

# CONTACT

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

Joy may be the last thing we are thinking about, even though we are approaching a time of the year when such is what we are looking forward to: “*good news of great joy*” (Luke 2:10)! We may feel guilt even at the possibility of anticipating or expecting joy, when so much anguish is playing out on our daily news. Our heart breaks and is far from joy. Is it then possible to open ourselves to God’s abiding joy? Even in the shadows of devastation, trauma, or spiritual deficit?

I think the answer may be “yes.”

Preceding the “*good news of great joy*” is this angelic assurance: “*do not be afraid.*” Pierre Teilhard de Chardain, French theologian and scientist, has said that “Joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God.” This is anything but forcing “happiness.” It is rather opening our soul, even if it is a frightened fraction of our soul, to the vibrating energy which is the healing balm, the strength in weakness, which we do not and cannot manufacture but only receive as beggars receive food. Joy is not dependent on circumstance, if it was, it can come and go. So, I think our scriptures point to something else, indeed—to some-one.

The key which unlocks the possibility of joy is not circumstance but a person – *to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord* (Luke 2:11). So, joy comes to us when it is most needed. God has been present, can be present, even in foxholes and hellholes. This is not the same as ignorance, not the same as denial, rather it is precious connection to faith and hope that the world as it is, is not as it should be or will be forever. Because at least once in a moment of time, the divine love broke into our world, in its sadness, in its heartbreak, in its despair, and because this is the divine life, it is eternal life, life which is stronger than death and manifesting a love which is stronger, must be stronger, than hate. The Christ is a moment of tender joy, daring to see through the thick fog of war, and suffering and crying to consolation and restoration. When we yearn for joy like water to the thirsty and bread to the hungry, we know it more deeply than circumstance when it does come. It is what we read not only in the gospel stories of Christ’s birth, but also in the vision of the resurrected Christ at the end of time:

*And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,  
'See, the home of God is among mortals.  
He will dwell with them;  
they will be his peoples,  
and God himself will be with them;  
<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.  
Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,  
for the first things have passed away.'* (Revelation 21: 3-4).

This is our fervent unceasing prayer while we are alive.



Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis,  
Interim Minister

## Resource Management Committee Report

The year-to-date revenue, without the budgeted funds from Trustees, as of the end of September, was budgeted to be \$225,509. Actual monies received was \$200,841 leaving a shortfall of \$24,668. Expenses are under budget by \$39,336. In summary, revenues were budgeted to be short \$169,278 to this point in the year. Actual revenue is \$154,610 which is \$14,668 less than what was budgeted.

The Trustees were to give us \$45,000 which was received. The Trustees gave us an additional \$93,826 to meet our financial obligations. After this donation is counted, we have a \$15,784 deficit remaining.

Revenues and Expenses Year to Date as of September 30, 2023			
	Budget	Actual	Difference Over (Short)
<b>Congregational Givings</b>	\$ 171,825	\$ 150,607	\$ (21,218)
<b>Other Revenue</b>	53,684	50,234	(3,450)
	\$ 225,509	\$ 200,841	\$ (24,668)
<b>Expenses</b>	394,787	355,451	(39,336)
	\$ (169,278)	\$ (154,610)	\$ 14,668
<b>Funds from Trustees as Budgeted</b>	45,000	45,000	-
<b>Budgeted Shortfall</b>	\$ (124,278)	\$ (109,610)	\$ 14,668
<b>Additional Funds from Trustees</b>	-	93,826	
<b>Over (Short)</b>	\$ (124,278)	\$ (15,784)	

We will be upgrading our door locks and intercoms with new hardware including video cameras. We have received an Ontario Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant to do this work. This will make it easier to control entry with the installation of electronic locks and video intercoms.

We said farewell to two of our staff in the last month. Rob Monkelbaan, who has been our caretaker for several years left the end of October. Zafar Iqbal, our bookkeeper left this week. Michelle Frebold has returned to provide bookkeeping services. There is a search by the HR committee for a new caretaker. In the meantime, Geoff French and Gregg Bullock-Price are helping with our caretaking needs for which we are grateful. We wish Rob and Zafar all the best as they move on.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Guise, Secretary, RMC



On October 29, 2023, Central welcomed  
New Members into our fellowship.





## Session Report

Central Presbyterian Church has much to celebrate at the start of Advent, and a new year in the Christian calendar; and as Elders we thank God for all the good work being done in our midst. We have had the wonderful opportunity to welcome some new faces, as well as some we may not have seen in a few years. On Reformation Sunday we welcomed nine new members, and in true Presbyterian fashion there was cake in the hall afterwards. Please take the opportunity at some point to welcome Emile, Tom, Solomon and Daina, Chidinma, Melodie, Olive, Marcus and Sharon.

We also have a growing Faith Finders program that needs additional support, a nursery that could use a couple of volunteers to give parents a chance to join worship (when there are more than 5 children). There are also enough teens that Sara and a few volunteers are looking to begin a mid-week youth program for the first time in nearly a decade.

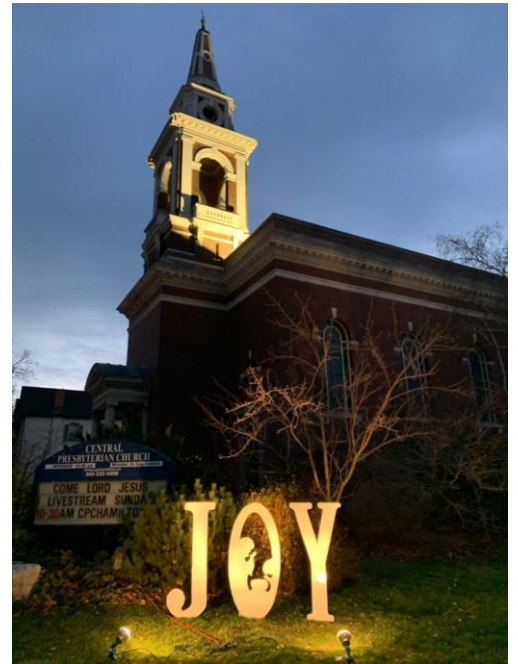
The Session is now considering the ways we will continue to move forward. In this phase of Dr. Nick's work with us, Session is in the process of exploring every option open to us to determine how to ensure the flourishing of our ministries. We hope to thrive as a Christian community sharing in worship and fellowship, but we also aim to offer and share our resources so that they are a blessing to the community around us. Our part in taking God's love to the world. As we get further on this path, we will be seeking your advice, support, and involvement at every step. Our initial exploration includes looking at options from transforming existing space into a community hub, working in ministry partnerships with other congregations, or even the possibility of development on or in our space. Any option we consider may involve transformational changes, and that belongs not to the Session alone, but to you – and to God.

In the meantime, we have a full year of interim ministry leadership before February of 2025. The Session has asked the Presbytery of Hamilton to appoint an Interim Moderator to form a Search Committee and begin the process of finding our next called minister. Beginning this process now may allow us to reduce, or even eliminate the length of time that we are without a full-time minister between the end of Dr. Nick's contract, and the start of our next minister. As Presbyterians, it is essential that our next minister is chosen and "called" by the congregation, hence the need to have an interim moderator appointed by the Presbytery for this work.

Luke's description of the early church in Acts highlights the Christians' commitment to service of and in their community in the name of Christ. Consider how you might be called to do just that at Central, and in the heart of Hamilton. Our committees (based on this description) need people to serve and support the work of our Worship, Discipleship, Fellowship and Mission. There are opportunities to help in leadership as well as enabling the every-day work of this community of faith. Perhaps you can find your place in the choir or the livestream crew, helping in the nursery or Faith Finders, bringing supplies for coffee hour, coordinating our welcome at the door or even joining the ministry of Hamilton Out of the Cold. All are opportunities for us to give, and to be, the best we can in service to our Lord. Please consider offering your time, talents or resources. However much or little you think you can offer; it is more useful than you can imagine. As John Milton noted:

*"God doth not need  
Either man's work, or his own gifts: who best  
Bear his mild yoke, they serve him best. His state  
Is kingly; thousands at his bidding speed  
And post o'er land and ocean without rest;  
They also serve who only stand and wait."*

Mark Stuppel, Clerk of Session



**Your Invitation**

**To the Lord' Supper**

**Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.**

**Also via Livestream at:**

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

## Pastoral Care Update from Rev. Lois Whitwell

Pastoral Care in a congregation is ongoing and takes on many different forms. The Pastoral Care Team, Elders, Nick and Lois continue to provide contact with people through phone calls, visits in hospital, homes and Care Facilities. While a slow start, we are moving forward with the Prayer Shawl Ministry. If you would like to give someone a prayer shawl, please speak to Lois. The card that we give with each prayer shawl states that *"We have created this shawl with prayer, and we hope that you will use it knowing that you are embraced and surrounded by our continued prayers for you."*



Supporting each other through the challenges of our lives is part of the role of a community of faith. A group of Caregivers met in June; they enjoyed a time to share their story and their concerns. While they did not want to meet on a regular basis, they were supportive of the idea that they would gather occasionally. We hope to gather again soon. If you are caring for a loved one or friend, and would like to be involved please speak to or contact Lois.

Grief is another area where support is needed. While I encourage counselling, you might also find that at this moment in your life, you might need someone to talk to and who will support your journey. A Grief Support group can facilitate this need. If you are interested speak to Lois.

Fellowship is another aspect of pastoral care. The Prime-Time online group has reconvened and meets via zoom on the first Wednesday of the month at 1 p.m. We have also started in-person gathering on the second Wednesday of the month from 10:30 a.m. to noon. We are planning to invite people to join us and speak on subjects of interest. We will meet on December 13 for a Christmas party. We invite folks to bring some Christmas Goodies to share and a Christmas Family tradition. This is open to anyone who would like to attend.

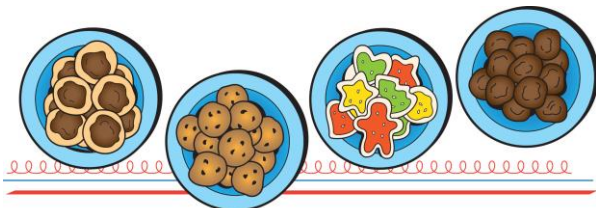
Rev. Lois Whitwell,  
Director of Pastoral Care

## Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee has new leadership; with Beth Mackay Reilly and Kristel Forcier. Our committee is welcoming new members, if you'd like to be part of the team that builds community within our congregation.

Our last few months has included welcoming new members on October 29th with a celebratory cake and looking for ways to enhance our after service coffee hour.

We look forward to bringing new opportunities and events to our congregation in the new year, and if you have any suggestions or would like to be part of the committee, please reach out to Beth or Kristel!



# Cookie Walk

Be sure to mark **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** on your calendars for a **Christmas Cookie Walk!** Following the Service, come along to the Guild Room and fill a box with yummy cookies and assorted sweets to celebrate the Christmas season. Your donations for the goodies will be gratefully accepted and will be shared equally with our church and Hamilton Out of the Cold. Please speak to Jean Williams or Beth Mackay Reilly if you have any questions, or if you would be able to donate some baked goods for the walk. Merry Christmas!







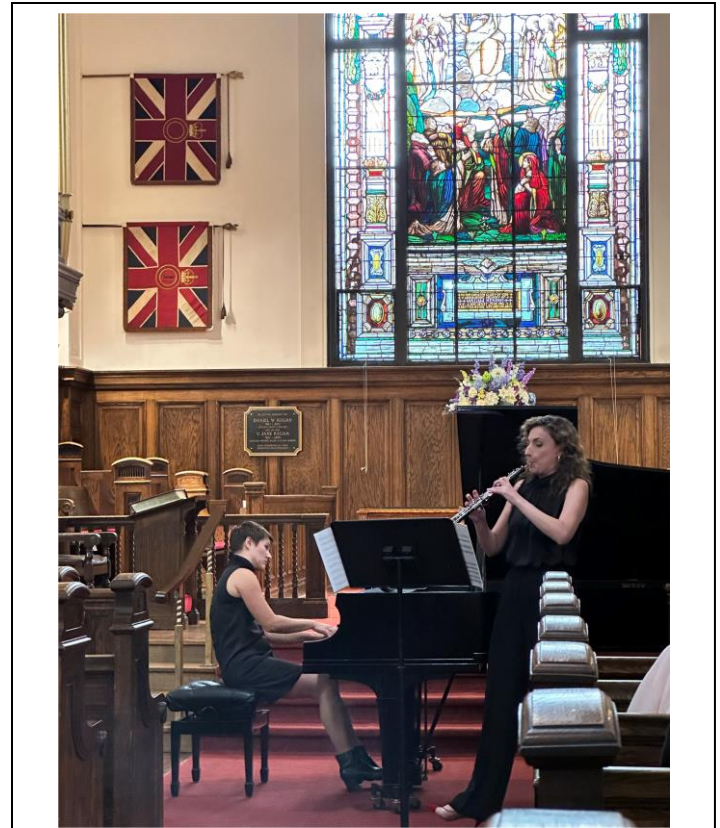
## View from the Organ from Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Autumn is in full flight, and we are on our way to the Christmas season!

September is always a wonderful time of year for Central, as it marks the return of our regular Thursday evening choir rehearsals, and having the choir lead the musical portions of our worship services on Sundays. It's been great getting back into a routine, and we are thrilled to have new

(returning) members join us: Emma Reilly McKay, Beth Mackay Reilly, and most recently Neto Umezie, which brings our choir to 19 members! I also want to extend a big thank you to Emile Swanepoel who graciously stepped in for me while my family was away in October.

September has also marked the start of our almost-monthly recital series, **Music@Central**. On September 24<sup>th</sup>, we had the very talented Caitlin Brooms-Jacobs (oboe) and Madelyn Hildebrand (piano) perform a diverse program of highly engaging and beautiful music. Our next was on Nov. 12 featuring the Andromeda Trio (I am the violinist) performing a Remembrance Day 'In Memoriam' concert. One huge update for the **Music@Central** series is that I successfully applied for a Hamilton Ward 2 Community Grant, which enables us to offer artist honorariums for our September and November performances. The grant also allows us to start a new **Music@Central** website where we can post media from previous concerts, programs, artist bios, and all upcoming information. A big thank you to the Ward 2 Community Grant committee for helping grow Music here at Central!



Caitlin Brooms-Jacobs and Madelyn Hildebrand performed at Central on September 24, 2023

As we gear up for Christmas, all of us are very much looking forward to the annual Candlelight Carol Service on Sunday December 10th at 7:00pm. Like previous years, this will be a not-to-miss celebration. We'll have our full choir as well as our extra choristers that join us for special events: Neil Spaulding and his Hamilton Brass Quintet, Central's own Charlton String Quartet, our enthusiastic Youth Choir, and a number of solos by our own talented musicians. And of course, we'll have more joyous music as we begin Advent, culminating with our Christmas Eve services.

Musically yours,  
Marcus Scholtes, Director of Music Ministries



## **Lana's Baptism**

The 'Schlee Family' (Scholtes and Lee) flew to Gwangju, Korea in October for Lana's Baptism. She was baptized on Oct. 15th at the Dong Myung Presbyterian Church by Senior Pastor Dr. Sang-Bok Lee (Sharon's father). On the left is a picture of the occasion!





## MUSIC @CENTRAL

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Chamber Music 2023 -2024

- November 12<sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m. **In Memoriam**  
Andromeda Trio
- January 14<sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m. **Sound Link**  
Chamber Orchestra
- March 3<sup>rd</sup> 3:00 p.m. **Quartetto Gelato**
- April 21, 3:00 p.m. **Charlton String Quartet**
- May 12<sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m. **Songs My Mother Taught Me**



Central hosted Hamilton Childrens Choir  
at a beautiful concert on Oct. 28



### Sara Traficante, Coordinator of Discipleship

*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)



Our Sunday morning children's programs are running well with a wonderful group of children. Thanks to the Faith Finders and Nursery volunteers for their ongoing support of these ministries!

Cathy Slattery, Central's Nursery Coordinator cares for and nurtures faith in our young ones









## **Indigenous Circle of Friendship: Big Drums are Calling!**



On September 23, 2023, the Social Justice Group of Central Presbyterian Church (Hamilton) hosted Coast Ts'msyen First Nation Elders **Shannon Thunderbird** and **Kate Dickson** for a learning event: **"Indigenous Circle of Friendship: Big Drums are Calling!"** Although Shannon and Kate are originally from the West Coast, they are based in Toronto. Central was blessed to engage in this work with passionate and experienced leaders, all in the spirit of reconciliation. This was an intergenerational event, with children and adults from the congregation present, as well as guests from the community.

Shannon and Kate's specialty is the use of music and original song. They became known to Central through children in the congregation. Spring 2023, a very special relationship was formed when these young people who worked with Shannon and Amgan ~Lik~lgaawks (Red Cedar Sisters) through the Hamilton Children's Choir. Inspired by their experience, the children sang two Haudenosaunee songs as part of our National Indigenous Peoples Day worship service in June 2023. Special permission from Shannon was granted to sing these songs in worship. During our September event, these amazing children stood up with Shannon and Kate, and sang some of the songs they learned together. It was a beautiful reunion, and a demonstration of friendship and affection that was meaningful for the event participants.

The morning included a discussion around the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the 94 Calls to Action. With children present, Shannon and Kate addressed residential schools with sensitivity. The experience helped to lift our connection into relationship. Ideas were shared by the presenters on how we can take steps towards reconciliation and be part of that partnership. Questions were freely answered with warmth, generosity, and humour.

The highlight of the morning was the drumming, call and response singing, and circle dancing around the big drum. Everyone was invited to participate in the drumming. The joy experienced in the room was palpable. We received wonderful feedback from those in attendance, expressing that it was an honour to sit around the drum with these inspiring elders, and to participate in this act of reconciliation.



The morning ended with a lunch hosted by the Social Justice Group. Central is grateful for the generosity of the PCC Healing and Reconciliation Seed Fund for their support of this event. - Submitted by Sara Traficante, Coordinator of Discipleship





# Candlelight Carol Service

Sunday December 10, 2023

7:00PM

FEATURING:

HAMILTON BRASS QUINTET | CENTRAL YOUTH CHOIR  
CHARLTON STRING QUARTET | CENTRAL AND FRIENDS CHOIR

*A freewill offering will be received*

**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

165 Charlton Ave. West, Hamilton, ON | [www.cpchamilton.ca](http://www.cpchamilton.ca) | 905-522-9098

## Mission Committee

Central's Mission Committee over many years has been privileged to represent Central's Congregation in helping support The Inner City Outreach Ministry with many projects.

- ❖ In June we have helped raise funds for children to go to summer camp.
- ❖ Community BBQ June and September
- ❖ Mom's to Mom's dinners 3-4 times through the year and a Christmas turkey dinner.
- ❖ White Gift Sunday, a 40 plus year outreach to help supply gifts for the children of less fortunate families. During COVID we had a drive through white gift drop off in the alley on the South side of the church to collect gift cards, cash or cheques. These donations were given to the Inner City Outreach ministry, helping to give their families Christmas gifts and dinner.
- ❖ 50 Hygiene packs were assembled and then received by HOOTC guests.

These events were only possible by the generosity of our congregation over many decades.

We are very proud to accept this plaque on behalf of our congregation.





## Hamilton Out of the Cold

The start of the season for Hamilton Out of the Cold was Thursday, November 2 at Central. Once again, the Central team will be alternating with Kathy Havill's team, meaning that each group provides a meal every second Thursday. We are using the take-out format again, as we find we have a greater reach by handing out meals for people to take home. Many of our guests pick up meals for others who are unable to come to the church to pick up the food. Two of the Hamilton Out of the Cold sites are going back to sit-down meals this season – Erskine Presbyterian Church on Saturdays, and Immanuel Christian Reformed Church on the mountain, on Monday evenings. We will see how it goes, and whether other sites wish to follow in the coming seasons.

We are happy to welcome back Alex Prince, Karen Martin, Judy Johnson, Diane Arrell, and Cathy Keith who have not been able to join us for a season or more. Two new members have joined our team – Louise Bush, and Chidinama Umezie. Our regular team is pretty much back although we said goodbye to Mikhail Mackenzie this season. Shirley Mighton, who has served with the Central Team from the beginning of the program at Central has moved to our "on call" list to fill in for absentees.

We served 142 meals to 67 guests the first Thursday in November. The hot dinner was Beef Cabbage Roll Casserole, plus raw vegetables with cottage cheese dip. Bread, apples, and granola bars finished the meal.

We have a new initiative starting this season. Beginning Monday, November 6<sup>th</sup> and continuing every Monday from 10:00 AM to 12:00 noon, a drop in café and warming centre will be running in our Fellowship Hall. Coffee, baked goods, hard boiled eggs cheese and fruit are available to our guests. The first café saw 14 guests come in and sit down for a visit and some refreshments.

We are very optimistic that this will provide a warm place and hospitality to our guests throughout the winter season. HOOTC Volunteer, Bonnie Roe is coordinating the cafes and has a team supporting her – Shannon Webster, Jim Matis, Doug Taylor, Sarah Ramond, Brian Paterson, and Wendy Leigh-Bell. We wish this team the best for a very successful season.

We have received some donations to the Central Out of the Cold fund and should be able to be self supporting until the New Year. We thank everyone who has donated to the HOOTC fund at Central.

Submitted by  
Mary Guise, Site Co-coordinator  
Respectfully submitted,



Striving to Eliminate  
Hunger  
in Our Community.

### **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.**





## **Save the Date**

Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 5:00  
*Youth Movie Night: The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*

Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m.  
*Central's Book Club*

Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 12-2 p.m.  
*White Gift Card Drop off  
in Central's Alleyway*

Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10:30 a.m.  
*Communion and White Gift Sunday*

Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m.  
*Prime Time online*

Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 12-3 p.m.  
*Durand Christmas Market*

Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm  
*Candlelight Carol Service*

Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
10:30 a.m.- noon  
*Christmas Gathering*

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>  
After worship  
*Christmas Cookie Walk*

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.  
*Christmas Pageant*

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 p.m.  
*Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 a.m.  
*In Memoriam Service*

Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m.  
*Chamber Music Concert:  
Sound Link*

## **Deaths**

Garey Keith  
August 24, 2023

Naseem Din  
October 9, 2023




# Durand Christmas Market

**Saturday, December 9**  
**12:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

**Central Presbyterian Church**  
**165 Charlton Ave. West**

**Fine Foods ~ Woodworking**  
**Knits ~ Jewellery and more**

[www.cpchamilton.ca](http://www.cpchamilton.ca)

### **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/>

*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*  
*Bookkeeper – Michelle Frebold*  
*Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma*  
*Nursery Coordinator – Cathy Slattery*  
*Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French*

**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
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