

CONTACT

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

Why Welcome?



The Social Justice Group, meeting over several months, has worked on a revised “Statement of Welcome and Inclusion.” This statement was adopted by Session at its meeting in May, and is presented in this issue of Contact. At such times, I need to ask the question of myself: “Why?” Why welcome? I answer for myself, and I submit to you that we welcome, deliberately and conscientiously, because others have not always felt our welcome as followers of Jesus. We welcome because Jesus himself offered welcome to all those who were excluded from covenant relationship by the powers that be. This is not a top-down magnanimous welcome, like some Roman patrician who would patronize the artist and scholar.

Rather, this is a recognition that we need one-another. We are together in this journey of faith and life. We do not welcome because it is the progressive thing to do, we welcome because it is justice. The kind of justice we hope for ourselves when we need it. It is welcome in a polarized world. There is an edge to it. Even as there is an edge to exclusion. I speak particularly of our welcome of LGBTQI2+ persons. In offering welcome to one another, we believe we are acknowledging the Divine creative drive—rich, diverse, incomprehensible. The opposite of harming creation, we participate in the work of healing. This is why we are making this statement, and binding and committing ourselves to it. There is a burden to this welcome.

So how do we carry it, or carry it out?

First, welcome yourself! Allow your body, mind and heart to be completely present to your own memories, sensations of pain, sorrow, grief, but also relief, joy, and the feeling of being at home. At home in yourself, because another welcomed you as a child, and later as an adult, when you needed this most, with no strings attached, no hoops to jump through, just because you are you. This is how Jesus welcomed all who came to him. He had much to teach them, much to show them, but first and last he welcomed these bodies and souls with a love which broke their defences, their dividing walls, and so called together a church people, to be in the world in a new way.

The Riddle Scale of Homophobia (first developed by Dorothy Riddle in 1973 and published in 1985 & 1994). It is one way of recognising that our welcome may be dynamic; changing toward LGBTQI2+ people as we strive to move from *tolerance* to *nurturance*, which recognises that we are a blessing to one another.

The Riddle Scale



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



Raehel *
Weresch

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.**

The congregation is invited to connect with the following staff, elders, and members who are available to answer questions on the updated Statement of Welcome and Inclusion: Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis, Interim Minister; Beth Carey, Elder; Gwynneth Simpson, Elder; Kirk Starkey, Member; Mark Stupple, Clerk of Session; Sara Traficante, Coordinator of Discipleship and Member

Resource Management Committee Report – May 11, 2023

The Resource Management Committee is charged with creating and overseeing the budget for Central as well as managing the building including maintenance and repairs of the building and the grounds. The committee is made up of 5 people: Jim Morgan – Chair; Bill Guise – Treasurer; Mary Guise – Secretary; James Beloshesky – Property Coordinator; Frances Searle. Dr. Nick is an ex-officio member of the committee and attends our meetings. Our bookkeeper, Zafar Iqbal, attends the part of the meeting where finances are discussed. We meet monthly except for July and August when we meet as necessary.

Top of mind for the congregation is our financial position. In November and December of each year, a subcommittee proposes a budget for the church based on our needs and the past year's performance. This goes to Session in January and suggestions/changes are made. The final budget is presented to the congregation at the annual general meeting in late winter. We have adjusted the reporting of the finances that are shown in the bulletin to show revenue for the last month. Historically, our expenses monthly are within or below budget. Revenue is where our challenge lies.

Operating Revenues as of April 30, 2023

This is the latest chart of our revenues which shows that we are \$22,844 below budgeted revenue. Revenue is made up of the money given by the congregation, money from the Trustees which is budgeted for each month and then a second amount that they have given to help us meet the bills and maintain our cash flow monthly. Other income is primarily from rentals and income from the solar panels on our roof.

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Over (Short) of Budget</u>
Congregational Givings	\$ 79,304	\$ 58,305	\$ (20,999)
Trustees - Regular	15,000	15,000	\$ 0
Trustees - Budgeted Deficit	52,073	52,073	\$ 0
Other Income	21,164	19,319	\$ (1,845)
	\$ 167,541	\$ 144,697	\$ (22,844)

Note: There is a shortfall between budgeted and actual revenues.

The congregation was given a target of \$220,000. The givings of the congregation are our primary source of income. This number was based on the givings from last year. Since the pandemic, our revenue from the congregation has fallen significantly each year. This amount was felt to be a reasonable target and a challenge to the congregation to support Central. As of the end of April, we are \$20,999 below the target.

The Trustees have committed to giving us \$7,500 per quarter to meet our expenses. They have given us the whole \$30,000 for the year, up front, as well as \$30,000 from the Growth Fund. The Trustees have further committed to giving us money to manage cash flow at the end of the month as needed. We are struggling with an empty bank account. The money from the Trustees is derived from the interest income of the endowed funds of the church. It is not unlimited, and the Trustees cannot keep us solvent more than a couple of years. We need to find another source of income that will take the pressure off the congregation and Trustees to meet our expenses and operate the church.

The Trustees are also responsible for the repairs to the building. Our church is an old building and a big building. Ongoing repairs and maintenance are necessary. This year, there is a section of the roof that requires major repair at a cost of \$149,000. The first phase of this repair begins at the end of May and will cost \$30,500. The remainder has been deferred. We have done some plumbing repairs, replaced old toilets, and faucets as well as repairing leaks. There are major repairs and maintenance to our organ. The sandstone on the tower has been breaking up with pieces falling to the sidewalk from ice melting. Last year, we spent \$75,000 to put up netting around the tower to prevent the fall of the sandstone. This allows us to defer the repair, that is projected to cost between 1 and 2 million dollars, for 5 years.

The category of "Other Revenue" is derived primarily from rentals of the building and the solar panels. This category is \$1,800 below budget. We have increased the number of rentals significantly and last year netted over \$50,000 from rentals. The solar panels have not performed well this winter – we think it is because of the dull winter weather we had and should see an increase in revenue this spring and summer. Lee Carpenter monitors the panels and any that need replacement are provided by the company. Installing them becomes part of our roofing costs.

That is the state of our finances at this point. The greatest shortfall is the givings of the congregation and we are actively searching for another source of revenue but that will take time. In the meantime, we manage as best we can. As previously mentioned, our expenses have fallen at or below budget, so revenue is our biggest concern.

The Chair of RMC, Jim Morgan, wishes to thank the committee for their commitment and hard work to keep Central operating day after day. A church that serves God, our community, and our congregation.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Guise, Secretary, RMC



Pastoral Care Update from Rev. Lois Whitwell

I have been thinking a lot lately about the idea of Pastoral Care and its many facets. Pastoral care is a large part of what the Ministers and the Session do, but the Caring aspect belongs to all of us. One of my favourite authors, Henri Nouwen wrote, and was quoted on the Henri Nouwen web page as part of the daily devotions.

He wrote: "Care is something other than cure. *Cure* means "change." A doctor, a lawyer, a minister, a social worker-they all want to use their professional skills to bring about changes in people's lives. They get paid for whatever kind of cure they can bring about. But cure, desirable as it may be, can easily become violent, manipulative, and even destructive if it does not grow out of care. Care is being with, crying out with, suffering with, feeling with. Care is compassion. It is claiming the truth that the other person is my brother or sister, human, mortal, vulnerable, like I am.

When care is our first concern, cure can be received as a gift. Often, we are not able to cure, but we are always able to care. To care is to be human.

"He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him." - Luke 10: 34 "

So as a community of faith we are to care for those within the congregation, who live near our church, and the broader community.

Rev. Lois Whitwell, Director of Pastoral Care

Save the Date:
Sunday, June 18, 2023 at 10:30 am
**Intergenerational Worship for
National Indigenous People's Day Sunday**
Music, reflections, and an activity
from the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society.





Faith Finder Update from Sara Traficante

We have so much to celebrate this spring! The children are becoming more involved in leading worship on Sundays, and at special events throughout the church year. For Palm Sunday, the children Shouted Hosanna with palm branches in the worship service. Good Friday, the Youth Choir sang a beautiful song “Filled with Compassion,” with an audience of neighbours and visitors from across the region. On Easter Sunday, we opened worship with a special song, “Hallelujah from Palestine” with Steve Pierre, Marcus Scholtes and Kirk Starkey accompanying.

In Faith Finders, we continue with our deep dive into the lectionary-based curriculum, with two age-based classes, allowing our leaders to gauge the learning appropriately for their groups. I am amazed by the questions, creativity, and energy! We are channeling this enthusiasm into crafts, music, games, and building friendships. Our nursery and youngest children continue to be cared for with Theresa Monkelbaan’s expert guidance. As our community grows, we need more support to staff the nursery on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in volunteering from time to time, please contact sara@cpchamilton.ca

A special thank you to our community members, who donated chess sets and other games for our children to enjoy during the fellowship hour!

On Friday, May 12, 2023, we gathered for a “Family Night” to make kites, share a meal on the forecourt with a potluck and hotdog BBQ, and sing together in the sanctuary. This was truly an intergenerational event with 70 people from our community coming together for food, fellowship, and fun! Special thanks to Jim Reilly and Beth Mackay Reilly for organizing the kite activity, and to Rob and Michael Monkelbaan for cooking the hot dogs. The Discipleship Committee hopes to host similar events several times a year, to bring our church community together for creative play and praise (view some pictures on page 5 😊).

Coming up for SUMMER 2023

Summer Faith Finders: Building on the success of last summer, we will continue our children’s Sunday programming throughout the summer in the air-conditioned Fellowship Hall.

Sundays in Durand Park: Following Central’s 10:30 a.m. worship service. We will walk to the park together at 11:30 a.m. Bring a bag lunch, hat, sunscreen, bathing suit and towel. Frozen treats provided!
Save the dates: July 9, 23, August 6, 20.

Summer Book Club: All our young people are invited to read C.S. Lewis’ classic “*The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*” this summer! We will check on how it is going over the course of our Summer Faith Finders classes. Copies of the book are available to borrow, and a link to an audiobook will be provided. We will celebrate the end of this project with a movie night in September.

Sara Traficante,
Coordinator of Discipleship Ministries

**Sundays
at
Durand Park**

July 9, 23, August 6, 20, 2023

**10:30 AM WORSHIP AT CENTRAL
AND STAY FOR THE SPLASH PAD!**

**Faith Finders in the Fellowship Hall.
Walk together to the park at 11:30 am.
Bring a bag lunch, sunscreen, hat,
bathing suit and towel.
Frozen treats provided!**



Family Night
at Central
on Friday, May 12, 2023





View from the Organ from Dr. Marcus Scholtes

It has been an incredible few months of music-making at Central, there is much going on in the Music Ministry! The biggest highlight of course was our Good Friday concert - in the first half, we presented our guest soloist Kasia Konstanty in J. S. Bach's enduring "Erbarme Dich" aria from the St. Mathew Passion. Our own Central Youth Choir performed "Filled With Compassion", they did an outstanding job and I'm so happy we could include them on this programme; a big thank-you to Sara Traficante for preparing them for this event. We then had a performance of Faure's dramatic and lush Requiem, with a total of 29 choristers (the Central choir + 14 ringers) accompanied by our in-house String Ensemble (+ 2 ringers) with Michael Bloss on organ.

We also featured our own Michael Davis in the baritone solo and did he ever deliver a dramatic

"Libera Me"! The entire performance was stunning!! I'm happy to report we had ~ 220 people in the audience - a very good number for a concert in our post-Covid world, and I'm confident we will only build from here.

On Easter Sunday we were blessed with the glorious sounds of the Hamilton Brass Ensemble, lead by Neil Spaulding of the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra. The service concluded with a thunderous and joyful Hallelujah Chorus. It's wonderful to have such amazing musicians in our midst!

Previous to this momentous event was a chamber music recital on March 26th performed by our in-house Central musicians, Sara Traficante on flute, Sharon Lee and myself on violin, Elspeth Thomson on viola, and Kirk Starkey on cello. This performance was also a huge success in terms of number of audience members that attended and the donations that came in.

This was a really fun program to put together - the five of us were already friends and colleagues before Sharon and I came to Central, and we had a blast rehearsing and performing this concert. We can't wait to perform another concert soon!

Also, I want to share a really wonderful thing that is happening in the Music Ministry at Central: the choir is growing. When I started in January of 2023, I think we were about 7-8 members? We are now consistently 15 strong on Sunday mornings! An excellent growth rate for a few months, and we'll of course keep working on expanding more. Our choir will sing through June, and for the summer months of July and August I have an excellent line-up of soloists that will be leading our hymns and singing solos every week. I wish the choir a well-deserved break over the summer months, and of course I'm looking forward to our fall services and Carol Service on Sunday Dec. 10th at 7:00pm (mark your calendars now 😊)

Finally, I would like to thank the entire congregation for all your support. Music is such an integral part of our worship services, and your positive and enthusiastic response to our musical endeavors is so very much appreciated!

Musically yours,
Marcus Scholtes, Director of Music Ministries



CHOIR LEADS for SOPRANO, TENOR, BASS

Looking for Soprano, Tenor, and Bass choir leads at Central Presbyterian Church, Hamilton. Central has a long tradition of choral excellence, including repertoire from the Renaissance to present day.

Central is a warm, friendly, inclusive and forward-thinking faith community with a huge appreciation for music. Looking for choir leads with solid sight-reading skills, the ability to lead and blend in their section, and sing the occasional solo.

Thursday evening choir rehearsals
7:30pm - 9:30pm

Sunday morning service
10:30am - 11:30am

\$50/ service (\$100/ week)

Central Presbyterian Church
165 Charlton Ave. West
Hamilton, ON L8P 2C8

Contact Dr. Marcus Scholtes at music@cpchamilton.ca



Hamilton Out of the Cold

This was the second season at Central in which HOOTC was supported by two volunteer teams. And what a season it was. The highlights of this season include the following:

- Public health requirements were relaxed somewhat this season. As a result, we were able to recruit, with the help of Kathy Kline, the new Executive Assistant, additional volunteers to meet the needs of our guests.
- This season the two volunteer teams prepared, packaged, and distributed close to 4,000 meals to our guests. As with last year, the number of meals required increased weekly, starting in November at 160 and ending in March with over 240. Many guests took additional meals to those unable to get to the site and were most appreciative of the food.
- It was amazing to watch our outstanding volunteers meet this increased need. By extending our distribution time (3:30 – 5:00 p.m.) we were able to prepare on average 200 meals per week. There were only a few weeks where there were additional meals at the end. However, these meals were either stored in case guests requested more meals than we had prepared for the week or we shared the extra meals with a community-based group at the Hub. No food went to waste.
- This season we did need to unexpectedly close our doors a few times earlier than 5:00 p.m. due to the increased demand. In these cases, we referred guests to other services in the community.
- Early in the season, Public Health inspected the site and were impressed with the cleanliness and safety protocols in place. The site easily passed inspection.
- Between May and July 2022, HOOTC volunteers at Central hosted a BBQ for the community. Over 1,130 sausages were served. Our volunteers are looking forward to offering this service again this summer.
- In December, Central hosted a winter clothing give-a-way for our HOOTC guests with clothes donated to HOOTC and Central.
- Central volunteers also participated in HOOTC's Winterfest fundraiser, either cooking soup or serving soup at the Jackson Square site.
- The partnership of the two teams was again a success. We continued with the same process initiated last season allowing each team to communicate so that food and packaging supplies could be shared.

As always, the success of this season would not have been possible without the contributions and generosity of so many people. We were most thankful for the donations of bread from Fortinos, fruit and vegetables from Lococos, produce from Infarm and chicken from Fenwood Farms.

In closing, we would like to thank the following people:

- Pastor Nick and church staff for the use of the site and their ongoing support. A special thanks to Rob, the church custodian, who was always there to lend a hand.
- Pat Klingender and Tom Fleming, our cooks, and the rest of the dedicated volunteers.
- Fellow Site Coordinators for sharing their site experiences.
- Sister Carole Anne for her daily prayers.
- Last but certainly not least, Janice Ormond and Kathy Kline. We would not have been able to achieve what we did without their energy and unwavering support.

May 4th saw the start of the summer BBQ at Central which will run until the end of July. Once again, we have two teams with Mary and Kathy as coordinators. The first week saw us give out 100 sausages on buns to 77 people. They also receive a bag of chips and a cup of coffee, from coffee donated by the Durand Coffee Shop. A robust start to the season.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Guise & Kathy Havill, Site Co-coordinators



Striving to Eliminate
Hunger
in Our Community.

Mission Committee Contact

On April 20, 2023 the Mission Committee supplied a drop off luncheon to inner city outreach moms to moms group.

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



Central's Knit and Knatter Group

When first renewing our time for knitting after Covid, we had but a tiny group. Since then we have grown, not just with returning members but also brand new ones! We have also been gifted with yarn, needles and patterns.

We now welcome more members to use up our yarn, and of course we enjoy hearing new stories with a refreshment, if that is all one feels like contributing on certain days.

All are welcome to join us every Tuesday from 10 am to Noon.

For any questions, feel free to call Jean Williams at 905-388-5453 or email at myomajean1@gmail.com.

Central's Book Club

Here's a little piece about the Club's doings this past season, and hopes for 2023-24.

The Club's devoted little band of readers delved into five books in the last season with topics ranging from awful family secrets and incest in Newfoundland (Wayne Johnston's The Mystery of Right and Wrong, to an immortal human cell line taken from an Afro-American cancer patient in the early 1950's (The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks). In between the opening and closing books we also explored Salman Rushdie's hilarious, fantastical take on Cervante's 'Don Quixote' --- 'Quichotte'; slavery and its torments in early 19th century South Carolina (The Invention of Wings); and Five Little Indians about the miseries and continuing fallout from Canada's residential schools.

Now 'on holiday' for the summer, we are planning to resume in the fall with a new list of five or six titles which members will volunteer. We would heartily welcome new members as participants or presenters. One thing I think we are all agreed on: we end up reading books we might well never have actively considered on our own, and this to our personal enrichment and enjoyment.

Anyone interested in further information or possibly joining the group, should contact Larry Kurtz at (905) 529-6289 or kurtzlarry@hotmail.com





Save the Date

Sunday, June 4, 10:30 a.m.
Communion Sunday

Thursdays in May, June & July
from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
*HOOTC Summer BBQ on the
forecourt*

Sunday, June 18, 10:30 p.m.
*Intergenerational Worship for
National Indigenous
People's Day Sunday*

Sundays at Durand Park
July 9 & 23, August 6 & 20
After 10:30 a.m. worship walk to
Durand Park for Splash Pad!

Christmas Carol Service on
Sunday December 10th at 7:00pm



Deaths

Ralph Cameron – April 12, 2023



Welcoming New Members to Central

We are thankful for the individuals and families who have joined our church community in the last year! All those who are interested in membership at Central will have an opportunity to learn more about the church community and profess their faith or transfer membership to Central in Fall 2023. Feel free to connect with any of our leadership team on a Sunday morning (Dr. Nick, Marcus, Rev. Lois, Sara), or Helena Bootsma the church office helena@cpchamilton.ca, We are happy to welcome you to Central!



Your Invitation to the Lord's Supper

Sunday June 4th, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

Also via Livestream at:

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

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**165 Charlton Avenue West,
Hamilton, ON L8P 2C8**

Telephone: 905-522-9098

Email: info@cpchamilton.ca

Website: www.cpchamilton.ca



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 – Theresa Monkelbaan

Custodian – Rob Monkelbaan

Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French

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/>