



BUILDING RESTORATION

In 2019, Central Church stood at a crossroads. The roof was leaking and the insurance company would no longer insure that part of the building, the exterior masonry needed to be repaired, the stain glass windows needed repair, the stairs at the front of the church needed replacing, etc. Our options were limited; build again somewhere else, restore the building, or ignore the problem. Central members elected to restore this architectural jewel which is recognized as a symbolic icon of old Galt and has been portrayed in film, television and art. With the commitment and support of our members and the Cambridge community, we are confident that the bells of Central will continue to ring, our windows will continue to inspire visitors, and, within the grand old walls, our warm and friendly membership will continue to invite the local community to come and worship.

RE-OPENING

While we are all anxious to return to in-person worship, there is concern regarding the possible increase of transmission from the Covid variants. While we are hopeful that we will reopen following a two-week cleaning and preparation period, the actual date may be later. Please check the Central website for updates.

Sunday, March 21st, 2021 / Communion

Sunday, April 1st, 2021 / Communion

THANK YOU FOR THE VALENTINE GIFT!

The week before Valentine's Day, the retired members of Central received bags filled with chocolates, cookies, inspiring letters and artwork prepared by the Central youth. A huge thank you to the youth and their leaders, Cassidy Morency, Christine Kobow, and Kerri Beda, for this thoughtful and greatly appreciated project.



CONTACT

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LET THE OFFICIAL FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN BEGIN!!!

As the City of Cambridge begins study on a possible heritage designation for our picturesque downtown area, we at Central are continuing our own major capital campaign to restore our beautiful building. While some members have donated already, we are currently training a cadre of volunteers who will be reaching out to the congregation to invite each family individually to join the campaign to help fund the restoration. As well as the canvassers, there are two teams working to make the restoration a reality.

The Roof Technical Support Team has been responsible for:

1. Initiating an engineering report on the current status of the roof structure.
2. Working with a consultant to create a document specifying the scope of the project.
3. Tendering for a contractor to undertake the restoration.
4. Awarding a contract, filing for work permits, etc. The contract has been signed and work will begin in the spring.

The Fundraising Steering Team is responsible for designing and implementing a fundraising strategy which involves both our congregation and the wider community in helping us cover the cost of the restoration. This team has been meeting weekly with a consultant to:

1. Communicate the nature and extent of the project to our congregation.
2. Devise marketing strategies to engage the community and obtain its support.
3. Train members of the congregation to call members to explain options for financial support and invite members to participate.
4. Encourage our members to provide long term (5 year) support to help pay off the loans.
5. Apply for grants, loans, etc. from a variety of sources including, the Presbyterian Church Building Corporation, the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington, the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation, and the City of Cambridge.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We had a wonderful Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 21st with over 52 active screens, many with couples, where the theme was Thanksgiving. We are grateful for God's many blessings as our congregation has remained connected and strong throughout these difficult times. Our staff members have been magnificent as they transitioned to on-line Sunday services, youth programs, and music. Our heartfelt thanks also go out to Alan Sutton, our Treasurer, who presented comprehensive financial reports and budget, and the members of the Board of Managers and the Session, who provided leadership and dedication throughout the pandemic. We are sharing our surplus with Presbyterian Sharing, the Roof Fund and paying for a few one-time expenses. We have been truly blessed!

"Is anything too hard for the Lord?" (Genesis 18:14) has been a theme on which Aubrey has preached many times. Please join us as we march forward in faith. We are confident that, with the help of the Lord, the members of Central Church can make this restoration happen.