

# CONTACT

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

Dear Central,

We think of Advent as a time of waiting, of expectation and eventual arrival in the birth of Christ (there is even talk of an induction this year). But alongside those themes comes another: **awakening**.

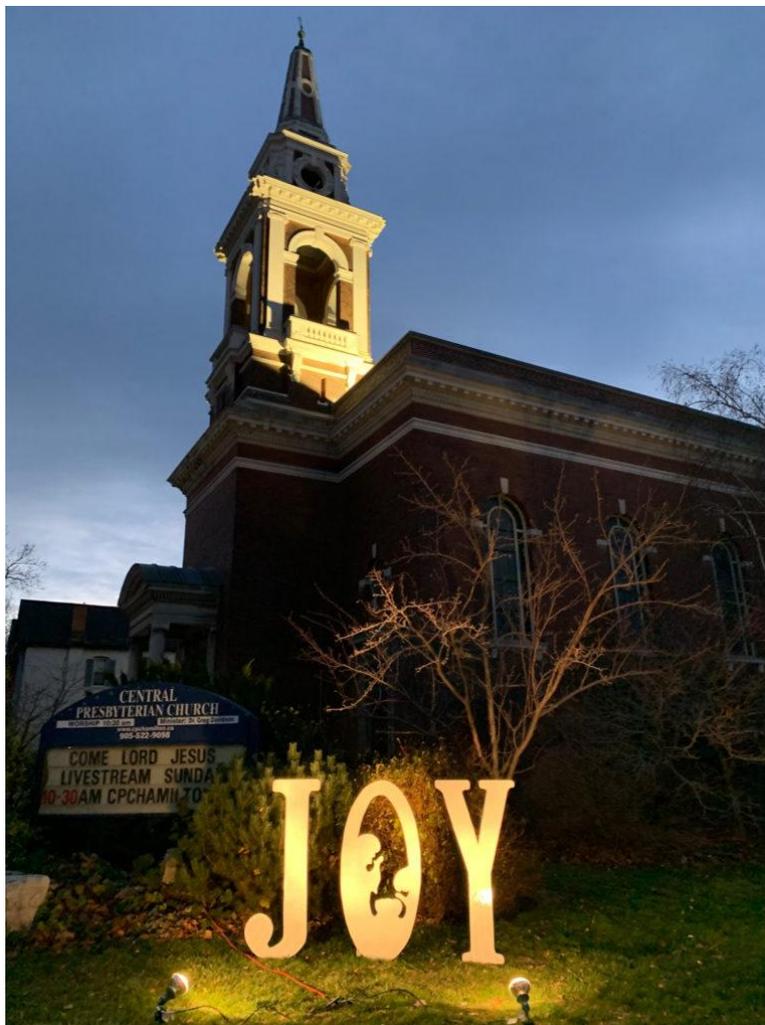
This season is not simply a countdown to Christmas, not only longing and anticipation for the birth of Christ. We believe God is already here, already born into the world. So while there is value in practising Advent as waiting, it is equally important to practice Advent as an awakening. Awakening to the presence of God who is already here. The divine is present, closer than our breath, nearer than our heartbeat.

With this in mind, our Advent theme at Central this year is quite simple: **draw near, God is here**.

Each week, we'll explore what it means to live in the nearness of God – in the night, in the wilderness, in our doubts, and in the everyday moments.

We light the candles not to beckon God closer, but to remind ourselves that God is already present – already at work in every expression of hope, peace, joy, and love we share this season.

We draw near to God through prayer, kindness, gathering around tables and in the sanctuary. And as we do, we discover in turn that God has been drawing near to us all along.



The Advent invitation is to notice; notice the nearness of God in our city streets and quiet kitchens, in laughter shared, in tears shed, in hymns harmonized and bread broken. Because the story we tell at Christmas isn't of a God who comes from far away. It's the story of a God who chose to come *close*, and who still does.

With this invitation, I hope you too will draw near to Central in this holy season of waiting and awakening. We have many wonderful worship services and events planned. Come, invite a friend, and draw near.

With Joy,  
*Rev. Hannah*

Rev. Hannah Lovaglio  
Minister

## From your Interim Moderator – November 2025

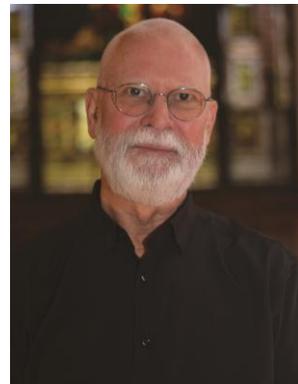
May the peace of Christ be with you all.

It's now been two years since I was appointed by the Presbytery of Hamilton as your Interim Moderator, and given the task of guiding you through the discernment process and the search for your new minister. With the induction of the Reverend Hannah Lovaglio (which is scheduled to take place here at Central on the afternoon of December 7<sup>th</sup>) my task comes to completion. As Hannah officially becomes your new minister, I will cease to be your Interim Moderator.

For the past two years, it's been an honour to have been affiliated with this community of faith, helping you to say goodbye to the past and hello to the future. You are now beginning a new chapter in the ongoing life of Central Presbyterian Church. What God has in mind for Elaine and I moving forward is still unclear, but I truly believe that the Central congregation is now prepared and eager to boldly go into the future - ministering to each other, to this community, and to the world in the name of Jesus the Christ.

Thank you for welcoming us into your midst, and may God richly bless you all in the days to come.

Your brother in Christ and soon-to-be Past Interim Moderator,  
*Philip*



Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson,  
Interim Moderator

### Clerk of Session Report

As I work on this, November has brought us the first snowfall of the season, and it is more than we usually get this early. One might say, "It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas," if it weren't for the leaves left on the trees (not to mention all the ones I never had a chance to clean up, now buried under snow).

By the time you read this, we will be heading into the Advent season, beginning with Communion on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Advent is the start of the Christian year, and a season of hope and anticipation. For us at Central, this is our current mood. After nearly two years since the search committee was named, the Rev. Hannah Lovaglio is about to be officially installed by the Presbytery of Hamilton (December 7<sup>th</sup> @ 2:30pm), and she and her family are settling into their new home. This will continue to be a season of hope and anticipation as we grow together in community, and in Christ.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work (and faithful prayers) of the members of your search committee to help us get to this point. I genuinely appreciated the opportunity to walk with them; sometimes disagreeing, but always working to understand, and to appreciate each other. As our facilitator, Sue Dunlop worked harder than any of us to keep things on track, and to keep us caring and loving one another in our disagreements as we sought the person to whom God was leading us.

While it has been encouraging to hear, and Hannah has referenced a growing sentiment that "we're back" since her arrival; that may not be exactly where we are. We are moving forward, and soon to be better than ever (I hope). Central has a long and proud history to be sure, and that gives us some strength. Our greatest strength right now is not about who we were, but grows out of our willingness to be humbled before God, and to look to a future which serves God, each other, and the community around us.

When we offer a warm welcome to all who come through our doors, share a meal with our neighbours or host a Halloween concert that mixes costumes and candy with classical music, we are being the body of Christ. We are called to be one body with many members, let's answer that call by stepping boldly into our future the way Central's builders stepped into theirs; with Faith, Hope and Love for one another.



Mark Stuppel,  
Clerk of Session

ON SEPTEMBER 21, CENTRAL WELCOMED  
REV. HANNAH LOVAGLIO ALONG WITH  
MICHAEL, JACK FINN AND BO



**WELCOME  
LOVAGLIO FAMILY**

## Pastoral Care Update from Rev. Lois Whitwell

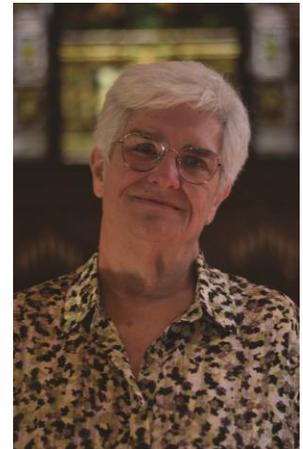
Driving home from the Session meeting November 4, I passed a house with the Christmas lights up and the tree fully decorated and lit. I thought “can we at least get past Remembrance Day before the Christmas decoration appear”. I realize there are people that love Christmas and all that it entails. They love the decorations, the festivities, the family get togethers, the music, the food and the presents. But for many it is not an easy time.

For many, the holiday season can be a bittersweet time, where moments of joy are shadowed by feelings of grief, loneliness, or distress. These emotions may emerge suddenly or be anticipated as the holidays approach. In a culture that often pressures us to “put on a happy face,” or “be happy”, we are challenged to offer support, friendship, compassion and our supportive presence to those feeling the burdens of this season. So as we move through Advent and Christmas keep in mind those who find the season a challenge and reach out to them, pray for them and support them.

The image of God coming to us as a vulnerable infant reminds us that all time and place are holy, that both joy and sorrow are sacred, and that our relationships with God and with each other are woven with divine grace.

My prayer for all finding this season difficult is this:

*Merciful God,  
In this season of rejoicing, we come to you weary and grieving  
In this season of feasting, we hunger for healing and relief  
In this season of light, our hearts are veiled in sorrow and shadow  
Will this season ever end?  
“Yes.” We hear your, “Yes.”  
Those who are weary will find rest  
Those who mourn will be comforted  
Those who hunger will be filled  
The Light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness will not overcome it.  
Amen*



Rev. Lois Whitwell,  
Director of Pastoral Care

I would like to take this moment to wish you all a blessed Christmas and a blessed New Year.

*Lois*

### **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.**

CPC Statement of Welcome: [www.cpchamilton.ca/statement-of-welcome-and-inclusion/](http://www.cpchamilton.ca/statement-of-welcome-and-inclusion/)

## Resource Management Committee Report

The RMC committee has been working on building maintenance this fall. Several light bulbs have been replaced, including the spotlights on the ceiling of the sanctuary, in front of the chancel, and the ancient light bulbs with pins in the front washrooms. Both sets of lights now have LED bulbs. The stove in the kitchen has been serviced for the Hamilton Out of the Cold season. Two new solar panels have been installed on the roof, and a new modem is up and working.

We have a snow-clearing contract with Evergreen. This is the firm that cleared the alley last February after the week with three snowstorms. They were prompt to clear the alley, the parking lot and the sidewalks last Sunday when we received 10 cm of snow.

The fire policies for the building have been updated. They have been approved by the Session and RMC. Helena has enhanced the diagrams that are posted in each room of the building, showing the fire exits. The location of alarm pull stations and fire extinguishers has been added to them. The diagrams have been standardized so that north is at the top of each diagram. The fire policy will be posted in each room adjacent to the diagram. Staff are discussing the best way to conduct a fire drill with the congregation. All renters will receive a copy of the fire policy with their rental agreements. A general first aid policy has been developed. Church staff, including all custodians, are taking an Emergency First Aid and CPR course on Monday, November 24, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Any event with custodial supervision will have a custodian with first aid training on site.

The Talented Tinkers have worked with Adele Pierre and Derek Sardo, to draw up plans for the outside playground for the daycare. This must be installed, inspected and approved before they can obtain their license for daycare. They hope that work on the playground will begin in late November. The playground is half the size of the original plan and will be expanded later. Talented Tinkers daycare hopes to open in January with 20 children.

The Resource Management Committee sends you best wishes for the coming Christmas season and prayers for good health and happiness. Members of the committee are Gregg Bullock-Price (property manager), Mary Guise (secretary), William Guise (treasurer), Jim Morgan (chair) and Frances Searle. Ex officio members are Michelle Freebold (bookkeeper), Rev. Hannah Lovaglio, and Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Mary Guise*, Secretary, RMC

### ***Donations are welcome in support of the worship and mission of Central***

You can support this good work by donating in various means. You can place a gift on the offering plate, use pre-authorized remittance (PAR), donate online, send money via Interac E-Transfer, to [bookkeeper@cpchamilton.ca](mailto:bookkeeper@cpchamilton.ca) or send a cheque.

Please make sure to include your envelope number or mailing address for tax receipt purposes. For ways to give, visit [cpchamilton.ca/giving](http://cpchamilton.ca/giving). Please ensure your information is up-to-date with your elder or the church office, if you have moved, are moving, or have changed any of your contact information.

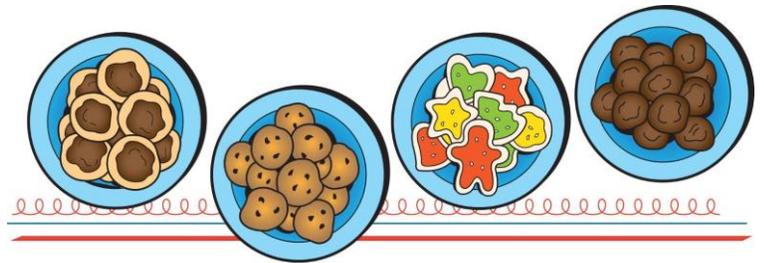


*It took a lot of effort and ingenuity to change the sanctuary spotlights.*



## Fellowship Committee Report

Be sure to mark **Sunday, November 30th** on your calendars for our annual **Christmas Cookie Walk**! Following the Service, come along to the Guild Room and fill a box with yummy cookies and assorted sweets to celebrate the Christmas season. Your donations for the goodies will be gratefully accepted and will be shared equally with our church and Hamilton Out of the Cold. Please speak to Jean Williams or Beth Mackay Reilly if you have any questions, or if you would be able to donate some baked goods for the walk. Merry Christmas!



# Cookie Walk

### Stewardship Moments: *Inspiring Generosity*

**Giving is more than a responsibility—  
it is a privilege; more than an act of  
obedience—it is evidence of our faith.**

*William Arthur Ward (1921-1994), American educator*

 The Presbyterian Church in Canada

[presbyterian.ca](https://www.presbyterian.ca)

### Central Presbyterian Church – Land Acknowledgement \*

We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that Central Presbyterian Church is located on the traditional territories of the Anishnaabek and Haudenosaunee peoples. This land is protected by the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to share and care for the lands, air, and waters around the Great Lakes. We further acknowledge this land is covered by the Between the Lakes Purchase, 1792, between the Crown and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. We recognize that we must learn about the rich history of this land to better understand our role as residents, neighbours, partners and caretakers. We are all treaty people.

\* Our website has a guide explaining the above Land Acknowledgement <https://www.cpchamilton.ca/land-acknowledgement/>

## Discipleship Committee Report

On Sunday, November 16th, we enjoyed our intergenerational service. What a gift to see so many of our Faith Finders children participate in such a meaningful way in the service. A special thank you to each of them as they led us in worship, prayer, offering and more. Central is blessed with so many children. A special thank you to the congregation members who took the extra time to connect with our children after the service and thank them for participating. I know it meant a lot to the children.

We are turning our focus to our Advent event on December 5<sup>th</sup>; ***Waiting in Wonder, an Advent event for all ages***. We encourage all of the congregation to come and join us on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 for dinner, crafts and a carol sing. Please email Kristel if you would like to join us, or watch for the google form to be emailed out in the coming days if you are able to bring food. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Our annual Christmas pageant is also approaching on Sunday, December 21. We strongly encourage you to mark this date on your calendar, as it is such a special day in the life of our congregation, as our children lead us in worship. A special thank you to Paula who has joined the planning team and is adding her gifts and talents to this special day.



Kristel Forcier  
Nursery and Faith Finders  
Coordinator

## Mission Committee Initiatives

The Mission Committee of Central has identified two areas of need that you are invited to donate to this Advent season.

PWS&D is responding to the crisis in Gaza, with our ecumenical networks and partnerships at ACT, Alliance and Canadian Foodgrains Bank to provide food and other humanitarian assistance where and whenever possible.

Donations may be given through PCC's "Giving Tree Ornaments" The ornaments will be sold, through donation, at fellowship time beginning on November 23rd and at the Durand Christmas Market for those who wish to contribute to the PWS&D's Gaza Response.



## White Gift Sunday - December 14<sup>th</sup>

Central will again be sharing our gifts with Giving Hearts of Hamilton on White Gift Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. The needs for those who are unhoused continue to be great.

A full list of items will be shared. Grocery store, Canadian Tire and Tim Hortons gift cards are always appreciated. Hats, mittens, warm socks, coats, camping gear, blankets, tarps are needed as well.

## View from the Organ from Dr. Marcus Scholtes

The Music Ministry at Central during the Autumn months has been a wonderfully engaging and rich time with many highlights to share! First, I'd like to give a big thank you to the Search Committee for recommending Rev. Hannah - she is an incredible colleague to work with and our week-to-week service preparations have been incredibly smooth. She has only been with us for over two months, and yet I feel the warm relationship to Central, and particularly the Music Ministry, has been a completely natural transition. I'm looking forward to all our future plans together!



Central's Choir has been in full swing too, and dare I say it, we've had quite a number of 'bangers' to start off the church year (pardon the youthful slang). Some repertoire highlights of mine include traditional favorites, 'Grant Us Thy Peace,' by Felix Mendelssohn, and the ever popular, 'Jesu Lord! Who Through My Infant Days,' by John Dowland, which we sang for Rev. Hannah's first official Sunday. We also had some new repertoire selections, an incredibly moving arrangement of, 'Love Divine,' by Howard Goodall, a new favorite, 'God Sends The Night,' by Reginald Somerville. As we enter the Advent season, I am definitely looking forward to all the anthems for this festive time of year.



*Music@Central  
Andromedo Duo:  
Miriam Stuart-Kroeker  
& Ben Smith on Oct 5*



We are also busily preparing our selections for the annual Candlelight Carol Service on Sunday Dec. 14th at 7:00pm - mark your calendars now! Our usual talent will be joining us again this year: the Hamilton Brass Quintet, the Charlton Quartet, and our own Central Youth will play a role too. Let's see if we can out-do ourselves from last year!

Music@Central - Nov 9  
Inaugural Harpsichord Concert  
Marcus Scholtes, Bud Roach & Brent Fifield



Most recently we had the inaugural concert featuring Bud Roach's harpsichord - an instrument which he has generously donated to Central. Bud is no stranger to Central, this concert also featured Brent Fifield, who has sung and played organ for us at many of our events. These two artists performed a number of selections together, yours truly rounded out the program with a Handel violin sonata and a Bach prelude and fugue, and the three of us came together to perform a humorous Cantata by John Stanley. An enormous 'thank-you' to Bud for this generous donation to our Music Ministry! M@C also had a fun-filled Halloween program which featured Caroleen Molenaar on flute, Colin Maier on oboe (and saw), and Sharon Lee on violin. This was an extremely fun concert to curate, and we had many new young and young at heart faces join us for this event.

The M@C season began with a stunning cello and piano duo program by my trio-mates, pianist Ben Smith and cellist Miriam Stewart-Kroeker. One M@C concert is still upcoming before the Christmas

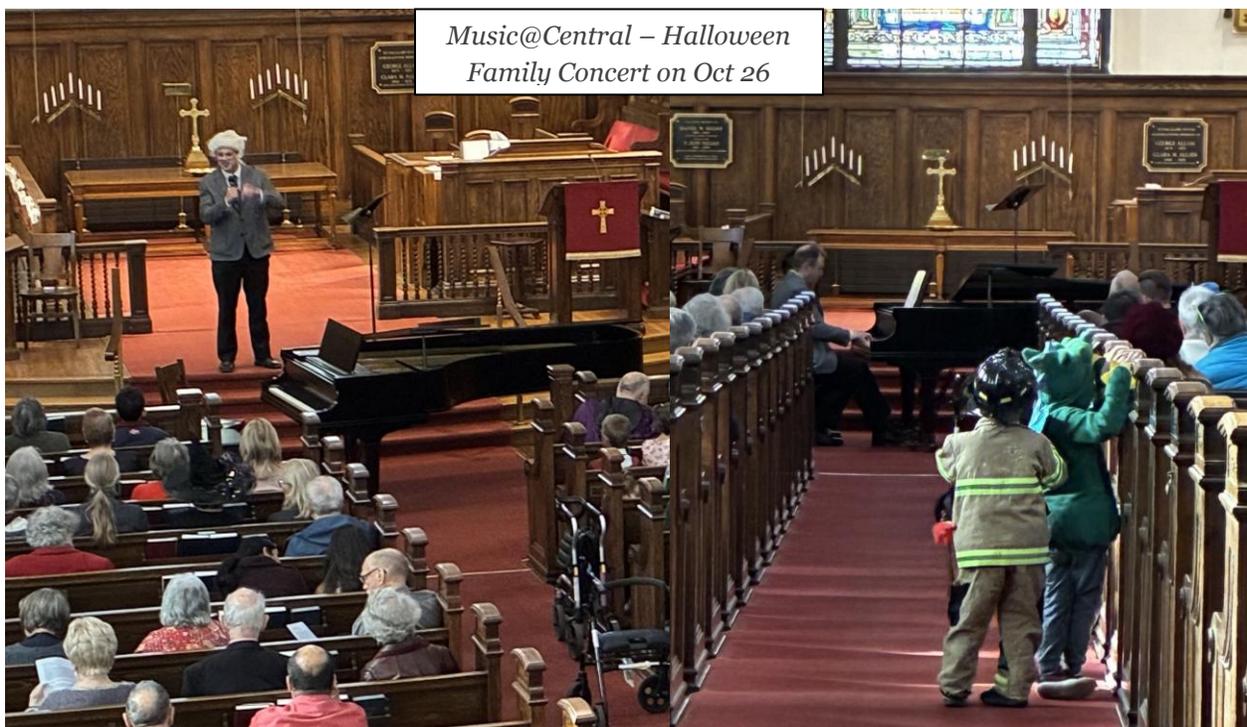
break, make sure to attend Xueao Yang and Felix Hong on Nov. 30, many many virtuosic notes will be played...

Check out some of the included photos from all these recent events, as always there's lots going on in our vibrant Music Ministry at Central. The choir will decorate the sanctuary on Nov. 29th and soon we'll already be into the Advent season. See you Sunday!

Musically Yours,  
Marcus



Dr. Marcus Scholtes,  
Director of Music Ministries



Music@Central - Halloween  
Family Concert on Oct 26



# CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE

**Sunday December 14, 2025**

**7:00pm**

**A Joyous Musical Celebration of the Christmas Season!**

Free Admission/ Donations Welcome

*Featuring:*

Central and Friends Choir

Central Youth Singers

Hamilton Brass Quintet

Charlton String Quartet

**Central Presbyterian Church**

**165 Charlton Ave. West**

**[www.cpchamilton.ca](http://www.cpchamilton.ca) 905-522-9098**



## **Save the Date**

**The First Sunday of Advent**  
*The Candle of Hope & Communion*  
Sunday, November 30, 10:30 a.m.

**Christmas Cookie Walk**  
Sunday, November 30, after worship

**Music@Central:**  
**Xueao Yang & Felix Hong**  
Sunday, November 30, 3:00 p.m.

**“Waiting In Wonder:  
Advent for All Ages”**  
Friday, December 5, 5:00-7:30 p.m.

**The Second Sunday of Advent**  
*The Candle of Peace*  
Sunday, December 7, 10:30 a.m.

**Service of Induction  
for Rev. Hannah Lovaglio**  
Sunday, December 7, 2:30 p.m.

**Durand Christmas Market**  
Saturday, December 13, 12:00 – 3:00 p.m.

**The Third Sunday of Advent**  
*White Gift Sunday ~ The Candle of Joy*  
Sunday, December 14, 10:30 a.m.

**Candlelight Choir Service**  
Sunday, December 14, 7:00 p.m.

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
*The Candle of Love &  
Children’s Christmas Pageant*  
Sunday, December 21, 10:30 a.m.

**Christmas Eve Worship**  
*Candlelight Communion*  
Thursday, December 24, 8:00 p.m.

**Music@Central:**  
**Jonathan Oldengarm  
& Charlton String Quartet**  
Sunday, January 25, 3:00 p.m.

## **Deaths**

*David Carey*  
September 18, 2025

*Sara Cymbalisty*  
November 12, 2025



## **Waiting in Wonder: Advent for All Ages**

**Friday, December 5, 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

The Discipleship committee invites everyone to join us at the church for our new Advent event:

### ***Waiting in Wonder: Advent for All Ages.***

Please join us at 5pm-7:30pm on December 5th for cookie decorating, some Christmas crafts, dinner together, and then we'll head to the sanctuary for a story and some carol singing together. Please join us if you're able.

If you would like more information, or to let us know you're coming, please email [kristel@cpchamilton.ca](mailto:kristel@cpchamilton.ca) or let Helena know in the office.

A Google form will be going out to families to sign up for salads and desserts so watch your inbox for that! We look forward to welcoming you on the 5th!



# draw NEAR *God is Here*

**Sunday, November 30**

**10:30 A.M. Worship | The Candle of Hope & Communion**

**Sunday, December 7**

**10:30 A.M. Worship | The Candle of Peace**

**Sunday, December 14**

**10:30 A.M. Worship | The Candle of Joy**

**7:00 P.M. Candlelight Carol Service**

**Featuring Hamilton Brass Quintet/Central Youth Choir  
Charlton String Quartet/Central and Friends Choir**

**Sunday, December 21**

**10:30 A.M. Worship | The Candle of Love  
& Children's Christmas Pageant**

**Thursday, December 24**

**8:00 P.M. Worship with Candlelight & Communion**

**Advent & Christmas with  
Central Presbyterian Church**

165 Charlton Ave. W | Hamilton, ON  
905-522-9098 | cpchamilton.ca



*Minister – The Rev. Hannah Lovaglio  
Interim Moderator – The Rev. Dr. Philip Wilson  
Director of Pastoral Care – The Rev. Lois Whitwell  
Minister Emeritus – The Rev. Dr. Alan M. McPherson  
Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes  
Nursery and Faith Finders Coordinator – Kristel Forcier  
Bookkeeper – Michelle Frebald  
Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma  
Custodian – David Lewington  
Nursery Coordinator – Brenda Ziemann  
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](mailto:info@cpchamilton.ca)**

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



## **Your Invitation**

### **To the Lord's Supper**



**Sunday November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.**

**Also via Livestream at:**

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