

CONTACT

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

The Spirituality of Summer

There is something about summer that changes us.

The days stretch out longer. Children stay up later. Windows open. Schedules loosen. We eat dinner outside if we can. We linger a little longer after conversations. We notice gardens. We notice sunsets. We notice one another.

Or at least, we can.

Summer has a way of disrupting our routines, including our spiritual ones. Church attendance becomes less predictable. Likewise, church programs press pause. Prayer can become sporadic. The normal rhythms that hold us together through the year shift and soften.

And perhaps that is not entirely a bad thing.

Because while faith certainly can be nurtured through routine and discipline, it is also nurtured through delight. Through rest. Through paying attention. Through remembering that God is not only found in sanctuaries, but also on porches, beside lakes, around picnic tables, in gardens, on walking paths, and beneath evening skies that refuse to darken before 9 p.m.

Jesus seemed to understand this well. So much of his ministry happened outdoors: on mountainsides, beside the sea, walking dusty roads, attending meals, noticing birds and lilies and seeds scattered into fields. Again and again, he withdrew to quiet places to pray. Again and again, he invited people to slow down enough to notice the kingdom of God already unfolding around them.

Summer can become an invitation to do the same.

The poet Mary Oliver once wrote, "Attention is the beginning of devotion."

And so this summer, perhaps spirituality looks less like striving and more like noticing.

Noticing the laughter around a backyard table.

Noticing the tomato plant finally beginning to grow.

Noticing your own exhaustion.

Noticing joy returning in small and quiet ways.

Here are a few gentle invitations for tending your spirit this summer:

- Sit outside for 10 minutes, without your phone, bonus points for bare feet on the ground.
- Read poetry, slowly.
- Attend worship, even imperfectly.
- Take a weekly walk and notice what is in bloom today different from last week.
- Keep a list on the fridge of gratitudes, let everyone contribute.
- Crack open your bible, outdoors.
- Invite someone over for lemonade.
- Watch a sunset, or many.
- Let yourself rest without earning it or apologizing for it.
- Practice delight, bring a kid along to show you how.
- Notice what helps your soul feel more awake to God.

Summer does not ask us to become someone new, it frees us be who we already are, beloved children of God. May this season offer you moments of rest, delight, laughter, connection, and attention enough to notice all that is holy.

Grace and peace,
Rev. Hannah



Rev. Hannah Lovaglio
Minister

PS. If I'm able to practice what I preach, then in the carved out moments of rest and delight you'll find me outside reading *Braving the Truth* by Rachel Held Evans, *All The Way to the River* by Elizabeth Gilbert, *Awake* by Jen Hatmaker, and rereading *The Serviceberry* by Robin Wall Kimmerer.

Resource Management Committee Report

At this year's annual meeting, we said goodbye to and thanked Jim Morgan as Chair of RMC. This was Jim's second term as Chair, and we valued his steady, calm leadership of our committee. We are ever grateful for Jim's tenure as we sought our path forward after the pandemic and the change in ministers.

Emile Swanepoel has stepped in as our new Chair for RMC. Emile has immersed himself in all things RMC, and we are carefully navigating through the upkeep and maintenance of the building. Welcome Emile.

Our first order of business was to review our Terms of Reference. These have been reviewed and updated by the Session, and it was a good way to start the new year. We found that we complied with the Terms of Reference. The review refreshed the Committee with our purpose and activities.

We replaced the two security lights on the north side of the building (Charlton Street). A neighbour had asked us to adjust them as they were shining in her window across the street at night. We purchased and installed two lights that now shine downward, which has solved the problem. They provide adequate security lighting.

The playground for the Talented Tinkers Daycare has been partially installed on the north side. Initially, they wanted a small playground for 20 children. Now they wish to install the other half of the playground on the east side. That work will start soon. When all inspections inside and outside are complete, the children will start attending the daycare. The Session has approved two signs advertising the daycare. Forty children will be attending the daycare.

We have finalized negotiations with the City of Hamilton for polling stations in the upcoming municipal elections.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Guise, Secretary, RMC

	Budget	Actual	Favourable (UnFavourable)
Operating Expenses	\$ 207,139	\$ 206,276	\$ 863
Congregational Givings & Rentals	153,346	125,195	(28,151)
Revenues less Expenses	\$ (53,793)	\$ (81,081)	\$ (27,288)
Funds from Trustees as Budgeted	30,000	30,000	-
Budgeted Shortfall	\$ (23,793)	\$ (51,081)	\$ (27,288)
Additional Funds from Trustees	-	-	
Over (Short) for Current Year	\$ (23,793)	\$ (51,081)	
Surplus (Short) from Prior Year	44,027	44,027	
Over (Short) for Current Year	\$ 20,234	\$ (7,054)	

The 2026 Budget approved at the Congregational meeting had expenses greater than revenues in the amount of \$106,378 which was reduced by a surplus carry forward of \$44,027 leaving a projected deficit of \$62,351 for which the Trustees are providing temporary funding by diverting funds normally accumulated for major repairs to the building.

Discipleship Committee - Youth & Children Ministry Update

Youth Group

The Youth Group has been quite busy since early February, starting with the Pancake Brunch on February 15th. Kristel Forcier graciously offered to lead the event so Michael had an opportunity to learn before taking the reins next February, and the 5-8 class decided all donations will benefit Hamilton Out of the Cold.

Then, on March 27th, the Youth Group attended a screening of *Project Hail Mary* in IMAX. Students invited siblings and friends as well as the Youth Groups of Chedoke, East Burlington, and Trinity Presbyterian Churches. Trinity accepted our offer with Chedoke and East Burlington asking for a rain check. **12 students were in attendance, with 5 adult chaperones.**

On March 29th the 5-8 Faith Finders class and the Youth Group hosted its first annual Easter Egg Hunt for the children of the nursery and the SK-4 class. Students filled hundreds of plastic eggs with Hot Wheels race cars, candy and erasers on multiple occasions the week prior to the event. It was a great success which the students plan to not only repeat next year but extend an invitation to the neighborhood as well. The students will also be coordinating with the Mission Committee for next year's egg hunt with the understanding that significant additional help will be needed when inviting our neighbors to celebrate Palm Sunday with us.

With a great deal of help from Gregg Bullock-Price, the Youth Group held a game night, again, inviting friends, on April 17th. Game Night was such a success that Gregg and Michael are planning a weekly game night open to the community and hosted in Fellowship Hall during the summer months. **8 students in attendance, with 5 adult chaperones.**

April 17th. The 5-8 Faith Finders class, and the Youth Group, met early that Sunday morning for a joint Faith Finders lesson on Old and New Testament scripture and the 1959 film *Ben-Hur*. After Time with the Children, during the service, **10 students, with 6 adult chaperones**, went to Playhouse Cinema to see a screening of *Ben-Hur* in 35mm. The following Sunday, students discussed the film prior to getting into the curriculum for that week.

Coming up, the Youth Group will be seeing the latest Star Wars film, *The Mandalorian and Grogu* in IMAX, on May 22nd, and hosting a community BBQ on May 29th.

Faith Finders

The 5-8 Faith Finders class continues to read Henry Van Dyke's *The Story of the Other Wise Man*, reading scripture as context. We hope to meet a couple of times during the summer to get further into the text, and we plan to finish it in the fall. Our hope is to create our own abridged version of the story, fully illustrated with the help of the Youth Group, providing the congregation an opportunity to read it (at the cost of a small donation) when complete.

The Odyssey

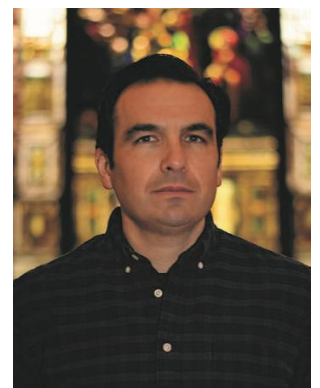
Starting in mid-May, Michael will lead a book club on Homer's *The Odyssey* for interested middle and high school students. The invitation has been extended to local Youth Groups as well. We plan to meet on Sundays in the Allan Room and meet via Microsoft Teams Tuesday evenings. Then, in mid-July, when the latest film adaptation is released in theatres, we plan to travel to Toronto to see it in the largest IMAX screen in the nation. The book club start date will be announced soon in the bulletin and weekly email.

Vacation Bible Camp

Vacation Bible Camp will be hosted at Chedoke Presbyterian Church from July 13th – 17th. Michael is developing programming with representatives from Chedoke and Trinity Presbyterian churches.

Fall 2026

Later this month, Michael is scheduled to meet with staff from local churches to coordinate joint youth group activities in the fall. In addition, interest has been expressed in starting tutoring sessions open to community middle and high school students. Michael is exploring options, with 3 tutors already expressing interest. We hope to start in early September.



Michael Lovaglio
Coordinator of Discipleship

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 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

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.



Mission Committee Initiatives

“June is Indigenous History Month, and June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. It is an opportunity to celebrate and learn more about the diverse cultures, traditions, governing systems, histories, spiritualities, and gifts of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people. The best way to learn is directly from Indigenous people:

- *read Indigenous authors,*
- *listen to Indigenous musicians and podcasters,*
- *view art and film made by Indigenous artists,*
- *seek opportunities to learn from Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers and teachers*
- *attend events organized by Indigenous nations, organizations or Friendship Centers in your area.*

Centering Indigenous voices and experiences, honouring Indigenous identity and resilience contributes to building up a society that actively addresses anti-Indigenous racism, and where all people may flourish. Learn more about ministries with Indigenous at <https://presbyterian.ca/ccm/indigenous-ministries/> (from the PCC website).

The Mission Committee invites everyone to explore local events during Indigenous History Month. Please see the posters below. We are also planning a trip out to the Woodland Cultural Centre and the Mohawk Residential School Museum on a Saturday in September. Stay tuned for more information.

Sharon Lee and Beth Carey

Mission Committee Co-Chairs

**Join us at West Harbour -
James Street Plaza on June 19
to celebrate National
Indigenous Peoples Day.**

Everyone is welcome for a free afternoon of culture, community, and celebration featuring:

- Indigenous performances
- Indigenous artisan vendors
- Local food trucks


Event Schedule

12 noon to 4 pm

- Indigenous artisan vendors



Stage Schedule


- Coming Soon




Additional Information

- A free water refill station will be available on-site—don't forget to bring your reusable water bottle!



Soaring Spirit Festival



29TH ANNUAL SOARING SPIRIT FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

JUNE 19, 20 & 21, 2026

Battlefield Park
77 King Street West, Stoney Creek, Ontario

FRIDAY – JUNE 19
 SUNRISE CEREMONY – 6:00 AM FIRE TEACHINGS 11 AM
 WATER CEREMONY – 12:00 PM
 NATIVE ARTS, CRAFT, TRADE & FOOD SHOW OPENS
 AGENCY DISPLAYS SPEAKERS EXHIBITS
 LIVE INDIGENOUS KARAOKE IDOL AUDITIONS – 4:00 PM – 9:00 PM
 WINNERS PERFORM SATURDAY AFTER FLAG RETREAT
 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT TO CLOSE THE EVENING

SATURDAY JUNE 20TH & SUNDAY – JUNE 21ST
 SUNRISE CEREMONY – 6:00 AM EACH DAY

VENDORS OPEN – 10:00 AM (BONDVENDORS@GMAIL.COM)
 POW WOW REGISTRATION OPENS 10 AM EACH DAY
 GRAND ENTRY 12:00 PM
 SECOND GRAND ENTRY SAT. 6 PM

INDIGENOUS KARAOKE IDOL FINALS
 SATURDAY 7:00 PM KARAOKE PRIZES AWARDED

LIVE INDIGENOUS ENTERTAINMENT/MUSIC SATURDAY 8 PM TO CLOSE 10PM
 THIS IS AN ALCOHOL AND DRUG FREE EVENT PLEASE RESPECT



A Day of Teachings

We invite you to join us during the Soaring Spirit Festival & Pow Wow 2026 for a day of traditional teachings at Battlefield Park.

Friday, June 19, 2026
 Sunrise (6:00 AM) to 3:00 PM

Battlefield Park

Teachings will include:

-  Water Teachings
-  Fire Teachings
-  Mother Earth Teachings
-  Tipi Teachings
-  Four Direction Teachings

Teachings will be offered in two sessions.

Morning:
 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

← Lunch Break →

Afternoon
 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Teachings will be offered in two sessions. We will run two teachings at a time during each session. All are welcome to come, listen, and learn in a good way.



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/>

Stewardship Moments: *Inspiring Generosity*

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it.

Psalm 24:1

 The Presbyterian Church in Canada

presbyterian.ca

View from the Organ from Dr. Marcus Scholtes

There is so much to share from the Music Ministry of the past few months! We're just coming off a very joyful Easter season: as usual we had the Hamilton Brass Quintet perform at our Easter Sunday service. Their playing is always phenomenal, and they concluded the service by joining our choir and congregation in a rousing Hallelujah Chorus. This was of course after our Good Friday choir event, where we presented Théodore Dubois' *Les sept paroles du Christ*, a stunning and dramatic work for soloists, choir, and orchestra. We had many extra choristers join us again this year, with solos by Emma Reilly McKay, Brian Power, and a



powerful new singer to Central, our Baritone guest soloist Christopher Dunham. The ensemble consisted of 9 instrumentalists, plus harp, and plus organ, the epic parts certainly sounded epic! The Good Friday event is an annual highlight, for the choir and our community at large. A huge thank you to everyone involved in making this year's event as special and memorable as all previous years.

Over the winter months, we've also been blessed with two new choir members, you'll notice our Tenor/ Bass sections have grown! Eric Harrison and Jim Beaton have been an incredible addition to Central's choir, both for their singing as well as bringing wonderful positive energy to our ensemble.

Music@Central had a bit of an icy start earlier this year - our first concert was a joint venture with the RCCO and featured a collaboration with superstar organist Jonathan Oldengarm and the Charlton Quartet...but we were snowed out! During the last weekend of January the city of Hamilton was pummeled by a huge snow storm. It was the first M@C concert we had to postpone due to weather. Very thankfully all the artists were available to postpone and we rescheduled the concert to the following Sunday.

For the March 1st recital, I had originally programmed soprano Bethany Hörst and pianist Marianna Chibotar for a recital of Canadian art songs, but received an email from Beth 2 days before the concert...she was already feeling a bit under the weather earlier in the week, but it had developed into full-on laryngitis! After a flurry of emails, we had another soprano/ piano duo step up and step in, a huge thank you to Angela Gjuricanin and Vlad Soloviev for pulling off a beautiful operatic program on extremely short notice.

Thankfully those were the only M@C surprises! Central also hosted a delightful Family Day Concert with soprano Alyssa DiMarco entertaining a gaggle of kids with a Disney/ Swift/ Frozen-themed concert (myself at the keyboard), and in April we welcomed back virtuoso pianist Ben Smith for a virtuosic piano/ violin program with yours truly. The season concluded with a stellar performance by our own Seke Fowode and her band, a concert titled, "Language of the Heart". This was a multimedia concert that included music, poetry, and art, and also featured the Central Choir for one selection - a true treat for the senses and the heart. And now onwards to the 4th season next year! The 2026-2027 artists are already booked, it's another exciting lineup, stay tuned for updates over the summer.

Some more good news: I am happy to report that Central was awarded another Ward 2 Community Grant to assist our musical endeavors. I applied in March and we received the notice in April. It's not a huge amount, but goes a long way in keeping the Music@Central series running. I am so appreciative of the entire team that assesses the applications and that there is funding like this available from our city.

One of my professional development activities of the past few months was being one of the conductors selected to participate in the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir's Conducting Mentoring Program, working with Maestro Jean-Sébastien Vallée. This was an incredible experience; we got to observe all the rehearsals leading up to TMC's performance of Bach's St. Mathew Passion (including the concert at Koerner Hall), as well as having one-on-one coachings and workshops with Maestro Vallée.

On a personal note, I want to take the opportunity to thank the Central community for all your support the last few months after the passing of my father. There was a whole contingent of Central members that made the trek to Kitchener for the funeral, and an outpouring of messages, cards, and emails from congregants in the weeks following. It was an extremely difficult time, but having all the support definitely helped me persevere through it. So thank you to everyone who contributed in helping me through this time.

And now we're at the outset of summer already - as usual, we'll have an excellent lineup of soloists to lead our Sunday worship services in July and August. The choir will be singing right up to the end of June, so June 28th will be our last official Sunday until September when we resume. I wish all my choir members a well-deserved break over the summer (but see you on Sunday mornings in any case!). Central will also be hosting the Toronto Concert Orchestra's Conducting Workshop in August, featuring Maestro Mark Shapiro from Juilliard, and in June we will be recording new music by composer Brian Current, Director of the New Music Ensemble at the Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory in Toronto. Never a dull moment in the Music Ministry at Central!



Dr. Marcus Scholtes,
Director of Music Ministries

Musically Yours,
Marcus



PALM SUNDAY AND MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICES



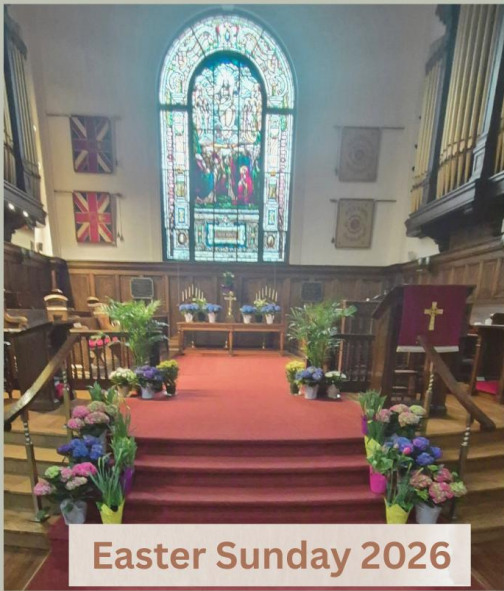
GOOD FRIDAY *April 3, 2026*

Preparations and Concert





*Christ is risen!
He is risen, indeed!*



Easter Sunday 2026





Family Day Concert with Alyssa

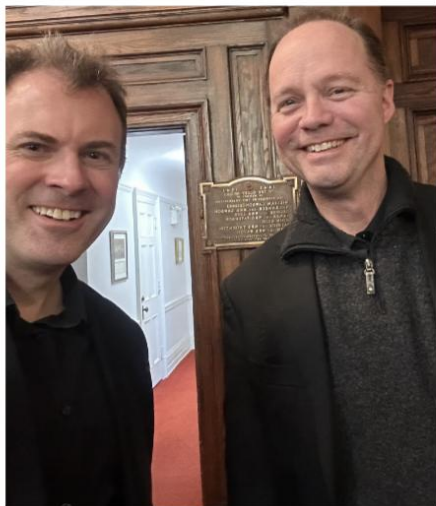
Marcus & Ben Smith



Vlad & Angela

Music @ CENTRAL

February - May 2026



Marcus & Johnathan Oldengam



Seke & Friends:
Language of the Heart



Central has something and someone to celebrate this spring! Sara Traficante (MPS, SCP Cert.) has completed her studies at Knox College and is has achieved the degree of Master of Psychospiritual Studies. With this degree, Sara has also completed a certificate in spiritual care and psychotherapy. Sara’s ministry in the future will be much like her ministry thus far, built on caring relationships with everyone she encounters.

Sara and her faith have been gifts to Central for many years now, and her talents have been used to enrich this community in many ways. She has sung in the choir, played in our concerts, led our children and youth as well as adult study groups and book clubs. When the time came to face the realities of the church’s participation in operating residential schools, she facilitated the group that worked on our land acknowledgement, and arranged for the education that made its adoption an act of faith for the whole community.

Always pushing us to be more Christ-like, Sara convened a second social justice group to create our Statement of Welcome and Inclusion. This statement, beautiful and humble, expresses our best intentions while acknowledging our imperfections. It has offered comfort and invitation to seekers in who have found this community because it, like Sara’s every interaction, reminds us that no matter who we are, how we identify, whom we love, or where we are on life’s journey: we are welcome here, and loved by God.

Congratulations Sara! Thanks be to God!

Pastoral Care Update **from Rev. Lois Whitwell**

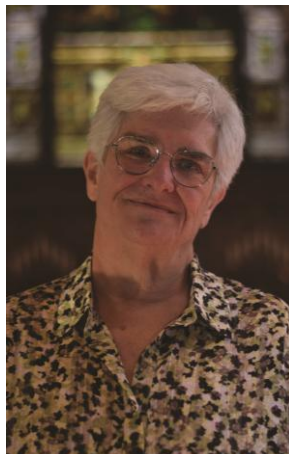
I have been sitting here mulling over the idea of ministry. Living faith reminds us that:

“The Lord continues his ministry in and through the church. All Christians are called to participate in the ministry of Christ.” We all have gifts to use in the church and the world. Whether it be preaching, music, accounting, committees, cooking, teaching, cleaning, visiting, friendship, pastoral care, prayer and the list goes on. We all have something to offer to Christ’s body the church.

Ministry, our ministry, is making a difference in the life of the church and the individuals we meet. Jesus said in John 15:8” By this my Father is glorified that you bear much fruit; so you will be my disciples.” We may not ever know if our ministry is effective, sometimes someone will come along and say you really helped . But most of the time, that “fruit” is part of our faith journey and we trust that the Spirit is working through us and around us .We will make mistakes, that is in the very nature of being human. We seek forgiveness and continue to be the Christ’s body the church.

As we move into summer a time of vacations and rest my prayer is that each of us at Central will continue to be the Church, Christ’s body wherever you journey this summer.

Together in Christ
Lois



Rev. Lois Whitwell,
Director of Pastoral Care



Sara Traficante supported and congratulated by Presbytery



Sara Traficante and Rev. Dr. Alan McPherson at Presbytery – May 2026



Sara Traficante graduation from Knox College - Spring 2026

Your Invitation To the Lord's Supper



Sunday June 7th, 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/

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

Pentecost & New Member Sunday

Sunday, May 24, 10:30 a.m.

Community BBQ

Friday, May 29, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Communion Sunday

June 7, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Durand Market

Wednesdays from May 27-October 28

3:00-7:00 p.m.



Deaths

Mary Lou Baker

May 1, 2026



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