teachings of Jesus and Christian ethics.

- Our church embraces relationships with other churches: ABC and its subdivisions, and local churches of Baptist and other denominations.

- Our church expects boards to take initiative to propose and manage programs and projects, but to bring major initiatives and decisions to the membership for approval.

- Our church communicates decisions formally through church meetings, and informally through newsletters, email, the bulletin, and worship service announcements.
Church Survey Results, Fall 2019

- Our church prefers sermons that are Biblically based, memorable, with a good teaching point:

- Our church is looking for a pastor who has a heart for the youth of our community:
Our church also would like someone who is tech savvy:

Our church is looking for a pastor who has some church leadership experience:
Our Vision for the Future

- We value the wide range of generations in our church, but feel a strong need to grow the number of young families and to increase youth participation.

- We have a relatively high participation rate in some activities outside the worship service (e.g., bible studies) which we wish to continue to nurture, but also wish to increase participation in all activities inside and outside the church.

- We feel that an engaging worship service is critical to bringing people into the church and keeping them. Our music ministry has been and will continue to be a priority.

- Biblically based, engaging, relevant, and clear preaching is essential.

- We feel there are many unchurched people in our growing community, and desire for the pastor to suggest and lead the development of programs to reach them.

- We desire to grow the church, preferably by growing the Kingdom, vs. drawing in believers from other churches.
Our Home, Atlantic Highlands

Atlantic Highlands is a small Victorian town on the New Jersey shore overlooking lower New York Harbor, with Manhattan in the distance. Its hills include the highest point on the eastern seaboard of the US. Many of Atlantic Highlands’ Victorian homes have been preserved and restored, adding to the charm of small-town living and providing interesting walking tours in the historic district.

Atlantic Highlands is surrounded by Sandy Hook Bay (which is part of New York Harbor) to the north, Highlands to the east, and Middletown to the south and west.

Atlantic Highlands is about 1.3 square miles, with about 4500 people.

In 1891, Atlantic Highlands was formed from Middletown Township, which is about 41 square miles, and has about 65,000 people.
Schools in Our District

- Henry Hudson Regional High School

- Home of the Admirals
- Grades 7-12
- Approximately 300 students
- Students are eligible to apply for programs such as technology, marine sciences, health sciences, communications, etc., offered by the Monmouth County Vocational School District.
Schools in Our District

Atlantic Highlands Elementary School

- Grades K-6
- Approximately 325 students
- Walking distance from the parsonage
Parks and Recreation

- Sandy Hook, part of the National Park System, has several beaches and is minutes away.

- The Monmouth County Park System has several parks and nature preserves, including nearby Hartshorne Woods and Huber Woods.

- The Henry Hudson Trail provides a biking, walking, and running trail several miles along the Bayshore from Aberdeen to Highlands.
Nearby Medical Facilities

- Riverview Medical Center (Hackensack Meridian Health)
- Monmouth Medical Center (RWJ Barnabas Health)
- Bayshore Medical Center (Hackensack UMC)
- Jersey Shore University Medical Center (Hackensack Meridian Health)
- Robert Woods Johnson University Hospital (RWJ Barnabas Health)
- Memorial Sloane-Kettering Monmouth
In the Area

Atlantic Highlands is located in Central New Jersey, 22 miles due south across New York Harbor from Manhattan. It is about a 1 ½ hour commute via car or NJ Transit trains and busses to NYC, or 45 minutes via ferry service located a few blocks from the church. It offers the benefits of small town living with plenty of open space while still being within the New York metro area. It is only a few minutes drive or an easy bike ride to the beaches of the Jersey Shore. It is a few hours drive from the mountains of Pennsylvania, New York, and New England, and the cities of Washington, D. C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Boston.
Pastoral Search Committee

Allen Riso (Chair)
Samantha Talmage (Scribe)
Beverly Camp
Laurie Gentry
Josh Greeley
Bart Lentini
Rob Lisi
Larry Russell
John Taylor
Michelle Wellner