

HOPE

CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMILTON

November 29, 2026 10:30 a.m.

The First Sunday of Advent Communion Worship Service

Minister – Rev. Hannah Lovaglio
Director of Music Ministries – Dr. Marcus Scholtes
Advent Wreath Lighting – Lee-Scholtes Family
Lector – Katie Weresch
Greeters – Kirk Starkey & Sara Traficante

A Warm Welcome to Worship at Central this morning!

Welcome, Families! We offer a staffed nursery throughout the service for young ones up to age 4. Children's bulletins and colouring pages are available on the table in the Sanctuary entryway. Following God's Word For The Children, children are invited to join our Faith Finders program for children SK - Grade 8 in the downstairs HUB area. Children who attend Faith Finders will return to the Sanctuary during the last hymn to receive the blessing alongside the entire congregation.

* *Indicates standing, as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Wachet Auf, Ruft Uns Die Stimme* ("Sleepers, Wake! A Voice Is Calling") J. G. Walther

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

INTROIT – *Long Ago, Prophets Knew* Music: Piae Cantiones, Harm. by G. Holst
Words by F. P. Green

Long ago, prophets knew Christ would come,
Born a Jew, come to make all things new,
Bear all people's burden, freely love and pardon.
Ring bells ring, ring ring! Sing choirs sing, sing, sing!
When he comes, when he comes, who will make him welcome?

THE CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader: There is so much that asks for our attention.
Today, we give hope a little more room.

Congregation: God of hope, we are here. Be with us as we wait.

Candle is lit.

Leader: We light this first candle for those who can see a little way ahead and for those who can see only as far as today.

Congregation: Come, Lord Jesus. Keep hope alive among us.

* HYMN – People, Look East Hymn # 125 (see pg. 10)

PEACE Minister: The peace of Christ be with you.
Congregation: And also with you.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

In Advent we wait for you:
God the maker,
Jesus the storyteller,
Holy Spirit of life.

In Advent we cry to you:
God of Justice,
Jesus of Bethlehem,
Holy Spirit of Hope.

In Advent we long for you.
You, God, are our love,
our warmth,
our light.

A brief silence is kept.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of justice and hope,
we ask you to come near,
and we confess how often we keep our distance
from people who need us near.
We have grown used to suffering that should still trouble us.
We have called things inevitable
that we could help to change.
Forgive us.
We are the work of your hands.
Shape us again, and give us courage to stay tender. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S LOVE AND FORGIVENESS

Hear the great Good News!
Jesus Christ was born to set his people free.
In Christ, we are loved, we are forgiven,
and we are free to begin again.

Thanks be to God.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

GOD'S WORD FOR THE CHILDREN — Hymn # 122 v. 3

Oh come, thou Wisdom from on high,
and order all things far and nigh;
to us the path of knowledge show,
and cause us in her ways to go.

Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

* HYMN – Creator Of The Stars Of Night — Hymn # 111 (see pg. 11)

SCRIPTURE READING (p. 694) — Isaiah 64:1-9

SERMON**: Still in Your Hands**

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

ADVENT AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are an Advent people.

We trust in God,
who hears the cries that rise from the earth,
who holds us as a potter holds the clay,
And whose promises outlast all that we labor.

We trust in Jesus Christ,
God come near enough for Mary to hold,
who blessed the hungry and ate with those turned away,
and who will come again to life up the lowly
and fill the hungry with good things.

We trust in the Holy Spirit
who keeps watch with us through the long night,
who gives us courage to stay tender,
and who puts the promise of peace into our hands,
so we can begin to make it here.

Come, Lord Jesus. Amen.

* HYMN – Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus Hymn # 110

1. Come, thou longexpected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

2. Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

THE OFFERING

Tithes and offerings can be given electronically through Canada Helps website, found using the QR code to the right.

CHORAL OFFERTORY *Hill-Side Carol* A. Bullard

We stood on the hills, Our day's work done, Watching the frosted meadows That winter had won.
The evening was calm, The air so still, Silence and restful peace Enfolded the hill.
There was a bright star That shone in the night, Larger than Venus it was, And bright, so bright.
A voice from the sky To us did say: God will be born to us, On earth anon.
And so we will come, Our day's work done, Our loves, our hopes, ourselves We give to Your Son.

* THE DOXOLOGY AND PRESENTATION OF GIFTS I*n The Bleak Mid-Winter* 145 vs. 4

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part,
Yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

HYMN – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence Hymn # 542

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly mind ed,
for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descendeth
our full homage to demand.

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary,
as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of all, in human vesture,
in the body and the blood,
Christ will give to all the faithful,
his own self for heavenly food.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven
spreads its van guard on the way,
as the Light of Light, descending
from the realms of endless day,
comes the powers of hell to vanquish
as the darkness clears away.

4. At his feet the sixwinged Seraph,
Cheru bim with sleepless eye
veil their faces to the Presence
as with ceaseless voice they cry,
'Hallelujah, hallelujah,
hallelujah, Lord most high.'

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.
Prayer continues…

Therefore, with those who have been raised, and those who long for your coming, we join the choirs of angels who forever sing of your glory:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer continues…

And so, as we prepare to celebrate his birth - as we journey once again the holy ways, seeking to hear and proclaim his life, death, and resurrection - we whisper of that mystery we call faith:

Christ was promised.
Christ was born.
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Prayer continues…

As Christ taught his disciples we now pray (sung) Hymn # 831

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth,
As it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
As we forgive our debtors,
As we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory forever. Amen

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION

COMMUNION MUSIC: Eat This Bread - J. Berthier/ Taize Community

Eat this break, drink this cup; come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst.

PRAYER FOLLOWING COMMUNION

Take us out to live as people of hope, transformed by sharing
the living bread and cup of salvation to serve the tender world you love. Amen.

GOD SENDS US

* HYMN – Christ Is Coming Hymn # 795

1. Christ is coming! let creation
from its groans and labour cease;
let the glorious proclamation
hope restore and faith increase:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Come, O blessed Prince of peace.

2. Earth can now but tell the story
of your bitter cross and pain;
we shall yet behold your glory,
Lord, when you return to reign:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Let each heart repeat the strain.

3. With that blessed hope before us,
flutes are tuned and harps are strung;
let the mighty advent chorus
onward roll from tongue to tongue:
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Let each heart repeat the song.

4. Long your exiles have been pining
for your promised rest and home,
but in heavenly glory shining,
soon the risen Christ shall come.
Christ is coming! Christ is coming!
Joyful, shout the victory psalm.

* BLESSING

May the God of life tend the embers of hope in you.
May Christ keep you company through the long night.
May the Holy Spirit bless your hearth and all who gather there.
And may the blessing of God be upon you and those you love,
this night and every night.

Amen.

POSTLUDE *Come, Thou Almighty King* L. Smith

You are invited to enjoy the postlude as a final blessing.
We leave this hour of worship to go bless the world God so loves.
All are invited to join us for Coffee Hour in the Fellowship Hall.

Service Notes:

Opening Prayer: Ruth Burgess, "In Advent we wait for you," Watching & Waiting, p. 7, Wild Goose Publications, 2016.

Blessing: Inspired by the Scottish Gaelic "Smooring Blessing" in the Carmina Gadelica.

Welcome to Central. If you're new today, we're glad you've come. We're a community seeking to live with courage, kindness, and grace. We don't have all the answers, but we trust God is with us as we learn and grow together. There's a place for you here.

If you would like to get to know Central better, please introduce yourself to an usher and/or spend some time going through our Website (www.cpchamilton.ca).
If you would like to be added to our email list, please inform the office (info@cpchamilton.ca or 905-522-9098 ext. 0).

For any pastoral concerns, please contact the Rev. Lois Whitwell (905-522-9098 ext. 2 or lois@cpchamilton.ca). Central's Prayer Team is available to receive needs in confidence. Contact Pam Carpenter at 905-526-0631 or carpenterfamily@sympatico.ca.



The flowers are placed in the chancel to the Glory of God.

If you would like to dedicate **Chancel flowers** in memory or honour of a loved one, contact either Johanna deBruin or Jim Watson from the Flower Committee

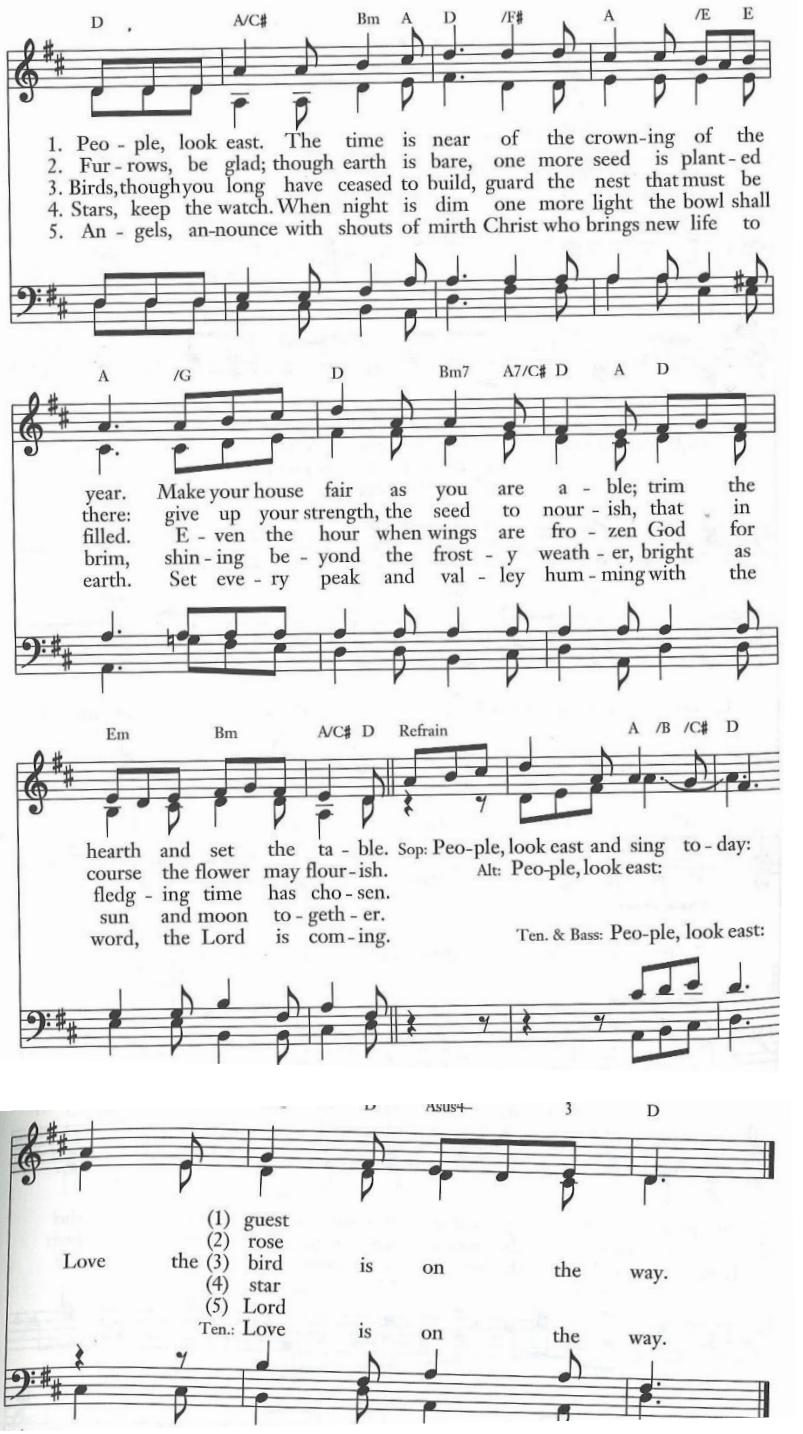
Congregational Givings

OFFERING 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 (see above for the for the QR code for Canada Helps to give electronically).

125 People, look east

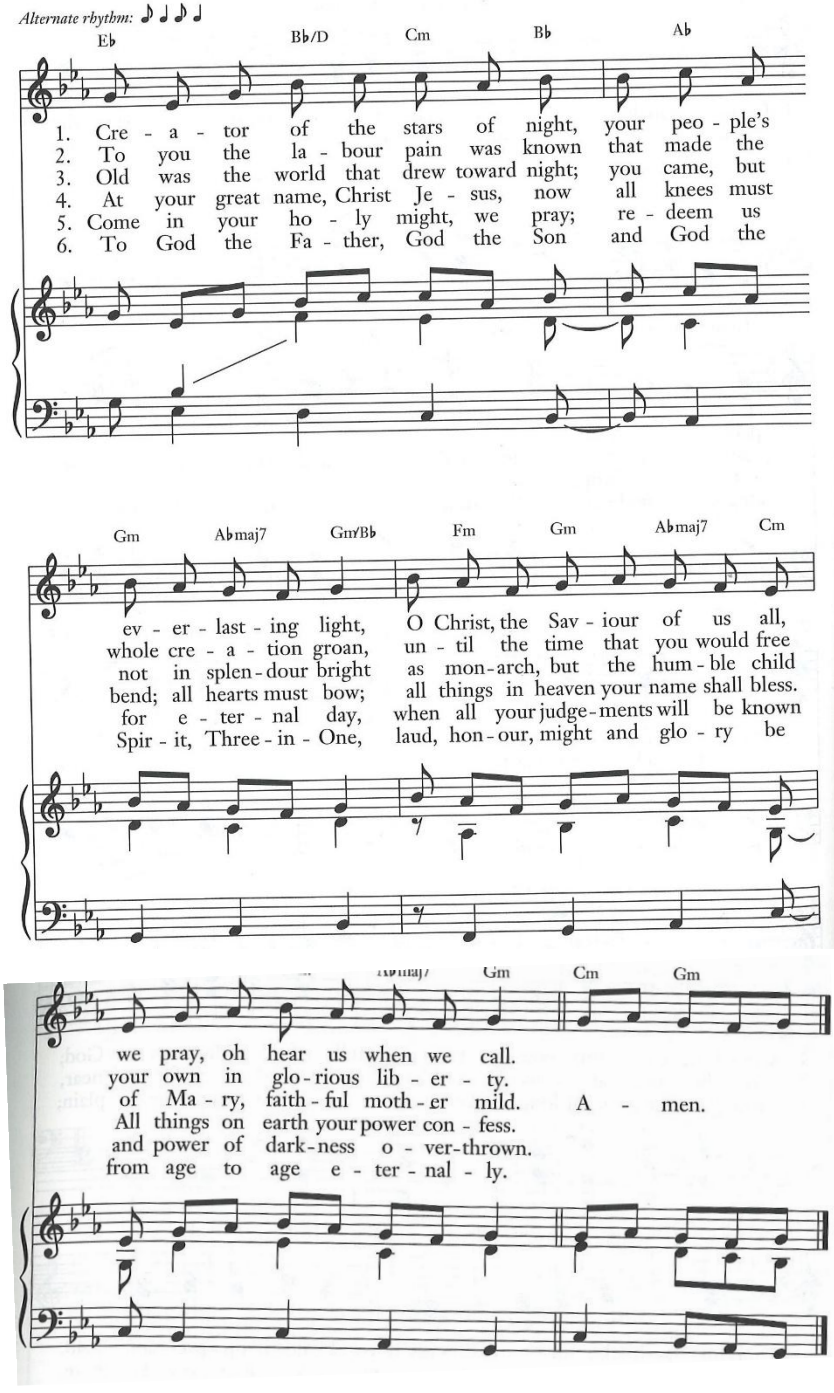
BESANÇON 879887



111 Creator of the stars of night

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM 8 8 8 8 LM

Alternate rhythm: ♪ ♩ ♪ ♩



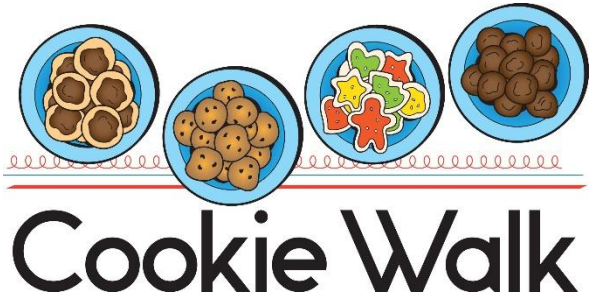
Reminder: <u>White Gift Sunday</u> is December 13th

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.



The **<u>Durand Christmas Market</u>** is on Saturday, December 12 from noon – 3:00 p.m. Please bring any jewelry you would like to donate for the Central table (a tote for items is near the stage Fellowship Hall table). Also, if you are able to donate baked goods for the Tea Room, please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall bulletin board.

<u>PrimeTime Again Christmas Lunch</u> on December 2nd at noon: Please RSVP today on the sheet by the Fellowship Hall bulletin board, or speak with Rev. Lois Whitwell if you plan to attend.



Sunday, December 6th is Central's annual **<u>Christmas Cookie Walk</u>**

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!

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 *

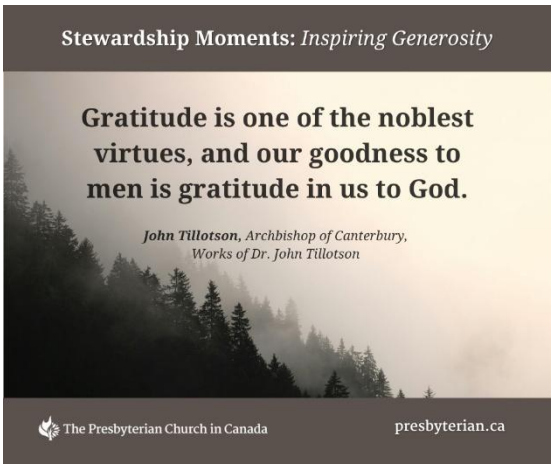
We acknowledge with gratitude and respect that Central Presbyterian Church is located on the traditional territories of the Anishnaabek and Haudenosaunee peoples.

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/**



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

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Christmas Activities in December at Central Presbyterian Church

~ Sunday, November 29, 10:30 a.m. **First Sunday of Advent Worship Communion Service**
~ Wednesday, December 2, noon **PrimeTime Again Christmas Lunch** (Fellowship Hall)
~ Sunday, December 6, 10:30 a.m. **Second Sunday of Advent Worship Service**
~ Sunday, December 6 after worship **Christmas Cookie Walk** (Guild Room)
~ Monday, December 7, 7:00 p.m. **Advent Candlelight Walk with area churches**
- gather at Central at 7:00 p.m. and end with refreshments on Locke Street
~ Tuesday, December 8, 10:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m. **Knit & Knatter Christmas Lunch** (Guild Room)
~ Saturday, December 12, noon – 3:00 p.m. **Durand Christmas Market** (Fellowship Hall)
~ Sunday, December 13, 10:30 a.m. **Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service**
~ Sunday, December 13, 10:30 a.m. **White Gift Sunday**
~ Sunday, December 13, 7:00 p.m. **Candlelight Carol Service**
~ Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 p.m. **Societus Vicorum: A Christmas Carol** (Guild Room)
~ Friday, December 18, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. **Christmas Toy Shoppe Open House**
~ Saturday, December 19, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Christmas Toy Shop**
~ Sunday, December 20, 10:30 a.m. **Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service**
~ Thursday, December 24, 7:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service**

Central Presbyterian Church Calendar

~ Sundays November 29, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. **Confirmation Class** (Allan Room)
~ Monday, Nov. 30, Dec, 7, 14, 21, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m. **HOOTC Café** (Fellowship Hall)
~ Tuesdays, December 1, 8, 15, 22, 5:00-8:00 p.m. **Central Community Game Night**
→ 5:00-6:30 p.m. **Tutoring** → 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. **Youth Book Club** (Allan Room)
~ Thursday, December 3, 10, 17, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. **HOOTC Meals to Go** (Forecourt)
~ Sunday, November 29, noon – 1:15 p.m. **Faith Finder Project** (Allan Room)
~ Tuesday, December 1, 10:00 a.m.–noon **Knit & Knatter Group** (Guild Room)
~ Thursday, December 3, 10 & 17, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. **Central Choir Rehearsal**
~ Thursdays, December 3, 10, 17,5:00–7:00 p.m. **Central Recreation Night** (Fellowship Hall)
~ Thursday, December 3 & 17, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. **Central Bible Study** (Guild Room)
~ Sunday, December 27, 10:30 a.m. **Sunday Worship Service**
~ Sunday, January 3, 10:30 a.m. **In Memoriam Worship Service**