

# CONTACT

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

Dear friends,

Lent is nearly upon us! That tender season in the church year when we are invited to slow down, to return to God, to contemplate life's rougher edges, and to remember what matters most.

This year at Central, our Lenten theme is drawn from the Gospel of John: **"Come & See."**

Over and over again in John's Gospel, Jesus meets people exactly where they are, in their questions, grief, searching, and longing, and extends a simple invitation: *Come and see*. Not "Come and understand everything." Not "Come and get your life sorted out." Not "Come and believe perfectly."

Just: **Come & see.**

Our Lenten invitation is the same. Show up to worship, to prayer, to scripture, to honest reflection and trust that God will meet you, and us, there.

Many of us are carrying a lot right now: fatigue, uncertainty, grief, stress, anxiety about the world. So rather than adding pressure, Lent offers us a gentle path to practice faith not as perfection, but as presence.

Throughout this newsletter you'll find many invitations to various services and events. I hope you'll find among them a place for connection, growth, and discipleship. Come & see what interests you most, what you've never tried before, or where you feel most at home. Just come.

Sunday Seminars return to Central during Lent as we study together Amy-Jill Levine's book *The Gospel of John: A Beginner's Guide to the Way, the Truth, and the Life*. Even if you can't join this study, I invite you to read the Gospel of John during Lent.

A simple reading plan can be found in this issue of the Contact.

We are also offering a full complement of

Holy Week services as well as the Good Friday Concert, and hope you'll be able to attend them all. Each one touches a different part of our most sacred story, during our most Holy Week.

With love,  
*Rev. Hannah*



Rev. Hannah Lovaglio  
Minister

## Clerk of Session Report

I don't know how closely you read your bulletin every week, but if you are like me, that reading probably starts inside the cover when I open it to follow the current service. Next time you have one in your hand, try starting as I did today on the front with our statement of purpose: "To worship God, to grow as disciples of Jesus, to care for one another, and to take God's love to the world." This statement has its roots in Jesus' teaching, and in the model of the early church community in Acts where the believers "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Our church committee structure mirrors these same concepts so that as a body of Christ, we live our faith as a community engaging in Worship, Discipleship, Fellowship and Mission. The remaining committee, Resource Management, is largely responsible for stewardship of resources (including financial and facility).

Session recently set aside a Saturday morning to reflect on this structure and to talk about breathing new life into our community. Over the past few years, we have allowed our committees to simply exist, and too much of their work has fallen to a few individuals and sometimes to staff. As we enter this new chapter of ministry with hope and promise, let's also do so with intent and purpose. Out of this Saturday morning, Session has confirmed our commitment to the principles and structure that we have, updated the committee mandates to reflect current priorities and future possibilities. We have taken stock of the ministries and events that are part of life at Central, and discussed their alignment (or realignment) within this structure so that there is greater purpose to them.

This work, however, is really only preparatory. We talked about ideas and priorities and what life at Central could or should look and feel like. We still need the people to make that happen, and we began to talk about you as well. We have started to turn our minds and hearts to populating these committees and working teams; but we need your 'yes' to make this happen. Many hands make light work, and when we work together in community we are both blessed, and a blessing to others. Paul wrote about the one body of Christ made up of many parts, all of which need each other; and believe it or not, he was talking as much about Central Presbyterian in Hamilton as he was about the church in Corinth. Rev. Hannah preached recently about each of us being salt and light; not that we should be, but that we already are. Let's put our lightly salted selves to God's good use, and bring our faith to life at Central.



Mark Stuppel,  
Clerk of Session



Session February 2026

*Front Row: (L to R)*

Rev. Lois Whitwell, Rev. Hannah Lovaglio, Johanna de Bruin, Beth Mackay Reilly

*Middle Row: (L to R)*

Gwynneth Simpson, Beth Carey, Katie Weresch, Frances Searle

*Back Row: (L to R)*

Rev. Dr. Alan McPherson (Minister Emeritus),  
Dr. Hubert de Bruin,  
Mark Stuppel (Clerk of Session),  
Adele Pierre, Stephen Pierre

*Absent: David Dutchak,  
Gloria Gavin*



Rev. Hannah Lovaglio  
Induction Service  
December 7, 2025



## CLERGY: TRANSITION AND TRIBUTES

### **Rev. Dr. Nicholas Athanasiadis**

*Refrain: You arrived at a time of great need, gave us comfort in word and deed. \**

*Your sonorous voice, demanding attention per se,  
Listening Circles were devised in a compassionate way.  
Specific issues – sensitively – you did broach.  
Sympathy, intent listening – hallmarks of our approach.*

*Session meetings were conducted with precision,  
Treated with dignity and respect, accomplishing stated mission.  
Under the Session Snippets banner, inherent,  
Salient points were shared – congregants apprised,  
And Session transparent.*

*Our erudite preacher's profound prose,  
Illuminated God's word humbly – never verbose.  
Your sermons – a theological tapestry,  
The Christocentric focus proclaiming God's majesty.  
Interwoven with nuggets of spiritual gold,  
Revealing God's LOVE of yore foretold.  
Paul Tillich, C.S. Lewis and Kierkegaard references, to name just a few,  
Enriched the proclamation – refreshingly anew. REFRAIN*

*Delving into a study, Sunday mornings early we rose,  
Anticipating questions on "Mark for Everyone," he might pose.  
His gifts, not confined to preaching,  
Exposed special skills in teaching.*

*Nourished with the weekly Prompts for Reflection,  
Visual clues – painterly and poignant – enhanced the narrative  
direction.  
Amplified by the Word of the Day,  
A spiritual roadmap you did convey.*

*A pensive mother, in the past surmised,  
Explaining the minister's absence – surely no mean feat.  
Jack will be devastated and so surprised!  
Greeting Dr. Nick a highlight – his Sunday treat. REFRAIN*

*Our emotional equilibrium, now fully restored,  
Young and old echo the praise of one truly adored.  
Our interim minister with the melodious, multi-syllabic name,  
Rev. Dr. Nicholas Athanasiadis, you've transformed us,  
We'll never be the same.  
No additional words need we employ,  
You personify Central's "Ode to Joy."*

*Although saddened by your departure today,  
Celebrating your three-year stay, we thank you wholeheartedly, and pray,  
That your retirement by God be blessed,  
Offering unique opportunities and ample rest.  
Adieu, Dr. Nick, Adieu! REFRAIN*



Submitted by Johanna de Bruin

## Reverend Hannah Lovaglio

*Refrain: This is the day x2, Reverend Hannah, we pray,  
Will lead us on x2, Faithfully and strong. \*\**

*With joy, enthusiasm and bated breath,  
Reverend Hannah's arrival in September,  
Adorned with a biblical name, no less,  
Surely a significant day to remember!  
A surname – most peculiar – with a silent g,  
Will soon be the norm for you and me.*

*The inaugural sermon preached,  
Luncheon served and all now sated,  
Presentation time was reached,  
Which we'd anticipated.  
Gifts, specifically Canadiana,  
Gratefully received by Reverend Hannah.*

*Catalyst for renewal and direction,  
The liturgical lens was changed,  
Striving for perfection.  
Protocols now rearranged,  
A seamless transition,  
Its ultimate mission. REFRAIN*

*Muscle memory, most notably required,  
Increasing our spiritual armamentarium, so desired.  
A date, accordingly, was drawn,  
For a Lenten book study on the Gospel of John.*

*Spousal complement to a vacancy filled,  
As Coordinator of Discipleship, we're thrilled,  
Warmly welcoming Michael on our behalf,  
Now a full-fledged member of Central's staff.  
Imbued with talents he will embrace,  
Nurturing the Faithfinders in this sacred space.*

*Divine tapestry's unbreakable threads – God's promise and story,  
The truth of His incredible LOVE and glory.  
A recent sermon on the Beatitudes,  
Ensured love practiced, shows gratitude.  
Feeding the flock, Reverend Hannah will continue to weave,  
Her inspired, authentic, theological threads - we most certainly believe.  
REFRAIN*

\* Book of Praise/Old: Joyful We Adore Thee/Psalm 569

\*\* Book of Praise : This is the day/Psalm 78 & OT Psalm 118

Submitted by *Johanna de Bruin*



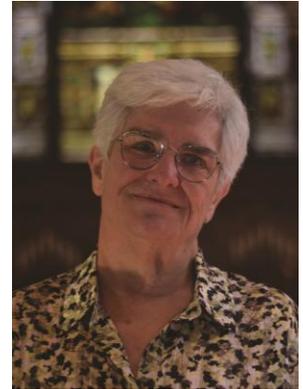
## Pastoral Care Update from Rev. Lois Whitwell

Forty-six years ago in May, I was ordained a minister in the PCC by the Presbytery of Hamilton. My first church was a three-point charge in a small town near Sarnia. I was going to be living there alone. My dad decided I needed company. Dad and Mom found a puppy, a blond cocker spaniel. His name was Muffin. One cocker spaniel, three Labs and a Rat Terrier, later, I still have a dog. My dad was right; I needed that companion. My dogs have been an integral part of my life. I have walked miles, thrown countless sticks, cuddled with them on cold winter nights and mourned their passing. Why am I ruminating about dogs, pets? I saw a book called **New Tricks: How Pet Ministry Can Transform Faith Communities and Change Lives**. The title intrigued me, so bought it.

The authors of our relationship with our pets and how they can help our connection with each other. They pointed out that pets/animals can teach us to be good neighbours and to love those who are different from us. The last part of the book speaks starting a Pet Ministry as outreach into the community. It is an interesting idea. Will we be looking at starting a Pet Ministry here at Central? Probably not. The role that our pets play in our lives is important. As a community of faith we care for the needs of our congregation and that includes their pets.

Pets can also participate in ministry. We once had a cat, Shadow. My friend would take her with her to visit shut ins. She would quietly sit on a lap and be patted. The people loved having Shadow visit. Often the animals in our lives provide the pastoral care we need. They are the presence that pushes back the loneliness and reminds us of God's love. Pastoral Care involves the whole person, their hobbies, their families, their faith journey and their pets.

Together in Christ  
*Lois*



Rev. Lois Whitwell,  
Director of Pastoral Care

| <b>Revenues and Expenses<br/>Year to Date<br/>as of December 31, 2025</b> |               |               |                                      |
|---|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
|   | <b>Budget</b> | <b>Actual</b> | <b>Favourable<br/>(UnFavourable)</b> |
| <b>Operating Expenses</b>   | \$ 578,515    | \$ 544,160    | \$ 34,355                            |
| <b>Congregational Givings &amp; Rentals</b>                               | 421,657       | 411,940       | (9,717)                              |
| <b>Revenues less Expenses</b>   | \$ (156,858)  | \$ (132,220)  | \$ 24,638                            |
| <b>Funds from Trustees as Budgeted</b>                                    | 30,000        | 30,000        | -                                    |
| <b>Budgeted Shortfall</b>   | \$ (126,858)  | \$ (102,220)  | \$ 24,638                            |
| <b>Additional Funds from Trustees</b>                                     | -             | 146,247       |                                      |
| <b>Over (Short)</b>   | \$ (126,858)  | \$ 44,027     |                                      |

The 2025 Budget approved at the Congregational meeting had expenses greater than revenues in the amount of \$136,858, and the Trustees have provided temporary funding (over the amounts they had previously committed) by diverting funds normally accumulated for major repairs to the building.

## **Resource Management Committee Report**

The Resource Management Committee is charged with the maintenance and upkeep of our building. Central Presbyterian Church is a heritage building newly designated in 2025 and dates to 1908. It has so many beautiful features and a rich history that you can see everywhere with plaques, donated furniture, pictures, stained glass, our fabulous organ and grand piano at the front of the church. Buildings like this require ongoing maintenance all the time. At Central, this is managed by the Property Manager on RMC with the advice of the rest of the committee. It is steady work and requires daily attention to the workings of the building. We have been fortunate to have some very dedicated Property Managers over the years, who have solved problems and left well-functioning equipment and infrastructure.

This winter has illustrated the challenges that winter brings. We inevitably have a problem with our heating system, and it always happens in the coldest weather. We have a boiler system that heats water that is driven through the church by a circulating system. Both the boiler and the circulating system have duplicate equipment, so we always have a backup if one part of the system malfunctions. One of the known quirks of the system is that it must be restarted manually if there is a power interruption to the building, no matter how short the interruption. The week of January 25<sup>th</sup>, there was a watermain break downtown, which led to a power interruption and the subsequent shutdown of our heating system. This was discovered on Tuesday morning after a very cold night. It does not take long for the indoor temperature to drop to the 50s. Our system is regularly serviced by the company that installed the boilers some 25 or so years ago. A call for service resulted in them saying they are not doing service calls anymore, so another agency was called. The result was that the system was restarted, but we need to have some work done on the regulation of the system, i.e. the thermostats. You can understand that with open thermostats and many people using the building, the temperature is raised and lowered frequently. We are aiming to simplify the regulation of the system and keep the temperature consistent. Of course, heating a cold building takes much longer than cooling it, so it is a couple of weeks before the temperature is stable.

Managing the snow on our property and in the alley behind us is another challenge. When Grace Haven owned and operated the building behind us, they had the contract to plow the east end of the alley. We looked after our parking spots, the steps, ramps and front apron of the church. When Grace Haven sold the building and moved out, we had to search for a contractor willing to do the alley as well as the parking lot and the church itself. For two years, we were unable to find anyone. In February 2025, we had 3 big storms within a week, which totally blocked the alley and all the parking spots. After spending days on the phone, Gregg was able to find a contractor who came in and cleaned the snow away and has returned on contract this year. Our challenge this year is where to put the snow – there is very little space in our parking lot. We have elected to use one of the accessible parking spots for the snow and pray that we don't have a whole lot more snow.

A final challenge I will mention is our sterilizer/dishwasher in the kitchen. It is on its last legs. It was installed 25 years ago, and Sure-Fix, the company that installs it and maintains it, can no longer get parts for it. We had to replace the drainage system in January, but they are recommending replacing the machine. This machine has served us well with very few problems. It deserves to be retired. The cost of a new machine is just shy of \$10,000, so RMC will have to plan for funding a replacement. These are some of the daily challenges of operating an old and large building. It is our beloved church, and up to all of us to make this happen.

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.



## Fellowship Committee Report

### Cookie Walk

NOVEMBER 30, 2025

The fellowship committee had a wonderful cookie walk on November 30<sup>th</sup>. What a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our community and church family.

We are always looking for people to join our small but mighty team. Do you have a heart for hospitality? We'd love to have you join us! Please reach out to Kristel Forcier or Beth Mackay Reilly!



### 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 - Youth & Children Ministry Update

### **Youth Group**

The first Youth Group of 2026 started with a reading of The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s final speech, "I've been to the mountaintop," delivered just hours before his assassination in Memphis, Tennessee. The evening began with an activity and a calendar of events for the Spring semester. We then read the speech as we listened to Dr. King deliver it. Afterwards, we discussed the context of the speech, its power, and its theological implications in both 1968 and 2026. 7 students attended, with 4 adult chaperones.

The next Youth Group event was a Super Bowl Party at Reverend Hannah's home on February 8<sup>th</sup>. 8 students attended, with 5 adult chaperones. Pizza, nachos, and ice cream sundaes. Whether a football fan or not, a grand time was had by all 😊

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, the Youth Group, with help from the Faith Finders 5-8 class, will host the Pancake Brunch under the leadership of Kristel Forcier. The 5-8 class decided all donations will benefit Hamilton Out of the Cold.

### **Faith Finders**

After questions were asked about the magi and King Herod during January 4<sup>th</sup>'s Epiphany lesson, the 5-8 Faith Finders class decided to delve further into Herod I's history. We are currently reading Antonio Pinero's 2016 article, "Herod I: The controversial king who transformed the Holy Land", which will be followed by a reading of Henry Van Dyke's *The Story of the Other Wise Man*. As we read Henry Van Dyke's story, additional articles will also be read, linking both the supernatural and historical elements of scripture to an historical context.

### **Vacation Bible Camp**

Vacation Bible Camp will be hosted at Chedoke Presbyterian Church from July 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>. Michael was invited to attend weekly meetings to develop programming for the camp as well as programming for an Adult Bible Camp, which is scheduled to run in late April – early May.

*Michael Lovaglio*

Coordinator of Discipleship

## *DURAND CHRISTMAS MARKET TEA ROOM*

December 13, 2025,



## Reflections from Rev. Dr. Alan McPherson

‘Forgive us our.....’ what?

One of the things that struck me as strange when I arrived at Central, way back in 1980, was that when we pray the Lord’s Prayer, we say: “forgive us our trespasses”. Raised in Scotland, where Presbyterianism originated, the wording was *always* “and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors”. And in every Presbyterian Church in Canada that I have visited, the wording has always been “debts” and “debtors”. As it also was during any visits to Presbyterian Churches in the USA (in pre-Trump times!!) A quick check with the Rev. Hannah revealed that she also has found the “trespasses” wording unfamiliar.



Of course, any quotations from the Bible in our language are translations from the Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek languages in which the Bible was originally written. The wording “debts and debtors” in Matthew chapter 6 originates from the translation of the Bible in the King James Version of 1611 (sometimes known as the “Authorised Version”).

So where does “trespasses” come from? I have to confess that since the Lord’s Prayer appears in both Matthew and Luke (chapter 11) it was only when, back in Scotland, I was preparing a Bible Study on the Lord’s Prayer that I found I was wrong!! I had always kind-of assumed that in Matthew it was translated “debtors”, and in Luke it was “trespasses”. But in the KJV Bible, Luke chapter 11 says this: “Forgive us our sins for we forgive everyone that is indebted to us”. Ouch!!

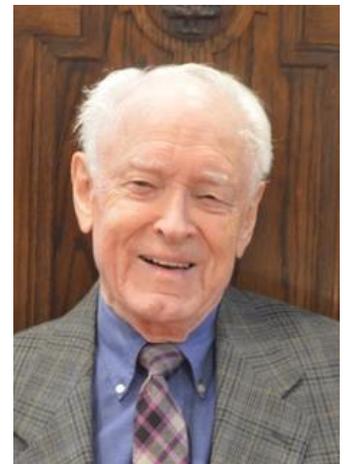
Since the “trespasses” wording is usually associated with the Anglican Church, did they just fancy a different turn of phrase? I found the answer on the internet<sup>[1]</sup>. It is stranger than you might think. And it comes from an even older translation than the KJV. It was a scholar named William Tyndale who in 1525 made the first translation of the New Testament into English from the original Greek texts. Tyndale’s phrasing was adopted by the original Anglican Book of Common Prayer (BCP), published in 1549. And still does in the current editions of the BCP!!

*“And forgeve us oure trespasses, as we forgeve them that trespasse agaynst us.”*

Modern translations use a variety of phrasing... “sins”, “wrongs”, etc. That website I looked at says that none of them use “trespasses”. Eugene Peterson’s contemporary translation of the Bible, “The Message” puts it bluntly: “Keep us forgiven with you and forgiving others”.

And so a thought occurs to me, Away back in 1980, I thought that as Presbyterians we should be using “debts” and not “trespasses”. I still do.

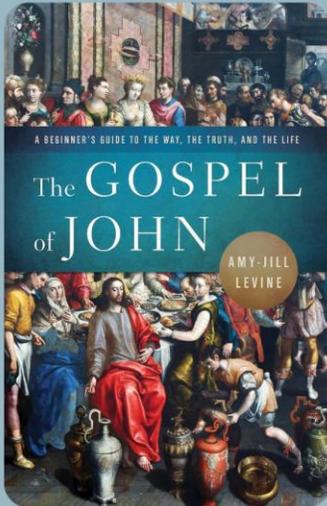
Is it time to have a look at that possibility?



*Rev. Dr. Alan McPherson*  
Minister Emeritus

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

*Sunday Seminar with Rev. Hannah*



*The Gospel of John: A Beginner's Guide to the Way, the Truth, and the Life* by Amy-Jill Levine

**9:00 - 10:00 AM**  
**Coffee & Tea Provided**

- March 1 The Wedding at Cana (John 2)
- March 8 Nicodemus and the Samaritan Woman at the well (John 3 & 4)
- March 15 The Healing of the Man at the Pool (John 5)
- March 22 The Man Born Blind (John 9)
- March 29 Foot Washing (John 12 & 13)
- April 5 Easter Sunday - no seminar
- April 12 Mary Magdalene and Doubting Thomas (John 20)

To reserve your copy of the book, or to learn more, contact Helena at [helena@cpchamilton.ca](mailto:helena@cpchamilton.ca) or call the church office at 905-522-9098

## GOSPEL OF JOHN LENTEN READING PLAN

### Ash Wednesday, 2/18

John 1:1-28  
John 1:29-51  
John 2:1-25  
John 3:1-21  
John 3:22-36

### Lent Week 1, 2/22

John 4:1-42  
John 4:43-54  
John 5:1-15  
John 5:16-47  
John 6:1-21

### Lent Week 2, 3/1

John 6:22-59  
John 6:60-71  
John 7:1-31  
John 7:32-52  
John 8:1-30

### Lent Week 3, 3/8

John 8:31-59  
John 9:1-41  
John 10:1-21  
John 10:22-42  
John 11:1-16

### Lent Week 4, 3/15

John 11:17-57  
John 12:1-19  
John 12:20-50  
John 13:1-20  
John 13:21-38

### Lent Week 5, 3/22

John 14:1-14  
John 14:15-31  
John 15:1-27  
John 16:1-15  
John 16:16-33

### Palm Sunday, 3/29

John 17:1-26  
John 18:1-27  
John 18:28-40  
John 19:1-30  
John 19:31-42

### Easter, 4/5

John 20:1-18  
John 20:19-31  
John 21:1-14  
John 21:15-25

You are invited to read along through the Gospel of John this Lent.

## Mission Committee Initiatives

The Mission Committee continue to be a group of keen members: Jim Walker, Shirley Fredlander, Janet Long, Arlene Quackenbush, Sharon Lee, Olive Moody, Beth Carey and Adele Pierre. We want to thank all the commitment and hard work from two members who are leaving the committee, Shirley Fredlander and Adele Pierre. They will be missed but we are excited to welcome Michael Lovaglio to our team.

In the fall the committee promoted Orange Shirt Day, a commemorative day on September 30 that honours Indigenous children who were forced to attend residential schools and recognizes the ongoing intergenerational impacts on survivors, families, and communities. We also promoted the re-opening of the of the Mohawk Institute Residential School Museum.

This Advent Season brought Central's Mission Committee and Youth group together to raise funds from members of Central and its surrounding community for PWS&D's Gaza Response through the PCC's "Giving Tree Ornaments" initiative. Over one thousand, one hundred dollars (\$1100) was raised.

We supported local needs through our gifts on White Gift Sunday, donating hats, mittens, warm socks, coats, camping gear, blankets, tarps and gift cards again to "Hearts for Hamilton" This organization helps provide for those in the city who are unhoused.

During the Christmas Market at Central the Mission committee set up a table to collect money for Gaza through the ornaments. We also invited people to have "selfies" in the sanctuary or in front of a great Christmas background.

The Mission Committee is looking forward to new beginnings and renewed focus. In consultation with our new minister and the congregation, we are seeking new ways to engage effectively in mission within our city and throughout the world.

*Sharon Lee and Beth Carey*  
Mission Committee Co-Chairs



**Stewardship Moment**

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before God with thanksgiving and extol God with music and song.

Psalm 95: 1-2

The Presbyterian Church in Canada [presbyterian.ca](http://presbyterian.ca)

This mini essay was written by **Gustav Swanepoel** as part of one of his university applications, and at Dr. Marcus Scholtes' suggestion, he is sharing it with the congregation.

### ***Finding a voice***

In March 2023, I joined the choir at Central. I expected to improve my singing skills and the experience to be mostly musical. Instead, I found myself joining a semi-professional choir with members ranging in age and each having different life experiences, personal values and perspectives, all in the same rehearsal space. Initially, I felt out of place, since I was the youngest member of the choir. I was in my second year of high school, and I wanted to become more engaged within my church community. I realized that music is not just a skill, but a way I could connect with people of all ages.

The other choir members made an effort to engage with me, and I enjoyed having conversations before and after rehearsals. I was very interested to hear about their backgrounds, careers, and what made them decide to join the choir. With each conversation I tried to listen carefully, ask thoughtful questions or overall, better understand my fellow choir members' perspectives. As a result, I did not only grow musically, but also socially. I learned how to be more confident in front of different audiences, become more comfortable with speaking, and making deep connections in the choir.

Every year, when we prepare for seasonal concerts, I make sure that I do my best, knowing my contribution impacts the performance of the entire choir. Also, performing in front of hundreds of people, alongside professional musicians, such as brass quintets or string quartets, taught me the importance of reliability and teamwork. I have also come to appreciate how the love of music brings us together to collaborate and reach our goals.

Last year, we had a new challenge. Some experienced members of my section were away during the month of December; their absence was during the church's biggest concert of the year. This concert included many "ringers" who are hired, temporary singers in the choir. At first, the environment felt unfamiliar to me without the support of the absent section members. However, I embraced this opportunity for further growth and chose to welcome these newer singers in my section. Reflecting on my time with the choir over the past two and a half years, I realize that the choir members' interactions with me has helped me to improve my communication skills and develop greater confidence. I am learning that stepping out of my comfort zone can lead to making deeper connections in my faith community.



*Giving thanks for the efforts of those who decorate for Christmas at Central*



**Christmas Eve Communion Candlelight Service**

### **View from the Organ from Dr. Marcus Scholtes**

I can't believe it's January 2026 already! This marks three years since I started my role as Director of Music Ministries at Central - time sure flies when you're working at a rewarding and enriching place!

There is much to reflect on from the fall and Christmas season. First and foremost, we are all coming off the success of December's Candlelight Carol Service! This was again a meaningful event in our community. We had our 'regulars' - the Hamilton Brass Quintet and Charlton String Quartet, but we also had more choristers join for this event than the previous years - SO many in fact, that we almost ran out of the choir glass/ brass candle holders that we use to process in at the beginning of the service. Michael Davis had to prep the extras! We had some really wonderful anthems in the line-up. My personal favorites were, 'Angels Tell The Christmas Story' by Malcolm Archer - being the first choir selection, it was an energetic way to start the service; and of course John Joubert's, 'Torches' is a classic, the choir sang it with much gusto. Perhaps the most poignant was John Tavener's 'The Lamb' - accompanied by strings, it was an introspective work, I received many positive comments about it. We also had Stefan Kitai playing the timpani that now live in our sanctuary, they definitely add vigor and vitality to the hymns, and a big thank-you to Ramona Starkey for singing a beautiful 1st verse of, 'Once in Royal David's City'. Bravo to everyone involved in Candlelight 2025!

Reflecting on December, another extremely important event occurred on Dec. 7th: Rev. Hannah's Induction Service. The choir sang Herbert Whitton Sumsion's *Magnificat* to mark the occasion. This is a significant step in Central's growth; having Rev. Hannah at the head of our congregation creates stability. She is amazing to work with, has incredible ideas, and infectious enthusiasm in spreading the Gospel. I'm definitely looking forward to all our future endeavors and together making Central a seminal venue in Hamilton.



I would also like to highlight the Children's Christmas Pageant and all the youngsters involved. Also another Bravo to Kristel Forcier and Paula Grove for prepping the kids and 'directing traffic'. The Pageant is always a wonderful way to engage the next generation, and of course hearing young voices sing the classic hymns is always very moving. Our Christmas Eve service was yet another beautiful event, the choir sang, 'See, Amid The Winter's Snow' by John Goss, a perfect anthem and message to finish the Christmas season.

# Music@CENTRAL



Our Music@Central series is plugging away nicely, too! On Nov. 30th we were treated to an incredibly virtuosic and packed concert by artists Xueao Yang (violin) and Felix Hong (piano). They are a duo that have performed together for years, and the maturity and cohesiveness in their playing is evident. They performed works by Grieg, Beach, and Prokofiev, plus an encore, it was altogether a superb performance!

*Music@Central  
Xueao Yang & Felix Hong on Nov 30*

At the time that I'm writing this, we are preparing for the next Music@Central concert on Jan. 25th. This is a joint venture with the RCCO (Royal Canadian College of Organists) and will be featuring superstar organist Jonathan Oldengarm - he was previously Music Director at the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul in Montreal, and most recently began as Minister of Music at Metropolitan United Church in Toronto. This is also a joint venture with him and the Charlton String Quartet - if you're wondering...YES, there is a lot of repertoire composed for string quartet and organ! We have a wonderful program ready to go,

works by Handel, Baumann, Graunn, and we'll also be performing the very famous, 'Agagio in g minor' by Thomaso Albinoni (including telling the story of the skullduggery around its origins). Unfortunately our regular players Sharon and Elspeth couldn't play this concert, but we are thrilled to welcome Paul Barna and Vanessa Hellinga to join the quartet for this event. They are of course no strangers to Central, and Kirk and I are looking forward to our collaboration.

And then we'll soon be looking ahead to Lent and Good Friday already! Lent for me is always the most affecting time of year, it has the most heartfelt music, it's a time of self-reflection, and the music always parallels this feeling. So as always, I'm looking forward to more and more music making at Central!



Dr. Marcus Scholtes,  
Director of Music Ministries

Musically Yours,  
*Marcus*



**The Choir celebrating with Seke  
on becoming a Canadian Citizen!**

# Candlelight Carol Service – December 14, 2025



CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PRESENTS

# DUBOIS

## Les sept paroles du Christ

**GOOD FRIDAY**

**APRIL 3, 2026**

**7:00PM**

FREE ADMISSION ~  
DONATIONS WELCOME

**CENTRAL CHOIR AND SOLOISTS**

**CHARLTON STRING QUARTET**

**CONDUCTED BY DR. MARCUS SCHOLTES**

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
165 CHARLTON AVE. W.  
HAMILTON, ON

## Your Invitation To the Lord's Supper



**Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.**

Also via Livestream at:

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

### 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/)

### CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



## Save the Date

### Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 18, 10:30 a.m.

### Central's Annual Meeting & Luncheon

Sunday, February 22 after worship

### Lenten Book Study:

#### The Gospel of John

Sundays in March, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

### Music@Central:

#### Beth Horst & Marianna Chibotar

Sunday, March 1, 3:00 p.m.

### Palm Sunday Worship Service

Sunday, March 29, 10:30 a.m.

### Good Friday Worship Service

Friday, April 3, 10:30 a.m.

### Good Friday Choir Concert

#### Dubois: Les Sept Paroles du Christ

Friday, April 3, 7:00 p.m.

### Easter Sunday Worship Service

Sunday, April 5, 10:30 a.m.

### Music@Central:

#### Smith & Scholtes

Sunday, April 12, 3:00 p.m.

### Music@Central:

#### Seke & Friends

Sunday, May 3, 3:00 p.m.

## Deaths

*Jacques Wallace*

November 8, 2025

*Evelyn Saynor*

December 6, 2025

*Margery Cuddie*

December 16, 2025



Minister – The Rev. Hannah Lovaglio

Director of Pastoral Care – The Rev. Lois Whitwell

Minister Emeritus – The Rev. Dr. Alan M. McPherson

Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes

Coordinator of Discipleship – Michael Lovaglio

Bookkeeper – Michelle Frebald

Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma

Custodian – David Lewington

Nursery Coordinator – Brenda Ziemann

Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French