

CONTACT

*To worship God, grow as Jesus' disciples,
care for one another, and take God's love to the world.*

Why do Church?



As the fall season is almost upon us, I should like to offer a few words of affirmation, and to lift what we are about here at Central, as a community called to be God's people.

What we are about here, can of course no longer be taken for granted. To come together in a faith community is a deliberate choice. We can choose not to, and most of our contemporaries do choose not to. To come together for worship, to bow in prayer, to express praise, to search the scriptures, to commit to live out the double love commandment: to love God with heart soul and mind, and to love our neighbour as ourselves, in private and in public, is a profound commitment! Even as we fail and admit that we fail in every prayer of confession, we are still turning our hearts, opening our hearts, to the searching light of God's justice, forgiveness, and empowerment. We are empowered not to give up on living as if these commandments were indeed the greatest commandments, as if they have an ultimate hold on our life, and so in this way to be counter cultural.

Counter cultural because the strong current of our world culture and certainly our North American culture, is "workism." The term was coined by American journalist Derek Thompson, in a 2019 article for *The Atlantic* magazine, and expanded on by Jake Meador. Workism is the belief that employment is not only necessary for economic production but is also the centrepiece of one's identity and life purpose. In a "workist" culture, dignity is earned by accomplishment.

In contrast to this, a community of faith is judged not by the money it generates, or raises, but the people it serves. This orientation to serve the neighbour becomes a radical act. This is not new, as I will reference in a moment, but its time has come in our time. It is our opportunity, our calling, and our privilege to show what this can look like.

In the well-known encounter:

¹⁸ A certain ruler asked [Jesus], 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' ¹⁹ Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments: "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; Honour your father and mother."' ²¹ He replied, 'I have kept all these since my youth.' ²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, 'There is still one thing lacking. Sell all that you own and distribute the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' ²³ But when he heard this, he became sad; for he was very rich (Luke 18).

Practically, on the ground, for us, this means to practice what amounts to a radically different way of life. To worship God and to befriend the lonely, to lift up the broken hearted, to be 'benevolent' in the full sense of being humane as our Creator intended, openhearted, generous, lavish—when one has lost their job, when a refugee or newcomer needs help to get started, some rent-money when the job has failed, some food when one is hungry, or when one has lost a loved one, some support as a young family welcomes a new baby. Small things maybe, *but* in a time of economic hardship, an epidemic level of loneliness, mental illness, and alcohol and drug dependency, this way of being in community can be the salt of the earth and light in the darkness (Matthew 5: 13-16), a cup of cold water to a little one (Matthew 10:42) which is its own reward. It is the way of love for God and neighbour. This is not charity, this is our "reasonable act of worship" (Rom 12:1), and may we realize too that we may one day be the one in need of help from another!

This is why we do church. This is how we do church. Yes, it is more demanding, it is countercultural, and it is for us to choose day-by-day and week by week, as we come together for this very purpose here at Central. May God bless all communities who strive to be the church today, and may God bless us.

Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis, Interim Minister

Resource Management Committee Report Fall 2023

RMC did not meet over the summer although we did keep up on the financial situation at Central. As you can see from the chart below, congregational givings for the year-to-date are \$134,896. This is \$19,306 less than the budgeted revenue. This deficit is essentially the same as the last report, which stated the deficit in revenue from the congregation year-to-date at the end of April was \$20,999.

The year-to-date total of revenue from other sources which includes rentals, solar panels, and any grants we receive is \$44,623 under budget by \$3,770. The Trustees were to give us \$30,000 which has been received. In addition, the Trustees have given RMC \$101,253 for the operations of the building and programming. This money would normally be used for major repairs to the building. These repairs have been deferred as much as possible. This is not an unlimited source of funds. There is a finite amount of money that the Trustees can give us. New sources of revenue need to be explored and secured.

Revenues as of August 31, 2023

	Budget		Actual		Over (Short)
Congregational Givings	\$	154,202	\$	134,896	\$ (19,306)
Other Revenue		48,393		44,623	(3,770)
Budgeted Trustee Funding		30,000		30,000	-
	\$	232,595	\$	209,519	\$ (23,076)
Forecasted Deficit Being Funded by Trustees		101,253		101,253	-
	\$	333,848	\$	310,772	\$ (23,076)

Note: There is a shortfall between budgeted and actual revenues with Trustees providing support based on the shortfall forecasted at the Annual Meeting. The Trustees are using funds to support the programs and operation of the church building out of funds they would normally use for major repairs to the building.

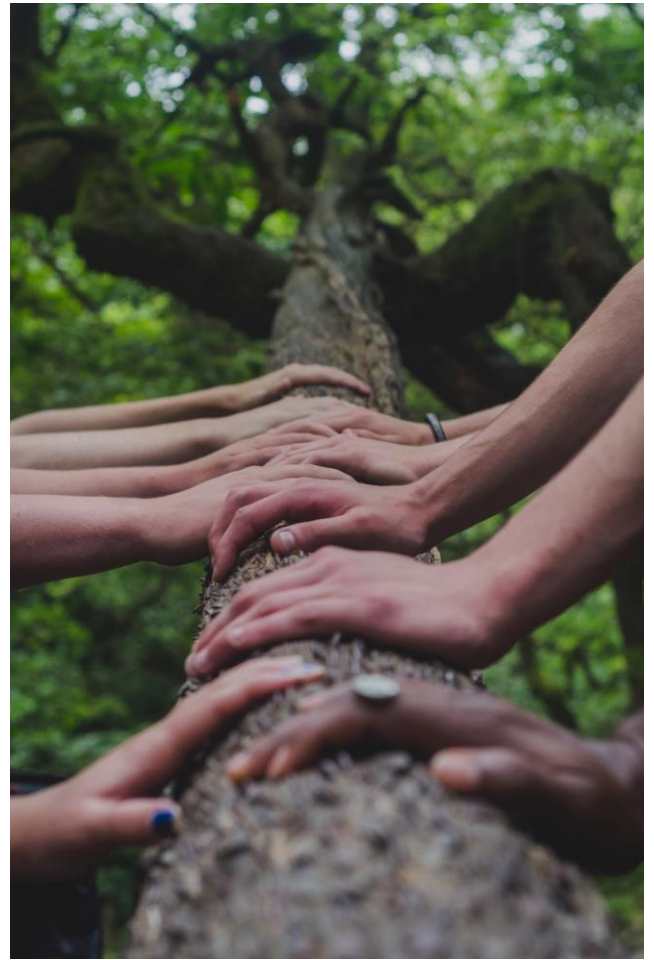
Respectfully submitted,
Mary Guise, Secretary, RMC



Invitation to Membership

There will be an opportunity for adherents and friends of this congregation to become members. Membership is not about being religious or increasing your attendance. Membership is about committing yourself at this point in your life to journeying toward God in the company of a particular fellowship of God's people. If this congregation is helping and supporting your spiritual journey, you are encouraged to become a member.

Please speak to Nick Athanasiadis (Interim Minister) nick@cpchamilton.ca or to Sara Traficante (Coordinator of Discipleship) sara@cpchamilton.ca, if you are considering such a step at this point in your life, or if you would like to know more. We will offer two orientation sessions in October and welcome new members on Reformation Sunday October 29.



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. - I Thessalonians 5:16-18



The bounty we give thanks for at Thanksgiving

Pastoral Care Update from Rev. Lois Whitwell

Pastoral care can involve various activities, such as visitation, taking people to appointments, prayer, weddings, funerals, and other rites of passage and more. It is welcoming new people, supporting people, caring for people. It is living out Christ's command to love one another. Achieving this important task takes more than one or two people. We now have a Pastoral Care Team in place. They will be working with Nick and Lois and the elders to help and support members of the congregation. If you would like a visit or a phone call, contact Lois at Central Presbyterian Church (905-522-9098 ext. 2 or email: lois@cpcpresbyterian.ca). As you have read in the weekly newsletter, we are rethinking the Prime Time zoom gatherings. We are considering meeting in person for conversation, study, or whatever format the group decides. If you have any suggestions please contact either myself or Helena.



Rev. Lois Whitwell, Director of Pastoral Care



View from the Organ from Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Summer is typically a 'quiet time' for music in churches, things are a little more relaxed, the choir is off for the summer etc.... BUT oh did we fill Central with music this summer! A big thank you to all of our summer soloists: Sue Dunlop, Katie Weresch, Bud Roach, Emma Reilly McKay, Sara Traficante, Michael Davis, Hubert de Bruin, and Sharon Lee. These talented musicians led our hymns and performed solos for the congregation so that we could have beautiful music every week throughout the summer.

On August 9th, the musicians of Central debuted a new concert concept, "Concert on the Steps."

This concert was extremely successful in many ways:

- a) the official naming of the Charlton String Quartet (our in-house string quartet at Central now puts us on the map);
- b) literally performing outside on the front steps of Central, never done before!;
- and c) a great way of engaging the community - our programme featured music from Beethoven to Bridgerton, a variety of styles that appeals to a broad audience.

We had about 80 in attendance. An event we will certainly repeat in the future. A big thank you to Adele Pierre for hosting us on a Market Day, and facilitating all the performance details and set up.

And now we're back into the swing of things! The choir will officially begin leading the musical portions of our services and perform weekly anthems starting on Sunday Sept. 10th. We are blessed that we have gained new choristers over the summer, and working alongside Sara Traficante, we will also be welcoming some junior singers into our ranks over the coming months. It's so wonderful to have our teens/tweens eagerly join us.

I also want to point our attention to the number of recitals and concerts happening throughout this year. Please keep these dates in your calendar, they will all be extremely high-quality professional musical events not to be missed. We have such a talented pool of musicians in our faith community, let's make sure to support all these musical endeavors, and we will only grow from here. See you Sunday morning!

Musically yours,
Marcus Scholtes, Director of Music Ministries



MUSIC @CENTRAL
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Chamber Music 2023 -2024

- September 24th 3:00 p.m. **Sing to Me Again**
Duo Caitlin Broms-Jacobs, oboe
& Madeline Hildebrand, piano
- November 12th 3:00 p.m. **In Memorium**
Andromeda Trio
- January 14th 3:00 p.m. **Sound Link**
Chamber Orchestra
- March 3rd 3:00 p.m. **Quartetto Gelato**
- May 12th 3:00 p.m. **Songs My Mother Taught Me**



Concert on the Steps

Featuring the
Charlton String Quartet
on
Wednesday, August 9,
2023



Faith Finder Update from Sara Traficante

We are beginning a new school year, and by the time this is distributed, we will have returned to our Sunday Faith Finders programming at Central with some exciting special events!

Sunday Programs:

This summer we welcomed **Cathy Slattery** to the nursery as our new staff lead! Cathy has a wealth of experience with children of all ages. We are thrilled to have her working with us in this capacity as she brings her ECE training to help grow and enhance the program.



Nursery – Young children through JK. The space opens at 9:45 and preschool faith-based learning begins at 10:30am. The nursery is open through the worship service.

Faith Finders – SK through Grade 8. We will again divide into two groups for age-based learning. We are back in the upstairs classrooms starting in September.

Parents are asked to pick up their children upstairs or in the nursery following the worship service.

Sunday, September 10 we celebrated the **Blessing of the Backpacks**, with a focus on the theme of **“Together.”**

*Though there are many of us,
we are one body in Christ,
and individually we belong to
each other. We have different
gifts that are consistent with
God’s grace that has been given to
us.*

- Romans 12:5-6a (CEB)



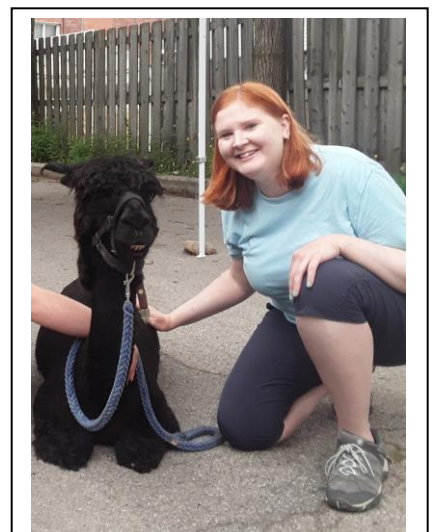
This summer we talked about our individual gifts and the children shared their many strengths and interests: Sports and physical activity (running, soccer, basketball, martial arts), Learning and growing (reading, languages, math, science, history, mythology, chess, space), Creativity (music, playing instruments, singing, visual arts, dance, writing), Emotional and spiritual (friendship, caring for each other, family). The children at Central bless our community with their energy and all the gifts and discoveries they bring as we come together as a church family.

Friday, September 15 – Movie Night! The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe to celebrate our summer reading.

SAVE THE DATE: Friday, October 27 – Pumpkin Carving and Potluck for the whole congregation.

Watch for the Faith Finders weekly emails for more upcoming event information as it becomes available!

Sara Traficante, Coordinator of Discipleship Ministries



We welcome Cathy Slattery as our new Nursery Coordinator



Summer 2023 Highlights:
 ~ SUNDAYS AT DURAND PARK: This Summer, our families enjoyed some Sunday afternoons together at Durand Park.
 ~ CAMP KINTAIL: Some of our youth has a wonderful week of camp!



Hamilton Out of the Cold

We have completed another summer season at Central, of a weekly barbeque that ran each Thursday from the first of May to the end of July. Food was prepared on the forecourt of the church and handed out to guests of Out of the Cold as well as people from the neighbourhood. Food was available from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM and we had 75 to 100 guests each week. The meal was barbecued sausages on a bun, with condiments, a bag of chips and either coffee or water. We thank the Dundurn Coffee Shop for the donation of their wonderful coffee each week. Once again, we had two teams serving the meal, so they were able to alternate weeks which reduces the demand on each person. The Hamilton Hurricane football team provided two to four players each week to help set up the tables and chairs, and to take down at the end of the evening. The players were a great addition to our HOOTC teams, and our guests loved talking to them. Rob Monkelbaan and Gregg Bullock-Price manned the barbeque.

Thanks to the efforts of the two HOOTC teams with coordinators Kathy Havill and Mary Guise, we were able to serve 1,700 sausages to 1,300 guests over the 3-month time span. Many of our guests stayed and visited with each other over the time of the barbeque. It was an initiative that was well received by our guests, and we felt we were able to provide a service.



Many thanks to all who participated. Your efforts are recognized and made a difference.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Guise, Site Co-coordinator



Striving to Eliminate
Hunger
in Our Community.

There is a very interesting article entitled, **Reflections on End of Career Inter-Mission**, on page 37 of the Fall 2023 ***Presbyterian Connection*** by the Rev. Capt (RCN) George L. Zimmerman. George Zimmerman was raised in Central Presbyterian Church. His grandfather, Captain Adam Leonard Zimmerman was killed in World War One, and is one of those commemorated on the Memorial Plaque in Central's outer vestibule.

George's Father, Adam Zimmerman was then raised by members of the Zimmerman "clan" in Central alongside "Zimmie," future Mrs Spence Allan and "Lee" the future Mrs Tom Langs (Central's library has several books of poetry written by Adam Zimmerman). Tom was chair of the Committee that brought Alan McPherson to Central, and Spence and Zimmie visited Alan in his previous congregation in Scotland, to check him out as a possibility. Adam was the senior elder when Alan McPherson arrived at Central.

By that time, George had entered the Navy, and then trained as a minister. He then became minister of Hamilton's Roxborough Park congregation before returning to the Navy as a chaplain. He ended up as one of the most senior padres in the Canadian Forces. On reaching military retirement age he re-entered parish ministry in Ottawa.

George preached here at Central on November 11, 2001 and on October 17th, 2004. On *one* of those occasions, he presented the current pulpit Fall and the matching lectern Fall in memory of his parents, and they were dedicated at that service.

Feel free to pick up a printed copy of the Fall 2023 ***Presbyterian Connection*** at Central or read it online: <https://presbyterian.ca/presbyterian-connection/>

Reflections from the Rev. Dr. Alan McPherson

It was a long time ago - more than a lifetime for some of you. Away back in 1983, I was still the “new young minister” of Central Presbyterian Church. That year, Christmas Day was a Sunday. I followed a tradition I had encountered in Scotland. Instead of leaving all their gifts behind, the children could bring one of their new gifts to Church with them. I did the same.

When Children’s Time came I showed them a book that I had been given. It was Pierre Berton’s “*The Last Spike*,” his account of the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway. It is a wonderful piece of history, and I began to read it with great interest.

A few days later, suddenly my eyes popped. General Manager William Van Horne was the moving force in charge of the development of that railroad 140 years ago. Berton recorded that when dealing with people, Van Horne “could be very blunt and hard.” But then he wrote this:

“Yet he also gave orders that the railway was to carry all clothing from the Ladies’ Aid Society of the Central Presbyterian Church of Hamilton without any charge to Winnipeg.”

To read that was mind-boggling, and it drove me into the archives to see what I could find. And there it was in the Annual Report for 1883. The Ladies Aid Society reported it simply:

“The usual missionary box was sent in good time for Christmas; in addition to this a large box filled with clothing, flannel and blankets was sent to the Indian Mission, Mistanassis Reserve, North-West Territory”.

And there it might have ended. But there has been a new development.

As Moderator of the General Assembly, in November of 1995, I was asked to visit the Mistawasis reserve near Prince Albert, in Saskatchewan. And there I was to present “The Confession of The Presbyterian Church in Canada,” a heartfelt apology for the part our denomination had played in helping the Government subdue and control the life and liberty of Canada’s Indigenous peoples. In particular, we had “agreed to take the children of Aboriginal peoples from their own homes and place them in residential schools” where they “were deprived of their traditional ways,” in order to try and achieve their assimilation “with Euro-Canadian customs” and values. On the Reserve we gathered in the little church there, and as part of the service I presented the Confession. I was assisted in the service by a young Indigenous woman from the Reserve, who was leading the congregation. Her name was Mary Fontaine.

In June of this year that young lady, now long since qualified as a Minister, and widely respected for her ministry in Vancouver, became the Moderator of our General Assembly. My wife Maureen and I made sure we were in Halifax to attend the opening of the Assembly, and witness Mary Fontaine’s election as Moderator. With all the demands on her, we only had time for a brief conversation about that long ago occasion, but I was glad to be able to reconnect, and offer her my support.

But I am haunted by a wonderful possibility. Was that “Mistanassis” really “Mistawasis”? Repeated Google searches find **no** place called “Mistanassis” at all. Could it be? Could it be that 140 years ago the Ladies Aid Society of Central Presbyterian Church in Hamilton was sending their gifts to support Mary Fontaine’s ancestors?



Rev. Mary Fontaine and Rev. Dr. Alan M. McPherson

The Rev. Dr. Alan M. McPherson, Minister Emeritus

Congratulations to Paul Barna son of Sandra Easterbrook and John Barna and sister to Elizabeth. On May 24th, 2023, Paul received an Aldershot Community Honour Roll Award for his outstanding community contribution and commitment to the arts including teaching hundreds of students and being part of both the Burlington and Mississauga Symphony Orchestras. Paul initiated a Young Artist Mentorship Program with the Burlington Symphony and established the Burlington Chamber Sinfonia; an ensemble comprised of advanced students with a focus on performing solo repertoire with the ensemble. Paul has a thriving private string studio *Paul Barna Music Studios* and many of his students are award winning and celebrated young musicians that may be heard in youth orchestras across Ontario. A student of Paul's recently won 1st prize in the province for Grade 10 strings over hundreds of competitors. Paul is a skilled performer for various orchestras across the province and is recognized as an excellent ambassador for the Burlington and Aldershot communities.



Paul's interest in music is eclectic and he is in demand as a freelance musician within the GTA. He recently performed a solo with Canadian R&B musician Andre Bisson (and band) in a new single to be released this month entitled **Dusty Albums**. You may view this on <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8VhBqpFsr8c> or by searching "Andre Bisson" and "Dusty Albums". Paul is a graduate of the Glenn Gould School of Music and Young Artist Performance Academy Program at the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Congratulations, Paul, on your well-deserved recognition.



Statement of Welcome and Inclusion Central Presbyterian Church **God's Love Includes Everyone**

We strive to be a welcoming, nurturing, loving, and supportive community unified in Jesus Christ. As an inclusive congregation, we joyfully affirm and honour the diversity of God's creation. Our community is richer when we include people of all ages, gender identities, racial and cultural backgrounds, sexual orientations, abilities, economic circumstances and family configurations. We proclaim this statement of inclusion to all who have experienced the pain of exclusion or discrimination by the church and society. All are invited to join a body of believers, to participate fully in the life, leadership, witness and ministry of Central Presbyterian Church. We acknowledge we are imperfect and in different stages of our faith journey. **No matter who you are, how you identify, whom you love, or where you are on life's journey: know you are welcome here, and you are loved by God.**

Book Review from Beth Mackay Reilly: Five Little Indians by Michelle Good

September 30th is Orange Shirt Day and Canada's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. At Central, we are marking the day on Saturday, September 23rd, by hosting Coast Ts'msyen First Nation Presenters Shannon Thunderbird and her sister Kate Dickson for a big drum drumming circle, singing and dancing, all in the name of Truth and Reconciliation. Welcoming the opportunity to learn about Indigenous culture and experience is one way we can certainly learn and grow.

Another way to learn about the experiences of others is by reading! Last year, our book club read the book ***Five Little Indians* by Michelle Good**, which is the story of five indigenous people whose lives are forever changed by attending residential school. I found this book to be both challenging, enlightening and moving.

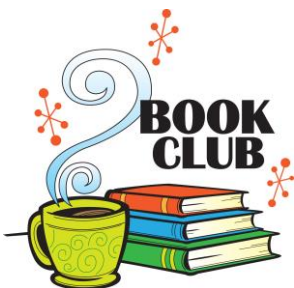
Cree author Michelle Good is the daughter and granddaughter of residential school survivors. She spent over nine years writing the book, drawing upon her family experience and her work representing residential school survivors as a lawyer. While the book is fictionalized, the experiences are all real and unexaggerated. Good set out to answer the question *Why can't they just get over it and move on?* Good feels that that question arises from a lack of awareness of how deeply the experience of residential schools affected the children and the families of those who were forcibly taken to the schools. The book does not dwell on the years at the school, but rather on the lives of the survivors following the school experience.

We meet Kenny, Lucy, Clara, Maisie and Howie, who all struggle with their past experiences and lack of familial and cultural supports. Each character carries their own burdens and difficulties, while trying their best to survive in a world for which they were woefully unprepared. Kenny runs away from the school, only to return home to find his mother has been unable to cope with the loss of her son and is no longer able to care for him. Lucy is released from the school on her 16th birthday with only a bus ticket to Vancouver and no other support. Maisie struggles with her abusive past in heartbreaking ways and Clara puts herself in dangerous circumstances to find some meaning in her life. Howie has to learn new ways of dealing with his anger. Through a woven narrative, the characters interconnect throughout the book, and we come to care for each one as they try to make careers, form relationships, reconnect with their culture and ultimately find their way in the world.

There are books that one reads that stay with you long after the last page has turned – this is one such book for me. The lives of each of the five protagonists are portrayed with empathy and insight, and I feel I now understand a bit more how difficult it would be to forget the experience and move on.

Five Little Indians has received many prizes, including the Governor General's Award for English-language fiction in 2021, The Amazon First Novel Award and The Kobo Emerging Writers Award. I highly recommend it. Read it!

Beth Mackay Reilly



Central's Book Club: 2023-2024 Season

September 26 --- Brent Ellis: Closer By The Sea by Perry Chafe
October 24 --- Colleen and Larry Kurtz: Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver
November 28 --- Phyllis Allen: Greenwood by Michael Christie
January 30 --- Gwynneth Simpson: Small Things Like These by Claire Keegan
March 26 --- Beth Mackay Riley: The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles
April 23 --- Shirley Fredlander --- Book To Be Decided

Anyone interested in further information or possibly joining Central's Book Club, should contact Larry Kurtz at (905) 529-6289 or kurtzlarry@hotmail.com



Save the Date

Saturday September 23rd

10:30 a.m.

*Indigenous Circle of Friendship:
Big Drums Are Calling!*

Sunday September 24th

3:00 p.m.

*Sing to Me Again
Chamber Music Concert*

Sunday, October 1st, 10:30 a.m.

Communion Sunday

Friday, October 27

Pumpkin Carving and Potluck

Sunday November 12th

3:00 p.m.

*In Memorium
Chamber Music Concert*

Sunday December 10th

at 7:00pm

Christmas Carol Service

Deaths

Douglas Martin – May 22, 2023



*Interim Minister – The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Athanasiadis
Minister Emeritus – The Rev. Dr. Alan M. McPherson
Director of Pastoral Care – The Rev. Lois Whitwell
Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes
Coordinator of Discipleship – Sara Traficante
General Accountant – Zafar Iqbal
Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma
Nursery Coordinator – Cathy Slattery
Custodian – Rob Monkelbaan
Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French*



Your Invitation

to the Lord's Supper

Sunday October 1st, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

Also via Livestream at:

<https://www.youtube.com/CentralPresbyterianChurchHamilton>



On Intergenerational Worship, Sunday, June 18, 2023 –

National Indigenous People's Day Sunday.

We responded to the request from the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society to plant a Heart Garden "Honouring Memories, Planting Dreams".

Following the worship service, children planted hearts and pollinators in the Central Presbyterian Church garden.

Central Presbyterian Church – Land Acknowledgement *

We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that Central Presbyterian Church is located on the traditional territories of the Anishnaabek and Haudenosaunee peoples. This land is protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to share and care for the lands, air, and waters around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We recognize that we must learn about the rich history of this land to better understand our role as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers. We are all treaty people.

* Our website has a guide explaining the above Land Acknowledgement <https://www.cpchamilton.ca/land-acknowledgement/>

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