

# CONTACT

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

Lent 2023

I have an admission to make—Lent is my favourite season of the church year—I mean the whole thing: Lent, Holy Week—Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, Easter Sunday! It is the great panorama, that not only allows me, but actually thrusts me into reality, indeed encourages me to live into the good, the bad and the ugly without denial.

The turn comes as Jesus begins going down, down to Jerusalem, down to certain death, as his disciples knew full well. We have it in the gospels in various iterations: “When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem” (Luke 9:51); “Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly (Mark 8: 31-32). His disciples react. In Mark’s gospel Peter pulls him aside, and says in effect, what are you talking about?! In John’s gospel, all of them tell him, your enemies were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again? (John 11:8). But Thomas of all people tells his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him” (John 11: 16). And then, on the other side of it all, after the resurrection, when the living Christ invites Thomas to put his hands on his wounds, he makes the great Christian confession: “My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28). A confession repeated by Christians ever since.

Beginning to end, to in between, we are allowed to be real about our blindness, and stupidity, and obstinacy, but also our fear, our greatest hope, our deepest love. We are allowed to stare down death, our own mortality – we begin with ashes, and end with light. “This is the LORD’s doing; it is marvellous in our eyes” (Psalm 118:23).

I invite you to pray with me, the great Lenten prayer from Psalm 51:

*Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.  
2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.  
7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

The Rev. Dr. Nicholas Athanasiadis



**Your Invitation  
to the Lord's Supper**

**Sunday March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.**

**Also via Livestream at:**

**[https://www.youtube.com/CentralPresbyterian  
ChurchHamilton](https://www.youtube.com/CentralPresbyterianChurchHamilton)**

## View from the Organ – Dr. Marcus Scholtes, Director of Music Ministries

It's been a month since I started at Central Presbyterian Church as Director of Music Ministries, and what an amazing time it's already been! Highlights include working with the talented choir, we've already performed a number of difficult anthems, and I'm awaiting all the beautiful music that we will share during Lent. The organ is of course an excellent instrument, and it's been a joy to perform on week to week. Another highlight was our Intergenerational Service on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> in which a dozen children were involved, it's great to see so many young people in our sanctuary becoming leaders in their own right. I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone more in the coming months, and also very excited about our Good Friday concert on April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Tristan has been so welcomed by the older kids, it's difficult to peel him away after Sunday's coffee hour, and Lana is loving exploring the building, and as usual, being the center of attention.



Musically yours,  
Marcus



CPC Choir, not all members present

## **Pastoral Care Update from Rev. Lois Whitwell**



As we continue to live out our faith in our community, I have been in contact with many of you as you journey through various life situations. As the Central community continues to grow in faith, this entails walking beside each other in times of illness, sadness and joy.

I continue to work on developing a Pastoral Care team dedicated to supporting people with specific needs within our congregation. We are also developing the Prayer Shawl ministry. Our Knitter and Knatter group and other knitters will prayerfully create shawls to give and bless those in need. I am working on an instruction and pattern booklet that should be available soon. Please contact me if you would like to be involved in this meaningful ministry.

Our Prime Time group continues to meet bi-monthly via Zoom. We welcome anyone who would enjoy this time of fellowship to join us.

As we journey forward together, my prayer is that we can grow together as Christians and share God's love.

Rev. Lois Whitwell, Director of Pastoral Care

## **Central's Knit and Knatter Group**

You have probably seen the invitation to come knitting on Tuesday mornings in the Guild room at Central Presbyterian Church. We are a very small, low-keyed group that knits and crochets from donated yarns. Some days we just chat with a warm beverage. We meet, talk, knit, and crochet every week, and supply those in need with warm scarves and hats. It goes without saying that we would love to become a larger group, and so there is an open invitation for Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. For any questions, contact Jean Williams at 905-388-5453 or [myomajean1@gmail.com](mailto:myomajean1@gmail.com).

## **Faith Finder Update**

The children's ministry at Central is growing in God's love! We have a wonderful group of children who bring their unique gifts and curiosity with them to Faith Finders. One of my goals for the children is to have them more present and participate in worship with the congregation. You will notice children reading and sharing their musical gifts more regularly on Sunday mornings. I watch with amazement as friendships develop! During the fellowship hour after Sunday worship, our young people enjoy the donated chess sets, crafts and Lego in the church hall. If you enjoy a reading, or want to join in a game of chess, please take a moment to say hello and encourage our young people. The small moments of connection are important to our children knowing that they are fully welcome and that this is their church home!



On December 24 at 4:00pm, the children shared the Christmas Story with readings, carols, and acting our tableau in costume. The script was developed from the *Jesus Storybook Bible*. The pageant is one of the highlights of the Christmas season at Central, and we were thrilled to welcome our families, friends, and neighbours into the sanctuary for this service. (Remember when we were outdoors for Christmas 2022?!) Thank you to all the children and families who were involved in making Christmas meaningful and special.

Sara Traficante, Coordinator of Discipleship Ministries





**Glimpses from the Christmas Eve Pageant,  
December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 4 p.m. service.**





## **Mission Committee Contact News February 2023**

**White Gift Sunday** – On Saturday, December 3, 2022, there was a “drive through gift card drop off” between 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. On Sunday, Dec. 4, 2022, for those attending the service, donations were received during the service. Don MacVicar, president of the Inner-City Outreach Ministry, was presented with all donations during our Sunday service. The total of all donations was \$3675.00. Due to the support and generosity of our congregation, we helped to supply gifts for the children and a Christmas dinner for the families.

**Hamilton Food Share** – On February 25, 2023, we are planning a “drive through Drop off Food drive.” It will take place on the South side of Central in the alley entering off Hess St. and exiting onto Caroline St. We will also be accepting donations on Sunday February 26, 2023 as you enter for worship service at the front entrance of the church . We are asking for your help and also for you to encourage your neighbours to be involved and drop off food donations.

The **Hamilton Food Share** has never seen such a need for food and they are running out. Please help whenever possible.

There is a wicker basket at the front entrance of the church for folks to drop off food items all year round. Please help to fill the basket every month. All food items will be delivered to **The Hamilton Food Share** regularly when the basket is full.

**No one should go hungry !!!**

Thank you in advance. Mission Committee

### ***Celebrating God's Faithfulness at Central***



*Marilyn Repchuck acknowledges one year of work and ministry with Dr. Nick Athanasiadis and the congregation of Central. February 5, 2023*

## Intergenerational Worship Service on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023







Sunday, February 5, Central gathered for our Intergenerational Sunday Worship Service. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis, Sara Traficante and Rev. Lois Whitwell shared reflections on **"Salt and Light"** based on **Matthew 5:13-16.**



## Hamilton Out of the Cold

Hamilton Out of the Cold continues to serve take-out meals to our guests on Thursdays. We have two teams working at Central – one coordinated by Mary Guise, made up of mostly Central church members, and one team coordinated by Kathy Havill with HOOTC volunteers from the community. We have found that alternating two teams gives us time to recover from our week of preparing, packing, and serving food.

We prepare a hot meal with meat, potatoes, rice or pasta, add fresh vegetables or a salad with produce donated by Lococos, bread which is donated by Fortinos in Westdale and in Waterdown, apples or bananas and a sweet treat such as a granola bar or crisp rice square. Mary's team has also added homemade soup since the beginning of January which has been well received. Usually, 6 of us work in the kitchen to prepare the main dinner. Our meal repertoire includes meatloaf, shepherd's pie, sausage and peppers on pasta, pork chops cut from pork loins, chicken, and cabbage roll casserole. It takes us 3 to 4 hours to prepare the meal, soup, and the salad.

Packing of the food into takeout containers takes an hour and a half. Bread is repackaged to provide each guest with 3 to 4 slices of bread. The bags are then packed with the dinner in the gym and handed out to our guests at the ramp door from 3:15 to 5:00 PM. We usually hand out 200 + meals to 75 to 90 guests. Many take extra meals for family or neighbours who can not get out. There is no limit on the number of meals that each guest can take which has increased our reach into the community. By then the dishes are done, and the kitchen cleaned up and we make our way home. It is an intense but fulfilling day.

We attempt to keep extra dinners in the freezer for the days that we run short. We have experienced one day where we ran out of food which was very difficult for both the team and the guests. We kept a supply of Kraft dinners and tinned soup to meet that need but even ran out of that. Since then, we have restocked the freezer so hopefully we do not experience that again. If we have extra meals, they are taken to the HUB at the corner of Vine and McNab Streets, which is a drop in for street people. They have no consistent source of food so are glad to receive donations.

We have to recognize the volunteers on our two teams, who keep us going and work very hard each week. Without their selfless contribution of time and energy, we could not function. Volunteers work as shoppers, cooks and kitchen staff, dishwashers, bread packers, bag packers, and distributors of the bags of food. Thank you to all of you.

Respectfully submitted.

Mary Guise



Striving to Eliminate  
Hunger  
in Our Community.



## Central's Book Club

The 2022/23 season of CPC's book Club is enjoying meeting in person and discussing a variety of interested books. One of the things our small group really likes about this club is that we all end up reading books we might not ourselves have chosen, but all agree expand our horizons! We welcome anyone who would like to drop in to join our discussions and experience what we do (last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Central).



### BOOK TITLES FOR THE 2022/23 SEASON:

- The Mystery of Right and Wrong by Wayne Johnston led by Brent Ellis (October 25)

The Mystery of Right and Wrong is a masterwork from one of the country's most critically acclaimed and beloved writers that is both compulsively readable and heart-stopping in the vital truth it unfolds. In a novel that grapples with sexual abuse, male violence and madness, Wayne Johnston reveals haunting family secrets he's kept for more than thirty years (another book with a Newfoundland connection...).

- Quichotte by Salman Rushdie led by Colleen and Larry Kurtz (November 28)

Inspired by the Cervantes classic, Sam DuChamp, mediocre writer of spy thrillers, creates Quichotte, a courtly, addled salesman obsessed with television who falls in impossible love with a TV star. Together with his (imaginary) son Sancho, Quichotte sets off on a picaresque quest across America to prove worthy of her hand, gallantly braving the tragicomic perils of an age where "Anything-Can-Happen." Meanwhile his creator, in a midlife crisis, has equally urgent challenges of his own. Just as Cervantes wrote Don Quixote to satirize the culture of his time, Rushdie takes the listener on a wild ride through a country on the verge of moral and spiritual collapse. And with the kind of storytelling magic that is the hallmark of Rushdie's work, the fully realized lives of DuChamp and Quichotte intertwine in a profoundly human quest for love and a wickedly entertaining portrait of an age in which fact is so often indiscernible from fiction.

- The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd led by Gwynneth Simpson (January 31)

From the celebrated author of The Secret Life of Bees and the forthcoming novel The Book of Longings, a novel about two unforgettable American women. Writing at the height of her narrative and imaginative gifts, Sue Monk Kidd presents a masterpiece of hope, daring, the quest for freedom, and the desire to have a voice in the world. Hetty "Handful" Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimkes' daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed in by the limits imposed on women...

- Five Little Indians by Michelle Good led by Beth Mackay Reilly (March 28)

- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot led by Shirley Fredlander (April 25)

If interested, more information is available to anyone by contacting Larry Kurtz (905) 529-6289





December 11, 2022, Central Presbyterian Church, Hamilton, shared a traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols, commonly known in the Durand neighbourhood as the “Candlelight Carol Service”. This was the first time back to our special evening of music and worship during Advent in three years. The community came to listen and to experience the joy of this beautiful service. Central has a long history of making music “central” to its commitment of outreach in the Hamilton community. The evening was hosted by the choir of 22 members, and included 5 youth singers, brass quartet, flute and strings. We are grateful for the organ and choir leadership by Interim Director of Music Fred Numan, and worship leadership from Interim Minister Rev. Dr. Nicholas Athanasiadis.





## Save the Date

Saturday, February 25, 1-3:00 p.m.  
Drive-By for Hamilton Food Share

Sunday, March 5, 10:30 a.m.  
Communion Sunday

Sunday, March 19, 12:30 p.m.  
Central Annual General Meeting  
(AGM) in the Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 3:00 p.m.  
FREE/ By Donation  
*Chamber Music Concert*

Sunday, April 2, 10:30 a.m.  
Palm Sunday Worship Service

Thursday, April 6, 7:00 p.m.  
Maundy Thursday service  
of Holy Communion

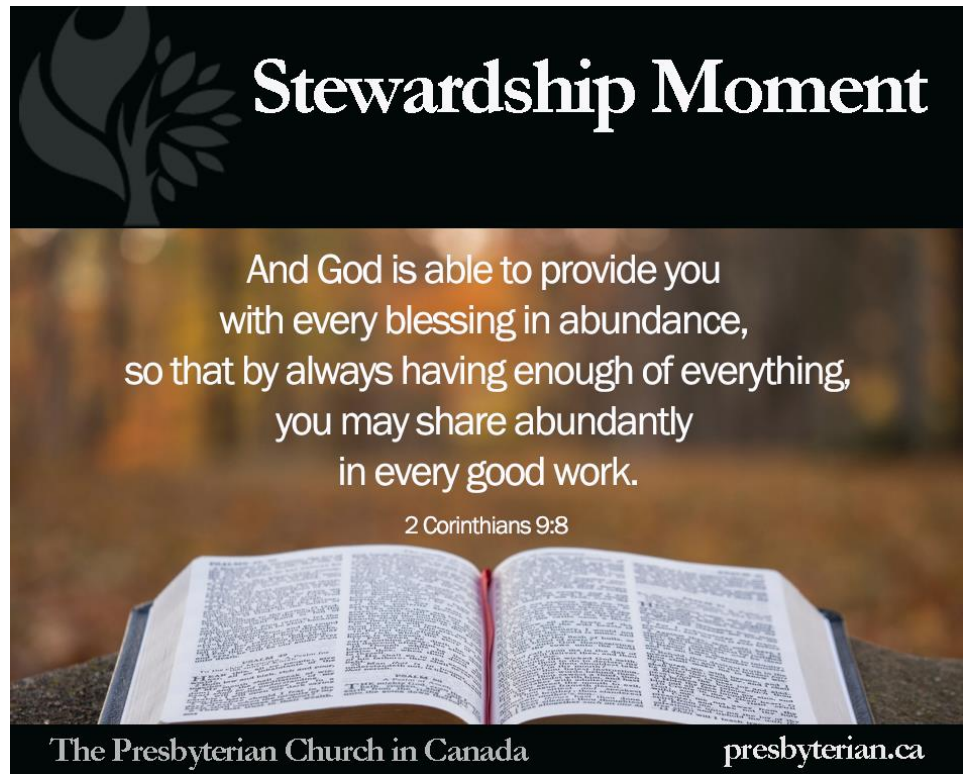
Friday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.  
Good Friday Choir Concert  
*Featuring Fauré's stunning  
Requiem*

Sunday, April 9, 10:30 a.m. Easter  
Sunday Worship Service  
*Featuring:  
The Hamilton Brass Quintet  
Christ is risen indeed!*



## Deaths

Glenn Gibson – February 6\*  
Glen Chambers – February 6



### **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/>

\* *Glenn Gibson requested in his obituary that donations in his memory could be made to Central Presbyterian Church. Memorial Donation cards and envelopes are available throughout the church. Donations may also be received online (refer to: [www.cpchamilton.ca/giving/](http://www.cpchamilton.ca/giving/))*



## Holy Week

### **April 2, 10:30 A.M. Service of Worship**

For many, the procession of the palms re-enacted by children of our church schools is a vivid and lasting memory of this day. But once you know the whole story of this week, it is hard to see Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem except as set against his passion—betrayal, humiliation and death.

Since about the fourth century, the joy of Christ's triumphal entry has been set in deliberate contrast to the passion narrative. This, the first Sunday in Holy Week, begins the seven days of redemption drama.



### **April 6, 7:00 PM Service of Holy Communion**

Maundy Thursday, Maundy from the Latin *Mandatum*, meaning commandment. Jesus said, *I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another*' (John 13: 34-35).

This night is a time to remember Jesus' vision of beloved community—to feed and be fed, to love and be loved. This night, we remember the events of Jesus' last night with his disciples.

### **April 7, 7:00 P.M. Concert Featuring Fauré's stunning Requiem**

Concert presented by the Central Presbyterian Choir and Director of Music Ministries, Dr. Marcus Scholtes. Freewill offering at the door.

On this, a most faithful and a most fateful day in the long history of God's people, we reach the climax in the unfolding drama of the life and ministry of Jesus.



### **April 9, 10:30 A.M. Service of Worship**

*The Hamilton Brass Quintet*

We celebrate the resurrection!

Early on that morning, the first witnesses tell us: their alarm subsided, their courage deepened, their trauma healed, and their amazement grew.

They learned how to choose hope.

### **CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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