



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year to Central members! As we enter this new year, we are optimistic that we will be successful in beating the Covid 19 pandemic and will, once again, be able to assemble as a church community. In the meantime, we are moving ahead with plans to finish the repairs on the roof and repair the masonry. The congregation has given approval to the Fundraising Steering Committee to negotiate loans from the National Presbyterian Church to cover the immediate cost of the restoration. The renovation is slated to begin in the spring and is expected to take six or seven months.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES AT CENTRAL

Prayer is an integral part of our faith and is a great support to those who are overwhelmed and struggling. Knowing others are praying for you gives strength to those who are feeling alone and wounded or defeated. Central Church offers several ways to access prayer support where concerned members are there to lift you and your cares to the Lord. You are welcome to join any of these groups:

Prayer Group: Pre-Covid this group typically met in person at Central on Tuesdays at 2:30 to pray together for those in need. Dawn McIlwraith is the coordinator of the Prayer Group and can be contacted at prayercpcmail.ca. In these days of Covid, Dawn uses e-mail to contact the members of the group to pray.

Prayer Chain: The Prayer Chain is informal and operates as a “telephone tree” where each member on the list contacts another. Each person then prays individually. Marion Whistance, telephone 519-623-7069, is the contact person for the Prayer Chain.

Sunday Morning Prayer Group: Pre-Covid, a small group of people gathered with Aubrey to pray for requests received through virtualprayerclipboard@cpcmail.ca. Some folks allow their names to be mentioned during congregational prayer, and the members of Central may then include them in their own prayers.

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES:

MITTEN TREE / WHITE GIFT DONATIONS

Members of Central were generous this year & those who attended church in December admired the many hats, scarves, and mittens, many of them beautifully hand-knitted, which decorated the Christmas tree. A creative knitter had also made finger puppets with cute faces which younger children would adore. Around the base of the tree, white gifts migrated outward as the number grew. Along with the donated gifts, we collected \$850 for the Food Bank. Well done, Central!

GIFT BAGS

The week before Christmas, gift bags containing short-bread cookies, small pots of jam, copies of Daily Bread, and the newsletter, were delivered to Central members who are alone or who have struggled with loss or poor health.



FEBRUARY EVENTS / NOTES

Central Church will reopen 2 weeks after the region emerges from the “grey” designation. The additional time will allow for extensive cleaning and for safety procedures to be put in place once again. Those who wish to access the church are asked to contact Debbie beforehand in order to avoid too many people being in the building at the same time. It also allows the caretaker to sanitize the used areas after folks leave.

We join in sorrow with families of Central members who have died in the past few months. These members include; Peggy Elmes, Doris Malcolm, Ed From, Amber Patterson, Brian Fayle, and Iris Johnman.

We welcome Monty and Karen Steenson back to Central and look forward to greeting them in person when we are able to gather once again.

THANK YOU TO CENTRAL MEMBERS

The Board of Managers and the Session congratulate our members on remaining faithful in their financial support of Central. Your stewardship has allowed us to move forward with plans to repair the church, confident that, together, we can make this happen.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at <https://centralchurchcambridge.ca>
Follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/centralchurch>
You can also watch our services anytime at:
<https://youtube.com/c/CentralChurchCambridgeCa>

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, February 21st
Annual General Meeting
on Zoom @ 11:00 am.

ALPHA

Alexander McIlwraith is beginning another Alpha session on January 18th. Information and sign-up are available on the Central website. The session will last approximately 11 weeks and anyone interested is invited to join in discovering how faith and the Christian message can change your life.



CONTACT

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A GLORIOUS SIGHT!

The south-facing Goldie window has been restored to its former glory and its jewel tones glow with renewed brilliance once again. This magnificent work of art had been neglected for many years and the woodwork as well as the stained glass was in desperate need of repair. While the restoration cost of \$100,000 to repair and provide protection for the window was substantial, no one who views this beautiful window can doubt its value. When the sun is shining, the window truly seems to come alive, and fills the sanctuary with its vibrant colours.

The Goldie window, installed in 1930 by McCausland, is the focal point of the south wall of Central Church. At 28 ½' high and 9 ½' wide, the window spans the two floors of the church. The theme of the "Birth of Christ" is depicted in the 6 lancets which appear in the middle and lower levels of the window and features the Christmas Star. A unique element in this window is the depiction of 8 astrological signs in the rosettes at the top of the window, and the other four in the middle portion. One can only wonder at the discussion which must have accompanied its installation.

John Goldie was born in Ayrshire, Scotland, and was 22 when his famous botanist father brought his family to Greenfield, near Ayr, in 1844. In 1859, John and his business partner, Hugh McCullough, purchased the Crombie factory, located in Galt, and renamed it Goldie-McCullough, Ltd. The business flourished as the company produced steam engines and boilers for companies around the world.

John Goldie was very interested in astronomy and maintained his own observatory, and the astrological signs in the window were requested by his children as a testament to this interest.



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