CONTACT

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

Dear Central Friends,



Rev. Hannah Lovaglio
Minister

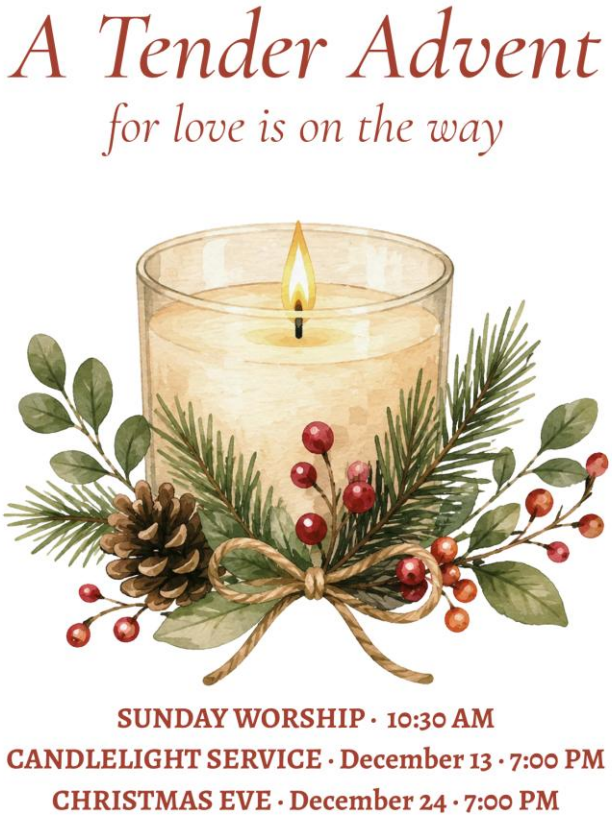
You tend a fire. A garden. A wound. A child.

The word suggests patience and attention: noticing what needs care, offering what you can, returning again. Some things need warmth. Others need room to grow. Sometimes tending means doing necessary work; sometimes it means sitting beside someone when there is little you can do.

This year, our theme is **A Tender Advent**.

One of my favourite Advent hymns, *People, Look East*, imagines a world preparing for love's arrival. There is a hearth to ready and a table to set. Bare earth holds a seed that needs nourishing. Birds guard a nest. Stars keep watch.

I love how physical those preparations are. There is work for our hands: places to make warm, people to feed, fragile things to shelter.



At the heart of the Christmas story is Mary, carrying a child. Her body is doing the extraordinary, exhausting work of growing a human being. Who brought her water? Who reassured her? Who stayed near when labour began? Scripture leaves much unspoken, but these questions draw me toward the tenderness of the incarnation. God comes among us as a baby who needs to be held, fed, warmed, and loved.

This Advent, we will consider the life entrusted to our care. We will receive nourishment at the communion table. Our children and youth will share their adaptation of *The Other Wise Man*. We will gather in candlelight and make our way toward Bethlehem together.

There is much to tend at Central: friendships, our children's faith, our neighbours, and hopes taking shape among us. There are tender places, too. December carries delight *and* loneliness, anticipation and grief.

You are welcome to bring all of that with you.

I invite you to keep a small evening practice. As you switch on a lamp or light a candle, pause. Remember someone who needs warmth or company, and your own need for care. Ask God: what is mine to tend, and what can I entrust to you tonight? That prayer may lead to a phone call or an act of kindness. It may help you put down unfinished work and rest.

May this be a tender Advent for you. May you find warmth, receive care, and discover Christ near at hand.

With love and gratitude,
Hannah

A Confirmation Celebration!

We are celebrating the creation of a joint Confirmation program with Trinity Presbyterian Church on the mountain. Our youth groups have shared programming over the last year, and now are gathering with their ministers, Rev. Hannah and Rev. Deb, on Sunday afternoons for confirmation class. Twelve students, grades 9 through 2nd year university, are exploring the tenants of the Reformed Tradition together, and finding their own language to express the faith as it's been gifted to them. Please pray for Audrey, Darragh, Elizabeth, Gustav, Harrison, Kelvin, Maxwell, Neto, Ocean, Rachel, Ramona, and Risa as they explore their faith in the coming months. We look forward to celebrating their journey together in March!

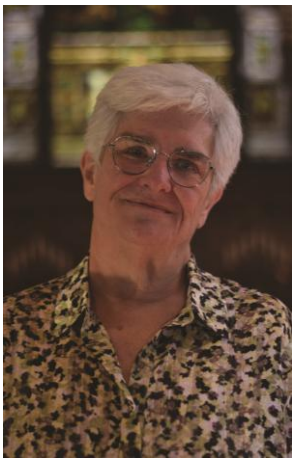
Pastoral Care Update from Rev. Lois Whitwell

One of the great moments in our life as a congregation is worship on Sunday. We sing, pray and listen to God's word. But we also greet each other, hug, smile and share with each other. We move from listening to sharing in the fellowship time. It is a great joy to watch seniors talking to children; teens engaging in conversation with adults. Our fellowship time after worship is when we catch up with friends and meet new people.

When I first started at Central, I heard about a group called Prime Time. The group used to meet for lunch and discussion. Some of the group moved online during Covid. We met on the first Wednesday of the month via Zoon. We had some interesting conversations. But slowly the group got smaller. We tried to move back to in person but that did not really work either. But there is a need for a time when slightly older folks can gather for conversation, a meal, maybe a guest speaker, maybe a game of cards. Fellowship is an important part of our community of faith. We need that time when we can sit and talk, share memories, ideas, and information.

In the spirit of fellowship and celebrating the birth of Jesus, I would like to invite people who can to a Christmas lunch on December 2 at noon. This is the traditional day of the Prime-Time group. This will be a time to share and to talk. It will be a turkey dinner, the cost covered by a free will offering. There will be a program, we might sing a few Christmas Carols. Please bring a special memory of Christmas that you would like to share. If you are interested in attending, please speak to Lois or RSVP lois@cpchamilton.ca or leave a message at the office. For planning purposes, we do need to know you are coming. Come along for a time of fellowship and bring a friend or two.

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy New year.



Together in Christ,
Lois

Rev. Lois Whitwell,
Director of Pastoral Care

Resource Management Committee Report

Fall has been a busy time at Central for RMC. Property Manager Lee Carpenter and Custodian David Lewington have completed several maintenance projects. The outside railings have been painted, and the one beside the ramp to the doors has been repaired. Two of the doors have been varnished, and the remaining doors will be refreshed in the spring. Window closers have been repaired.

The pew removal project has been completed with the guidance of Hubert DeBruin. The carpet in the sanctuary has new edging. The floor at the front of the church has been sanded, stained to match the chancel floor, and had urethane applied. The sanding of the floor has left a coating of sawdust on everything, but David had to wait for the urethane to dry before he could vacuum it up.

We have purchased a point-of-sale device called Clover. It has been activated, and we are learning to use it. It will be used at the church to allow people to give a donation/offering to the church via a credit card. This may be more convenient. We are working on guidelines for use now and an information sheet.

The updated map showing parking in the neighbourhood is nearly ready. It will be posted on our website. We have checked with buildings that had allowed parking previously, and if they are still willing, they will be shown on the map.

Our daycare tenants, the Talented Tinkers, are waiting for a Change of Use certificate from City Hall. Once they have that, they will be able to do their planned changes to the upstairs and have all necessary inspections done. The second playground is complete.
We have a full calendar of rentals for the fall. There are several concerts, including the Bach Elgar Choir, THAT Choir, Chorus Hamilton and Oak Hill Academy. The Durand Christmas Market will be held on December 12.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Guise, Secretary, RMC

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

You may support this good work by donating in various means: 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.

Your Invitation
To the Lord's Supper



Sunday November 29th, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.

Also via Livestream at:
https://www.youtube.com/CentralPresbyterianChurchHamilton

Clerk of Session Report: Breaking Bread Together



The week before World Communion Sunday, Rev. Hannah invited members of the congregation to bring in a loaf of bread that we might fill the communion table with these symbols of sharing the Lord's Supper around the world in many ways and with many breads. Indeed, that is exactly what members of Central did, and it was beautiful to see. Almost more beautiful was to be in the kitchen gathering these loaves for the table, and hearing some of the stories that came in with them.

One of the first to arrive was Barbara Stares came in with a Welsh "Bara" a traditional bread with a very dense crumb, and unusual taste. As Barbara tells it: "Though born in Llanelly, I was only there for a year and so had no real experience of the Welsh tradition of bread making; but my parents gave me a Welsh cookbook twenty five years later, and this bread intrigued me.

"The average Welsh family baked only once a week and kept the bread in a carved wooden box suspended from the rafters over the kitchen table (to protect it from mice). It was brought down in wealthy households by a neat pulley system and in the poorer homes by someone standing on the table.

"The bread itself was a miracle of too few ingredients – only wholemeal flour, a bit of treacle, a very little lard, a tiny pinch of salt and way too little proofed yeast and water. A seeming eternity of kneading (20 minutes was needed to liberate the gluten), but it worked! The result was the best textured bread I've ever made and it had a lovely wholesome taste."

My own contribution was a soda bread I have not made in years. I've been a museum volunteer for 25 years, and early on became interested in the hearth cooking. I attended several hearth cooking workshops at Gibson House in Toronto, and later helped facilitate similar workshops at Ireland House. One of the recipes we were given at Gibson House was a simple soda bread recipe containing only flour, salt, baking soda and buttermilk; it came from the Genesee Farmer, a rural agricultural and domestic journal published in 1838. It is a very dense, heavy bread which turned out fine, but it is never as good in my oven as when I make it at the museum. Ireland house has no oven, so we bake at the hearth using a large bake kettle (or Dutch oven) on a bed of coals, with more coals heaped on the lid. The tight lid on the kettle holds the steam in and the bread does not dry out like in the oven.

Beth Mackay Reilly offered to make a loaf of sourdough bread from her pandemic project. I loved the idea of her learning to make sourdough while isolating at home, and now sharing it with her community of faith. When Beth arrived Sunday morning with the promised loaf, she shared the rest of Joy's story. In her words: "Like many people, my experience with sourdough bread started during the pandemic. I had wanted to try doing a sourdough starter for a while, but the enforced time at home seemed to be just the time to get things going, as it were! Because of the lack of flour, particularly bread flour, my early loaves weren't great, but I persisted.

"My starter kept going – producing that lovely sour smell that I noticed each time I fed it and I finally mastered getting delicious loaves of sour dough bread. Fast forward few years and my starter kept going. I tried to be diligent about feeding it – until I wasn't. We moved, life was busy; poor old Joy (my starter's name – imagine that) got neglected. One day I went to feed her and she was mouldy. Disaster! Once a starter is mouldy, that's it – no return. I was feeling rather upset about this as I had tended Joy for quite a few years, but I was going to have to start again. "Now, one of the things about starter is that it multiplies every time you feed it. This allows you to share your starter with others – and I had done so. I was telling my son Liam about Joy's sad end when he reminded me that I had given him some starter and his was healthy and flourishing! So, I was able to get some starter back from Liam and continue with Joy – and joy!! The bread I brought for Communion was made with that very same starter - and I am now most careful in giving Joy what she needs to thrive."



Sharon Lee arrived with a box of Korean honey loaves. She had made one herself, but apparently someone got into it after she made it (she never told me who) and so it was off to a Korean grocer to get the box of small cakes she arrived with. They were a beautiful, individually packaged, sweet, golden loaf-cakes. She had said that this is what is served for communion in the church where her father ministers in South Korea, which I thought was quite an improvement over white Wonder Bread. Their hand-held size, and this knowledge with it being World Communion Sunday, led to one of these being opened and placed on the small plate for Rev. Hannah to break during the words of institution.

These are only some of the stories for some of the breads that were offered. When the community came together to make – and break – bread, the result was an abundance that was not without its Biblical parallels (we could have filled five baskets). The loaves from the table were bagged and distributed to members during coffee time where they went on to bless tables across the city – the body of Christ, nourishing the members of Christ's body.

As we approach another communion, some of those loaves also made it into the freezer, so that they will be the communion bread we share this advent. The gifts of God, for the people of God…thanks be to God!



Mark Stupple,
Clerk of Session



On October 25, 2026, Central celebrated the gift of leadership to the church. Seven elders were ordained and welcomed into Central's Session. Sue Dunlop, Sharon Lee, Christine Sandor, Kirk Starkey, Sara Traficante, Rev. Lois Whitwell and Elsje Zwart were prayed for as they started their ministry.

Discipleship Committee - Youth & Children Ministry Update

Strengthening our Understanding of the Biblical Text with Supplemental Material

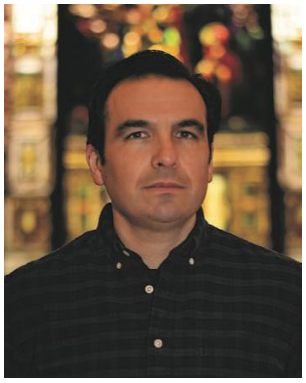
A Preface to Central's Faith Finder's Adaptation of Henry Van Dyke's "The Story of the Other Wise Man"

January 4th, 2026. First Sunday on the job.

I was told it would be a low attendance Sunday, which it was, so we combined the Sunday School classes and taught an Epiphany lesson using Archbishop Desmund Tutu's *Let There Be Light*. Little did we know, the conversation born out of reading the archbishop's book would develop curriculum for the remainder of 2026.

"I want to learn more about the wise men," said Kene. "Who were they? Were they kings, wise men, both?" I shared what little knowledge I had and spent the next week reading National Geographic articles on these ancient kings from the East and Herod, preparing a curriculum for the next week. Then, while putting away Christmas decorations, I came across a copy of Henry Van Dyke's "The Story of the Other Wise Man"; a gift from my mother. Each year, she'd put a copy out during Advent and encourage my brother and I to read it. We never did.

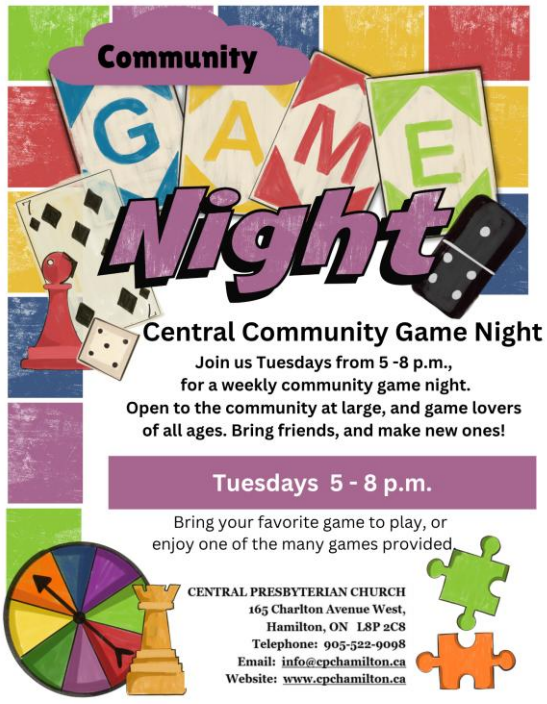
Packing the remnants of the season could wait. I sat and started the story of Artaban, a descendent of Balaam, who was a seeker of the Light. Artaban was unique amongst the members of his sect because he did not believe in a world governed by the balance of light and dark, good and evil. He was searching for an indicator that Light would overcome Darkness, that the predatory powers of men would not have the final word. Thus, when the constellations aligned, and the Star of David shone brightly in the night sky, Artaban, like his Three King brethren, went out in search of God's Word in the form of the Christ-child. Also, like his brethren, he left with gifts; gifts that would be used in service of the Light, but not in ways Artaban anticipated.

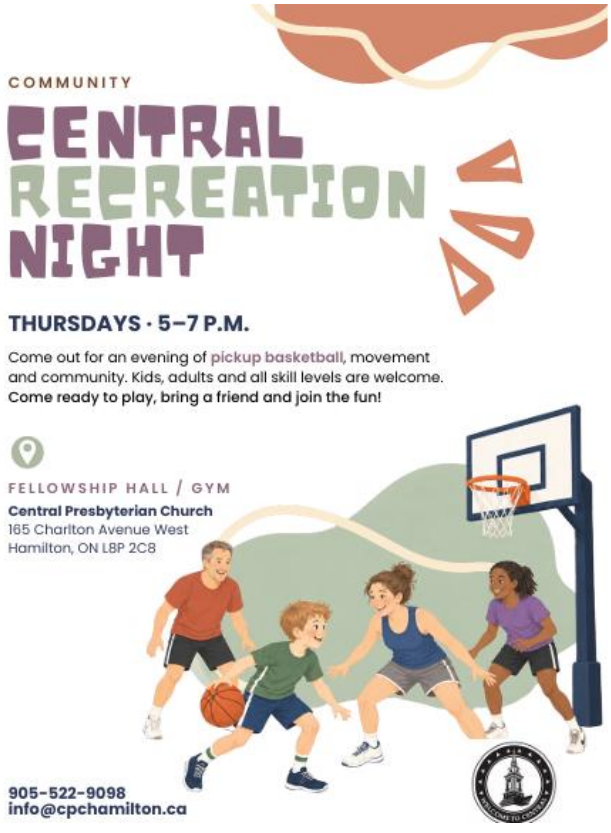


Michael Lovaglio
Coordinator of Discipleship

What started last January with a few questions will end in December with Abi, Caspian, Gregoire, Kene, Risa, Sam, and Willa, having read and digested the story of the other wise man, offering their annotated interpretation of it with this congregation in the form of their own book. They'll share it first with the students of the SK-4 Faith Finders class, then, showcase their art and annotated work during the Christmas Pageant on the third Sunday of Advent. They'll end 2026 with a gift to the congregation, their completed annotated book of Henry Van Dyke's "The Story of the Other Wise Man."

With gratitude and joy,
Michael





Mission Committee Initiatives

The Mission committee consists of Jim Walker, Arlene Quackenbush, Janet Long, Olive Moody, Michael Lovaglio and co-chairs Sharon Lee and Beth Carey. We are a small but mighty group and if you would like to join the team, please reach out and let one of us know.

On September 26th Several members of Central congregation and youth toured the Mohawk Institute Residential School in Brantford Ontario. The visit was a sobering and deeply meaningful encounter with one of Canada's most painful histories. Standing on the grounds where generations of Haudenosaunee and other Indigenous children were separated from their families, languages, and cultures demonstrated that residential schools were not distant institutions but places with lasting human consequences. The visit provided an opportunity to hear Survivors' accounts, reflect on the harm caused by forced assimilation, and recognize the resilience of families and communities who continue to carry this history. It also strengthens understanding of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action and the ongoing responsibility of non-Indigenous Canadians to learn, remember, and support reconciliation in practical ways. The Mission Committee would like to offer this experience each year.



This year's White Gift Sunday will take place on Sunday, December 13th. Our local focus this year will be to participate in Central's Christmas Toy Shoppe. On White Gift Sunday you may choose to bring a gift for a child or give a monetary donation so that the group is able to purchase more toys at a discount. If you'd like to bring a gift, the Toy Shoppe is always in need of Lego sets, and the Nutcracker and/or Holiday Barbie doll. Don't hesitate to reach out to Michael for gift suggestions. We will also provide Hearts for Hamilton money to purchase the most needed items for those unhoused in our community.



In February, the Mission Committee will be organizing our Global campaign through the PCC Gifts of Change. Olive trees are ancient symbols of peace and a basic source of livelihood and nutrition across the Mediterranean Basin. Palestinian farmers have seen their trees—some thousands of years old—uprooted from their own land, burned and destroyed, depriving them of their income and traditional way of life. We hope to help Palestine replenish the orchards of affected farmers. $30 plants one olive tree sapling.

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

Fellowship Committee Initiatives

Be sure to mark Sunday, December 6th on your calendars for our favourite 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!

Shortbread Meltaways



INGREDIENTS

1 cup unsalted butter, softened
1/2 cup icing sugar
1 3/4 cup all purpose flour
1/2 cup cornstarch

Oven at 350'

3/4 tsp baking powder
1/4 tsp salt
1 cup Skor toffee bits
icing sugar for decorating

Preheat oven at 350 degrees. Line baking sheets with parchment. Beat the butter, icing sugar and vanilla until creamy. In a separate bowl, combine flour, cornstarch, baking powder and salt. Stir half that mixture into the butter mixture. Stir in the toffee bits and the rest of the flour mixture. Roll into balls – around a tablespoon size - and place on the baking sheet.Bake for 15 -17 minutes. Makes about 30. Freezes well.

Here's a recipe to get inspired!

DURAND CHRISTMAS MARKET



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2026
12PM - 3PM

FINE FOODS | KNITS
CRAFTS | JEWELLERY
TEA ROOM
AND MORE

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
165 CHARLTON AVE. WEST
HAMILTON ON

MORE INFO AT
CPCHAMILTON.CA

View from the Organ from Dr. Marcus Scholtes

It's so great to be back in the swing of things in the Music Ministry during the autumn season, and as usual there are many highlights to share!

The Central Choir has been delivering a series of 'bangers' week after week - at the end of last season, we all took an unofficial survey, and one of the overall consensus was to sing larger-scale works, and the choir has delivered! Some highlights of the last two months include Mendelssohn's *Verleih uns Frieden* (Grant Us Thy Peace) for Orange Shirt Sunday, the epic 'Fear Not, O Land' by Elgar for Harvest Sunday, the enduringly popular 'Cantique de Jean Racine' by Fauré, and the energetic 'Sing We Merrily Unto God Our Strength' by Sidney Campbell. We're even tackling a movement from Brahms' Requiem for Remembrance Sunday. It's been very rewarding working on these masterworks the last few months! One other small, yet meaningful change, is that I've been programming non-Book of Praise pieces for our Introits; the Introits of the last two months have come from a variety of sources and other hymnals, it's nice to keep things fresh and always looking for new variety of repertoire that we can bring to our worship services.



Best Dressed at *The Music of Bond* Concert Sept. 27

We've also had some exciting changes in choir personnel: Kirk and Ramona Starkey have joined the choir, along with our new alto Kristie Wiedenfeld. Kristie has sung with us on multiple occasions for our Candlelight and Good Friday services, and we are thrilled to welcome her as a new member.

Music@Central has already had two very successful concerts by this point in the season. We began with a tribute to the music from the films of James Bond performed by members of the Toronto Concert Orchestra. This was a really great way to launch the season, not only performing some of the theme music, but also the classical music featured in the films.





Accord Baroque Ensemble on Oct. 25

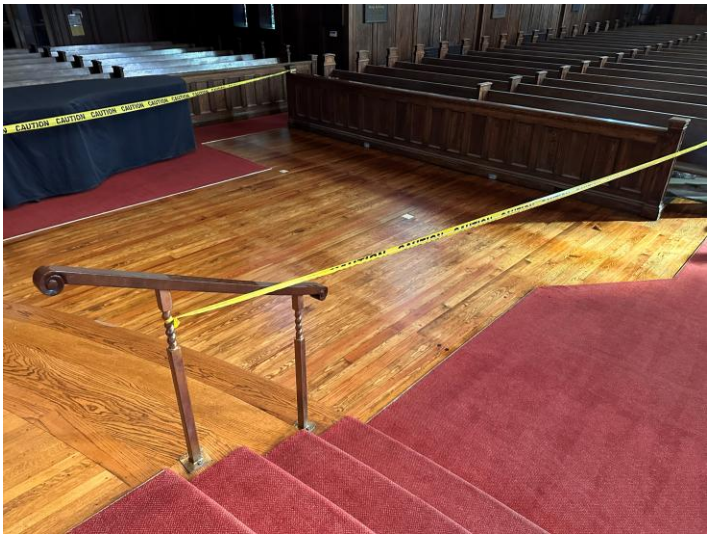
Our audience of 160 loved hearing the themes live, some came in costume, and we had prizes for best-dressed.

Our second concert was a baroque delight, featuring the Accord Baroque Ensemble, period-players Monica Kim on harpsichord and Pat Unruh on the viola da gamba. They performed an incredible concert of the three sonatas by J. S. Bach to an audience of ~120. It's so great to open our doors and offer these concerts to our community.

Another event I was proud to program was our concert on Sept. 20th, the complete piano trio chamber music of Indigenous composer Karen Sunabacka. Karen is a composer that teaches at the University of Waterloo, and my trio (Andromeda Trio) has been working with her for a number of years. Her oeuvre highlights the historical interactions of the Métis people; it was particularly poignant performing this concert during Orange Shirt week. Karen received a substantial grant from the Canada Council For The Arts to record all this music, and we recorded the full program at the Glenn Gould Studio at CBC on Sept. 28th and 29th.



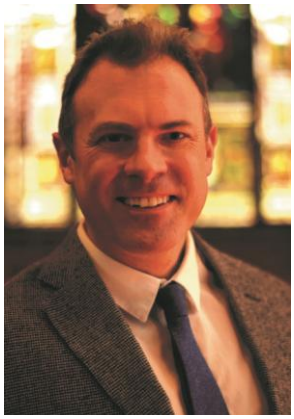
Embroidered With Jagged Patterns
The music of Métis composer Karen Sunabacka performed by the *Andromeda Trio* on Sept. 20



One more update to share about the Sanctuary and the pew removal: the floors have been sanded and given three coats of varnish, they look stunning! And moreover, not only does the area before the Chancel look quite grand now, the acoustic is even better as the sound is more reflective. When the choir sings from the steps, it's noticeably crisper.

And now t'is the season! We are busily starting to prepare our Candlelight Carol Service (Dec. 13th at 7:00pm) and starting to rehearse the coming of Jesus with our Advent repertoire. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord and see you Sunday morning!

Musically Yours,
Marcus



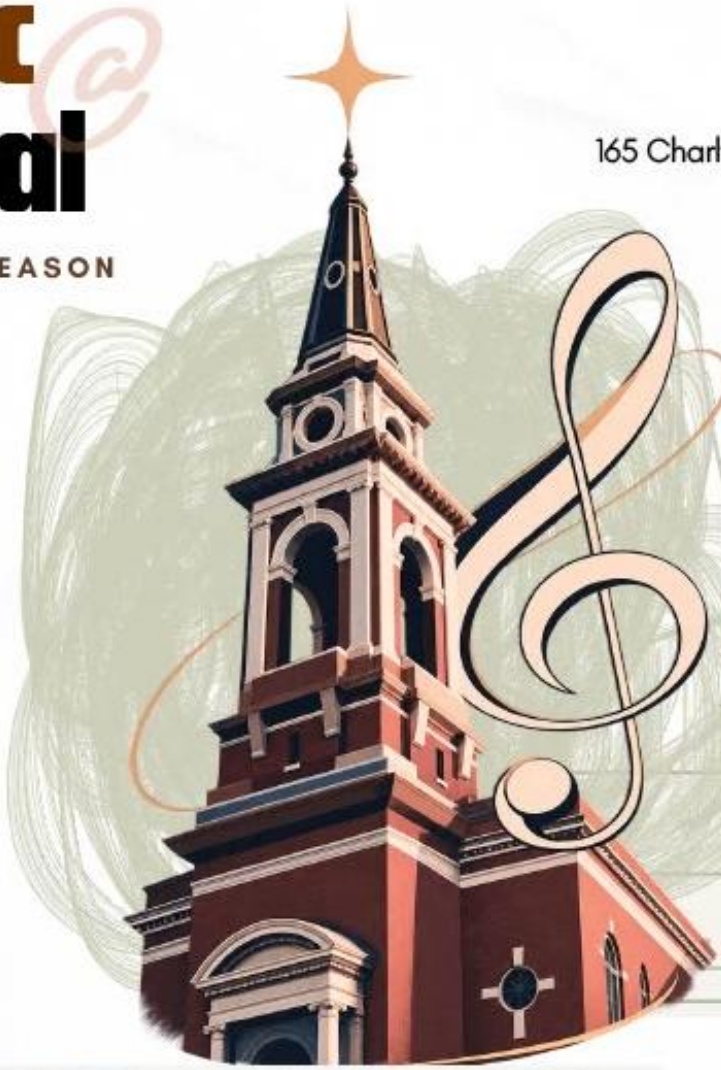
Dr. Marcus Scholtes,
Director of Music Ministries

Music @ Central

2026 - 2027 SEASON

LIVE AT
CENTRAL
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

165 Charlton Ave W, Hamilton



FREE ACCESS

DONATIONS WELCOME

CONCERT DATES - 3PM START TIMES

SEPTEMBER 27 · 3 PM
THE MUSIC OF BOND

hosted by Dr. Marcus Scholtes, with members of the Toronto Concert Orchestra

OCTOBER 25 · 3 PM
ACCORD BAROQUE ENSEMBLE

Pat Unruh, viola da gamba · Monica Kim, harpsichord
Bach: Three Sonatas

NOVEMBER 15 · 3 PM
TO THE MOON & BACK

Autumn Debassige, mezzo-sopra
Angus Sinclair, piano
Schumann and songs of celestial love.

JANUARY 24 · 3 PM
MUSIC AT CENTRAL

Central Choir · Charlton String Quartet · Youth Singers + soloists
A celebration of Central's musicians

FEBRUARY 15 · 3 PM
A FAMILY DAY ADVENTURE

Princess Alyssa DiMarco, soprano
Disney favourites and more

MARCH 7 · 3 PM
STÉPHAN SYLVESTRE

Solo Piano
Late works by Chopin, Brahms & Schubert

APRIL 18 · 3PM
STEPHEN BODA & MARCUS SCHOLTES

Organ · Piano · Violin
From the familiar to the unexpected

MAY 2 · 3 PM
COLAMICI CHAMBER CHOIR

16-voice ensemble
Music celebrating friendship and connection

Save the dates!



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
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/

Central Presbyterian Church

165 Charlton Avenue West Hamilton, ON L89 2C8
E. info@cpchamilton.ca T. 905-522-9098
W. www.cpchamilton.ca

Save the Date

Communion Sunday Worship Service
November 29, 2026, 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Cookie Walk
Sunday, December 6, after worship

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

Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 13, 10:30 a.m.

Candlelight Carol Service
Sunday, December 13, 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Toy Shop Open House
Friday, December 18, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Christmas Toy Shop
Saturday, December 19, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Worship Service
Thursday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.

In Memoriam Worship Service
Sunday, January 3, 2027, 10:30 a.m.

Music@Central:
Music At Central
Sunday, January 24 at 3:00 p.m.

Ongoing Central Activities

Knit & Knatter Group
Weekly on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. – Noon

Community Games Night
Tuesdays from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Central Book Club
Monthly on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

Societus Vicorum
Monthly on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

CPC Recreation Night
Thursdays from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Deaths

Gerald Hutton
October 4, 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 Frebold
Office Administrator – Helena Bootsma
Custodian – David Lewington
Nursery Coordinator – Brenda Ziemann
Sunday & Special Event Custodian – Geoff French