

CONTACT

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

Honouring sacred spaces



Unsplash in collaboration with Ales Krivec

Perhaps you, like me, have grown up in church spaces. When I was a babe in arms I was taken to church, I was part of worship before I was conscious of worship, the prayers, the hymns, the organ sound, the human voices, the classic sounds so familiar to my ears, but also the smell of the wood pews, the paneling, the velvet covered mahogany chairs. But most of all as a child, I hesitate to admit, this was also my playground, where I and my friends tore around to the consternation of many an adult. Now an adult myself, conscious of safety, I caution running in church halls and church grounds with a slight grin.

But now these spaces so familiar to many of us, the very architecture of buildings, and sanctuaries and furnishings, pulpit and font and table, are disappearing across North America, and they are being replaced by other living spaces: condos, or lofts, or offices, or even other worship spaces. We are right now amid the greatest shift in church buildings since, well, these buildings were first erected almost 200 years ago in North America, and though Cathedrals of the Middle Ages are maintained and restored in parts of Europe, not all are. Some have disappeared, “and its place knows [them] no more.”

Are we just watching this happen? Well to a greater extent than we like to admit, yes, we are just watching this transition happen—church buildings and spaces are disappearing. But—there is also a growing response, an attempt to manage,

even steward, this transition rather than letting the chips fall where they may, rather than letting church buildings simply become real estate and letting the market dictate their fate.

Some are consciously being reoriented as places of refuge in their communities. Church buildings have traditionally located in the heart of the community, on “Church Street” in many a small town and village. Even in cities the local church, not to mention the Cathedral, is located in the most prominent areas. So now in the heart of town and city, the doors have been opened to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, even to become safe-injection sites, places for 12-step programs to gather, gathering places to hold vigil following a tragedy, places to reflect, to listen to haunting music as in the cathedrals and churches of New York City following 9-11.

We who are fortunate enough to still *have* ownership and therefore the privilege of stewarding these sacred spaces, also *do not have* the luxury of receiving this heritage without deliberate planning for the future of what we hold dear; where the sacred still happens, where in good times and in bad we go steadily about the business of enfolding infants, nurturing the young, sustaining the mature, comforting the afflicted, proclaiming salvation, celebrating the risen Lord, burying the dead, serving the least of these, who are Christ’s siblings in our neighbourhood and from places of conflict in other parts.

Change is a constant—we all know this. Nothing in the material world lasts forever, we know this too. All the more reason why we are being called to respond to the change in ways which honour the eternal love.

*As for mortals, their days are like grass;
they flourish like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.*

But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting (Psalm 103: 15-17).



Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis
Interim Minister



From your Interim Moderator - Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson

Greetings one and all. Over the past few months, a lot has been happening regarding the search process for your new minister (Though, at this point, much of it has been “behind the scenes.”). During the worship service on April 28th, your Search Committee was officially commissioned, and the search process was officially launched. The committee takes their job very seriously and recognizes the importance of the whole process being bathed in prayer. As a consequence of that, during the service on the 28th, the congregation was introduced to a prayer (composed by the committee itself) that they hope will guide us all through the search process.

In the weeks to come, the Search Committee will continue to use the information provided by the congregation, as well as other pertinent information, to create the Congregational Profile that will then be shared with potential candidates. FYI - once the document is completed, it will be uploaded to the church website for viewing by anyone in the congregation who would like to see it.

Since becoming your Interim Moderator at the beginning of the year, I have tried to keep you regularly informed about our progress. Rest assured I will continue to do that in the days to come. While we are moving ahead at a good pace, it will also take some time for everything to play out, so please be patient with me, with the Search Committee, and with the process. Remember too, that through it all, we need your prayerful support; so I encourage you to turn frequently to the prayer the committee composed for us all. Here it is...

Wise and Loving God,

You know all things good for us, and your Holy Spirit leads us in your way. Guide us to the minister that you have prepared to come and serve your people here at Central. Fill us with vision, with energy, and openness as we seek the person you've chosen for us.

We thank you for all those in our midst that you move to lead, contribute to, or enrich the ministries at Central. We thank you for the plans you have for our church community – both known and unknown to us.

Throughout this season of uncertainty and change, give us mutual love for each other, patience in the work that lies ahead, and wisdom to discern. Let the same mind be in us that was in Christ Jesus. Send your Holy Spirit here to move in us and through us, so that we may hear the voice of the person best suited for Central.

Prepare us to receive our new minister with joy and enthusiasm -- and may our new minister serve us with equal joy. May their ministry mark a new chapter in Central's story: a chapter of continued vibrancy, of growth, and of renewal in service of the Triune God. Amen



Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson,
Interim Moderator

My friends, may God continue to richly bless and guide us all as we continue this journey together, and engage in this holy task.

Resource Management Committee Report

We would like to welcome our new caretaker, Alan Homewood, to Central Presbyterian Church.

Alan started with us on April 29th and is settling in well.

Be sure to say “hello” and introduce yourself when you see him.

Alan will be working on Mondays from 7:00 a.m. to noon, and Tuesday through Friday, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Welcome Alan!

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Guise,
RMC Secretary

Central Presbyterian Church CONTACT June 2024



Alan Homewood,
Custodian

Pastoral Care Update from Rev. Lois Whitwell



Rev. Lois Whitwell,
Director of Pastoral Care

This spring, we have put in place the Terms of Reference for the Pastoral Care Team. The Session adopted the Terms. This document outlines the role and the responsibilities of the Pastoral Care Team. The team is in the process of visiting certain members of Central Presbyterian Church, while working on being in full compliance with the Leading with Care policy of the PCC.

Both the Prime Time Group and the Wednesday Fellowship Gathering are breaking for the Summer, and plan to restart again in September. The groups are looking for new members and new ideas for programs and activities. One of my summer projects is going to be cataloguing the support resources available for both Caregivers and those who are Grieving.

Pastoral care is an ongoing, ever-changing activity. It is connecting with people, listening to them and supporting them in their faith journeys.

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”

John 13:34

View from the Organ from Dr. Marcus Scholtes

It's been a packed last few months in the Music Ministry! Where to start?

An exciting initiative that has been on-going this year is the Music@Central matinee recital series. Central again received a Ward 2 Community Grant for first quarter of 2024 to help the series along, and we have steadily been seeing an increase in audience numbers, including a dedicated core audience that are regularly coming through our doors. In March, we had the internationally renowned Quartetto Gelato perform, April's concert featured our own Charlton String Quartet with guest violinist Lindsey Herle, and at the time I'm writing this, we are busily preparing for our Mother's Day concert and reception on May 12th. The Mother's Day concert is led by two musical mothers from our own congregation: Sara Traficante and Sharon Lee, and Kirk Starkey and I are looking forward to performing as well.

Easter season was particularly rich this year: for Palm Sunday we welcomed the Cantilon Chamber Choir (CCC) from Edmonton, Alberta who sang a number of selections during our Sunday morning service. They also performed their own solo concert in our sanctuary the following Wednesday. The CCC has a partnership with the Hamilton Children's Choir, the latter also performing in our space regularly. It is so great to have these young talents perform so beautifully in our sanctuary.

One of the big highlights of the past few months was our Good Friday concert on March 31st. We had 12 extra choristers come to join our Central Choir, and we performed Howard Goodall's 'Eternal Light' Requiem, a moving and powerful work, featuring Emma Reilly McKay, Brian Power, and Brent Fifield as soloists. Composed in 2008, The Requiem is made up of ten movements of music set to poetry, including authors Francis Quarles, Ann Thorp, John Henry Newman, Mary Elizabeth Frye, John McCrae, and Phineas Fletcher. We also welcomed back the Sound Linc ensemble members to collaborate with the choir, with musicians Stephen Boda, Paul Barna, Caitlyn Boyle, Peter Pavlovsky and CPC's own Sharon Lee and Kirk Starkey.

Easter Sunday was also a very special service, we were again blessed to have the Hamilton Brass Quintet collaborate with us. The highlight for me was conducting the choral offertory, "The Strife is O'er" by Melchior Vulpius - Central Choir accompanied by the brass. The service concluded with a rousing Hallelujah Chorus!

Our Central Choir continues to grow: Paula Grove has joined our Soprano section and has been regularly attending Thursday evening rehearsals and Sunday morning services. Thank you, Paula, for sharing your talents with us! The Central Choir has been steadfast in their weekly performances, we are so blessed to have such a wonderful group of singers that enhance our worship services. We will sing through to the end of June, and for July and August, I have a wonderful line-up of soloists planned.

Also looking forward to summer: stay tuned for updates for more 'Concert on the Steps' ~ 1 hour concerts on the front steps of the church. The Charlton String Quartet performed one of these concerts last summer, and it was hugely popular! So we will definitely have a repeat (or two). It's a great way to engage our community and show the high level of music making taking place at our church.



Musically Yours,
Marcus

Dr. Marcus Scholtes,
Director of Music Ministries



Photo Captions:

1. top - first Saturday rehearsal for Goodall Requiem
2. middle left - Quartetto Gelato - March 3rd
3. bottom left - Sound Linc Jan. 14th
4. bottom right - Charton String Quartet April 21st (guest: Lindsey Herle)

Fellowship Team Update



Do you remember the **Caring Casseroles** programme we had at Central? Well – your Fellowship Team wants to bring it back! The purpose of the programme is to assist those who might need a ready meal, perhaps during an illness, after surgery, or during a time of stress. How can you help? We plan to have some cooking “parties,” where we prepare some casseroles to have on hand in the freezer to take to those who could enjoy them! If you would be interested in joining one of these “parties,” please speak to Beth Mackay Reilly or Kristel Forcier.



Submitted by,
Kristel Forcier
and Beth Mackay
Reilly
Fellowship Team
Co-Leaders



Rummage and Bake Sale - May 4, 2024
Thank you to all for your support!



Coordinator of Discipleship Update - Sara Traficante

We have enjoyed many wonderful blessings together this winter and spring!

The Pancake Brunch, children and youth leadership with the Call to Worship through Lent, Palm Sunday Procession, and Easter Hallelujah!

Looking ahead:

- Sunday, May 26 - Faith Finders will have a day of planting in the Heart Garden on Charlton Avenue to continue our project for the **First Nations Child and Family Caring Society**. Wear your clothes for gardening and digging into the earth!
- Sunday, June 16 – Intergenerational Worship, with music, readings, and reflections lead by the children and youth. Ice cream bars on the lawn following worship.
- Monday, July 22-26 - “Art in Me” VBC in partnership with Chedoke Presbyterian Church. We are planning a week of fun and artistic faith-based activities in a FULL-day camp!



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



Hamilton Out of the Cold

Another year of ***Hamilton Out of the Cold*** has ended at Central. It has been a successful year, and many meals were distributed. Central has played an important role in hosting a HOOTC site since 1998 when the program came to Hamilton. This year, we continued to distribute a hot meal in recyclable packaging every Thursday from the first of November to the end of March. We take a two-week break at Christmas and otherwise, we serve our guests each week. The Thursday dinner is shared by two teams of volunteers. Kathy Havill, who is the Chair of the HOOTC Board of Directors, and her team served two Thursdays per month. Mary Guise and a team from Central served on the other two weeks of the month. We decided to continue with the take-out dinner this year, as we feel that we reach more people. Consistently, we hand out over 200 meals per week. One week we handed out 240 meals. We froze another 75 cooked Kraft Dinners with wieners and peas added, which were also handed out when the hot meals were depleted. We kept a supply of canned soup and Kraft Dinner boxes to give out when we ran out of all the food. The need for food does not seem to be diminishing. That said, we all love what we do. Our teams have fun while working, and bonds of close friendships have developed within our teams.

Another initiative that started this year was the Central Café and Warming Centre. This ran on Monday mornings from 10 a.m. until noon. Breakfast snacks, tea, coffee, and juice were served, and guests came in and sat down to warm up and visit. We were able to distribute clothing that was donated, toiletries collected by our Mission Committee, and socks filled with toiletries that were collected and put together by our youth group as their winter project. Pretty much all of the goods were distributed and received gratefully by our guests.

In April, we gathered again to clean the kitchen, the HOOTC storeroom, and the HOOTC locker at the top of the stairs to the basement. That included defrosting and cleaning out three freezers and our commercial fridge. We also took apart and cleaned the 12-burner Garland gas stove in the kitchen, so all is ready to go again in the fall. We passed two Public Health inspections of our kitchen this year with no issues.

This has been my last year to serve as coordinator of the Central HOOTC team. I loved the work and was also able to put together a cookbook with 35 recipes in quantities for 100 people that we distributed to all the HOOTC site coordinators and cooks. I will continue to sit on the Board of Directors for another year, and will probably stay involved with some committee work after that. We had our Volunteer Appreciation Night recently to say thank you to all our volunteers and what a celebration that was. Kathy Kline, the executive assistant in the office, took us through a week in the life of HOOTC, highlighting each site and what they do and serve each week. It was very impressive to see how vast the organization has become and how much good work it does. Now onto our summer break and time to rest and recoup.

Respectfully submitted by
Mary Guise. Site Co-coordinator

HOOTC – Farewell to the Chief.



November 2021 heralded a new HOOTC era. Dr. Mary Guise was appointed to occupy the position Coordinator for the Central Site, and was warmly welcomed by all and sundry. She, however, was no stranger to the scene, having served on the HOOTC Board since 2016.

Due to the arrival of the pernicious pathogen – COVID 19 – and its life-altering effect, the previous modus operandi necessitated change. Consequently, a new format was ushered in.

Obviously, the mandate of the **Kitchen Crew** remained the same, the cooking and preparation of food. The **Bread Brigade**, however, was exhorted to encase the apportioned bread for 200 guests in plastic bags, a minor but important change.

A drastic change with respect to the delivery of food required a new methodology. Accordingly, the purchase of items for distributing the food became the new reality. Items in the supply cupboard now included large, sturdy paper bags plus assorted, disposable containers, allowing us to safely transport hot and cold food simultaneously.

A new category of volunteers, dubbed the **Crimpers** and **Packers**, were challenged to perform their tasks with enthusiasm and in a precise and timely manner.

The **Crimping Duo**, to their consternation, realized that crimping huge numbers of lids on containers with hot food was taking a toll on their hands. Our problem-solving leader – ever present – quickly came to the rescue. Soon, finger cots adorned their painful thumbs and no longer were their delicate digits compromised.

The orchestration of the culinary components for insertion into the guests' bags was no mean feat. The **Packers** were tasked to ensure no hot and cold items were nestled together. Separating the fruit and nutrition bars from the other gastronomic delights within such a confined area was a challenge, but cheerfully performed nevertheless.

The above is merely a thumbnail sketch of what transpires on a typical HOOTC day.



We were privileged to be part of the HOOTC Team, willing and able to serve the poor and marginalized in our midst, with your expert guidance. The following quote from Rabindranath Tagore sums it up nicely. “I slept and dreamt that life was joy/I awoke and saw that life was service/I **acted** and behold, service was joy.”

Mary, the time has arrived to uncouple your HOOTC harness and rest on your laurels.

The following anonymous quote - *God gave us **each** an individual fingerprint so we can **each** make an impression on life* – is an apt summary of your HOOTC journey, leaving your indelible print in its history.



Striving to Eliminate
Hunger
in Our Community.

Submitted by
Johanna de Bruin

Mission Committee Update

The Mission Committee is now chaired by Adele Pierre and Beth Carey. Yes, after Gloria Gavin, we needed two people to fill her shoes. The committee is fortunate that several existing members stayed and is happy to add a few new members: Jim Walker, Shirley Frelander, Janet Long, Arlene Quackenbush, Sharon Lee and Olive Moody are part of the team.

In April the mission Committee hosted The Reverend Cap. George Zimmerman to share his passion for the Mully Children's Family organization. It was wonderful to welcome him back to Central, and the luncheon and presentation that followed were a great success.

On May 26th we will have a garden day with the Faith Finders. They will be adding plantings and some stones to the Heart Garden. The rocks in The Heart Garden will have the names of some of the children from Six Nations who did not survive and



those who suffered but survived. This is one way we can honour some of the children from the residential schools. As all the flowers in that garden are native to Ontario, we will have information available on the benefits of native pollinator plants for our local environment.

Some resources will be in the form of a poster; others will be handouts. Adele will also lead a 'garden tour' to show our members how we at Central are making positive efforts to deal with the effects of climate change.

The Mission Committee continues to gather ideas and plan for events after the summer.

Rev. Cap. Zimmerman, Guest Preacher, Sunday, April 14, 2024



SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH at 7:30 P.M. ~ THE KNITTING PILGRIM

A Show that was truly inspiring...

We met Kirk Dunn as he knitted in front of three huge projection screens and told his story of his life as an actor, writer, knitter, and preacher's kid.

Prompted by the events of 9/11, he knit three tapestries, designed as stained-glass windows, exploring the commonalities and conflicts of the Abrahamic faiths, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, which took him fifteen years to complete.



The audience of almost 100 people at Central laughed, cried, and even participated in a little bit of knitting, as Kirk celebrated diversity, interfaith understanding, and the power of art as he shared his story.



Stewardship Moment



Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

-1 Peter 4:10



Save the Date

Saturday, May 25th, 9:00 a.m. - noon
Garden Cleanup
 (Contact Adele Pierre if you are available
 to assist – adelecid@gmail.com)

Sunday, May 26th, after worship
Lemonade on the Lawn
 (special focus on native plants in the
 gardens at Central)
 Faith Finders will add plantings
 to the Heart Garden.

Sunday, June 2nd, 10:30 a.m.
Communion Worship Service

Sunday, June 16th, 10:30 a.m.
Intergenerational Worship Service

Deaths

Richard Phillips
 January 10, 2024

Marion Harrison
 February 27, 2024



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.



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/>

Your Invitation To the Lord' Supper



Sunday June 2nd, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Also via Livestream at:

<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

Interim Moderator – The Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson

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

Custodian – Alan Homewood

Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French