

CONTACT

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

You are invited to a group study of ***The Gospel According to Mark***, led by Dr. Nick Athanasiadis. In a different context from Sunday worship, this is your opportunity to experience Christian spirituality through guided reading, reflection and learning.

Our Reformed Tradition understands that learning is a form of prayer. Faithfully and actively searching for greater understanding and insight is a profound and authentic act of praise.



Mark is the shortest Gospel and Mark is generally agreed to be the first Gospel ever written.

In fact, the world knew no such literature as Gospel prior to Mark's decision. The world knew story, but a Gospel is more than a story. The world knew biography, but a Gospel is more than biography. The world knew history, but a Gospel is more than history. Prior to Mark, the form of literature we know as Gospel did not exist.

As one commentator phrased it:

"Mark hopes to draw his listeners personally into the narrative so that they themselves stand face-to-face with Jesus Christ, experiencing him as the Twelve experienced him. Mark wants his listeners to resonate with the same dilemmas, choices, failures, confusion, anxiety, and joy as the original Twelve. Mark writes not to get us to hear his cry of joy about Jesus Christ; he writes to get *us* to *utter* the cry of joy ourselves."

A Deeper Dive into Mark's Gospel



5-part study: Sundays 9 - 10 A.M.

October 27/November 3/10/17/24

Registration details coming soon!

- Jesus calling of his first disciples
- his preaching tour of Galilee
- stilling a storm,
- restoring peace of mind to a demoniac
- restoring a young girl to life
- the feeding of the 5,000
- blessing little children
- the palm procession into Jerusalem
- the passion
- the resurrection

were first inscribed by Mark.

Outline

I.	Mark 1: 1-15	Beginning
II.	Mark 1:16-8:26	Galilee
III.	Mark 8:22-10:52	Between Galilee and Jerusalem
IV.	Mark 11: 1-15:47	Jerusalem
V.	Mark 16: 1-8	Ending



Rev. Dr. Nick Athanasiadis Interim Minister

Some Goals:

- insight into the person of Jesus—who is he? What is he about?
- insight into who disciples are — what is meant by discipleship, what is the Christian journey?
- enjoying fellowship with others who are on this journey with us;
- risk personal transformation by tapping into the deepest spiritual sources which usher us into joy, peace, energy and desire to be part of the redemption of our world.

From your Interim Moderator - Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson

Peace be with you all my friends. Over the past few months, the search process has begun to bear fruit. In July, Central's Congregational Profile was completed, approved by the Session, and sent off to "Head Office" in Toronto. It has also been uploaded to the church website so anyone who wishes to see it will be able to do so.

Over the past few weeks, I have begun to receive personal profiles from prospective candidates. In the coming weeks, the Search Committee will begin the task of considering all profiles received. Your committee takes their job very seriously and recognizes the importance of the whole process being bathed in prayer as they make their deliberations. I ask that you, the congregation, continue to pray for them as they do. I share with you once again the prayer composed by the committee as a possible model for your prayers:

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

Since becoming your Interim Moderator at the beginning of the year, I've tried to keep you regularly informed. Rest assured I will continue to do that in the days to come as the process progresses. While we're moving ahead at a good pace, recognize that it will probably take some time for everything to play out, so please be patient with me, with the Search Committee and with the process.

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

Philip



Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson,
Interim Moderator

Session Update

Last fall a group representing Session, RMC and Trustees began to explore possibilities regarding the stewardship of our assets. To consider ways we might become a more sustainable ministry, and in particular, how our beautiful church building may become a financial asset rather than a liability. This group at the time consisted of Dr. Athanasiadis, Gwynneth Simpson, Mary Guise, David Dutchak and Mark Stupple (Jeremy Sandor has since replaced Gwynneth Simpson).

This “futures team” as it informally came to be called, began with a broad scope, looking at partnerships with other congregations, with developers, and with community organizations to see what opportunities might be available. We spoke with representatives from Kindred Works and the United Property Building Corporation about the possibility of redevelopment and what this might look like and whether it was an option for us. We spoke with other churches about their experience in redevelopment. We reviewed a proposal from Trinity Centres Foundation to determine whether we could become a centre for arts, culture and community programming. And we spoke with other congregations about options for shared ministry and what this might look like.

We learned a great deal from these conversations and explorations, and concluded that the best option for Central right now might be to give up part of our space to secure an anchor tenant with a lease for up to 5 years. With this in mind, we spoke to two different real estate representatives, both of whom had experience working with churches and places of worship to secure tenants. From these we selected Susan Iriarte, a Toronto based realtor with Royal LePage who specializes in this type of work. While we will certainly consider lease options which include shared use of other spaces, the best opportunity for a self-contained leased space is the second floor. This could be used by a small private school or daycare facility, or as office space; and may include agreements for shared use (Sundays) or leased as exclusive use to the tenant.

All of this brings us to the changes you may notice around the building since June. Mary Guise has worked throughout the summer with staff, and a handful of volunteers, to clean out and organize our spaces, preparing to move most of our storage and all offices from the second floor to other spaces in the building. At the end of August, a team of movers were brought in to complete the task by moving the furniture and boxes of materials to their new locations. Our space is now ready and currently listed as available to lease. Part time staff are sharing the minister’s study behind the main office, and the bookkeeper and all financial records are now housed in the boardroom. The boardroom table has been moved to the front entrance, and the children’s library is in the Guild room (where the main library is already located).

Faith Finders will continue to meet upstairs on Sundays, which can continue as long as any lease agreement includes the second floor as shared space. The discipleship committee and Session will work to identify alternative spaces for our children and youth in the event that a leaseholder requires exclusive use.

The church in the 21st century can no longer count on the institutional security it once enjoyed. We are blessed at Central in all that we have, and we seek to be a blessing to our community in all that we offer. We do not intend to follow the path of too many congregations which passively await what might come. Rather, we seek to be proactive, listening to what the Spirit is saying to us, actively considering all the pathways to being good stewards of what we have been given. Whether in sharing our space, seeking new partnerships or evaluating our assets, we are eager now to be a congregation of God’s people, and to flourish for generations to come.



Mark Stupple, Clerk of Session

Central Presbyterian Church welcomes new Staff

Introducing David Lewington!



We would like to welcome our new custodian, David Lewington, to Central Presbyterian Church!

David joined us in June and has been working through a busy summer. David was introduced to us through Out of the Cold. He was our dishwasher from January to the end of March – and did an amazing job. It was only natural that we wanted to consider him for the custodial position. Welcome David!

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

David regularly works on Mondays from 7:00 a.m. to noon, and Tuesday through Friday, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Introducing Kristel Forcier!

We are happy to welcome Kristel Forcier as our Coordinator of Faith Finders and Nursery!

Kristel has been a member at Central for over 10 years. She grew up in Grimsby, moved to Hamilton to attend Redeemer University, where she earned a BA in Music. Kristel and her husband John were married at Central in March of 2019, and welcomed Jack in January of 2020. Kristel is looking forward to taking on this new role as the Coordinator of Faith Finders and nursery!

With gratitude to Sara Traficante, who is now launched in full time studies at Knox College, the Session Elders and the members of Central recognise how significant this ministry is in our midst. Kristel has heard and answered the call. We look forward to commissioning and blessing Kristel, together with our Faith Finders teachers, during worship on Sunday September 22.



Knit & Knatter Invitation:

Fall things are starting at Central, and you are invited to join the Knit & Knatter group. They plan to meet on Wednesdays (instead of Tuesdays), beginning at 10:00 a.m. and ending at noon, starting on September 11th. Newcomers are invited, and needles and yarn are available. Feel free to contact Jean Williams if you have any questions.



Sara Traficante completes her role as Discipleship Coordinator



Sunday, September 8, 2024, was Sara Traficante's last day as Discipleship Coordinator.

During the Sunday service we took a few moments to express our gratitude to Sara for her dedication.

Central's Welcome Statement did not remain on paper for Sara; she truly put it into action in her ministry:

Welcoming newcomers to Central;

Supporting the Discipleship Committee and Dr. Nick with so many important tasks that happen behind the scenes;

Lovingly building a sense of community in all aspects of her work, from fun Friday evening events

to more serious and reflective adult book studies;

Nurturing Faith Finders so that each child feels seen and heard; and

Joyfully declaring her love for the Lord.



We are thankful to God for blessing Sara's ministry among us.

Pastoral Care Update from Rev. Lois Whitwell

After a busy summer, we are back to the regular routine. One of the realities of a congregation is that the needs and problems of a congregation are ongoing. Illness and problems do not take a holiday.

We are taking some time to re-evaluate some of the programs that are part of the pastoral care teams' oversight. One of the ongoing programs at Central is Prime Time Online. It started several years ago as an in person gathering, but during Covid changed to Zoom. The group has continued to meet, but numbers are dwindling. For some this is an important link to Central, and a time of fellowship that would be greatly missed if we discontinue the program. We are looking for ways to update the program and to invite more people to participate. We tried to introduce an in person gathering last year but while those who came enjoyed themselves, we are rethinking the program. If you are interested in a Prime Time online or a daytime gathering for discussion and fellowship, please contact Lois.

The prayer shawl ministry is ongoing. If you would like to knit /crochet a Shawl or know of someone who should receive a shawl contact us.

The Pastoral Care Team continues to visit and contact people. If you would like a visit from the team or would like to receive Communion, please contact Lois lois@cpchamilton.ca or call 905 522-9098 ext. 2.



Together in Christ
Rev. Lois Whitwell,
Director of Pastoral Care

Mission Committee Update

The Mission committee is gearing up for a full year.

On September 29th, we welcome Adrian Jacobs and Sakoieta Widrick for our Orange Shirt/National Day for Truth and Reconciliation service. This will be a day to come together to reflect on the painful legacy of residential schools and to honor the strength, resilience, and wisdom of Indigenous communities. This day is a reminder for all of us to continue learning, listening, and taking action toward reconciliation.

Friday November 15th. Save the date for a special community event on Climate Change in Hamilton, hosted by the CPC Mission Committee. There will be special speakers from City of Hamilton, Faith and the Common Good and Green Venture.

Find out how climate change is affecting us locally, and what each of us can do to create a resilient community.

The Mission Committee is chaired by Adele Pierre and Beth Carey. The committee has several members and is happy to add new members. Committee Members: Jim Walker, Shirley Freeland, Janet Long, Arlene Quackenbush, Sharon Lee and Olive Moody are part of the team.

Summer 2024:
Central joined
the VBC held at
Chedoke
Presbyterian
Church



Fellowship Team Update

After the quieter days of summer, it certainly was fun to kick off the fall season with a feast of barbecued hot dogs and corn! On Sunday, September 8th, we gathered on the forecourt after the service and enjoyed fellowship with one another. Many thanks to the Reverend Lois for providing that yummy corn, and to Pam Carpenter for all the delicious mini cupcakes! It was great to see so many kids with their blessed backpacks and their ketchup-stained faces! Suffice it to say, a good time was had by all.

What is your definition of fellowship? Is it the opportunity to gather together to build connections? Maybe it's a chance to get to know someone you aren't familiar with over a cup of coffee and a cookie! Perhaps it is a possibility to support others in our community who are facing challenges. What about being part of a team focusing on a common goal? Fellowship is all this and more.

Do you feel you have a heart for building fellowship in our congregation? The Fellowship Team would welcome you to become part of our team, so please make yourself known to Beth Mackay Reilly.



August 23, 2024

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

Attention: Rev Nick Athanasiadis, Gloria Gavin and Pam Carpenter

Letter Of Appreciation

We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your support and making it possible for Neto and Risa Umezie to be part of Camp Kintail's experience this year

For Neto, this is his second time in camp Kintail and its been a memorable and amazing experience for him. In Neto's words he said, I was happy to see some of my friends and Camp Counselors from Last year and I connected with them. The Food was nice with lots of varieties to choose from, lots of fun activities especially the beach experience which stood out for me because it felt calm and refreshing.

This year is Risa's first time at the camp and also his first time away from home. I was a bit nervous letting him go but am happy I did because it was an amazing experience for him. I waited eagerly for him to be home to share his experiences and in his words he said, I made new friends and hope to see them again, I enjoyed the food and all the fun games and my best was mission impossible because of the stunts and heroic winnings

We appreciate this opportunity, your support, encouragement, for always keeping us in mind and looking after us. This beautiful experience for the boys wouldn't have been possible without your help. Thank you so much and God bless you all.

With Sincere Appreciation
Chidinma Umezie and Family.

Resource Management Committee Report

September 9, 2024

The Future Directions Committee, a committee of Session, determined in the spring that the best space for an anchor tenant for the church was the church's second floor, currently the Faith Finders space. It is self-contained and has offices, washrooms and two large rooms for programming. It would be ideal for a daycare operation or a school. To prepare the space, we needed to make some major changes. These took place over the summer and at the end of August, Mountaineer Movers made the final major move.

The office beside Helena's office is now the Staff Office and serves Marcus Scholtes, Kristel Forcier, and Lois Whitwell. They have staggered office hours so the combination of the three offices should work well. They are particularly pleased with the built-in shelves in this office as everyone has lots to store. Michelle Frebold, our bookkeeper, is now in what was the Board Room. This brings her to the main floor in a larger space. The Board Room table was moved to the narthex foyer. Faith Finders will continue to use the upstairs space until we have a tenant. The space has been cleared out and cleaned with just a few things left for their program.

To accomplish the moves, we had to clear the spaces that were the new offices. Gloria Gavin and I went through every cupboard, closet, and drawer on the main floor. Many loads went to the Christian Salvage Mission, Value Village, the transfer station at the dump, and out with the garbage. Sara helped us with the Faith Finder rooms and the offices. It was not a task for the faint of heart!

Our last project is to clear out the storage room in the basement adjacent to the Hub. That will be accomplished by the end of September. That room can then be used for Faith Finder storage.

We had many rentals over the summer as well. We have welcomed a nanny share nursery to our nursery on September 3. Abby Ducay is the nanny and there are 5 children in the nursery. They operate Tuesday through Friday from 8:30 AM to 5:30 PM. We are delighted to have them.

We hosted three movie groups in the church, a music video and an episode of a television show between June and the end of August. A STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) camp used the Faith Finder space and HUB for 8 weeks from the first of July to the third week of August. We also welcomed the camp for the Hamilton Children's Choir at the end of July with over 100 campers. They had a concert on their final afternoon.

Many thanks to Gloria Gavin for all her hard work and the staff who supported us through a busy summer. There is ongoing maintenance of the church and the adjoining building. Gregg Bullock-Price is our property manager and keeps on top of the repairs. We have had some roof repairs, window well repairs and electrical repairs over the summer. We are expecting a quote on wall air conditioners for the nursery, bookkeeper's office and the vestry. We hope to have that work done by next spring.

Mary Guise
Secretary, RMC

Revenues and Expenses Year to Date as of August 31, 2024			
	Budget	Actual	Favourable (UnFavourable)
Operating Expenses	\$ 372,470	\$ 343,591	\$ 28,879
Congregational Givings & Rentals	234,753	203,891	(30,862)
Revenues less Expenses	\$ (137,717)	\$ (139,700)	\$ (1,983)
Funds from Trustees as Budgeted	30,000	30,000	-
Budgeted Shortfall	\$ (107,717)	\$ (109,700)	\$ (1,983)
Additional Funds from Trustees	-	96,537	
Over (Short)	\$ (107,717)	\$ (13,163)	
The 2024 Budget that was approved at the Congregational meeting had expenses greater than revenues in the amount of \$176,781 and the Trustees have provided some temporary funding (over the amounts they had previously committed) by diverting funds that would be normally accumulated for major repairs to the building.			

View from the Organ from Dr. Marcus Scholtes

I hope everyone has had a wonderful and safe summer and is ready to get back into the 'swing' of things! First to recap the events from the last two months: we had an amazing line-up of soloists to lead our worship services throughout July and August. I would like to give a big thank you to all our singers: Emma Reilly McKay, Sue Dunlop, Katie Weresch, and wife-and-husband team, Julie and Jeremy Ludwig. We had a diverse selection of repertoire from J. S. Bach to Adolphe Schlösser to Michael Head, what a musical treat for our congregation!

On July 25th, our own Charlton String Quartet (CSQ) performed the 2nd Annual **'Concert on the Steps'**. This was again a successful way of engaging our community. We performed many popular selections from the world of opera arranged for string quartet, as well as a few pop favorites. It was definitely an enjoyable evening with the perfect weather to accompany us. Thank you to my colleagues in the CSQ, Sharon Lee, Elspeth Thomson, and Kirk Starkey, as well as to Adele Pierre for all her help in organizing and facilitating this event.

And now we're in September already! By the time of this publication our Central Choir will be back in our Thursday evening rehearsal routine and will be performing glorious anthems on Sunday mornings. The highlights coming up of course include our Thanksgiving Day, Remembrance Day, and Candlelight Carol Services. I am so fortunate to work with such a dedicated core of choristers. We are always on the lookout for new choristers, so if you're reading this article, and read music, and are a passionate singer, come join us on a Thursday evening.

Also keep an eye out for the upcoming 2024-2025 season of the Music@Central matinee recital series - I have a stellar line-up of musicians and ensembles coming to perform in our sanctuary. The first concert features yours truly on October 6th, and will also debut the season brochure. I'm looking forward to this one and all the other musical events that are upcoming!



Musically Yours,
Marcus

Dr. Marcus Scholtes,
Director of Music Ministries



The upcoming dates for Music@Central:

Sunday Nov. 3rd
at 3:00pm

- Kodak String Quartet

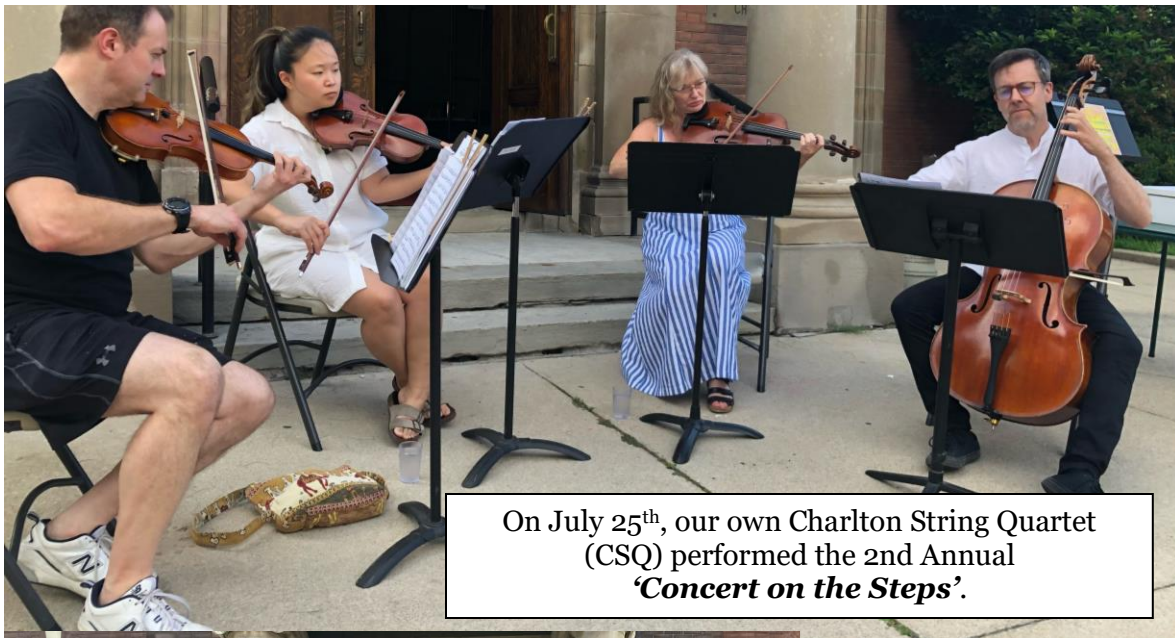
Sunday Dec. 1st
at 3:00pm

- Devah Quartet

Fall 2024



MUSIC @CENTRAL
CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



On July 25th, our own Charlton String Quartet (CSQ) performed the 2nd Annual *'Concert on the Steps'*.



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.



**Your Invitation
To the Lord' Supper**



Sunday October 6th, 2024 at 10:30 a.m.

Also via Livestream at:

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

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
Interim Moderator – The Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson
Director of Pastoral Care – The Rev. Lois Whitwell
Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes
Nursery and Faith Finders Coordinator – Kristel Forcier
Bookkeeper – Michelle Frebold
Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma
Custodian – David Lewington
Nursery Coordinator – Aztecca Clarke
Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French*

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
165 Charlton Avenue West,
Hamilton, ON L8P 2C8
Telephone: 905-522-9098
Email: info@cpchamilton.ca
Website: www.cpchamilton.ca



Save the Date

Durand Market

Wednesdays 3:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Until October 30th

**National Day for Truth and
Reconciliation Sunday**

– Adrian Jacobs preaching.
Sunday, September 29th 10:30 a.m.

Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 6th 10:30 a.m.

Music @ Central

Violin and Piano Concert
Sunday, October 6th 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 6th, 10:30 a.m.
Communion Worship Service

Sunday, October 13th, 10:30 a.m.
Thanksgiving Worship Service

Deaths

Brenda Newman
January 16, 2024

Rev. Henry McWilliams
May 26, 2024

Betty Towndrow
August 2, 2024





MARCUS SCHOLTES, VIOLIN
MARCUS SCHOLTES, PIANO

MUSIC OF BACH / LECLAIR / CHOPIN

Sunday October 6, 2024 **Free Admission**
3:00 pm **Donations Welcome**

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
165 Charlton Ave. West, Hamilton, ON